

Presidential candidates speak to crowd

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Twenty-two people showed up to the presidential forum and seven audience members stayed to watch the Student Trustee Forum last Thursday.

Suzanne Grijalva, engineering major, Brian Kochems, business administration major and Michael Barrita, political science major, were the candidates present at the forum.

The forum allowed each candidate to speak for three minutes to give a summary about each of their election platform.

The students running for presidency spoke first, afterward, the vice presidents had a turn.

Grijalva opened the forum by talking about her plans for the campus, making it environmentally friendly and improving communication between the ASCC and the student body.

On the other side, Barrita's intro with the proposal that he initiated, he gave his ASCC experience and "want(s) to focus on the individual students."

Kochems did the same as Barrita; he opened up with a brief history, spoke of his involvements with the ASCC and plans to have clubs more involved.

Afterward, the audience had a chance to write down its questions on flash cards.

Some of the answers were unexpected by the candidates and were hard to answer.

Others were redundant answers that were earlier brought up in introductions.

There were no remarks from the audience and soon closed the forum to begin the first ever Student Trustee Forum.

Present to speak for the second forum were Jason Macias, current ASCC President, Andy Duong, pharmacy major, Jorge Ramirez, business law major and Kochems.

"We need a student who is experienced at this time," Macias said in his introduction.

"I want the experience as Student Trustee," Duong said.

Ramirez agreed with Duong and added that he has been involved in the ASCC.

Kochems, on the other hand, wants to "let students know what's up with the faculty of Cerritos College."

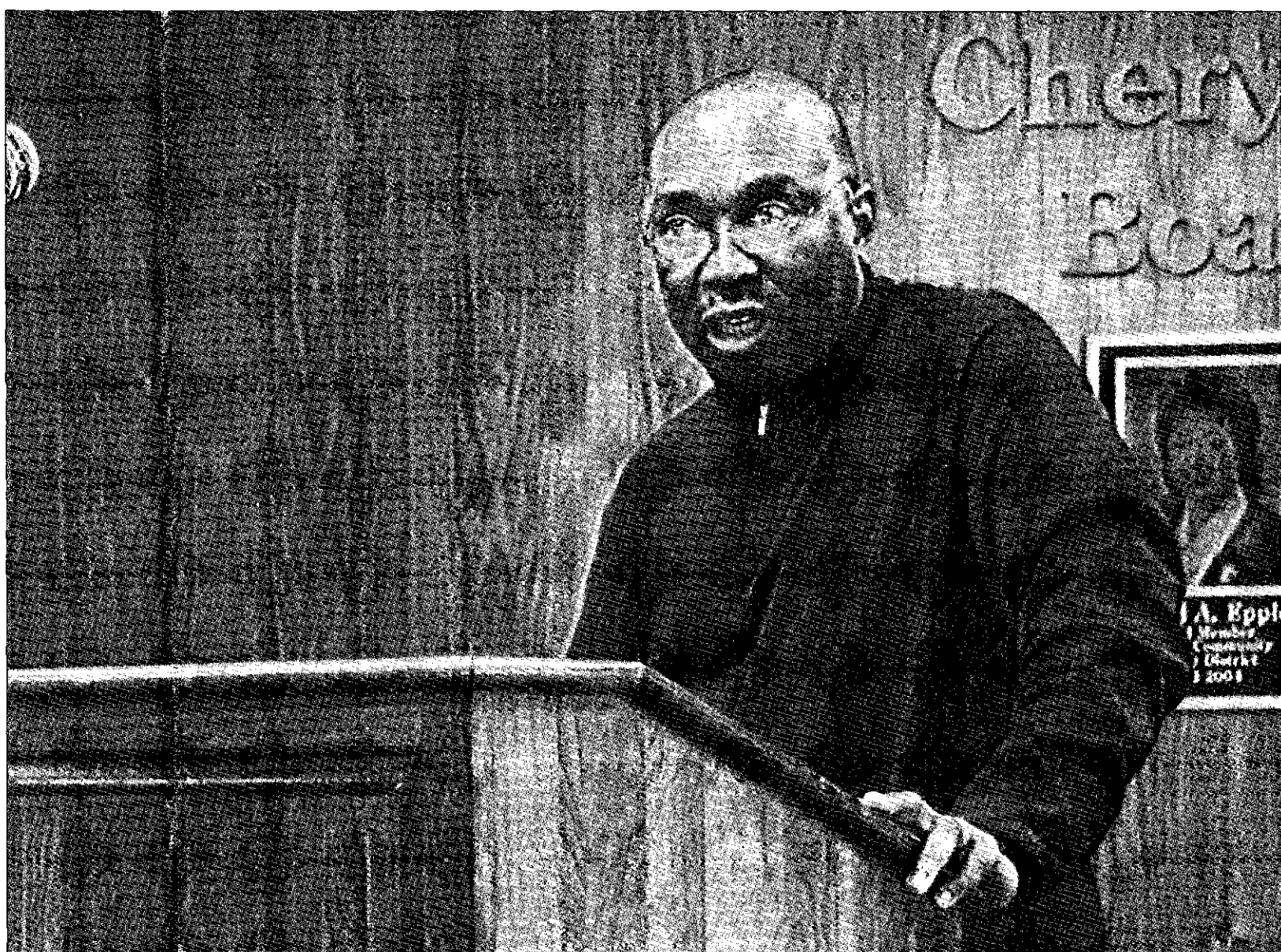
The student trustee candidates also had a few questions that the seven audience members had.

In the question portion of the forum, Macias, when asked, brought up health insurance and salary had no part in his desire to be student trustee.

Duong and Ramirez both were alarmed that benefits came with the title.

Kochems said that he "is not doing it for the insurance, but for the students."

In the closing remarks, Barrita went up to the podium and asked a rhetoric question, "How would you influence the ASCC, if you are nominated?"



Speaking out: Victor Obasohan speaks to the Board of Trustees, last Wednesday, about his feelings on the reason why it should dismiss her as Cerritos president.

MICHAEL AGUDO/TM

No decision made on Vela

SCOTT WATKINS
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The Board of Trustees has decided, after two sessions, to continue its investigation into whether to act upon the Faculty Senate's recommendation to dismiss Dr. Noelia Vela from her position as Cerritos College president.

"We just have to be patient," Faculty Senate President Bryan Reece said.

Last Wednesday, Dr. Reece made a presen-

tation informing the Board members about the results of the Academic Leadership Outcome survey.

Twenty other employees spoke before the Board regarding the reasons why Dr. Vela should be kept and why she should be let go. Of those who spoke, two employees had something remotely positive to say about her.

The ALO Survey was distributed to 230 people and 134 were returned.

There were 91 surveys submitted by the faculty, 19 by administrators, eight by staff, six by

students and 10 submitted surveys by individuals that declined to indicate what group they represented.

This saga began in October of last year when the HPEA Division attended a Faculty Senate meeting to explain its dissatisfaction with the Master Plan.

In November, the Fine Arts Division voted in its division meeting in favor of no confidence.

See **Vela** page 2



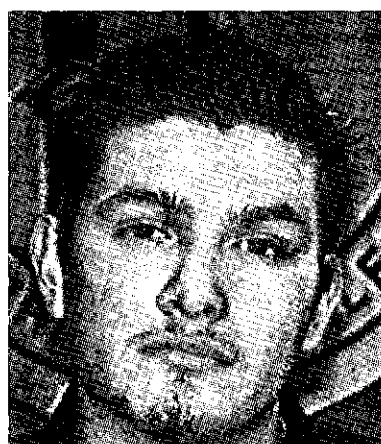
ANDY DUONG



BRIAN KOCHEMS



JORGE RAMIREZ



JONATHON GALVEZ



JASON MACIAS

Kochems, Macias among trustee candidates

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There are five candidates running for the new electoral seat as Student Trustee:

- Andy Duong, pharmacy major,
- Jonathan Galvez, biology major,
- Brian Kochems, business administration major,
- Jason Macias, current ASCC President and
- Jorge Ramirez, business law major.

The Student Trustee attends all Board of Trustees meetings and at least two legislative senate meetings a month.

Duong joined the ASCC last fall as a senator, is a sophomore, and is currently the commissioner of information technology.

Galvez, a sophomore from UC Riverside, was involved in high school politics and is interested to represent the students of Cerritos College.

"I'm just a friendly guy, I am energetic, I am a positive enigma," Galvez said.

Kochems, joined the senate in Fall 2006,

later to become sergeant-at-arms and Senate minority leader and is now running for Vice President and Student Trustee.

"It's not for the position, it's for the students," Kochems said, "[to] express everyone's views."

Macias, current ASCC president.

He also held the positions of vice president and commissioner of information technology.

"I've done that pipeline with the administration, (I) know almost everyone on campus," Macias said.

Ramirez, a senator for five semesters, was senate majority leader Fall 06 and Spring 07, he is studying for Business Law.

The winner of the student trustee election must receive 50 percent or more of the total number of legal votes cast.

If no candidate receives the majority, then a run-off election will be held between the two top contending candidates next Wednesday and Thursday.

The place where the students will have the opportunity to vote for, either of the top candidates, will be in Falcon Square.

Tweaks made to book exchange

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The simplified ASCC book exchange program is underway for this summer with only a couple minor details left to look at.

A Web site will be created for this program to give students a list of what books are available for purchase from other students.

What is being discussed in the book exchange committee now is how much information will be put on the Web site.

Three locations will be placed on campus.

See **Book Exchange** page 3

Winners from Student Art Gallery
See **Now** page 3



ONLINE EXCLUSIVES
• News: Results from the student body election
• Watch video of last weeks Board of Trustees meeting



The Hill a good place to chill
See **Life** page 7

Editorial offends Barrita

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Senators were encouraged to get their awards applications turned in, to recycle and the Talon Marks was asked to "take it back," at the ASCC Senate meeting April 2.

Dean Ackland, coordinator of Student Activities, opened the meeting by suggesting that all senators get in their awards applications in "so that students who do things around campus and are not paid can be honored."

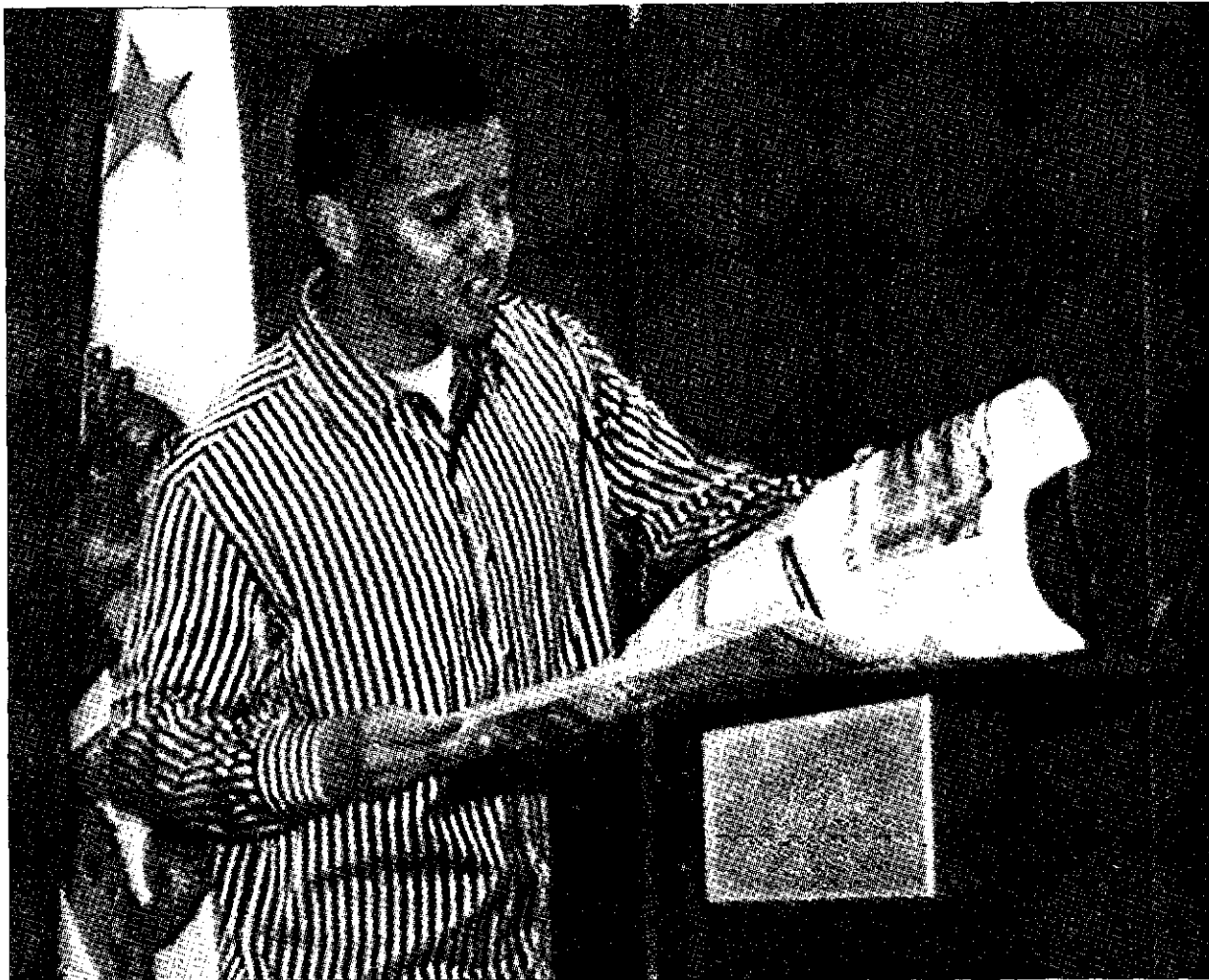
Tensions were also high between the Talon Marks and the ASCC as a result of the publication's recent editorial.

ASCC Vice President Michael Barrita requested a motion at the meeting, in order to facilitate his request to respond to the editorial (Book Exchange work April 2) that had just come out in the week's paper, which was not already a part of the senate's agenda.

"I think it's misleading. It's misinforming students," Barrita responded while quoting what he considered to be inaccurate information cited in the editorial.

Special offense was taken to the ASCC's program being characterized as "a half-cocked idea that is rushed and needs much more cultivation before it is implemented."

Barrita wanted students to know that Cerritos College's program is modeled after a plan that UC Davis



TIM DICKERSON/TM

Book exchange editorial: ASCC Vice President Michael Barrita said the Talon Marks editorial is misinformed in a sense.

students began more than a decade ago and that the plan designed for this campus has been customized to fit the needs of students here.

The vice president also wanted students to know that the ASCC has studied over 10 years of research given to them by Brett Leget, co-founder of Davis' book exchange program.

"Our program will evolve such

as Davis' program, with a Cerritos touch," Barrita explained.

On a less confrontational note, there was actually good news to be reported that was addressed in a Senate Report given by Senator Karon Dhungana.

The senator reported how his Philosophy 100 professor encouraged him and other students to recycle paper.

Instructor Ted Stolze allowed his students to take quizzes on used paper. The idea was to cross out the unwanted material on the reverse side of the paper and take your quiz on the blank side of the paper.

"It was his view regarding global climate change. We are going through drastic changes in climate, it's a way to save trees," the senator explained.

Talon Marks receives online General Excellence

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Talon Marks staff members and other students taking journalism classes attended this year's Journalism Association of Community Colleges' Annual State Conference that was held in the Wilshire Grand Hotel in downtown Los Angeles

from April 3 until April 5. Students were able to participate in contests and attend journalism workshops.

The contests varied from photography, writing, editing, art and page design.

Most of the competitions were based from work done in the previous spring and fall semesters. Others were on-the-spot competitions.

Esmeralda Infante, Talon Marks staff writer, was there for her first year. "I competed in the opinion competition, it was a new experience. I would love to go again and attend all the workshops and learn more."

Erick Galindo, journalism major, and Michael Agudo, photo editor, won second place for bring-in advertisement.

Galindo has been attending JACC conferences because it is like working for a daily paper and it is an important aspect of society.

"If you're a writer, you can always contribute to the community by being a journalist," he said.

Steven Martin, online editor, won three awards in the mail-in category and was gratified to know professionals consider his work to be the best among the state.

"Getting all my awards are cool, but what I am really proud of is the Web site being best among the state," he said.

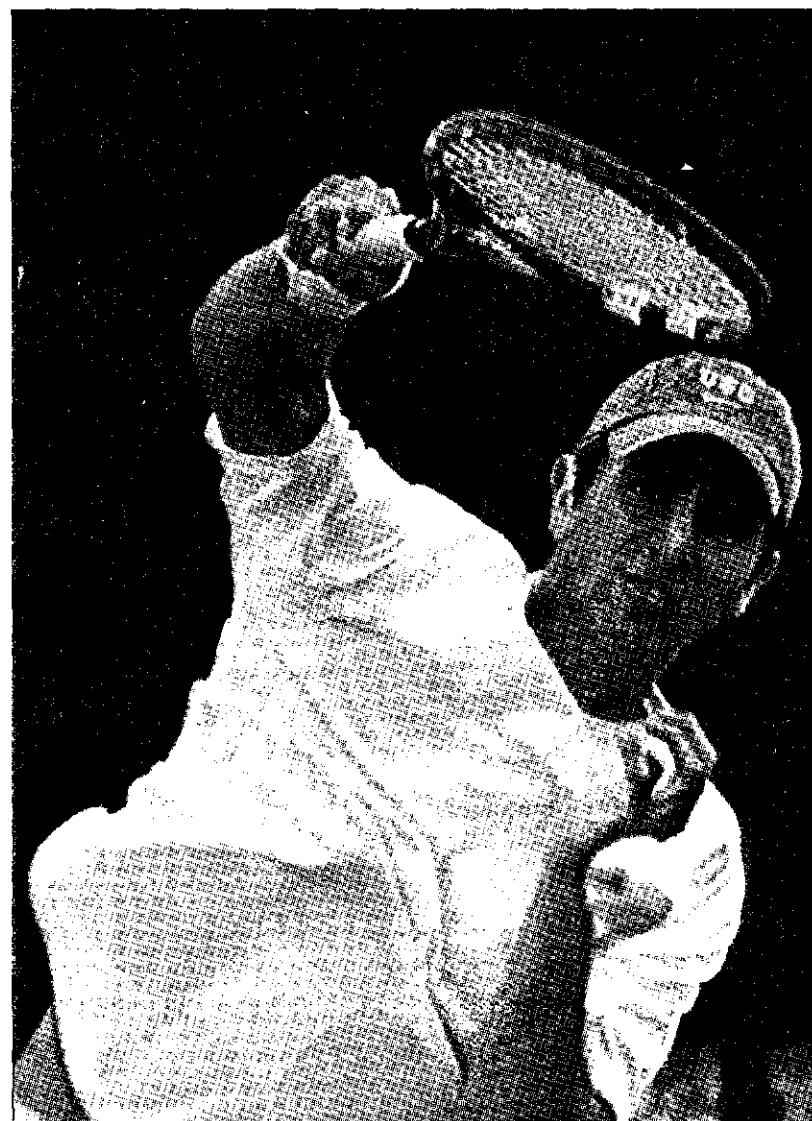
Werner Gomez, journalism major, won two awards for on-the-spot photography.

"It's funny, I don't consider myself a photographer but it's the only thing I won first place in," Gomez said. "But you do have to be well-rounded to know about photos even if all you want to do is write."

Journalism professor Rich Cameron, has been online communication director and has been involved with JACC for 31 years.

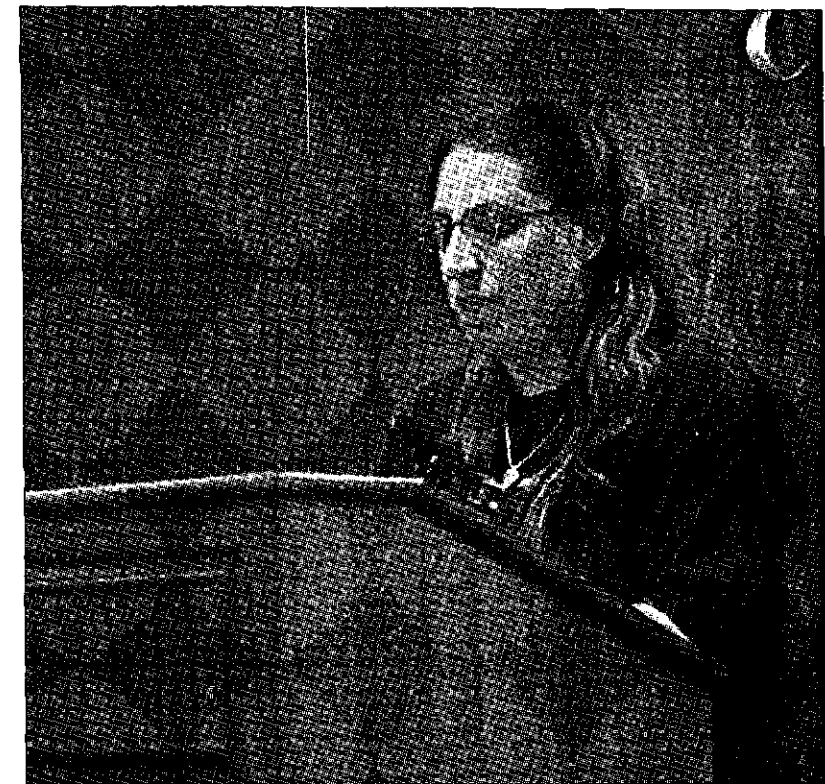
"JACC is a state-wide organization that brings journalist students together from across the state and I think one of the things we see in this contest is that Cerritos College is a prominent program in the State."

Two of Cerritos College faculty also received awarded at the conference.



COURTESY OF WERNER GOMEZ

Capturing the moment: As part of the JACC's on-the-spot competition, students went to a USC/UC Berkeley men's tennis game and took photos. Werner Gomez, journalism major, won first place in the competition with this photo.



MICHAEL AGUDO/TM

Testify: Pilar Mata, math instructor, talks to the Board of Trustees about why she feels it is important to keep Dr. Noelia Vela as Cerritos College president.

Vela: Board undecided about her future

Continued from page 1

Later that month, Health Occupations supported the vote of no confidence in its division meeting.

A week later, the HPEA division voted no confidence in its meeting. Then in the same month, Humanities/Social Sciences voted no confidence.

In December, Business Education followed the other divisions and cast a vote of no confidence and Liberal Arts followed later that month.

In January, the Faculty Senate approved the distribution of the ALO Survey.

On Feb. 12, the Faculty Senate released the ALO Survey.

Three days later, the Technology and Science, Engineering and Math Divisions cast a vote of no confidence.

Then April 9, the presentation was made by Reece among many others to the Board of Trustees.

Of the twenty people that spoke, 18 against Dr. Vela and two spoke in favor of keeping her as Cerritos College president.

The accusations against her

were, for the most part, about her lack of communicating with the staff and that she did not part in shared governance.

One of those that spoke was Roger Ernest, English instructor and he said, "Dr. Vela, in actuality cast a vote of no confidence, the first vote of no confidence, by purposefully excluding stakeholders in the collaborated decision making process."

Two people spoke to the Board and explained why she should be kept on as president.

Pilar Mata, math instructor was one of the ones that spoke in favor of keeping Dr. Vela.

She said it was too expensive to fire her and pay her the money that would possibly be needed.

Dean Mellas, computer information science instructor, recounted of times when she helped to further the advancement of campus technology.

After the meeting last Wednesday, Reece said, "I am very disappointed with the decision of the board tonight."

Mail-In Contests:

Online Journalism
General Excellence
talonmarks.com
Magazine Feature
(Non-Profile)
Steven Martin
Honorable Mention
Magazine Layout/Design
Wings staff, 4th place
Magazine Opinion Story
Adrianna Cervantes
Honorable Mention
Front Page Layout
Broadsheet

Tanya Bermudez, Steven Martin

Honorable Mention
Profile Feature Story
Steven Martin
Honorable Mention

On-The-Spot
Competitions

Bring-in Advertisement

Erick Galindo, Michael Agudo

2nd place

Bring-in Photo

Tanya Bermudez

4th place

Sports Photo

Werner Gomez

1st place

News Photo

Werner Gomez

4th place

What they said

Here are some of the comments made by the employees of Cerritos College concerning school President Dr. Noelia Vela during last week's Board meeting:

"This community is recommending that Dr. Vela be removed from office immediately."

Dr. Bryan Reece, Faculty Senate president

"Dr. Vela, in actuality cast a vote of no confidence, the first vote of no confidence, by purposefully excluding stakeholders in the collaborated decision making process."

Roger Ernest, English instructor

"There was a climate of fear on campus."

Victor Obasohan, political science instructor

"She yelled and verbally abused me in front of her office while shaking her finger right in my face because I merely asked her staff why she did not attend a local a hundred dollar per plate luncheon to meet Rick Wagner, CEO of GM."

Dr. Randy Peebles, instructional dean of technology and interim dean of business education

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Gallery of Art: Last Thursday night, photographers, artists, students and family members came to enjoy works submitted to the Student Art Gallery.

MICHAEL AGUDO/TM

Kittle, Cruz among winners

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Students, friends and family members came to room FA50 for the Student Art Exhibition 2008 receptions and awards ceremony held to cheer for students who received awards last Thursday.

Joseph Cervantes, program facilitator, began to test the microphones and the attendees began to sit around tables anxious to know who was to receive the awards.

Christina Fernandez, gallery director and photography instructor, opened up the ceremony by introducing Barbara Carrasco, the artist who judged the exhibition.

"[She] had a difficult time making her decisions," Fernandez said.

And Carrasco agreed when she stood up to give a little background about herself.

Carrasco is known for her Chicana Art such as "Negativity Attracts," which is displayed in Self-Help Graphics & Art Center in Los Angeles.

The students that were awarded are as follows:

- Category 1: Ceramics, Figure Sculptures, Jewelry, 3-D Design:**
- 1st place: Robert Kittel, "UNTITLED"
 - 2nd place: Natalie Rosen, "Previous Self" & Vicky Suh, "Spirit of Woman"
 - 3rd place: Ed Zimmerman,

"Bowl" & Jorge Kwack, "Self Portrait."

Category 2: Painting, Life Drawing, Watercolor, 2-D Design, Chinese Brush:

- 1st place: Beatrice Gee, "Banana Blossom"
- 2nd place: Jung Mi Na, "Timeless" & Mei Jung Lu, "Nine Ball"
- 3rd place: Yen Chun Chang, "Rebecca" & Pauline Mun, "Routine."

Category 3: Freehand Drawing, Printmaking, Illustrating and Rendering:

- 1st place: Andrew Nguyen, "Self Portrait"
- 2nd place: Nam Ho Kim, "Little Prince" & Frank Alvarez, "Expendable Youth"

- 3rd place: Lissette Rodriguez, "Wrong Way" & Hongmei Xu, "Street."

Category 4: Computer Graphics:

- 1st place: Juan L. Cruz, "21 Poker Terms"
- 2nd place: Jose Montero, "Mrs. Muerte" & Bernadette De Joya, "A Retro Mask"
- 3rd place: Dustin Do, "Apres Anolfini" & Jessica Goei, "Mask."

Category 5: Photography:

- 1st place: Marcus Alvarez, "Waiting"
- 2nd place: Eric Johnson, "Untitled"
- 3rd place: Nathalie Pando, "Street Talent."

There were also the John De Mott Memorial Scholarships handed to some of the students.

Kittel, art major, was with his daughter when he said "I was surprised that I got the award because there is wonderful ceramic art in the gallery."

ASCC's water plan squashed

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The water proposal made by ASCC President Jason Macias and Vice President Michael Barrita was shut down.

The contracts were denied due to intrusion on Pepsi.

Giving away free water to students would hurt sales of bottled water Pepsi sells on campus through soda machines.

Macias and Barrita said they were going to supply free water for the Student Activities office for any student to walk in and fill his or her bottle.

"I think there's an injustice being made," Barrita said.

According to Barrita, around 20 other departments give water to students.

Barrita wasn't told who made the final decision, he just knew it was somewhere on the top.

With the water proposal not going through, Barrita is working toward putting a "sophisticated filter" on the water fountain in the Student Center.

"I don't know of any other campuses doing it," he said.

"I was surprised when he said it," said Susanna Grijalva, presidential candidate.

This was one of the platforms Grijalva and vice-presidential candidate, Brian Kochems, were running on.

Book exchange: New simple version

Continued from page 1

These locations will each have a bulletin board, much like what students can see in some buildings, where students can post their books.

Periodically, volunteers will collect this information and post it on the Web site.

Each bulletin board will have the Web address posted for students to go to when the books are posted.

ASCC Vice President Michael Barrita said there isn't a conflict between the ASCC and the book store.

The ASCC receives \$287,000 from the bookstore to start with.

"That money is secured," Barrita said. "If it loses a lot of profits, (the bookstore) still has to give the ASCC that."

Funds from the book store make up about 23 percent of the ASCC's budget.

Faculty Senate Liaison James Lee said, "Revenue is still going to be the same."

Barrita doesn't see a problem because he predicts, "Students that are going to participate are already outsourcing for books."

"We're giving students another option."

He is confident in the book exchange program.

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EDITORIAL

Men's restrooms are substandard

For the most part at Cerritos College, men and women have equal access to the services that the college provides, such as an education, financial aid and extra-curricular activities, among others.

But there is one inequality between the sexes that often goes unnoticed.

The women's restrooms on campus are ridiculously better than the men's!

Men are not animals and they deserve better when it comes to the look of the restrooms.

Women's restrooms have couches and most men's restrooms don't even have mirrors.

It's not that men always want to check themselves out, but most want to at least make sure that there isn't snot hanging out of their noses or food on their faces.

The smell in the men's restrooms is bad enough to knock out their patrons.

Men should at least be able to enter the restrooms without fainting from the fumes.

Even worse, some of the men's restrooms don't even have doors on the stalls.

Men deserve a little privacy when it's time to let off a load or two, or three.

Having doors on the stalls and mirrors in the men's restrooms are things that the campus can fix.

Men's restrooms don't need couches. Most men probably wouldn't want to sit on a couch in the men's room.

But doors and mirrors are essentials for any bathroom.

The cleanliness of the men's restrooms, however, is not the fault of those who clean them but, for the most part, because of the people who use them.

Let's face it, most men are not worried about keeping a public restroom clean.

But there is a viable solution for those who do want a clean smell free restroom to use.

Starting next Friday, the Theater Department is putting on a play called "Urinetown" in which the premise is that people must pay to use the restroom.

Maybe that policy should be implemented here.

Having a couple of restrooms on campus in which the patron must pay a fee of no more than a quarter to ensure the restroom he is using is clean and private could be a great idea.

That is one idea of how the men's restrooms can be cleaner.

Of course, there would still have to be non-pay, public restrooms for people who don't mind the smell and lack of privacy. Because sometimes, when a man has to drain the snake, those are the last things he's thinking about.

But for those who decide they want some privacy and cleanliness, that would be a viable option.

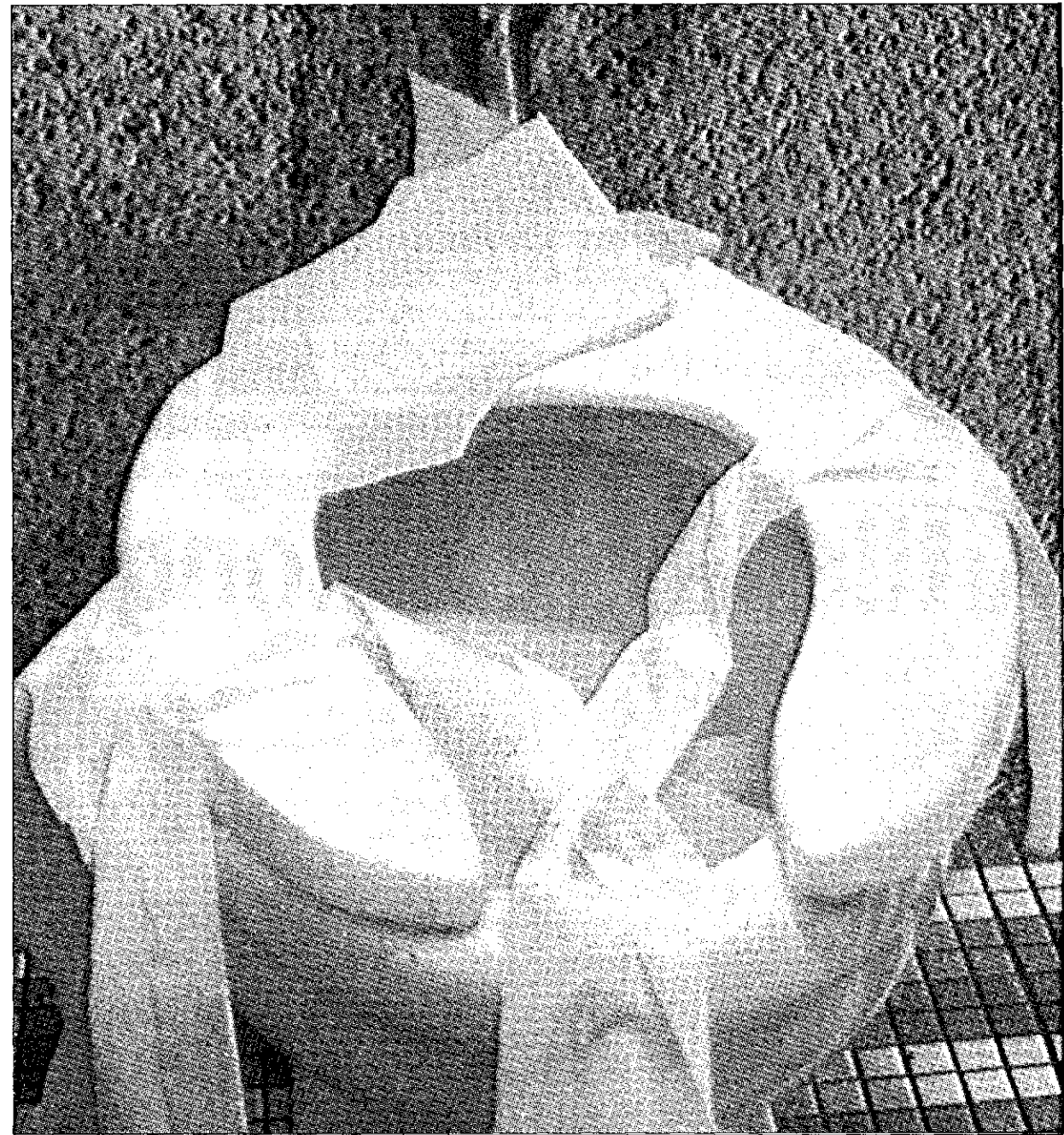
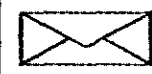


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY MICHAEL AGUDO



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Go for your dreams, don't give up

Don't let anyone tell you that you can't do something. Just follow your dreams and believe in yourself.



people go for the wrong one and don't achieve anything.

But when you pursue the right dream that you have in this life you can achieve it.

There are many ways to achieve your goals.

First of all, one of the things that we can do is to think positive.

If people really believe in their goals and dreams, they can achieve them.

It is just a matter of believing in yourself and pursuing your dreams.

Second, don't let anyone tell you no or crush your dreams.

If you let others define what you can contribute to this world, you're never going to achieve anything.

Third, go for it! Do anything possible to make your dream come true. If you really believe in

your dreams, then someone else will believe in them too.

I go for my dreams many times and I don't usually make it the first time.

So I try again and won't give up. I accomplish it the second time around. So I want you to do the same don't let anyone tell you otherwise.

If you fall, pick yourself back again and go for it!

If you really want it and love what you do, then you can achieve it.

Every person can do anything he sets his mind to.

If I can do it so can you!

Don't let anyone define what you can do or not.

Your dream is not in the hands of others, it is in your hands.

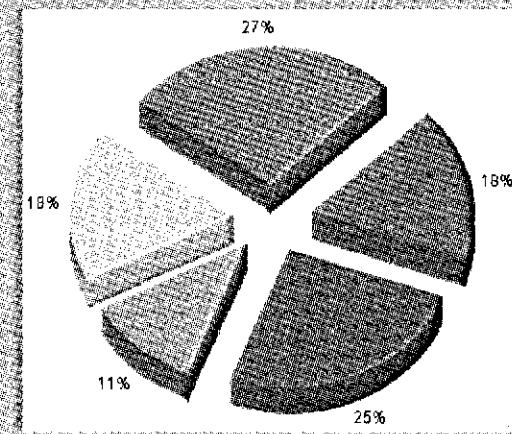
Eleanor Roosevelt once said, "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."

So go for it, think positive, believe in yourself and what you can do and you can achieve anything you desire!

STATISTIC OF THE WEEK

WHO ARE YOU PICKING TO WIN THE FINAL FOUR?

Kansas	27%
Basketball is for suckas!!	25%
North Carolina	18%
UCLA	18%
Memphis	11%



This Talon Marks poll is not scientific and reflects the opinions of only those internet users who have chosen to participate. The results cannot be assumed to represent the opinions of internet users in general, nor the public as a whole.

Source: www.talonmarks.com

What do you think about the Dr. Vela situation?

COMPILED BY: HECTOR COLCHADO
PHOTOS BY: JESSICA CHAPULA



SCOTT BENJAMIN
aerospace design major
"Vela is just a pawn playing into the corporate-ism that exists in America right now."



JASON MACIAS
ASCC president
"Dr. Vela's situation is of great concern. As the president of our college she has the responsibility to listen and learn from the community. She should have been listening to the community from the beginning."



VANESSA MONREAL
physical education major
"[The employees] should still try to communicate with her, give her a chance."



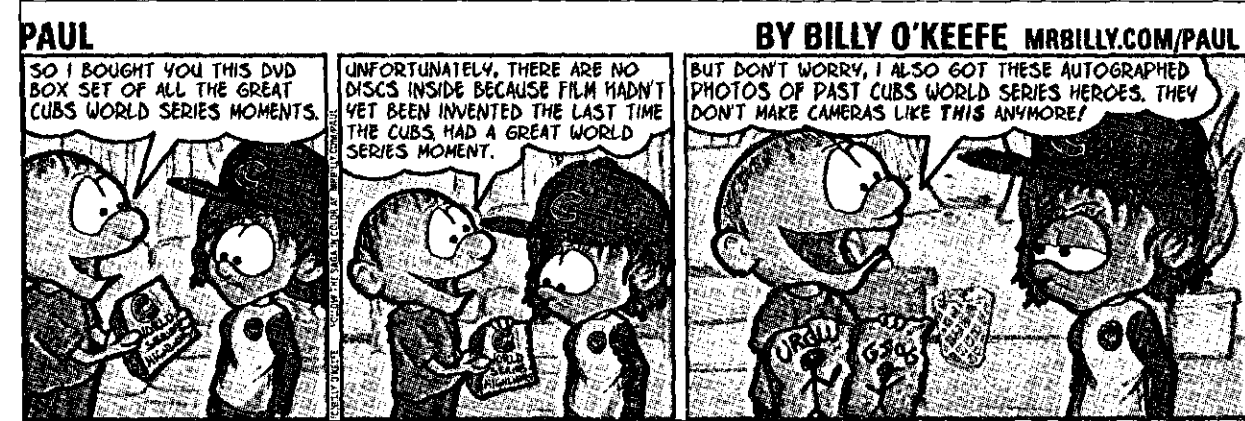
KATHLEEN QUINN
philosophy major
"I think she will stay stone-faced through the whole process."



TED STOLZE
philosophy instructor
"Although I think it is sad to see President Vela suffer a vote a no confidence and potentially lose her job, I think that her departure would open up the opportunity for a new beginning at Cerritos College."



ELIZABETH PADILLA
math major
"I don't know who she is. I've never heard anything about her from any of my professors."



• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

Barrita debates former Editor-in-Chief

Recent editorial on ASCC's new book exchange ignites debate.

If this paper was a responsible news outlet it would get the facts before writing any article or editorial.

Just because it is an opinion does not mean that it can be inaccurate. First, the UC Davis program did not start as it stands today.

Its beginnings are similar to what we are starting from.

Of course, whoever wrote ("Book exchange program needs work" on April 2) would have known that if they had done their research correctly.

Another component that the writer of this story did not research was the fact that there is going to be a Web site.

This Web site would be posted on the bulletin boards so that students could go online to look for their books.

The bulletin boards are needed so that we don't have to go around the campus chasing down post ups.

Here we have three locations where students are posting their information and we're collecting it, posting it online, and on campus.

I do recommend that Talon Marks corrects this story so that students are not misinformed in the next issue.



Michael Barrita
ASCC Vice President

If you were a serious representative of the Cerritos College students, Michael, you would learn to take advice and constructive criticism without feeling attacked or unfairly singled out.

The truth of the matter is that

this is not an article about the history of the UC Davis program.

It is a fact-based editorial about the flaws in the current Cerritos College system and while the UCD program may be important to students looking to transfer there, quite frankly Cerritos College students want to know why our system isn't up to par, not how Davis messed up at the beginning.

As easy as it is to point out mistakes, the Talon Marks does a good job of proposing solutions even if they are ones you have already imagined.

Plus isn't it safe to say that when we find a program that works such as UCD's then we could learn from the model that works not the original flawed one?

It's this backwards thinking that students hate to see in their elected leaders here and at the federal and state levels.



Erick Galindo
journalism major

First and foremost, it is because I am a serious representative of our students that I care when they are being misinformed and misled.

This, of course, is not the first time and certainly we are not the first administration to deal with this kind of problem.

Given this premise, I would not be incorrect to say that Talon Marks is not always a reliable source of information.

Constructive criticism?

I seriously doubt misinforming the public and misrepresenting someone or anything associated to that person is constructive criticism.

In logic, we call that a straw man fallacy.

On the subject pertaining to the editorial, if one is comparing two different programs, one that has been established for a decade and

the other in the process of initiation, how can one compare the two on their current merit?

You simply cannot, especially if one is being modeled after the other.

The question then should not be why our system is not like the current UC Davis exchange program, but how did it begin and how is ours beginning?

How are we learning from the research that was given to us and how are we applying it?

How did the UC Davis system evolve to become what it is today and does our system plan to do the same?

And sir, how can you say that Davis "messed up" in their initiation if it was its foundation that secured its current status?

Now, I do agree with you about the idea of exposing the flaws of our campus' system, but this article does not do that or even attempt to do so.

Instead of attacking students trying to establish a program that is directed at addressing the issue of book prices, the paper should be addressing the root of the problem, the bookstore's monopoly across our campus.

On another note, I cannot understand how Talon Marks is "proposing" solutions if they already exist in the current plan.

And yes I do agree with modeling something after something else that has been successful, and that is exactly what we are doing.

With time, our program will be very similar to what UC Davis has.

Again, keep in mind that this complex system, which requires thousands of dollars a semester, employees, space and many other things, did not start as it is today; it took several carefully planned steps to ensure its existence.



Michael Barrita
ASCC Vice President

As a student, I guess I just don't understand how (complaining) about the newspaper at every other meeting is representative of what the student body wants.

What the student body really wants is for a student body president that does not make promises he or she won't keep.

What the student body wants is a book exchange program that works and that has learned from the mistakes of old programs so that its inception is not flawed but perfected.

What the student body wants is its healthy restaurant choices it was promised.

What the student body wants is a campus-wide recycling program.

What we want is a student newspaper that calls out our elected leaders on their (expletive) promises and their half-hazard planning.

Because that, my friend, is what is really misleading as well as the idea that because you disagree with an editorial, you can demand a retraction or label it misleading.

Worse than that, you cite some type of history of "problems" between previous administrations and the Talon Marks.

Well, here is some history for you, for more than half a century this paper has served its campus seeking truth and always change for the better.

The First Amendment, which has been around since the inception of this country, has protected this paper from the sensational backlash of the student government simply because it felt there is a "problem" with an article or two.

The truth is many administrations do not understand that the paper is not an arm of the school president or a public relations newsletter that ought to see the bright side of mistakes because that's playing nice.

The truth is the paper is the voice of the community whose soul

purpose is to inform, ask questions and expose the flaws in the system that hurt or hinder the progress of its members.

Simply, however, just because you disagree with something does not make you right and it insults the integrity of the paper and its readers when you accuse and allege that there is something malicious and intentionally misleading about this opinion.

I would expect more from someone who pretends to know something about history, the rights of our community members and the government of this great country.



Erick Galindo
journalism major

Hey, don't forget, I'm a student before I'm anything else.

You don't think I would like to have a better option on campus than the bookstore, better diet choices and a green campus?

Of course I would and that's what I've been fighting for this entire year.

But these decisions are not solely mine.

The truth of the matter is that there is so much private interest that controls so many decisions on our campus that is disgusting.

It reminds me of corporate America.

The fact of the matter is, as a student organization, we really don't have any true sovereignty.

When you read our constitution, no major decision can get passed without the signature of the director of student activities and the vice president of student services, which are not students, they're agents of the district or employees.

Their decisions are guided by business agreements, which at times, conflict with the interest of the students.

Example: when we turned in our proposal for free water through our department, which I might add 20-something other departments already have for their members, it was turned down by the people on top.

We were overridden.

So what we must do as student representatives is find ways to provide the same service but through different means, like upgrading our water fountain system to include filters for purified water.

And that's what we are now working on.

But again, this is the case with recycling, books and just about any major aspect of student life.

On the aspect of the newspaper, I totally agree with you.

I am a strong advocate of constitutional, civil and student rights, in fact I plan to go to law school to become a civil rights lawyer.

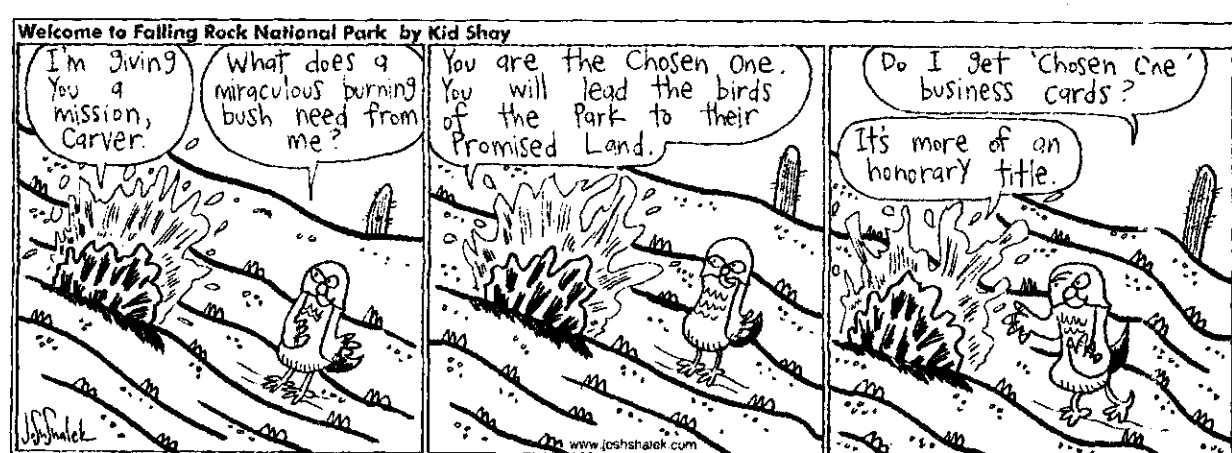
My message was not that the paper should be passive, but instead more assertive.

What I mean by that is that we need to expose the real mess, like the privatized monopolies that exist on our campus, how much they play a role in our campus and how we as a student body are turned for a profit by them.

I guess what I'm trying to say is that we need to start educating students about the real decision makers on our campus and encouraging our students to take a more active role in being part of this struggle for change.



Michael Barrita
ASCC Vice President



Young music artists perform

TIM DICKERSON
Managing Editor
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The Cerritos College Music Department and the ASCC hosted Concrete Underground featuring experimental band Cosa Nostra and hip hop artist Young Blaze on April 10.

Cosa Nostra's drummer, nicknamed "the Woodsman," wasn't able to make it to the concert.

"He's in class (at Fullerton)," said Andrew Didonato, nicknamed "the Philosopher."

The band had no choice but to write a whole new set of songs to play that didn't involve percussion.

"We wrote it three hours ago," said Josh Didonato, nicknamed "the Scientist."

"It took about from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m.," the band member explained. "There were three new techniques

the band was trying for Concrete Underground.

The band tried out vocals, playing the guitar like a violin and tapping on the guitar almost like drums.

"We were just going to go crazy," the Scientist said.

"It's at a college. What better time to try it?" He added.

Young Blaze went up first at the concert.

He said his dream isn't actually to be a music artist, but to own a record label.

"I'd try to make that money, not for somebody else," he said.

Young Blaze performed five songs, including his own "west coast remix" of 50 Cent's "I Get Money."

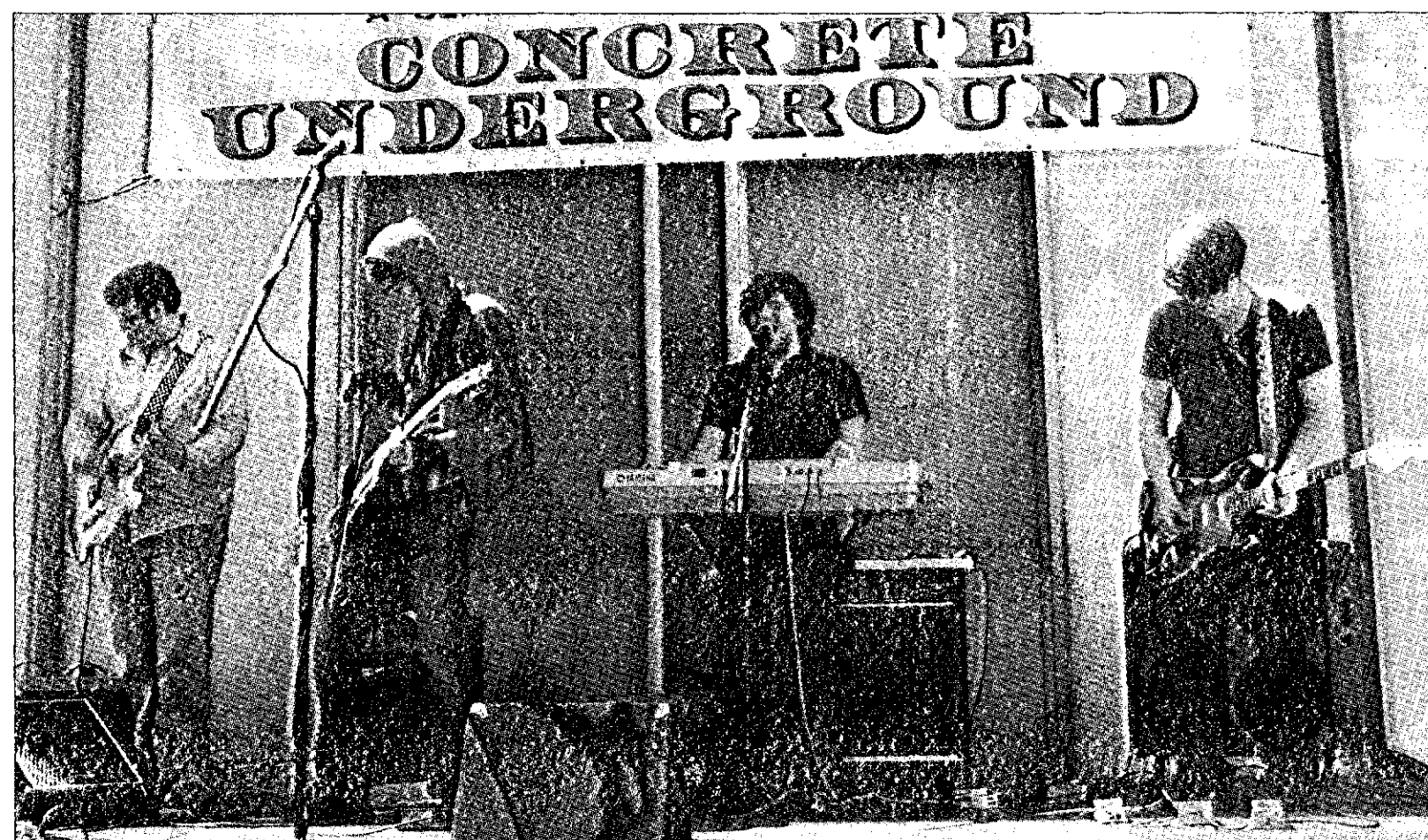
Cosa Nostra played four songs.

Cosa Nostra's Web page is <http://www.myspace.com/cosanostraon-the-coast>.



MICHAEL AGUDO/TM

Young Blaze: Young Blaze sounded off the concert with a blaze.



MICHAEL AGUDO/TM

Cosa Nostra: Although Cosa Nostra was missing a drummer, it improvised with fresh new music.

Spring Dance concert finishes run of shows

LONISHA THOMPSON
A&E Editor
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The Spring 2008 Dance Concert presented by the Cerritos College Dance Department and the ASCC concluded its three-night run last Saturday in the Burnight Center Theatre.

The enthusiastic and very skilled set of performers performed to what was a pleased and equally as energetic sold out crowd.

The dance department featured a mix of tap, jazz, break dance, hip-hop and avant-garde performances, just to name a few of the featured acts.

Some acts were passionate, some were humorous, some were strange and some were really great efforts.

One of my favorites, as well as a big crowd pleaser was the "ESL School Boys at a bus stop in Montreal, Quebec." The all male ensemble interpreted word annunciation in their extremely humorous avant-garde ballet performance.

Students Rogelio Lopez Garcia, Edward Jenkins, Jason Richardson and Poppy Saradeth really deserve a kudos for their risk-taking performance, featuring them dressed in catholic school girl uniforms and performing to a blend of colorful words from what seemed to be a phonics lesson. You had to be there!

All students, performers and everyone who participated to put the show together should really be

proud of themselves.

The performances were substantive, but not too long. Many of the different dance classes had an opportunity to shine in the concert, without overwhelming the crowd with an endless array of material.

The pace of the show was up-tempo and did a good job of mixing really awesome and fun dance music in with slower paced more traditional concert performances.

Another stand out performance for me was the Act 2 performance "BeBe."

Cerritos College students Yurixa Gonzalez, Iris Lin, Jon Paul Borrome Nades and Armando Orozco danced to music by pop artist Prince, in a sexy ballroom-style dance partner duet.

The ladies in the performance wore really provocative '60s style hot-pants and disco shirts, while their male dance partners were shirtless.

All I have to say is, "Wow! Cerritos College, this is why I love the arts."

This was a display of solid performance after performance, displaying strength, discipline and a love for the arts.

If you missed it, you missed out and all you can do is mark your spring calendar for the event next year.

I will not be here at Cerritos College next year, but the Spring Dance Concert is definitely worth coming back for.



Cerritos College Theatre Department and ASCC present

URINETOWN

THE MUSICAL

Music & Lyrics by Greg Kotin
Book & Lyrics by Mark Hallman

... what if you had to pay to pee?

directed and choreographed by Janet Miller
musical direction by Hector Salazar
vocal direction by Christine Lopez

April 25, 26
May 1, 2 & 3 @ 8 pm
and May 4 @ 2 pm 2008

\$12 C.C. students (w/Spring 08 ID), staff, seniors, middle & high school
\$15 general admission
\$10 ages 5-12

More info: call 562.487.5058 or visit: www.cerritos.edu/theatre
Cerritos College Burnight Center Theatre 11110 Alondra Blvd. Norwalk, CA 90850



LONISHA THOMPSON/TM

Spring concert: Two members of the Pop/Rock Ensemble sing.

Pop/Rock Ensemble holds spring concert

LONISHA THOMPSON
A&E Editor
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The Cerritos College Pop/Rock Ensemble asked for a little bit of R-E-S-P-E-C-T when it performed the Aretha Franklin classic at the Pop/Rock Concert held in the Student Center last Thursday night.

The number, led by vocalist Angelyne Roman and with the aid of trumpets, trombones, a bass guitarist and percussionists, entertained campus board members, students and faculty.

Roman, who also plays the piano and sings for her church choir, drew inspiration from Franklin, who has been dubbed as the "Queen of Soul."

"I selected songs from the women I look up to as far as artists and musicians," the vocalist explained.

The production, which was presented by the Music Department, is one of a series of concerts that the department along with the ASCC will be hosting this spring on campus, in an effort to show the accomplishments of the different band collaborations being nurtured by the Music Department.

The band opened with a festive tribute to R&B '80s band Kool and the Gang, with its rendition of the chart-topper "Celebration."

Roman and vocalists Alexa Macias and Bettie Woodard sang in unison, preceded by the cause for celebration being attributed to Woodard's birthday.

The band then slowed down

the pace as it featured solo performances, displaying the individual talents of Macias Roman, Woodard, and a special vocal performance by trumpet player Stacy Neacato.

Band members also took advantage of the solo performances showcasing their talents, minus vocalists, in their instrumental remake of Otis Redding's "Knock on Wood."

The band played collectively before taking the background to individual instrumental efforts of fellow band members.

Closing with their arrangement of "Lady Marmalade," after many requests, the band finally had students up on their feet and using the dance floor, which was arranged just for the festivity.

"(The band) took three months to prepare for this. It was pretty awesome!" exclaimed Hwan Lee, a music major, who attended to support his friend and band trombone player, Daniel Mooney.

"It's a learning experience," explained Macias, "we just like to play things that everyone knows," the vocalist concluded.

Music Department performances to follow include:

- Piano Concert on April 20 and
- Band Exchange Concert on April 21.

More information on the events can be found on the music department Web page at www.cerritos.edu/music.



teaching tip #9

Superheroes don't always wear capes.

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- click: www.apu.edu/education/tips
- email: graduatecenter@apu.edu



K-12, bachelor's to doctorate, we know teaching.



To be or not to be, that is the Hill: Rocio Lopez, undecided major (left), and Kevin Gamez, undecided major (right), hang out on the Hill every so often because it is one of the few places on campus that they feel comfortable at and they think it has a great atmosphere.

The Hill people cometh

ESMERALDA INFANTE
Staff Writer
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Walking along campus with a book in hand ready to sit and unwind before your next class starts, those cement benches in Falcon Square aren't exactly your thing and are the least appealing.

However, something catches the corner of your eye and you make your way toward it. The grassy hill suddenly seems like the place you were looking for.

Three words wander through your head at that exact moment: relaxing, cool and calm.

Being one of the few grassy areas still left at Cerritos College, this hangout place is better known as the

Hill.

Located in front of the music department, it is home to those who come on a regular basis to hang out.

Whether it's listening to the sound of a good band, enjoying a lunch beneath the shade of the trees, or simply catching up with friends, this spot has become well-known and loved.

"It's one of the places students can gather around and chill," said Diana Cabrera, philosophy major.

For those who are unaware of the changes occurring here at Cerritos College, there is talk about the removal of the Hill.

The Cerritos College Transformation Committee has talked about reconstructing Falcon Square and

that means removing the Hill as well.

The Master Plan which has been worked on since 1997 and was last updated in 2007, has no mention of replacing the Hill or relocating it.

"They shouldn't do anything with it, it's one of the few places in school that has grass and students can enjoy," said Julian Gutierrez, criminal justice major.

ASCC members are trying to convince the committee that with the removal of the Hill, it will be hard to replace the ambience it has accomplished in achieving over the years.

It's filled daily with the students who sit and enjoy this rare nature spot, or those who catch a few Zs before their next class.

"I like the Hill because it's more convenient for students to sit down while waiting for classes, the Student Center is too far for me," Cabrera explained.

The Hill is one of the oldest establishments on campus and removing it may lose the historical value it has gained.

Students say that it isn't hard to simply leave it alone, if the students actually want it to stay there.

Jennifer Jackson, undecided major, was catching up doing math homework under the shade of the trees.

"This is my first time sitting here, and it's pretty cool. It's better than sitting on those cement benches in the middle under the blazing sun."

History, tips for Earth Day

JESSICA CHAPULA
Online Community Editor
onlinecomm@talonmarks.com

The idea of Earth Day was introduced by former Wisconsin senator Gaylord Nelson.

He was troubled by the condition the environment was in and how U.S. politicians weren't doing anything about it.

So, he decided to make the state of the environment known to everyone. He wanted to persuade President John F. Kennedy to make the issue of the environment visible by going on a national conservation tour.

President Kennedy began the five-day, eleven-state conservation tour in September 1963. Unfortunately, it was not successful enough to put the issue on the national political agenda.

In September 1969, at a conference in Seattle, Nelson announced that in the spring of 1970 there would be a nationwide demonstration on behalf of the environment and invited everyone to participate in the event.

On Nov. 30, 1969, the New York Times featured an article by Gladwin Hill, about the rising concern of the environment, that was spreading through college campuses all over the nation.

So on April 22, 1970, 20 million Americans, including college and university students all over the nation, took part in the action to make environmental issues visible.

In present day, there are ways that people participate in Earth Day.

Liz Gutierrez, undecided major,

said, "Everyday is Earth Day for me, because we need to take care of the environment everyday and not one day out of the year."

"Plants trees or flowers, recycle, carpool, take public transportation and do not litter."

There are also many other ways to do so; change your regular light bulbs to low energy fluorescent light bulbs, plant a tree or a garden in your backyard to get rid of carbon dioxide and to bring more oxygen to the environment.

Save electricity by turning off the lights and television when you leave a room.

An important tip that many people do not know is to unplug cell phone chargers out of the outlet when not in use, because the charger draws energy just being plugged into the power outlet.

Save water by cutting your shower by two minutes and turning off the faucet while you're brushing your teeth and washing the dishes.

Also instead of getting a new water bottle every time you get thirsty buy a reusable water bottle and refill it every time you finish it. This will save more energy because plastic water bottles take a lot of energy to make.

Selling back your textbooks saves paper needed by publishing companies to make new books, this will save paper and give you some money.

Also a great way to make a little more cash is through recycling. Recycle your plastic bottles, aluminum cans, newspapers and magazines and take them to a recycling station near you in return for some cash.

BIG MOUSE ON CAMPUS

Big Mouse On Campus event, a week of activities designed to help you discover how to get an internship of a lifetime at the Disneyland Resort. April 21 - 24 Open to all majors.

Cerritos College

APRIL M 21	APRIL TU 22	APRIL W 23	APRIL TH 24
Big Wheel on Campus 9am-3pm Location: Falcon Square Spin the wheel for a chance for a prize and talk to Disney College Program representatives and alumni about the internship of a lifetime!	Big Wheel on Campus 9am-3pm Location: Falcon Square Spin the wheel for a chance for a prize and talk to Disney College Program representatives and alumni about the internship of a lifetime!	Big Wheel on Campus 9am-3pm Location: Falcon Square Spin the wheel for a chance for a prize and talk to Disney College Program representatives and alumni about the internship of a lifetime!	Big Wheel on Campus 9am-3pm Location: Falcon Square Spin the wheel for a chance for a prize and talk to Disney College Program representatives and alumni about the internship of a lifetime!
Résumé Workshop 11am Location: HS 104 2:30pm Location: HS 103 Get tips from a Recruiter on how to get a résumé that gets you the interview.	Interview Workshop 11am Location: HS 104 2:30pm Location: HS 103 Get tips from a Recruiter on how to turn an interview into a job offer.	College Program Presentation 11am Location: HS 104 4:30pm Location: SL 109 Come find out why the Disney College Program is an opportunity you just can't miss!	College Program Presentation 11am Location: HS 104 4:30pm Location: SL 109 Come find out why the Disney College Program is an opportunity you just can't miss!

*Be sure to attend one of the Recruiter presentations for more information.

Disney college program

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Women's restrooms: While the room may or may not be dirty, women can still relax on the couches in the student center restroom.

The best, worst women's restrooms

Those unexpected bathroom runs during classes aren't that pleasant once you step into one of the bad restrooms here at Cerritos.

Sure, the restrooms here are better than those port-a-potties randomly on the street, but there are a few here that come close to the comparison.

The older buildings tend to have the worst restrooms and the newer buildings have the cleaner and stocked ones.

One could always tell if the restrooms are dirty, by the looks on women's faces. With a simple gesture of their face, they basically tell you, "Don't even look."

One in particular is the women's bathroom in the Fine Arts Building. I swear I am not going to fit in the stalls. Four stalls cramped into 10 in. of space isn't the way to go.

The women do get entertained though with the music blasting from the dance room, the guy-bashing, love poetry and advice written on the stalls.

"I hate the track and field (rest-



room). The time I walked in there was water all over the floor, it was just horrible," said Cassie Dunagan, undecided major.

Whether it's the lack of stalls, the toilet paper on the floor, or those un-flushed toilets, women are guaranteed a surprise every now and then.

"I would hate to know those are the restrooms they make the athletes change in," Dunagan said.

If women's restrooms are bad, one could just imagine the men's bathrooms. The smell of the men's restroom lingers in the air of the journalism classroom. It's very distracting.

Apart from those bad, smelly, unpleasant bathrooms located here at campus, there are decent ones as well.

"The restrooms in the Library, next to the Teleconference room is clean. It is always stocked and I never seen a toilet overflowing," said Roxanna Rendon, art and design major.

The maintenance crew deserves kudos for trying to keep our restrooms clean, but from time to time they miss a couple of spots.

Evelyn Velazquez, undecided major, mentioned that the condition is the women's own fault.

"(People) blame the maintenance crew for not doing the job right, but hey sometimes we are to blame as well."

We should do our part to keep campus clean after all, it is our school.

"Most of the bathrooms here on campus are not that bad, you should see the ones at McDonalds. I hold it in," Rendon said.

Finally the myth will be cleared; yes, there are couches in the women's restroom in the Student Center. The women need a break from time to time!

Mexican team defeats Falcons

HECTOR COLCHADO
Staff Writer
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More than 900 people cheered on while watching the Cerritos College's women soccer team play in an international friendly game against the Mexican women's under-20 national team April 3.

The final score of the game was 5-2 in favor of the Mexican national team.

The Mexican national team scored three in the first half and both teams scored two in the second half.

The game was played on the new soccer field, that was built recently, located east of the softball field and south of the baseball field, which had enough space for fans in attendance to gather.

Lily Leos and Vanessa Monreal were the two Falcons that scored.

This was one game of many that the Mexican national team will be playing this month, said Oscar Zerecero, team coordinator and counselor.

Ruben Gonzalez, Cerritos head coach, invited Andrea Rosebaugh, coach of the national team, for a first game here in Cerritos College against its team.

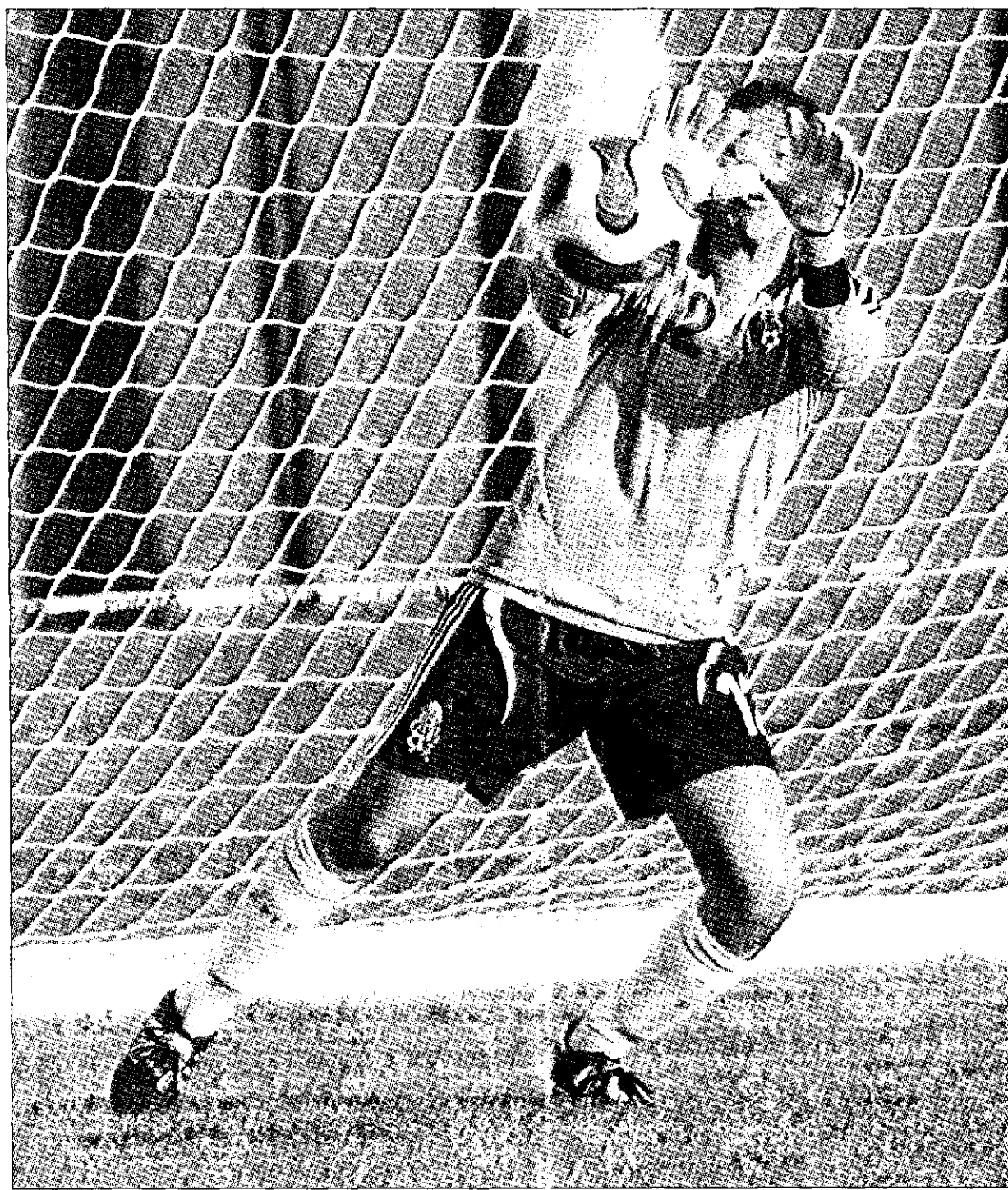
"I was able to arrange the game. Rosebaugh and I have talked about it for a while we are good friends," Gonzalez said.

The game was very electrifying, the people cheered on both sides for Cerritos and Mexico.

There was also a Mexican and American flag on the west side of the field.

"We're going to Tijuana April, 4, then Mexicali," Zerecero said. "Then we'll be back to go to Alabama."

He went on to say that these



Soccer: Goalkeeper Wendy Espejel (No. 12) of the Mexican national team blocks a shot from the Falcons.

games were as a preparation for the Under-20 Women's World Cup.

After the game was over, Rosebaugh gave thanks to Gonzalez for the invitation.

"I [also] thank the support of

the people."

Gutierrez, forward, was surrounded by fans and said, "Well, I am content with coming, this place is very pretty. The team is also strong. We won but with effort."

Gabby Aguilar, defender, was not surprised that the national team won them.

"(The Mexican team is) the better team, but next time (the Falcons) will be ready."

COMING UP IN SPORTS

MEN'S

Baseball:

4/22 @ 2:30 p.m. at Comp-ton

Tennis:

4/15-17/19 All Day Conference Tournament at Long Beach City

Track & Field:

4/19 @ 10 a.m. - Long Beach Invitational at Cerritos
4/22 @ 12 p.m. - SCC Prelims at Cerritos

Swimming:

4/18-19 All Day - SCC Diving Championships at El Camino

WOMEN'S

Softball:

4/17 @ 3 p.m. vs. Long Beach City
4/22 @ 3 p.m. vs. Mt. San Antonio

Tennis:

4/15, 17-19 All Day - Conference Tournament at Long Beach City

Track & Field:

4/19 @ 10 a.m. - Long Beach Invitational at Cerritos
4/22 @ 12 p.m. - SCC Prelims at Cerritos

Swimming:

4/18-19 All Day - SCC Diving Championships at El Camino

Cheer, dance team holds clinics for tryouts

JESSICA CHAPULA
Online Community Editor
onlinecomm@talonmarks.com

The Cerritos College cheer and dance team held clinics in the gym last Monday through Friday.

"We are holding the tryouts for people that will be eligible for next year," said Eric Galvan, liberal arts major and former team captain.

The clinics helped students learn cheer and dance routines.

"We are having clinics for three days. (Auditioners) get to learn three different cheers, three different dance routines, jumps and angles," said Kacy Meza-Ashley, assistant cheer coach.

This year, the cheer team wanted to include more dance routines, so now it has become part of the tryouts.

Those that were trying out were past cheer members, current students and high school seniors.

Past member Victoria Velasco, education major, decided to try out again.

"It's really fun being on the team," she said. "I got to meet a lot of new friends, so I'm trying out again."

Lauren Cantu, high school senior, also decided to try out.

"It's a little nerve racking but is a different experience than high school," she said.

In room
FA 42

Open House

May 1
at
11:30 a.m.

REPORTERS

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