

Profound Views April 30, 2008 Photo by Tanya Bermudez

He said he wasn't charismatic and that he had no idea why so many people have come to see him speak, but Noam Chomsky certainly had the capacity crowd at the Teleconference Center riveted to its seats.

The famous, sometimes infamous, political icon appeared via teleconfer-

ence on the big screen to talk about anti-American sentiments in the rest of the world.

Hundreds of students and faculty packed the Center and thousands more viewed and listened from the halls outside as the world-renowned author came in live from MIT to uncharismatically criticise American foreign policy and the lack of true discourse about the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The visit was only an hour long, be students and faculty hung around a ter to discuss the impact of Chomsky words and to soak up the importance it all.

The highly-anticipated visit becar the most read news story of the 200, 2008 school year and the biggest big st to hit our presses.



VROOM, BOOM, BANG

Wreck Shop Oct. 31, 2007 Photo by Lizette Castro

In late October an 81-year-old Norwalk resident drove his white Chrysler minivan into a guard rail and then into a trio of parked cars in Lot C-9, the staff parking lot between the Classroom Building and the soccer field.

Harry Watts later said the he thought he was pressing to break, but witnesses said it look white more like he freaked out after he ting the rail and just slammed the gas in reverse. No one was jured in the incident that becard one of the most read news storiof the school year.

FACULTY LOSES FAITH IN VELA

Speaking Out April 17, 2008 Photo by Michael Agudo

Cerritos College President Dr. Noelia Vela was on the verge of leaving to become the chancellor of Riverside just about a year ago.

This year however, she has been on the verge of getting pushed out.

It began with five divisions and then escalated to the entire Faculty Senate and has nearly come to a decision twice already.

The "no confidence" vote that began back in December of 2007 has had its fair share of big shots, all featured on hours of podcasts and video foot-

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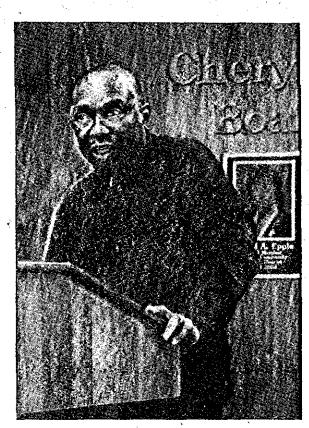
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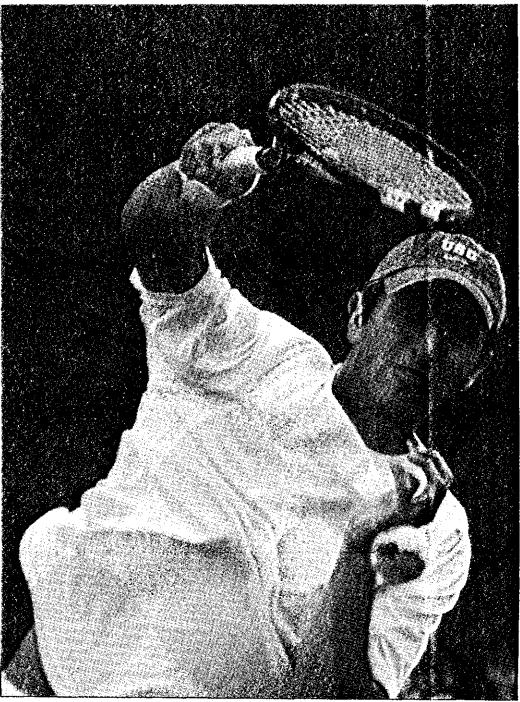
Vela, whose face is on the cover, has declined to comment except to speak to the ASCC to defend her perceived lack of communication.

From Faculty Senate President Bryan Reece demanding for her immediate removal by the Board of Trustees to the 18 faculty and staff members, like political science instructor Victor Obasohan (right), who spoke of the failings of Vela's tenure at Cerritos, the story continues.

To date, the Board has not made a decision despite several closed sessions in that regard.



TENTIMES EXCELLENT



Capturing the Moment April 17, 2008

It's not all about awards, but there is something to be said about winning General Excellence ten times in-a-

For the tenth time the Talon Marks online edition, www.talonmarks. com, was rated as one of the premier Web sites among California community colleges in April by the Journalism Association of Community Colleges in its annual statewide convention held at the Wilshire Grand hotel in downtown Los Angeles.

The convention also featured numerous individual contests designed to help teach and foster everyday journalistic principles.

The Talon Marks staff received 10 awards for everything ranging from magazine design to writing and reporting to advertisement design.

Some of these contests are on-the-spot contests that are designed to simulate the deadline pressure of working for a daily newspaper.

On-the-spot contests feature students being sent out to cover events and coming back and either writing a story or editing and submitting a photo to be judged by industry professionals.

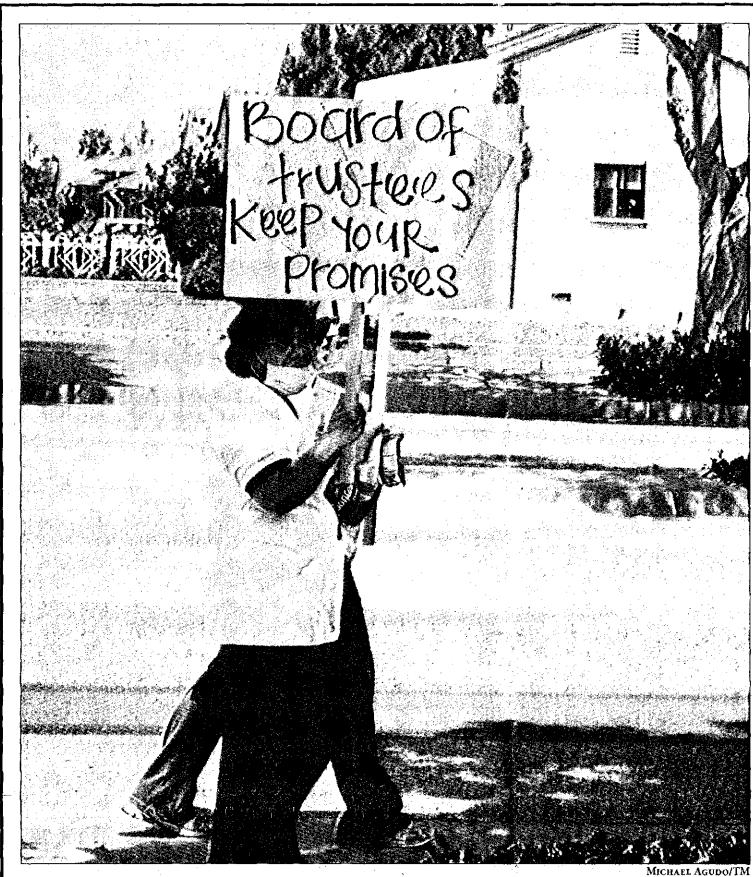
After winning fourth place for his news photo, this shot of a USC men's tennis player by Werner Gomez won him first place for sports photography.

"It's funny, I don't consider myself a photographer but it's the only thing I won first place in," Gomez said at the time.

"But you have to be well-rounded to know about photos even if all you want to do is write."

Submit your photos from the 2007 - 2008 Cerritos College school year to be published online at www.talonmarks.com. Just email your jpgs to shooters@talonmarks.com and we'll do the rest. You can also tag your photos with "Cerritos College" on flicker to have them automatically show up in our flicker group or submit them via MySpace by visiting us at www.myspace.com/talon_marks.

Volume 52, No. 24



Protest: Last Thursday, students and teachers walked around campus in protest of thier disagreement in the cutting of Project H.O.P.E. and Puente.

Students protest for H.O.P.E.

Managina Editor managing@talonmarks.com

Students with signs in their hands and handkerchiefs over their faces were marching across campus last Thursday in protest to the millions of dollars on reserve at Cerritos College.

"We're trying to institutionalize (programs like) Project H.O.P.E. and Puente," said Rio Medina, English and Chicano studies major.

the goal is to get more Latinos and other racial minority groups into different careers in the health field.

Puente's mission is to get more students who are "educationally disadvantaged" to transfer to four-year colleges and universities and to earn college degrees.

According to the protesters, \$7-12 million is on reserve in the Cerritos College funds and there has been a 9 percent pay

increase for Administration. None of this money has funded student—were to indicate peace and silence.

Project H.O.P.E. is a program in which resources or given access to higher education for students.

"Why (is the school) cutting student programs?" was one of the questions asked by Sandra Mardonovich, biology major.

"Why stop Project H.O.P.E. when it's been such a success?" she added. "To say we don't produce anything is complete

The handkerchiefs the protestors wore and the signs they held were white, which

New program for physical therapy workers

Esmeralda Infante einfante8@talonmarks.com

With more than 40 students enrolled, the Physical Therapy Assistant Program has had a good effect on the lives of all these students.

The high credited program was offered to those who previously worked as a physical therapy assistant and were on the verge of losing their jobs.

"What makes this program so unique is that it is one year, when in reality it should be two. This has helped me from losing future jobs."

- Physical therapy assistant, Nate Mosley

stating that all assistants be a grad-On Nov. 1, 2007 the centers tion. Every assistant who has not a credited program.

for Medicare released its new rule met the requirements of the new rule must be licensed or certified uate of a Commission on Accredia as an assistant, must pass a nationtation in Physical Therapy Educa- al exam and must be a graduate of

The program which was worked on by Marijean Piorkowski, professor and department chair of physical therapy assistant, meets every Tuesday and Satur-

"What makes this program so unique is that it is one year, when in reality it should be two. This has helped me from losing future jobs," said Nate Mosley, physical therapy assistant.

See Physical therapy page 2

Forensics on center stage

LONISHA THOMPSON A&E Editor arts@talonmarks.com

Members of the Cerritos College Forensics Team displayed their talents in the Student Center to an audience of approximately 100 of their peers last Tuesday in the "Night of Forensics" program.

Students from the college participated in a series of different varieties of speech and debate showcases that consisted of a Parliamentary Debate, poetry readings and a short acting skit, also known as Reader's Theater.

Opening the showcase was forensics member Danny Torres, English and communications major. Torres recited poetry that addressed the issues of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and its significance among soldiers.

Following the poetry reading was a two-member team, parliamentary debate.

This style of debate consists of an affirmative team and a negative team going head to head to resolve the implementation or rejection of an issue or a "proposition."

Cerritos College Forensics Team members showed off their impromptu skills by soliciting debatable topics from audience members.

The topic of debate for the evening was "medical marijuana legalization."

The first speaker, or the "prime minister" began by arguing for a change to the current system. The speaker presented a seven minute case to persuade judges to vote to legalize marijuana.

The second speaker, "leader of the Negative" team then argues for the status quo, which is for the upholding of the current system. This leader's strategy is to introduce the disadvan-

tages of the new plan.

The government constructive speaker then took four minutes to back up his partner and to address all of the contentions presented by their

Finally, after additional arguments from the government and opposition team and following rebuttals from each team, the audience was asked to vote for the team who they believed best proved their case.

By a round of applause, the negative team was chosen as the winner of the debate.

"I voted for the negative team because they had better arguments and they knew more or less what they were talking about," asserted Brenda Saldana, industrial engineering ma-

Concluding the debate was a duo interpretation reading by forensics team member Enrique Mijares and Torres, his partner. This interpretation was a collaboration from three different poems, where the students read and presented their material in a dramatic manner.

The final speech of the night was an impromptu speech by Forensics President Fadi Almachraki.

The chemical engineering major solicited another topic drawn by the audience and after two minutes of preparation, delivered an impromptu speech addressing why Barack Obama is his superhero of choice.

Concluding the "Night of Forensics" was the Reader's Theater Presentation by students Torres, Mijares and

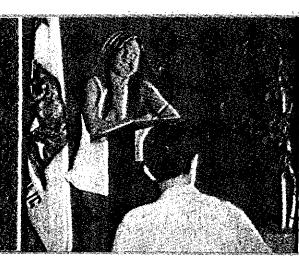
Maria Gutierrez. "It's an interpretative event, a lot about collaboration. It's (material) from different literature put together," Gutierrez explained.

TIME OF PRAYER



Crusaders: The Campus Crusaders and students gathered in the Falcon Square last Thursday to hold a prayer service and read their Bibles and to sing in the name of the Lord.

Chief Justice speaks out about the ASCC See News page 2



ONLINE **EXCLUSIVES**

 View: Web cast of the recent news around the campus

Submit your own photos of the school year Check for breaking news at www.talonmarks.com



Baseliall (cant soarsinto

Physical therapy:

New program

Continued from page 1

Mosley was unfortunate that he lost his job, but soon after, landed right back on his feet through the connections he attained from his 25-year career.

The new requirements caused stress and worries among some of the students enrolled in the pro-

"It was great they created this program. They threw a life raft and we climbed on," said Chuck Ander-

Anderson was one of the lucky ones that kept his job. A therapist told him about the program offered here at Cerritos, and he jumped at the opportunity.

an assistant for 36 years and has off when needed.

loved every minute of it.

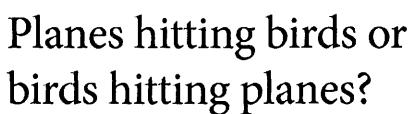
"This is the greatest experience. I get to meet people form all walks of life, and this program has made me keep living my dream," he said.

Udarbe currently works at Kaiser Permanente in Harbor City treating patients with injuries and entertaining his patients with his musical talents.

Richard Sanchez, who currently works in Pomona, and is also enrolled in this program.

"I didn't lose my job, but it put limitations on it. It gave me more security."

Sanchez heard about the program through his supervisor and they have been supportive every step of the way. His job has paid for George Udarbe has worked as the program and given him the days



JESSICA CHAPULA Online Community Editor onlinecomm@talonmarks.com

If you thought people were already scared of flying, there is another reason to worry about it: bird strikes.

Teacher TRAC and the Science, Engineering and Math Division of Cerritos College sponsored a lecture called "Bird's Eye View: Building a Better Scarecrow" last Thursday.

The lecture was conducted by Assistant Professor of Department of Biological Sciences in Cal State Long Beach Dr. Esteban Fernandez-Juricic.

A bird strike is when a bird crashes into an airplane or an airplane hits a bird.

According to Juricic, bird strikes are a major problem.

Not only are birds getting hurt, "it can also be extremely severe, I think is nice that they are doing possibility of an accident and it also costs the airline industry over \$1.28 billion annually for repairs," Juricic were a problem and I never even

He is trying to protect the birds into birds."

and is doing research on how birds will be less attractive to an airplane. Between 1990-2006, 73,526

bird strikes have been reported and about 200 people since 1990 have

"We are doing experiments to see how birds respond to approaching objects to predict bird responses to airlines, identify key components to develop new applications (to make the airplane less attractive) and predict how different types of bird species perceive light and color," he said.

Juricic's research is to, "find a new way to protect the birds' species and at the same time keep passengers safe."

In the lecture he showed students some bird strikes videos.

Claudia Rosales, liberal arts maor, enjoyed the lecture.

"I thought it was interesting. something to protect the birds," she said. "I had no idea bird strikes thought that aircrafts could crash



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May 20th, in BE 14 at

5:30 p.m.

BCOT 63

BCOM 152 @ **BCOT 161** Job Search/Business Principles of Filing Field TKT #28612 TKT #28609 1.0 Unit Orientation:

1.5 Unit Orientation: May 19th, in BE 14 at 6:30 p.m.

The first three courses are offered ONLY in the Summers and are part of the Departments' Certificate programs. So these are courses that you want to take toward the completition of your certificates. These are great classes and I hope to see all of you this summer at the orientations. Instructor: S. Elizondo, ext. 2743 or Room BE 14

Email: selizondo@cerritos.edu Website: www.cerritos.edu/selizondo



Chief Justice speaks out

JESSICA CHAPULA Online Community Editor onlinecom@talonmarks.com

Chief Justice Kanneaka Sin, voiced her opinion about this year's ASCC at the last senate meeting of the school year last Wednesday.

"This has been a very long year and I have been disappointed in the ways things are going,"

"This year it was a different ASCC. ASCC is supposed to be like a team and work together and I didn't see that this year.

"They weren't doing anything right, they focused on one thing this year and I felt they forgot all about the other clubs and programs in school."

Sin feels that there was a lack of communi-

cation between the ASCC's branches, Cabinet, Court and Senate.

In the meeting she told the Senate, "You have to respect each other and what each of you does. Be a tight group that helps out the students. You shouldn't be here with a selfish mind; we need to listen to one another.

"I just want to see a better ASCC, I want them to learn from their mistakes."

Sergeant-at-Arms Brian Kochems agreed with Sin, "As the only returning senator, I feel this year's ASCC as a whole wasn't getting involved in the school activities.

"I want to see more involvement as a whole. I have seen how previous ASCCs have worked together and I was very disappointed with this year's new ASCC," he said.

ASCC Vice President Michael Barrita dis-

agreed with Sin's observation. He said that though she hadn't done anything to reach out to the other branches, the ASCC was nevertheless

He cited the recent ASCC elections as an example of the ASCC's unity.

"Me, personally, I have never seen a disagreement or senators fighting. We are one of the biggest independent student governments we have had.

"We go against businesses (for example the water proposal), because they look at students as customers and not as students," he said.

"We try to bring forth a body of students to work together and make a better Cerritos College," he added. "Ihat's why I was elected as president (for next year)."



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EDUCATION

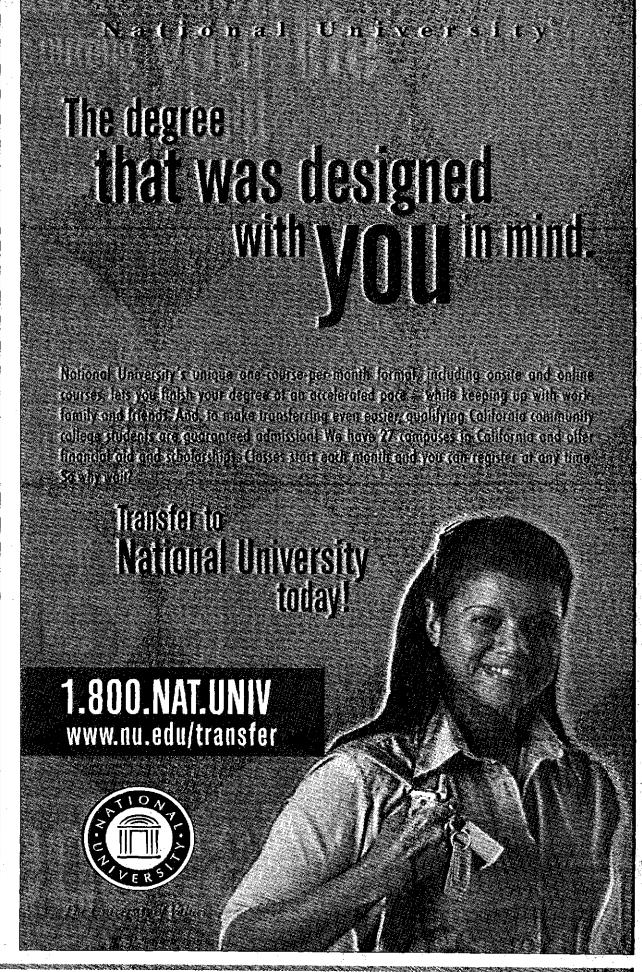
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Jazz improv class tests skills

The performers:

- Rob Tan, vocalist,Angel Moreno,
- Juan Rodriguez,
- guitarist • Andrew Ariza,
- planist • Bryan Shepherd,
- Bryan Snephera,
 drummer and
 Andrew Trujillo,

trumpeter :

TIM DICKERSON

Managing Editor

managing@talonmarks.com

The jazz improvisation class held its once-a-semester concert at the Ampitheater on Tuesday.

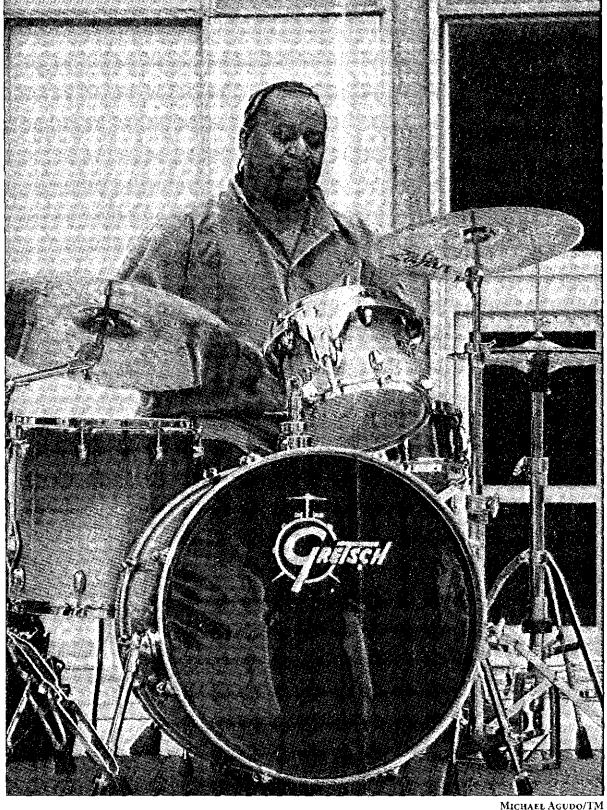
"(We usually do a) performance one a semester," said Gary Pritchard, music instructor. "It's kind of like a playing final."

Pritchard describes the class as an introduction to improvisa-

In the class, he emphasizes on basic jazz styles and ensemble performing.

Andrew Trujillo, history major, said, "We learn the basic technique to solo over basic jazz forms." Where the improvisation comes in, Trujillo said, "The solos aren't written out."

Jazz Improvisation meets on Thursdays at 3 p.m. It is listed as MUS 142 and is a one-unit class.



MICHAEL AGUDO/TM
Pa-rum-pa-pum-pum: Bryan Shepherd, music education major, plays the drums during the jazz improvisation class's concert in the Ampitheater. Tuesday's concert was "a playing final," according to Gary Pritchard, the class's instructor.

Downey is witty in 'Iron Man' role

JESSICA CHAPULA
Online Community Editor
onlinecomm@talonmarks.com

The new blockbuster superhero

movie, Iron Man, is full of laughs.

Robert Downey Jr. delivered hilarious, witty lines since the beginning of the movie.

The movie starts off in the desolate landscape of Afghanistan, where we are introduced to playboy, eccentric genius, and CEO of Starks Industries Tony Stark (Downey).

He is joined by members of the United States Air Force to show off his latest invention, the powerful Jericho missile, a weapon so powerful, it can level an entire mountainside in mere seconds.

As he moves out, his convoy is attacked by terrorists, where he is wounded by the resulting shrapnel. He is taken hostage and is forced to build a Jericho missile for the terrorist.

However, instead of helping out the terrorists with the destruction of human life, he instead chooses freedom.

He does this by building an iron suit to protect himself from harm with the help of Yinsen (Shaun Toub), a doctor who helped save his life, who helps him escape.

When he returns to America he vowed to stop making weapons, for the good of all mankind.

Of course, this is bad news for the company, which depends heavily on weapon manufacturing. His partner, Obadiah Stone (Jeff Bridges), refuses to accept that fact

Iron Man brought superhero comic book movies back to the quality that they deserve

Every character was well-developed and the dialogue was filled with witty

I love the way Stark always had something clever to say, for example "Let's face it, this is not the worst thing you've ever caught me doing," he tells

you've ever caught me doing," he tells his assistant Pepper Potts (Gwyneth Paltrow) as some robots are taking

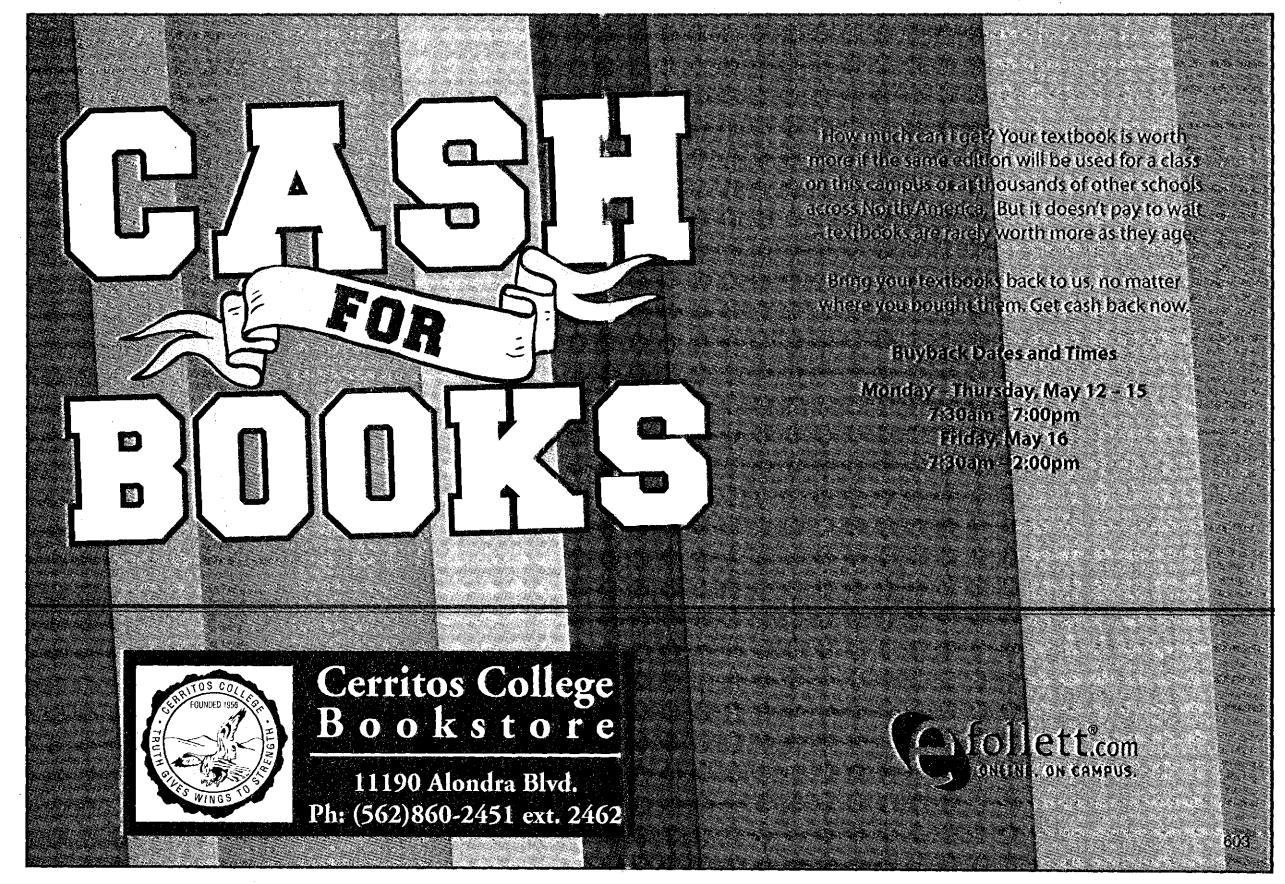
the armor suit off of him.

Also, in the beginning, "Good God, you're a woman!"

That was the line that captured my attention from then on and I instantly knew this was going to be a great film.

The movie was build with action packed technology and had great special effects that made the movie more realistic.

Of course, no Marvel comic movie would be complete without the hilarious cameo of creator Stan Lee, who appeared as a Hugh Hefner. Jon Favreau does it again with a great hilarious movie.



STUDENT RELAMES FOR ELEVEN STRAIGHT MINUTES!

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Editorials express the views of the **Executive Editorial** Board. Other opinions

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Associated Students, the college administration or the Board of Trustees,

Production and printing of TALON MARKS IS partially funded by the Associated Students of of Cerritos College.

Facilities and academic supervision are provided by the Department of Journalism.

Newsroom offices are located in the Fine Arts Building Room FA42.

Cerritos College is located at 11110 Alondra Blvd., Norwalk, CA 90650

Telephone numbers: (562) 860-2451, ext. 2617 FAX (562) 467-5044

Vol. 52 © 2008 Talon Marks

Spring 2008 **STAFF**

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General Excellence 2005-2007 State Conference Journalism Association of Community Colleges



EDITORIAL

Immigration should be made easier

Illegal immigration is a growing problem in the United States and it's only going to get worse if the country does not seriously examine and restructure its path toward citizenship.

ing out and condemning the people that enter this country illegally, this country needs to make it easier for people to enter legally.

Building a fence around the borders is only a short-term solution to the problem.

It does not address the actual problem; people come to the United States because their home country cannot provide the same opportunities that the U.S. does.

Here, people have the opportunity to get a decent paying job, go to college and become a better provider for their families.

We must remember that this country's greatest asset has been and always will be the people that immigrate here. Most of us today would not be here

if not for immigration. This problem lies much deeper than people crossing the border without a not.

green card. The burden isn't solely on the people that come to country in search of a better life for themselves and their fami-

who use illegal immigration to their ad-

We must stop the real problem of immigrants working in horrible conditions for sub-par pay.

We must stop the businesses that Instead of doing nothing but com- hire the people that are in this country illegally.

> We must give the people that come to this country the opportunity to become citizens and work here legally.

> The people that come here are taken advantage of by businesses that want to save a buck or two by hiring illegal im-

This is the reason why the U.S. needs to be more open at the borders.

If it is easier for people to obtain at least some sort of permit to work here legally, we can also regulate the people that are coming into the country.

If there is a screening process to weed out the criminals and possible terrorists, the borders would be more

Therefore the people of this country would be safer and that is what everyone wants, whether born on U.S. soil or

By giving people that apply and pass the screening process an opportunity to work and earn a full citizenship, it would stop businesses taking advantage of the hard working immigrants The burden lies on the businesses that come here to make a better life for



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

Students and drugs don't mix

If you are coming to school to learn and be successful then do not smoke marijuana.

During my last month here at this beautiful Norwalk campus I find myself forced to come out. Out of my nice, un-opinionated shell that is, due to the fact that I happened across something that totally appalled me.

It left me saying, "Are you kidding me?" Not to say that I am not easily appalled by today's twenty-somethings, but usually I can just shake my head, silently gasp, and ignore ignore ignore.

So here's how I arrived at that point.

I'm standing outside of the classroom waiting for the instructor to come and open the door so that I and my eager classmates can enjoy our exhilarating algebra lecture.

To my utter dismay down the hallway comes some dope-head with a doobie in his mouth. Yes, a doobie, pot, mary jane, marijuana.

So this idiot walks down the hallway past me and my peers, out the sliding glass door to the courtyard where he then takes post on the seatlevel brick wall and lights his joint, less than 20 feet away from the entrance to the Classroom Building.

Skater boy, I doubt that you read the paper,

Cintia Saravia

"If people have lived here for

10 years, I think (the govern-

ment) should make them

citizens. They should also let

immigrants get student loans

and financial aid to further

architecture major

their education."



but just in case, I'm calling out you and all of the others out there like you, who think that it's okay to do drugs at school.

Where do I begin? First of all, I'll start by saying, "Dude just

Seriously, what are you here for? Because the slippery slope that you're sliding down, bro, is

going nowhere, and fast. How alert and attentive can you possibly be during classes when you're stoned? Do the rest of us knowledge-seekers a favor and stop crowding up classes and stop crowding up the waiting

lists, to later withdraw and fail out of a class. Again my disclaimer, I am normally not this opinionated. I usually grin and bear it, but this is an opinion article, so here it is dudes (I'm sure there's some pot-smoking dudettes out there too, but I'm calling out the young man who I witnessed doping up on school grounds).

Question, what are you here for, education, right, knowledge, power, or good job?

Well, who in his right mind is going to hire you, pumped full of dope?

Sure, maybe one of your dope -pedaling contacts, but you don't need to come to school to get a job in street pharmaceutical sales.

Don't you know that any respectable organization's first line of defense is the drug test? Yeah buddy, work places are pretty efficient

these days. They can take a sample of your hair that traces back as far as six months. They're going to weed you out son, like a

mutant species in the process of natural selection (Anthropology 115 if you're lost). I'm just saying that school's a waste of your

time, kid, if you're not going to be employable Honestly, homey, and anyone else out there

who this applies to, I'm not talking down on you guys, but what am I supposed to do? I'm a journalist, I'm supposed to report it,

the good, the bad, and the ugly. Especially if I

see something so disrespectful happening at such a highly respectable community institution, it's my duty to speak out. I'll conclude my ranting by saying, if you don't want people speaking on your private af-

fairs and passing judgments on them, then you need to keep that dark hole in your life at

However, as cliché as it may sound, whatever is done in the dark is eventually going to come

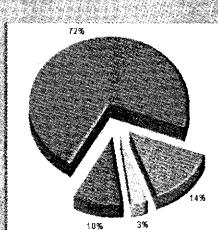
OF THE WEEK What do you think of Noam Chomsky?

He's an American hero 72%

Who's Noam Chomsky 14%

He's the poster boy for anit-Americanism

I'm somewhere in the middle



his Talon Marks poll is not scientific and reflects the op 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 the country should do about illegal immigration?

Compiled by: Jessica Chapula



CAMILA KIM nursing major

JENNIFER MORRISON

"The borders should be a

little bit less secure. Im-

migrants are not terrorists,

these people have families

and they are looking for a

English major

little wage."

"I think we should give everyone an opportunity because they risk their lives and leave everything behind to come here."



FERNANDO BRIONES architecture major

"I don't want it to get overcrowded, it is the land of opportunities but immigrants need to choose. I know there are a lot of illegal immigrants here so they need to tighten up the security."



WENDY VASQUEZ physician assistant

"The (government) can't prevent it, so it's kind of hard to stop it. They are not doing any harm here, they actually help the economy."



Fili Vaiau nursing major

"I think (the government) should make it easier for (illegal immigrants) to come in and get better jobs."

· LETTER TO THE EDITOR · It's not quite so simple

When I read Hector Colcahdo's a "disease", in the way that the writer editorial, "Alcoholism needs to be states. dealt with", (April 30 issue) about alcoholism and homosexuality, I was a bit disturbed that an individual, who is supposed to have some basic knowledge of how to write persuasive essays, would make such false analogies, which are primarily based on cases of equivocation, hasty generalization and assumptions.

First off, Colchado begins comparing alcoholism and AlDS. Even though he clearly stated that alcoholism and AIDS are not the same thing, he treats alcoholism and AIDS as if they were both on equal footing.

Unfortunately, the writer continues to commit the fallacy known as equivocation, when he uses the word "problem". The writer states that both alcoholism and homosexbe considered a "disease".

Alcoholism is a medical/psychological problem, while homosexuality is a social issue.

A medical problem can become a medical disease whereas a social issue cannot, in anyway, fall into the category of a medical disease. Therefore, homosexuality cannot be

Furthermore, homosexuality does not need to be cured. The writer states, "there is no such thing as a cure for homosexuality or alcoholism", which implies that homosexuality is something that must be cured.

As I stated earlier, in order for sexuality to be cured, it must be a medical disease; which it is not.

There is a major consensus in the fields of medicine and psychology, which states that homosexuality, is neither a medical disease nor in general. a psychological disorder.

Therefore, there is no need for "cure", when according to the medical and psychological fields; there is nothing medically or psychologically wrong with being homosexual.

Moreover, the author makes a uality are a "problem", which could hasty generalization, and believes that an alcoholic can just quit. The authors states, "It [alcoholism and homosexuality) is just a state of mind, a decision, an option and a

> If that was the case, then there would be no need for such groups as Alcoholics Anonymous. There are many studies that show how alcohol

can create a dependency.

For example, there is a new study that was published in the "Southern Medical Journal" this past February, published by, Christopher W. Shea, which talks about the "alcoholic dependency a complex disease involving biologic, psychosocial, and environmental factors" (Ebscohost). Obviously, as is evident by this study, alcoholism is not as easy to quit as Colchado believed.

Finally, the author makes many assumptions about homosexuality

Colchado had stated that both homosexuality and alcoholism were a "state of mind, a decision, an option and a habit". This cannot be further from the truth.

Homosexuality is not any of these things, since all of these statements explicitly or implicitly state that homosexuality is a choice.

No human being would ever deliberately choose to be ostracized or discriminated against for making a

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Obama needs more experience

The political question of the day is why Sen. Barack Obama can't close out the Democratic nomination. He missed the opportunity in New Hampshire and then again in Texas and Ohio and now in Pennsylvania.

In a race that has gone on for this long and with the demographic profiles of the two candidates so different, it would be foolish to single out just one reason Obama can't put an end to the race. But it's possible be as articulate, charismatic and to place it in a historical context.

That is, it's not at all unusual for a political newcomer to bolt out of the gates and shoot ahead of the field early, only to come down back to earth as voters take a closer look at somebody they don't know that well and who doesn't have much experience.

Obama is on a flight path similar to Jimmy Carter's in 1976 or Gary Hart's in 1984, or even Bill Clinton's in 1992.

The underlying truth is that Americans feel more comfortable with their presidential candidates when they know them well. There are myriad reasons Obama hasn't put the nomination away, but they all revolve around this issue of familiarity, and, especially, a lack of national experience.

The Republicans, going back to Richard Nixon in 1960 and 1968, have generally nominated the mostexperienced candidate. And, by and large, it has served them well.

This time around, it was inevitable that someone would emerge as pardon of Nixon.

James Klurfeld editor@talormarks.com

the anti-Hillary Clinton candidate. She just has too much baggage, and there is too much antipathy toward her within the party, for Democratic voters not to have looked for an alternative.

And that Obama turned out to unique as anybody who's emerged from our system in years just added to the drama.

But once he made his initial impression and soared to the top, it was just as inevitable that voters that is ancient history. would take a second look.

That's what's happening now, and Obama has not done particularly well. But a lot of the questions center around his not being well known or having much experience.

And Clinton has been dogged, if not downright vicious, in pressing his weaknesses. That is, after all, what campaigns are about.

A similar thing happened to Carter when his campaign stalled about halfway through the primaries. He was too far ahead to be caught, but even late-entrant Jerry Brown, then California governor, started beating him in primaries.

Carter's road to the White House was bumpy after that, and he almost blew a big lead over President Gerald Ford. And that was in the wake of the Watergate scandals and Ford's

But the more relevant point might be that once Carter became president he proved largely unqualified for the job. His early promise, "I will have a government as good as its people," had resonance at first.

But when he blamed the American people's "malaise" for the failure to get things done, and then saw the Iran hostage rescue mission blow up in the sands, he was finished even though his defeat by Ronald Reagan didn't become apparent until the closing days of the campaign.

I suspect that one reason older Democrats have shown much less enthusiasm for Obama is the memory of Carter. To young voters, all

Gary Hart's 1984 run offers another instructive comparison. He came out of nowhere to win the New Hampshire primary over former Vice President Walter Mondale and seemed to be surging ahead especially with support from young, college-educated voters (sound familiar?).

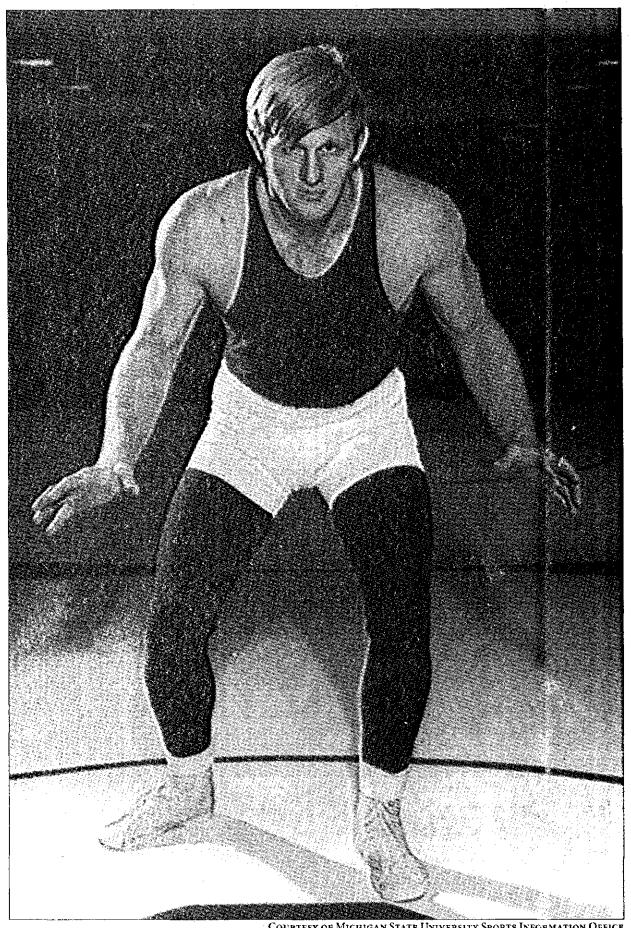
But he didn't fare so well in the inevitable closer look, when it was discovered he had changed his name from Hartpence and couldn't articulate an answer to Mondale's "Where's the beef?" question.

I'm not making any predictions here. We've seen too many be wrong this year. But I do believe Obama has to deal with the question of experience and familiarity in a more effective way _ if not against Sen. Clinton, then certainly in the fall, against Sen. John McCain.





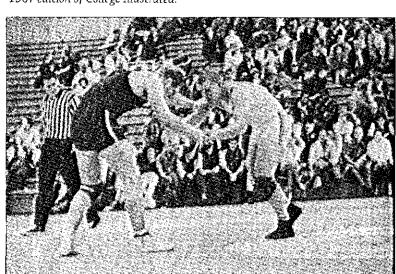
JEFF SMITH



COURTESY OF MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY SPORTS INFORMATION OFFICE At MSU: Jeff Smith was a wrestler at Michigan State University. He won the Big Ten Championship while there.

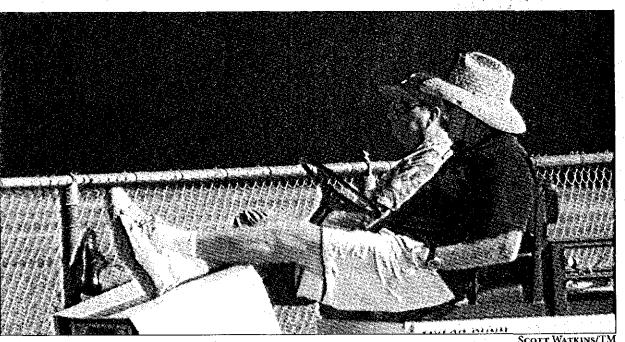


TM ARCHIVE
Winner: Jeff Smith standing a top of the podium as the state champion during
his sophomore year at Cerritos College. Photo was originally published in the



TM ARCHIVE Championship Jeff Smith(I) in his match in which he won the state title. Photo was originally published in the 1967 edition of College

Visit talonmarks.com for a slideshow of the photos that appear on this page.



Baseball: Jeff Smith (right) taking in a baseball game as the Athletic Director at Cerritos College.

He is off into the sunset

SCOTT WATKINS
Editor-in-Chief
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"He is a big man with a gentle heart," head coach of the men's basketball team Gary Cain said about Jeff Smith, current athletic director.

Smith will retire at the end of this semester after 21 years of service to the Cerritos College community.

Earlier this year he was inducted into the California High School Hall of Fame and he was also inducted into the National

Smith began at Cerritos College as a student in 1965 and returned in 1978 to take over as the wrestling coach.

Wrestling Hall of Fame.

Many people might see him at every sporting event that occurs on campus but might not know much about him.

He won the state championship in wrestling while at Cerritos College and later after transferring to Michigan State University won the Big Ten championship.

As a student at Cerritos College, Smith considered himself an average student but he said that he was always the hardest working student in every class he ever took.

While wrestling at MSU he finished runner-up in the national championship his senior year and finished third as a junior.

After leaving MSU with a degree in Business Administration he won several national titles in both Freestlye and Greco-Roman.

"Cerritos gave me the tools I needed to graduate from MSU," Smith said.

Smith won the gold medal at the Pan-American

games in 1972 and was poised to compete in the Olympics that same year until a hamstring injury knocked him out of contention

"There is not a day that goes by, where I think about not making the Olympic team," he said.

Smith originally returned to Cerritos to train

for the Olympics and find some work.

His first job at Cerritos College was teaching

women's physical education and typing.

"My dream job was to be the wrestling coach at Cerritos College," Smith said.

And he got that opportunity in 1978.

As the head coach of the wrestling team he won

As the head coach of the wrestling team he won state titles in 1985, 1993 and 1995.

He decided to step down as coach because of

the injuries he had sustained throughout his career as a wrestler and coach.

"They wanted me to coach with my arms folded and that's just not who I am," Smith said.

Because of the injuries he has had numerous surgeries but he said that if he

had to do it all over again he would do the exact same thing.

Now as an Administrator he

helps all the athletic programs on campus.

"He does a lot for the coaches here," said Frank Mazotta, head coach of the football team.
"He is always looking for ways to make our jobs easier."

Mazzota will remember Smith not only as a coach and

Administrator but as a friend.

"Jeff's old school, he's loyal and if you can't have a better friend than him," Mazzota said.

Cain also will remember how Smith was a coach and now as the Athletic Director.

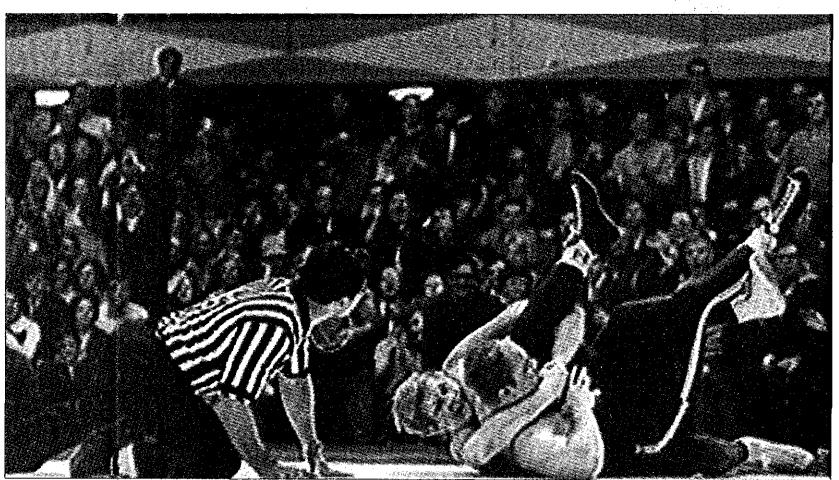
"He was the first coach that came to me and talked to me about the tradition of Cerritos College athletics when I as hired as the basketball coach," Cain said. "As the A.D. ho is the backbone of the entire division."

After retiring, Smith will literally sail off into the sunset. He is planning to take his sail boat and go traveling for the next two years.

"I want to swim with sharks and take a ride on a manaray," Smith said. "I am going to live off the fat of the land and do a lot of fishing while I am out there."

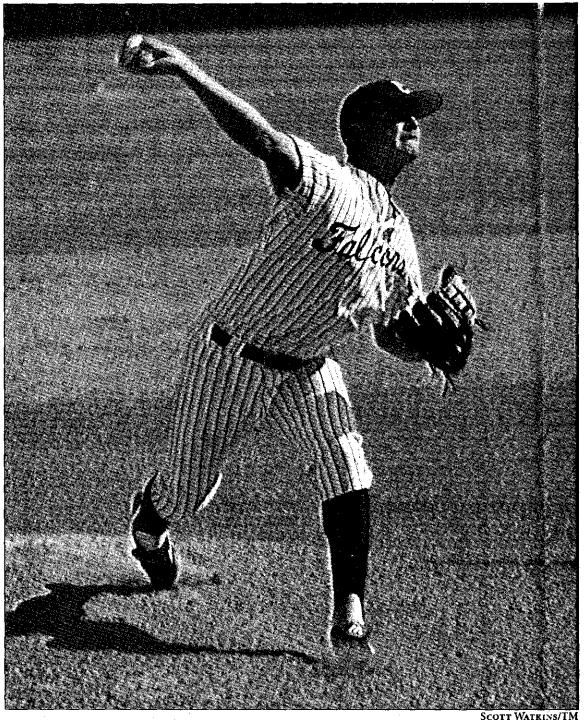
With all the wrestling titles and accomplishments he had as a wrestler Smith wants people to remember him for his hard work.

"That was always my goal, I wanted to work harder than everyone around me because I knew I could not lose if I did that," he said.



Wrestling: Jeff Smith beating the National Champion in the '68-'69 Big Ten Tournament.

Baseball defeats Mt. SAC, 12-8



Baseball: Starting pitcher Miguel Flores went seven innings, striking out seven on Friday afternoon.

HECTOR COLCHADO
Staff Writer
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Scoring six runs in the eighth inning, the Cerritos College baseball team, who got the No. 6 seed in Southern California, was able to stop a Mt. SAC comeback, defeating the Mounties, 12-8, last Friday.

The first run by the Falcons were by catchers Mario Romero and Arturo Rodriguez.

In the fifth inning, Mt. SAC tied the game up when first baseman Richie Escaleraa crossed home plate before outfielder Brian Oda's ball was caught.

By the end of the inning, Falcons shortstop Jerry Pena, left handed pitcher George Sanchez, first baseman Trever Blood and infielder Brandon Pesante all scored.

Mt. SAC tied the game up again at the eight inning scoring four home runs from Oda, centerfielder Corwin Kim, Escalera, catcher Kyle Smith, by rightfielder Jon Cavender, hit, scoring Mt. SAC four more runs.

Tragically for Mt. SAC, when it was the Falcons turn to bat, they scored six points consecutively.

Romero walked then with two outs, after Gaylord's hit got him to first base, Pena got to second base, and Sanchez sent the pitch that took him to second base and the rest home.

Blood also walked. Mt. SAC then switched its pitcher but that did not stop Pesante from getting to first base.

Kyle Barton, closer, finally got Falcons outfielder David Neff out.

Mt. SAC had its last chance to get back at Cerritos, but the first three batters that hit the ball were each caught by a Falcon. "The team woke up," Kim said, "(Cerritos) seem to always

answer back."

Pena scored the third and ninth runs and was glad the Falcons are going to compete in the Southern California Regional.

"If we play like how we were playing we have a chance going to state finals," said Mike Paqnotta, Cerritos hitting outfield coach.

After 16 colleges compete in the South California Regional, eight teams will continue and go to the Super Regional, and later two southern teams will face two north teams in the State Finals in Fresno.

Track teams are headed to championship

Courtesy of the Sports Information Office

The Cerritos College men's track and field team has qualified seven individuals for the Southern California Championships, which will take place next Saturday at Bakersfield College.

Those that advance from the finals will compete in the state championships, which will be held at Falcon Stadium on May 16 and 17.

Those that qualified are: distance runner Daniel Clifford-Sorenson, who broke his own record in the 3000-meter steeplechase with a time of 9:19.08 and will be joined by sophomore Casey McCombs.

Joining them in the running events will be Marlon Austin in the 400-meters.

Those that advanced in the field events include Cody Lewis in the javelin, Nicholas Armstrong in the high jump, Bruce McCall in the triple jump and Kristen Joseph in the long jump.

The Cerritos College women's track and field team will have 20 entries in the field events at the Southern California Championships.

The Falcons will also be represented by six entries in running events, while both relay teams have advanced.

The women competitors are:

Khandie Brooks
Shannon Simpson
Lucy Beuster
Erin Straughter
Patrice Fernandez
Apryll White
Daisy Perez
Sarah Muniz

Karen Gurayska

Jessica Barfield Michelle Crabtree Whitney Ashley NaShawnda Grant Maria Rodriguez Aunjanae Stovall

Rachel Butler Jarvina McClain Alexandria Thompson

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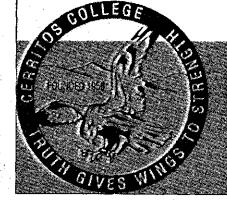
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- Men's health including exams, contraception, sexually transmitted disease and testicular and prostate problems.
- >> Pharmacy services
- >> Laboratory services
- >> Chiropractor/Acupuncture
- >> Optometry
- >> Mental health needs and referrals

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List of charges in clinic.

Our student health center offers preventive health care which includes routine care for students and staff with acute minor illness and injuries. Our center is funded with student fees and Cerritos College funding and follows all the guidelines of the Department of Public Health Services in regards to strict confidentiality and care of each patient.



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