

Talon Marks

Cerritos College

Since 1956

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ASCC sends out the pigs for fire victims

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ONLINE EXCLUSIVES

- Soccer feature Sprout
 - MyDemocracy videos
 - CD Review: "808's and Heartbreak"
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Five teams win championships for Cerritos

See Sports page 7



Food drive collects cans

ELIETH KOULZONS
Associate Online Editor
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The ASCC collected well over 5,000 cans for the canned food drive held for the months of November and December.

This food drive was held to help the people of low or no income of Norwalk.

"People who were not able to afford food the holidays will be given the opportunity to enjoy a meal," said Kevin Martinez, ASCC commissioner of fine arts and communications.

Many of the clubs on campus contributed to the drive not only for charity, but as a club competition.

The Court Reporting Club collected the majority of cans, therefore winning the competition.

It is estimated that it collected about 2,000 to 2,500 cans, according to Martinez.

Although the club will not receive any monetary means of compensation, it will receive a plaque at the awards banquet held this Friday.

The cans that were collected were picked up by an organization that collects cans and distributes them to those in need.

"I think this food drive was a wonderful idea," ASCC President Michael Barrita said, "It gave the students on campus the opportunity to contribute and show support

See **Food Drive** page 3

Cuts possible at Cerritos

GUSTAVO RANGEL
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Economic confusion has hit the country, and the state is in economic distress.

Acting President Bill Farmer expresses that Cerritos College isn't immune to cuts from the state.

Sacrifices would need to be made, like budget cuts and tuition increases.

The way things are going, there might be a 59 percent budget cut to classes, a 57 percent reduce in credit classes, and 28 percent to non-credit classes.

Each department has been asked to cut a small number of classes, but to be careful not to cause any harm and cut classes that are essential to graduating or transferring.

Cerritos College's annual budget is approximately \$100 million.

Eighty-eight percent of that goes to salaries and benefits. That leaves \$12 million that is susceptible to cuts.

Also, plans to raise the price per unit on Jan. 1 are in place. The price per unit would go from \$20 to \$26.

Further into the future, the price per unit would be proposed to go up to \$30 on July 1.

That measure hasn't been passed yet.

"Most of (the proposals for budget cuts to community colleges) has been voted down," said Jesus Olvera, ASCC commissioner of budget and finance.

Some students are worried about the rise in the tuition, even if the budget cuts don't happen.

"I am concerned that tuition will go up, but gas prices went down, but I doubt tuition will go down too," commented Eiman Farooqui,

See **Budget** page 3



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY TIM DICKERSON & RICK GOMEZ

SCHOOL'S OUT FOR WINTER



SCOTT WATKINS/TM
Semester ending: Finals are next week. The fall semester ends on Dec. 19 and Cerritos College will be out of session for the winter break. The spring semester will start on Jan. 12.

Construction continues on campus

CELIA AUSTIN
Contributor
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Detours, they are what the students see around Cerritos College when walking on campus to go to their classes and even looking for a parking space at the lot.

There is so much construction going on at Cerritos College that it is hard to ignore.

- The three major construction sites are:
- the new classroom building next to the Physical Science building,
 - the demolition of the Research and Development building to make way for the Auto

Technology expansion and

- the underground piping between the Learning Resource Center and Admissions office. The new Classroom Building will house labs and offices for physical science and therapists.

The C-6 lot will be completely blocked beginning Feb. 2009, to finish building it. Students will have to find parking elsewhere.

Robert Riffle, director of physical plant at Cerritos College, said that the demolition of the Research and Development building will be done within two weeks, but the expansion of the Auto Technology will start on April.

The Research and Development classrooms

were moved to the Technology Building.

Cerritos College is doing all of this improvement with money from the GO bond. The construction management company is Bovis Lend Lease.

Jerry Jones of Bovis Lend Lease, said that by Spring 2009 there should not be any more blocking on campus.

Check out campus construction updates on www.talonmarks.com

Cabinet moves forward in iFALCON's January launch

TIM DICKERSON
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At the ASCC's Cabinet announced the forward movement of the new LCD screen, where the iFALCON campaign is going toward in its January launch and what is being done with the water proposals at

its last meeting on Monday.

Holly Bogdanovich, director of Student Activities, said the LCD screen will be installed on Friday "if the weather is good."

ASCC President Michael Barrita was surprised it came so soon.

The LCD screen will replace the marquee that is currently in front of the Student Center.

"I hope this will be the start of the renovation (of the Student Center)," Barrita said.

If the LCD screen is installed on Friday as planned, it will take longer until it's running.

iFALCON has come a long way over the semester.

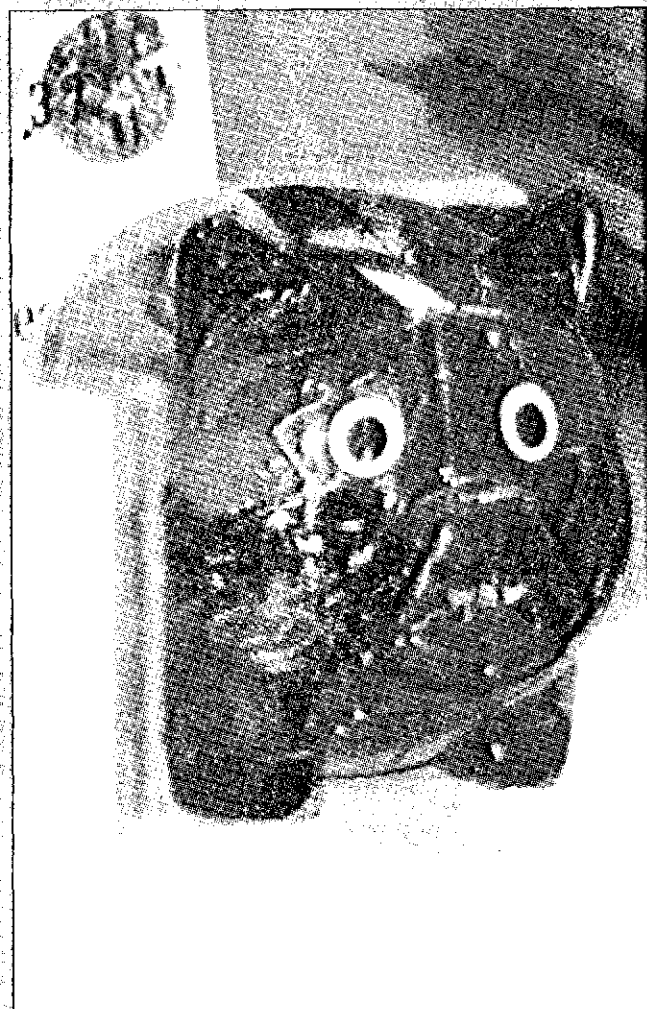
"It will be launching off in January," Barrita said.

Barrita said he wanted to make the posters and advertisements to represent the major disciplines at Cerritos College and get one of each gender to pose for them.

He said there are about 10 disciplines completed now and the goal is to get every major one.

See **Cabinet** page 2

Banks distributed for fire victims



TIM DICKERSON/TM

TIM DICKERSON
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With the fires in California that didn't affect Cerritos College much, Oscar Franco decided that something must be done to help.

The ASCC commissioner of student outreach has placed blue piggy banks around campus at:

- the Student Center,
- the Student Activities office,
- the administration office,
- the library,
- the Social Science Building,
- the student health center and
- the Liberal Arts Building.

"(These banks) are for the needs of people who lost their homes," Franco said.

Franco encourages anyone to donate whatever they can into these banks.

"Spare change, coins, whatever people can give," he said.

The deadline for this collection of money is next Wednesday.

The banks are located in visible areas where they can be kept an eye on by employees, such as the Taco Bell and the front desk of the library.



TIM DICKERSON/TM

Arcos wins Poli Sci award

ERNESTO GOMEZ
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The third MyDemocracy video editorial competition was held in the Burnight Center Theatre on Nov. 25.

Political science professor Bryan Reece served as moderator for the competition, which has been sponsored by the Political Science Department for the past three semesters.

The competition consisted of the top 11 videos, with first, second and third place winners. There was also the fan favorite.

The first place winner was Cathy Arcos with her video titled, "Gay Marriage."

Her video was a compilation of the different point of views on gay marriage.

Arcos was not present to receive her \$500 prize.

The second place winner was Fernando Villalobos Jr. with his video titled, "From Civilian to Soldier." Villalobos was also not present to collect his \$250 prize.

The third place winner was Richard DeLeon with his video titled, "Legalize It."

He also won the fan favorite award, both prizes came with a \$150 check.

"I'm happy," he said. "I'm going to spend the money on my car."

English department holds reading for Professor Swanson

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The English Department held a reading for Jack Swanson on Nov. 20 in the teleconference center.

Jack Swanson, English professor, has been on sick leave since he was diagnosed with throat cancer this past summer.

Swanson was one of the most liked and well-respected faculty members on this campus, said English professor Philip Hu.

Hu was responsible for organizing the event along with help from Dave Gunn, Instructional Media Production Specialist for the multimedia department.

Teachers from the English department were offered the opportunity to read either their own original works or the works of published authors.

Many of the inspirational pieces as well as motivational pieces that were read touched some of the students who attended the reading.

Fernando Acosta, English major,

said, "He (Swanson) needs support and motivation and I'm glad the teachers read pieces that showed we got his back."

Although most of the teachers read stories and recited poems, English professor Frank Caik shared something different at the event.

He presented an audio clip of the song "Surely Chisholm Trail," performed by Swanson and other members of his online band.

"He comes out cussing at the beginning of the song and it showed a side of Swanson I didn't know,"

giggled Jessica Arambula, Swanson's former student.

Swanson is missed very much and has left many students feeling empty without his cheerful presence, said Angelica Vasquez, history major.

This time, students and other departments were not given the opportunity to read their pieces.

However, having another reading for Swanson in the spring semester, is a possibility, said Hu.

The reading was video taped and will be given to Swanson.

"I hope Swanson enjoys it, and then focuses on his treatment and rehab, and returns to us as soon as he is able," Hu hoped. "For me personally, I can't wait to have him back. The end of the Liberal Arts hallway is just not the same without Swanson's grace, smile, friendship and warmth down there as anchor."



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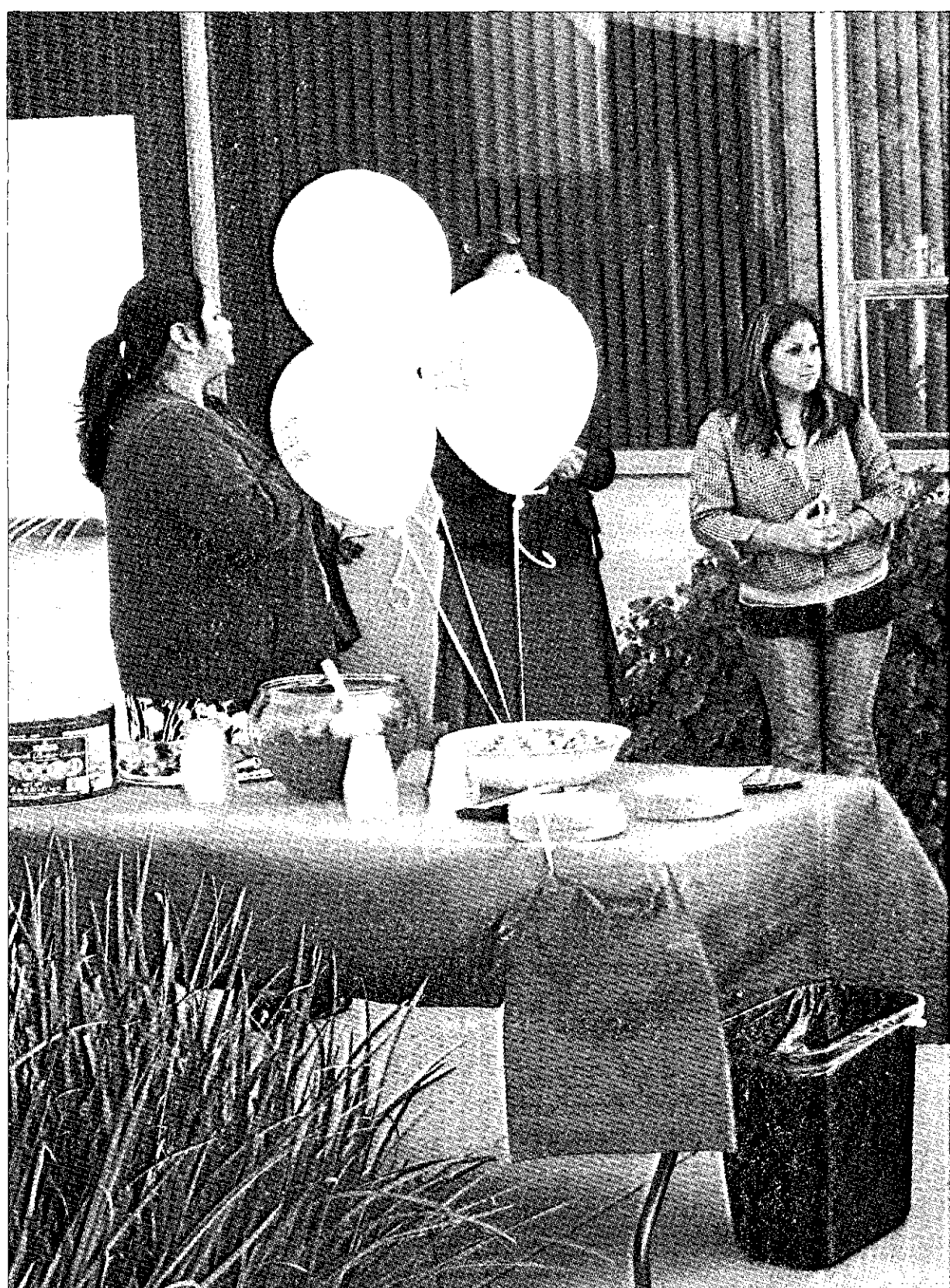
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Pathways to open house



Open House: Tables filled with goodies welcomed curious visitors.

ERNESTO GOMEZ/TM

Donations from Best Buy adorn the new offices located in the Technology Building.

ERNESTO GOMEZ
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The Pathways Programs Department held its open house on Nov. 3 to show the Cerritos College community its new offices.

Tables full of goodies such as chips, cookies and chocolates welcomed guests interested in exploring the new facilities. To the left entrance is the Economic Development office and the Research and Grants office.

These new offices are still not permanent and are considered swing space. "There is still no time-frame," says Nathan Durdella, director of research and planning, in regards to how long they will be in these offices.

They are in no rush though, since Durdella states, "these offices are more central; closer to the center of campus."

The Foster and Care offices were the recipients of a computer donation done by Best Buy. They will also be donating two more computer terminals that will be used by the foster youth for resumes, and homework.

The computers will be available free of charge for those that are enrolled in the foster youth program.

Lori Switanowski states, "We love the new offices. We are very grateful to Cerritos (College)."

Cabinet: iFALCON gets focus on majors

Continued from page 1
So far, the campaign has:

- pre-law
- pre-med
- music
- engineering,
- science,
- business,
- peace and conflict,
- math and
- English.

On the Web site, Barrita said he wants to see focus pages on the students that utilize the habits of mind expressed by iFALCON.

The pages would be updated to show current students what they

become.

"We become whoever we envision," Barrita said. "I want this to be the underlying theme of the iFALCON campaign."

The water proposals are turned in and Barrita wants the water fountains to be fixed in the areas that need them the most first.

He wants to focus on the Athletics Department first.

Water proposals were turned in by the ASCC Cabinet members as a way to evaluate the water fountains on campus to tell facilities which ones need work to be up to a certain standard.

Budget: Cuts may come

Continued from page 1
fine arts major.

The governor had declared a fiscal emergency.

"I assume financial aid will be a good idea if tuition is raised," said Oscar Franco, ASCC Commissioner of Student Outreach.

Financial Aid will not be affected due to the fact that the money comes from the federal government and not from the state budget.

"Students that pay out of their pockets will suffer," said Angelica Orenlas, economics major.

California budgets go more to universities than toward the community colleges.

ADDITIONAL REPORTING BY
TIM DICKERSON

Food Drive: Cans of goodness

Continued from page 1
to those in need."

Foods such as Top Ramen soups, Cup-O-Noodles, bagged chips, and liquid pouched drinks were also contributed to the food drive.

Felipe Gomez, mathematics major, said, "I would walk past the Student Activities office and would get tempted to eat all the food there."

Consuelo Martinez, undecided major, said, "It feels good to know that the students of Cerritos care enough to provide food for others."

She added, "It makes me proud to see how many people actually care."

Woodworking classes may go through the buzzsaw

AMARIS CERVANTES
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The laying off of instructors, as well as the cutting of classes, is what the Woodworking Department at Cerritos College faces this coming semester.

Two of the instructors were students for about 10 years, but are being laid off because they don't have the proper college degree.

Budget cuts in the department have also played a role in this situation, as well as being responsible for classes being cut next semester.

The instructors, whose names have not been disclosed, have been teaching for three to five years, and one has even been running his own business for well over 10

years based on what he learned as a student in the woodworking program.

Woodworking Professor Anthony Fortner says that these instructors are capable of teaching and are great teachers. "They are liked by all, the product that comes out of their classes is phenomenal," Fortner said.

He also stated that the concept of vocational education is that you have a professional person from the trade teaching the craft or profession of woodworking.

The instructor who has been running his own business teaches and shares that experience with his students, but since he is one English class off, he will not be able to teach anymore.

"Traditionally, that has always

been more valued; real world experience rather than academics. A woodworking student would rather have a guy with real world experience, in business, with clients paying money, than a text book," Fortner said.

The instructors had been warned that they needed to have their proper degree for over a two years, but they have not acted on it.

They were supposed to be laid off this past August, but because of the budget cuts, they will most likely be terminated this January, along with some classes.

"It is real unfortunate for the students since many will be turned away," Fortner said.

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•EDITORIAL•

ASCC and Talon Marks, communicate

Congratulations to the ASCC on all of its accomplishments this semester. It has formed committees that serve to make this campus better.

It is in the process of beautifying the campus with new fountains that utilize recycled water. It helped with the launch of the "Habits of Mind" campaign.

It was successful in maintaining the Hill and preventing it from being demolished.

It is working on replacing the marquee in front of the Student Center with a LCD screen.

For these accomplishments, Talon Marks congratulates you.

However, the ASCC must follow through with plans that were started in the spring.

This will be difficult because traditionally, in the first month of the spring semester, replacements for senate and cabinet members that renounced or transferred, are found.

The ASCC and Talon Marks need to work together to help students on this campus, instead of fighting over difference of opinions.

Rather than jumping to conclusions about why Talon Marks criticizes what is and isn't happening on this campus, the ASCC needs to inform and keep it updated on their plans.

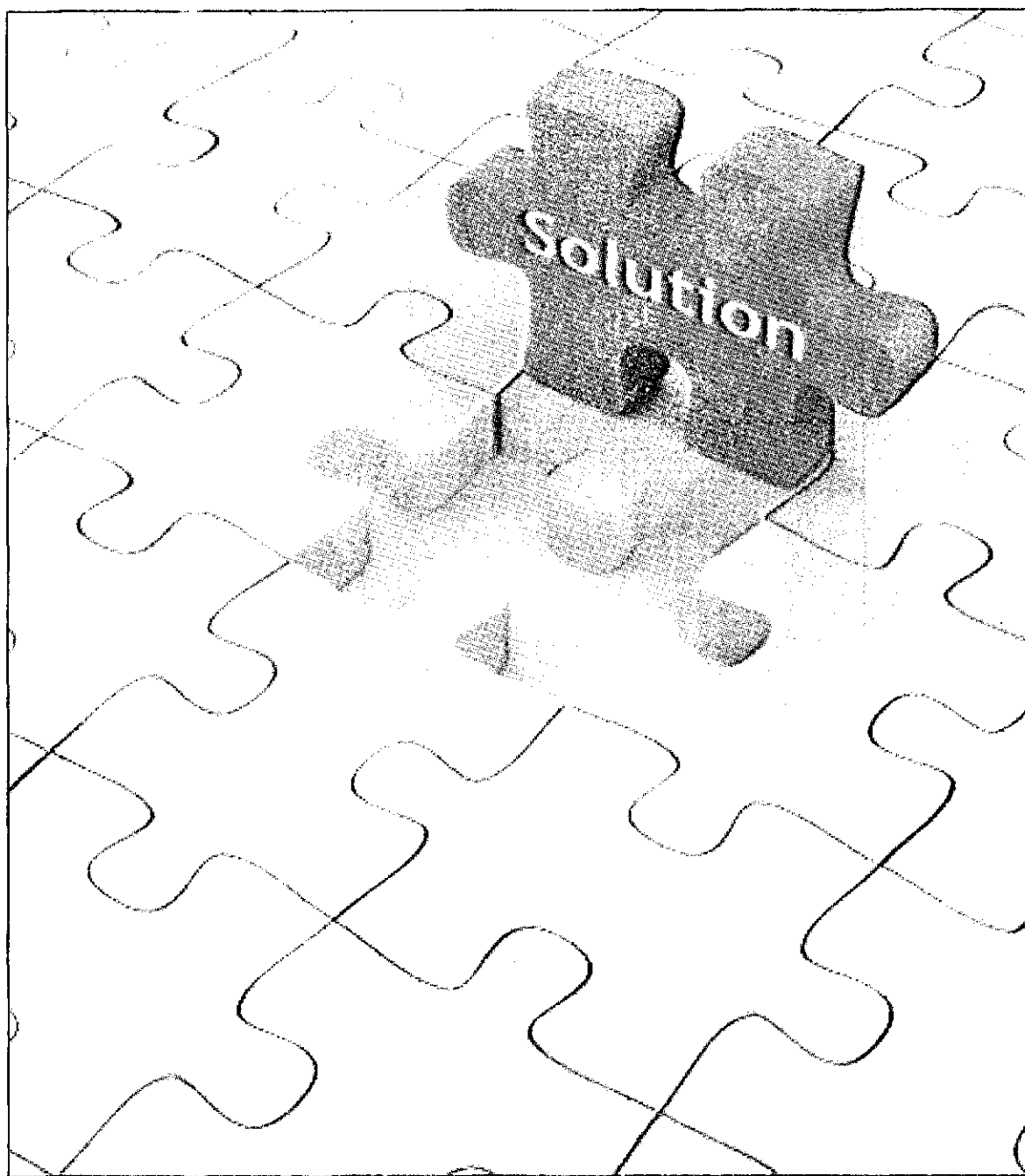
Talon Marks criticizes and calls people out because one of the main responsibilities of the newspaper is to be a watchdog for the campus.

Without the watchdog element to the paper, it would not be helping the campus but rather hurting it because atrocities would go on unnoticed.

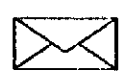
Open communication between both sides is the key to the overall improvement of the campus.

Communication cannot take place unless both sides are willing to cross that bridge to talk to the other side.

After all, we both want the same things and we both want the campus to be better for students.



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.

Give 'The Simpsons' a second chance

Many of you will agree that "The Simpsons" has seen better days, until now.

I have been watching "The Simpsons" for as long as I can remember. As a child, I watched the show for the crude language and the simple humor, never quite grasping the abundant use of satire it cleverly employed to create one of the most well-rounded cartoons ever.

As I grew up and began to understand all the literary devices it used, I became a much bigger fan. But after a while, it seems as though the writers gave up. Season 11 was when the downfall began. The show started buying into the "fart joke" era.

It was as if the writers stopped trying. They started depending on guest appearances, and the writing got sloppy. Homer was dumbed down way too much, Barney became sober and Patty and Selma stopped smoking.

I was shocked when I sat through a whole episode without laughing once. The show got so bad that I gave up on it altogether, turning to other cartoons to fill the void left by it.

"Family Guy" was okay for a while, but it started getting too political. It was funny when it was subtle, but lately it slaps you across the face with it. "South Park" is good, but it was better when the animation was sub-par.

No, "The Simpsons" was unique. It taught much of my childhood learning. My vocabulary grew after watching a few episodes; I knew what Ford meant.

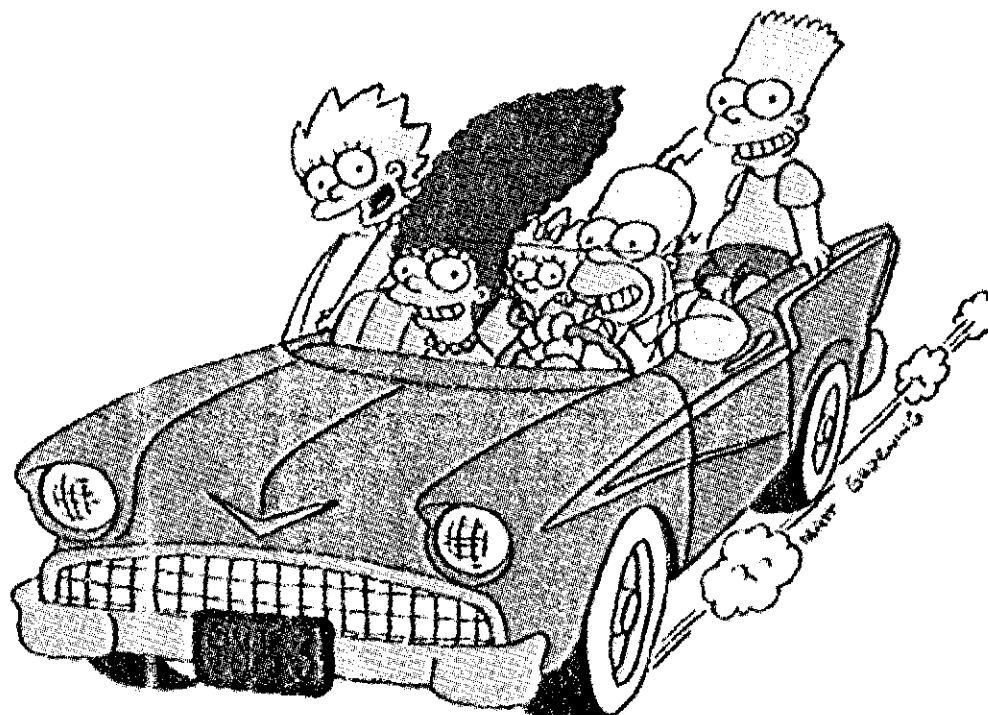


Ernesto Gomez
News Editor
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Luckily, it has been improving greatly. Homer is once again the lovable goof who still cares for his children.

The writers are employing satire in a much more clever fashion, such as in the last episode I watched where they parodied Apple.

The Simpsons has reclaimed an old faithful fan, and now I feel comfortable recommending it to everyone.



What are your plans for winter break?

COMPILED BY: ERNESTO GOMEZ
PHOTOS BY: ESMERALDA INFANTE



JUAN RENDON
liberal arts major

"(I am going to) party and stuff. Also work and be with my girlfriend."



JENELLE DIAZ
medical assistant major

"(My winter break plans are to) work and hang out with friends, and also with my boyfriend."



DESTINIE ZEPEDA
child development major

"(I'm) not spending time with my family. I'm counting down the minutes 'til I don't see their faces again."



TRINI ASCENCIO
zoology major

"(My winter break plans are to) spend time with my boyfriend and family."



JONATHAN BECERRA
public relations major

"(My winter break plans are to) relax, party and eat a lot. Also study for next semester."



JANNE WARMEN
firefighter major

"(I am going to) party and get wasted. (Then I'll) eat tamales, and champurrado."

Talon Marks online

Most Popular

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- Women's soccer team repeats as state champs
- Cerritos brings employment opportunities with job fair
- Turkey Trot Results (A-L)
- Where is the play?

Most Commented

Share your comments online

- Editor Coming At You
- Court Reporting Club rep. wins Homecoming Queen for third straight year
- Jaywalking dangerous or protected?

Guest Editorials

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- Riding to class my put student's wallet at risk
El Camino College The Union
- Does the VP Really Matter?
Fresno City College Rampage
- Support Our Troops
The Cypress Chronicle

Online Poll

Vote online at talonmarks.com

What are your plans for winter break?

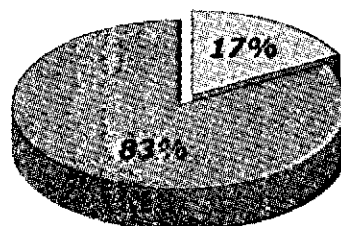
- Hang out with family
- Sleep
- I probably won't remember winter break
- Work

Last Week's Poll

Vote online at talonmarks.com

How did the fires affect you?

- They didn't 17%
- I had to evacuate my house 0%
- My house burned down 0%
- I need to wash my car down 83%



‘¿De Donde?’ puts the truth right in your face

ESMERALDA INFANTE
Arts Editor
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Chills ran up and down my spine as the ray of bright light shun into the terrified faces of three Hispanic immigrants who were just caught by the U.S. border patrol. Two men and one woman were the victims of what would be their worst nightmare coming true, their way out was far from their grasp, they were hopeless souls in hands of the U.S. government.

“¿De Donde?” by Mary Gallagher opened last Friday night in the Burnight Studio theatre. Seats filled up quickly as we were all eager to watch the play that was highly talked among the Cerritos student body.

The play focused on the treatment immigrants receive from the U.S. government. The torture, the pain, and the injustice done to them and how they are completely powerless against them.

Men who were ripped away their sense of pride and groveled at the feet of the INS agents begging to stop being beaten up.

Women who were torn away their sense of decency as the INS officials ripped open their clothes and raped them.

One woman in the play kept her identity concealed. Countless attempts and threats kept the woman to remain silent, and thus was named “La Extrana” (Jennifer Garcia) in the play.

One of my favorite characters had to be Felicia (Bianca Meilloa) who played the fiancée of a INS official named Teto (Israel Lopez).

She gave it her all in her per-

formance, she was the only one I saw that gave real tears and from experience that's difficult to do in a short amount of time.

Of course there was another actor who made it on my list that night and that was Pete (Paul Tully). He played a lawyer trying to help those immigrants get out of prison.

His performance was flawless, there was no single mistake made in his part. He slowly won the heart of “La Extrana” and won my heart over too.

As much as I wanted to hate the INS officials Teto and Willy (Derrick Michael Lemos) because they played the part of such hurtful pigs, their performances were outstanding.

They delivered their lines with such power and hate towards the immigrants.

One line that made me want to go and slap Willy was when he told Narcisco (Enzo Canepa) “You're not a man, you're a wet-back.”

That hurt me because it was said with such repulsion that it almost seemed true. But that's good acting, when they get the audience to feel like they are the ones in the actors shoes.

Every actor in the play gave a little piece of themselves, and that to me is what counts and makes a play entertaining and worth watching, and the “¿De Donde?” cast did that perfectly.

I know I wasn't the only one who left the theatre feeling a little emotional, after seeing that this play is taken from real-life immigrants who shared their stories, and how this immigrant problem still exists in our world today.



Hagop Najarian
Peace in Our Time, 2008



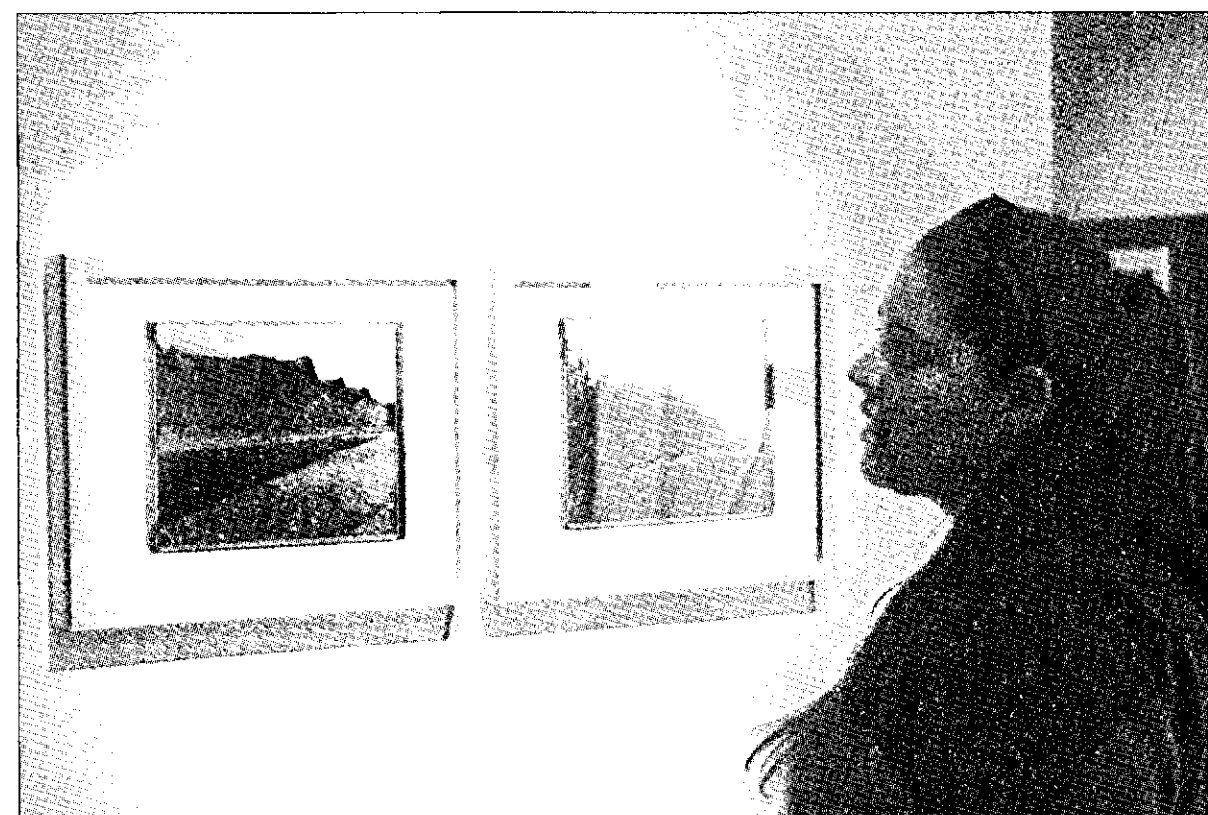
Jessica Swanson
Woodless Birds Eye View, 2008



Rebecca Guzak
Mirando de las Muertas, 2008



Daniel Du Pless
No More Blue Songs, 2005



ERNESTO GOMEZ/TM

Faculty Art Exhibition: Alejandrina Srusezo, photography major, admires a teacher's work of art.

Teachers display their work

ESMERALDA INFANTE
Arts Editor
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Christina Fernandez was one of the many teachers showcasing their art pieces in this years Faculty Art Exhibition.

The reception and the opening of the exhibition was held last Wednesday in the art gallery.

“I have not done it every year, but I love participating when I can,” Fernandez said.

Her art piece this year was a photo she took of a store window in the street of Cesar Chavez.

“I was attracted to the street because of it's night life, it's one of the only streets in LA that still has one,” Fernandez expressed.

She wasn't the only that admired her work, students as well stopped and took a minute to also commend it.

“She is my photography teacher, and her work is always good,” said Alejandrina Srusezo, photography major.

Each teacher was allowed to only showcase one piece of art, so teachers were exceptionally careful in what piece they chose.

“I was working on another piece, but I didn't have enough time to finish it, so I decided to put my “Mirando de las Muertas,” said Rebecca Guzak, art teacher.

Her painting was in honor to her mother's recent death.

“I find it when I paint it's like therapy. It helps you go through the emotions,” Guzak explained.

Hard work and dedication was put into every art piece displayed, one in particular took a teacher almost two days to complete it.

“My art piece is a crosshatch drawing of passion flower vines. It took me about 40 hours to finish it.

ish it.

It's almost like knitting, the repetitive action, you get lost in the act of doing it,” said Andrea Bera-glueri, art teacher.

As students sat outside the art gallery enjoying the beverages and snacks provided at the reception, they interchanged ideas of their favorite pieces.

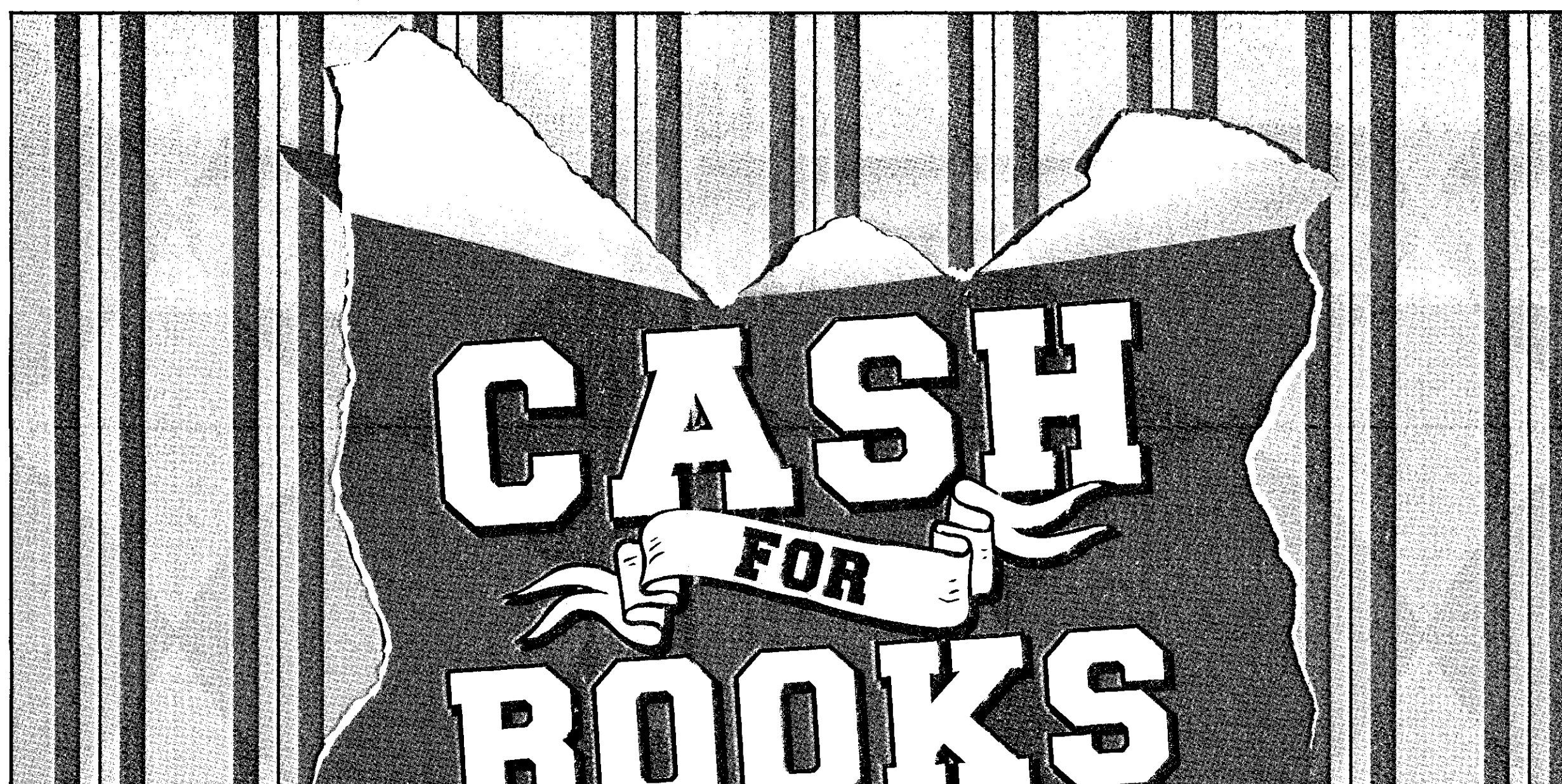
Nancy Lopez, undecided major, shared that her favorite piece had to be “Woodless Birds Eye View.”

“It was just fascinating how the view of the bird was actually captured,” Lopez said.

Linda Montelongo, undecided major, thought otherwise.

“I really liked the painting ‘No more blue songs,’ it just looked so real,” Montelongo said.

The Faculty art exhibition will be on display now through Jan. 21 for all Cerritos College students to enjoy.



Vampire Classics

Best
of
the
Best



Interview with a Vampire (1994)

Hollywood hottie Brad Pitt takes us into his life full of love, betrayal, loneliness, and the endless hunger.

Tom Cruise comes into Pitt's life and gives him the gift of eternal life.



The Lost Boys (1987)

Jason Patric and Corey Haim are two brothers who are convinced that their neighborhood is full of vampires.

They sleep during the day and party at night.



From Dusk Till Dawn (1996)

George Clooney shooting up vampires in a Mexican strip club, enough said?

Well, one of the vampires is none other than Salma Hayek.



Dracula: Dead and Loving (1995)

Leslie Nielsen and Mel Brooks team up to create a very funny spoof of the classic Dracula.



Blood: The Last Vampire (2000)

Saya, an undercover demon destroyer, is sent to a mission just before Halloween.

She soon discovers two of her friends are vampires planning a vicious attack.

Sexiest

Comedy

Anime

'Twilight': Good or bad?



IVETTE GRACIA
Staff Writer
igracia@talonmarks.com

Many film adaptations of novels usually do not live up to readers' expectations. But "Twilight" is definitely one worth watching.

"Twilight," starring Kristen Stewart ("The Strangers") and Robert Pattinson ("Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix") pierced its audience with action and romance.

Pattinson perfectly portrayed the many mood changes in Edward's facial expressions and his voice flawlessly emphasized the passion in Edward's every word.

While "Twilight" was modernized a bit in order to appeal to its audience, it still followed true to the original plot from the novel, with the exception of a disappointing ending.

The end should have been left as it was in the novel.

Many film adaptations of novels usually do not live up to readers' expectations but "Twilight" is definitely one worth watching.

GUSTAVO RANGEL
Staff Writer
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"Twilight" wasn't the movie everyone claimed it to be, and for many reasons, the first one being that the storyline was one that was used to many times.

The cinematography was poor, and so was the make up on the so-called "vampires" as well as the special effects.

With the amount of money this movie had in its budget, it should have had better actors, like one that didn't die in "Harry Potter."

Another book has been destroyed by its movie counter-part. Also many vampire movies leave this in the dust.

The biggest failure of this movie is the fight scene; it was too short and not entertaining.

For two vampires fighting over a girl I thought this would have a lot of bloodshed, but I was mistaken.

With the amount of money this movie had in its budget, it should have had better actors, like one that didn't die in "Harry Potter."

The Best Performances



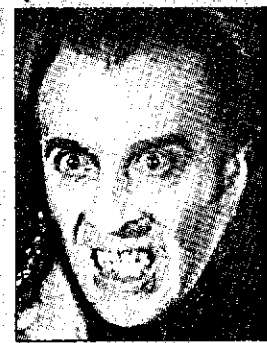
Wesley Snipes

He took what was usually a very still creature and made it cool as hell.



Bela Lugosi

He's the almighty classic Dracula. No one could top the legacy Lugosi has built.



Christopher Lee

Just look at him. He's a perfect vampire when he's not trying to be.



Count Chocula

He's the first vampire to ever make it onto a cereal box. He gets props for that!



Bill Nighy

In "Underworld" he started dead and grew to rule the Death Dealers and gave a vibe of pure power.

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Men, women win state title

Cerritos College women's soccer team wins back-to-back state title in overtime.

RICK GOMEZ
Online Community Editor
onlinecomm@talonmarks.com

Forward Elba Menjivar's goal, in the 68th, minute brought life back into the struggling Cerritos College women's soccer team against Santa Clara after trailing, 2-1, Sunday afternoon.

But it was midfielder Corina Villegas' two goals in overtime to complete a hat trick and lead the Falcons to a 4-2 victory and a back-to-back state championship title.

"[Corina] is amazing. She put this team on her shoulders," said head coach Ruben Gonzalez.

The Falcons played without leading scorer Monique Cisneros forcing Gonzalez to adjust the lineup and move Villegas to forward.

The Falcons struck first with an early lead when Villegas scored in the 9th minute.

Forward Niki Poole of the Bear Cubs answered back in the 19th minute ending the first half in a 1-1 tie.

"The first goal was a matter of lack of communication," defender Tara Corcoran said. "I think for a second we put our heads down."

In the first half, Falcons looked confused and out of rhythm, something they were not used to.

Prior to the state final, the Falcons have kept teams scoreless in



Spinning away: Forward Corina Villegas splits two Santa Rosa defenders on her way to scoring one of three goals.

SCOTT WATKINS/TM

the last six games.

"They played three forwards. We had to adjust at halftime," Gonzalez said.

In the 2nd half, problems continued when Santa Rosa scored and took the lead in the 55th minute.

It was the first time Falcons trailed since playing Mt. San Antonio back on Oct. 17.

Menjivar scored in the 68th minute off a throw-in pass from forward

Desiree Cardenas sending the game into overtime.

After scoring the first goal, Bear Cubs began double teaming Villegas effectively, limiting touches and opportunities for Villegas and the Falcons.

"It was frustrating," Villegas said. "I had to keep it up."

In overtime, Villegas capitalized on two counter attacks scoring both in the first period of overtime.

"I knew the whole team was depending on me," Villegas said.

The two goals from Villegas were enough to secure a victory over the Bear Cubs.

Villegas was named state tournament MVP scoring four goals in the tournament.

The Falcons finished the regular season ranked No. 1 in country and should win the title after winning the state title.

Cerritos College men's soccer team defeats Mt. SAC, 1-0, to win second title in three years.

SCOTT WATKINS
Online Editor
online@talonmarks.com

Forward Luis Gonzalez scored the only goal of the game to lead the Cerritos College men's soccer team to its 1-0 victory over rival Mt. SAC to win the state title for the second time in the last three years, Sunday afternoon at College of the Canyons.

"Mt. SAC prepared us for the playoffs," head coach Benny Artiaga said. "The Mounties pressured us for four games this season and playing them made us a better team."

Gonzalez led the Falcons with led the team in goals throughout the season and that continued in the playoffs.

He was awarded the MVP of the tournament after the game.

"Cerritos is lucky to have a player like Gonzalez, he might be one of the best players in the country," Artiaga said.

The Falcons were ranked No. 13 in the nation according to final regular season polls, but they feel confident that they still can win the national title.

"I like our chances of winning the national title this season," Artiaga said.

On the goal, Gonzalez kicked the ball across the front of the net and appeared to be going in when

Mt. SAC defender George Gonzalez slid to keep the ball out but instead inadvertently kick the ball into his own net.

The game was back-and-forth and very physical without very many fouls being called.

"When you play a team four times in a season, a resentment builds up and games seem to get more physical," Artiaga said. "But, we still have a lot respect for the Mounties."

The Falcons finished the season with record of 24-4-1 and won the South Coast Conference.

They were ranked No. 2 in Southern California for the playoffs and Mt. SAC was ranked No. 1 in Southern California.

"We play in the toughest conference in the nation and this game proved why," Artiaga said.

Mt. SAC finished the season in second in the South Coast Conference with an overall record of 19-5-3.



RICK GOMEZ/TM

Embracing the MVP award: Forward Luis Gonzalez (R) gives head coach Benny Artiaga (L) a hug after named the MVP of the state tournament

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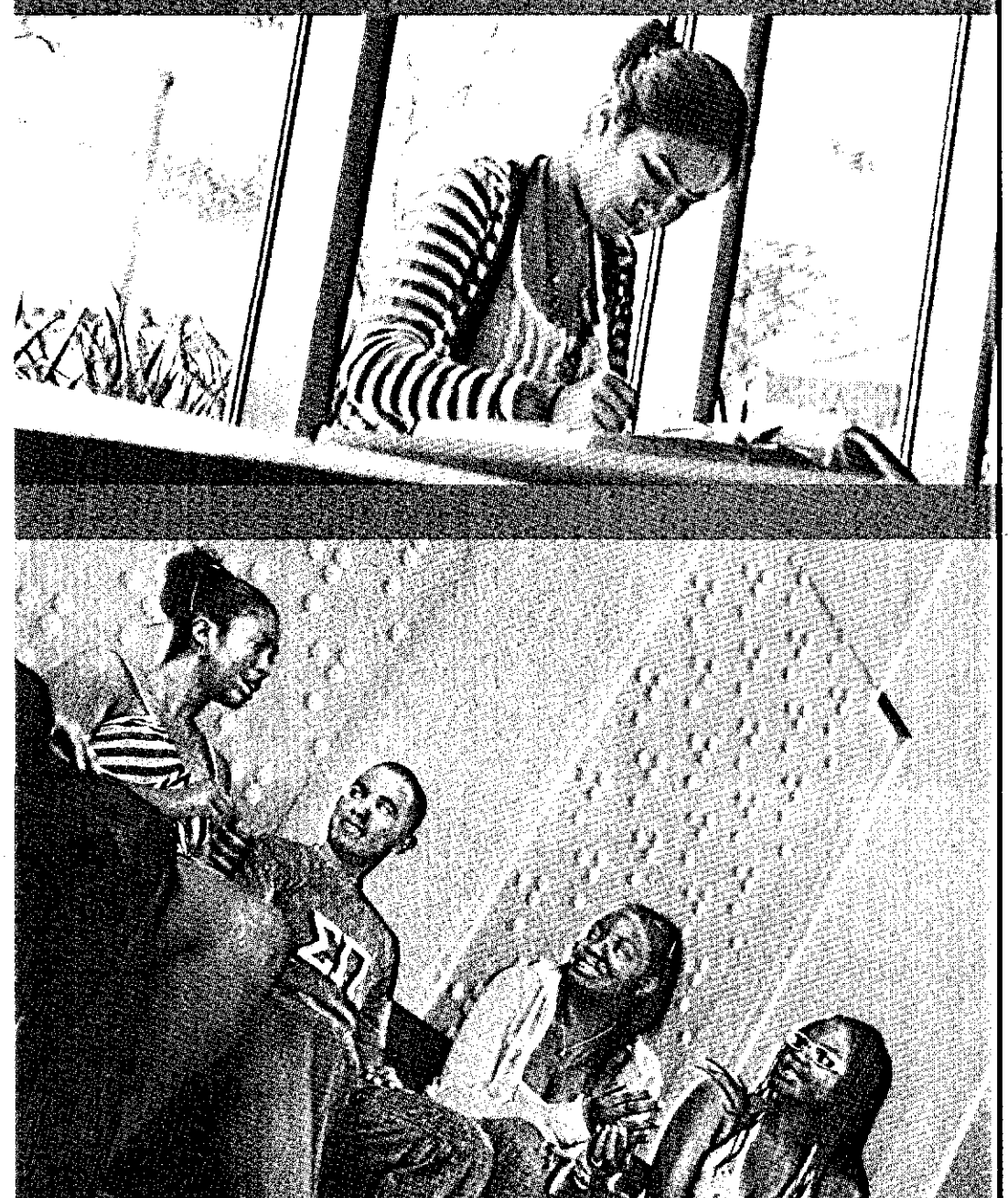
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8 - SPORTS

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2008: The year of champions



Top: Women's water polo Goalie Miranda Bakke attempts to block a shot during the Falcon's championship season.

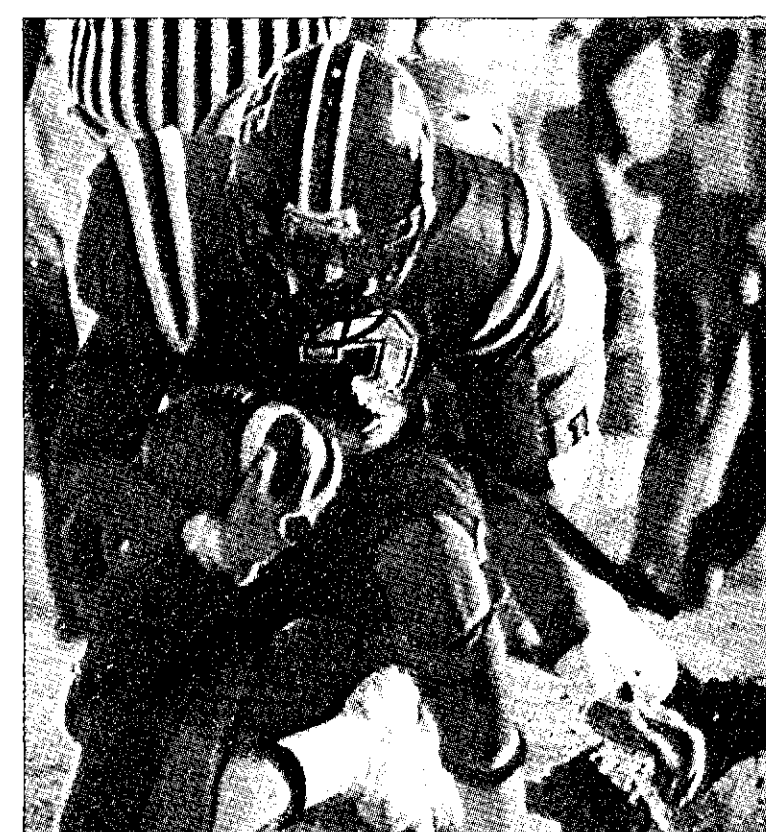
Upper left: Men's soccer Forward Michael Paz head the ball toward the net during a Second round match against Riverside College.

Upper right: Football Wide receiver Sheldon Smith Stretches for the first down in the Falcons loss to Palomar College 38-88, in the Golden Empire Bowl.

Bottom left: Women's Soccer Forward Monique Cisneros tries to get past a Pierce College defender during the state playoffs.

Bottom right: Wrestling 184-pound Caleb Gerl takes down his opponent from Mt. SAC.

PHOTOS BY RICK GOMEZ AND SCOTT WATKINS/TM



Three state titles and the possibility of two national championships highlight the Fall 2008 Season.

Women's water polo

The women's water polo team finished the regular season on way to winning its first state championship.

In the playoffs the Falcons lost to Long Beach in the Southern California regional but still advanced through to play Long Beach again in the finals for the state title.

They also had one of their coaches, Brenda Villa play in the Olympics and help the United States win a silver medal.

Women's Soccer

The women's soccer team went undefeated this season and won its second straight state title.

After finishing last season ranked No. 2 in the nation the Falcons finished this season undefeated and have a good chance of winning the nation title that will be announced next Tuesday.

Forward Monique Cisneros, who broke the single season goal record that was previously held by teammate Corina Villegas, with 36 goals this season.

The women's soccer finished the season 22-0-4 and was ranked No. 1 in the

country the entire season.

Men's soccer

The men's soccer team won the state title for the second time in three years and won the South Coast Conference.

The Falcons won the South Coast Conference and finished with an overall record of 22-4-1.

Forward Luis Gonzalez led the team with 24 goals and was named South Coast Conference Player of the Year and MVP of the state tournament.

Football

The football team finished the season 7-4 and was one yard short of winning the National Division Central Conference.

The Falcons got their first bowl bid since 2003 and lost 38-33 to Palomar College in the Golden Empire Bowl.

Wrestling

The wrestling team finished in second in the Southern California regional tournament with two wrestlers winning their weight class, Caleb Gerl, 184-pound weight class, and 285-pounder Juan Enriquez.

The Falcons finished in second in the South Coast Conference with a record of 10-2 overall and 4-1 in conference play.

They will send seven wrestlers to the state championship that will be held Friday and Saturday at Victor Valley College.

Women's Cross Country

The women's cross-country team finished fifth in the state finals with its best finisher being Sarah Muniz finishing in 21st.

The Falcons won the South Coast Conference for the third time in five years.

Men's Cross Country

The men's cross-country team finished in third in the South Coast Conference and 11th in at the state meet.

Geovanni Popoca finished 42nd and was the Falcons best finisher in the state tournament.



Women's water polo wins historic title

Women's water polo post season awards

South Coast Conference Coach of the Year
Sergio Macias

South Coast Conference Player of the Year
Stephanie Rosero

1st Team All-South Coast Conference
Natalie Peng
Yvonne Ruvalcaba
Adrianna Rodriguez
Karen Aguirre

2nd Team All-South Coast Conference
Denise Vega
Hannah Llamas

Honorable Mention All-South Coast Conference
Miranda Bakke
Source: www.cerritos.edu



SCOTT WATKINS/TM

State Champs: Attacker Andrea Garcia looks for a teammate to pass the ball to during one of the women's water polo team's victories in its state championship season.

RICK GOMFZ
Online Community Editor
onlinecomm@talonmarks.com

season was to win a state title. We wanted to surpass last year's accomplishment."

There is a first time for everything and head coach Sergio Macias proved it by taking the women's water polo team to its first state championship title in Cerritos College history.

"It's a big accomplishment. Our goal from the very beginning of the

side College.

Riverside jumped to an early 7-2 lead but Cerritos closed the gap by halftime only trailing 9-7.

The No. 2 ranked Falcons capped off a 31-3 season with a win over cross-town rivals, Long Beach City Vikings in the final, 11-6.

On its quest for the state title, Cerritos defeated American River College, 8-4, and came back from a large deficit to defeat the top seeded defending state champion, River-

side College.

In the championship game, both Cerritos and Long Beach looked evenly matched before utility Denise Vega broke a 3-3 tie in the sec-

ond quarter.

The Falcons offensive attack continued to result in a 11-6 victory over the Vikings.

"Not only did we beat our cross-town rivals, we beat the defending state champions and we were able to fight back when we were down against (Riverside)," Macias said.

The Falcons went undefeated in conference play and set a school record of 22 wins in a row.

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MS Excel 2007 for Windows (Ticket #23945) BCOT 113 (Traditional) Tues/Thurs 5 - 7 p.m. BE 14	Microsoft OneNote (Ticket #23628) BCOT 95 (Online) Orientation: Mon., Mar. 16 4:00 p.m. BE 14
15-week classes Feb. 2 - May 22	Microsoft Outlook Core (Ticket #22052) BCOT 97 (Online) Orientation: Tues, Mar. 17 5:30 p.m. BE 14
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1st 9-week classes Jan. 12 - March 13	Teacher Information Prof. Sandra E. Elizondo Email: selizondo@cerritos.edu Website: TalonNet or www.cerritos.edu/selizondo
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Yvonne Ruvalcaba	65
Adriana Rodriguez	60

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Miranda Bakke	133
Mandy Perez	86

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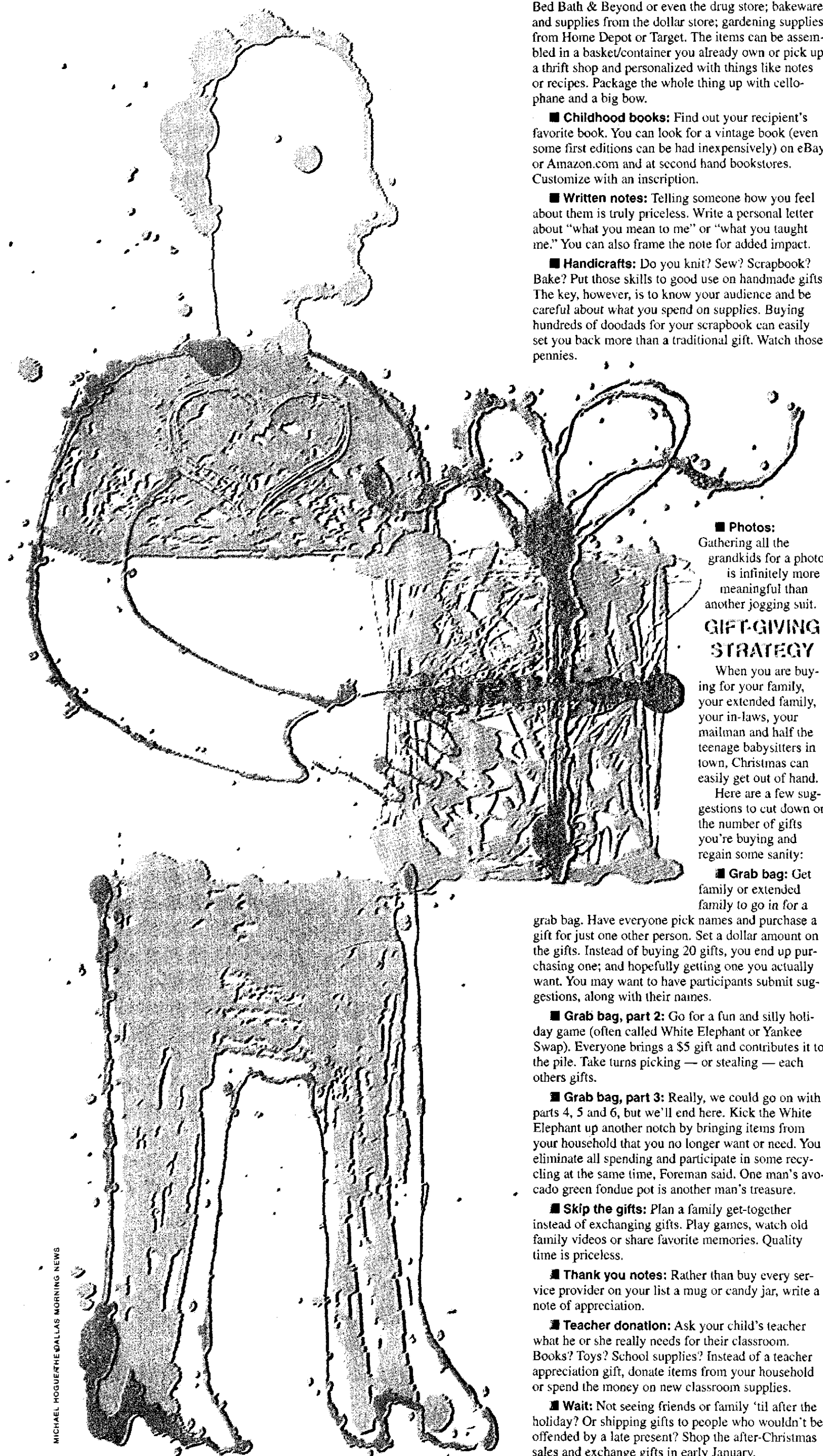
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Thrifty holiday

Uncertain economic times are a reminder that the best gifts come from the heart, not the wallet

By Wendy Zang, McClatchy-Tribune



Unemployment is up; our 401(k)s are down. Banks are looking for bailouts, and homeowners are trying to avoid foreclosure. It is certainly not the holiday season to be stringing garlands of \$100 bills up your staircase.

But that doesn't mean you have to cancel Christmas. It is possible to celebrate without conspicuous consumption.

We've talked to frugality experts to bring you a guide to having a thrifter — but still wonderful — holiday season.

THOUGHTFUL GIFT GIVING

While less cash for gifts can seem like a major holiday downer, spending cutbacks can be an opportunity to re-examine the meaning of the holidays.

"When we don't have the money to spend, we're forced to focus," said Gary Foreman of TheDollarStretcher.com. It's a time to look at the quality of the gifts we're giving, not just the quantity. And giving quality gifts requires some pre-planning.

Sharon Harvey Rosenberg, "The Frugal Duchess," suggests taking an inventory of the folks on your gift list before you start shopping: Who are they? What do they like? What do they need? The results can be very thoughtful, meaningful gifts that don't necessarily cost a thing.

Here are a few suggestions for thoughtful gifts:

■ **Gift baskets:** Customize a basket to your recipient's interest. Home-assembled baskets can cost as little as \$10 to \$15 (compared to pre-assembled baskets running \$50 and up). A few theme examples: Spa items from the discount racks at Marshall's, TJ Maxx, Bed Bath & Beyond or even the drug store; bakeware and supplies from the dollar store; gardening supplies from Home Depot or Target. The items can be assembled in a basket/container you already own or pick up a thrift shop and personalized with things like notes or recipes. Package the whole thing up with cellophane and a big bow.

■ **Childhood books:** Find out your recipient's favorite book. You can look for a vintage book (even some first editions can be had inexpensively) on eBay or Amazon.com and at second hand bookstores. Customize with an inscription.

■ **Written notes:** Telling someone how you feel about them is truly priceless. Write a personal letter about "what you mean to me" or "what you taught me." You can also frame the note for added impact.

■ **Handicrafts:** Do you knit? Sew? Scrapbook? Bake? Put those skills to good use on handmade gifts. The key, however, is to know your audience and be careful about what you spend on supplies. Buying hundreds of doodads for your scrapbook can easily set you back more than a traditional gift. Watch those pennies.

■ **Photos:** Gathering all the grandkids for a photo is infinitely more meaningful than another jogging suit.

GIFT-GIVING STRATEGY

When you are buying for your family, your extended family, your in-laws, your mailman and half the teenage babysitters in town, Christmas can easily get out of hand.

Here are a few suggestions to cut down on the number of gifts you're buying and regain some sanity:

■ **Grab bag:** Get family or extended family to go in for a

grab bag. Have everyone pick names and purchase a gift for just one other person. Set a dollar amount on the gifts. Instead of buying 20 gifts, you end up purchasing one; and hopefully getting one you actually want. You may want to have participants submit suggestions, along with their names.

■ **Grab bag, part 2:** Go for a fun and silly holiday game (often called White Elephant or Yankee Swap). Everyone brings a \$5 gift and contributes it to the pile. Take turns picking — or stealing — each others gifts.

■ **Grab bag, part 3:** Really, we could go on with parts 4, 5 and 6, but we'll end here. Kick the White Elephant up another notch by bringing items from your household that you no longer want or need. You eliminate all spending and participate in some recycling at the same time, Foreman said. One man's avocado green fondue pot is another man's treasure.

■ **Skip the gifts:** Plan a family get-together instead of exchanging gifts. Play games, watch old family videos or share favorite memories. Quality time is priceless.

■ **Thank you notes:** Rather than buy every service provider on your list a mug or candy jar, write a note of appreciation.

■ **Teacher donation:** Ask your child's teacher what he or she really needs for their classroom. Books? Toys? School supplies? Instead of a teacher appreciation gift, donate items from your household or spend the money on new classroom supplies.

■ **Wait:** Not seeing friends or family 'til after the holiday? Or shipping gifts to people who wouldn't be offended by a late present? Shop the after-Christmas sales and exchange gifts in early January.

FOR THE KIDS

Cutting back on gifts for the kids is undoubtedly the toughest part of having a thrifter holiday. But there is a chance to turn the holidays into a learning experience, and at the same time cut out the excess of the season.

Some strategies for buying for the kiddos:

■ **Focus on one big gift a child really wants.** Cut out some of the little extra gifts that, often, are just there to put more bulk under the tree.

■ **Get your kids to create a list and prioritize what they'd like.** And, make sure they know that they can't get everything they want. "That's a great present for any parent to give," Harvey Rosenberg said.

■ **Consider used toys or games.** Video games especially offer an opportunity for buying used. Stores like EB Games and Game Stop even offer exchange programs where you can trade in old games.

■ **Get your entire family involved in a charitable cause this holiday season.** It's a great opportunity to teach your children compassion, said Nikki Willhite of www.allthingsfrugal.com. Activities can range from cleaning out old toys and clothes to donate to charity to volunteering time at a soup kitchen.

■ **Focus your energy on spending quality time together, instead of shopping for carfuls of gifts.** Look for free holiday events listed in your local paper. Enjoy special time together as a family.

ENTERTAINING

What are the holidays without a party or a big family meal? But the cost of entertaining can be astronomical. A fancy cut of meat; fresh, organic vegetables; the right centerpiece; several bottles of high-end wine — it adds up quickly. But there are ways to cut back, without being a complete party pooper!

■ **Don't be ashamed to take people up on their "What can I bring?" offer,** said Foreman, of TheDollarStretcher.com. An appetizer is always more welcome than a hostess gift that will get shoved to the back of your closet. Plus, it makes guests feel like they're contributing! So, when they ask, be ready with some simple requests — an appetizer, bread, a salad, wine, etc.

■ **Take the "What can I bring" plan to the next level and host a potluck instead.** It's a great way to get people involved, and taste lots of interesting dishes. One tip: Find out what people are bringing to avoid having five green bean casseroles and no desserts.

■ **Skip the expensive cut of meat.** Give up on the standing rib roast. There are lots of tasty, cheaper options. Have a pasta party, or go with soup and sandwiches as a centerpiece.

■ **Have what Harvey Rosenberg calls an "art gallery party."** Serve finger foods or desserts only, plus cocktails (just like they do at gallery openings), but no main course. The key is having it a time when people are not expecting a meal. Harvey Rosenberg suggests mid-afternoon between 2 and 5:30 p.m. or post-dinner between 8 p.m. and midnight, and making it clear on invitations ("Join us for coffee and dessert," for example).

DECORATING

"Deck the halls with boughs of holly" may just be the best frugal decorating advice yet — especially if you cut those holly boughs from your own backyard! Here are some more tips to help you make your home a seasonal showplace without breaking the bank:

■ **Keep it simple.** Use what you already have and supplement with fresh greens from your yard. Go for elegance, not excess. "Excess is out," Harvey Rosenberg said.

■ **Decorate with flowers.** Buy flowers from wholesalers or plants from big garden stores like Home Depot.

■ **Turn decorating into an event.** Host a tree-trimming party for family and friends.

■ **Shop the dollar store.** You'll be amazed at what you can find. Even inexpensive children's toys arranged in a glass bowl can be a festive centerpiece.

■ **Hang your presents.** Take down your photos and wrap them up like gifts. Rehang them as holiday wall decorations.

■ **Utilize Christmas cards.** Save those favorite cards and display them. Frame them, hang them on strips, put them under the glass of a table. Willhite, of www.allthingsfrugal.com, also suggests using old cards to make gift tags, postcards and tree ornaments.

■ **Ask for décor gifts.** Put ornaments, candles or other holiday décor on your Christmas list. It's amazing how quickly one or two items received a year will add up.

MORE TIPS

■ **Send your holiday cards late.** Clip off the front page of the cards you receive and use them as holiday postcards (just be careful who you're sending them to). Alternately, keep this year's card fronts and use them next year.

■ **Make use of the Internet for comparison shopping.** Even if you decide to purchase in person, you can cut down on the time and gas it takes to go shopping.

■ **Think about 2009.** Hit the stores Dec. 26 and buy cards, décor and even gifts for next year.

■ **Stop and reflect.** It's time to remind yourself, and others, of the true meaning of the season. And that costs nothing.