

#### Ismael de Anda III opens exhibit at Art Gallery

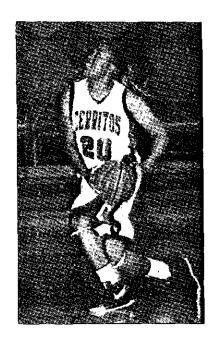
See Arts Page 9

View a video of the track meet on www.talonmarks.com

#### Falcons take flight into playoffs

See Sports Page 7





WEDNESDAY February 25, 2009

WWW.TALONMARKS.COM First issue free, additional copies \$1 Volume 53, No. 15

# Cerritos gets ready for belt tightening

SCOTT WATKINS Editor-in-Chief editor@talonmarks.com

With the budget being approved by the state legislature, the budget for Cerritos College is becoming a little bit clearer.

"Community colleges did not get hit as

president of Business Services.

The state will defer close to 8 million dollars in payments to the college, but the college has enough money in its reserves to make up the difference for now.

"The college is supposed to see that money in two payments, one in July then another in October," Albanese said. "The hard as K-12 did," said James Albanese, vice state can and probably will defer it and I

don't know how long it will be deferred."

The college will still receive money for growth but that increase will be offset by a loss of approximately the same amount.

The decrease is from county property taxes because houses are selling for less. The state makes up the difference in

normal years but not this year. Many of the things are already in place vacant on campus.

such as fee increases and the number of sections in the course that are offered.

One fee increase is to the parking fee going from \$20 up to \$30.

"This fee will bring in approximately \$300,000 for the college," Albanese said. Other ways the school intends to cut

cost is by not filling positions that become

"Each position will be looked at to see if they are essential then we will make a determination based on that," he said.

"The biggest reason the state did not hit the community college level as hard because it does a good job getting students educated and back into the workforce," he said.

## Student transfers going up

Daisy Garcia Staff Writer daisy.garcia@talonmarks.com

At the Enrollment Management Committee meeting, M.L. Bettino, Dean of Academic Affairs, explained that even though the transferring rate is improving at Cerritos, there is still much to be done.

The committee's main issues had to do with figuring out ways to improve the transferring and certification rate of stu-

"Getting them to make an early decision is important," stated Dean of Student Support Services Kimberly Westby.

The committee wanted to figure out different methods for students to be aware of the different certificates and programs that are offered at Cerritos College.

Director of Career and Assessment Services, Terri Lopez, suggested to send emails to students with links to programs that offered.

The committee showed a strong interest in contacting students through phone

It wants to reach out to the students that stopped coming to Cerritos and will do its best to be sensitive to the reasons they stopped attending college.

Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs Marilyn Brock said the committee wants to try to find a way to mail, e-mail or call students to remind them that they are only 12 to 15 units away from getting their AA or certificate.

See TRANSFERS Page 2



## Search for the new president begins

SCOTT WATKINS Editor-in-Chief editor@talonmarks.com

Craig Breit has been named chair of the Presidential Search Committee that is currently looking for the next president of Cerritos College.

"The process is going along as planned," he said.

The committee has representatives from all around campus including a student, multiple faculty representatives and staff repre-

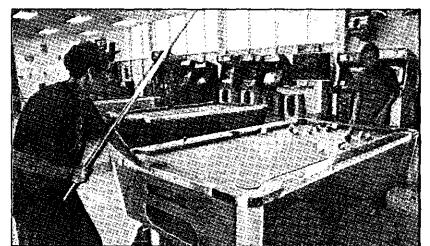
sentatives. The members are:

- Bob Arthur, Board Representative,
- Craig Breit, Faculty Representative,
- Tom Chavez, Student Representative, • Francine DeFrance, Management Representative,
- · Dr. Bob Hughlett, Board Representative,
- · Tom Jackson, Board Representative, • Dr. Stephen Johnson, Administration Representative,
- Lynn Laughon, Classified Representa-

Hal Malkin, Faculty Representative,

See PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH Page 4

#### RUNNING THE TABLE



Eight ball corner pocket: While taking breaks in between classes, Mario Carmona, art major and Daniel Pizano, computer technician major like playing a game of pool at the Student Activities Center.

## Power goes out at Cerritos College

GUSTAVO RANGEL Opinion Editor gus.rangal@talcnmarks.com

Cerritos College experienced a minor power outage surge on Feb. 20 around 3:30 p.m.

The severity of the effects of the power outage varied for different departments on campus

At some departments, the time range of the blackout was only 15 seconds. For others it lasted up to 15 minutes.

"I was working on the set," said theater arts major Tyler Tinglui, "the lights and phones were out for a while."

The Career Center heard a noise similar to an exploding light bulb right before the outage took place.

Almost every department suffered the same problem with the phone lines, which happened to be the appliances that were out the longest.

"The power was out for a good five seconds. No severe damage was caused, but it definitely distracted students from their classes," said music room technician Nelson Molina.

Robert Riffle, Director of Fa-

cilities, stated that although the definite cause of the black out was unknown, a good guess would have been because of technical problems with the Edison electric

"The black out was not due to construction problems," said Robert Riffle's secretary Glenda Kornbaue.

However, due to the technical difficulties within Edison, about 8,000 costumers were affected,

> Additional reporting by Daisy Garcia

## China defeats Falcons

SOBURWE RAMSEY sobukwe.ramsey@talonmarks.com

The Cerritos College Debate Team hosted a demonstration debate on Thursday versus the Xi'an International Studies University

The topic of discussion was environmental concerns and how those concerns have become much less important in these times of economic crisis.

Cerritos was on the opposition side of the debate, making its argument that in these times of economic troubles, the environment should still comes first.

The Chinese team won the debate with stronger points of how in these times, the people should come first and before we can think about revitalizing the earth, the government needs to get the economy flowing instead of wasteful spending, seeing as how the US has borrowed funds from other nations including China.

While Chinese students Zhang Yan (Carmen) and Men Hansi (Hans Men) made their points "clear and comprehensive," according to one observer Claudia Ortiz, the Cerritos Debaters seemed to be making redundant statements about President Obama and his stimulus plan, which actually has nothing to do with the recovery of the environment.

The Chinese team also made it clear that they have no issue with funds being spent to save the planet but the fact remains that the world is in the worst economic time in centuries and there can be no revitalization of our earth if we do not fix our own human issues first.

Cerritos' only real argument was that the president's stimulus plan would be used to manufacture more gas-efficient and "green" ve-

Observer Manny Girardy said, "The problem with that argument is that those cars are not even being made to help the environment as much as they are being made to help stimulate the car industry."

See DEBATE Page 3

# History of Cerritos bells

Staff Writer celia.lira@talonmarks.com

In a search of a victory bell for Cerritos College athletic team, the Pelias brass bell was given to the college by the U.S. Navy.

The bell was put on display at the administration quad to celebrate Cerritos Colleges' 25th anniversary and to honored the USS Pelias crew and those fallen at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.

The USS Pelias surviving crew members purchased a victory bell for the students of Cerritos College. This bell came from John Waynes' personal yacht.

Joe Hunt, Cerritos College gardener, said, "I found the victory bell in a storage room the third year I was here and I have been working here since 1989.

"The bell is taken out of storage every home game and ringed every time the football team scores."

On Dec. 7, 1980, many crew members attended to the display of the bell.

Janice Cole, administrative secretary to executive director, said, "I have been working here 34 years and I attended the dedication of the bell, we had about 100 crew members here from different parts of the world."

At its 10 years, Cerritos College wanted to find the victory bell, and contacted the Department of the Navy, it found a brass bell from the USS Pelias ship that saw action during WWII in the south pacific.

Donald Bongers, Pelias chief petty officer, found out that Cerritos College had the ship's bell.

He wrote a letter to the college in April of 1980 asking to acquire

Bongers was concerned the

Pelias bell only be used to toll for departed shipmates.

Cole said, "He didn't want the bell to be used as a victory bell."

Bongers and Nello Di Corpo, former dean of Community Services, agreed to put the bell on display as part of the college's 25th celebration and to honor the crew members.

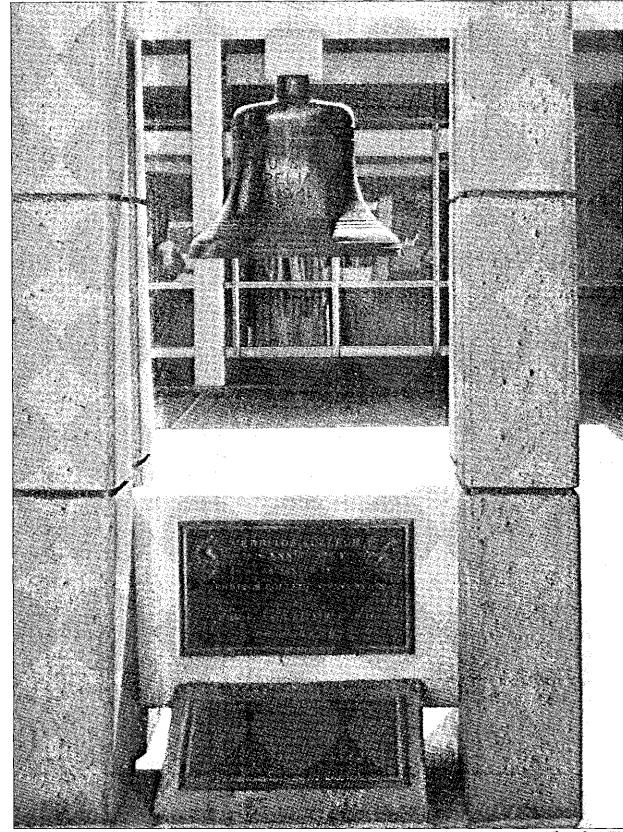
Steve Richardson, executive director of the Cerritos College Foundation, said, "The bell is a loan to Cerritos and since then a scholarship was established by the ship's crew members called the Pelias Scholarship fund."

There was one condition that the Department of the Navy established for College accepting the Bell: it was to report to it annually of the condition of the bell.

Richardson said, "We send an annual report of the bell's condition along with pictures to assure them that well preserved."



Celia Lira/TM Bell: Joe Hunt, gardener found the victory bell in storage in 1992.



Pelias Bell: The Pelias Bell was given to Cerritos College by the U.S. Navy for Cerritos' 25th anniversary.

## Nursing program runs smooth

BILLY TURNER Staff Writer billy.turner@talonmarks.com

The Cerritos College nursing program is up and very successful. The program began in 1964

since. Located in a building in the rear of the school, it was built in Feb.

and has been running smooh ever

The Department Chairwomen Dr. Charlene Fobi had great things to say about the program.

"I believe it's a good program. The people in the community love our nurses. They say the graduates perform very well, so we will continue to supply nurses to the community."

In the entire program, there are more than 230 students enrolled.

Tracy Thompson, another student in the nursing program, said, "I have been attending the class for four weeks and it's intense, but I like it."



Amberrose Valcho/TM **Nursing:** The nursing program uses dummies to practice on.

## Scholarship workshop teaches

Guillermina Cervantes Staff Writer

gigi.cervantes@talonmarks.com

Students had the opportunity to learn about scholarships by attending the scholarship workshop on Feb.

The Scholarship Foundation is a very small program in Financial Aid office.

"Our funding comes from emergency scholarship funds that we have in a bank and then we get the recruit entrance which is about \$100 to \$200 a month," said Veronica Castro from Financial Aid.

nors that started years ago in the 1980s that started the scholarship foundation under their name." At the workshop, students picked up information

"Aside from that," Castro continued, "We have do-

on different scholarships...

Castro said, "I gave them basic information about how to apply to scholarships, where to get them and scholarships.

gave them examples of scholarship applications."

"I found the workshop very helpful," said Ana Garibay, secondary school teacher.

Garibay continued, "I learned about new scholarships and Web sites to check out now. So it's something to look forward to."

When submitting a scholarship application, one has to turn in a personal statement and letters of recommendation.

The learning center will help students proof read and write personal statements.

"They are more than glad to help students proofread their statements and go over what they're writing," Castro said.

A letter of recommendation should come from someone who knows you best because it tells the donor

who you are through someone else's eyes. The workshop was made to get students to apply for

## **Enrollment Committee talks transfers**

#### **TRANSFERS:** Continued From Page 1

It also shared ideas about mak- to try," Brock shared. ing college orientation mandatory whether it be in person or online.

That way, students will have tory for all students as well. more information about the college activities available to them.

"The more communication, the more likely the students are willing

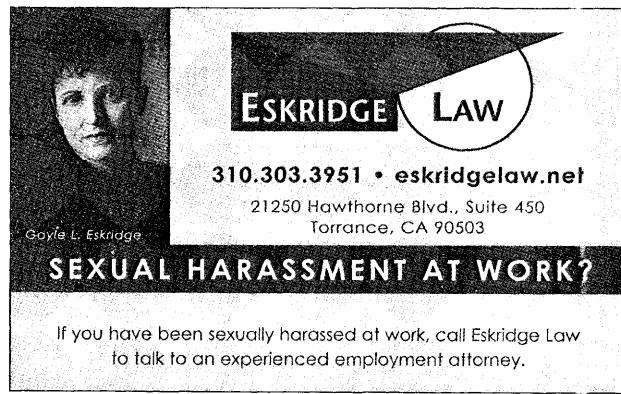
The committee wants to plan to make the assessment tests manda-

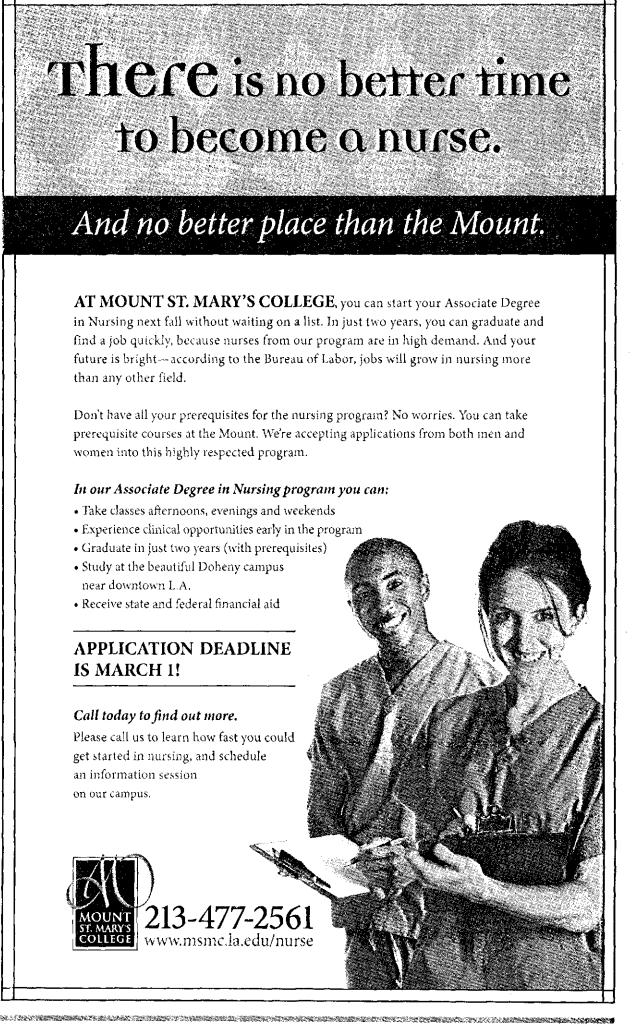
"Things like this require manpower that Cerritos may not have," Lopez said.

"(The committee) wants to have

follow-up phone calls after we send out letters so that the students know we care," said adviser of Project H.O.P.F. Graciela Vasquez

> Additional reporting by CELIA LIRA







DSPS: Jesus Lozoya, Bernadette Rodriguez, Gabriela Colindres, Vanessa Staple and Ana Lie Cardoza explored career options at the LA Expo.

# Los Angeles Expo for DSPS students offers opportunities

BILLY TURNER billy.turner@talonmarks.com

Career Specialist for DSPS, Aurora Segura and five DSPS Cerritos College students attended the Los Angeles Carcer Expo for people with disabilities on Feb. 12.

DSPS students Jesus Lozoya, Bernadette Rodriguez, Gabriela Colindres, Vanessa Staple, and Ana Lie Cardoza all attended the convention that was held at the L.A. Convention Center from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"The students met with several employers but not many employers were hiring," said Segura. They received information about jobs and

good for students because it enabled them to learn there were more options. networking, said Segura.

Not only did the expo allow students to learn certain skills, but it also allowed them to meet other people with disabilities.

"I loved the expo, especially because it was for people with disabilities. There are not too many things like this for students with disabilities, but when they are available, (DSPS) likes to attend."

Although the expo offered many job opportunities, not all the students that attended were content with what they experienced.

Culinary arts major Vanessa Staple thought

learned how to apply for positions. The expo was — the expo would have been a lot more interesting if

"No opportunities really interested me, I enjoyed going though. It didn't hurt seeing the kind of careers and job options it offered," she said.

Engineering major Jesus Lozoya felt differently. He enjoyed the expo,"I liked the expo. I just went around, showed a few people my resume and received a lot of information from other jobs," he

"Sears was one place I spoke with someone and received a lot of information," he added, "All the people there were nice and the experience was very enjoyable."

## Bhakta sets an example for psych students

ESMERALDA INFANTE Multimedia Editor

multimedia@talonmarks.com

Walking toward the center of the room, carrying nothing but a small notebook of notes and a confident smile, former Cerritos College graduate made her way behind the podium of SS 220 ready to give a sum of her life after graduating from Cerritos, and the steps she took to get her where she is now.

Bindya Bhakta, industrial psychology major, started her college career here at Cerritos after graduating high school.

She attended Cerritos from 2003 to 2006, graduating with an associate degree in psychology.

"One of my old professors contacted me and asked me if I would like to speak to the Psychology Club to talk about what I had learned and to give them support and suggestions," Bhakta explained.

At the age of 23, Bhakta is a UCLA graduate with a bachelor's degree in sociology.

She plans to attend Alliant International University in San Diego to receive her PhD in psychology.

She also informed the Psychology Club that she was captain of the cross country and track team when she attended Cerritos.

She was also vice president of the Scholars Honors Club.

"The thing is I was just like any student here at Cerritos. I would wake up with anxiety attacks wondering what I was going to do with my life," Bhakta remarked.

She told the club members that she found her passion in life while he said. running down the track.

"It just came to me, I knew I liked working with people and helping them," Bhakta said.

Bhakta said her friends would always come to her for advice.

She also mentioned that colleges want well-rounded students. "It's all about volunteering, and

being part of different clubs. Cerritos College gave me the opportunity to do exactly that," Bhakta said.

One of her suggestions toward the psychology students was to do something you love.

"I chose this profession because I love helping people, talking to them and giving them advice," Bhakta said.

Bhakta's major is more businessrelated; since her parents are in the hotel/motel industry, she wanted to make sure she could help her par-

"Being an industrial psychology major allows me to sit down with the employees and the managers and interview them and try to help them in any way possible," Bhakta

She also works with organizations that have fallen down, and tries to get them back together.

Students appreciated the fact that she came down to talk to the students and give suggestions.

"The one thing that stood out was when she said hands-on experience is key," said psychology major Mario Torres.

"What makes it amazing is that she is so young, and that just proves to me that everything is possible,"

#### 2009 Women's History Month Calendar of Events Leadership thursday monday tuesday wednesday friday saturday Vagina Monologues by FMLA LC 155 "Betty Friedan: A Leader in the Unfinished 7:30-9:00 pm Revolution for Women's Rights" by Susan Oliver "Iron Jawed Angels Alice Paul and the "Broadway and the Beat! Moms and Work" SS 310, 2:00-3:30 pm Moderated by Amy Hoizgang 9:30-11:00 am Suffragist Movement 2:30-4:30 pm gina Monologues, FMLA C 155, 7/20-9.00 pm 14 10 18 WHM Film Series: "Women Power & Madame President: "Helping People Get\_ Back to Work: Working Female Leadership in Politics" 1G 155 2:30-4:30 pm Latin America" Wardrobe, a Non-profit by Sociedad de Organization" LC 155 Profesores Hispanos LC 155 11:00-12:30 pm 11,00-12:15 pm 11:00-12:30 pm Working Wardrobe Clothes Drive Front of Library, (3/9-3/12) 4 16 17 18 20 25 Will We Meet the United Nations **24**Breast Cancer Walk Quad, 11 am 23 26 28 "Islam: Educated Woman in Leadership Positions\* Dr. Jacqueline El-Sayed "Can a Man be a Feminist?" Phifosophy Club LC 155 11:00-12:15 pm fuslim Students Association Cheryl Epple "Enrique's Journey 11:00-12:30 pm L€ 155 9:30-10:45 āπ 9:30 am-Tribute to Women Writers Clothes Line Project by FMLA Boardroom 6:00-9:00 pm Quad: 9:00 am -1:00 pm March 2009 30 30 "Trailblazers: 11:00-12:15pm

## Chinese debate defeats Cerritos

**Debate:** Continued From PAGE 1

The Chinese team realized that the economic troubles have to be dealt with first and foremost before people can even consider doing what is best for the environment.

Carmen made a point in the second proposition, "If the economy is in turmoil, how can she even think about getting married and starting a family?"

Cerritos debater Brian Wittig followed with the argument, "Just because the economy is struggling and funds are getting tighter, does not mean a person can not get married and have children."

does not pay the bills nor does it feed your child.

The point Carmen was making, it is irresponsible to do all of those family things if there aren't even enough funds feed oneself?

The debate showed the differences in American culture and thinking from the ways the Chinese are taught, and "it was obvious the Chinese are trained to be more economically aware and responsible," stated Girardy.

The Chinese debaters seemed to be more knowledgeable of what is going on from a worldly He continued to say that in these times, love standpoint as opposed to just what is happening in their own country.

# Women's History Month "LEADERSHIP"

There are events to interest everyone; from a presentation by a Pulitzer Prize journalist-Sonia Nazario, author of "Enrique's Journey" to a panel discussion: "The Role of Gender in the 2008 Presidential Election" and "Madam President: Female Leadership in Latin

Most activities will take place from Mondays through Thursdays and are during the day, but two activities-the play "Vagina Monologues" sponsored by FMLA, and a "Tribute to Women Writers," run at night.

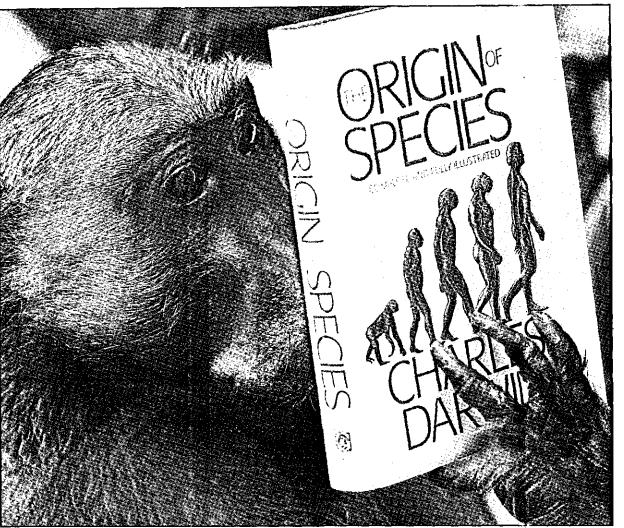
Three films will be shown as part of a Film series: "Iron Jawed Angels," "Women, Power and Politics" and "Norma Rae."

Two outside activities in the Quad areas on March 24 are: The Breast Cancer Annual Walk at 11 a.m. and the Clothesline Exhibit from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

We are also featuring a non-profit organization this year: Working Wardrobe; Helping People in Crisis Get Back to Work. The Economics club is sponsoring a professional clothes/accessories drive the week of March 9 in front of the Library, and we will host a panel discussion on March 12 with administrators of Working Wardrobe and their successful clients.

If you like controversy, head for the panel discussions on: "Can a Man Be a Feminist?" on March 24, "Islam: Educated Women in Leadership Positions," on March 26 or "Sexual Stereotyping" on March 9.

\*Extra credit forms will be available at all events



Planet of the Apes?: A primate holds up Charles Darwin's published book, "The Origin of Species."

## **Evolution versus creationism**

Anthropology Club holds open forum for students to discuss creationism versus evolution.

Gustavo Rangel Opinion Editor gustavo.rangel@talonmarks.com

Darwin Day took place in room S102 last Friday in celebration of Charles Darwin's birthday, which was on Feb. 12 and hosted by the Anthropology Club.

The beginning of the lecture was a cover of the story of his life, his studies, the expeditions he made around the world, and what he discovered in Brazil, and the

"This is basically a forum on the theories and ideas of evolution, and creationism, and to help people formulate their own ideas, without pressuring anybody." Justin Shade, anthropology major.

A famous quote from Charles Darwin is "There is grandeur in this view of life, with its several powers, having been originally breath by the Creator into a few forms or into one...from so simple a beginning endless forms most beautiful and most wonderful have been and are being evolved," which is stating that even though we evolved it does not state that there is not a god, and the two do not have to conflict with each other.

It was also a lecture on the pros, and cons of creationism, and evolution. And how if science moves forward with new ideas, religion must rearrange its beliefs so there will not be a conflict of the two.

"Evolution is the key to biology, and medicine. Nothing in biology make senses with out evolution" Mark Abbruzzese, Anthropology instructor.

After the lecture was an open forum discussion on the beliefs, and a Q&A with the attendants, and the in-

The Anthropology Club is pro-Darwin, but also talks about the religious beliefs.

## MyCerritos key topic at web standard meeting

**GUILLERMINA CERVANTES** Staff Writer gigi.cervantes@talonmarks.com

The Cerritos College Web Standards Committee met to discuss the MyCerritos Web site on Feb. 17.

In the meeting, the committee discussed issues with the home page, changing the design on the home page and the update on the video player.

Ty Bowman, Web administrator and public affairs stated, "There were some minor changes done because there were some issues with the link."

"The link," Bowman continued, "didn't match the link exactly that was on the home page and for some reason, the computers in the Admissions Office were not forwarding to MyCerritos."

I.T. Manager Patrick O'Donnell stated, "The issue with that was that no one in Admissions or Financial Aid was let known that we were going to make some sort of change. So that became sort of an issue."

O'Donnell saw the change done without discussion and thought of a

"If we were going to make some changes, we should let people know,"

However, the problem to the MyCerritos home page has been solved and is now running without a problem.

Mark Wallace, chair of the committee and public affairs director said, "We are trying to do some minor redesign that's going to come along particularly on the left hand column."

Wallace discussed with the committee that they left-hand column

"I don't like it and we can do it better," he said.

"Speaking of that," said Rich Cameron, faculty representative, "in the past we have talked about changing the design and make it stay fresh."

Cameron thinks that new ideas for the new design should start

"It's time to start coming in with new ideas rather than throw them up six months from now," Cameron

Bowman tried to come up with a new design and couldn't come up with anything.

"I hate to admit it," Bowman stated, "in the middle of last year, we were thinking of doing that and I went back and forth with the designers and we just got stuck."

"There have been some minor changes done in the headers since then," Bowman said.

It is the committee's responsibility to make sure the Web site is accessible to everyone with disabili-

They can make sure the Web site is accessible to everyone by putting captions on videos.

"We have a way do captions and that's all fine but you have to have Windows Media Player installed so not every computer will have that installed, so it's a universal problem," Bowman said.

## Presidential interviews to begin soon

#### Presidential search: Continued From PAGE 1

- Jeanie McHatton, Community line is March 31. Representative,
- Julie Mun, Confidential Repre-
- Jenine Nolan, Management Representative,
- Traci Ukita, Faculty Representa-
- Maria Vega, Faculty Representative, and David Ward, Classified Repre-
- The committee has stared ac-
- cepting application and the dead-

It also has created a brochure

listing the qualifications needed for the position.

"The first level interviews will start in April," public relations director Mark Wallace said.

Those interviews will be held in private and the names will not be

"The reason for that is some of the applicants might have other jobs and they might not want to be identified," Wallace said.

After the first level interviews the committee will make its recommendation to the Board of Trust-

The Board of Trustees will then decided who the next president of Cerritos College is.

The board will hear from all the contingencies on campus before it will make its decision.

Acting President Bill Farmer can serve until July because he can only serve one year as action president.

"If nothing is in place before then everyone will stay where they are at," Wallace explained.



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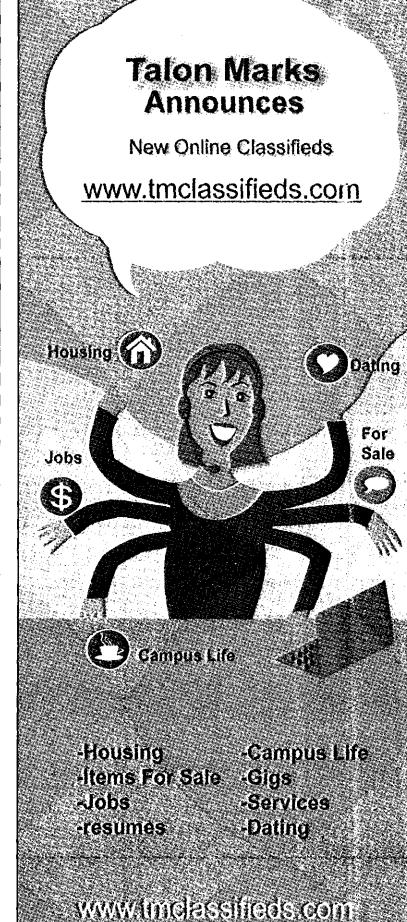
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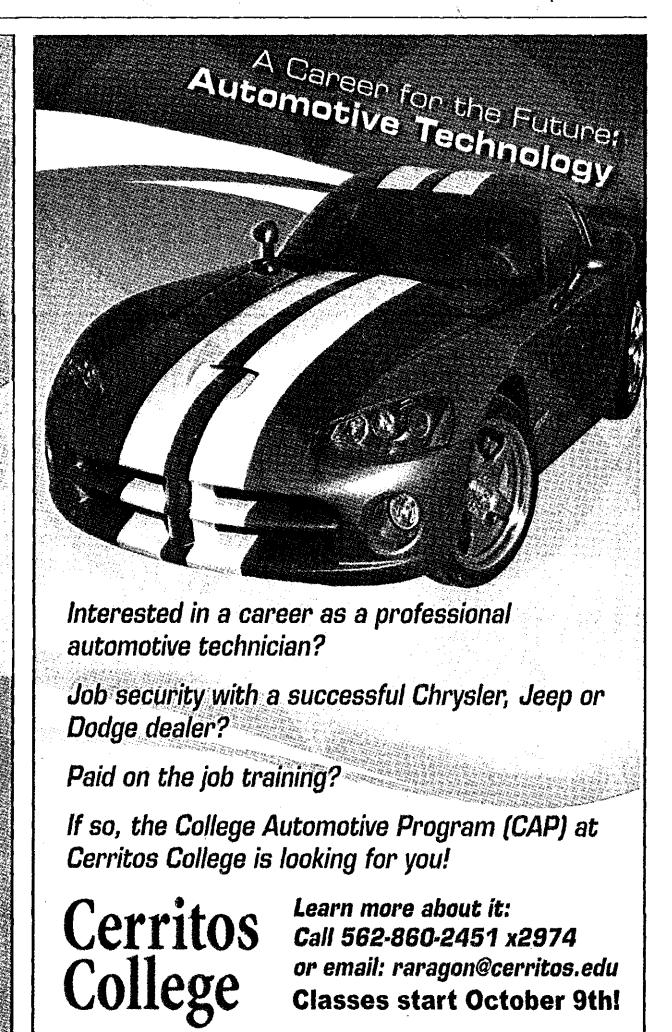
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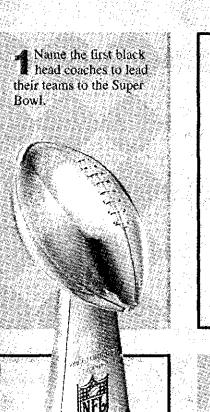
# IDISTORY DURANT STATEST STATES

t's 2009 and black Americans are making historic strides. This has certainly been an era of firsts.

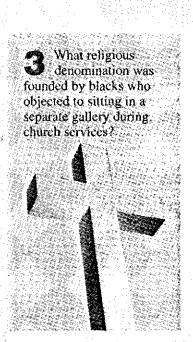
But we can't tell you what they all are. That's the point of this Black History Month Quiz, along with reminding you of past achievements.

Grab a piece of paper and test your knowledge on these freehand questions (no multiple choice guessing for you!). Let's see if you have been taking notes about these important facts.

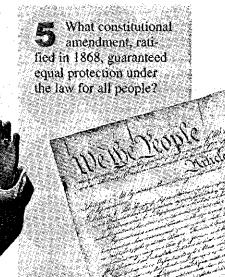
- Bridgette A. Lacy and Kristin Collins, McClatchy Newspapers







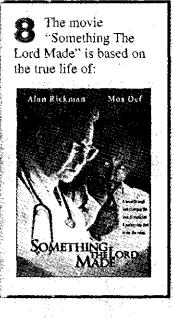




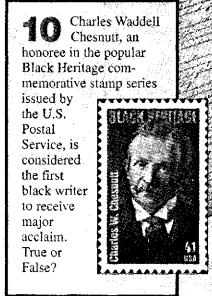


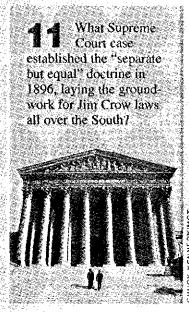
Where was the first sit-in at a segregated lunch counter, staged by four black students in 1960?



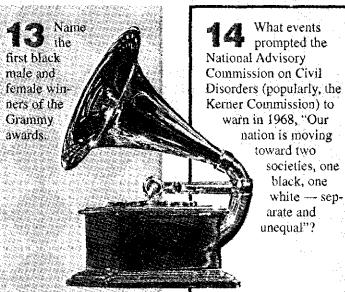














ANSWERS: 1. Both the Chicago Bear's Lovie Smith and the Indianapolis Colts' Tony Dungy became the first black head coaches to take their teams to the Super Bowl, when the two met in the 2007 game. The Colts won the game 29-17. 2. Halle Berry won the Best Actress Oscar in 2002 for her roll in "Monster's Ball." 3. African Methodist Episcopal. 4. Barack Obama, Sr., was born in Kenya. Obama's mother, Ann Dunham, grew up in Kansas. 5. The Fourteenth Amendment. 6. At a Woolworths department store in Greensboro, N.C. 7. False. Brooks became the first black Pulitzer winner in 1950. 8. Vivien T. Thomas, a black surgical technician. 9. Spike Lee made the documentary, "When the Levees Broke: A Requiem in Four Acts." 10. True. 11. Plessy v. Ferguson. 12. "The Known World." 13. In 1958, both Count Basie and Ella Fitzgerald won at the first Grammy Awards. 14. More than 100 inner city riots in the summer of 1967. 15. Rev. Joseph Lowery in a United Methodist minister and a leader in the Civil Rights movement. He delivered the benediction at the 2009 inauguration of President Barack Obama.

# OPINION

## • EDITORIAL• Parking becomes big crisis

Parking has been an issue among students at Cerritos College for a long

Usually it is about a manner of finding the spot closest to one's class.

During the first couple weeks of school, it is a manner of finding a spot at all. For the sake of education, something must be done to fix this prob-

Those first couple of weeks are the most important in a way. If students don't get to class, teachers will drop them.

Most students get to school drive around and end up being late to class. This is disruptive to the learning environment.

A student can drive around both parking lots for close to an hour to find an available spot during the first few weeks of a new semester.

The said student isn't complaining about parking all the way next to the strawberry fields because those spaces are taken as well.

A solution must take place to take care of the temporary parking problem in the first couple weeks of school.

Many staff parking spots are available; maybe it's time to evaluate how many of those spots are being used at any given time by staff.

No one wants to take spots away from teachers. If teachers can't park, the classes won't begin. However, while every single student space is filled and there are plenty

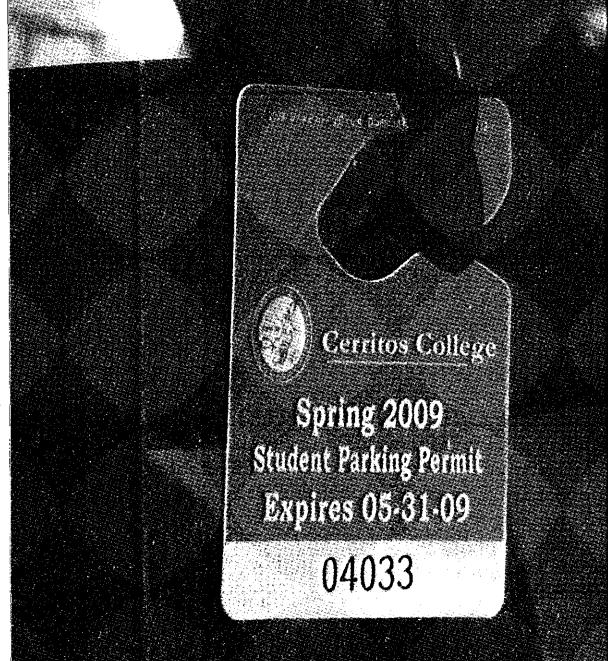
of staff spots opened, some should be given to students. The aisle reserved for student government isn't being used nearly to its

full capacity in the beginning of the semester. And if it's too much of an issue to give some staff parking spots to stu-

dents, there are other places that can be negotiable. The people at Home Depot have not liked it when students would use

their parking lot. It could be time to make a deal with these people to allow students to parking there for the first couple weeks.

There are also on-campus parking spots that have meters and time limits. What if student were able to use those spaces without paying or having any time limits.





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.

## Energy drinks become the neo-coffee

#### Energy drinks give students the kick coffee never did.

In the new age of technology and new upgrades to the accessories that aid us through the day, of coarse a new type of go-go drink will rise

In the old days, it was coffee. And now it's the energy drink.

The new millenniums college student rarely drinks coffee these days, but instead drinks energy drinks.

Most people will disagree with this, but if you look around the campus, you'll see a can of Monster or Rockstar next to a study-



I prefer Amp or Lost most of the time, but will settle for Monster, when I wake up or

need something to get through the day. Coffee takes a while to brew. With an energy drink, just pop open a can and your on

And it doesn't burn your tongue.

Coffee is usually for the morning when you wake up, but some people do not like later.

coffee, so they crack open a can of whatever they buy.

I myself am a fan of energy drinks and not coffee. I think it's disgusting.

Coffee is cheaper if you're getting from the local donut shop or 7-11.

But if you want to get fancy with it and get a Starbucks or Cool Bean Coffee, why not just buy an energy drink? It'll be a lot cheap-

er and less time consuming. Energy drinks are sold almost everywhere late night. from \$1.99 to 3.00 for a regular-sized can

And a 40 oz can of Monster is \$3.99, just

as much as tall cup of coffee at Starbucks. And some cans come with a resealable top so you can drink some and save some for

Energy drinks also contain much more caffeine and sugar than a cup of coffee, and they also contain B12 vitamins, ginseng, and guarana to help you get you going

But by the end, you suffer a "crash."

Coffee may not have the crash, but the "hype" does not last as long as an energy drink does.

I usually use one to stay up late at night to pass a game, or to finish up homework at

Most others do too.

Free Speech Zone

If parking prices go up what services would you expect from campus police?

COMPILED BY: ERNESTO GOMEZ

PHOTOS BY: DANIELA GUZMAN

Smaller versions of the drinks are sold called "shots".

These ones are extremely powerful, much stronger then a can of energy drink, or a cup

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Vote online at talonmarks.com What do you want from the next school president?

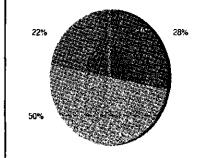
- Longer office hours
- Better student communication
- Participate in school activities
- · The school has a presi-

#### Last Week's Poll Vote online at talonmarks.com

#### Do you celebrate Black

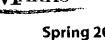
## History Month?

Yes 28% I Don't Care 50% It should be celebrated all 22%





#### TALON MARKS



TALON MARKS is a First Amendment publication.

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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GARCIA math major Put in parking lot. Defently. more lights.



ISIP 3 Anthropology major More spacious parking spaces. Alleviate the intire parking."



HOWARD vet major "More secerity at night and more activity.





MELANIE

Magana i

theny

should

more."

undecided majo

SO



JESSICA CAMARGO psychology major Beller security I guess I used to come at night and neve saw any campus police"



ALEXIS. Montero psychology major light fixtures and video cameras: Security was awsome at UCI. So your carwas always safe.."



# SPORTS

## AT A CLANCE

#### Thursday:

Baseball @ LA Harbor 2 p.m.

Tennis Women vs. Mt. SAC 2 p.m. Men @ College of the Desert 2 p.m.

#### Friday

Swimming vs. Mt. SAC & PCC (@ PCC)

> Softball vs. LA Harbor 3 p.m.

#### Saturday

Baseball vs. East Los Angeles 2 p.m.

#### Sunday

Track & Field USC Invitational 9 a.m.

#### Tuesday

**Tennis** Women @ Mt. SAC 2 p.m. Men vs. LBCC 2 p.m.

> Baseball @ Mt. SAC 2 p.m.

## RESULES

#### Last Wed 2/18

Basketball Women vs. ECC Compton, W 63-39 Men vs. ECC Compton W 89-63

> Baseball vs. Palomar L 11-1

#### Last Thu 2/19

Baseball @ San Diego Mesa W 5-3

Tennis Men vs. Mt. San Jacinto L 4-5

#### Last Fri 2/20

### vs. LA Harbor W 79-73

Softball @ College of the Canyons W 1-0 vs Cosumnes River (@ COC) W 5-3

#### Last Sat 2/21

Baseball @ Santa Ana L 7-4

#### Last Sun 2/22 Softball

vs. Fullerton L 1-0 vs. Antelope Valley W 9-0

#### Last Mon 2/23

vs. LA Harbor W 8-0



Online sports blog only on talonmarks.com

# Basketball wins SCC title

The Falcons will host Santa Barbara City in the first round of the regional playoffs on Wednesday.

> RICK GOMEZ Sports Editor sports@talonmarks.com

With a young core of freshmen and only three returning players, the Cerritos College women's basketball team was able to cap off its regular season as SCC champions with 20 victories.

The 20 wins mark the second consecutive year the Falcons win 20 games or more in a season.

Cerritos will enter the regional playoffs as the No. 16 seed, despite finishing first in the South Division of the SCC and completing its season having won eight of its last nine games.

The Falcons (20-12, 7-1) will host No. 17 seed Santa Barbara City (22-12) in the first round of the playoffs at 7 p.m. on Wednesday.

If Cerritos wins, it will go on to face top-seeded and defending state champion Mt. SAC on Saturday in the second round of the regional playoffs.

In their last meeting, the Falcons were defeated by the Vaqueros, 72-58, back in early December.

The core of freshmen from Cerritos matured through the season after having a sub-par performance at the start

"I didn't expect this season to go so well," For ward Vannesa Faagata said. "We didn't look like this at the beginning of the season."

Another player had a different

"You can see the talent we had, you just had to wait for it to come out and it finally did," forward Rachel Butler said.

Guard Maleta Daughtery showed the way for the freshmen group this season as she led in scoring with an average of 14.1 points a game.

Faagata also made a strong impact coming off the bench averaging nine points and six rebounds a game.

The Falcons closed out their season with a victory over Compton College, 63-39, last Wednesday.

Forward Mercedes Taylor led the way with 17 points and seven rebounds and their defense held the Tartars to only 16 points in the second half.

Daughtery also contributed with 11 points, five rebounds and four assists.

Although the score does not prove it, the game was close in the beginning due to questionable officiating.

"In the playoffs, the referees don't call everything, so in a way they helped us get ready for the playoffs," Butler said.

> Additional reporting by SCOTT WATKINS

#### **Regular Season Records**

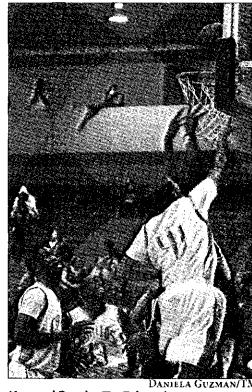
Women	RECORD:	OVERALL	HOME	AWAY
	ALL GAMES	(20-12)	(7-3)	(6-4)
	CONFERENCE	(7-1)	(4-0)	(3-1)
	nrcono.	OVEDALI	HOME	4347437

RECORD: OVERALL HOME AWAY Men ALL GAMES (14-13)(5-6)(7-1)CONFERENCE (4-1)(5-0)



A'Tripp' to the hoop: Freshman Raven Tripp will look to contribute on Wednesday's game.

## Falcons enter playoffs on a hot streak



Hot and Ready: The Falcons have a nine-game winning streak going into the playoffs.

The Cerritos College men's basketball team will travel to LA Valley for the first round of the regional playoffs.

> Sobukwe Ramsey Staff Writer sobukwe.ramsey@talonmarks.com

'lhe Cerritos College men's basketball team clinched the conference title after beating Compton College, 89-63, Wednesday night, and defeated LA Harbor, 79-73, on Friday night to close out its regular season on a nine-game winning streak.

Head coach Jesse Teplitzky described the final game of the season as "a serious practice game for the upcoming playoffs." The Falcons are seeded No. 17 and will

travel to LA Valley, seeded No. 16, to open up the first round of the regional playoffs. The two schools have not faced each other in almost 20 years dating back to the seemed staggered by the Falcons defense. 1990-1991 season when Cerritos beat LA Valley, 84-81.

The Falcons lead the all-time series 20-

After that tough loss to El Camino early in the season, Cerritos took that defeat as a motivational tool and pulled out eight straight wins with disciplined defense and a patient offense.

Those characteristics were shown Wednesday night against Compton the entire game, getting steals from their half court trap and tough interior defense.

Sophomore Jeremiah Barnes hit two consecutive three pointers toward the end of the first half to give the Falcons some momentum.

Five different players scored in double figures for Cerritos and the Falcons got a big boost off of the bench from Sophomore Van Girard in particular, who scored 19 points and collected 10 rebounds.

Guard Jamaal Washington for Compton tried to keep his Tartans afloat with a 26-point effort, but they couldn't find a rhythm at any point in the game and

At the 12:29 mark in the second half, the Falcons were already up by 30 points and Cerritos did not let up the rest of the way, which Barnes said was a bad habit with the Falcons before conference play

The Falcons got some double-double action from Marcellus Jackson, who earned his ninth of the season, with 10 points and 17 rebounds and Freshman Jeremy Pope, who scored 14 points and 10

Cerritos players contributed strong at both ends of the floor, making 10 threepoint shots, 14 steals and 6 blocked shots from Marcellus Jackson alone.

Teplitzky also stated that, "This season players are just stepping up every night and the leads that would normally be lost by them, are now being increased upon."

If the Falcons are to make a strong run in the playoffs, those same team efforts will need to be executed.

## **Sports Briefs**

#### Softball starts SCC play strong, shuts out LA Harbor

The women opened up their first SCC game with a win and improved their record to 11-3-1 after defeating LA Harbor, 8-0, in five innings on Monday. The Falcons have won five of their last six averaging close to six runs a game.

#### Basketball

Men The Falcons are entering the playoffs winning nine of the last 10 and are seeded No.17. They will travel to face No. 16 LA Valley in the first round of the Regional playoffs.

Women

The women finished 7-1 in the SCC and are ranked No. 16 in the regional playoffs. They will face the No. 17 seed Santa Barbara City in the first round.

#### Baseball

The Falcons have an overall record of 6-5. They played three games in four days over the weekend and went 1-2 in that stretch losing to Palomar and Santa Ana. They will go on the road to Compton in its first SCC conference game on Wednesday.

#### Tennis

The Falcons suffered their first conference loss in five years as they fell to Mt. San Jacinto, 5-4. They away with two first place finishes in the 200 and the

now carry an overall record of 4-2 and a conference 400 meters for the men. record of 1-1. They will look to improve their record as they host El Camino on Wednesday at 2 p.m.

The women are on a three game winning streak after beating Mt. San Jacinto 7-2. They are now 3-2 and will face El Camino in their first SCC game at Cerritos. Alana Johnson is currently undefeated playing at the fourth and fifth spot.

#### Track & Field

There were a total of 18 medals awarded to Cerritos athletes, both men and women, on last Saturday's Invitational held by Cerritos. Kelsey Caesar walked

#### Swimming

The men's swimming team finished fifth in the last meet held at Golden West. Berner Figueroa finished a team best third place in the 200-yard individual medley. The men will now travel to Pasadena City College to begin their first SCC competition on Friday.

The Falcons continue to break records as they broke five more at Golden West along with winning first place in the Golden West Sprint Meet. They will also travel to Pasadena City to compete in a three way meet between Pasadena and Mt, SAC.



**Track and Field:** Erin Straughter leads the race en route to a first place medal in Saturday's meet.

## Falcons earn 18 medals at home

SCOTT GARITE Staff Writer scott.garite@talonmarks.com

With the speed and agility of athletes such as Erin Straughter and Kelsey Caeser, the Cerritos track and field team proves that it is a force to be reckoned with.

Last Thursday through Saturday at the Cerritos College Invitational, the Falcons medaled in

Straughter led the women's team placing first in both the 200-meter hurdles and 400-meter

She ran a personal best in the 400-meter hurdles of 65.71 seconds.

"I'm off to a good start, but hopefully I will continue to get better," Straughter said. The speed of Caeser led the way for the men's

increase of many many and a second of

He placed first in two individual events as

In the 200-meter he ran it in 21.58 seconds hopes to make the men's team known as well and the 400-meter in 47.56 seconds.

These two athletes have a strong supporting cast with athletes such as Cyntrail Pierce and

Pierce explained, "It was my first time running the 100-meters and I came in first, so that

Pierce ran the 100-meter in 11.8 seconds. Coach Allen appears to be satisfied with Pierces performance on Saturday.

"Pierce is doing really well. Her time in the 100-meter event will get her invited to the USC Invitational on Sunday. She will probably have one of the best times in the state," Allen said.

While McCall placed third in the triple jump with a distance of 47' 1/4", he may have done better if he wasn't pulled away from that event to make it in time to run another event.

McCall knows that Cerritos College track and athletes."

field is mostly known for the women's team but

"Our reputation is mainly known for the women being good, but our men came out winning events so we're about to have a reputation for the men as well.

Nick Armstrong placed first in the decathlon and Karen Guravska came in first as well in the

Allen said, "Armstrong did real well winning the decathlon for us and Guravska broke the school record in the pole vault. We're expecting big things out of Guravska in the pole vault, high jump and in the javelin."

"Overall this meet was a good opener. I think they learned a few things," Allen added. "Hopefully they learned two important things, that we're not going to baby them, they're college athletes and we expect them to compete like college

## Mt. San Jacinto halts Falcons' winning streak

After a 34-match winning streak, men's tennis loses to Mt. San Jacinto.

> SCOTT GARITE Staff Writer scott.garite@talonmarks.com

The Cerritos College men's tennis winning streak of 34 matches in a row in South Coast Conference play was brought to a grinding halt by a newcomer to the conference, Mt. San Jacinto College.

Last Thursday's match between Cerritos College and Mt. San Jacinto College may have come down to the No. 3 doubles match, but there were many other factors contributing to the loss.

The Falcons went into the match with injuries affecting the line-up.

Freshman Tim Lee, who usually plays No. 2 singles, was sick with the flu during the match-up.

He attempted to play but retired after losing the first set in a tiebreaker, 4-7.

Coach Alvin Kim said, "I recommended that he retire before the match started, but Lee managed to tough it out playing doubles for us." The hard times didn't stop for

the Falcons there. Jason Wall, who had faced some tough losses this year, dealt with another close loss to Mt. San Jacinto's Bruno Reich.

Wall, No. 3 singles, took the first set, 7-6, then lost the second set, 4-6, and in a third set tiebreaker Bote, closed it out, scoring 11 points to Wall's 9.

"Wall is our No. 3 singles. He has just had really bad luck against Cypress College," Kim added. "He lost the third set tiebreaker. It happened against Glendale, again against Riverside and again on Thursday. It's been a tough season for Wall this

With all of the hardships that the Falcons have faced, there have been some impressive plays by other Falcon tennis teammates such as Carlos Gomez and Nik Bote.

Gomez, the No. 5 singles defeated Richard Tetteh of Mt. San Jacinto 6-3, 3-6, and winning the third set tiebreaker, 11-9.

Bote beat out Carlos Marquez of Mt. San Jacinto in straight sets, 6-3,

Kim said, "Bote played great. Bote normally plays No. 4 singles, will move up this week, playing No. 2 singles against El Camino on Tuesday and No. 3 singles against College of the Desert on Thursday."

## Strong Falcon comeback after defeat to Fullerton

The Falcons lost a close victory against the hornets, but bounced back strong against Antelope Valley.

> MICHAEL GONZALEZ Staff Writer michael.gonzalez@talonmarks.com

The Cerritos women's softball team played a double-header on Sunday, playing against Fullerton College at 11 a.m. and Antelope Valley College at 3 p.in.

Cerritos lost the first game against Fullerton, 1-0, and won the second game against Antelope Valley, 9-0.

"Shutting down a caliber team like Cerritos was a great job for our (Fullerton) team," said Fullerton softball head coach Lisa Bassi.

Good defense and quality pitching went for both teams, but Fullerton came up with the big play in the sixth inning scoring the only run in the game.

The only run of the game was batted in by freshman Jordyn Bohon who singled in the lone run.

Hillary Perez-Ashley started the game and ended off with three strikeouts, three hits, two walks and also hit a batter.

Freshman Fullerton pitcher Sierra Gallego pitched very well for her team, holding Cerritos to three hits and no runs.

Also, 15 of the 21 outs in the game were on ground balls, including two double plays.

"Keeping the ball low and great defense helped us win the game," said Gallego about the Fullerton



Softball: Ashley Ventura hits a foul tip during its one run loss against the Hornets.

Cerritos did hit the ball well and the most runs. hard, but most of the hits were toward the Fullerton infielders.

"Lack of communication and chasing low pitches caused us the the lead go up 6-0. game," said shortstop Cassandra

Cerritos coach Kodee Murray into a rhythm, and every time we we did not capitalize."

The second game of the doubleheader was dominated by Cerritos, beating down Antelope Valley college, 9-0.

Freshman Lauren Castrellon pitched the second game for Cerritos, allowing five walks and one hit before Hillary Perez-Ashley finished off the game.

two runs the first inning and never respect for the Cerritos coaching looked back after that.

After a run was scored in the second inning for Cerritos, the third

inning is where Cerritos produced

After a double and walk were given up, freshman Ashley Ventura hit a three-run homerun to make

Cerritos finished off the inning

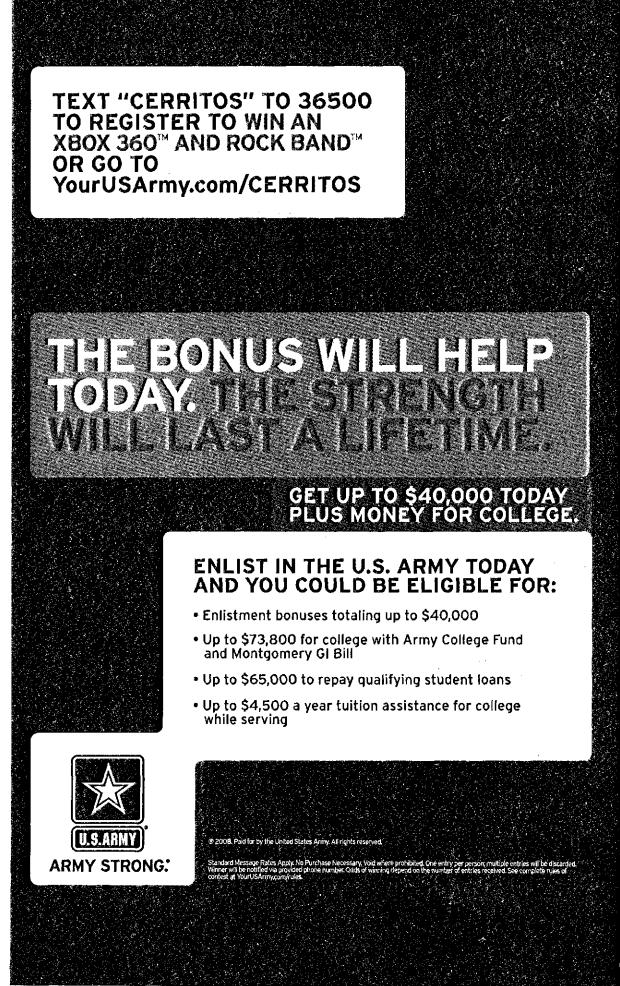
"It felt amazing," Ventura said felt that, "We (Cerritos) did not get after she hit the homerun, "to come out with a lot of adrenaline and to (Cerritos) would get base runners, show my coach that I am better hitter than originally thought."

> Cerritos added two more runs in the fourth inning, one from Ashley Ventura that totalled her RBI total to five.

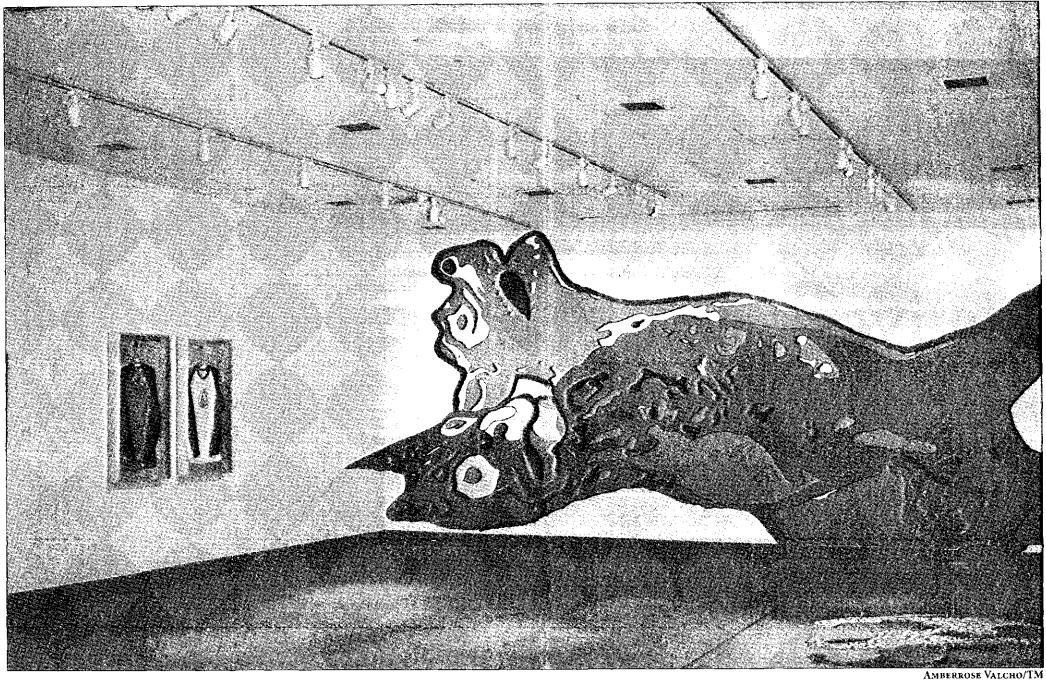
The mercy rule was in effect and the game ended after the top of the

"We got our butts kicked," said Mike Vargas, assistant coach of The Falcons scored first getting Antelope Valley. "We have a lot of

> The next game for Cerritos is Feb. 23 at Cerritos against Los Angeles Harbor at 3 p.m.



# ARTS



# Art gallery open to Cerritos students

Tim Dickerson Online Editor online@talonmarks.com

The art gallery opened with artwork from Ismael de Anda III on Feb. 24.

The opening reception will be on Feb. 25. One room in the gallery was a big art story of a swing at his grandparents' farm.

On the walls were text prints of the story when he found out that the old swing, which he thinks his grandfather built, was de-

His cousins told him that lightning hit a tree, which fell on the swing.

The swing was later re-welded while de rectly on the walls.

Anda was trying to re-create one from mem-

A miniature model of the swing lies in the center of the room with benches in the corners of the room.

Also there is a digital frame on the wall with photos from the farm, including of the line.

"Since I've been here, it's the first time (art) nail gun, there is a disclaimer next to it. has been painted on the wall," said Jeff Ortega,

gallery assistant. The tractor wasn't the only art painted di- directly on the wall.

There is a large frame painted on the wall, with only few nailed drilled into it now.

Ortega said, "The whole concept is to in-Next to the frame is a nail gun for people

to participate and drive a nail into the out-"Safety was the big thing," Ortega said.

Next to the frame is a tractor painted on "We always let people know to be cautious." To warn people about safely operating the

> Covering another wall is a large twoheaded ceramic beast, which is also painted

Ortega said that de Anda encouraged the

gallery staff to interact with it and paint it, with only the direction coming from de Anda.

"It was a two-week process," Ortega said. Other artworks in the gallery include:

- "Aqui (Teeter)" and "Alla (Totter)," which are made of chicle, ceramic glue, wood and architectural figu-
- painted cotton shirts and jackets in glass cases,
- "Nebulous" and
- "Chaosm."

#### ON THE **HORIZON**

#### **THEATRE**

INTIMATE APPAREL BY LYNN NOTTAGE DIRECTED BY KEVIN HOGGARD MARCH 6, 7, 12, 13, 14 AT 8 P.M. MARCH 15 AT 2 P.M.

COMPANY MUSIC AND LYRICS BY STEPHEN SANDHEIM **BOOK BY GEORGE** FURTH **ORIGINALLY** PRODUCED AND DIRECTED ON **BROADWAY BY** HAROLD PRINCE DIRECTED BY **PATRICK** PEARSON MAY 1, 2, 7, 8, 9 AT 8 P.M. MAY 10 AT 2 P.M.

#### **CONCERTS**

ORCHESTRA **EXCHANGE** CONCERT FRIDAY, MARCH 13 AT 7 P.M. STUDENT CENTER

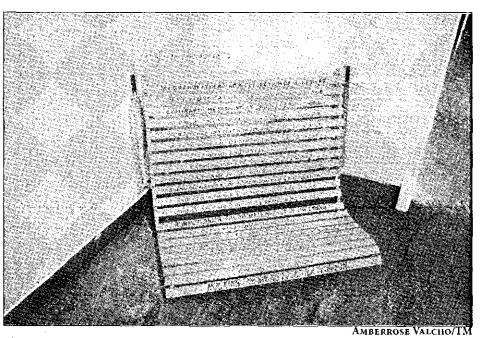
BAND EXCHANGE CONCERT TUESDAY, MARCH 17 AT 7 P.M. CENTER THEATRE

**FACULTY GALA** SUNDAY, MARCH 22 AT 2 P.M. **BURNIGHT** CENTER THEATRE

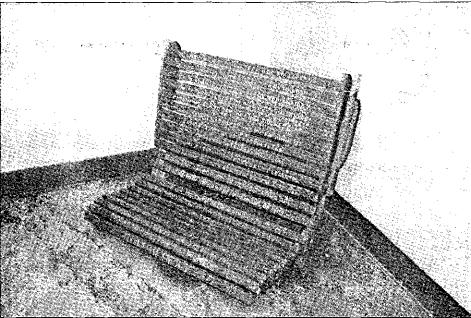
POP EXCHANGE CONCERT THURSDAY, MARCH 26 AT 7 P.M. STUDENT **CENTER** 

BAND EXCHANGE CONCERT MONDAY, MARCH 30 7 P.M. STUDENT **CENTER** 

**SOURCE:** WWW.CERRITOS.EDU



**The Yellow Bench:** The yellow bench was one of the recreated benches.



The Green Bench: The green bench was the other that was recreated.

Jammin': Robert John Acuna playing his guitar.

# Stallions gallop toward stardom

CHRISTOPHER DIERS Staff Writer christopher.diers@talonmarks.com

Robert John Acuna is living a double life. You may have seen him attending night classes around campus and been completely unaware that he is also the lead guitar player in the ambitious local rock group, Rogue Stallion.

Any spare time between classes or working full time is spent in his practice space in Rosemead alongside his fellow band mates John Gillete (vocals), Joey Mercado (bass), Mike Holland (drums), and Manual Robles (guitar).

Rogue Stallion began to take shape in early 2007 during recreational jam sessions with friends and fam-

Since that time Robert and his band mates have weathered line-up changes and the demand of day jobs and college courses in order to pursue their shared love of playing music together.

It's this working class spirit that has driven Rogue fold here and there. We keep our minds open"

Stallion from their humble beginnings to pursue their dream of playing on as many different stages in as many different places as possible.

"20 years from now I want to say that I played in Russia, I played in Europe." Robert says. "We have an inside joke; someday we're going to take this band all the way to the moon!"

Robert and his fellow band members draw their influences from a variety of different artists and bands.

"Overall, we're pretty influenced by Ozzy Osbourne, Iron Maiden, Judas Priest, a lot of guitar solooriented classic groups.

We don't limit ourselves to that though. We also listen to a variety of different genres including classical music and the blues. Overall, anything classic from the 70's, almost anything on 95.5 KLOS."

Though many of the bands inspiration is drawn from classic hard rock groups, Robert was also quick to point out that there are a few contemporary bands out there that have caught their attention as of lately.

"I've even been listening to a little Avenged Seven-

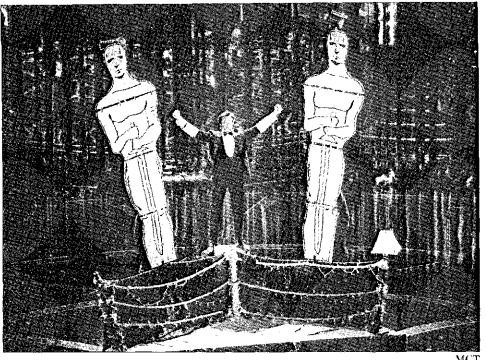
Since coming together they have worked tirelessly to promote their music using myspace and passing out cds, stickers, and flyers all while gigging relentlessly.

"Our first show was probably the most exciting. It was in Hollywood and it was also our first time in front of a big audience."

Since then they have seen their efforts pay off, landing opening slots for heavy metal veterans Otep at the world famous Whiskey A-Go-Go and Chris Holmes from W.A.S.P's all-star group on the main stage of The Knitting Factory.

Not content to rest on their laurels, Rogue Stallion regularly books shows often playing four or five times a month at a variety of different events and are currently entertaining the idea of touring in Germany.

"We all work our day jobs, the main purpose of the band is to have fun and get out to as many people as possible." Robert explained. "With all our members working together anything we want to do is possible, nothing will be able to hold us back."



**An opening to remember:** Hugh Jackman's big finish to the Oscar's musical introduction.



Slumdogs: Director Danny Boyle posing backstage.



## Chilling, thrilling take on Wonderland

## **Movie Review**

Coraline

Starring: Dakota Fanning, Teri Hatcher Director: Henry Selick Rating: Dobo

> Daisy Garcia Staff Writer

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"Coraline" is a memorable modern fairytale that the whole family can enjoy, especially in 3D.

Henry Selick did a great job in-

terpreting Neil Gaiman's novel. Selick takes the audience into a distorted "Alice in Wonderland"

type world. In this wild tale, the protagonist, Coraline, is a young girl who

just moved into a new house. Coraline is not too fond of her new home and it does not help that her parents are not paying attention

to her. When she discovers a secret door, an alternative version of Coraline's world appears where her "other parents" live.

On the surface, it looks like just Coraline's typical home, but it seems much better.

Nevertheless, there is always a price for this paradise.

If Coraline wants to stay with her "other mother," she must renounce her real family and much

The audience will never forget the eccentric and wacky mannerism that the characters bring to the film.

# Dscars deliver in troubling times

Julie Hinds Contributor editor@talonmarks.com

It was a feel-great night for a feelgood movie.

"Slumdog Millionaire" took home best picture honors at Sunday night's 81st annual Academy Awards a happy ending widely expected for the crowd-pleasing Cinderella

The film earned eight Oscars, including one for director Danny Boyle, for its fastpaced tale of young man from the slums of Mumbai who competes on India's version of "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire." "Slumdog" was also honored for Simon Beaufoy's adapted screenplay, cinematography, song, original score, film editing and sound mixing.

"When we started out, we had no stars, we had no power or muscle," said producer Christian Colson, adding that what the underdog movie did have was "passion and belief."

Sean Penn, won best actor for his charismatic performance as slain gay-rights activist Harvey Milk in "Milk", he spoke out against Proposition 8, California's recent ban on gay marriage, during his acceptance speech, saying, "We've got to have equal rights

for everyone."

This is Penn's second best-actor Oscar. He also won in 2004 for "Mystic River."

And six-time nominee Kate Winslet finally went home with a golden guy, nabbing best actress for "The Reader."

First-time Oscar host Hugh Jackman got the recession-busting mood rolling with a musical number that was funny enough to make Billy Crystal envious.

Relying on homemade-looking props and sweatshirt-wearing "Craigslist dancers," a dapper Jackman sailed through supposedly budget-conscious bit where he recreated "Frost/Nixon" with Anne Hathaway, admitted he hasn't seen "The Reader," and borrowed a few moves from "The Wrestler" before triumphantly declaring, "I'm Wolverine."

Ah, who needs money when you've got the sexiest man alive?

Penelope Cruz scored the first big win of the evening, nabbing best supporting "Vicky Cristina Barcelona."

"Has anybody ever fainted here? Because I might be the first one," said Cruz after being presented the Oscar by a quintet of past

night was Heath Ledger's posthumous win, which had the audience on its feet. He was the overwhelming favorite for his dazzling turn as the chaos-craving Joker in "The Dark Knight."

Ledger's father, mother and sister accepted for the actor, who died last year of an accidental prescription drug overdose before the Batman film was released.

"Tonight, we are choosing to celebrate and be happy for what he had achieved," said his mother, Sally Bell, fighting back

More than ever, the ABC telecast seemed eager to woo the millions of worried viewers at home who are still trying to save enough bucks for a matinee or two.

In clips and skits, there was notable attention paid to the sort of movies ticket buyers embrace (and Oscar usually ignores), including a hilarious short film by Judd Apatow that let the guys from "Pineapple Express" actress for her sexy, tumultuous ex-wife in to take in a year's worth of flicks from their

There were hints of the dire economy even in some of the acceptance speeches. When "Wall-E" won for best animated film, director Andrew Stanton cited his robot The most poignant victory of the character who finds the beauty in everything

and said, "It's a noble aspiration in times like

"The Curious Case of Benjamin Button," the technically dazzling fable of a man who ages backward, won for makeup, art direction and visual effects.

"Man on Wire," a look back at Philippe Petit's amazing 1974 quest to do a high-wire walk between the World Trade Center towers, won for best documentary.

Oscar drew gripes this year for snubbing a major Hollywood player, Clint Eastwood of "Gran Torino," and leaving an acclaimed international blockbuster, "The Dark Knight," out of the best picture race.

Although "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button" received the most Oscar nominations with 13, the pre-awards buzz was solidly in the "Slumdog" camp, which had 10

During ABC's pre-show coverage, all eyes were on super-couple Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie. But for emotional punch, it was hard to top seeing the ecstatic cast of "Slumdog" from the youngest kids to stars Dev Patel and Freida Pinto as they gathered in a joyous bunch on the red carpet.



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