

What's the true meaning of Christmas?

See Opinion page 4

ONLINE EXCLUSIVES

• News: Four department divisions vote "No Confidence" for Dr. Noelia Vela
• Coming soon: MyDemocracy videos

See talonmarks.com

Falcons fly to Fresno for Final Four

See Sports page 8



Cerritos gives bloody gifts

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The American Red Cross came to Cerritos once again, this time with a vehicle which was located at the Falcon Square for three days, last Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The way they did it was with a blood drive vehicle with a lot of enthusiasm they were asking people to donate blood.

"Give the Gift of Life" was the logo that was written on the side of the vehicle. In front of it there was a table with students from project Hope helping the nurses give the students a folder they must read before donating.

Melanie Guigulan, nursing major said, "Students who want to donate blood must read and understand everything in side this folder and if there is any doubt then they could stop with the process."

Guigulan also added that some of the things that are not acceptable before donating blood are for example no recent tattoos; the tattoos must be at least one year old. No traveling to any foreign Country.

The reason they don't allow traveling in the last year is because of infections, diseases or natural disasters that must of affected the person donating the blood.

Ashley Alvidrez, kinesiology major said, "This is my third year donating blood, my boyfriend is in the military and I know there always times where they need

See Blood page 5



ASHAKA MATHEWS/TM

Discussion: Linda Sanchez spoke to Victor Obasohan's political science class last Tuesday about her experiences working with Congress.

Local representative speaks to class

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Students were encouraged to become politically motivated by Congresswoman Linda Sanchez of the 39th district, as she spoke to Political Science Professor Victor Obasohan's political science class SS314 last Tuesday.

She also spoke about her background and about two upcoming bills that will affect college students.

"I love to talk to groups of young people," she said.

"I'm particularly interested in talking to those who have taken a political science class, because it tells me that they are interested in knowing what goes on with our government, how these decisions get made and how it affects people."

Members of the group of more than

40 attendees also asked her questions about immigration and education.

Among the bills that she talked about were the College Cost Reduction Act and Higher Education Act.

The College Cost Reduction Act will increase Pell Grants and will cut the interest rates on student loans in half.

The Higher Education Act, it will increase funding for Hispanic serving institutions like Cerritos. According to Sanchez, it will more likely be passed in the early part of '08.

She's now in her fifth year and third term of congress. She serves as part of three com-

"If there were more women in congress, there would be things that would be different priorities. Things like affordable health care and affordable child care for women who work"

- Congresswoman Linda Sanchez

mittees.

- Judicial committee,
- Educational labor committee and
- Foreign relations committee.

"I'm not your typical member of Congress, being that I'm young, a woman and a Latina," she told the crowd.

Sanchez says that women are grossly underrepresented and less respected in congress.

See Sanchez page 3

Student learning outcomes discussed

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The State of Education held a meeting last Thursday on the addressing the goals for 2007-2008 student success.

The group has been working on several projects directly related to student learning. The program seeks to assimilate students into an academic lifestyle.

Its goal is to create a challenging and empowering environment with high expectations and substantial support.

According to Angela Hoppe-Nagao, chairperson on the committee and a professor of speech communication, "The majority of students are satisfied with Cerritos College and 67 percent said that if they had to enroll all over again, they would."

"The majority of students are satisfied with Cerritos College and 67 percent said that if they had to enroll all over again, they would."
- Angela Hoppe-Nagao, speech professor

Hoppe-Nagao also stated that the group is encouraging teachers to search the campus climate survey report and make improvements for the students.

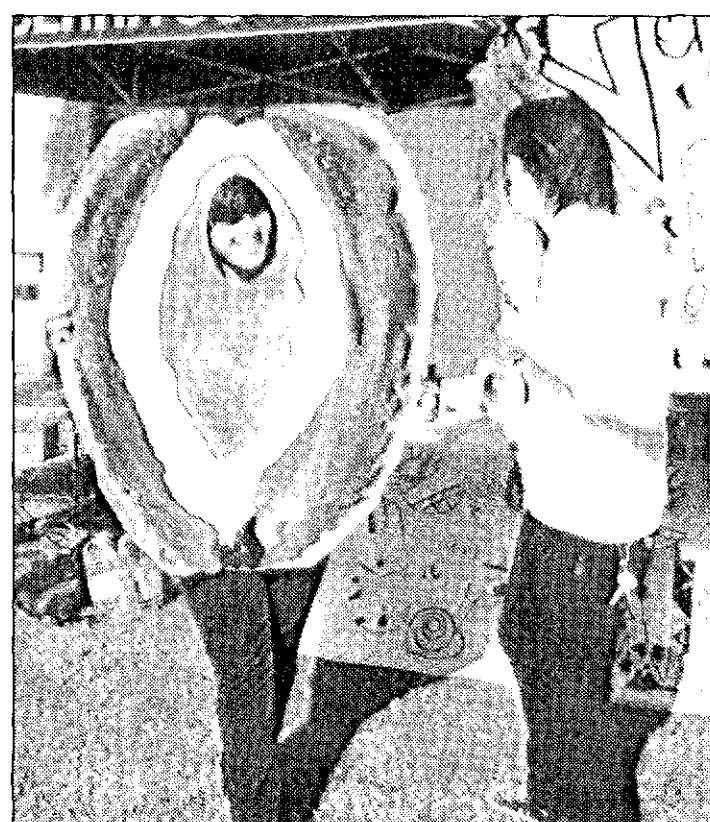
Other issues that were addressed were the weaknesses and strengths of the campus from student's perspectives.

Some of the strengths of Cerritos College are that the students feel that they are able to experience intellectual growth and that the quality of the instruction is excellent.

Students also love the fact that childcare is available on campus.

See Goals page 2

WIDE OPEN



MICHAEL AGUDO/TM

Woman power: Nicole Bernal, English major, is dressed as a vagina for the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance's fundraiser in Falcon Square, Tuesday. Group members will perform readings from "The Vagina Monologues" by Eve Ensler on Dec. 9th at the Epic Lounge in Long Beach.

University book exchange founders inspire Senate

TIM DICKERSON
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Two founders of a book exchange in UC Davis spoke to the ASCC Senate to inform its members on how to start a book exchange for Cerritos, during its meeting Nov. 14.

Brett Leggett, pediatrician at the Children's Hospital of LA, and Peter Nguyen, Regional Field Representative for the California Federation of Teachers, addressed three problems with the college's system, which is common with many colleges.

- Costs of books are rising.
- College bookstores offer poor buyback rates.
- The college bookstore has a monopoly.

Leggett and Nguyen looked

for solutions.

The competition for the bookstore is off-campus bookstores, which "isn't a huge difference," Leggett said.

There was also what the "book board" where students post on bulletin boards around campus that their books are being sold.

There's one main problem with that.

"You don't know if the book was already sold," Nguyen said.

In a college book exchange, students set their own prices.

The example he gave was that a student buys a new book for \$75. He sells it back for \$15. The bookstore sells the same book to another student for \$60.

In the proposed book exchange, the student could sell his or her book for \$44 if he wanted

to.

"Students compete directly with the bookstore," Leggett said.

The book exchange would operate on a seven to nine-day schedule.

The first two to three days would be the book drop off period. Students drop off their books to the exchange and set their prices.

The books are then organized on shelves by subject.

The sale would take place for three days. Students come to the book exchange and buy their books in the same fashion that they would at the bookstore.

The following two to three days would be for students to claim their payments and any unsold books.

Fall awards banquet coming soon

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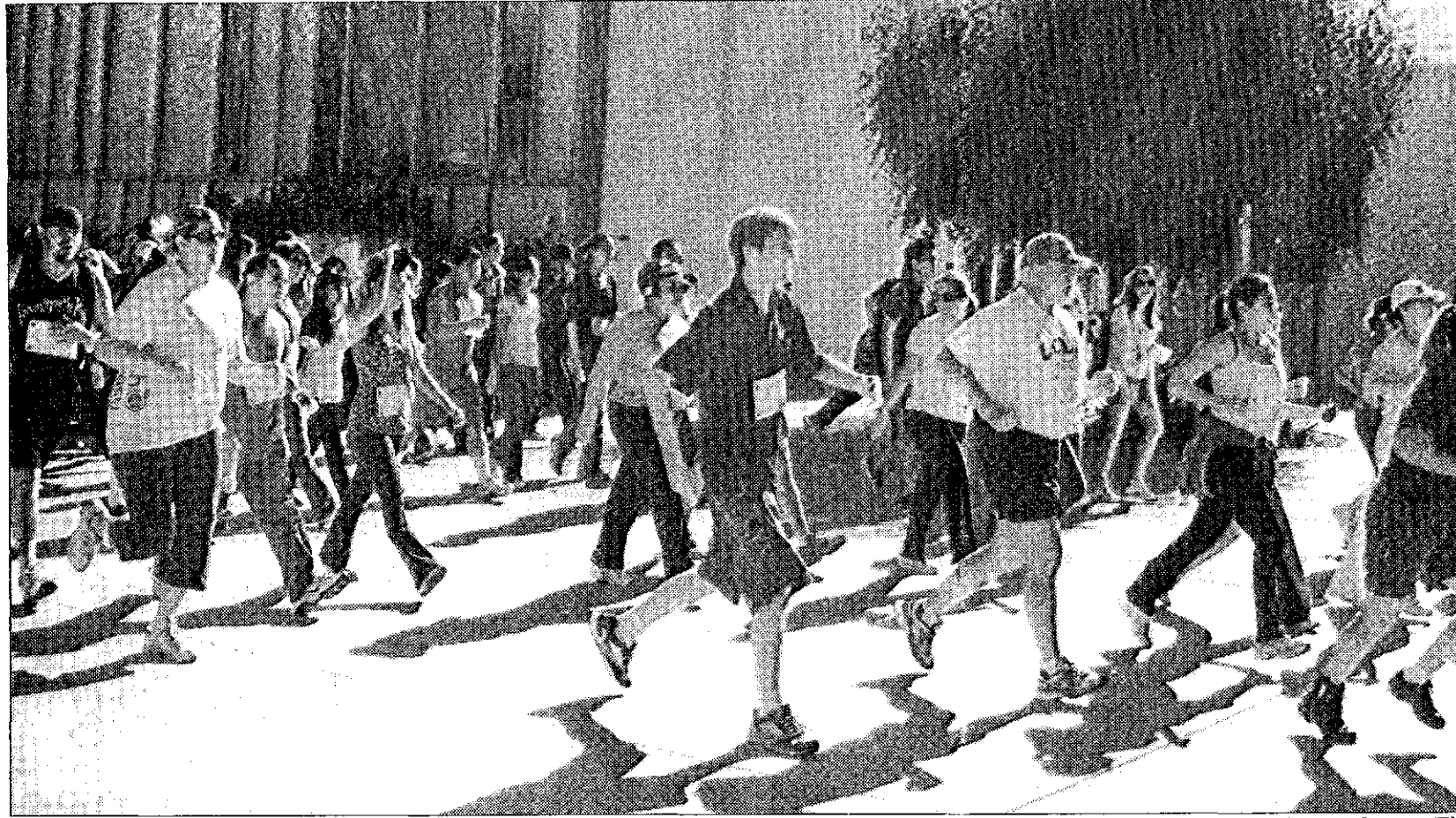
The ASCC will be holding it's Fall Awards Banquet this Friday in the Cerritos College Student Center at 7 p.m.

Students were able to nominate themselves, other students or faculty members for service and leadership awards.

Applications have been turned in and the Associated Student Body President along with a select committee of students will be evaluating them prior to the event.

Nancy Bonilla, Student Activities Office representative, says that

See Banquet page 3



Turkey Trot: Students and faculty donated canned food and trotted around campus, starting from the Fine Arts Building, on Nov. 13.

ARTURO FLORIAN/TM

Record numbers show up to run

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A record 303 people braved the hot sun and donated over 1,000 cans in the 10th annual Turkey Trot on Nov. 13.

The Turkey Trot is part canned food drive and part walkathon. Students and faculty donate canned foods to enter the walkathon and enter their names in a raffle.

The first student runners to finish were:

- Chrishan Quinero, in a time of 9:25 and

- Susan Le Pere, in a time of 13:41.

The faculty members to finish first were:

- Albert Wilmovsky, instructional aide for reading, and
- Suzie Payne, budget manager.

After the line up, Carrie Edwards, Fitness & Wellness Department Chairperson, gave instructions on the course and on how it's supposed to be run.

At the sound of "Ready, set and go!" 303 people ran off, or walked and completed the mile and a half course around the school campus.

With the runners being reward-

ed with water and shirts for their efforts and support, many commented and complained about the unusual heat spike in the temperature.

"It's hot, and I am tired," said Steven Widjaya, undecided major.

After the Turkey Trot, Edwards grouped the remaining people to announce raffle awards, and give mention to sponsors.

Gordon Stefenhagen, Norwalk City Council member, stepped up to the microphone to commend Cerritos College's effort and to present the director of the social services of Norwalk.

Turkey Trot coordinator Carrie

Edwards, who has helped to coordinate the event for the past 10 years, felt that the event went well and was glad to see the good participation.

"We had folks in wheelchairs, folks from the English department walking side by side with the PE students, folks that had never participated in an event like this as well as other athletes," she said.

"Knowing that we have motivated these participants to come out; many of whom do not regularly act physically, this means that we have done our job well."

Bookstore rep. tells Senate about what it does for Cerritos

TIM DICKERSON
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The Cerritos College bookstore made more than \$4 million last year's fiscal year.

Almost \$400,000 of that is paid directly to the ASCC.

Paul Flovick, manager of the bookstore, came to the senate meeting on Nov. 21 to talk to the senate about the bookstore.

Afterward, ASCC President Jason Macias informed the senate about Proposition 92.

This meeting was the week after the meeting where the senate was given a presentation on a book exchange.

"I personally have no sympathy about (the book exchange program)," Flovick said.

Flovick said meeting with the senate didn't have to do with the book exchange ideas.

"The intended motive is so you have the information."

The ASCC makes commission from the bookstore based on its sales, not its profits.

"If the sales of the bookstore go down, your commission goes down," he said.

In 2007, the bookstore has donated to:

- Cerritos College Foundation Scholarship Fund,

- Disabled Student Program and Services,

- Breast Cancer Awareness Walk (Spirit Walk),

- International Students Center,

- EOPS,

- Senior Preview Day,

- Women's Basketball Team's Fan Appreciation Night,

- Turkey Trot,

- and Women Hold Up Half the Sky Spring 2007 Conference.

In other business, Macias brought Proposition 92 to attention.

Prop. 92 will lower community college tuition rates to \$15 per unit and will separate the funding between K-12 schooling and community colleges.

California already has the lowest tuition of the country at \$20 per unit.

Prop. 92 will also limit future fee increases.

However, Prop. 92 will aggravate California's budget deficit, which is said to increase to more than \$8 billion.

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New director of Student Health Services named

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Nancy Montgomery has been appointed to be director of Student Health Services.

Montgomery is an alumna of Cerritos College and when she was offered the position she was glad to come back to where she first started her career in nursing about twenty years ago.

She said, "Not only did I like the position that I was being offered but just to remember this is where I started is like being home again."

Montgomery has a full agenda and a lot of new plans and within her first month everything is going good. She is getting use to all the different services that they offer in the Student Health Services.

Staff members at the Student Health Services said they were happy to work with Montgomery they feel she will do a lot of good work with them and with the campus.

Some of Montgomery's goals for this semester and the following are to start remodeling the inside of the waiting lobby. They are going to change the carpet, change the chairs and put some LCD TV's.

Montgomery said, "I have a lot of experiences in different fields but as a director is my first time as you

could see I have all this paper work to get to, I have to call back so many people but most of all I have to start working on ways to help students."

It is a way to make people in the waiting lobby feel more safe and that way while waiting they could be learning more about birth control, aids, diabetes, obesity and many other problems that students and staff are unaware of.

Montgomery is a well recognized nurse and her experiences are broad. Some of her awards are "Nurse of the Year" issued to her in the year 2000.

In that same year she also received the Audrey Nelson Community Development Achievement Award.

One of the many positions that Montgomery has held was as a registered nurse for Kaiser Permanente Hospital in the city of Anaheim for over 14 years where her specialties were obstetrics home health and education.



Speaker: Congresswoman Linda Sanchez speak to Profesor Victor Obasohan's political science class last Tuesday.

Sanchez: Speaks to students

Continued from page 1

"Over 50 percent of the population is women but we're 14 percent of the elected representatives in congress," she said.

"It took me years in congress to get respect for what I do. You have to continue to push and get people to take you seriously."

She feels that women are judged more so on their appearance than by what they have to say.

"Men can show up in a suit that's all crumpled and their hair looks like it's combed with a fork."

"They show up and they stand and the podium and start speaking and everyone can listen to what they say," she said.

"A woman can go up there and she can talk about an issue in Congress and the next day the newspaper will report on what she was wearing!"

While she admits that being a woman in Congress can be difficult sometimes, that it is all the more reason why women should join

congress.

"There would be things that would be different priorities. Things like affordable health care and affordable child care for women who work," she said. "It can change, but it's going to take young people understanding the importance of having a seat and getting information that allows them to pursue a career in public service."

She also talked about her background and why she decided to become a politician. She had been involved with previous candidates but felt that those who were running did not appropriately represent her.

"I saw the candidates who were running, and I wasn't pleased. It didn't seem like they were passionate about the issues," she said.

"I was married at the time and I told my husband, 'I can't believe these are the candidates who are running.'"

"He told me, 'Instead of complaining, why don't you do some-

thing about it?' And that's exactly what I did. I ended up winning. I had never held an elected official seat."

Students who attended the presentation felt that it was good and informative.

Jerry Barham, plastic manufacturing major, said, "It shows that the American dream is still alive and that opportunities are endless."

He also said that he had not heard of Sanchez before she came to the class. "I intend to contact her now. She seems like a good person."

"Not too many people come to minority students and tell them that it is an option and that they can do this. One of the reasons why I come to Cerritos is that I love to tell students that I came from a family of immigrants and I made it. If I made it, than they can too."

Goals: Student reps discuss changes

Continued from page 1

Some of the weaknesses of Cerritos College are that the students are dissatisfied with the safety and security of the campus and also the limited financial aid that is available.

The counseling department is another issue. There are only 15 full-time counselors covering only 1/3 of the student body.

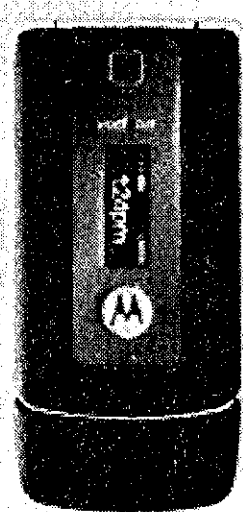
The college strategic plan is due to be rewritten in 2008. The Senate plans to place greater emphasis on learning related objectives and less emphasis on systems related objectives.

The Equivalency/Local Standards Committee is working to make sure that only the highest quality faculty members are hired.

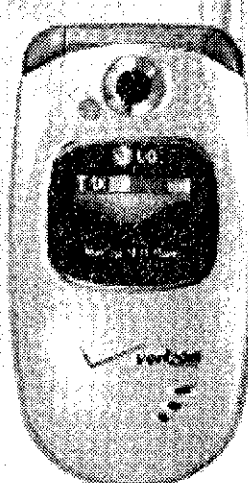
The program will be ready for implementation in the fall semester of 2008.

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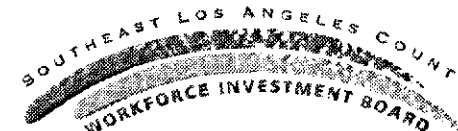
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- Resume Lab (Create a Résumé) - Noon to 2pm
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• EDITORIAL •

Christmas has lost its meaning

Diluted meanings of Christmas perverse our very minds through social conflicts.

Many know it to be the busiest time of the year, or even the most hectic, as many shoppers make attempts to complete their shopping list for the ones they hold dear in their hearts.

When that phase is complete, families move on to compete with the Smiths by decking out the halls and publicly displaying their holiday spirit.

However, in the midst of all the bustle, it brings us to the rhetoric that haunts many every year.

What has this all truly become?

Christmas holiday cards these days generalize the season when they state Holiday Greetings, Happy Holidays or even Merry X-mas.

People have censored, or even omitted, the word Christ from any relation to Christmas.

This is due to the fear of having political correctness and also for the obsession of not seeming biased toward the Protestant culture.

This fear has become more and more evident throughout U.S. culture.

For example, anyone can mention Bud-

dha, Allah or even Joseph Smith, but once the name Christ is thrown out there, all hell breaks loose with verbal attacks.

To explore the decaying roots and deteriorating foundations of Christmas, a Charlie Brown explanation is an obligation to those who wish to understand its true meaning.

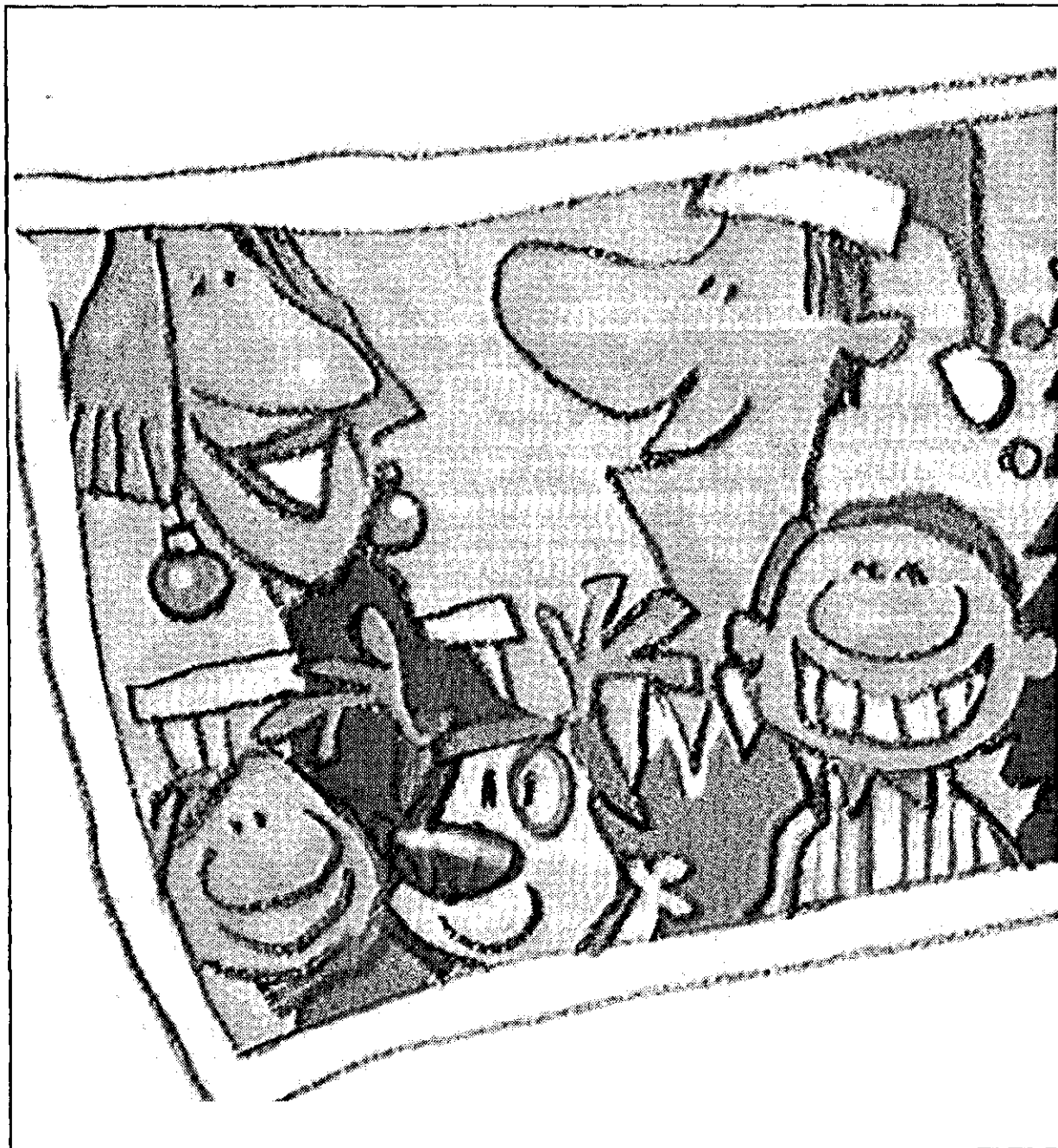
It is the time to remember the fact that this is the day Jesus Christ was born, hence the name of the holiday.

The truth is that Christmas and the actual birth of Christ are impossible to pull apart. They are inevitably intertwined to the point where if separation is attempted, tearing is bound to occur.

Overseeing the truth in order to avoid opposition isn't worth all of the hassle that the U.S. culture goes through to censor and separate religion from this holiday.

Those who celebrate the holiday must acknowledge the fact that it does commemorate a religious event and that, essentially, it is not about all of the materialism commerce that it has been made out to be.

That is something that everyone, religious and non-religious, should all agree on.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR are welcome. They may be submitted both online and in person. In all cases, letters must be signed with real names before they will be considered for publication, either online or in print. Campus related issues are given priority. Letters may be edited for length, though online versions tend to include full content, as long as it is not libelous or in poor taste. You may deliver letters to FA 42 or contact the editor by e-mail at editor@talonmarks.com.

Mo' money, mo' problems

A higher minimum wage will not change things in the U.S.

People are getting very excited to hear that the minimum wage in this country is on the rise, but what many don't realize is that this really means everything else will rise in cost.

It is fantastic to hear that minimum wage is on the rise, but in retrospect, things will be the same.

The solution to this is really more up to the ones in charge of business and government with the help of people and even unions. But with greed, it is hard to get things for a reasonable price.

Outsourcing and the new retirement age will cause problems for this as well.

How can young people get jobs when they won't let the old ones retire? And why will they pay people more, yet continue to increase prices in other areas?

Gas and food prices have been rising along with many other products even though people are in sweatshops making



A dollar a day for making the products.

This country's debt doesn't help the situation. Even with all of our problems, we go and spend money to "help" other countries improve?

I will stick to the issue at hand, the minimum wage. I mentioned the other items because they are contributing factors to the increasingly poor conditions and systems we have in this country.

California seems to be one of the states getting hit the worst because many people are moving away from here due to expenses and living in other, more affordable, states.

So, I urge people to think what an increase in the minimum wage will really bring us. Is it a better life? More money for luxury or entertainment? An easier time paying our bills?

It will not satisfy an appetite that is always hungry but will cause everything

else to rise along with it leaving us where we were and even less value to our dollar.

The cost of living in this state alone is ridiculous and it causes many problems within our own homes not just money wise, but personal things as well.

Adults have a hard time too because parents want their children to succeed and do something in life, but it is too expensive and parents have to help more and expect more from that help leading to more depression and arguments in society.

People really need to pay attention to what is really going on with our economy and money value because that is what determines how a wage increase can affect us in other ways and aspects of life.

If things stay the same, people or even unions should really question what is going on and fight for a better way of living here and any other state that this may be happening in.

U.S. anthem deserves respect

Pay attention when the anthem is played at sporting events.

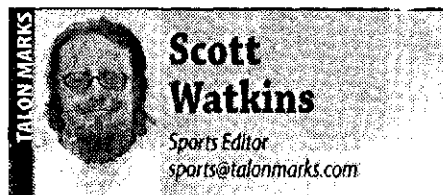
The National Anthem is played before every sports game. While most people stand and hold their hats over their hearts, many fans and athletes seem to be preoccupied.

I do understand that most athletes are hyped up for their upcoming games, but they can take a few minutes out of their days to honor the people that have fought and died for this country.

The men and women who fight for this country give so much to our existence and we all can give them a few minutes a day, can't we?

The sacrifice these people make is what has made and does make this country great.

Without their sacrifice we would still



be under British rule, still practice slavery and the Nazi's might have taken over Europe.

They fight for our freedoms and protect the way of life that most Americans take for granted.

They have died and sacrificed their time with their families so we can take our rights for granted.

I have been noticing that most athletes are jumping up and down and talking during games.

The worst I saw was at the Southern California water polo tournament when an athlete stayed sitting while the National Anthem was played.

The fans are even worse because they

have no excuse. Why they do not stand and give a few moments of their time?

I see fans walking around, chatting with their friends, drinking their beers and eating their hot dogs.

I do not have anything against any of those things, but there is plenty of time during the game to do them.

Beer and hot dogs will always be there and it is probably not a bad idea that fans slow down on those things anyway.

I served time in the military and it was a slap in the face that this young man was disrespecting the flag and what it represents.

When I was serving in the military, the flag represented the best things of the country I was sacrificing for.

So the next time you hear the National Anthem, stand up and think about how much the service men and women give to us.

FREE SPEECH ZONE !?

What does Christmas mean to you?

COMPILED BY: ARTURO FLORIAN
PHOTOS BY: SCOTT WATKINS



"It means time for the family and champagne, but not religion."

ERNESTO DE LA MORA
music major



"Christmas for me is family time and for others it seems to be getting presents. I don't really know, it's all mixed feelings."

EDDIE FOSS
business major



"Christmas means getting together with family and showing that you appreciate everyone."

JASMINE CARDONA
business major



"It's an event just for this season of the year. It's really just a tradition for me."

JONATHAN LANDAVERDE
economics major



"It just means that I get to spend more time with family and eat tamales."

KAROL MEJIA
ultrasound technician major

Student Activities office will have water

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The ASCC Cabinet had its final meeting of the semester on Dec. 3.

In the meeting, the Cabinet touched lightly on the situation with Dr. Noelia Vela, Subway, and offering free water on campus.

The Cabinet also voted for where it stands on Proposition 92. It was a 6-2 vote in favor for Prop. 92.

There will be a Campus Unity Fundraiser at El Torito, located at 11167 183rd St. on Dec. 6 at 5:30 p.m.

The suggested door donation is \$25 for staff and five dollars for students.

ASCC President Jason Macias said, "(The faculty) doesn't trust (Vela) to run this campus."

The Senate will vote whether or not to give no confidence regarding Vela.

In the ASCC's goal for healthier food, Macias is still trying to get Subway on campus.

"I'm waiting to hear back (from Subway)," he said. "Hopefully in the near future, we'll have some more information."

ASCC Vice President Michael Barrita further talked about his plan for free water on campus.

This water machine will be in the Student Activities office and will be available to all students.

"It would be cut into (the student government's) budget," Barrita said.

A five-gallon bottle of water would cost \$2.95 each.

The hot and cold cooler would cost four dollars per month.

A case of 24 half-liter bottles would be \$7.50 per case.

A fuel/energy surcharge would be \$1.25 a month.



Cabinet: The cabinet meeting was held on Monday where it talked about free water for students starting in the Spring semester.

ASHAKA MATTHEWS/TM

Blood: Blood donations in bloodmobiles

Continued from page 1
blood like any other people all over the world."

Maria Vargas, accounting major said, "My mom is my example. She always donates blood and she is the one that told me that donating blood is a way to save lives."

Vargas also added that she felt safe donating blood because of all the questions and personal information that she must give before donation.

The most common information

that the nurses would ask are name, social security number, address, phone number, sexual history, health history, number of times they have donated and many more questions for security reasons.

Persons donating are informed of their blood type and also if problems are detected with their blood.

Another reason they ask so many questions is because sometimes they could have more than one person with the same name, and that way, there won't be any confusions when

they go through a long process of collecting information.

Robert G. Torrez, senior account manager and coordinator of the blood drive, said, "I want to thank all my staff, Project H.O.P.E. for helping and everyone who donated blood."

Torrez also added that he is glad to see that professors were giving extra credit to students donating blood.

The way students, faculty and staff were donating blood was good.

At the moment, Torrez did not have the correct number on how much blood was collected but he said it was great.

Some of the most common effects after donating blood are dizziness, light-headed, upset stomach and a small chance of fainting.

For students who did not have the opportunity to donate blood, they could always donate blood at the Student Health Center located near the Falcon swimming pool.

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Banquet: Recognition

Continued from page 1
receiving an award from the banquet is a "good way to boost yourself from your peers."

She explained that the formal recognition of student achievements either on or off campus is a great addition to scholarship or university applications.

This semester's banquet is expected to award over 100 students.

The semi-formal event also includes dinner for each applicant and ticket-holding family and friends.

Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. and the program promptly starts at 7 p.m. Bonilla suggests arriving in good time because the event is open seating.

The next awards banquet will be held in May during the spring semester.

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Art sale: People look for artwork to purchase on display from the Ceramics and Woodworking Department during the student art sale Monday in FA 33.

Student art sale draws a crowd

JEAN-PIERRE GIAGNOLI
A&E Editor
arts@talonmarks.com

For the first time in its 15-year history, the student art sale was held on a Sunday in the Student Center.

The people in the Art and Design Department were happily surprised with the turnout.

The art sale happens annually in the fall and runs for at least six hours with a second day added for those who may have missed out on the first day.

The Ceramics Department had one of the largest selections of art for sale taking up the entire top half of the Student Center.

Another department taking up a large section of the Student Center was the newly added Woodworking Department.

It is the first year that the Wood-

working Department got involved with the sale and Steven Portigal, the chair of art and design, said, "We had a strong turn-out and we're excited about the woodworking."

He also said that the departments have been trying for years to get the Woodworking Department involved in the sale and finally, through Janna Vandeneerg, vice president of the Woodworking Club, became part of the sale.

Vandeneerg said that she really questioned why the Woodworking Department and Club weren't involved in the sale with all the work they do.

"It is a great way to expose artists and the woodworking program because many people don't know about it," said Vandeneerg.

The sale began at 11 a.m. and people arrived very early between

10:20 to 10:40 a.m. and waited for the sale to start.

Portigal mentioned that in the past, the departments thought that the best days to run the sale were Wednesday through Saturday and when told about Sunday, were hesitant.

After this year's sale, they plan to do it on the same day next year because of the large response.

Beside ceramics and woodworking, jewelry, plastics and paintings, were sold.

It was also holding a raffle to raise money at the end and had prizes like office chairs and gift certificates.

Woodworking did live demonstrations of woodworking and so did plastics to give people an idea of how some of the work is done.

"I liked the new woodworking

and jewelry," Jeanette Larson, art major, said. "It was a great program and sale, exposing artists, getting ideas and seeing what sells."

Larson also said that working at school allows you to make more from the sale because many expenses are taken care of.

Portigal reported that most of the sales came from the ceramics section of the sale but all sections sold items.

He also said that they plan to do it even better next year and, with the turnout this year, believes it will be.

Gustavo Morales, administration of justice major, said, "I sold six ceramic pieces."

"I mostly do vases and spherical objects but also do figurines. Plus, because of the sale, I got interested in other departments here like woodworking and plastics."

Funky sounds hit the campus

JEAN-PIERRE GIAGNOLI
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The Cerritos College Jazz Ensemble and Valley Christian Middle School Jazz Band put on its fall jazz exchange concert in the Student Center Nov. 14.

Valley Christian went on first playing four songs:

- "Another Day, Another Blues,"
- "Work Song,"
- "Mercy, Mercy, Mercy,"
- and "Play that Funky Music."

Valley Christian has been performing with Cerritos for three or four years now and is familiar with the college.

The Valley Christian Jazz Band consisted of three alto saxes, three tenor saxes, one baritone sax, five trumpets, three trombones, a piano, a guitar, a bass and drums.

Alto sax player Hannah Prewitt, said, "It was an awesome and fun experience." Everyone from Valley Christian stayed for the Cerritos performance.

"Awesome concert, my son is in the middle school band and it is his second year coming to play at Cerritos," said Scott Nyquist, Carmelita Middle School teacher.

"My older son plays jazz as well and I would like him to come play at Cerritos."

Next, the Cerritos College Jazz Ensemble performed six songs, a few performed were:

- "East Avenue Stroll,"
- "Almost Like Being In Love,"
- and "Sing, Sing, Sing."

Denicar Bergancia, nursing

major, sang vocals for many of the songs including:

- "Tangerine,"
- "God Bless The Child,"
- and "Almost Like Being In Love."

She mentioned that the song "Almost Like Being In Love" was in the movie "Antz."

The Cerritos College Jazz Ensemble consisted of two alto saxes, two tenor saxes, one baritone sax, four trumpets, three trombones, a piano, a guitar, a bass, drums and a vocalist.

Arturo Gallardo, music major, said, "I've been playing the clarinet for 10 years and switched to learn all the saxophones and have been playing those for four years."

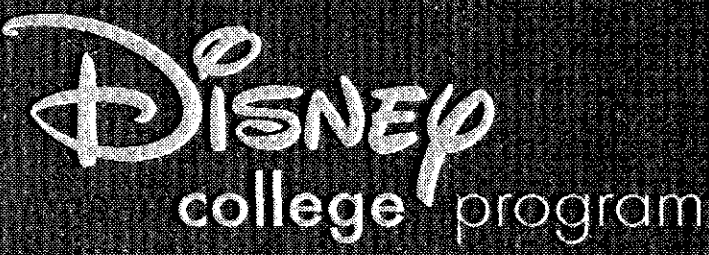
"The show went okay, I was very excited about 'Sing, Sing, Sing' because of my solo and I had a blast."

People were bobbing their heads throughout the concert and there were almost no empty seats in the Student Center.

The last song Cerritos played was "Sing, Sing, Sing" and the crowd went wild for it, especially the solos by Gallardo on the clarinet and Bryan Shepherd on the drums.

Kooi said, "Three or four years ago, I played in the summer band and really liked David (Betancourt). I took other classes and really learned a lot from him and even do a lot of things he does with my students."

It was a fun and good show. I thought the vocalist was great and there were good solos and my kids always get pumped up."



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ALL-CONFERENCE SELECTIONS

SCOTT WATKINS
Sports Editor
sports@talonmarks.com

Led by offensive tackle Mike Diaz, the Cerritos College football team had 13 players make the Mission Conference all-conference team.

There were six players on the first, seven on the second and one player that made both teams at different positions.

The six first team all-conference selections include:

ence selections include:

- Diaz at offensive tackle,
- Davion Mauldin as a kick returner,
- Lorenzo Goode at running back,
- Armando Castillas at offensive guard,
- Anthony Recinos at tight end and
- Johnny Tivao at defensive tackle.

Diaz was also named to the junior All-American team for the

second straight season.

He started every game this season for the Falcons and was a leader on the offensive line.

Mauldin led the team in kick return yardage and a couple of huge returns to set the offense up with good field position.

Goode gave the Falcons consistency at running back, starting every game and broke the school record for the longest run from the line of scrimmage with his 93-yard touchdown run against Fullerton

College on Sept. 29.

Casillas played many different positions on the offensive line and opened up huge holes for Goode.

Recinos started every game at tight end, had eight receptions for 93 yards and was a key member of the offense as a blocker.

Tivao was more than just a big body on the defensive line, he commanded double teams and was a valuable run stopper.

The second team selections include:

- Mauldin at cornerback,
- AJ Toscano at quarterback,
- Sheldon Smith at wide receiver,
- Anthony Hayes at offensive tackle,
- Adam Cox at center,
- Kupono Kaawa at linebacker,
- Kirk Puleasi at defensive end,
- Juan Lopez at safety and
- Michael Thomas at kicker.

Toscano had 1,446 yards passing and a quarterback rating of 127.38.

He also threw 15 touchdowns and only threw four interceptions. Smith led the Falcons with 453 yards receiving and he caught seven touchdowns.

Cox was the starter at center for the entire season and was a big reason for the Falcons success on the ground.

Kaawa was the Falcons leading tackler and was a captain on defense.

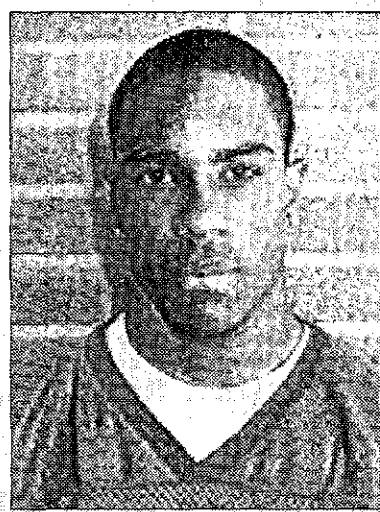
The Falcons finished overall record this season.

First Team All-Conference



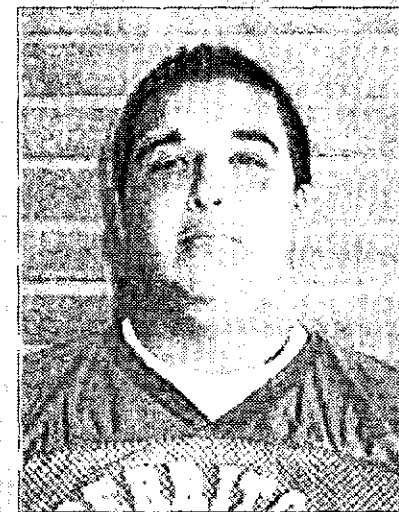
Johnny Tivao
Position: Defensive Tackle
Freshman

Tivao was the starting nose tackle this season for the Falcons and had one sack and five tackles for loss. He also played fullback in the short-yardage package.



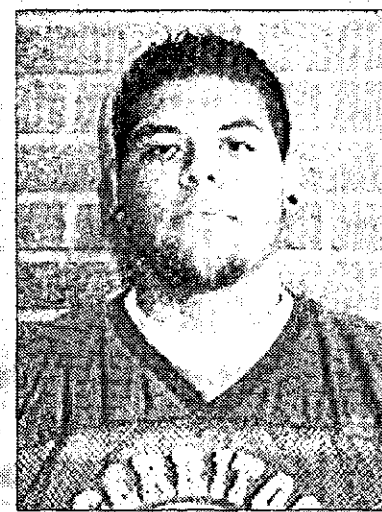
Davion Mauldin
Position: Kick Returner
Also was named Second team as a defensive back
Sophomore

Mauldin led the Falcons in return yards and also started at cornerback.



Mike Diaz
Position: Offensive Tackle
Sophomore

According to scout.com Diaz is the top ranked offensive guard in community college and is committed to the University of Arizona.



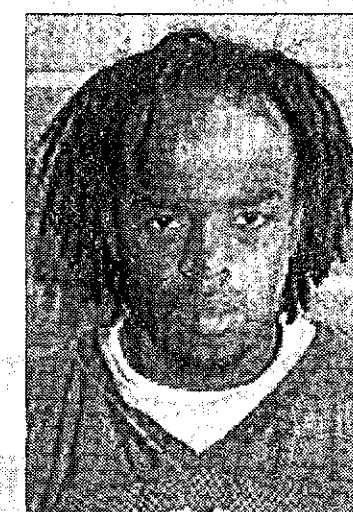
Armando Casillas
Position: Offensive Guard
Sophomore

Casillas was a versatile offensive lineman for the Falcons and started at multiple position on the line throughout the season.



Anthony Recinos
Position: Tight End
Freshman

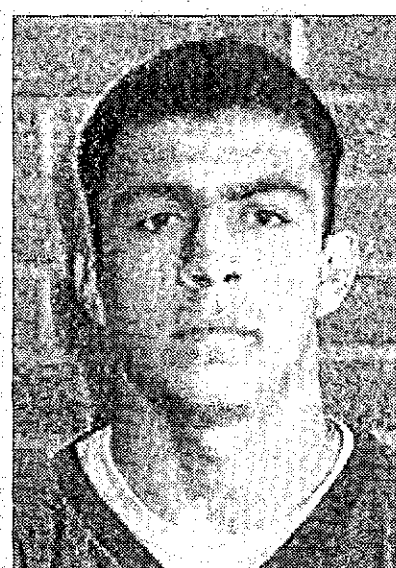
Was selected despite only having 93 yards receiving because of his outstanding blocking and his ability to open up holes for Goode.



Lorenzo Goode
Position: Running Back
Sophomore

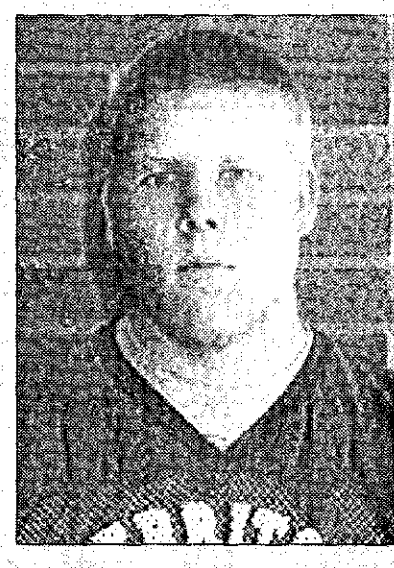
Goode led the Mission Conference in rushing until the final game of the season. He finished with 981 yards rushing the ball.

Second Team All-Conference



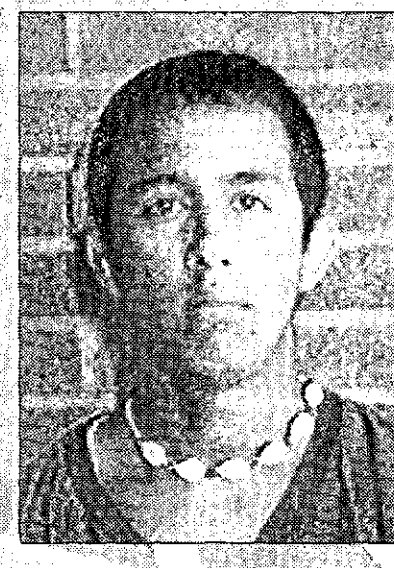
AJ Toscano
Position: Quarterback
Sophomore

Toscano started every game at quarterback this season for the Falcons. He finished the season with 1,446 yards passing.



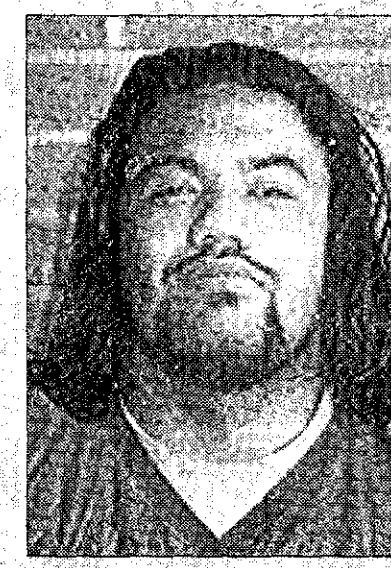
Adam Cox
Position: Center
Freshman

Cox started every game at center for the Falcons and was a key factor in the team's ability to run the ball. Last season he red-shirted.



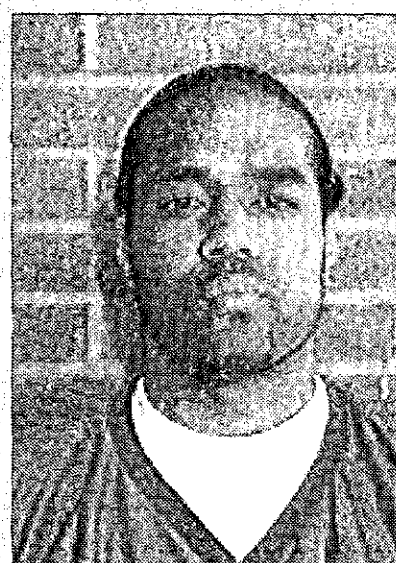
Michael Thomas
Position: Punter
Sophomore

Thomas only punted 29 times and averaged 38.4 yards and had five punts inside the 20 while only having one punt blocked.



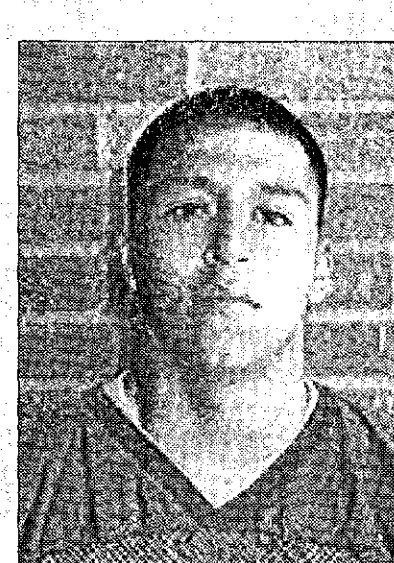
Kupono Kaawa
Position: Inside Linebacker
Sophomore

Kaawa led the team in tackles and was the defensive captain. He finished with 23 solo and 47 assisted tackles for a total of 70.



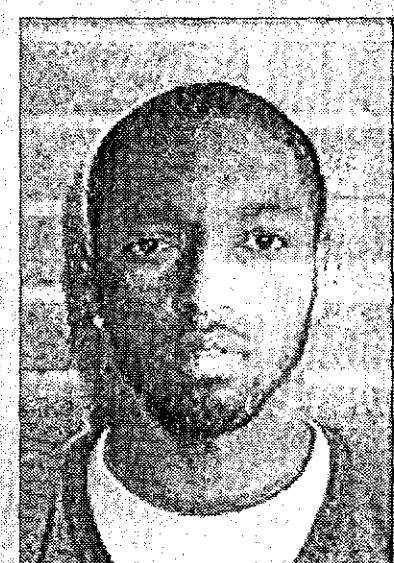
Kirk Puleasi
Position: Linebacker
Freshman

Puleasi played both outside linebacker and defensive end for the Falcons and accumulated 55 tackles with two sacks.



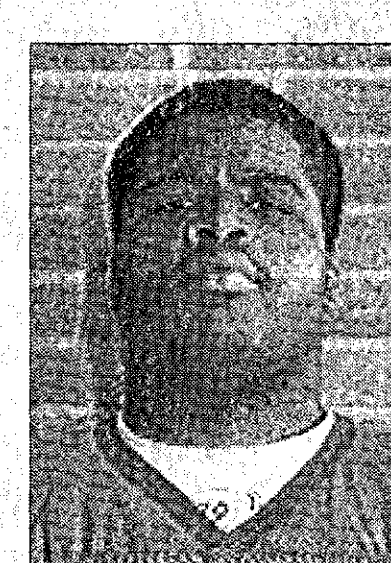
Juan Lopez
Position: Safety
Sophomore

Lopez played mostly on special teams but he did play well in his only start at safety in the Falcons' final game.



Sheldon Smith
Position: Wide Receiver
Freshman

Smith led the Falcons in receptions with 35 and in receiving yards with 453. He also had seven TDs.



Anthony Hayes
Position: Offensive Tackle
Sophomore

Hayes was the biggest member, standing 6'-8" and weighing 370 pounds, on one of the biggest lines.

Women's soccer is off to Fresno

SCOTT WATKINS
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Corina Villegas, forward, had two goals to lead the Cerritos College women's soccer team to a 5-4 victory over San Diego Mesa College last Saturday afternoon in the third round of the state soccer tournament.

The Falcons lost in the same round last season to Santiago Canyon after going 20-1 during the regular season.

Midfielder Rebecca Juarez said, "Last year, the team just relied on one player, but this year, we are a team and every player has a chance to score and make plays."

Now the Falcons will prepare for the state semi-finals and finals in Fresno this weekend.

"We are just excited to get the victory and have a chance to do what we could not last year," Juarez said.

The Falcons got on the board first, just four minutes into the game, when forward Yasmin Torres saw an opening and kicked the ball past the diving goalkeeper Crissy Lawson.

Celia Ramirez got the assist on the goal.

Just minutes later, the Olympians tied the score, after a scrum in front of the net, the ball dribbled past goalkeeper Chantal Cervero.

The Olympians scored again on a penalty kick by striker Melanie DeSalvo and San Diego took the lead, 2-1.

San Diego Mesa scored again when midfielder Blanca Acosta scored on a wide-open net because Cervero came out to challenge the



Women's soccer: Midfielder Corina Villegas (No. 4) is not afraid to slide to keep the ball away from San Diego Mesa College during Saturday afternoon's third round match-up.

shot and was out of position when the pass was made to Acosta.

The Falcons came back to tie the game with minutes left in the first half when Beatriz Cornejo, defender, slid to kick the ball past Lawson.

"That goal was a big one it got us some momentum going into halftime," head coach Ruben Gonzalez said.

The Falcons went into halftime down 3-2.

"It seemed that every mistake that we made they capitalized by scoring a goal," Torres said, "But we

were also able to capitalize on their mistakes to get back into the game."

Shortly into the second half, the Falcons were able to tie the game when Villegas found herself wide open in front of the net and buried the shot into the back of the net.

But, the Olympians were not finished yet. Jessica Hernandez, midfielder, was able to give her team the lead again when she kicked the ball right past the outstretched fingers of Cervero.

But, the Falcons found some life when Juarez was set-up for a pen-

ty kick from way outside of the goal box and the ball took a funny hop and went between Lawson's legs.

The Falcons took the lead for good, with about 20 minutes left in the game, when Villegas scored her second goal of the game with an assist from Torres.

The Falcons will now play Fresno City College, the No. 2 team in Northern California, on Friday.

If they win, they will play the winner of Santiago College and De Anza on Saturday for the state championship.



Falcons basketball: Arielle McClellan (No. 12) dribbles past the Cypress defense.

Opening win for women's basketball team against Cypress

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Tiffany Wilson, guard, led the way with 15 points as the Cerritos College women's basketball team defeated Cypress College, 77-54, Nov. 21.

The team also beat Porterville College, 57-44, Dec. 1 at the Sequoias Tournament, but lost to Santa Barbara City College, 55-51, and Solano College, 61-58.

The Falcons will play host to Orange Coast College on Friday at 7 p.m.

This was the home opener for the Falcons and it was the team's annual meeting the day before Thanksgiving, against Cypress.

"This game goes back and forth every year and we are just happy to get the win against a rival at home," forward Maltres Neely said.

She added 14 points, six rebounds and a blocked shot in the victory.

Forward Mercedes Taylor led the team with 11 rebounds and had three assists to tie Wilson and Genesis Lewis, forward to lead the team in that category.

Lewis also had 10 points in the game.

The Falcons shot 42 percent from the field while the Chargers only shot 27 percent from the field.

For the Chargers, Sequana Norris, guard, led the team with 11 points and five assists.

The game went back and forth in the first half.

The Falcons were able to get the biggest lead of the half for either team when they went up by 10 with just a few minutes left in the half.

But, the Chargers came roaring back to bring the game within two points going into halftime.

The Falcons went into halftime with the 36-34 lead.

In the second half, the Falcons took firm control of the game the first 16 points and left the Chargers scoreless for the first eight minutes.

The Falcons outscored the Chargers 41-20 in the second half.

"We really wanted to come out strong in the second half and having smarter and more athletic players really helped tonight," head coach Karen Welliver said.

Men's soccer loses in third round

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In a physical match on a sloppy field, the Cerritos College men's soccer team lost in the third round of the state tournament to Santa Ana College on Saturday afternoon.

"I am really happy with the effort this team showed today and even though we lost, everybody knew that we were the better team today," head coach Benny Artiaga said.

The Falcons had many chances to win the game but were shut down by the Dons goalkeeper Julian Hernandez.

Last season, the Falcons won the state tournament advancing to the finals by beating the Dons in the same round.

After the game the teams and fans got into a shoving match but it was quickly broken up by the Falcons coaches and some of the Cerritos College administrators.

"Last year, the Dons showed no

class by not shaking our hands after the game and I wanted to make sure that our players showed class and showed them how to lose honorably," Artiaga said "But, the Dons were taunting us after the game so things got a little heated."

The Dons' struck first, less than ten minutes into the first half with Midfielder, Sergio Arrias, midfielder, off a deflection from defender Ruben Ortiz's free kick and was able to shoot the ball past the diving goalkeeper Diego Milan.

Toward the end of the first half, Brian Alvarez headed the ball toward the net but Hernandez was able to turn him away keeping the Dons lead intact.

That was the only goal scored in the first half and the Falcons went into halftime down 1-0.

In the first half, the Falcons had quite a few penalties and four players received yellow cards.

"When they were up 1-0, they

did what all teams do and that's go down easier than if you were winning and the refs saw those as cards", midfielder Norm Mariscal said.

With 24 minutes, left in the game Michael Paz chased down a pass from Alvarez for the game tying score.

The Falcons had few other opportunities to go ahead in the game but Hernandez came up big for the Dons in the second half turning away shot after shot.

The Dons went ahead for good with 14 minutes left, when Miguel Cucue, defender, received a pass from Arrias and shot the ball toward the net. Milan looked to have the save, then the ball slipped through his hands and past the goal line.

Forward Gerardo Torres said it was a great season and it is a shame that just one mistake cost the team a chance at playing for the state title again.



Men's Soccer: Midfielder Leo Munoz (No. 18) uses his whole body to block opponents from Santa Ana College from getting to the ball.

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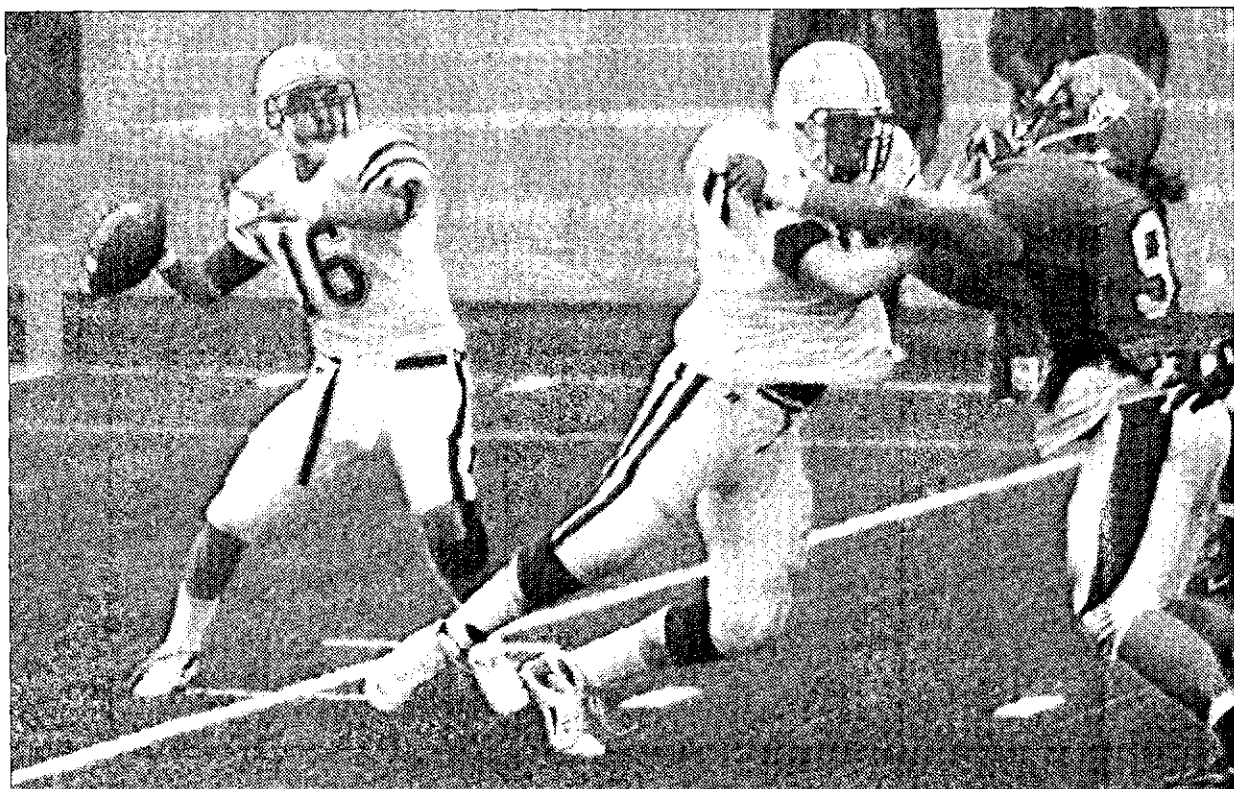
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A SEASON IN REVIEW



Top Left: Quarterback AJ Toscano (No. 16) gets ready to throw a pass while his teammates hold back opponents.

Top Right: Midfielder Rebecca Juarez (No. 7) keeps the ball away from her opponents without a struggle.

Above: Midfielder/Defender Ivan Perez gets ready to kick away without any pressure from his opponents.

PHOTOS BY LIZETTE CASTRO/TM

Middle Right: Driver Ashley Badali looks for a teammate to pass the ball to during the Southern California regional tournament against Long Beach City College.

Lower Right: Goalie Alan Nevarez dives to block the shot by Cuesta College during the Southern California regional tournament.

PHOTOS BY SCOTT WATKINS/TM

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Sports Editor
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The fall 2007 season was filled with highs and lows. The women's soccer team is on its way to the state championship and the volleyball team lost its first 13 games but rebounded in conference play.

Cross-Country:

The men's team did not win a single meet this season but it did finish third in the Orange Coast Classic and fifth in South Coast Conference tournament.

It also had one member, sophomore Daniel Clifford-Sorenson, compete in the state tournament and he finished in 73rd place.

As for the women's team, it finished second in the conference and it placed fourth in the state tournament.

Football:

The team started the season well winning three of its first four games, but ended the season losing four of its last five.

One bright spot for the Falcons was running back Lorenzo Goode who ran for 981 yards and broke the school record with his 93-yard run against Fullerton College on Sept. 29.

Men's Soccer:

The team enjoyed a lot of success this season after winning state last year.

It came in second in the South Coast Conference and was ranked No. 2 in Southern California for the state tournament behind only rival Mt. SAC.

The team lost to Santa Ana on Saturday in the third round of the playoffs to end its season.

Women's Soccer:

The women's team won its conference and had some impressive victories throughout the season.

The team beat Polk County Col-

lege a Division I community college located in Florida and it beat the national champions from last season, Richland College located in Texas.

It is ranked No. 2 in the state tournament and has advanced to the semi-finals that will be played this weekend.

Volleyball:

The volleyball team lost its first 13 matches and did not win a single game until its ninth match of the season.

During conference play, the team was able to improve, falling only one game short of finishing .500.

It also had three players named to the South Coast Conference's all-conference team.

Libero Vanessa Mojica made the first team all-conference.

Outside hitter Brittany Hayes and middle-blocker Kristin Mendoza made the second team.

Men's Water Polo:

The team had a successful season and went to the Southern California Tournament where it lost to Cuesta College in the first round.

It finished with an overall record of 19-10 and it was 4-1 in conference.

Women's Water Polo:

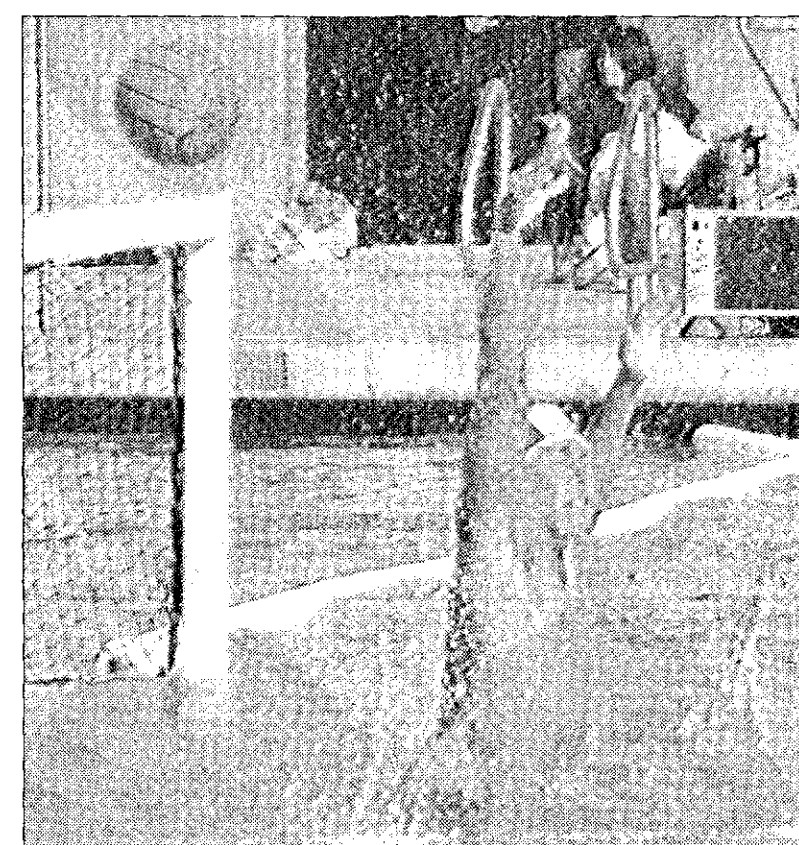
The team made history by winning its first ever playoff game in the Southern California regional tournament.

After defeating Cuesta in the first round, it lost to Long Beach in the second round and then to Chaffey in the third place game, knocking the team out of the playoffs.

Wrestling:

The team has enjoyed quite a bit of success this season only having one loss in conference play and winning the Southern California regional tournament.

It will wrestle in the state championships this weekend in Fresno.



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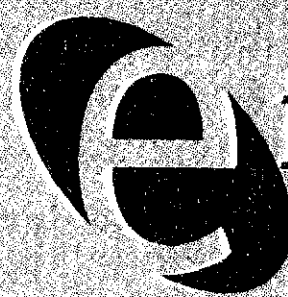
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