



What's everyone waiting for?
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State champs look to repeat
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Cerritos College Talon Marks

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Students feel the pinch



Waiting for classes: Students are waiting outside the classrooms for their classes to start. More have been waiting outside classrooms because classrooms are now more full.

Cuts to classes are making it difficult for students

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Many students might have found it difficult to get the classes they needed this semester and that is because Cerritos College, in anticipation of statewide budget cuts, have cancelled approximately five percent of the classes that were to be offered this semester.

That equals about 80 sections, according to Acting President Bill Farmer.

Students that were not able to get into the classes they needed have seen class sizes grow past the number of seats available in the classroom.

"In some of my classes, there are more students than seats," business administration major, Jorge Legunas said. "Some of the classes I really wanted I found it more difficult to get into."

Other students had a different experience with getting into the classes they need.

"I had no problems getting into my classes, but classes are (more full) this semester," Daniela Moreno said.

The reason for the cuts in classes is that this semester Cerritos College will not be paid for growth.

Vice President of Academic Affairs Marilyn Brock explained that growth means that if Cerritos grows past the allotted amount of students, then it is not paid to educate those extra students.

Many of the students now feeling the crunch of getting into classes may have waited to long to sign up.

See BUDGETS CUTS Page 2

Summer session may be cut

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The Budget and Planning Committee was forced to discuss the idea of cancelling one of the summer sessions last Thursday.

Though it is still not clear whether or not a summer session will be suspended, it is clear that more classes will need to be cut.

Acting President Bill Farmer stated, "I would like for students to understand that if a summer session is cancelled, the cut would not be made by choice or preference, but because of absolute necessity."

Based on current enrollment numbers, Cerritos College will have met its enrollment target by the end of Spring 2009.

Therefore, any classes and courses offered after July 1, will not be funded by the state and will need to be paid for by Cerritos College.

"If we (Cerritos) offer any classes after July 1, they will need to be paid for by the college. The money will come directly from us," explained Farmer.

If the college decides to offer such classes or courses, the state will not reimburse it for said classes.

Farmer added, "If the college spends the money in summer sessions, it will have less money to offer classes in the future semesters such as Fall 2009 and perhaps Spring 2010."

Classes will need to be cut somewhere anyway, Farmer informed the committee.

That is why the option of cancelling a summer session is being considered.

The school is considering cutting classes not only in a short time period, but also in a period where the school will not be reimbursed for the money it spends.

If such a decision is made, notifications will be posted and announced to students so that they may plan ahead and proceed to enrolling in the only summer session that will be offered.

Maria Fontes, English major, felt overwhelmed that the cancellation is even a possibility.

"I'm trying to finish my classes as soon as possible so I was looking forward to the two summer sessions," she said. "I already stressed out over this semester's classes now, I have to plan to stress out for the summer classes."

See SUMMER SCHOOL Page 2

iFALCON gets ready to be unveiled to students

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iFALCON, the new study program at Cerritos College, is set to launch in three weeks.

ASCC President Michael Barrita said, "Everyone is excited to finally see the campaign get implemented in the classrooms."

Teachers will introduce new studying habits that will hopefully help them succeed.

Barrita added, "Right before this semester began, about 50 teachers went to a meeting where they were taught how to teach these successful studying habits."

"Our goal is to help students practice helpful study habits and reach their goals by succeeding in every aspect inside and outside of the classroom," he explained.

Construction on the program commenced two years ago due to a concept introduced by Faculty Senate President Bryan Reece.

"I noticed that strong students had similar study habits," Reece explained.

He introduced the Habits of the Mind campaign to the faculty during the Fall 2008 semester.

Faculty members, such as English professor Frank Gaik, welcomed the idea with open arms.

"I think it's a fantastic idea. The students can really benefit from it," said Gaik.

The campaign has been promoted throughout school by posters, cards, activities, and its catchy name, iFALCON.

The posters are similar to those from the iPod campaigns.

With help of Barrita, Reece was able to test different acronyms to figure out which would be more appealing.

"They were all so terrible, I forgot most of them," Reece commented.

"There was no contest, most students chose iFALCON," Barrita added.

Each letter of iFALCON

represents a detailed step that students can use to their advantage to obtain success.

"F.A.L.C.O.N stands for Focus, Advancing, and Linking up, Comprehend, Organize, and New Ideas," Barrita explained.

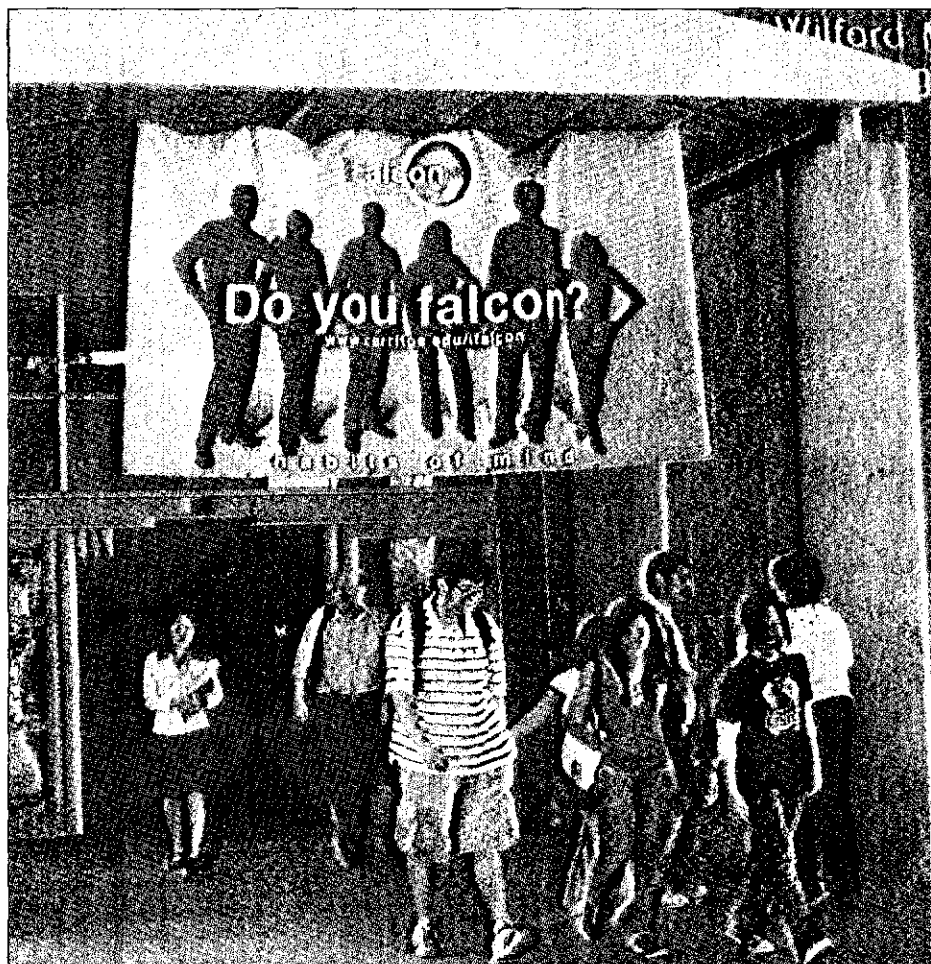
Members of the student government and faculty are sure the campaign will be a success.

"I have 100 members of faculty that are teaching the campaign. I am building toward having 100 percent faculty participating in it," Reece said.

Since it will be the first year that iFALCON will be taught in certain classes, teachers will be free to experiment teaching the campaign to students.

With aid from the iFALCON Web site, teachers will be allowed to show videos to their students made by students participating in the campaign.

The site also includes quizzes and other tools used to enhance the students' comprehension of what the campaign is really about.



iFALCON banner: Students walking out of the library where one iFALCON banner hangs.

ASCC has big plans for spring

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The ASCC have begun to plan for many renovations on campus for this semester.

Two of ASCC President Michael Barrita's main concerns are beautifying the student center and increasing scholarship opportunities for the students of Cerritos.

The ASCC plans to completely refurbish the Student Center. Its goal is to make it a suitable-looking place for students to hang out and study.

Other plans the cabinet has that it finds to be very important are to install maps and information boards on campus to help students find their way around the campus and to fix water fountains around campus.

See PLANS Page 2

More construction hits Cerritos

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For the last nine years, there has been construction going on and around Cerritos College.

The construction is now in its last phase of infrastructure it has taken some time but now is coming to an end.

While digging of the school ground was taking place, construction workers are putting up new high/low voltage lines, new chill water lines and natural gas lines, according to Dave Turner.

Robert Riffle, director of physical plant, said, "We're done with the digging up of the inner campus and should be starting the beautification process. There will be sod put in and the replanting of plants that were dug up."

In more than 12 months, there should be a new classroom office complex built.

"It will hold technology materials. Then there will be a physical science division built also," Riffle said.

While these buildings are being built, parking lots will be one of the many areas affected.



MARIA MORALES/TM

Construction: The Fine Arts Building is one of the many sites at Cerritos that are undergoing construction.

Clubs raise funds

CELIA LIRA
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The Associated Students of Cerritos College, with the help of clubs and faculty, will be fundraising this semester to provide students with money for scholarships.

The ASCC is trying to provide a means of financial aid to those students that have been affected by the budget cuts.

ASCC President Michael Barrita said, "We will be fundraising throughout the semester to collect money to offer to students hopefully by May 2009."

He said there are plenty of members of the faculty and about 10 clubs that want to get involved. Their goal is to have 10 to 15 clubs helping out to raise \$2,000 or more.

Many fundraising events will be occurring throughout this semester. The funds will be raised by holding car washes, concerts, and date auctions among other events.

Some of the upcoming fundraising events will be car washes.

They will not be held on campus. Instead, they will be held at businesses surrounding areas of Cerritos College.

The car wash prices, so far, will be:

- \$10 for faculty cars,
- \$12 for faculty vans,
- \$5 for student cars and
- \$7 for student vans.

Nothing is definite at this time, but the ASCC would like to start with some activities to raise money during the month of February.

There will be about two activities per month during the semester.

Commissioner of Student Outreach, Oscar Franco, said, "The earnings of the fundraising will be available to any Cerritos College student, regardless of their immigration status."

A committee will be created to decide what students will benefit from these scholarship funds.

The process to award the funds may be on an application basis along with an essay written by the student that would like to receive benefits.

Tickets for the car washes will be sold in advance to guarantee some money coming on the date of the event.

Classes cut students

BUDGET CUTS : Continued From PAGE 1

"The students that sign up early and for as many units as they can will have no problems getting the classes they need," Brock said. "The biggest impact will come to students who wait until that last minute to sign up for classes."

Another area that is being affected by the budget crisis is Cost of Living Allocation.

COLA is given to employees of Cerritos College based on the cost of living in the area.

There are no layoffs planned right now at Cerritos College.

"Our goal is to keep everyone working," Brock said.

This might be only the beginning of the cuts around Cerritos College.

"Right now, all the cuts to colleges by the state have not been approved, they are just proposed," Brock said. "We will not see the worst of these problems probably until next semester."

With the proposed statewide budget cuts, Cerritos is not in any danger and will continue to provide for all students that attend it.

"The biggest thing right now is that nobody panics," Brock said. "Cerritos is doing a lot better than most colleges in the area."

School out for summer

SUMMER SCHOOL : Continued From PAGE 1

David Martinez, sociology major, feels differently.

He stated, "I would prefer for the school to cut summer classes than to cut classes in the Fall or Spring where more students enroll. I think they would be wise to do so."

Though the possibility is still being discussed, cancelling the second summer session does look to be way

to go in order to save money to provide more classes to students.

"It is not a sure thing yet," Farmer clarified. "The possibility is still being discussed. However, if the school does decide to offer both summer sessions, it will need to cut even more classes and courses offered in future semesters."

New sign will arrive

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In an effort to catch Cerritos up to the 21st century, there have been projects all around campus to update the school, the new ASCC marquee being one.

"It's part of the campus transformation," explains ASCC President Michael Barrita.

The new ASCC marquee is located in a highly visible area, right in front of the student center where Barrita says, "It's right in the middle of student traffic

and students are able to get quick information on what's going on around school."

He added, "This could be very beneficial for new incoming students. They will be able to find new information for opportunities that the school offers that they might not know about."

The sign is not quite finished though.

"We have already looked in to getting a new ASCC sign to replace the old one. It's part of the bigger plan for that area," he explains.

New plans for ASCC

PLANS : Continued
From PAGE 1

The cabinet also discussed the new Habits of Mind campaign.

ASCC Vice President Shola Shodiya shared, "We have started drilling for a garden (for the student center)."

Though it is unsure when the Student Center will be completely finished, Barrita said the goal is for it to be finished by the Spring banquet awards.

"So far, everything looks like it's on schedule," Barrita said. "The facilities lost several hourly pay workers though and I don't know if or how that might affect ongoing projects."

The ASCC is also working with several clubs to increase the funds for scholarships opportunities.

Eight clubs have already agreed to participate in car washes and other fundraising activities to fund these scholarships.

Their goal is to raise the funds to about \$3,000 to \$5,000.

Another plan the ASCC has that it finds to be very important is to install maps and information boards on campus to help students find their way around the campus.

Among these changes, fixing the water fountains is another goal Barrita has.

"Athletics is my main concern (for the water fountains)," he added.



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OBAMA INAUGURATION



TRANSFER OF POWER



Abraham Lincoln
March 4, 1865

“With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds...”



Franklin D. Roosevelt
March 4, 1933

“So, first of all, let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself — nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance.”



John F. Kennedy
Jan. 20, 1961

“And so, my fellow Americans: Ask not what your country can do for you — ask what you can do for your country.”



Ronald Reagan
Jan. 20, 1981

“We have every right to dream heroic dreams. Those who say that we are in a time when there are no heroes just don't know where to look.”



George H.W. Bush
Jan. 20, 1989

“We must act on what we know. I take as my guide the hope of a saint: In crucial things, unity; in important things, diversity; in all things, generosity.”



Bill Clinton
Jan. 20, 1993

“There is nothing wrong with America that cannot be cured by what is right with America.”

Reviewing inaugural history

BY ROBERT S. BOYD
McClatchy Newspapers

The inauguration of the first black president will long be remembered as a momentous day in history, but many past inaugurations also have had their memorable moments.

Even Barack Obama's arrival in the nation's capital aboard a special train recalls his fellow Illinoisan Abraham Lincoln's similar train ride in 1861. Lincoln had to travel the last part of the trip at night because of an assassination threat in Baltimore.

Inaugurations are a mixture of pomp, festival and gravity, the American equivalent of a coronation. Their rituals are laden with symbols of national purpose, continuity and unity. For 220 years, they have marked the peaceful transfer of power, a feat few other countries have achieved.

Presidents have tinkered with the ceremony to reflect their personal style and the state of the nation.

There've been top hats and bare heads, cheers and boos along parade routes, unruly mobs in the White House, poets and preachers, brilliant sunshine and bitter cold, glamorous balls and tragic circumstances.

Almost always the day has featured a solemn swearing in, an inaugural address, one or more parades, plus parties, receptions and fancy balls far into the night.

The heart of the affair is the inaugural oath, first recited by George Washington on the balcony of New York City's Federal Hall, the original seat of government, on April 30, 1789.

The 35-word oath is prescribed in the Constitution, but Washington added the phrase “So help me God,” and placed his left hand on a Bible hastily borrowed from a Masonic Lodge on Wall Street. Most later presidents have followed the founding father's precedent.

Washington's successor, John Adams, took the oath in Philadelphia's Independence Hall. Thomas Jefferson did it in the new Senate chamber in the District of Columbia in 1801. James Monroe moved the ceremony outside to the east front of the Capitol in 1817.

It remained there until 1981, when Ronald Reagan switched it to the Capitol's west front as a giant stage prop for his inauguration.



President Jimmy Carter, center left, and wife Rosalynn walk down Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington during his 1977 inauguration.

Sub-zero temperatures drove Reagan inside the Capitol building in 1985 for his second oath-taking and forced the cancellation of his parade, disappointing 12,000 marchers, 66 floats and 57 bands.

Thomas Jefferson and Andrew Jackson showed their common touch by eschewing carriages and walking up to Capitol Hill to be sworn in. Jimmy Carter delighted the crowd and horrified the Secret Service by leaving his armored limousine after the swearing-in, and strolling down Pennsylvania Avenue with his wife and children to the White House. Both Bushes and the Clintons walked part of the way at their inaugurations as well.

Until Benjamin Harrison's 1889 inauguration, the parades usually moved up the hill to the Capitol. Since then, they've flowed down the hill past the White House reviewing stand. Some grander parades lasted well into darkness.

After his 1829 parade, Andrew Jackson opened the White House to thousands of his hungry and thirsty followers, who tracked in mud, broke windows and wrecked furniture. After Lincoln's second inaugural in 1865, unruly guests stole silver and draperies.

There've been awkward moments

between incoming and outgoing presidents. Adams boycotted Jefferson's inauguration in 1801. Ulysses Grant refused to ride in the same carriage as Andrew Johnson in 1869. Herbert Hoover and Franklin D. Roosevelt drove to the Capitol in chilly silence in 1933.

Not all inaugurations have been joyous occasions. Andrew Johnson took the oath in his boarding house the day after Lincoln's assassination in April 1865. In 1901, Theodore Roosevelt was sworn in in Buffalo, N.Y., where

William McKinley had died earlier that day.

A grim-faced Lyndon Johnson was sworn in aboard Air Force One on the day John F. Kennedy was shot in Dallas. Gerald Ford took the oath in the East Room of the White House after Richard Nixon resigned in 1974.

Ever since Washington, most presidents have launched their term with a formal address, usually calling for national reconciliation and setting out their vision for the future.

Washington and Adams gave their inaugural speeches in person. Jefferson and a century of his successors sent theirs to Congress in writing. Wilson renewed the personal address in 1913.

Some inaugural addresses have etched lines in the national memory:

■ Thomas Jefferson: “We are all Republicans, we are all Federalists.”

■ Abraham Lincoln: “With malice toward none, with charity for all, (let us) bind up the nation's wounds.”

■ Franklin Roosevelt: “The only thing we have to fear is fear itself.”

■ John Kennedy: “Ask not what your country can do for you — ask what you can do for your country.”

■ Gerald Ford: “Our long national nightmare is over.”

At Kennedy's snow-swept inaugural in 1961, the glare of the sun and a stiff breeze kept Robert Frost from reading a poem he had written for the occasion. Vice President Lyndon Johnson tried to shade the lectern with his top hat, but the 86-year-old poet protested “I can't see in this light.” Instead, he recited from memory one of his earlier poems, “The Gift Outright.”

William Henry Harrison's 1841 address — an hour and 40 minutes long, delivered without hat or coat on a cold, damp day — turned tragic. The 68-year-old Harrison developed pneumonia and died a month later. His vice president, John Tyler, was sworn in at his hotel and never gave an inaugural address.

The most recent inaugural, George Bush's second, was marred by scuffles with angry protestors. Cries of “war-monger” and “impeach Bush” clashed with chants of “USA” and “support our troops” as 13,000 police and soldiers stood guard.

This year, Obama's whistle-stop train ride from Philadelphia to Washington,

picking up Vice President-elect Joseph Biden on the way, follows a long line of travels to the capital by incoming presidents. George Washington rode his horse and carriage from his beloved home at Mount Vernon to New York. Lincoln whistle-stopped from Springfield, the Illinois capital where Obama declared his candidacy Feb. 10, 2007.

To read the inaugural addresses of former presidents: www.whitehouse.gov/presidents/inaugural/index.html

Trivia quiz

■ Who gave the longest inaugural address?

William Henry Harrison, right, March 4, 1841. His speech was 8,445 words long, delivered on an incredibly cold day.

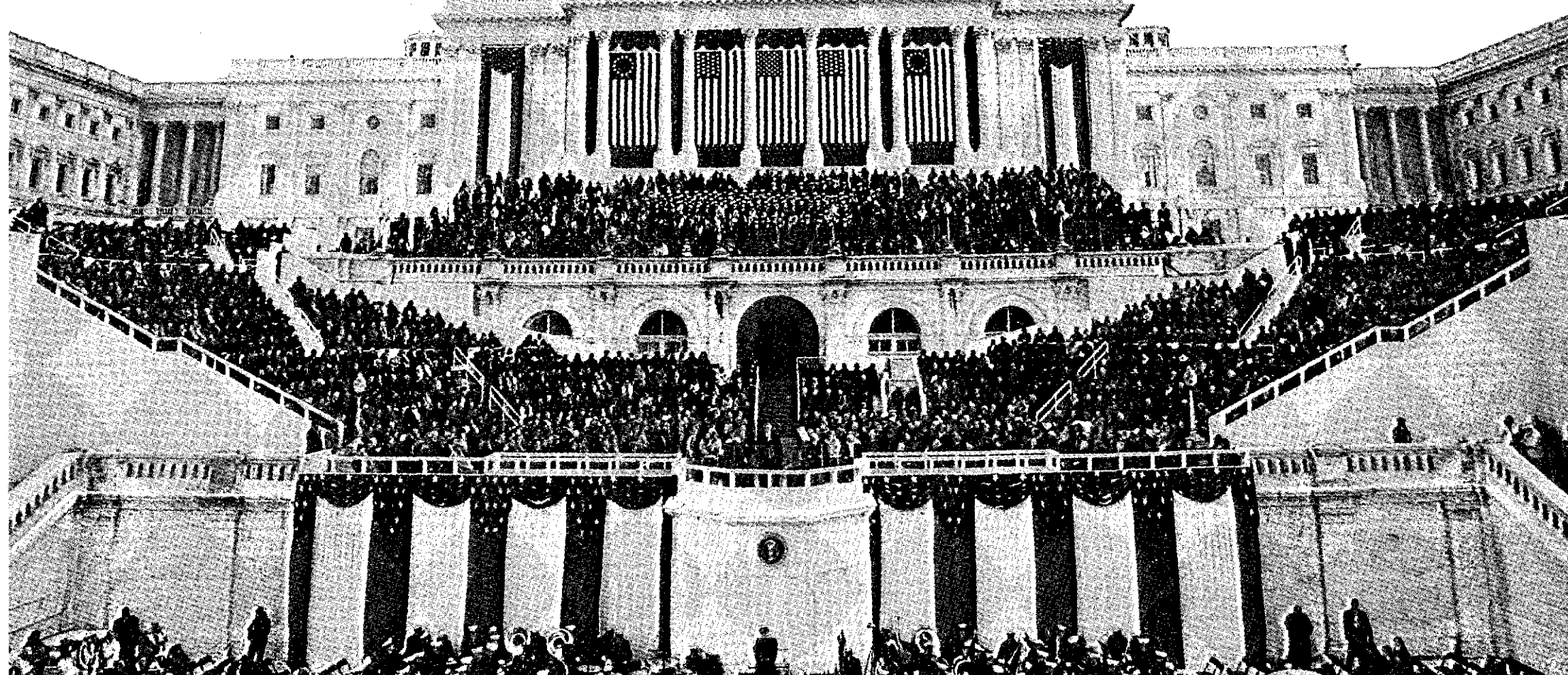
■ Who gave the first televised inaugural address? Harry S. Truman on Jan. 20, 1949.

■ Who gave the first inaugural address to be broadcast live on the Internet? Bill Clinton in his second address, Jan. 20, 1997.

■ Who gave an inaugural address one year, then gave the one AFTER the next president? Grover Cleveland gave his second inaugural address on March 4, 1893. To date, this is the only time a president has been elected, lost to his opponent in the next election cycle, then been elected again to serve a second term.

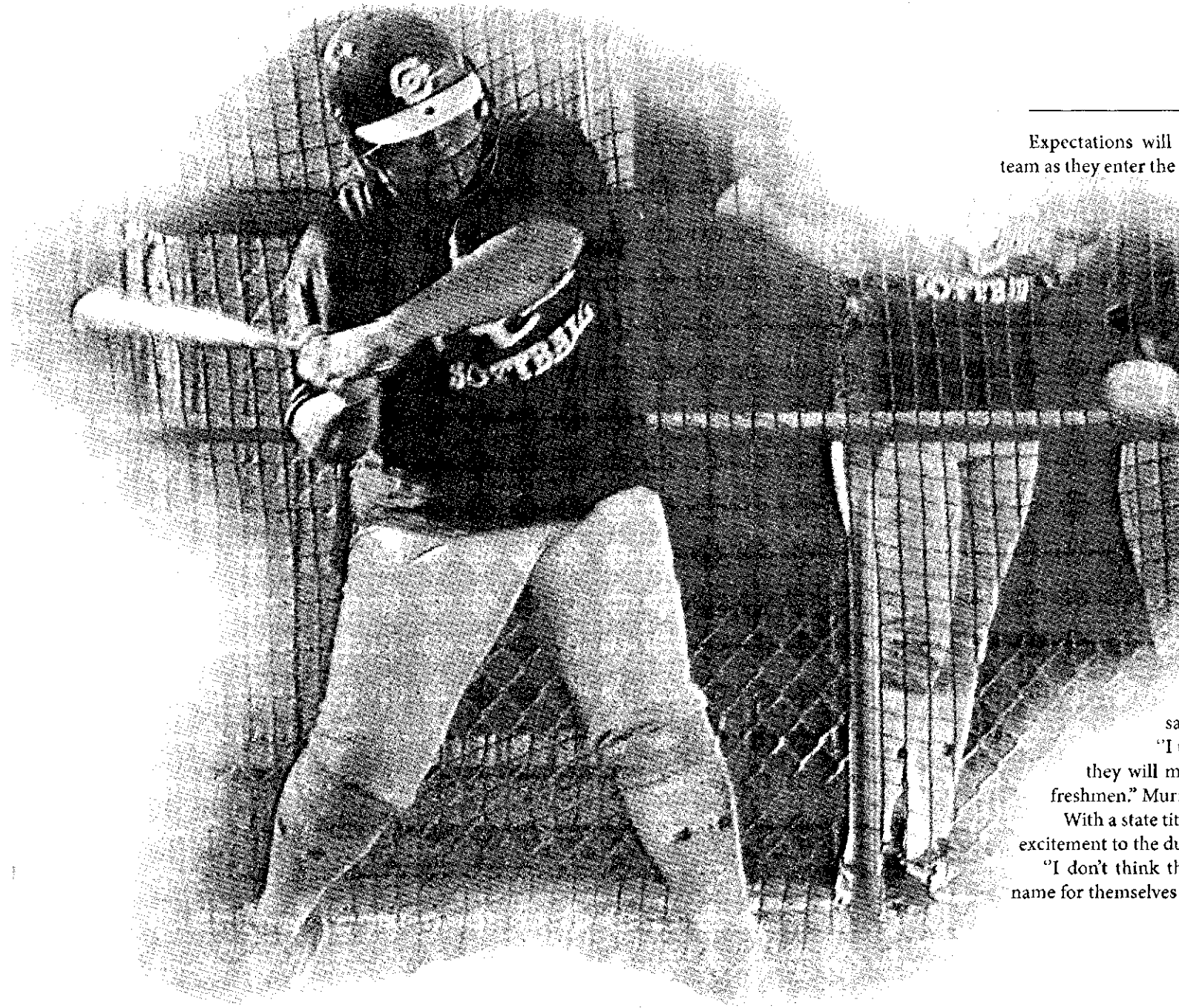
President George W. Bush delivers his 2005 inaugural speech after taking the oath of office during ceremonies on the west front of the U.S. Capitol in Washington.

MCT POOL PHOTOGRAPH BY WIN MCNAMEE/GETTY IMAGES



Softball looks to defend title

At a Glance



RICK GOMEZ
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Expectations will be high for the Cerritos College softball team as they enter the 2009 season with a state championship title to defend.

The Falcons were crowned 2008 state champions for the 2nd time in Cerritos College softball history after defeating Mt. SAC 5-1 in the final.

The Falcons will have only three returning players from last year's championship team including starting centerfielder, Jennifer Salas.

This year the Falcons will rely on a promising core of incoming freshmen, which includes Catcher Samantha Vaalu and Pitcher Lauren Castrellon.

"We have a very talented group of freshmen" head coach Kodee Murray said.

"I think it is going to be a journey and I know they will make mistakes this season because they are freshmen," Murray added.

With a state title to defend, Murray believes it brings more excitement to the dugout.

"I don't think there is any pressure, they want to make a name for themselves this year."

This Week

Wednesday

Basketball

Women vs. El Camino 5:30 p.m.
Men vs. El Camino 7:30 p.m.

Friday

Basketball

Women vs. LBCC 5:30 p.m.
Men vs. LBCC 7:30 p.m.

Next Week

Tuesday

Tennis

Women vs. Fullerton 2 p.m.
Men @ Cypress 2pm

Baseball

@ Golden West 2pm

Softball

vs. Santa Barbara City 3pm

Wednesday

Basketball

Women @ Compton 5:30 p.m.
Men @ Compton 7 p.m.

Thursday

Tennis

Men vs. Glendale 2 p.m.
Women @ Rio Hondo 2 p.m.

Friday

Track & Field

@ Northern Arizona University

Softball

vs. Ventura 9 a.m.
vs. Santa Ana 11 a.m.

Baseball

vs. Glendale 2 p.m.

Basketball

Women vs. LA Harbor 5:30 p.m.
Men vs. LA Harbor 7:30 p.m.

Saturday

Track & Field

@ Northern Arizona University

Softball

vs. Imperial Valley 11 a.m.

Baseball

vs. Rio Hondo 12 p.m.

Sunday

Baseball

vs. College of the Canyons 11 a.m.

Results

Last Wednesday

Basketball

Women vs. Mt. SAC L 63-73
Men vs. Mt. SAC L 67-74

Last Friday

Basketball

Women vs. LA Southwest L 61-66
Men vs. LA Southwest W 68-64

2009 Spring Preview

Men's tennis adds depth

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"It's always about winning state," head coach Alvin Kim said.

Even with arguably the best teams in the state being in the same division, Kim is not ready to sell his team short.

The South Coast Conference went under a restructure resulting in three of the top five teams competing against the Cerritos College men's tennis team.

"Winning conference will be a challenge," Kim said.

The Falcons will have all key returners with an addition to incoming freshman, Tim Lee, who will be added to the top starting line-up.

"(Lee) gives us more depth," Kim said.

Also returning is doubles team, Doug Edwards and Jason Wall.

The duo finished second in state after reaching the state championship match for the first time in school history.



Top: Catcher Samantha Vaalu swings for the fences during batting practice. Coach Murray believes she will have a big impact this season.

Middle: Nik Bote hits the ball to during practice.

Bottom: Emerson Mendoza swims down using the breaststroke technique.

PHOTOS TAKEN BY
RICK GOMEZ, DANIELA GUZMAN
AND MARIA MORALES/TM

Men's swimming three headed monster ready for season

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Returner Loui Espinoza hopes to lead the men's swim team of Cerritos College to the state championship this season.

Espinoza said, "As a returner, I feel I could not only set an example for the new members of the team, but I could also help them in a competitive aspect."

Because he, along with a few other returners, are on the men's water polo team, he feels they have a major advantage over the freshman.

"Most of us returning are on the water polo team," he admitted, "So we pretty much know what it's like to be competing at a college level, unlike the new members where they've only competed at a club or high school level."

Head coach Joe Abing believes freshman Berner Figueroa will be one of the swimmers who will take on a major role in contributing to the team.

Because speed is definitely a factor in obtaining

points at swim meets, Abing said the speed of this incoming freshman will outstandingly help the team throughout the season.

Freshman Matthew Mendoza hopes that he too will help the swim team reach state.

"I know I can help my team reach the state championships," Mendoza confessed.



"It's just going to take a lot of dedication and practice."

He will also try to break the Cerritos College record for fastest freestyle swim.

He bragged, "(Espinoza) might be fast, but I'm faster."

I want to break the record and prove to people that a fat guy could still swim fast."

Though there are very few swimmers on the team this season, Abing believes it is still a good group of

guys.

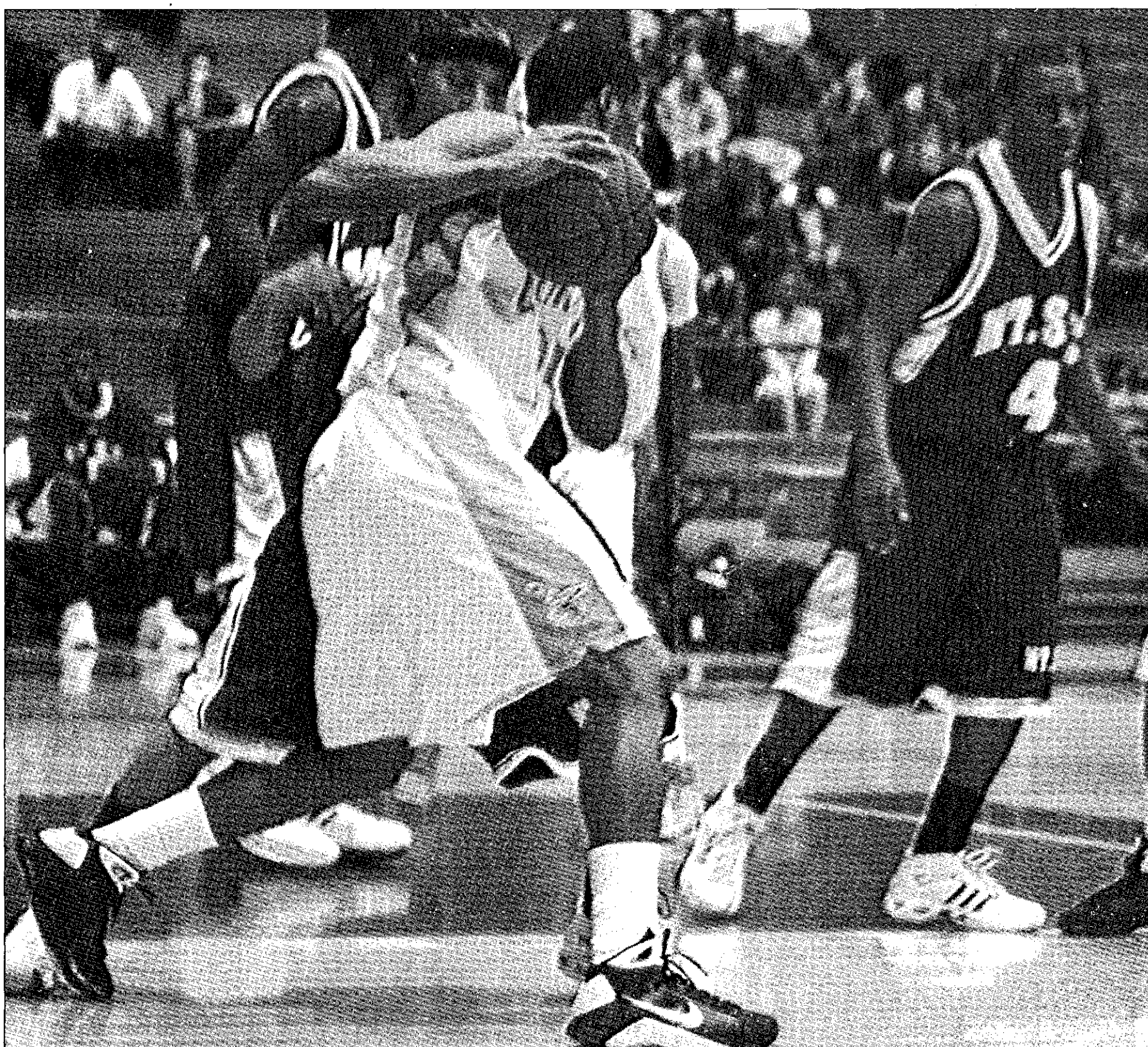
"It's a pretty good size group. Plus (the team) has Espinoza who is its fastest breaststroker, Mendoza its fastest long distance swimmer, and Figueroa who is the faster incoming freshman. So I definitely think they have the potential to make it to state," he said.

Not only that, but it also has two new divers that could possibly earn it critical points in competitions. Speed and endurance will be two major requirements that will enable this team to succeed.

Abing added, "These guys will have to work on their speed and endurance if they want to have a good season. I too get in the pool and swim with them sometimes. So I'll be getting in shape at the same time they are."

Despite the fact that there are only a few members on the team, Espinoza believes they have the potential, skills, and ability to make this a successful season.

"We have everything it takes to make it to state," he said, "Everyone on the team just needs to come to practice and take this season seriously."



Basketball: Guard Gregory Preer dribbles the ball between three Mounties defenders and prepares to shoot and deliver one of the key points to end a losing streak and ensure a victory.

Close victory for basketball

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After a rough month, the Cerritos College men's basketball team came away with a victory at Los Angeles Southwest College in its first South Coast Conference game on Friday, 68-64, to snap a seven-game losing streak.

Forward Marcellus Jackson led the way with a team high, 18 points and 20 rebounds.

The Falcons led by as much as 11 but the Cougars were not going down without a fight.

The Falcons saw its lead drop to one, 60-59, with over two minutes remaining.

Clutch free throws late in

the game secured the Falcons the win.

Prior to Friday's victory, problems continued for the Falcons as it dropped its seventh in a row to rival Mt. San Antonio, 74-67, last Wednesday at the Avary in Cerritos College.

Falcons guard Gregory Preer's team high 18 points and 10 rebounds were shadowed by Mounties guard Aaron Chamberlin's 26 points, 20 of which came in the second half.

The Falcons got off to a quick start leading 13-7 in the first half and kept it close going into halftime only trailing 33-29.

"The team started off strong with (its) adrenaline pumping at the beginning of

each quarter," said head coach Jesse Teplitzky.

With a little more than seven minutes left in the game, the Falcons took a 58-53 lead.

The small lead soon vanished as the Mounties went on a 13-0 run, led by Chamberlin, scoring nine of the 13 in a span of five minutes.

The Mounties' aggressive play in the paint sent them to the free throw line, converting 17 of the 26 attempts.

The Falcons will look to have back-to-back wins as they host El Camino tonight at 7:30 p.m.

ADDITIONAL REPORTING BY
RICK GOMEZ

SCC Men's Basketball Standings

Team Name	Conference	Overall
Long Beach City	1-0	8-11
Cerritos	1-0	5-12
Compton	1-0	5-16
El Camino	0-1	8-11
LA Southwest	0-1	7-13
LA Harbor	0-1	3-16

Source: Coasports.org

Falcons fall short by 10 to Mounties

MICHAEL GONZALEZ
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The game was close, but the Cerritos women's basketball team fell short on Wednesday, losing 73-63.

It was certainly a test for the Falcons as they were going up against Mt. SAC (19-2).

In a South Coast Conference crossover game the Falcons were certainly ready to show what they got.

The game was pretty much an inside dominance for Cerritos as 16 of its 24 points came from inside the paint.

Much of the points came from fast break or put backs from misses or offensive rebounds.

Fourteen points were scored through 16 minutes in the paint up until forward Rachel Butler hit a jumper from the left wing.

A key play in the first half was when guard Maleta Daughtery drove strong to the basket getting the score and the foul.

Diving for balls and playing good defense helped the Falcons finish the half on a 7-0 run and lead 24-22 at halftime.

Daughtery saw the second half as a "Good Effort" as they went in the second half with the lead.

Although, the second half momentum seemed to be on the side of Mt. SAC as it scored 51 points and held Cerritos to 39 points.

The majority of the half was each team going at one another, scoring right after the other team would.

It was more of a loose type play of basketball from both teams as more shots from outside were taken and turnovers, more on Cerritos behalf.

A crucial 7-1 run from the Mounties seemed to put away the Falcons from the field and the free throw line.

Throughout the game the Mounties were 23 of 33 from the line, while Cerritos were a subpar 2 of 10.

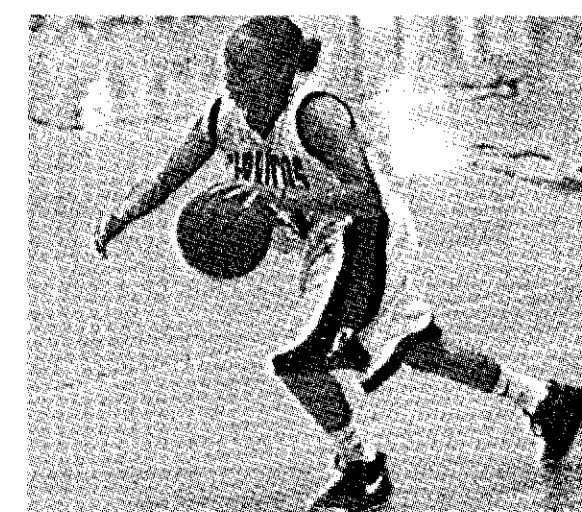
Even with the last minute shooting spree from guard Daughtery, it was not enough to get around Mt. SAC, losing 73-63.

Daughtery was the leading scorer in the game with 21 points which also came with five three-pointers.

Even with the outcome of the game Butler, said about her team, "We played really well as a unit."

When asked how she saw the season so far she said, "We've grown a lot so far and we got a good group of girls."

Despite losing, head coach Karen Williver said, "I'm proud of the team, (it) played hard."



Women's basketball: Guard Maleta Daughtery dribbles upcourt during the women's basketball teams loss to Mt. SAC last Wednesday.

Artiaga, Villegas win national, regional soccer awards

Artiaga named Far West Region Coach of the Year

RICK GOMEZ
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For the second time in four years, Benny Artiaga was named Far West Region Coach of the Year after leading the Cerritos College men's soccer team to its second state championship in three years.

The Falcons defeated rival Mt. San Antonio College in the state championship final 1-0

and finished the season ranked No. 2 in the country.

Artiaga received the same award two years ago as well as the National Coach of the Year award when the team won its first state title in school history.

Artiaga also led the Falcons to a South Coast Conference championship for the first time since 2004 when they were co-champions with Pasadena City College.



Spinning away: Forward Corina Villegas plits two Santa Rosa defenders on her way to scoring for the state title.

Villegas celebrates National Player of the Year award

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Midfielder Corina Villegas was celebrating the state championship MVP award after scoring three goals in the championship game to lead the women's soccer team to its back-to-back title, but the celebration didn't end there.

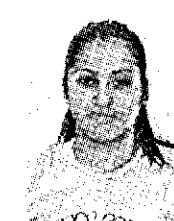
On Dec. 18, Villegas was awarded National

Player of the Year and was also named Athlete of the Month for December.

The sophomore Villegas earned first team All American honors.

Villegas racked up 21 goals and marked a single season school record of 18 assists.

She also tallied seven goals in the state championship tournament, scoring in all five of the team's postseason games.



•EDITORIAL•

Budget cuts threaten education

With the country in an economic meltdown, Cerritos College is cutting classes in order to cope with these harsh economic times.

Classes have been cut by five percent for this semester with the possibility of more cuts to come.

With the vast majority of problems resulting from the crippling economy for many college students, getting into classes and graduating from college should not be one of them.

Many people go back to college during times like these; especially to community college in order to learn a trade and have better jobs opportunities to be able to overcome the hard economic times.

In these times, more money should be put into education and not taken away from it.

In the 1940s, the government came up with the GI bill and that gave people that served in the military an opportunity to get an education and ensure that future generations would have opportunities to fulfill their learning potential.

Why is this important, you ask?

The last time the future economy seemed as bleak as it does today was in the 1930s during the great depression.

Back then, the government understood that it was important, especially during hard economic times, to invest in education.

It understood that being more proactive in educating its citizens was going to help, maybe not right away, but in the long run for the economic stability of this country.

Now with people uncertain about their futures, the government has decided that it needs to cut spending in education.

It makes no sense whatsoever. The one thing that can overcome an economic downturn is an educated society. By cutting funding on education, the government is depriving its citizens the possibility of even having one.

Community colleges are the stepping stone for most of America's middle class to get an education and now it is harder to get classes that will ensure that future.

Instead of cutting education, this country should be putting more money into education to reap the rewards, maybe not right away, of that of a stronger, more educated work force that is ready for the future.



MCT



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.

Comics are not just for kids anymore

Ghost World, 30 Days of Night and Wanted have something in common, other than being rated-R movies.

They are based on comic books.

Comic books aren't just for kids anymore like they were in the '60s.

In fact, they are becoming almost the opposite.

Every medium goes through changes.

The comic book has gone through changes to the point where some have ratings now, not unlike ratings used in movies, TV shows and video games.

Why would comics have ratings if they were all for kids?

Making a general statement that comic books are immature and childish is like making that same statement about cartoon shows.

And saying that cartoons are childish would mean that South Park and Family Guy



Tim Dickerson
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are for kids.

Comics aren't just about Spider-Man stopping Dr. Octopus from robbing a bank anymore.

They're about more mature issues for more mature audiences.

In a mini-series called "Daredevil: Redemption," the lawyer Matt Murdock was defending a man that was being accused of murdering and mutilating a young boy.

Many parents wouldn't allow their children to read a story (with detailed artwork) like that.

Another storyline, involving your friend-

ly neighborhood Spider-Man, featured a sniper who tried to kill Peter Parker. He and Mary Jane managed to get out of the way, but the bullet hit Aunt May.

Spider-Man decides that he wants revenge in the worst way possible, by reviving the black suit.

Spider-Man has always been about stopping the bad guy, but this story was more about cold-hearted revenge than seeking justice.

Some characters, such as Spawn, have their origins come from very dark stories.

Spawn is a deceased special agent that agreed to become a hellspawn in order to see his wife again.

Not only are there comic book storylines that are too mature for younger audiences, there are stories that children may simply not find interesting.

In recent Marvel comics, the government

issued a registration act after a crowded school was accidentally blown up by an amateur superhero.

The story continued with the Marvel universe split on different sides, those supporting and those against the registration act.

This isn't exactly too mature for kids, but it's a story that a lot of kids won't care for or have the attention span for.

There are comic books for everybody. Little kids have the Disney cartoon comics and "Marvel Adventures." The regular superhero series are more for the teens and adults; there are even pornographic comic books.

Just like movies, television, books and other mediums, comic books aren't centered toward one age group.

The way comics are today, just about anyone can find one that interests him or her. Not all of them are about superheroes.

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Online Poll

Vote online at talonmarks.com

How have the budget cuts affected you?

- I can't sign up for classes
- The library closes earlier
- Nothing
- Other

Last Week's Poll

Vote online at talonmarks.com

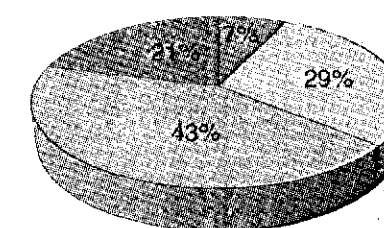
What are your plans for winter break?

Hang out with friends 7%

Sleep 29%

I probably won't remember winter break 43%

Work 21%



TALON MARKS



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Editorials express the views of the Executive Editorial Board. Other opinions express the view of the author and are not to be considered opinions of the publication's staff, the Editorial Board, the advisers, the Cerritos College Associated Students, the college administration or the Board of Trustees.

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What interesting thing did you do over winter break?

COMPILED BY: ELIETH KOULZONS
PHOTOS BY: CELIA LIRA

MAYRA ALONSO
art major

"I partied most of the time and I went to San Jose to visit some friends."



JULIAN SANGRAY
undecided major

"I went to San Francisco and to Big Bear, and I planned to return a book I owed."



JONATHAN BECERRA
PR major

"I partied, stressed out for classes, gained weight, planned to return a library book and got a Facebook."



JEANNIE VELAZQUEZ
nursing major

"I worked two jobs and volunteered at my high school."



DALIDA MORALES
architecture major

"I got a new dog, and a new nephew. I also signed up for school."



MICHAEL HENRY
auto tech major

"I mostly played Call of Duty on my x-box and my Wii, but I lost a game to my girlfriend."



THE MASKED VILLAINS

IVETTE GRACIA
Arts Editor
arts@talonmarks.com

Q&A

The Masked Villains are plaguing Cerritos College with a disease of nonconformity and chaos through their punk rock music and rebellious attitude.

Bubba Villain, drummer, and Dimy Villain, lead guitar, currently attend Cerritos.

The Masked Villains began in 2004 with only three members and are now clawing their way up to local stardom with two additional members and an increasing loyal group of fans.

The first official E.P. consists of 6 songs and is set to debut Feb. 13.

Talon Marks: What was the inspiration for the name The Masked Villains?

Bubba Villain: We didn't want to be like a hero band.

Adam Villain: All these people who are supposed to be our heroes, they f***en lie. Yeah, we may supposedly be the "bad guys" or whatever, but we actually do a lot of good things. Like right now we're looking into doing things for charities, and yet we're labeled delinquents. So if they're going to call us villains then we're going to act like villains.

TM: How many in total are there in the band?

AV: Gizmo Villain bass, Scum Villain guitar, Dimy Villain lead guitar, Adam Villain lead singer, Bubba Villain drums.

TM: What kind of music do you play?

AV: We play a little bit of everything. We try not to label anything too much.

BV: Mostly we're just a punk rock band.

TM: Where do you mostly play?

BV: We started off around 2006 playing backyard shows in Wilmington. By 2007 we had a lot of shows in East LA, Compton, South Central, Los Angeles, etc.

AV: Actually, our first show was in Rio Alto. It was a horrible show.

BV: Our second show, also in '05, was fun and exciting and horrible at the same time. It was like a battle of the bands at the showcase theatre like three months before it closed down.

TM: Do you think that you've gotten better since then?

AV: We've definitely gotten better. We couldn't get any worse.

BV: If it wasn't for the band Drunken Society we would seriously be at least a year or two behind of where we are right now. They forced us to play our very first show.

AV: Drunken Society, Oi Gangsters, Worst Enemy, Chaotix, all the Long Beach and Wilmington bands really helped pull us out of the garage.

TM: Are you planning on recording anytime soon?

AV: We actually have our E.P. coming out on Feb. 13. It is our first actual, professional, self-titled E.P. and can be picked up at Headline Records, Dr. Strange Records, Interpunk, or at any of the Masked Villain shows.

BV: All of the songs on the E.P. we made drunk.

AV: We used to have this little play-school recorder thing and we used to record on that.

TM: When are your upcoming shows?

AV: Our nearest show is on Feb. 6 in South Central.

BV: On March 20th we are opening for The Adicts at the Key Club in West Hollywood.

TM: Do you make any money off of it?

BV: Nope...Well on occasion maybe like 50 bucks but we usually spend it on the same night.

AV: Usually they'll pay us in beer, which I think is really nice, 'cause they're cutting out the middle man, 'cause that saves us the trouble of having to go out and buy beer.

TM: Any final thoughts?

BV: We're a pretty hard working band. It's been 5 years and we've suffered a lot. Got screwed over many times. We've gained so much and

lost a lot. A lot of hard work has been put into this band. We've lost jobs and education over it.

AV: I've sacrificed a s**t load because I found my music more important.

BV: But it all works out for the best.

TM: Who are your influences?

- The Business,
- Cock Sparrer,
- Cockney Rejects,
- Major Accident,
- The Adicts,
- Alice Cooper,
- Poison,
- Motley Crue,
- KISS,
- B.B. King,
- Ray Charles,
- GG Allin,
- The Temptations,
- The Masked Villains,
- sex,
- more sex and
- beer.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MASKED VILLAINS



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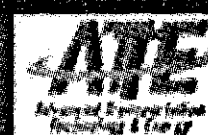
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NOTORIOUS 'BIG' hit

Movie Review

Notorious

Starring: Jamal Woolard
Director: George Tillman Jr.

Rating:   

IVETTE GRACIA
 Arts Editor
 arts@talonmarks.com

"We can't change the world unless we change ourselves," is the enigmatic remaining phrase uttered by Biggie Smalls, performed by Jamal Woolard, in the enthralling and highly anticipated motion picture, "Notorious".

"Notorious" begins with the infamous murder of Christopher Wallace, otherwise known as Biggie Smalls or the Notorious B.I.G., on Wilshire Boulevard in 1997 at the mere age of 24.

By defying the East/West Coast rap war to promote his new album, Smalls was gunned down in a storm of bullets by a drive-by shooter only six months after Tupac Shakur was murdered in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The movie then proceeds to backtrack through Smalls' life, until reaching his childhood, which is played by his actual son Christopher Jordan Wallace.

From drug dealing, to jail, to being a dad, to becoming a celebrity, Smalls' life was a controversial legend in the making.

Woolard flawlessly depicted the charismatic and charming characteristics that identified Smalls as one of the greatest rappers in his-



tory.

Alongside Woolard were actors Derek Luke as Sean "Diddy" Combs, Angela Bassett as Voletta Wallace, Anthony Mackie as 'Tupac Shakur, Antonique Smith as Faith Evans and Naturi Naughton as the illustrious Lil' Kim.

Naturi Naughton's representation of Lil' Kim was exceptionally distinct. Naughton was very proficient in capturing the passionate fury, strength and pain that mani-

fested itself through her music, making her one of the greatest alongside the Notorious B.I.G.

The only flaw is that Lil' Kim's relationship with Smalls appeared to be only sexual and did not demonstrate the genuine bond that they truly shared.

Notorious is intensely profound and proves that no detail in a person's life is too small to make a difference.

Eastwood feels lucky, punk

Clint Eastwood proves why he's one of the greatest leading men in Hollywood with this exceptional offering.

CHRISTOPHER DIERS
 Staff Writer
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These days, it seems all of Hollywood's aging action stars are returning to the tough-guy game, ultimately with mixed results.

In the last two years, we've seen Sylvester Stallone in the compassionate, but ultimately unbelievable "Rocky Balboa" as well as the gratuitously bad "Rambo."

Harrison Ford bombed in the excruciatingly disappointing "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull."

Bruce Willis pretty much went through the motions when he reprised his role as John McClane in the lifeless rehash "Live Free or Die Hard," just to name a few.

While "Gran Torino" isn't a continuation of an established Eastwood action franchise, I must admit that I was a bit skeptical when I first saw the trailer.

Despite my initial hesitance, "Gran Torino" more than defied my expectations, completely catching me off guard and dispelling any of my worries of another unrealistic action movie starring an obviously incapable senior citizen.

Clint Eastwood, in addition to directing and producing the film, plays Walt Kowalski, a hardened Korean War veteran.

The first ten minutes effective-

ly introduce us to the character; his wife has recently passed away, his self-absorbed children and grandchildren view him as a stubborn old Cold War relic, and his neighborhood outside of Detroit where he now lives alone has changed drastically in the decades since he first settled there, becoming culturally diverse, but also impoverished.

He spends his days afterward parked in his lawn chair on his front porch muttering racial slurs under his breath in regards to the Hmong family that have moved in next door to him, mowing his lawn, drinking Pabst Blue Ribbon, and avoiding family members and Father Janovich, who's eulogy at his wife's funeral was less than impressive.

This all changes one night when Thao, one of the young men from the immigrant family next door, breaks into his garage in an attempt to steal his prized possession, a 1972 Gran Torino, after being pressured by his older cousin who is the head of a local street gang.

After Walt interrupts the attempted theft, Thao flees the scene causing the gang to pay him a visit a few nights later in retribution for his failure.

After the ensuing fight spills out onto Walt's property, he threatens the gang members with a shotgun, telling them to get off of his lawn.

They comply, but not before promising to return.

The Vang Lor family is extremely grateful to Walt afterwards, and they pile gifts and food onto his front porch, though he still remains standoffish.

It isn't until Sue, Thao's sister, befriends Walt and invites him into

their home that Walt begins to overcome his prejudices and become fond of the family, though he would never admit to it.

After Thao apologizes for trying to steal the Gran Torino Walt puts him to work around the neighborhood and begins, in his own old school way, to teach him how to be a man.

When the gang returns and violently attacks the Vang Lor family, Walt decides to handle the situation once and for all.

Just as my conception of what to expect from this movie was completely defied, so does the character of Walt defy the odds by slowly (and painfully) putting his deep-seeded bigotry to the side.

Eastwood plays his character exceptionally well, and by the end of the movie I felt that I had reached an understanding of a character who, on the surface, appears to be a grumpy, racist drunk.

Through masterful storytelling, I found myself beginning to feel sympathy and affection towards Walt, who is initially so unlikeable at times that it's comical.

"Gran Torino" is a story that is undeniably American in both a time-honored and modern way, reflecting in many ways the clashing of generational and cultural values.

Arriving in theaters just in time for awards season, I wouldn't be surprised in the least if this poignant film earns a few Oscar nods.

Just in case any of you happen to be Dirty Harry fans, don't worry; there are plenty of amazing one-liners and Eastwood's classic stony sneer has lost none of its potency over the years.

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