

# TALON MARKS

CERRITOS COLLEGE

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## 'State of Education' addresses Cerritos' issues

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The Cerritos College Student Success Committee delivered its annual "State of Education" address Sept. 30, in which it unveiled its plan to increase student success. The plan has been in the works since the fall of 2006, when the Faculty Senate began working on an agenda for the current plan.

The com-

mittee grew out of a task force of over 30 people from a variety of backgrounds, including teachers, administrators, and students. However, in forming the plan, they went directly to the faculty for suggestions and ideas.

"We are not as good as we would like to be. My vision is that Cerritos College will be a national leader in student success, and I won't rest until that happens," Linda Lacy, president and superintendent of Cerritos College, said in her introductory speech.

Faculty Senate President Debra Moore says that according to the Accountability Reporting for Com-

munity Colleges' data, which compares schools' achievement rates, presented by Debra Moore, Cerritos is almost at the bottom of its peer group in student progress and achievement rates, and has continued to decline since at least the 2001-02 academic year.

The ARCC data shows that Cerritos is still above average in its persistence and basic skills improvement rates.

Part of the problem, according to Bryan Reece, chair of the committee, is that less than 20 of the 741 classes Cerritos offers have prerequisites.

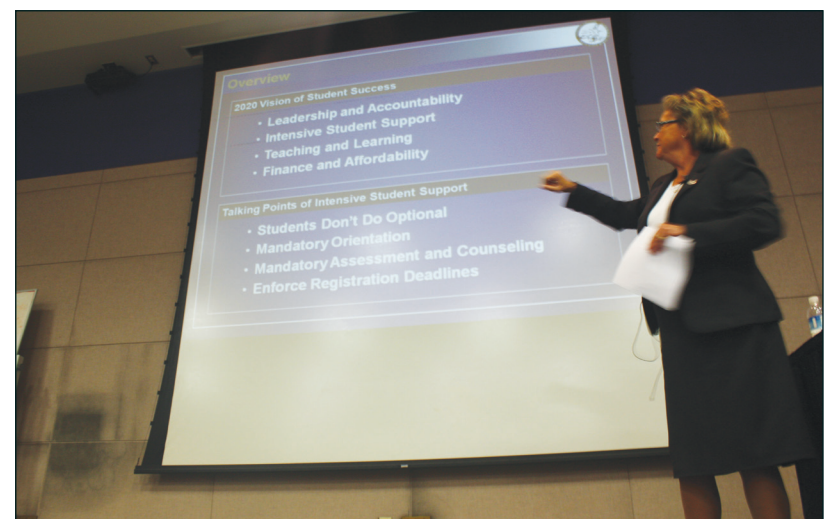
Reece presented data showing

that students who meet the prerequisite requirements of classes they're taking do far better than students who do not meet those requirements. "Prerequisites would make the biggest impact," he said, suggesting that they are the paramount issue in improving student success.

"We need to improve in five main areas: learning resources, instructional programs, academic infrastructure, student engagement and teaching practices," Reece said in his closing speech.

He also focused on the importance of bringing everything under one "umbrella" and collaborating to

**See: Education Page 3**



PAUL GREER/TM

**Striving for success:** Cerritos College President Linda Lacy opens the "State of Education," address in the Teleconference Center Sept. 30. There were also presentations by other administrators at the event.



SCAN TO VIEW  
Video

### CERRITOS COLLEGE ADOPTS BUDGET DESPITE CALIFORNIA'S BEING LATE



**Money woes:** Cerritos College adopted a budget on October 6, despite the California Legislature not doing so until two days later. Cerritos College adopted the budget 9 days before the deadline.

## Putting the pieces together

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Cerritos College passed an adopted budget Oct. 6, two days before the end of a historic 100-day delay of the California state budget, for the 2010-11 fiscal year, was passed Friday by legislators in Sacramento.

Community Colleges across the state have missed out on an estimated \$840 million in operating funds since the budget deadline was missed on July 1, according to the California Community College Chancellor's Office.

Eduardo Iniguez, commissioner of budget and finance for the Associated Students of Cer-

ritos College, was one of the students affected last month after Cal Grants didn't arrive as a direct result of the state budget limbo.

"I have bills. As an accounting major, I budget my whole semester through financial aid and the Cal Grant.

"I was left empty-handed," Iniguez said.

"I had to cut back on a lot of stuff and stay here at school extra hours, not go home till later, so I didn't have to be coming back and forth wasting gas.

"Food-wise, I was just looking at the dollar menus," Iniguez said.

According to Iniguez, Cerritos College receives funding based on its effective full-time students, students taking 12 units or more.

Iniguez said that within the

first month of a class, about 25 to 30 percent of students will have already dropped.

"At the end of the year our EFTS are low, because they only look at [the students who] actually finish the courses.

"We have 24,000 students, but not all of them are full time, so they count the EFTS and that's the budget they give us. Based on that, we have budget for more classes or less classes.

"It's going to continue, the same cycle, as long as we keep on having the students drop out and not give room to people who are actually serious," Iniguez said.

David El Fattal, vice president

of business services and assistant superintendent, said that Cerritos College would be working through the process of implementing the newly adopted state budget into the Cerritos College budget over the next several weeks.

"I'm expecting that we will not get 100 percent of our apportionment money right now, but we should get something soon," El Fattal said.

El Fattal said that Cerritos College had an Oct. 15 deadline to pass the 2010-11 adopted budget; one month longer than the traditional Sept. 15 deadline be-

**See: Budget Page 2**

## Cal State transfer bill leaves many students waiting

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Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed a pair of bills Sept. 29 that make it easier for community college students to transfer to the California State University and University of California systems starting fall 2011.

Senate Bill 1440 will require the Cal State system to guarantee admission to community college students that have obtained an associate degree and meet all requirements for transfer in a particular major.

"I think this bill is a good thing for students because it guarantees you a spot at a four-year when you are done with your AA," nursing major, Charlene Henriquez said.

The second bill, AB 2302, calls for the California University system to examine the creation of a similar streamlined process for student transfer.

### Top four Cerritos transfer schools

1. CSULB 220\*
2. CSUF 201\*
3. CSUDH 150\*
4. CSULA 130\*

\*Students that have transferred, according to the California Community College Chancellor's Office 08-09 statistics.

"Guaranteeing admission into a CSU for any community college student who completes the newly established transfer degree under SB 1440 is a monumental step forward for California's higher education system," Schwarzenegger said

do so.

While SB 1440 will result in a streamlined process for students to reach the CSU level, the details of which universities students would be given admittance into have not been worked out.

To figure out the details the California Community College Chancellor has issued a task force.

Vice Chancellor for Communications of the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, Terri Carbaugh, said, "This should level the playing field and give students more options. It is premature to know how exactly it will work, but the task force is hoping to have details within 30 to 60 days."

While Carbaugh says students will start seeing the effects of the law relatively soon, Cerritos College transfer counselor, Brittany Lundeen, believes it might be longer, "[The task force] is working on getting it done by fall 2011. However, in reality it is looking like 2012 is when it will happen."

According to Lundeen, one of the reasons the changes might not take effect at Cerritos is because the curriculum only changes once a year when the schedule is printed.

As of now, California community colleges are assigned a primary university, in to which a majority of their students are to transfer to. When a student wishes to transfer to a university outside of his zone, he can do so. However, the requirements that student must meet are higher.

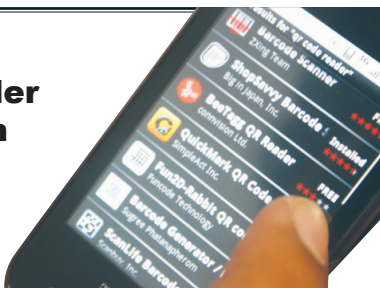
With the details not fully clear, many are hoping that bill 1440 will change the way transfer partnerships are utilized right now.

Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences, Bryan Reece, believes this is a step in the right direction. "A lot of work still needs to be done. However, [the bill] is going to simplify the application process for students. If we get the zones broadened, then we are talking about something really good for students, why can't they choose?"

in a statement.

According to the Institute for Higher Education Leadership and Policy, 73 percent of California college students attend community colleges. However, only 22.7 percent of those students who intend to transfer to a four-year university actually

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# CERRITOS COLLEGE

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Meeting set for job placement

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Cerritos College's Job Placement Advisory Committee is holding a meeting in which it discusses the students' process of finding desirable employment and what to do to successfully obtain it.

"Employers and students are able to share their experiences," Student Placement Specialist Christina The explained. "This gives students the opportunity to find out what it is they need to do to get the jobs they want."

The meeting will be held Oct. 26 at 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the Social Science Building, room 136. The meeting is open to all Cerritos students who confirm their attendance to the Job Placement Center by Oct. 13.

### Lecture focuses on equality

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The Philosophy Club hosted a lecture to speak about "Rethinking Paradigms," which is about getting a better understanding of the class, gender and race as "historical inventions among people."

The lecture, which took place on Oct. 5 at 11 a.m. in SS 137, was given by history instructor Susan Oliver.

Oliver spoke on different varieties between men and women and why it is important for women to "break the chain of being an underdog" and to become more independent.

### Cerritos prepares for mega fair

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The Transfer Center is hosting the University Mega Fair on Oct. 13, where more than 75 college and university representatives will be out on Falcon Square talking to students about the programs they offer.

The public and private colleges and universities will be coming from in state and out of state to help answer any questions.

The event will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

### Students removed from TalonNet

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TalonNet was experiencing technical difficulties on Oct. 8, removing some students from their classes on the website.

According to Library and Learning Resource Center Dean Carl Bengston, the school is "working to resolve the problem and restore all students on TalonNet as quickly as possible."

## Budget: Worst financial delay in Cerritos College history ends

Continued from Page 1:  
-cause of the budget crisis.

"For the last seven or eight years, it's been the worse in school finance for the last 40 years," El Fattal said.

El Fattal has been impressed with Cerritos' handling of the budget crisis.

"I think it's been absolutely phenomenal that people seem to be pulling their oars all in the same direction," El Fattal said.

"Every constituent group on this campus I think is working hard toward helping ensure to the greatest degree possible that students aren't impacted by the fiscal crisis that is going on.

"I think overall we're doing a great job achieving that, even though it's very difficult to manage."

The appropriations that Cerritos works with must first be analyzed by the state; then the Chancellor's Office releases that information.

Some of the money that is intended towards Cerritos may be deferred by the state until the next fiscal year.

"The state is supposed to be giving us approximately \$69 million. They're gonna withhold approximately \$19 million by our initial analysis, which that number might change as more information comes from Sacramento.

"If that's true, if the \$19 million deferral (takes place), it's basically, 'we owe you the money, we're gonna give it to you the next year.'"

Mark Wallace, director of public and governmental relations and public affairs, said shortly before the budget was passed that the delay is probably the worst the school has ever seen.

"We're very fortunate here because we've been conservatively managed over a lot of years, so we've been able to have healthy reserves that have gotten us through this, whereas other districts are already borrowing funds from outside of their organizations," Wallace said.



COURTESY OF KIMIA GRIGORIEV  
**Artistic passion:** Igor Grigoriev, better known as "IgOr OGOGO," tunes his guitar to reach the appropriate musical tone. Grigoriev was a music instructor at Cerritos College and passed away at the age of 55.

# Music teacher is mourned by his colleagues and family

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Cerritos College music instructor, Igor Grigoriev, passed away on Sept. 25 at the age of 55. The cause for his death was a massive heart attack.

Grigoriev was a devoted musician and teacher, who lived for the passion of music. Born in Moscow, Russia, Grigoriev was brought up by his mother and his grandparents.

At a young age, he was interested in art and music. He taught himself to play the guitar and had a natural talent for music.

He completed his master's degree in music in Moscow and then dedicated his entire life to playing and composing music.

Grigoriev was happily married to his wife, Kimia Grigoriev, for three years, with a 1-year-old daughter named Dayra. They were expecting another child that is to be born in five months.

"He was really excited about our baby on the way, and he kept telling me, 'It's going to be a boy,' and I would ask him, 'How do you know?'" He would tell me, 'I just know, I have a feeling.'

"We were counting down until the next week. When he passed, it was the time for my ultrasound, and I found out it's going to be a boy," she said.

Grigoriev went by the nickname of IgOr OGOGO and dedicated most his time by making music called, "OGOGO".

The sound of his music was experimental with the essence of his artistic creations. He would write songs about his daughter and wife, having them record their voices and heartbeats into the songs.

Being a part of the Cerritos College community since Jan. 15, 1997, Grigoriev developed many relationships with his students and colleagues, such as Director of Bands and Orchestras David Betancourt.

"Igor was a one-of-a-kind, unique individual. From the way he dressed to the way he carried himself, you could tell he chose his own path. He had a fantastic sense of humor and always had a funny story to share," Betancourt said.

Musically and as a teacher, he was very open-minded toward the interests of his students. By being involved in the students' learning process, he would tell them what to concentrate on, so they could improve their skills.

It would have been four semesters this fall for music major Kris Roman, who had the pleasure in being Grigoriev's private student. "He was a really good, honest teacher. Every little mistake you had, he would point out," Roman said. "It would kind of piss you off, but then at the same time it would only help you in the end."

The heart attack occurred when Grigoriev and his wife were at home.

He gave a kiss to his wife, played with his daughter and kissed his wife's pregnant stomach. Suddenly before he could walk to his closet to get ready to head to the store, he turned toward her and collapsed.

One of the things that Grigoriev's wife recalls about him was that he had always wished for a death that ended fast with no pain.

"Although it will always be a devastating memory and a painful moment in my life, at least I get some peace from knowing he passed away in an extraordinary, shocking and quick manner, just like the way he wanted," she said.

"He was my best friend, my family, my love and my life. I loved him since the day I met him and he will always have a home in my heart."

# Teachers' union member holds election conference

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Jim Araby, statewide field director for the California Federation of Teachers, held a conference for students and faculty on Oct. 5 in the Teleconference Center, after going campus to campus for the subject of education.

Araby hit on some major issues California is facing at this time.

He brought up how California has cut \$40 billion in the budget since 2007.

He also mentioned how from 2009 to the end of 2010, California will lose \$21 billion more due to cuts, yet there is a still a rise in population.

According to Araby, public education is 40 to 50 percent of the state budget.

Cerritos has already had to lay off 224 teachers.

The Los Angeles Unified School District has taken certain measures to stray from major cuts as well, reducing the number of days in a school year along with over 100 layoffs.

Araby talked about the budget and how it should speak for California and what the priorities are for its residents. He points out that one out of every five adults is unemployed, making up 12 percent of the population.

He also talked about how there hasn't been any real wage growth, but yet the rich are getting richer and the poor are staying poor.

"The way California goes is the way of the nation," he said.

California is getting ready to elect a new governor, and Araby encouraged his audience to pay attention to

what the two major candidates are offering and what their intentions are.

He talked about Republican candidate for governor Meg Whitman and how she wants to run California like a business and cut an additional \$15 billion from the state budget.

He also mentioned how Whitman wants to lay off 40,000 state workers.

Even though she spent between 115 to 120 million of her own money for her campaign race, she hasn't voted for over two decades.

He also talked about Democratic candidate Jerry Brown, the former mayor of Oakland. According to Araby, When Brown was in office, he saved state workers, signed collective bargaining rights into law, in addition to tripling funding for public education.

Araby believes that these are two very clear choices and he wants students to weigh the facts and make a decision based on their values and priorities.

He believes Californians are at a critical moment in time and now is not the time to be cynical about things.

He wishes that students would get more involved in the political life. He would like for students to understand that they do have a say in how elections turn out and other things that impact their lives.

"Maybe learning a little more will motivate them to become more active," he said. He believes that the deprivation of California's youths is caused by general apathy.

"This campaign is very vital for the furthering of public education," Julie Ivey, executive director for the Cerritos College Faculty Federation, said.

"The people that are running and policies that are being proposed makes it a crucial state."



JUAN RAMOS/TM

**Voter awareness:** California Federation of Teachers Field Director Jim Araby held a conference to give students and faculty insight on the upcoming elections in November. In the Oct. 5 conference, Araby focused on the topic of the elections' effect on public education.



Education:  
Cerritos faculty  
focuses on  
student success

Continued from Page 1:  
He also focused on the importance of bringing everything under one umbrella and collaborating to achieve goals.  
He pointed out, however, that there may be difficulties in implementing the plan that have yet to be overcome.

“I think there are two things standing in the way of collaboration. The first is trust... and the second is that you need to decide personally if you think Cerritos College can be the best community college in the United States when it comes to student success.”

All of the speakers indicated that seeing the plan for student success come to fruition was still a few years off, but suggested that achieving the goal wasn’t impossible, so long as everyone at Cerritos collaborates to ensure its success.

Reece gave a more ambitious time frame, saying that he thinks we can get through the whole list of goals in three years.

“I want all of our programs to be signature programs,” Bill Farmer, vice president of academic affairs, noted in his speech.

Remodeling the Learning Resource Center was another area the speakers touched on.

“We have something like 1,000 or 1,500 students rolling through our LRC.

“Chaffey College has something like 15,000 students rolling through their LRC getting help,” Reece noted.

The committee is looking for people who are interested in helping achieve the goals of the student success plan.



**Testify:** Mubah Beale (left), a former rapper who is now a converted Muslim and Najeeb Al-Angeles (right) discussed the details of their religion to students on Sept. 29. Topics Beale discussed included his childhood, his rap career and his conversion to Islam.

BILLY TURNER/TM

Former rapper discusses Islam

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Motivational speaker and recently converted Muslim, Mubah Beale, came to Cerritos College for a conference on Sept. 29. He was a former member of Outlawz, a rap group led by the late Tupac Shakur.

Beale was once Shakur’s protege, but now carries on his legacy through his practice of Islam.

“I’d like people to know about the beauty of this religion-- letting people know this isn’t a religion of terrorism, it doesn’t oppress women, and I’d like to speak about the misconceptions about the religion.

“This religion has been a part of the Hispanic and African-American communities for years,” Beale said.

President of the Muslim Student Associa-

tion and engineering major, who referred to himself as Mubarak, brought the idea to International Student Center Coordinator Danita Kurtz, to have Beale come to Cerritos College for a conference.

“The Islamic religion is very much in the news. There are all kinds of questions, arguments and controversies with Muslims. It’s a good chance to have someone who is very motivational and positive to come to our campus,” Kurtz said.

Once the ISC made plans to sponsor the event, Mubarak got in contact with Beale, since he knew him personally from his mosque. Kurtz, who is also the adviser of the MSA, asked history instructor John Haas if he would have his 2

p.m. class attend the meeting.

The conference started at 2 p.m. and Mubarak introduced Beale and fellow Muslim speaker, Najeeb Al-Angeles.

Angeles opened up by giving a brief description of the Islamic faith and culture, then Beale was given the microphone, telling people his story of how and why he converted to Islam.

Beale witnessed his parents’ murder at the age of 3 and had to grow up quickly in a neighborhood riddled with crime. After being involved in so much trouble in his early teenage years, Beale decided to pursue a career in the music business. . Beale later bumped into a childhood friend, Kadda, who turned

out to be Shakur’s half-brother.

Shakur and Beale would later form the rap group, Outlawz, whose fame grew internationally in the early 1990s. After signing with hip-hop record label Death Row Records, Shakur and the Outlawz were on top of the billboard charts.

However, things quickly started to unravel for them when their fame was overcome by the fast lifestyle of drugs, money and violence.

When Beale converted to Islam, he “found true happiness.”

He travels around the world as a motivational speaker to spread his message, by telling his story of how the Islamic faith helped him overcome addiction and depression.

“I lived a life that many young people aspire to live and it doesn’t bring happiness. I believe the only way you can find contentment is by worshipping your creator.”

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Video



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•EDITORIAL•

Prerequisites help students

Student success should be the paramount goal for administrators in colleges across the country.

In last Thursday's State of Education Address, held by the Cerritos College Student Success Committee, prerequisites were hailed as the biggest contributor to student success at Cerritos.

Students may cringe at the thought of being forced to take classes before higher-level courses because that usually leads to another semester added before you transfer or achieve a degree.

However, the statistics presented last week showed that prerequisites increase the success rates in the less than 20 classes that require them on campus.

With about 720 classes still without prerequisites, it would be in the school's best interest to require more classes before allowing students to enroll in classes with low success rates.

Students want more classes, but prerequisites may not have been what we envisioned.

If you've ever attended a class without a prerequisite and felt lost or overworked, you may understand first hand how these types of courses may help introduce the groundwork to success.

Prerequisites as they exist now, primarily help students with mathematics, English and reading.

These are not the only courses that may present challenges for students; on the contrary, we have these courses in high school.

Some higher education courses have few accompanying courses within high school districts and special attention to prerequisites may aid success for students taking these courses.

Individual student engagement and teaching practices will also help students succeed, but the most controllable factor for administrators is creating more classes designed to help us in the first place.

So when you log on to your MyCerritos account only to find more prerequisites soliciting your enrollment, think of them as blessings, not curses, from our administrators.

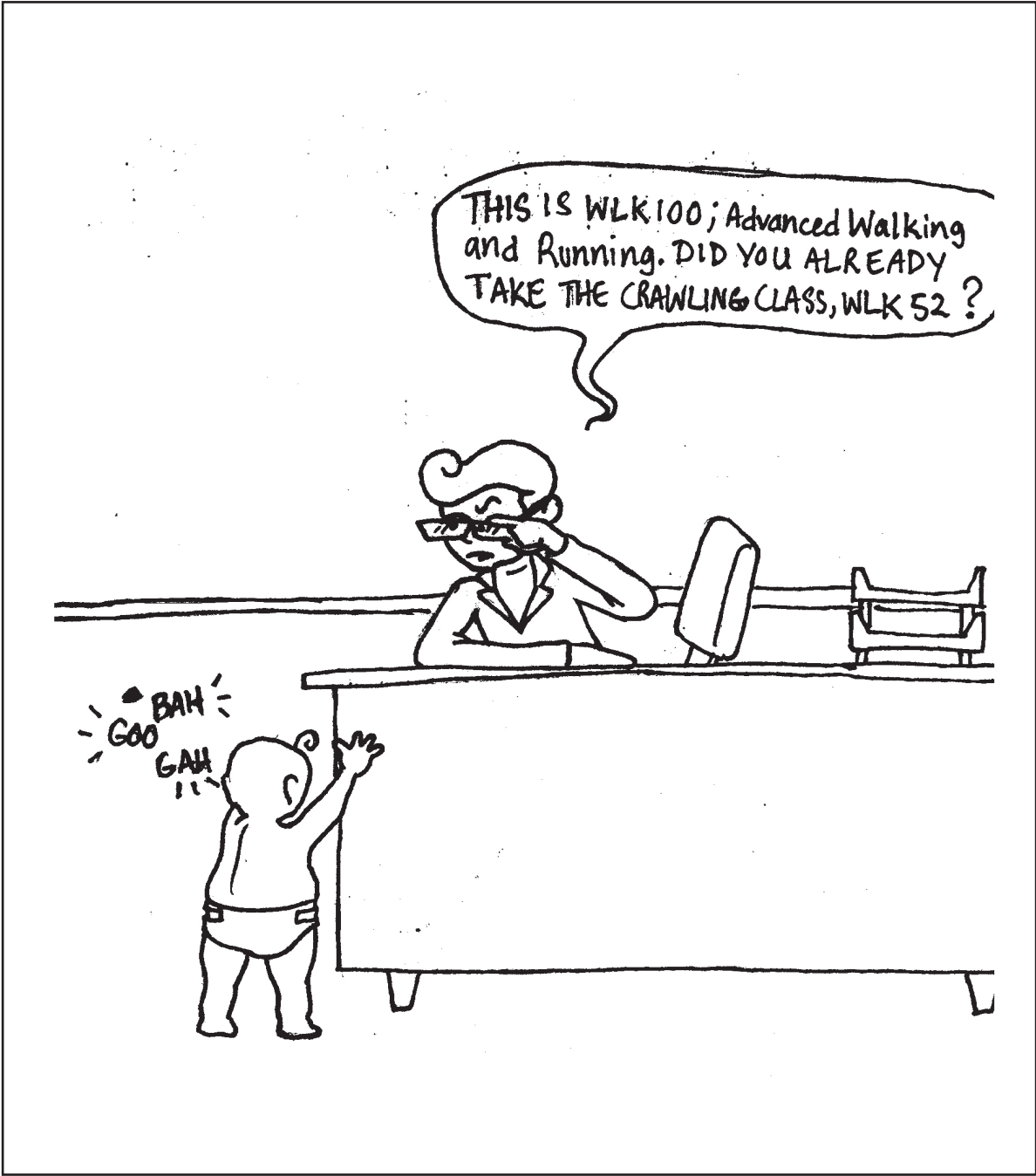


ILLUSTRATION BY JIMMY EDWARDS-TURNER/TM

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Hidden oilrigs are detrimental to health

The expansion of oil refineries to produce natural gas and oil is impacting the environment by exposing people to health risks and an increase in pollution.

Oilrigs are usually meant for drilling offshore into the sea, or where they aren't in the vicinity of residential neighborhoods and busy cities.

However, drilling is actually taking part right under the feet of Los Angeles citizens.

Twenty billion barrels of oil are being produced right under the streets of LA, and they shouldn't be as long as people are living in the ground above.

This oil is running through pipes, which are hidden like an underground oil field under businesses, neighborhoods and schools.

Beverly hills, Signal Hill, Long Beach, Wilmington (with the largest oil refinery) and Hollywood are built upon functioning oil fields. Residents remain relatively unaware that the majority of their city is an oil field.

When you walk the tourist streets of Beverly Hills and West Hollywood, you nonchalantly pass the buildings and modern architecture.

The displays of some of these buildings in Los Angeles are not what you think they are. For instance, when you go to Beverly Hills High School, there is an oilrig on their field decorated in with paintings of flowers to disguise the drilling.



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The Beverly shopping center, in West Hollywood, has another oilrig that was discretely built in the back of the mall, where it is unnoticed by customers.

On Pico Blvd. in Hollywood, what some think is a hollow office building is actually housing 50 oilrigs within.

The alarming health effects people are put under from the oil operations are disturbing if you know them.

Drilling causes pollution in our air, and the lives of people are at risk every day as levels of toxic substances are increased in our atmosphere.

The US Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry found that many people could actually smell a low level of H2S.

After long-term exposure, residents can start to experience fatigue, headaches, irritation and at high levels, it can even lead to death.

The reason these rigs are hidden is that major oil corporations try not to bring attention to their hidden agenda of oil production without the protest of people, so they can also keep these health threats hidden.

It's a matter of profit for the oil industry, not about the environmental and health risks that oil manufacturers are putting on people.

The distribution of oil is just a way to control the property that should belong to the people.

Growing numbers of oilrigs are changing their process to produce higher amounts of oil, and its only raising health risks in Los Angeles.

Los Angeles California is already the smoggiest city in the country. It's also the third largest running oil field in the United States.

The dangers and risks of oilrigs are not only about the health factors, but also about mechanical problems that can go wrong.

After the eruption of the oilrig in the Gulf of Mexico, the eyes of people who weren't aware of how dangerous it is to distribute oil were finally opened.

An occurrence like the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico is a situation that should be looked into carefully. This event shows that oilrigs can have a huge impact on the environment.


If citizens of Los Angeles aren't educated about how their oil gets processed, then health issues and risks will continue to rise.

“After long-term exposure, residents can start to experience fatigue, headaches, irritation and at high levels, it can even lead to death.”


FREE SPEECH

Should more prerequisite courses be added?


COMPILED BY: MARTIN REYES  
PHOTOS BY: AASTHA DHAKAL




**A.J. ANDRADE**  
*chicano studies major*  
“I think it's pretty good to add more courses in general, student will be getting classes instead of none.”




**JOSHUA CHHOUR**  
*undecided major*  
“It's not good to add more classes because we need to take more classes that we don't have.”




**SOPHY CHHEAM**  
*criminal justice major*  
“It would be more difficult to go for more classes. More time consuming, and more money needed.”



**LOLA ORELLANA**  
*English major*  
“It helps to go more into detail about the course, so I feel completely positive toward the step are taking.”



**ERICK MUNOZ**  
*photojournalism major*  
“They should add more prerequisite courses. Then I could have many options to go through.”



**CRYSTAL PHAM**  
*chemistry major*  
“It's not a good idea. Many students who are almost done with their courses to transfer have to take more.”

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# Internet impersonation made a misdemeanor

The government does not provide civil workers to help us cross the street or tie our shoes, so why the hell is it trying to baby us on the Internet?

Governor Schwarzenegger signed Senate Bill 1411 last Monday, Sept. 27.

The bill states that "any person who knowingly and without consent credibly impersonates another actual person through or on an Internet website or by other electronic means, as specified, for purposes of harming, intimidating, threatening, or defrauding another person is guilty of a misdemeanor."

This piece of legislation doesn't truly serve any regular citizen. The only individuals that worry about defamation online are celebrities, politicians and corporations.

The author of the bill, state Senator Joe Simitian, said it would address, "the dark side of the social networking revolution," as stated on pcworld.com, but to believe that is a huge mistake.

Some new "e-law" here in California won't stop anyone in Wyoming from creating a fake Lindsay Lohan MySpace page, and it won't keep ex-girlfriends from starting

SLOPPY CENTS

JIMMY EDWARDS-TURNER/TM



# People shouldn't be forced into mutilating themselves

When thinking of different types of body modification, like cultural neck rings and scrotal implants, it takes our breath away.

Body tattoo and piercing in comparison are not so scary anymore.

Different cultures require various forms of body modification, including ear piercing and some kind of body tattoos.

Body modification should be an individual indulgence; it should not be forced by our cultures as we all have the right of choice.

Forcing people to have body modifications as required by their culture should be highly punished.

Many in today's world love to change their bodies.

Some of us may not like the process of doing it, but that's our choice and we should not be interfering in others' desires.

Tattoos look awesome, but having a tattoo would make it really difficult to find a job, not to mention the pain.

Instead of going through with painful and permanent skin art, henna tattoos could be used.

Henna tattoos are temporary tattoos that come off within two weeks. Isn't that mind blowing?

It's a good alternative for those



alternative Facebook accounts to keep tabs on their former beaus.

Everyone knows the Internet is a big place, and it can be very intimidating; that is why one must always be completely aware of one's online persona.

Persons that use the Internet are responsible for themselves. If you happen to be a public figure, or someone constantly in the spotlight, then it is up to you to look out for impersonators and slanderers.

This is why this law is such a horribly crafted piece of legislation. It does not protect anyone that needs protecting.

The No.1 reason this law was put into effect is to squash the freedom of speech that runs so rampant on the Internet.

It is stated that the law is not designed to prohibit parody or satire, but it is without a doubt that certain websites, or people running them, will be targeted with legal action.

A prime example is the Yes

Men, a group of economic activists that use culture-jamming tactics and elaborate hoaxes to point out blaring injustices made by huge corporations.

These vigilant activists cajole their way into conferences, ask questions and give caustically satirical speeches while under guise of corporate representatives.

The Yes Men were mistakenly invited to conferences, lectures and televised debates.

The legality of their actions was ambiguous, making it difficult for the targeted organizations to prosecute the activists. However, this new law will allow corporations to have web-based activists tangled up in court.

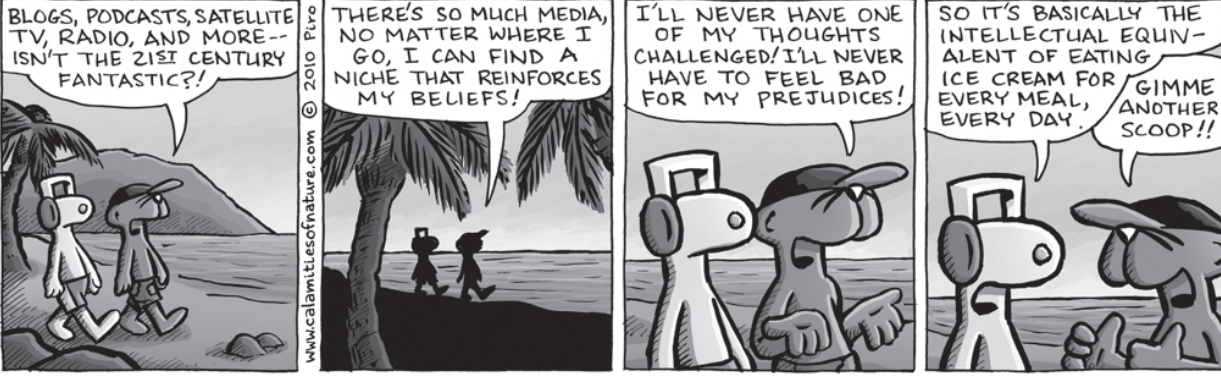
This legislation was poorly thought out and will only serve and "protect" those who already have significant influence and power. It is a waste of money, paper and time.

This is just one bill out of many that needs to be repealed and put under the scrutiny of public debate.

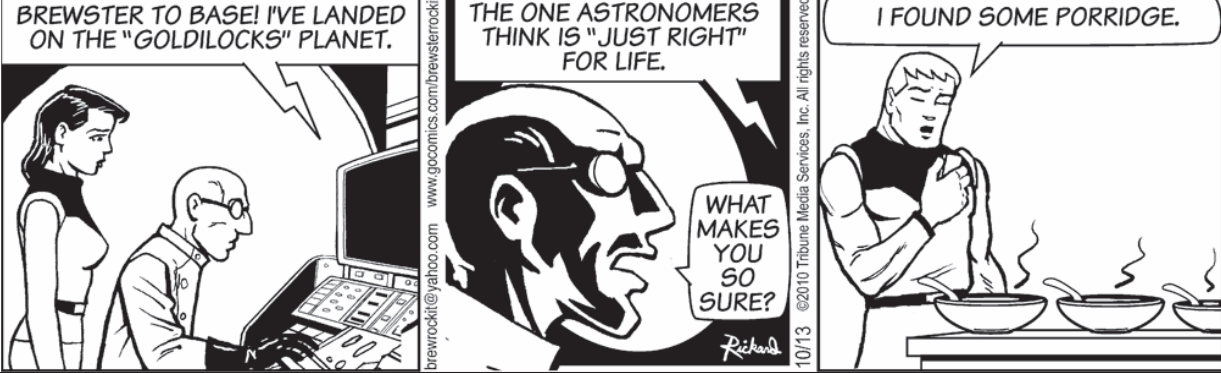
It is imperative that we pay attention to what our governing bodies are trying to pass off as law and regulation, otherwise we can end up replacing freedoms with excuses

JIMMY EDWARDS-TURNER/TM

Calamities of Nature by Tony Piro



BREWSTER ROCKIT



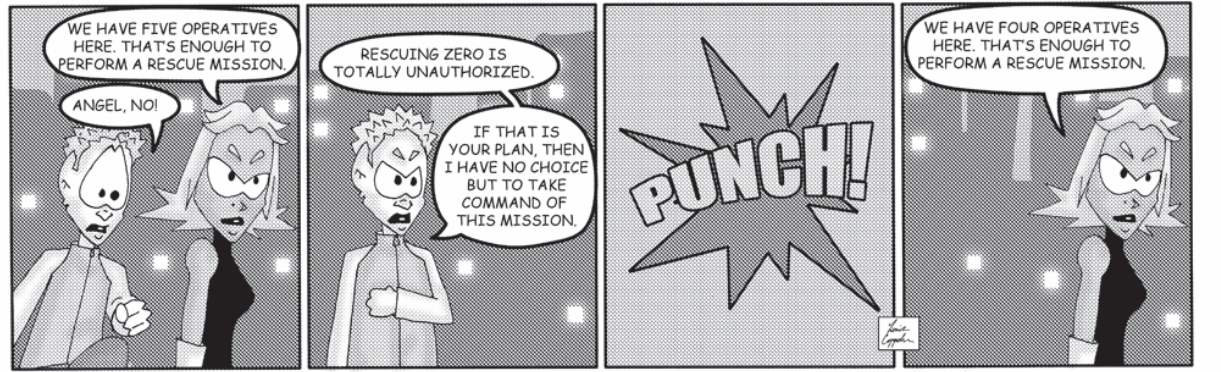
GERP

JIMMY EDWARDS-TURNER/TM



ZERO

by LOUIS COPPOLA

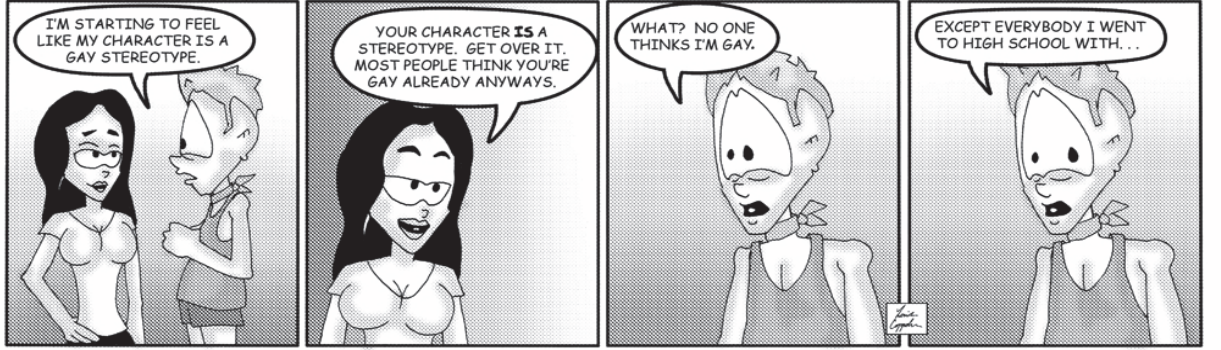


GIRLS AND SPORTS



DREAM NATION

by LOUIS COPPOLA





# Freshman wrestler returns to the mat

JIMMY EDWARDS-TURNER  
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“The loss of my leg has its advantages and disadvantages,” says Luis Palacios, a freshman wrestler for Cerritos College. Palacios lost his leg to bone cancer last year.

Afflicted with osteosarcoma, one of the most common cases of cancer in young adults, Palacios had to undergo surgery and went through the necessary physical therapy for six months.

As Palacios walks to the locker room for practice, he attracts curious glances from passers-by. His metallic prosthetic leg glints in the sunlight, a glaring obstacle and an unlikely asset.

“I have to take the loss into account while wrestling, but [my opponents] only have one leg to shoot for,” the wrestler jokes.

Before this hindrance, he was already an aspiring wrestler showing formidable potential, competing on the San Jacinto High School wrestling team in 2007. Losing a leg did not do much to slow down Palacios’ determination to train.

### Back to the mat

As a redshirt for the Falcons, he will be laying much groundwork this year by training with the team and refraining from competitions. According to Palacios, he was already making excellent progress as a wrestler and the loss

of his leg is only a minor setback.

Palacios explains that his partiality to wrestling over other sports is due to the unique sense of camaraderie. He professes his relief when finding his bodily modification did not interfere with his team’s ethic.

Don Garriott, head wrestling coach and Disabled Student Programs and Services specialist, explains the effects of Palacios’ missing limb on his technique. “Since this is (Palacios’) first year wrestling without (his leg), we’re trying to figure out what he can and cannot do,” Garriott says.

### Meeting the challenge

Garriott explains how Palacios’ weight class is also affected and how he could use this discrepancy to his favor.

Losing the leg also meant losing 20 pounds, thus bringing Palacios’ weight from 185 to 165 pounds.

Garriott says, “If he trains hard enough and works on his strength, he can be as strong as someone of his prior weight class, while competing in his current (weight class).”

Palacios and Garriott have also been experimenting with various starting positions and stances to accommodate the loss of the leg. Garriott elaborates, “He can stand in neutral position but he can’t do takedowns from there.

“We’re changing up his stance so he can attack effectively; a

downward stance let’s him attack legs and get in on shots.”

Palacios goes on to elaborate how he is studying for a career in physical therapy and pursuing a bachelor’s degree in kinesiology. He declares his experience with physical hurdles to overcome influences his choice profession.

### His plans to rise to the top

After finishing his academics at Cerritos, he plans to transfer to California State University of Long Beach.

Although he considers it a mere annoyance on his road to success, osteosarcoma is a serious ailment with a 68 percent mortality rate, according to the American Cancer Society. Medical science and Palacios’ fortitude have helped him conquer his infirmity, but there are nearly 1,000 young adults every year who have to face certain death.

The Falcons will be wrestling this weekend at the Southern Regional Duals.



JIM BRANNON/TM

**TITLE:** This wrestler has a missing leg and still wrtestles. He lost his leg a couple of years ago, but continues WORKING>>>> on it.

## Another second-place finish leaves wrestling stuck

### Wrestling team finishes second in team standings for the third consecutive tournament

Stephanie Romero  
Staff Writer  
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The Cerritos College wrestling team finished second place for the third time in a row after the Falcons received a total of 189 points giving Fresno City College the lead by nine points and sealing its third tournament win of the season.

Freshman 125-pound Steven

Cabanas, 141-pound Tilman Tran, 157-pound Cody Bollinger and at the 285-pound weight class Jose Lopez, all took first place in their class weight class.

“Tilman Tran really made a big jump this weekend, beating several opponents that he had lost to before and winning the tournament,” Cerritos head coach Don Garriott said.

The Falcon freshman 133-pounder Chad Thornock and sophomore 197-pounder Mario Delgado both took second places in their weight classes.

“I was very happy with the way we wrestled this weekend and it shows that we are doing the right things to better ourselves,” Garriott stated.

Fresno College head coach Paul Keysaw recognizes the determination

of the Falcons to catch up to his team.

“We’re improving every week; by the end of the season we will be wrestling at our best. Cerritos College is doing well and they’re getting closer,” Keysaw stated.

One of the examples is sophomore Jesse Ponce who moved up from fourth to third place from the team’s last competition.

Ponce came in third place in the 149-pound weight class defeating RJ Pilkington of Sierra College.

“Jesse is another one who has all the talent in the world but just needs to keep tweaking a few things to reach his potential,” Garriott mentioned.

Jesse beat Pilkington 6-2 to land a third place finish in the tournament.

Cabanas took control of the weight class in 125-pounds. He de-

feated five of his opponents to clinch the weight class.

“It feels good winning first place; it’s what we will continue, this will be my second time on the season that I receive first place,” freshman Cabanas stated.

Along with Cabanas, Bollinger also feels the tournament was a success.

“I felt great. It is always good winning tough tournaments,” he said.

“I just kept having fun for I can keep the pressure off my back.

Bollinger was the second seed at the beginning of the tournament and he won four of his matches on the day.

The wrestling team will compete this Saturday in the Southern Regional Duals at Palomar College at 9 a.m.

### Wrestling Results

**Mt. SAC Duals** ----- N/A

**ELAC** ----- W 33-6

**West Hills** ----- Second Place  
**Tournament**

**Santa Ana** ---- Second Place  
**Tournament**

**Modesto** ----- Second Place  
**Tournament**

## CERRITOS



### SPORTS BRIEFS

#### Cross Country finishes in ninth and 12th places.

The men’s and women’s cross country teams traveled to Mission Bay Park in San Diego for the Southern California preview meet and both placed in the top 15.

The men’s team placed 12th and the women’s team placed in ninth place.

“Although this meet is really just a preview of what the Southern California Championship will be like, we all did pretty good” Goldman said.

CHERELLE TISBY

**Next Event:** Oct. 15  
Santa Barbra Invitational

#### Women’s soccer joins the fight against cancer



The Cerritos College women’s soccer players have been wearing pink warm-up jerseys throughout the month of October for National Breast Cancer Awareness Month to raise money for the cause.

Gonzalez and his team are raising funds in the name of his mother, Silvia, who passed away of the disease in 2006.

Cerritos women’s basketball coach, Karen Welliver, believes that the gesture can improve awareness.

“I think it’s awesome to show people that awareness is important,” she said. “It is also important to make sure the women on the team actually get checked, themselves.”

STEVEN QUINTANA

### UPCOMING SCHEDULE

#### WOMEN’S SOCCER

1. Home vs LA Harbor
2. Home vs East LA
3. Away vs El Camino

## Women’s soccer reaches the ten-win mark after shutting out both Pasadena College and LBCC

STEPHANIE ROMERO  
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The Cerritos College women’s soccer team won two Southern Coast Conference games against Pasadena College, and Long Beach City College over the weekend, shutting both teams out 4-0 and 3-0 respectively.

The Falcons scored the game’s first goal against Pasadena when sophomore forward Daniela Martin scored 26 minutes in, after being substituted for midfielder Tatiana Cortes.

The Falcons placed an emphasis on team characteristics leading them to the win.

“The key for us was team work. We hustled and kept up our communication and that helped us get the win,” sophomore forward Liliana Leos said.

Playing in the rain and the large field were disadvantages for Pasadena College.

“A lot went wrong for us. There was a miscommunication on the first goal, the other free kick could have been stopped,” Pasadena coach Randy Lilavois said. “It was hard to play on the field and in this weather.”

Sophomore defenders Justine Telles, Janet Arroyo and Morgan Thompson were able to limit Pasadena College offensively, covering

passes and creating space on the field.

“We were well organized defensively and held to opportunities to score,” coach Ruben Gonzalez mentioned.

Freshman forward Daniela Martin scored during the 26th minute of the game. In the first half of the game, the Falcons took the lead by two points and in the second half, scoring another goal.

“Every team will come out and play harder against us because of our reputation, but it will be hard to beat us,” Gonzalez stated.

The Falcons were able to control the entire game against the Vikings.

Sophomore Liliana Leos stole the ball at midfield then passed it to freshman Cindy Corona when she reached the top of the penalty box.

While Corona made her first goal of the season, scoring on LBCC goalkeeper Sara Thatcher.

Before halftime, Martin scored a goal off of an assist from Telles.

Midfielder Martha Rodriguez scored her first goal of the year from an assist from forward Alexis Clavesilla.

Freshman goalkeeper Sandra Coto made two saves to record her seventh shutout of the season.

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# Falcons drop two games at home

PETE MOYE'  
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The Cerritos College volleyball team lost its second and third straight Southern Coast Conference games to El Camino College (11-2) (2-0) and Mount San Antonio College (8-5) (2-1), but the Falcons see it as a learning experience more than a loss. "Our goal as a team is to improve every game and this game we improved our defense and blocking," Cerritos head coach Teresa Velasquez-Ortega said. "We were a little inconsistent early, but we just have to keep improving every time we play." Cerritos was able to push El Camino in both the first and third games, however, it would drop all three sets in the game and be swept 21-25, 17-25 and 23-25. One of the problems for the team was its ability to cover tips on the defensive side. Cerritos assistant coach Gay Castaneda says, "We have to keep practicing on the tips and hopefully it will reiterate to the games." Despite sweeping the Falcons, El Camino head coach Le Valley Pattison believes the Falcons were a good test for her team. "Cerritos came out and played well but we were steadier," she said. "We want to play against teams that are bigger, stronger and faster because it makes us bigger, stronger and faster. "It's easy to win when you aren't playing the best," she adds. The Falcons struggled to hit the

ball well throughout the course of the game.

Cerritos had 19 errors and was only able to score 27 kills. "There was no high point for us on either side of the ball; it was all flat," sophomore Chanelle Puou said. "We have to work harder to get that extra intensity." Puou, who is still recovering from a foot injury, led the team with nine kills. Sophomore Amber Finley created the momentum for several of the Falcons' rallies. She ranks second on the team in kills with 75 and first in blocks with 28. "We didn't fight hard enough. Our intensity was there but we didn't want it enough," Finley said. The Falcons continued to receive solid production from their back row. Sophomore libero April Perez was able to record 15 digs, while sophomore outside hitter Samantha Mora came up with eight digs. Freshman setter Lupe Garcia continued to lead the team with quality passing. She had 21 assists, and provided depth for the defense, having six digs of her own. After the El Camino game, the Falcons dropped to (4-5)(0-2) on the season and they look to play more cooperatively to get the next win. "We have to come together as a team and be on the same page," middle blocker Aundrea Stovall said. "Everyone needs to play with the same desire."

The Warriors' captain outside hitter, Donella DiDomenico, says her team will look to use its intensity from this game into its next match-up against Pasadena City College. "We came out with fire, wanting the win. We need everyone to keep working hard and practicing hard so we never just depend on one person," DiDomenico said. Cerritos assistant coach Richard Puou says the team has to focus more for its next match up. "As a team, we need to keep improving our communication and keep up the energy so we can get the win," he said. Cerritos looked to rebound in the following game against Mt. SAC but lost another five game set, 3-2 with scores of 23-25, 25-23, 25-23, 23-25 and 15-12. Cerritos was lead by Mora, who had 24 digs and 17 kills seven of which came in the fourth set. She is third on the team in digs with 106 this season. Finley was able to post a season-high six blocks along with 14 kills. Garcia controlled the flow throughout the entire game recording, 45 assists, 10 digs, seven blocks and two service aces. Garcia has been the team's setter all season and has been effective in distributing the ball. She leads the team with 327 assists this season. The Falcons will attempt to achieve their first Southern Coast Conference win of the season when they take on Los Angeles Trade-Tech this Wednesday at Gahr High School.



PETE MOYE/TM

**Smashed:** Sophomore outside hitter Channel Puou kills a ball set by setter Lupe Garcia over to El Camino College defenders. The Falcons were swept in three games.

## Pick one for Pete's Sake



While it may be every collegiate athlete's dream to make it to the professional level in his or her respective sports, all athletes don't choose the same path to get there.

Every year some of the top high school prospects are recruited to some of the most prestigious four-year institutions around the nation.

Others, however, may choose the more conservative route and attend a community college in hopes of being scouted and offered a scholarship at the conclusion of their sophomore season.

But who is to say that playing at a community college doesn't have the same intensity of playing at a university?

Hall of Fame offensive tackle Ron Yary has proven that a player can make be successful by first attending a community college.

Yary attended Cerritos College before he transferred to the University of Southern California.

He was the first overall draft pick in 1968, drafted by the Minnesota Vikings.

Cerritos has won 11 California Community College State Championships with six of them coming in the last five years.

With all the talent on the field at Falcon Stadium, who is to say that the Cerritos College football team could not hold its own against teams in the Football Championship Subdivision, maybe even a few in the Football Bowl Subdivision, which are both higher levels of division in college football?

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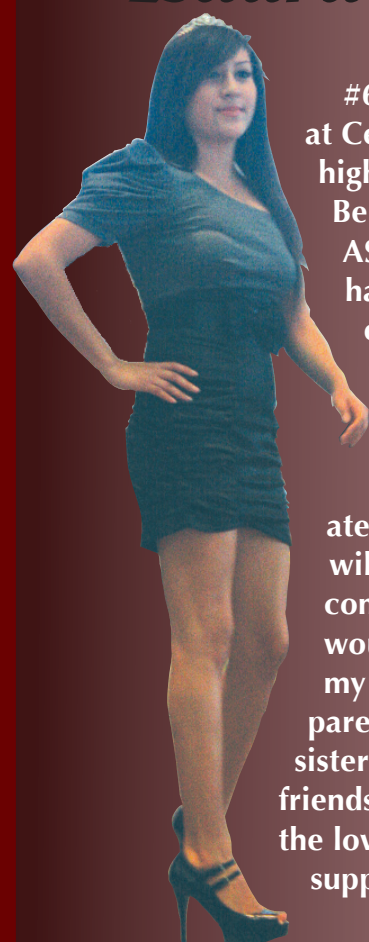
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# 2010 Homecoming Court

## Isaura Quintero



#6-As a sophomore at Cerritos College, I am highly active on campus. Being a part of ISA, PTK, ASET and student senate has been a great experience. I would like to transfer to UCSB or UCR. In addition, I plan to obtain a master's and doctorate degree. These degrees will prepare me to become an optometrist. I would like to thank my wonderful parents, brother, sister and friends for all the love and support.

## Raquel Ramirez

#7-As a freshman on campus, I am involved in ISA, PTK, ASET Club, the Student Veterans Club, GOP Club and Triathlon Club. I am also on ASCC Senate and currently running for Miss Greater Lakewood. As former Miss Bellflower Princess and a 13-year girl scout, I really enjoy volunteering with children and supporting breast cancer awareness. I am a math major with plans to transfer to Worcester Polytechnic Institute and follow my dreams of becoming an actuary. Cerritos College is providing me with opportunities I never imagined, and I am incredibly proud to be a Falcon.



## Crystina Leyva



#2-I recently graduated from Cerritos College. I am currently working on transferring and I am excited to pursue a career in public relations. I am currently hosting my own radio show on WPMD.org. I work in Admissions and Records and I am a part of the ASCC Cabinet. I am also the commissioner of fine arts and am really excited to be in the 2010 Homecoming Court.

## Down to seven: elections this week

ANDREA MORA  
Arts Editor  
arts@talonmarks.com

Seven girls are running to become Cerritos College Homecoming Queen: Isaura Quintero, Crystina Leyva, Teresa Gonzalez, Erica Casarez, Raquel Ramirez, Arielle Pavone and Briana Koeppe.

Voting will take place Wednesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The candidates were presented to the Cerritos College student body during the homecoming kick-off that took place last week in the Student Center.

Marta Hernandez, commissioner of the Student Center, talked about the reason for the school to have homecoming. "It is to show students on campus that we have school spirit. "We want to get them mo-

tivated and more interested in coming to school," she adds.

Candidate number seven, Ramirez, also has a similar outlook for homecoming. She said, "It is another positive thing that I'm doing here at Cerritos. I'm already involved in six clubs and I'm on senate. I think this is another thing to help me get involved. I think I will be able to spread the word of homecoming efficiently."

One upcoming homecoming event is float building week that starts this week and runs until Friday.

The homecoming game that takes place Saturday will be preceded by the homecoming dance.

The homecoming queen will be announced at halftime of the game.

## Arielle Pavone

#1-Just call me AP! It is my first semester ever in college, and I'm so stoked to be in the homecoming court. I'm 18 years old, and just passed my license test (next step is working toward my dream truck)! I love traveling, hiking and camping, anything outdoorsy, especially snowboarding. I'm half Costa Rican, a quarter Italian and a quarter European. If In-N-Out was a dude, I would totally marry him. Huntington Beach is like my second home. I love the laid back California sunshine environment. I work at a movie theater, which is totally rad because of the free movies. I love my family and God.



## Teresa Gonzalez



#5-Hi, my name is Teresa Gonzalez. I am representing the Cosmetology Club and, most of all, Cerritos College as part of the student body. You can define me as passionate. I am very educated in everything I do, from everyday activities to making my cosmetology customers happy. I am especially passionate about becoming homecoming queen, because I enjoy being involved in school activities. I primarily want to show my school pride and advance in academics. Go Falcons!

## Erica Casarez

#4-I am a sociology major and I am involved in iFalcon and the Psychology Club. I enjoy spending as much time with my family and friends as I can when I am not going to school or studying. I decided to run for homecoming queen with the support from iFalcon club and my family because, I was the shy girl in classes. I excelled in them, but I was not very involved in school activities. I recently began to be more involved by joining clubs and I really like it. It helped me break out of my shell and by running I am hoping to encourage others. It is important to do your best in college academically, while maintaining a balance of fun along the way.



## Briana Koeppe

#3-Going on my third year at Cerritos College, I plan on transferring and majoring in accounting with a minor in computer information systems. I live in a house of 12 with siblings from different ethnicities and backgrounds. I want to travel and see the world and eventually be a great mother. I cannot live without dance in my life. I like that I am very dedicated, adventurous and open-minded. There are going to be many obstacles in life, big and small, and you just have to conquer every one of them.





# Mock rally shows what men are really made of

PHILIP OKOLI  
Staff Writer  
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With many laughs, dancing and acting, the Homecoming Mock Rally was a success for homecoming court member Teresa Gonzalez and her mocker Mark Vera, who was voted the favorite in this event.

The second week of the homecoming events ended with the Oct. 7 Mock Rally, an event where men are chosen to dress and act, and in other words, mock, the seven members of the homecoming court.

The procedures that the mockers had to go through in this event were to “strut their stuff” down the runway, answer questions asked by the master of ceremonies, Cerritos alumnus and DJ Rey Mar, then asked to show their moves.

Mar commented on the rally by saying, “This is my 17th year doing it, and it gets better every

year. Each event has something that tops the previous ones.”

With a full house in attendance and with the reactions they gave, it seems as though many students agree.

A moment that brought out a positive reaction from everyone was when Mar made a comical statement to mocker Shawn O’Brien, who was representing court member Briana Koppe, saying, “I do have a thing for tall redheads,” to which O’Brien responded with, “I do like chorio,” making the crowd laugh.

Another big reaction from the audience was to mocker Carlos Guerrero, who was representing Erica Casarez of the iFALCON Club.

While dancing, his water balloons fell out of his shirt in an apparent accident, which sparked huge laughter from everyone in attendance.

Vera, however, received the biggest reaction from the crowd

and judges.

When Vera was up to start dancing, there were some difficulties with the specific song he wanted to dance to.

Vera was dancing while in the splits, which were unexpected, which made the crowd erupt with cheers and applause.

At the end of it all, the team of Vera and Gonzalez was voted the winner by the judges.

Happy from the win, Gonzalez said, “Mark deserved to win. He gave it his all and practiced really hard; I am so proud. I chose Mark as a mocker because he is a cosmetology student, as well, and has an energetic personality in everything he starts. He gives it 100 percent, as do I.”

The homecoming queen will be revealed at the Oct. 16 football game against Ventura.



**Dude looks like a lady:** Mocker Mark Vera shows off his moves at the annual Homecoming Mock Rally. Vera mocked Cosmetology Club's Teresa Gonzalez and won the approval of the crowd as the best mocker.

Scan to view



Slideshow



**All dressed up:** From left to right, Carlos Guerrero, Jonny Morales, Julian Del Real Calleros, Christian Villarreal, Shawn O'Brien and Adam Pascale strut their stuff at the 2010 Mock Rally. The contest was won by Mark Vera who represented Teresa Gonzalez of the Cosmetology Club.

# Activity Night takes over SS Building

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The Homecoming Committee held an activity night at the Social Science patio last Wednesday, where free pizza and soda were given out to the evening students.

Cerritos College students only needed their current student ID to receive the complimentary food and drinks from the Homecoming Committee members.

While refreshments were handed out, the homecoming court candidates walked around the Cerritos College campus and entered classrooms with the professors' permission, to let students know about the upcoming homecoming events at Cerritos College.

“We’re trying to get everybody to join in on homecoming activities and root for the Falcons. Its very important because not a lot of people are informed about what is going on in college and it should be a fun experience for everyone,” homecoming court candidate Teresa Gonzalez said.

The homecoming events are a tradition that has been apart of Cer-

ritos College since 1955. Taking place this semester, the tradition is continued with the promotion for campus involvement.

Activity Night allowed the Homecoming Committee to advertise upcoming events at Cerritos College, by handing out flyers listing the events that are for the month of October. Homecoming Committee member, Aerial Hughes, who was a representative of Activity Night, wanted to remind students about the events that they can participate in before or after classes.

“We want to get people involved because we know a lot of people just come to school and go home or go to work. We want them to know that you can get involved and do something else. That’s another reason why we have things like [Activity Night],” Hughes said.

Having homecoming events, such as activity night, and homecoming elections, gives the privilege for all Cerritos College students to take an interest in school

clubs and committees. The effort students put into extracurricular activities can also improve their resume for a transfer to a university of choice.

Director of Student Activities Holly Bogdanovich, who was present at Activity Night, wanted to have the event for night students to become aware of the school events and to be reminded about the benefits of being on a committee and in a club.

“Really, nowadays, colleges and universities are looking at students that get more involved, with them being so tight on who they can admit if you’re one of the 10 applicants in a group, and the school has one spot to fill. What makes you stand out from the other nine candidates that have the same GPA and major as you? What sets you apart is your involvement,” Bogdanovich said.

Cerritos College students will have the chance to be involved by participating in the homecoming events this week. Students can volunteer at events like float building, which involves each club make a float with a theme of its choice and present it during halftime at the homecoming football game on Saturday.





# ‘The Crucible’ delivers nothing new

## Play Review

### *The Crucible*

Starring: Juan Castaneda and Barbara Derry  
Director: Kevin Slay  
Rating: ★★☆☆

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The Cerritos College Theatre Department’s presentation of “The Crucible” by Arthur Miller both satisfies and disappoints, leaving the audience with a rather neutral and mediocre theater experience.

The Burnight Center Theatre at Cerritos College saw this adaptation of the great American classic that opened on Oct. 8 at 8 p.m.

“The Crucible” is a play set in Salem, Mass. in 1692, a time when witchcraft was the deemed cause for all things deviant.

The plot revolves around a group of girls who are caught dancing naked in a forest with a black slave named Tituba.

To avoid trouble with the village, the girls begin to blame their behavior on the workings of the Devil, and proceed to accuse numerous innocent villagers of performing witchcraft.

Mass hysteria subsequently engulfs Salem as trials are held. Grudges and secrets overflow into the mess and difficult decisions are made.

There is no question as to how



COURTESY OF ASHAKA MATTHEWS

**Focus:** Reverend Samuel Parris (Tyler Tingley) questions Tibuba (Lavenia Slaughter) during a scene from “The Crucible.” The play opened its doors to the public on Friday.

good of a play “The Crucible” is.

The themes of intolerance and blind finger-pointing instilled into the play’s riveting setting are timeless.

The Theatre Department’s production had its fair share of shortcomings, though.

The play, with its definite serious tone, was handled admirably by director Kevin Slay.

He has done an exceptional job with presenting the play’s passion and frenzy through the direction of his actors in the minimal set pro-

vided. Susana Batres consistently shone in her portrayal of Abigail Williams, the vicious and vindictive leader of the lying girls who cried, “Witch!”

She did a great job of channeling Williams’ incessant intensity throughout the play.

Other outstanding actors were Juan Cas-

taneda, who portrayed Francis, and Barbara Derry, as Rebecca Nurse.

The despair of the Nurses when two elderly villagers, innocent members of the Salem community, are unjustly thrust into the chaos that is engulfing the town, is jointly felt by the audience, due in no small part to Derry and Castaneda.

Some actors didn’t do nearly as well.

Zack Daly, cast as

the tragic hero, John Proctor, often seemed incapable of expressing the character’s deep and fervent emotion. His lines were delivered as his character seemed bored and flat.

Tyler Tingley’s constant scowl and shouting while playing the role of Reverend Parris were more comical than serious.

This made the character one-dimensional.

Jose Zazueta’s turn as the troubled Giles Corey was almost a mockery of the character.

All I remember from him in the

Scan to view



Slideshow

## Film student’s ‘Writer’s Block’ reaches new heights

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Cerritos College film student Peter Catania’s short film “Writer’s Block” was featured at the SoCal Film Festival in Huntington Beach on Oct. 1.

Out of 1,000 submissions, “Writer’s Block” was one of the 96 short films that was chosen to be viewed at the five-day festival.

His film, which has already received honorable mention at the 3C Media Solutions Fifth Annual Student Film & Video Festival, won the award for student filmmaking at the festival.

Tony Perez, the actor in the film, was nominated for Best Actor at the film festival.

The award for Audience Choice has yet to be announced, but Catania is hopeful.

“Based on the viewers’ reactions to the other shorts (films), I think it went really well,” Catania said.

The film is the story of a writer overcoming his writer’s block.

“I wanted to show what all au-

thors and writers go through at a particular moment in time when they think they just can’t write anymore, and how frustrating it can get,” he said.

It begins with a writer who walks out to a grassy field with his typewriter. As he strokes the keys on his typewriter, notes come out, as if he was playing a keyboard.

In his attempt to write his story, he gets writer’s block and, conjunctively, the notes scramble and make no particular melody.

As he recovers from his writer’s block, the notes begin to reassemble themselves into a melodic song, once again.

Miranda Mirasol, an art major at Orange Coast College, believes that Catania “hit the nail on the head.”

“I watched the film, and I can relate to how that writer felt. The way he illustrated the writing process was precise from an artistic standpoint.

“It’s brilliant because when you find your voice, finally, the music is so beautiful,” she added.

Although the music is an essen-

tial part of telling the story, it was not Catania’s first intention to use it to help tell his story.

“When the music team and I got to preproduction, we found out that the camera didn’t have an audio sync with it,” Catania said.

Without an audio sync, Catania and his music composer, Max Cuzor, had to think of a different way to incorporate audio to his film.

“We came up with the idea that when he (Perez’s character) types, we’ll have the notes play and the emotion could come out of there rather than a voice-over.

“I thought a voice-over would take away from what I was trying to show,” Catania said.

Catania is currently in the middle of writing a screenplay, his fourth film, which he is very tight-lipped about.

“No, no, no,” Catania jokes, “that screenplay needs its tweaking before I give out that inside information.”

However, Catania does state that it is a mystery/thriller film noir.

The film will be shot next year.

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## TM Trivia

Name the movie.  
“Twinkle, twinkle, little bat!  
How I wonder what you’re at!  
Up above the world you fly,  
Like a tea tray in the sky.”

\*To answer visit [www.talonmarks.com/arts](http://www.talonmarks.com/arts)



# Cerritos College jazzes it up for a night



**Improvising:** Members of the Cerritos College Jazz Ensemble performs at its exchange concert on Oct. 6. The Cerritos Music Department held the concert to encourage middle school students to continue playing music once they reach college.

**VICTOR DIAZ**  
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Cerritos College hosted the Valley Christian Middle School Jazz Band as part of an exchange concert with the Cerritos Jazz Ensemble in the Student Center.

Wednesday's concert began with Valley Christian's set, which included "Turn Up the Heat," featuring a trombone solo from Eric Kooi, the band's director, and "The Blues Walk," with solos from trumpet player Eric Kurtner and alto saxophone player Joshua Lange.

The band's set concluded with Sonny Henry's "Evil Ways," a tune that was made famous by

Carlos Santana in 1969.

After the performance, Kooi said, "I thought the kids did a good job. They've only been playing for a month so I was really proud of them."

"I love the venue here. The people and the crowd were a lot of fun and that made it fun for the kids," Kooi said.

The night continued with the performance of the Cerritos Jazz Ensemble, which was led by vocalist Jose Maldonado.

The ensemble's set began with Dizzy Gillespie's "Manteca," which featured solos by trombonist Daniel Lopez, alto sax player Michael Herrera, baritone sax player Steven McEvilly and trumpet player Alvaro Perez.

Maldonado assisted the band vocally with the pieces "Come Fly With Me" and "Don't Get Around Much Anymore."

The night concluded with a cover of Stevie Wonder's "Superstition," which featured Herrera and John Hanpangvongs on saxophone and trumpet, respectively.

After the performance, Maldonado said, "I had a lot of fun. We worked hard for six or seven weeks, and it paid off."

Students, like fashion design major, Blanca Ibarra, enjoyed the night's program.

"It was really good, especially the solos," Ibarra said.

Criminal justice major, Saul Rodriguez, said, "I really liked it. I've

liked jazz since I was in high school."

After the performance, Director David Betancourt, who also played drums with the ensemble, addressed the band's strengths and weaknesses during its set.

"Musically, they were together, they knew where they were in the pieces and it sounded like we had been rehearsing together, which to me, is one of the most important things for a band like this," Betancourt said.

However, Betancourt mentioned its weaknesses by saying, "We still need to clean up some of the (music) charts. It's still early in the semester for us to get out here so we need to clean up a couple of things, but that's a constant; it never stops."

## 'It's Kind of a Funny Story' isn't much of a funny story

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"It's Kind of a Funny Story": Well, it kind of wasn't.

The film is based on a semiautobiographical novel by Ned Vizzini of the same name.

"It's Kind of a Funny Story" is a self-professed dramedy, directed and written by Anna Boden and Ryan Fleck, the team responsible for 2006's critically acclaimed "Half Nelson."

It's neither funny enough to be a "funny story," nor powerful enough to move the viewer.

The bulk of the film is composed of painfully lame and childish scenes, a plethora of jokes that fall totally flat and generally poor storytelling.

The plot revolves around Craig (Keir Gilchrist), a depressed 16-year-old boy.

He contemplates suicide on multiple occasions and eventually feels the need to check himself into a psychiatric hospital.

He soon realizes that this decision may have been a

mistake.

Craig meets new people there who help him realize this, and make his life happier.

The character of Craig is in no way outstandingly interesting.

Though his common troubles are supposed to generate a sense of sentiment or comedy within the audience, they procure only a sadly awkward figure.

Craig's love interest, Nolle (Emma Roberts), is even worse.

She is so deeply unlikeable, and truly embodies all that is wrong with the film.

Devoid of personality, her sole purposes in this film are to act as generically cute as possible, and to respond to situations just as a common middle school girl would.

Zach Galifianakis is one of the movie's only redeeming qualities. He plays Bobby, one of Craig's fellow patients and his mentor.

He really showcases his impressive acting chops, deviating from the hilarious roles he's become known for.

The film's ultimate message is a good one, but by the time you want to feel good about it, all of its flaws, fresh in your mind, come rushing back.



**COURTESY OF MCT**  
**Looking for direction:** Keir Gilchrist, far left, Zach Galifianakis, center, and Emma Roberts, far right, star in "It's Kind of a Funny Story."

## Downtown Los Angeles Art Walk fights off rumors of being canceled

**JIM BRANNON**  
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Cerritos College artists have been impacted greatly as the Downtown Los Angeles Art Walk struggles to get back on its feet.

Nelson Leal, president of the Cerritos College Artists' Society, says that Cerritos artists had just started exhibiting art on the walk last month.

"I'm disappointed with the whole scandal. The LA Art Walk is one of the finest events in LA."

"Some members of the Artists' Society are trying to organize an exhibit for this month, but are having issues, mainly because the event has not been finalized," Leal said.

The Downtown LA Art Walk has been revived from obscurity after a week of confusion over whether the event will continue as planned on Oct. 14.

Former director, Jay Lopez, was fired by the board that oversees the art walk after Lopez announced, without its approval, on Sept. 24 that the walk would be suspended until Jan. 2011.

Lopez cited funding issues as the reason that the walk would go on hiatus and it would switch gears from a monthly to a quarterly event when it returned.

Galileo Gonzalez, a Cerritos College art student, voiced his concerns over the condition of the art walk.

"When [Lopez] announced that the art walk was canceled, it actually angered my friends, who are all artists."

"Then, with the announcement that the art walk will resume, there was relief, but there was also some confusion whether it will be a quarterly event or not, and we're all just waiting for a definite answer from the organization," Gonzalez said.

The art walk, which began in 2004, has had a surge in popularity, attracting as many as 20,000 people during previous events.

The revival comes courtesy of property owners who have promised \$200,000 to keep the event afloat, along with the backing of the Los Angeles Police Department, who in a statement said that it would make sure that the event remains safe.

Currently, the organization still has not updated its website; its homepage still has Jay Lopez listed as director.

Another Cerritos art student, Lizbeth Rivera, watched the LA Art Walk's popularity rise.

"Ever since I started going there weren't many people, and then every other month I kept going, it started building up with more artists and locals," Rivera said.

"Many people still believe that it's actually postponed."

"I can't wait to go in October to see how many people are not there, to see if it's affected," Rivera said.

Gonzalez stresses that there are many other venues for artists.

"One local place is the Cafe Studio on the corner of Pioneer Boulevard and 183rd. You can also go to other art walks in other cities, like the Pomona Art Walk [and the] Fullerton Art Walk," Gonzalez said.

The Cerritos College Artists' Society will show art in the Cerritos Regional Park on Nov. 20 from 2 to 9 p.m.

Leal encourages all Cerritos College students to get involved with art events.

"Both for local artists and for people who appreciate art, [the LA Art Walk] is a great way to bring the Los Angeles community together in a peaceful and entertaining manner."

"There are many ways to exhibit and display artwork; with a little organization and imagination, anything is possible," Leal said.

The Downtown Art Walk organizers could not be reached for comment.

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