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Editorial Page 4

Online Exclusives

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 - Book review: "The Last Song"
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Volleyball team
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Sports Page 6

TALON MARKS

CERRITOS COLLEGE

WEDNESDAY September 30, 2009

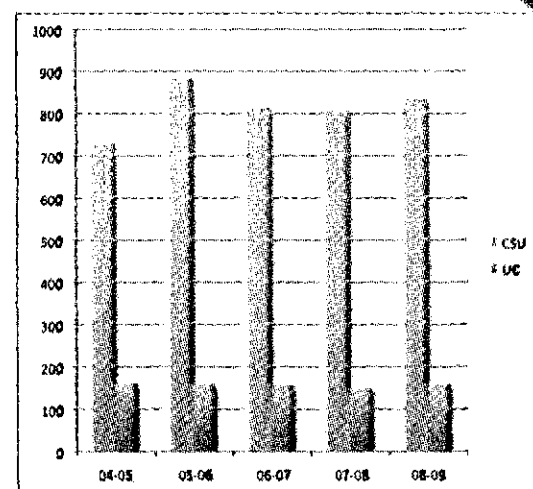
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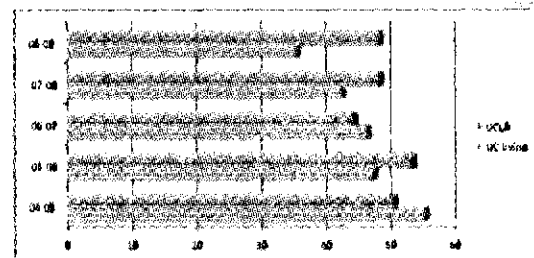
Volume 54, No. 5



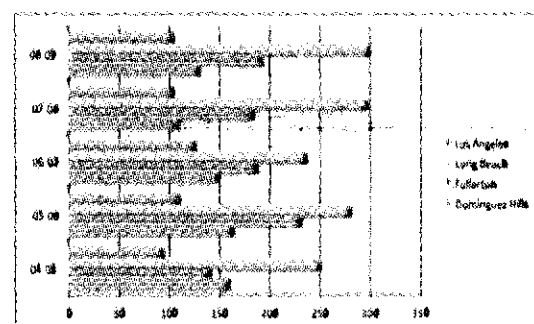
A comparison between UC and CSU transfers



Top UC transfers



Top CSU transfers



Transfers in jeopardy

Source: www.cpec.ca.gov

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY RICK GOMEZ

Potential decrease in transfers on horizon

One of the biggest concerns is that CSUs and UCs are no longer accepting applications for spring semester.

JOEY BERUMEN
Staff Writer

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With the omnipresent budget cuts, students at Cerritos College have yet another concern to deal with, the issue of transferring.

In the past four years, the California Community Colleges have seen a 15.9 percent head count increase.

Already with a record of 2,913,735 students in the California Community College system, these numbers are still predicted to go up even further.

"It is difficult to distinguish where the students are coming from. Are they displaced UC and CSU students? Are they employees who were laid off from their jobs? This is still an issue that is definitely unknown," said Alice van Ommeren, Information Systems & Analysis Specialist for the California Community Colleges.

During a time when students are flocking to Cerritos College, it is difficult to ascertain how exactly a malnourished program expects to respond to this emerging need.

This fall semester, Cerritos College has reduced its fall course offerings by 20 percent compared to the same time last year.

This could emerge as a problem that will continue to leave Cerritos College overcrowded and students jockey-

ing for classes.

With fewer courses offered, it is more difficult than ever to get into the classes that have the highest demand for those required to take them in order to transfer.

With a record number of students attempting to transfer to a four-year university, the budget cuts are making it difficult for many to find a place to transfer to.

One of the biggest concerns is that the CSU and UC systems are no longer accepting spring transfers, even though only a handful of UC schools have ever accepted spring transfers.

This is the first time many can ever remember CSUs doing so. This is leaving many concerned about their future and unsure exactly where to go for help.

See Transfers Page 2

Child development takes new approach inspired from Italy

Italian consultant plans to arrive at Cerritos to train teachers in child development.

Megan Winters
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Debra Ward, director of the Child Development Center, is making plans with the

Italian consultant at Scuole e nidi d'Infanzia Istituzione del Comune di Reggio Emilia to come to Cerritos College to train with students and teachers in child development.

Ward, along with eight other child development instructors and four student teachers, took a trip last year in March to Reggio Emilia, Italy to explore and research the city and her teaching technique to young children.

Reggio Emilia has obtained an astound-

ing 95 percent in preschool care, whether municipal, national or private to children between three and six.

The people of Reggio Emilia focus on both education and care for the young. Providing high quality, full-day experiences is considered fundamental.

"We went out and learned about the community of Reggio and how it is essential to the children. Learning about and engaging children in their community was one of

the strategies they used," Ward said.

Taking the children around the campus has been an exercise teachers have used so the children become more aware of their surrounding.

The staff at the Child Development Center for the past two years has been studying a different approach to teaching children and was inspired by Reggio Emilia.

See Child development Page 2

Mentoring Day to hit Cerritos in October

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A chance to explore career opportunities and get personalized guidance will be given to a group of Disabled Student Programs and Service students from Cerritos College.

The DSP&S at Cerritos College will be taking around 15 students to the 2009 Mentoring Day for the second time on Oct. 21.

The event will be held at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles, and is a joint venture of the Disability Rights Legal Center, the City of Los Angeles' Department on Disability, and the American Association of People with Disabilities.

Aurora Segura, DSP&S counselor at Cerritos College, said that the students will be able to attend the event without any fees as Loyola Law School will cover all expenses, and Cerritos College will also be providing transportation service free of charge to its students.

DSP&S students from various colleges and universities will meet at Loyola, and then matched with their respective mentors for a day of direct career counseling and a hands-on learning experience.

"The mentors that attend the event are from everywhere," Segura explained, "and include lawyers, teachers, business owners and so on."

"Students will spend the day visiting sites that relate to their area of interest with their mentors. For instance, a student at last year's Mentoring Day was able to visit the Boeing company site in Los Angeles to learn more about the airplane industry," she said.

Don Garriott, DSP&S specialist at Cerritos, said that the event will help students to decide their career and get valuable advice from the mentors they meet at the event.

He also commented on the enthusiastic response of the students who attended the event last year, and also hopes to see the same this time around.

"It is not difficult to have students sign up for this event. The students who went last year had a lovely experience, and some even kept in contact with their mentors," he said.

He further said, "I think it helps our students to have a real world experience and a practical approach toward their career goals."

Students who are interested in attending the Mentoring Day need to attend any of the three preparation workshops held at the Instructional Support Center.

The first workshop was held on Sept. 28, and the next two will be held on Oct. 15 from noon to 1 p.m. and Oct. 19 from 11 a.m. to noon.



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Cabinet meeting in session: ASCC President Oscar Franco elaborates on future plans for Cerritos College at the last Cabinet meeting.

TIM DICKERSON/TM

ASCC looks for club involvement

The ASCC will be involving campus superiors by inviting them to more senate meetings

JESUS RUIZ
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"We are planning to update the (Cerritos.edu) with club information and e-mail accounts.

"We want to update club information on the Cerritos site with page links to club sites, club roster, and where and when clubs meet."

These are the words that Oscar Franco, ASCC president, spoke at the meeting.

The ASCC Cabinet meeting was focused on helping itself first to be able to provide more to those who need assistance.

Holly Bogdanovich, director of Student Activities, had the same focus as Franco when she introduced the scavenger hunt, which is part of helping students help other students.

"The scavenger hunt is a way to get to know our campus a more, talk with different departments."

"Get out there and go to areas you might not otherwise know and introduce yourself and look for answers with people and to get to meet new people and to get to new areas to see what they

offer."

Advising both the students and their peers on campus was part of what the cabinet is interested in doing by introducing upcoming events that aren't only just fun, but essential events that can help benefit students with better opportunities.

The events that can benefit students are those that students could be looking for.

One of these events is the job fair that will be held Oct. 6 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the quad area.

Another of these events is the being the University Mega Fair on Oct. 14 during the day and evening in the quad area as well, where you can ask questions about the universities majors and transfer information and more.

The ASCC also plans to involve itself with the campus superiors by inviting people such as Cerritos College President Linda Lacy and Faculty Senate President Debra Moore to some of its meetings with the Senate.

Bogdanovich also advised at the meeting about people leaving their backpacks and personal belongings unattended even if they may seem secure, due to recent thefts on campus.

Other than this, the cabinet is focused on the announcing that the ICC meeting will be held on the Oct. 1.

Also, for those clubs that still seek to get a float, the 20 that were available are now all gone.

For the women who running for Homecoming, they are reminded that their photos will need to be taken.

Homecoming Court Elections will be held Oct. 7 and 8 at 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Food Court patio, Social Science patio, and Health Science pathway.

In the closing announcements, the weekend pre-game reception being held on Oct. 3 will be held from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the Student Center.

Also, the cabinet is reaching out to students to help contribute some type of donation such as food or clothe to victims of the Typhoon Ketsana, which hit the Philippines on Oct. 27.

The Pilipino Club will be setting up donation boxes at the Student Center, or you can provide these donations to the Pilipino Club as well.

"
The scavenger hunt is a way to get to know our campus more, talk with different departments. Get out there and go to areas you might not otherwise know and introduce yourself...
"

— Holly Bogdanovich
Director of Student Activities

Transfers: Help is available to students in the transfer center

Continued from Page 1

"It's ridiculous that when a student has their stuff done and ready to transfer, that they have to wait, it's frustrating," said Olga Olas, criminology major.

One of the ways the faculty is disseminating useful information is through the transfer center that has the most updated resources on student transfer issues.

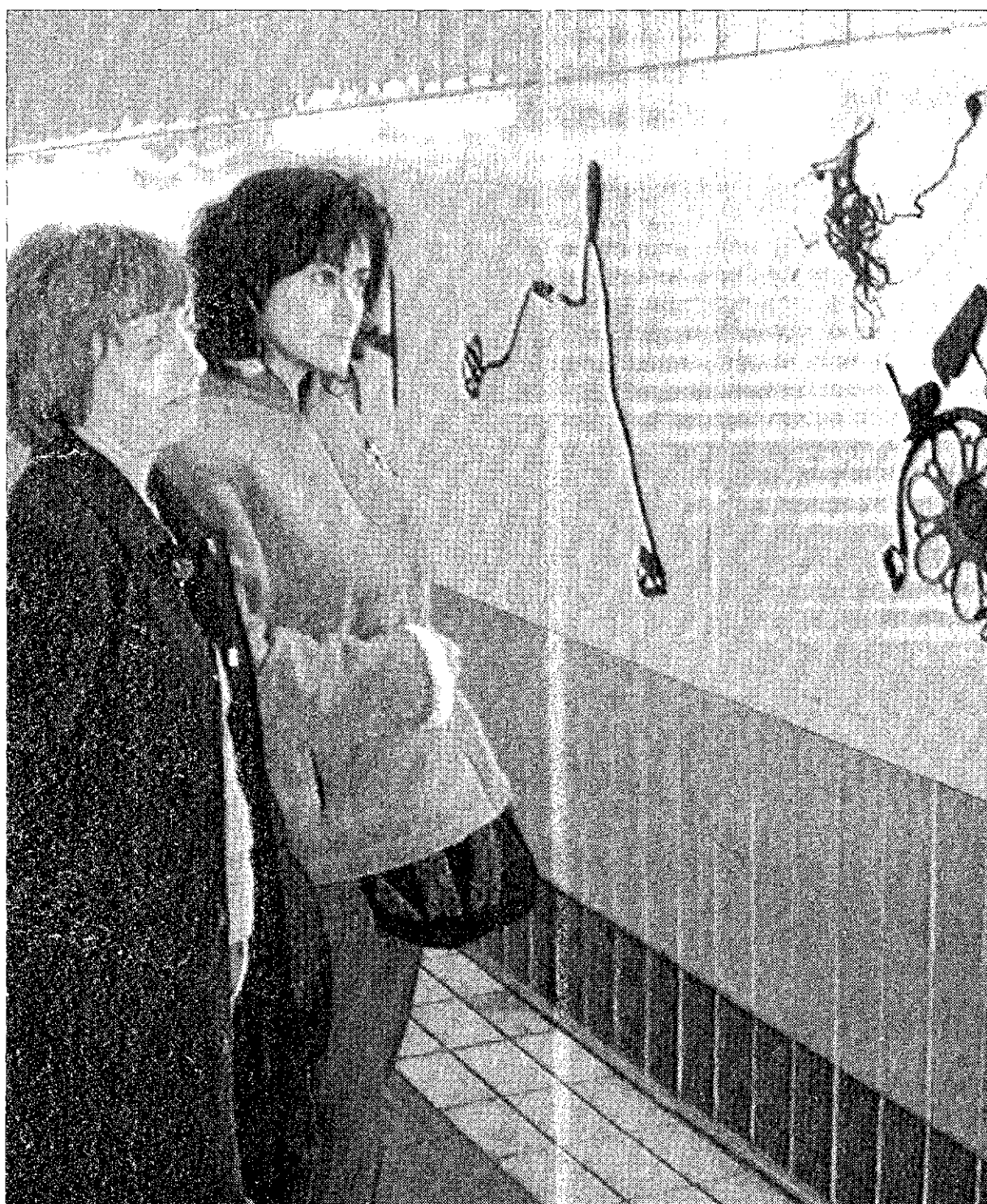
It even offers tours of local UC and CSU campuses and very helpful counselors.

"I think that students, with the help of counselors, will need to adjust the way they approach transfer and long term planning.

"We will all need to be flexible and understand that during these tight budget times we will need to plan for fall transfer and consider winter/spring as a remote possibility if the university decides to open its doors," said Brittany Lundeen Counselor/Transfer Center co-director.

Through all the uncertainty, Cerritos College faculty is staying dedicated to help give students every opportunity to succeed.

"We offer specialized supportive services, geared to meet the individual students' needs. We offer many workshops and services to make the transition easier for students," said Renee De Long Chomiak, dean of Counseling Services.



Reggio Emilia: Susan Gradin and Rosa Sanchez observe and discuss documentation of child development techniques in Reggio Emilia, Italy.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DEBRA WARD

EOPS introduces services to students

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"I love Cerritos College, it is my favorite out of all the JCs and I love sending kids here," shared Walter Tubbs representative for the LA County Probation Departments Independent Living Program at the LINC luncheon in the student center.

On Tuesday, September 29 representatives from each of the various offices that make up the Extended Opportunity Programs and Services gave brief presentations on what service they provide and the importance of seeking their assistance in order to achieve student success and a transfer rate higher than the current two percent amongst current EOPS students.

"Take the time to check out all the services available" said Rose Vasquez program assistant for the Career in the career services center which is made up of the Assessment center, Student employment, the Re entry services program and the Cal Works program

The event which was attended by approximately 50 people and made up of both students and staff contained not only information on how to access the many programs

but also first hand accounts from individuals who have benefited from things like Independent Living Program and the Disabled Student Programs and Services.

Steven Johnson vice president of student services spoke on the importance of using the services available to us and also mentioned that despite the current budget issues the administration is prepared to make sure that the school can provide these programs.

Carmen Huertas who works for the Los Angeles county office of education helping juveniles with a troubled history redirect themselves said "we get kids who are tired of high school, if you bring them here they'll get their GED" in reference to the services provided through the EOPS office.

The tone was hopeful and excited as everyone shared their personal enthusiasm and motivation for helping students in their pursuit of higher education and vocational training especially to those who are disadvantaged like foster children who many of the EOPS programs serve.

The meeting concluded at 2 p.m. and was ended with a brief networking session between everyone who participated.

Early bird gets the donut

Catch the next donut on November 18 at 7:30 a.m.

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Sugar can sweeten up anybody's day, specially if there's sugar in the morning.

Talk about a sweet start to a sour awakening.

Early Bird is an event put on by the ASCC and as the name states starts early in the morning.

Last Tuesday at 7:30 a.m. students walking by the bookstore

were received by a table full of donuts, orange juice and milk.

ASCC director Dean Ackland has been planning the Early Bird for about 10 years. He explains that the event is "something to connect with morning students as they come to school and leave to work."

Many morning students rush to school and then head out with out a chance to grab something in the morning.

The 12 dozen donuts have always been purchased from the same local store. They are ordered in advance and are picked up right before 7:30 a.m. on Early Bird day.

Early Bird is an event put on at least once a month, and the next one will be on Nov. 18.

Child development: Italian teaching techniques are applied

Continued from Page 1

Being that Cerritos College was established as a laboratory school for students who are seeking an education in child development, the students, formally known as teacher aids are helping out with this process.

Teachers and teacher aids have been working together closely with the children at the center.

They have been observing and looking at what children already know, want to know and need to know.

Investigations of ideas and hypothesis in researching theories has helped further excel the next level for child success.

According to Ward this new philosophy approach has benefited the children as a result of higher assessment testing scores.

This new approach has not only helped Cerritos Child Development Center, but it has also helped surrounding childcare programs in Santa Monica.

Debra Gonzalez, Ateliscista, also known as Art Teacher, was one of the few who attended the trip to Reggio Emilia.

"After coming back from Italy," says Gonzalez, "I rearranged my en-

tire working space."

Working firsthand in Italy gave Gonzalez a better understanding and providing newer techniques to help children use the materials used in visual arts.

In continuing with the Reggio Emilia research, Ward and Gonzalez have also attended a conference in May in Cambridge Massachusetts.

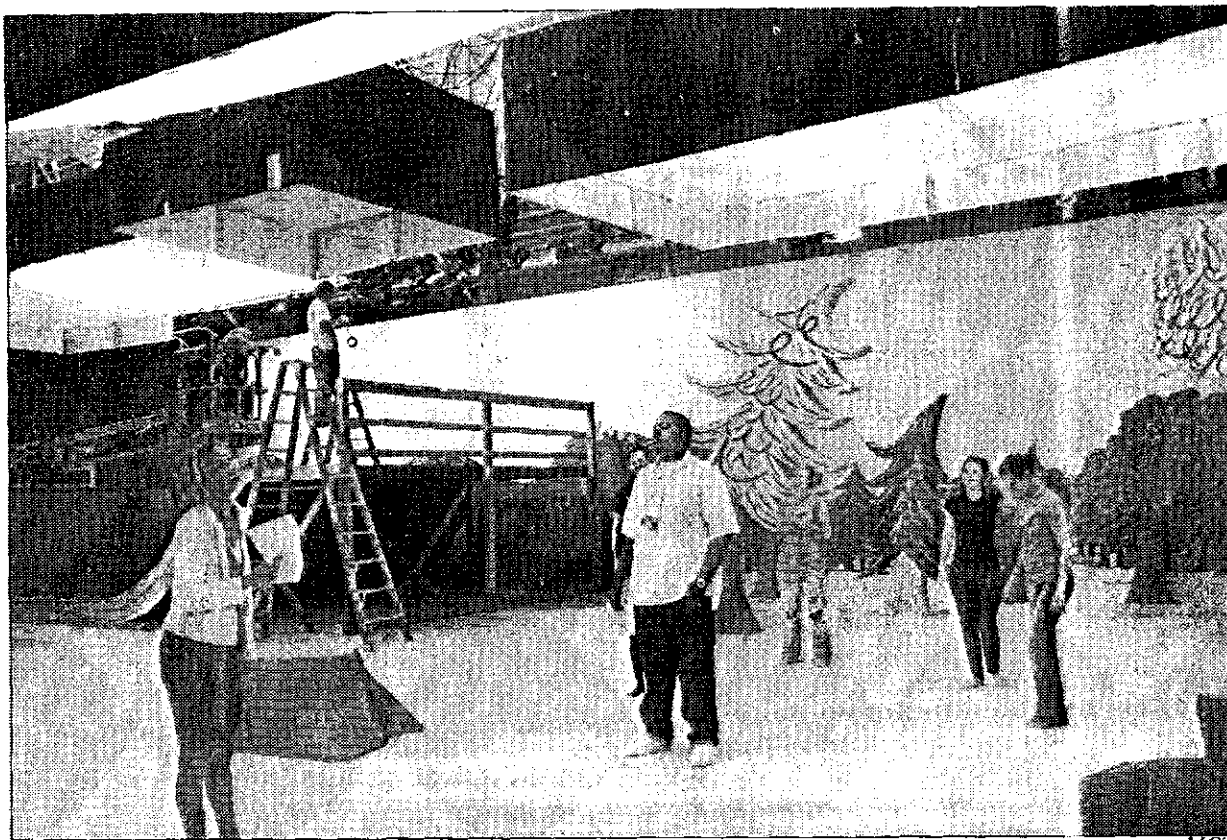
Not only are hopes of having Italian consultant coming to Cerritos in plans for the future, there will also be an exhibit displayed of children and their work who are affiliated with Reggio Emilia in Jan. 2010 to June 2010 in Santa Monica.

With Cerritos Child Development Center always having a good reputation, Ward expresses her thoughts, "It makes me proud that I can work at this center and to continue the legacy as well as enhance what has been established."

Through government grants, Cerritos is required to show on going training, going to Italy satisfied those requirements.

Hope are high in returning back to Reggio Emilia in 2011.

Catch the slideshow for this story online at talonmarks.com



Kingston is royal 'Tomorrow'

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Sean Kingston, the Jamaican American reggae singer, delivers us "Tomorrow," the slick successor to his debut album that brought him fame when he was only 17 years old.

Now two years later, Kingston is back with more to offer with his new albums that reaches different ranges of sound that brings good beats to these estranged ears.

The smooth rhythm of the music just made me want to close my eyes, lay back and listen as well as dance to the beat.

Just listening to the music, you can hear how far this young rising artist has come since his debut, incorporating the reggae fusion of music.

The 19-year-old Kingston demonstrates he knows how to lead the party on the hit single "Fire Burning," the lead single to the amazing album.

The "lead" single from the singer's new album which made its release in April, has already

peaked at No. 5 on the Billboard Hot 100.

No matter how you feel, the album delivers the right feel to any situation.

If you feel in the need get on the dance floor, Kingston delivers "Fire Burning," with its straight up techno dance jam.

If you'd like to just sit down and chill, then my favorite hit of the album "Tomorrow," is the right song for you.

With 14 different tracks to listen to, you will not be disappointed when you head to the stores to buy the new album.

The amazing album is worth buying.

Even if you just want to listen to these amazing beats, it's worth stopping to listen to the album as it explores sounds of electro pop, reggae and pop music, and even a little soft rock in "Shoulda Let Go."

Kingston has created a work of art with help of those involved in the album including the "multi-platinum" musician, Wyclef Jean in "Ice Cream Girl," and the American rock band Good Charlotte in "Shoulda Let

CD Review

Tomorrow

Artist: Sean Kingston
Label: Epic Records
Rating: ★★★★★

Go.

Under the brand of Beluga Heights and Epic Records and the array of producers on board including recent U2 collaborator Fernando Garibay, Kingston separates himself through his sound and delivers music that everyone can appreciate.

You will get a variety of music with just this album, starting off with catchy club tunes like "Fire Burning," but quickly move into a more chilled out.

So either if you're a fan or just new to the music, you may want to take a listen because Kingston has successfully delivered the goods he has to offer a second time around.

I give this album a perfect five stars.

Three Days Grace CD is in its 'Time of Dying'

CD Review

Life Starts Now

Artist: Three Days Grace
Label: Jive
Rating: ★★★★★

GUSTAVO RANGEL
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Three Days Grace released a new CD on Sept. 22 under the title, *Life Starts Now*.

Life Starts Now was released under Jive Records, and is the third studio album from Three Days Grace.

This CD hasn't changed much from its earlier work.

TDG never was one of my favorite bands, but now seeing this new album, I'm glad I never got too into them.

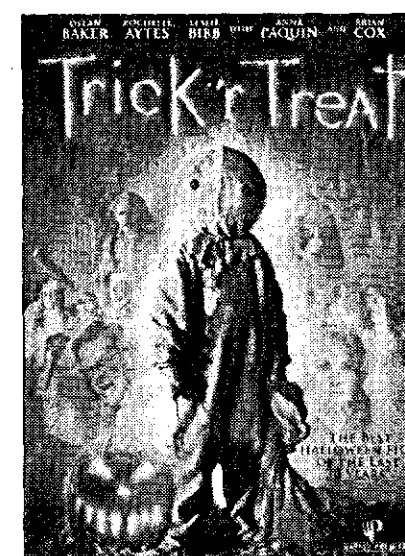
A bit of tweaking with the guitar riffs or drum beats would have been nice, but TDG had to use the same things over and over.

After track 1, the other songs just seem like a waste of time to listen to.

This album has 12 tracks.

- Bitter Taste
- Break
- World So Cold
- Lost In You
- The Good Life
- No More
- Last to Know
- Someone Who Cares
- Bully
- Without You
- Goin' Down
- Life Starts Now

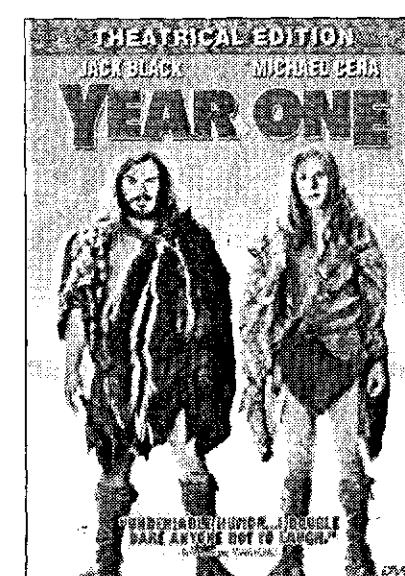
I have to give this CD a one star, sorry Three Days Grace, but consistency isn't always a good thing.



Trick 'r Treat

Release date:
October 6, 2009

Starring: Anna Paquin
Director: Michael Dougherty



Year One

Release date:
October 6, 2009

Starring: Jack Black
Director: Harold Ramis

Cerritos piano teacher revisits Hollywood

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Gregory Schreiner is a piano teacher at Cerritos College

and is the creator of "Hollywood Revisited," a musical that showcases his costume collection.

"It is a show I put together about 15 years ago using my

piano talent and combining it with my collection of more than 300 movie costumes," Schreiner said.

Some of the more prominent costumes showcased were worn by:

- Marilyn Monroe,
- Elizabeth Taylor,
- Julie Andrews,
- Gene Kelly,
- Bette Davis,
- Katharine Hepburn,
- Mae West,
- Bob Hope,
- Bing Crosby and
- Judy Garland.

"I love all parts of the show, but particularly seeing the audience be amazed at the incredible costumes from the movies," he said.

Usually the show has a four-person cast, but in larger venues, more of the 10-person cast can be used.

The show does about 20 performances a year, and Schreiner has just signed a deal with an agent who books shows for major orchestras around the world.

Some of the more prominent performers for "Hollywood Revisited" are Joshua Finkel, Jill Burke and Elisa Surmont.

More information about "Hollywood Revisited" can be found at www.hollywood-revisited.com.

He has been teaching piano at Cerritos College since 1987.

He has taught at other campuses, such as Santa Monica College and the Uni-

versity of South Florida.

"I have been a piano teacher since 1983," Schreiner said.

"My expectation for my students are the same for all levels, that they will dedicate themselves to practicing and to strive to bring the music to life by channeling their emotions through their playing," Schreiner said.

"I am quite fond of recordings of Artur Rubenstein and Vladimir Horowitz—they were truly great pianists who not only had amazing technique, but also were gifted in their ability to bring great musicality to their performances," he said.

He likes the piano for a number of reasons.

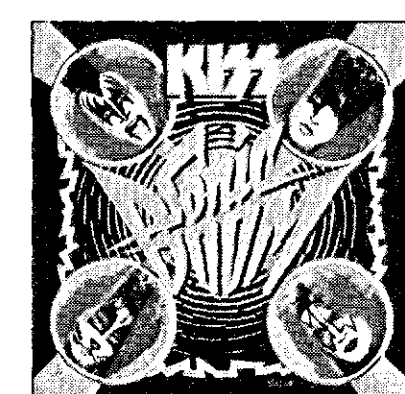
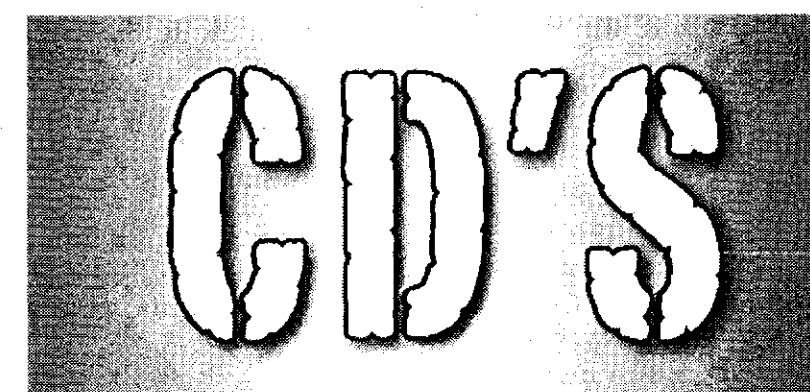
"I love the piano as a performance instrument because it has such a huge repertoire and allows one so many possibilities for emotional outpouring."

He plans to continue to teach for as long as he can, though his career is not only limited to just teaching piano.

He enjoys seeing his students walking out of his classes with a sense of accomplishment.

"What I think I love most about my job here at Cerritos is the joy of seeing people learning to play the piano and leaving my class at the end of the semester with the ability to make music and share it with others. Music is so soul-enriching."

Ruth Huang, one of Schreiner's students, said, "Schreiner is a very encouraging instructor."



Sonic Boom

Release date:
October 6, 2009

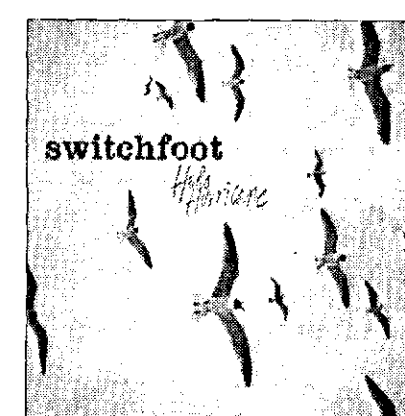
Artist: Kiss
Label: Universal



In the Unlikely Event

Release date:
October 6, 2009

Artist: The Fall of Troy
Label: Equal Vision



Hello Hurricane

Release date:
October 6, 2009

Artist: Switchfoot
Label: Atlantic

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•EDITORIAL•

Use your space, book wisely

If you use social networking sites carelessly, there's a good chance something bad will happen to you.

If you don't believe this, take the case of Jonathan Parker, 19, of Pennsylvania.

Just last week, Parker was arrested for burglary. How did the police catch him?

Parker decided, during the middle of the robbery, to take a break and check his Facebook page. Unfortunately for him, he also forgot to log out after.

Once the homeowner turned her computer on that night, there was a picture of the perpetrator staring back at her. In no time, Parker was arrested and faces up to 10 years in jail if convicted.

You may be thinking, "But I don't even rob houses, so I have nothing to worry about."

The reality is, a growing number of arrests have been linked to evidence obtained on social networking sites, which is considered to be public property.

Two men were arrested last winter after burning couches in the street in celebration of the Steelers' Super Bowl victory.

The police used Facebook to find a picture of the two men caught in the act. Tracking them down was not hard, considering their names were both tagged in the photo.

Also, another man in Indiana was arrested for violation of his parole after police saw he had posted pictures of himself holding a sawed-off shotgun on his MySpace page.

A word to the wise, don't do anything illegal. If you do, don't post pic-

tures of yourself committing a crime on your profile.

Not only are the police using sites like Facebook and MySpace to aid in criminal investigations, but employers are also beginning to use social networking sites to screen potential employees.

All an employer has to do is type an applicant's name into Google and, if he looks hard enough, he can often find out much more about the applicant than he ever cared to know.

When in doubt, follow this simple rule: "If you wouldn't put it on your resumé, don't put it on the web."

At least set your profile to private. It may not be a perfect safeguard, but it helps.

Now, don't rush off and delete your profile just yet. There is a positive to the fact that many potential employers are on social networking sites, especially Facebook.

Remember, networking is a two-way street. A growing number of job seekers are using sites like Facebook as a means of obtaining a job.

Using contacts to network professionally, rather than merely socially, is a smart way of trying to find an inside track toward that dream job.

Making new connections with business leaders and professionals is a great way to put your name out in the job market.

Also, use the friends you're already connected with to see if someone in his network may be the connection you need to land a new gig.

Post wisely, and social networking can be a valuable tool in this modern age.



ILLUSTRATION BY MOSES LOPEZ



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.

Assassination poll stirs controversy

Yet another cruel act of disrespect has surfaced on the internet about our president

This past weekend, there was a poll circulating Facebook asking "Should President Obama be killed?"

The participants were only given four options: yes, maybe, if he cuts my healthcare, or no.

The poll was taken down immediately before the U.S. Secret Service got wind of it.

The poll was not created by Facebook,



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but by a third party using an add-on application. The creator has yet to be identified.

This type of behavior is very un-American.

No poll like this should ever be created about a human being, much less the leader of this country.

It is evident that many people do not agree with Obama, for whatever their per-

sonal reasons are, but this is crossing the line.

There should be a level of respect that we, as Americans, need to recognize.

Not to say that I love Obama and support him in everything he does, because I don't, but I'm not going to disrespect him by creating something as awful as that poll.

It is very unnecessary. What was the point of the poll? What did the creator hope to accomplish by creating this poll?

This is not the only time Obama has been disrespected.

On Sept. 9, during a State of the Union Address, Obama was called a liar by Rep. Joe Wilson of South Carolina. Wilson is-

sued an apology almost immediately.

I do not understand why there is so much animosity toward our president.

On Sept. 20, an article in New York Magazine titled "Who is Barack Obama?" examines people's negative opinions of Obama.

What I read was simply sad. People said that he sounds like Hitler and even called him the Antichrist.

People need to stop being so narrow-minded and accept the fact that he is our president and he is not going anywhere anytime soon.

In the next election, Americans can elect a new president if they strongly oppose Obama.

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- Do we give President Obama enough credit?
Fresno City College, The Rampage

Online Poll

Vote online at talonmarks.com

What is your primary use for Facebook/MySpace?

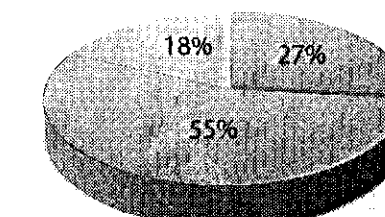
- Networking
- friends/family
- show off illegal activities
- other

Last Week's Poll

Vote online at talonmarks.com

Do you participate in school activities and clubs?

- Yeah, I'm very school-spirited 27%
- No, I'm only here for classes 55%
- No, I don't have time 18%



TALON MARKS



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

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Free Speech Zone

How do you use your social networking site?

COMPILED BY: MEGAN WINTERS
PHOTOS BY: TIM DICKERSON

IESHA ROSAS
photography major
"I use it to meet people, and after my friends left for college it was a way we all kept in contact."



ERICK PARRA
art major
"I use my myspace pages to express myself."



VANESSA LEVUFF
social worker major
"I update like twice a week for new backgrounds so my friends and boyfriend can look at it."



BRIAN PITMAN
automotive major
"I have a music MySpace page. I change my music and look at the views to see who is listening to my music."



DINNA GONZALES
psychology major
"I didn't go to high school in this country so I use it to talk to all my friends in the Philippines."



LORENZO JAUREGUI
liberal arts major
"(Simple Truth Club) has events and we can post events and retreats."



Shoving religion down your neighbor's throat

To fully understand how one lives, we must understand other ways of living.



Jesus Ruiz
Staff Writer
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Why do some people choose to use religion as a tool to "help" others live a so-called "better" life?

That's the question, isn't it? I say that one's beliefs should not be able to control the lives of others who wish to live life from one contradicting his.

I'm not talking about the people knocking at your door to speak to you of their religion, but the people who oppose a way of life that isn't what they find "fitting."

Who is it that influences a certain type of people to hate different type of people because of what religion they belong to?

I can understand hating a certain type of group or religion due to some kind of bad experience, but it is wrong to hate someone without a real reason to hate another person.

Criticism of one's religion seems to base itself from another's ideals.

Ideals that we have perceived to be true and in turn follow.

These form some of the social values our religion "commands" or usually because we are more prone to listen to our parents and take their point of view.

I've seen this type of hate firsthand from both friends and family and in the end I still think it is stupid to hate someone else for a selfish reason.

One of the examples that show this type of contradiction against another person's way of living is the way some groups use religion against gays because "God says so" in the Bible.

If someone chooses to live that life and makes them happy living it without hurting anyone else, then who has the right to judge

how that person lives his life with or without the rules of God?

What about when one just doesn't believe in the rules of God, but God himself?

I speak of course of an atheist.

The dictionary defines an atheist as "a person who denies or disbelieves the existence of a supreme being or beings."

People who oppose the way atheists feel about God may start believing that they don't believe in God because they hate him?

Knowing fellow atheists, I am able to understand that not all of them believe in God, but that they are thinking "outside the box."

To sum it up, in order to fully understand how one lives, we must understand another's way of living first before we start getting involved in other people's lives only to contradict another person's way of living.



Please don't judge them, they are only just speaking their minds

A person should have the respect and the freedom to state an opinion.



Ivonne Burciaga
Staff Writer
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Freedom of speech seems to be done for nowadays.

Although it's one of the rights that most countries would fight and die for, lately anything a citizen in the U.S. says is either wrong, critiqued or should be punishable.

People these days take everything too personal, and think other people should be quiet, if it affects them, which is not respecting the freedom of speech of anyone.

A few weeks ago, Aubrey O'Day, a former Danity Kane singer, stated that she thought Fidel Castro was a brilliant man and got put on the S-list of the world.

"I've met him and worked with him when I was in Cuba. Yes, he is a brilliant man, but I don't condone what he did," she stated.

Immediately, people started say-

ing she was a bad person, and that she was dumb, she got called derogatory names, and her whole patriotism got questioned.

"Fidel Castro really is a brilliant man whether we like it or not, only a brilliant man is able to manipulate a whole country to follow him."

Being the educated people we are, we should learn to separate our feelings from reality in order to understand what people really say, and not feel offended to the point where we want to punish people

like O'Day.

When O'Day said "brilliant," a lot of people immediately thought she praised him, they didn't hear the "don't condone" part.

Castro really is a brilliant man, whether we like it or not. Only a brilliant man is able to manipulate a whole country to follow him.

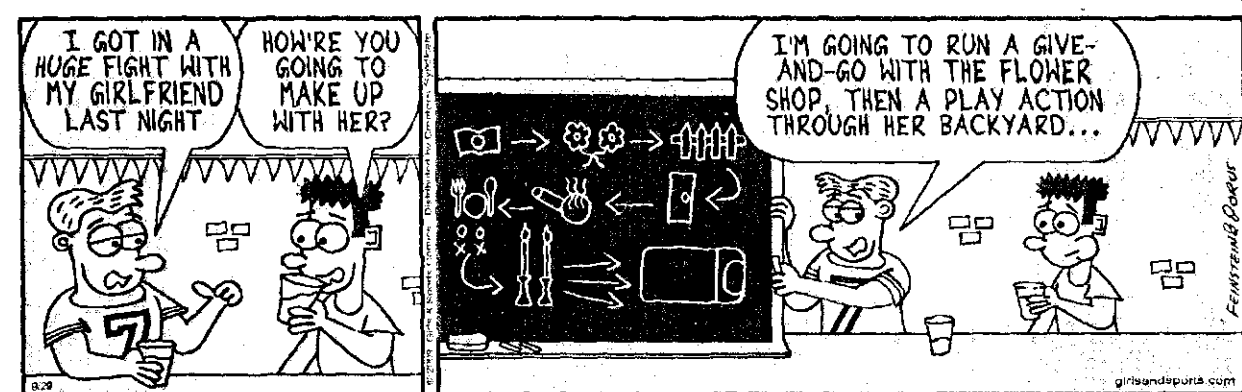
Brilliant is defined by Webster as distinguished by unusual mental keenness or alertness.

I believe, regardless of whatever she might have said, her right to express her opinion should be respected and not critiqued and her reputation should not be affected, as with any other citizen.

As educated, college students we must remember to give everyone a chance to express themselves, and to understand statements like the one O'Day gave, before we jump out of our seats after hearing a positive description and Castro in the same sentence.

A person should have the respect and the freedom to state an opinion and any true statement

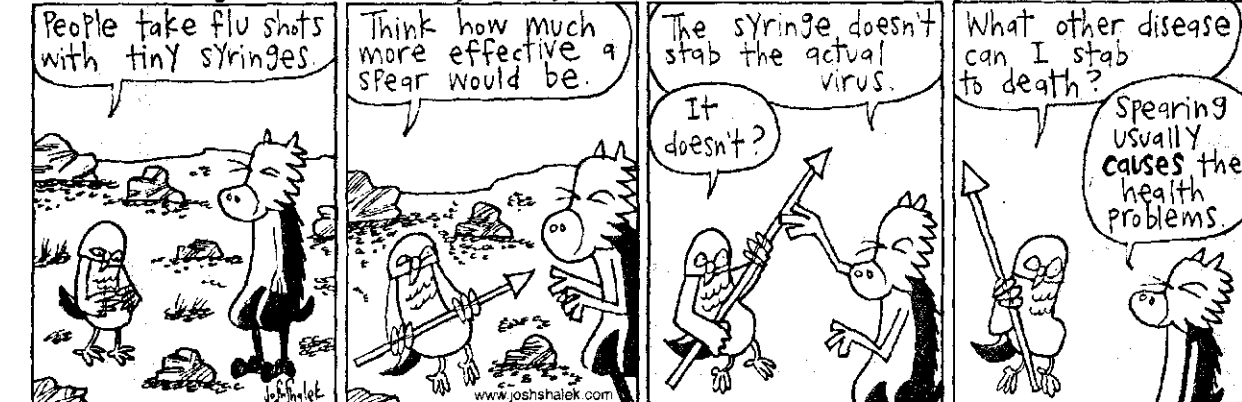
GIRLS AND SPORTS



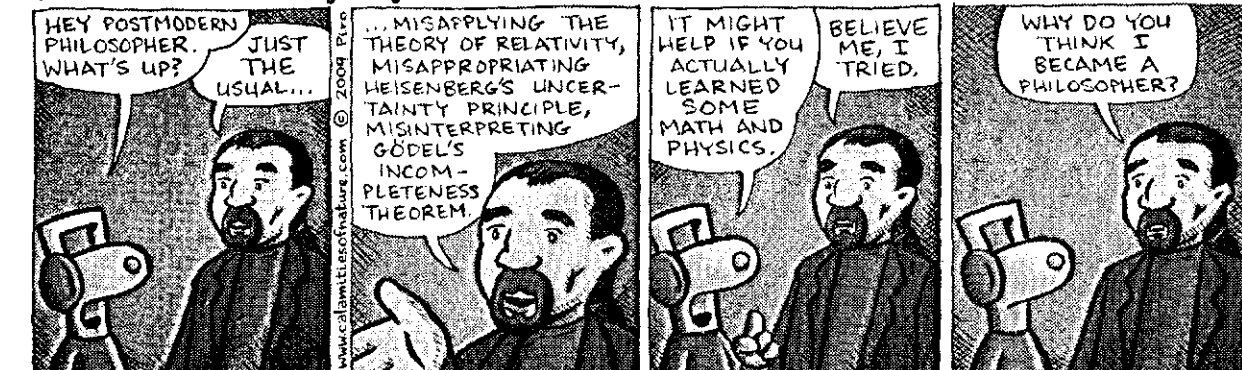
BREWSTER ROCKIT



Welcome to falling Rock National Park by Kid Shay

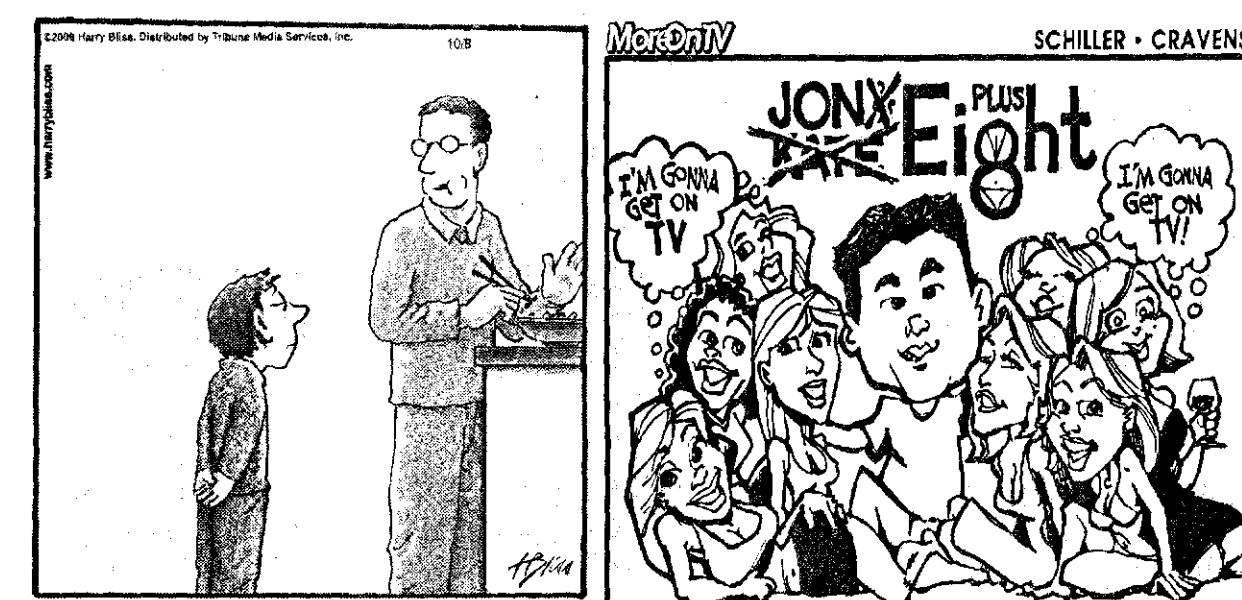


Calamities of Nature by Tony Piro



ZERO

by LOUIS COPPOLA



Volleyball overpowers early opponents

SOBUKWE RAMSEY
Co-Sports Editor
sports@talonmarks.com

Cerritos Volleyball has been on a roll as of late beating Fullerton College Wednesday night at home, going to Long Beach City College and beating the Vikings and then sweeping LA Trade-Tech Monday night to open up conference play 2-0.

Coach Teresa Ortega felt that her first team started the game against LA Trade-Tech a bit slow but the second team came in and proved they could play.

The Falcons have been getting consistent contributions from their freshman Channelle Puou who had a career high 25 kills against Fullerton. That does not come as a surprise, however, for Coach Ortega.

She stated before the Fullerton game that she expected big things from Puou as well as a few of her returners.

Those returners have been just a big for the Falcons as Puou has been. Sophomore Sarah Naranjo finished the Fullerton game with 14 kills and had a successful defensive night with 12 digs.

Naranjo also played well against Long Beach with 11 kills and 9 digs and Puou had 14 kills against the cross town rivals.

The kind of season that Ortega has envisioned is looking to be just that so far, "last season was a rebuilding year for us with the youth we had."

The previous season, Cerritos Volleyball was young and inexperienced, lacking the ability to stay in games late and finish games strong. The team would start out games aggressive and confident but would fold during the final games.

A few concerns that Ortega had was the

missing of serves and passes in key situations.

Another valuable returner for Falcons Volleyball has been Monique Gayton who played for Cerritos Volleyball in 2003.

She has been a positive re-addition for the team with her kills at the end of games and assist totals.

Gayton recorded 51 assists and 7 digs defensively in the Fullerton game and also provided a spark for the Falcons with a kill in the final game against Long Beach.

In the previous game against LATI, the Falcons did not even have to play the majority of their starters as they completed the sweep.

One difference with the first and second unit was the power and aggressiveness that the starters showed.

When the starters exited the game in the second set, the second unit managed the game and kept the momentum.

The third and final set was a bit of a test when the starters had to return to finish out the game.

The strength of the team so far offensively is Puou and she played the majority of the game to maintain that power.

However, Ortega understands that the team still needs to work on things defensively if it wants to get over the hump and beat El Camino for the conference title.

That defense was evident when LATI was able to rally in the last two sets and gain some momentum of its own.

Over the course of the beginning of the season, Cerritos has proven to be strong at all positions and has improved in a major way from last season.

Cerritos Volleyball will face a true test at home Wednesday against El Camino, who is the two-time defending state champion.

ADDITIONAL REPORTING BY MARK MURRAY.

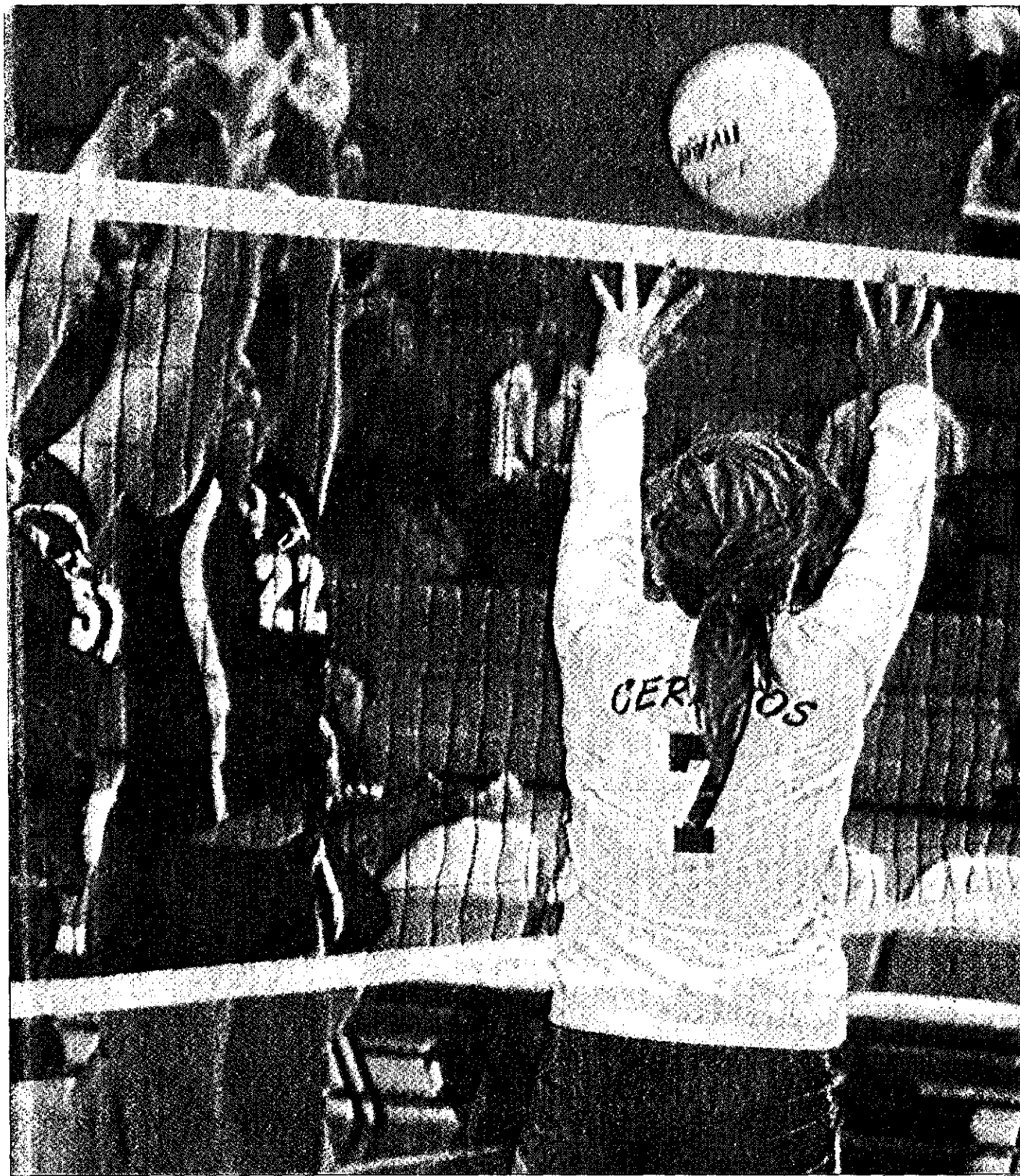
Next Game



@



Wed. 6 p.m.



Up and over: Channelle Puou dumps the ball over the net during Cerritos' three game sweep of Los Angeles Trade-Tech on Monday.

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Gayton returns older and wiser after six years

Captain is back on the court after six years of coaching

MARK MURRAY
Co-Sports Editor
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Every team could use a grizzled veteran; a steady hand that can weather the storm when things become rocky.

A veteran brings with her experience and maturity that simply cannot be taught.

The Cerritos volleyball team has found such a veteran in setter Monique Gayton.

Gayton, a captain in every sense of the word, has led the Falcons throughout the course of the season.

Over 34 games, she leads the team in assists (239), kill percentage (.511) and is second in blocks (13) and aces (11).

The stats alone are impressive, but what's remarkable is that Gayton has been able to produce these stats after a six-year hiatus.

In 2003, Gayton shared setting duties for Cerritos during her freshman year.

Rather than return for a second season, she decided to accept a coaching position at La Serna High School.

Over the next six years, Gayton would guide the JV volleyball team at La Serna as well as assist with varsity duties at Santa Fe High School.

Along with coaching, Gayton spent her days teaching preschool. Although the work was rewarding, she felt that in the long run it was in her best interest to return to school.

"I figured that if I was going

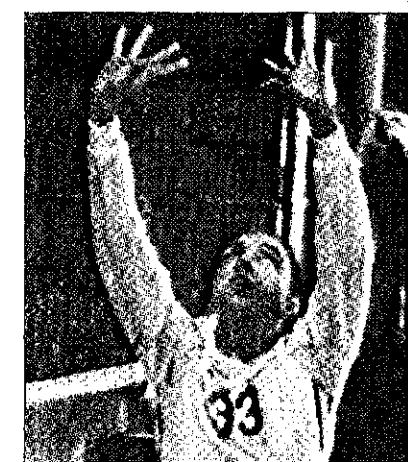
to be going to school, I might as well play volleyball while I'm here. I knew volleyball would keep me here," she said.

The transition from coaching student-athletes to becoming one again has been smooth for Gayton.

"It's working out well. I'm not working, so I'm able to focus full time on school and volleyball," she said.

"All the other women are really good about being students first and athletes second. So that makes it easier."

Head coach Teresa Ortega is



MICHAEL AGUDO/TM

Monique Gayton

**253 Assists
50 Digs
28 Kills
13 Blocks**

also pleased with Gayton's dedication to her studies.

"I'm really proud of her. She's focusing on her classes, which is great. She finished almost a year's worth of classes in one semester."

On the court, Gayton has been thrust into a leadership role on a team in which she is four or five years older than her teammates.

Despite this apparent obstacle, she says that finding chemistry

with the team was easy because all of her teammates already got along so well.

"It's difficult being older than the rest of the women. I'm 24 and the rest of my team is 18 or 19, but they are very mature when it comes down to it."

Gayton sees herself as the type of leader that leads by example. She feels she doesn't need to be vocal in order to be an effective leader and captain.

Ortega agrees. "[The team] listens to her and she helps everyone out. She makes sure everyone is focused," commented Ortega.

This focus is just one of the many attributes Gayton has not lost during her time away from playing.

"Everyone says I'm better now than I was before. I know the game better. Volleyball is something that I'm invested in and learning about every day," Gayton said.

Ortega is one of the many that feel the time Gayton's spent coaching has had a positive effect on the whole team.

"She's more mature now and a solid player than when she played under me before. It's good for the women to have an older player. She can calm their nerves," Ortega said.

The maturity, knowledge and leadership experience that Gayton brings to the team is something that will be needed on Wednesday when the Falcons take on El Camino, the back-to-back defending state champions.

"In the conference, I think it's between us and them. I'm really excited about the game. Hopefully we do well and perform," Gayton said.