

TALON

CERRITOS COLLEGE
NORWALK, CA

VOL. 48, NO. 14
JAN. 30, 2002

Marks

Black History Month Performance

Accomplished actor Mr. Stogie Amir Kenyatta will offer a free one-man performance of *The Life and Times of Paul Robeson*.

Tuesday, Feb. 5
11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Burnight Theatre



Signing In — Students gather information from Hellfire club vice president Ron Hinojales, center and to his right, member David Medlin.

Clubs gather new members

TERESE LEON
ASE EDITOR

New clubs and old clubs were represented last Thursday at Club Day, where most of the clubs on campus encouraged students to join their organizations.

Tables covered in posters and fliers were set up all around Falcon Square. Such clubs as The Poetry and Arts Club, The Gay Straight Alliance, Puente, Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance, and Disabled Students of Cerritos College were all out there promoting their clubs.

A few new clubs were there as well, most notably, Hellfire. Hellfire is a club about history,

music and philosophy, but mostly "It's a club all about having fun," said Ron Hinojales, liberal arts major and vice president of Hellfire. The poster in front of Hellfire's table sited "Pagan rituals" as one of their activities.

If Hellfire sounds a little too extreme for you, don't worry, there's a wide variety of clubs on campus.

The Poetry and Arts Club is another club on campus that just wants to "have fun," according to Rocio Valdez, education major and president of The Poetry and Arts Club.

Valdez said, "We're all about letting people on campus express themselves artistically."

If you're interested in more serious clubs than the ones previously mentioned, the Feminist Leadership-Majority might be for you. They want to end racism, sexism, homophobia and ageism and they are actively involved in the community.

There's a lot more clubs on campus than these though. There's the Math Club, The Astronomy Club, the Black Student Union and the Scholars Honors Club to name a few more.

If you missed Club Day but you're still interested in getting involved with one or more these organizations you can contact the student clubs and organizations at extension 2473 or just drop into the Student Activities office.

TARA CARTER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The California higher education system took a sigh of relief on Thursday as Gov. Gray Davis signed a spending plan that promises to maintain a strong commitment to education.

"This is the third year in a row that puts education first," Davis said as he signed the 2002-2003 budget. "Even in a softening economy I was determined to maintain our strong commitment to education."

Community college officials followed the formation of the new budget very carefully.

In November Davis proposed cutting \$126 million from the budget of California community colleges in an attempt to narrow the \$12.5 billion shortfall in the budget.

After months of lobbying community colleges throughout California celebrated as Davis restored \$32 million back to the budget.

Although some base funding cuts were made with total funding for community colleges up 6 percent community college officials embraced Davis' spending plan.

"I do not believe it serves our interests to be critical of the governor," said Thomas Nussbaum chancellor of California community colleges. "We should be positive of the priority he has accorded or colleges and education in general given the impossible budget situation."

The largest base fund cuts included:

- \$58 million reduced from

CALWORKS

- \$26.8 million reduced from matriculation
- \$19.8 million reduced from telecommunications and technology infrastructure
- \$10 million reduced from student success funds
- \$8.8 reduced from the Economic Development program.

General funding for the University of California will increase 5.27 percent and Cal states will receive a 5.79 increase in general funding.

For the first time in years the University of California was threatening to raise student fees and implement enrollment caps but because of Davis' plan this threat is no longer there.

In a statement UC President Richard Atkinson said, "Davis has proposed a wise, farsighted investment in education for the benefit of the state's overall wealth."

The budget also allows for \$92 million for Cal grants, \$118 million to continue providing \$1,000 and \$2,500 Governor's Merit Scholarships to high achieving high school students, and \$160.4 million to complete the development of UC Merced.

The governor's budget will be sent to the state legislature in May and must be approved by both houses with a two-thirds vote, before the budget goes back to the governor for his signature. The 2002-2003 fiscal year will begin on July 1.

Cars vandalized near police station

JIMMY MISTREY
STAFF WRITER

Six cars were broken into and vandalized in the Cerritos College parking lot located near Cerritos College campus police department on Tuesday night.

Cerritos College student Carolina Romero's car was one of the six with shattered windows.

Romero feels there isn't enough security in the parking lots. "I rarely see anyone patrolling, especially at night in the big parking lots..." Romero said in a letter to the Talon Marks editor.

Due to this incident, Romero refused to attend classes because of fear that her car would be broken into again after having it repaired for a cost of over a thousand dollars.

"These parking lots are very safe. Anytime you have big parking lots you're going to have incidences where a car was broken

into," responded police Lt. Richard Bukowiecki of Cerritos College campus police department, to the incident.

"Anywhere that has a whole bunch of people parking is gonna have cars being broken into. No matter how much security we put out there, there is no way to prevent all of the crime," Bukowiecki added, sympathizing with Romero.

The police department assured that they do everything they can to make the students feel safer during day and night but preventing 100 percent of crime is unlikely.

The recently added police towers, about four years old, hold police personnel from 7 in morning to 11 at night.

Anywhere around 13 police cars patrol the lots for traffic control and plans are being made to add more towers, including one for Falcon Way.

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Photo talk describes Afghan experience

MARISOL ROJAS
STAFF WRITER

Apparently one of the most difficult aspects of photojournalism is the invisibility photographers have to maintain out in the field.

"A photojournalist must evaporate from the scene as much as possible...keep their ego out and let the story come to them."

In a Lecture held in the Cerritos

College Art Gallery on Wednesday evening Craig Lockwood, a photojournalist who just return from war-torn Afghanistan explained what it takes to be a good photojournalist.

Lockwood described a difficult situation where he photographed a mother with her dead child. He explained how difficult it could be

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Photo by Alicia Warner

A new Falcon way

With the completion of the Senior Center expected later this year, Cerritos College will have a new entrance into the college from Studebaker Road. The street will replace the old Falcon Way which will become a walkway complete with fountains. The walkway is expected to tie the campus together and make access easier from the South end. The C10 parking lot will have an additional entrance to help alleviate traffic during peak times and pedestrians will have a more convenient trek to and from classes. The new street will keep the old name of Falcon Way. Construction of the road will not inconvenience driving or parking before it is finished.

Flovick new Bookstore manager

ERIKA PALMA
STAFF WRITER

Cerritos College has a new bookstore manager, Paul Flovick.

Flovick was the manager of a Crown bookstore for four years. Flovick said being a new manager isn't easy but that Cerritos' students are handling the store great and he hasn't had any problems.

The bookstore isn't going to have many new changes; prices on books are going to stay almost the same. New merchandise will be offered in the store this semester, such as Champion sportswear, summer clothes and sweaters.

A new system for buying back books will also be introduced. The J.D.A. system makes printouts that show students and cashiers the name and price of the book. This system is expected to help lines move faster in comparison to last semester when the prices and names of books had to be hand-written.

Students are already noticing improvements in the bookstore. Ivette Avila, business major, said, "Last year it was harder and took forever to pay for your books in line, and this year it took me less than ten minutes to pay for my books."

Even with new management some students still have the same complaints semester after semester.

Jaclyn Kowalski, business major, said the bookstore was managed well when she went in, but she still thinks there should be more cashiers to make the lines go faster.



Photo by Daniel Aguilar
According to new Bookstore manager Paul Flovick students are noticing myriad improvements.

Entertainment night set Feb. 12

To celebrate Black History Month, the Cerritos College Black Student Union (BSU) will host Entertainment Nite '02 on Feb. 12.

In remembrance of black singer Aaliyah, this special event will feature an Aaliyah Dance Tribute, along with other song, dance and rap routines.

The event will be held in the College's Student Center beginning at 6 p.m. General admission is \$5 and \$3 for BSU members wearing an organization T-shirt. All proceeds from the event will be donated to charity.

Student Mena Norris, president

of the BSU, is producing the Aaliyah Dance Tribute. Special guests include Tommy The Clown, and live music by DJ Bam-Bam. Radio station, The Beat, will warm up the crowd with prizes and Black History trivia.

In addition to the Aaliyah tribute, a talent contest will be held, with prizes awarded for first, second and third place.

Norris hopes to have talent scouts present that evening, giving all participants a chance at fame.

This event is open to the community. For more information, contact Norris at (562) 627-1724.

Heritage conference helps find ancestors

Armondo Borboa
SPECIAL TO TM

With Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday just past and Black History Month about to roll around, the Discover Your Roots conference is an opportune chance for African-Americans to research their family history in America.

According to conference chairperson Steve Gilliland, this event is "The perfect opportunity for African-Americans to learn the skills necessary to trace their ancestry and see how their families helped build modern society."

Although the promise of "40 acres and a mule" for each freed slave was never realized after the Civil War, the reconstructionist American government did create at least one program that is now paying dividends to the decedents of

those former slaves.

In 1865, the Freedmen's Bank was chartered specifically to serve the needs of the newly freed citizens; most of who could not read, write or even sign their names. The Bank created an extensive system of family history for each depositor as a means of ensuring identity.

Although the Bank eventually failed, it created a massive database of information that is now used to form a genealogical foundation.

The original records were rediscovered by Marie Taylor of the Salt Lake Genealogical Society and were processed by 550 volunteers from the Utah State Prison system.

It took volunteers nearly 11 years to catalog, cross-reference and file the millions of names included in the original Freedmen's Bank records.

Chuning new college VP

As the new semester begins, new students will become familiar with Cerritos College and all it has to offer alongside new Vice President of Business Services, Dennis Chuning.

Chuning comes to Cerritos College from the College of the Canyons in Santa Clarita, where he served as Vice President of Administrative Services. He has been in public education since 1974.

He began his educational administration career in the field of business services at the K-12 school level. Since 1983 he has worked in higher education, primarily at the community college level.

He also served as the Director of Administrative Services at Evergreen Valley College, Vice President of Administrative Services at Chaffey College and, Director of

Business Services at Pasadena City College.

He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Business/Accounting from California State University, Fullerton and a Master of Science in Educational Administration at the University of Southern California.

Chuning was drawn to accounting as a child. In elementary school he participated in a career research project and discovered the field of accounting. He liked the challenge.

"I like the fact that you always know when you have the right answer — reports balance," Chuning expressed.

"Cerritos has a great reputation among community colleges in California," Chuning said in explaining why he sought the job at Cerritos.

It is a larger organization with more budget responsibility than

College of the Canyons and, he thought it would be a great opportunity to work with a new president from outside California. He looks forward to developing a relationship with the president and the Board of Trustees as a trusted advisor in the area of finance and administration.

Over the next couple of years, while the state and the nation face a recession, Chuning wants to focus on providing fiscal stability for the College.

He wants to explore additional opportunities to bring more money to the College through grants or perhaps through the issuance of general obligation bonds.

General obligation bonds would be used for new, expanded and upgraded facilities necessary to meet the educational program needs of the college.

Photojournalist shares experiences

continued from page 1
at times to take a picture and not form an emotional bond with the subject.

"It is an extraordinary and terrible profession," Lockwood explained. "We don't abuse the past and are careful about putting ideology into the story. The best writing is when the writer is invisible."

Throughout his lecture Lockwood provided the audience with several tips on becoming photojournalists.

"Everyone develops their own techniques. That's the genius of being creative people."

He advised moving steadily and with perspective, taking pictures of people with out their permission, sticking with the same film and of course "being able to fade in and fade out" of the scene.

As a photojournalist Lockwood has experienced many close calls.

He has been held at gunpoint by revolutionaries, caught in between a cockfight in Mexico, and most recently nearly shot by a young boy in Afghanistan. Lockwood explains that in order to be a good photo-

journalist the person has to be an "adventure junkie."

Danger and illness are nearly unavoidable in hostile situations. He has suffered from such diseases as malaria, and hepatitis on his exploits to places like South America, Russia, and India. Lockwood feels comfortable traveling armed and with a first aid kit in case of emergencies.

Both have proven to be beneficial to him. On his last trip to Afghanistan he photographed a young child who was ill. The young boy was starving and had just eaten a leaf that made him sick.

After taking the picture, Lockwood assisted him with his first aid kit.

"It's really sad to see little kids feeding off leaves over there, when they're feeding off Doritos over here," said Angela Ayala, business major.

Many students were impressed with Lockwood's lecture. "I didn't think photojournalism was this exciting," said Sandra Hunt, undeclared.

Others in the audience now feel

they will pursue this as a profession. "I was always interested in photography, but now that I know what it's all about, I'm considering this as a career," said Gilbert Partida, communications major.

Lockwood expects the best from up and coming photojournalists. He hopes they will stay away from the example of today's media.

"Today's media, instead of being witness to history, appear like used car dealers of information." With increasing technology he insists he will "practice until he drops dead. There's so much to learn."

Cars vandalized

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Statistics show the average number of cars being stolen dropped since the addition of the towers.

Before the addition of the towers in 1998, the average number of cars being stolen out of Cerritos College parking lots was about 40 a year.

After the addition, the average dropped to three to five a year.

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EDITORIAL

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TALON MARKS

Jan 30, 2002

EDITORIAL

King Korrektness?

On page four of the Talon Marks' last issue we included a little online poll. In the bottom corner of the paper.

Little did we know that little poll would be the biggest thing in the newspaper.

The poll posed the question "How will you celebrate MLK day?" Among the possible answers we included answers that ranged from sleeping and celebrating to attending a KKK rally.

Our responses ranged from the mundane to the outrageous because we wanted to include a variety of responses for our readers, including what they would never do to celebrate Dr. King's birthday.

The day after publication our newsroom was flooded with phone calls and e-mails from angry Cerritos College students and faculty members who accused Talon Marks of being distasteful and insensitive.

"Why did you include KKK rally," they asked. "That wasn't funny. Instead of making jokes, why don't you promote events that celebrate the life of Dr. King?"

Making jokes? Is it so hard to believe that there are still racist people residing in the United States?

It wasn't so unbelievable to the first African-American mayor of Newport, Tennessee who had a wooden cross burned on his front lawn earlier this month.

It wasn't even unbelievable to the citizens of Newport when they held a diversity festival to protest against a Ku Klux Klan rally that was held on Jan. 20, Dr. King's birthday.

The angry individuals who blasted the Talon Marks were right.

It is not funny.

It's not funny that 40 years after King's infamous "I have a Dream" speech close-minded ignorant people are still using intimidation tactics and violence to enforce their twisted beliefs on others.

It is not funny that people throughout the United States cannot live in peace with their neighbors simply because of the color of their skin, their ethnic background or their sexual preference.

What is funny is educated people trying to pretend that racism does not exist. Refusing to acknowledge racism does not mean that it is obsolete.

Yes it is true that America has come along way from the separatist mind state of the 1960s, but as the Ku Klux Klan in Tennessee has showed us we still have along way to go.

Letters to the Editor

I have noticed that there is little to no security in the parking lots at night. (mainly the one by the strawberry field.)

Last Tuesday night six cars were broken into between 6:50 and 7:10 p.m.

My car was among those that were broken into. Windows were shattered everywhere.

I arrived at 6:55 p.m. and parked in row R of that parking lot.

I noticed two suspicious characters looking at my car, but I was running late for class.

It turned out that my class was canceled anyway. I hurried back to my car, and arrived there at 7:06 p.m. My driver side window was shattered and my stereo was gone. I looked everywhere but could not find a campus police officer.

I called the police and was

told that they do not handle campus issues, and that I should contact campus police.

As I was speaking to them I saw a cruiser go by. I ran over there and found them with someone else whose car had been hit.

As we were standing there they found the other cars all within the same six or seven rows.

Campus Police were helpful, once I found them!

But being that the campus police station is in that parking lot and had there been someone patrolling, they would have caught the culprit.

I think that this is a big problem. I rarely see anyone patrolling, especially at night in the big parking lots. Yet, they always seem to be patrolling the crowded smaller lots, looking for people either speeding or parked illegally.

I feel that the bigger lots should be secured better especially at night.

After this incident I don't feel safe at Cerritos at all! It just happens that my car is very recognizable because I have a decal on the front windshield. I have not been to class since the incident, one because of the damage, and two because I am afraid that this will happen again once my car is fixed.

How do I know these guys won't come back? How could something like this have happened right next to the campus police station?

I will not park in that parking lot again if I can help it. I don't like parking there because it's always so deserted. The fact that these guys were walking around staking out cars bothers me. Someone, besides me, should

have noticed them.

I kick myself now because I should never have left my car. I had a feeling that's what they were up to. I am, as far as I know, the only one that saw them. I hope that (though unlikely) they are caught. I also hope that Cerritos College takes a closer look at this incident and does something to improve our safety.

Six cars!!!! That's a whole lot of damage, not to mention quite a bit of time, and nobody saw them but me.

I'm just thankful that they didn't take my car, but now I have \$1,000+ worth of damage that might possibly have been avoided by better security.

I think this incident should be brought to everyone's attention in an attempt to have better security.

Carolina Romero



How would Frogger handle this?



JIMMY MISTRY
Associate Editor

How is it that the parking lot is so huge while you are walking to a class but so small when you are trying to find a parking space?

It takes me four to six minutes to drive from my home to Cerritos College. Takes four minutes to find a parking space. Ten minutes to walk to the class. Things that make you go "hmm."

Some people think it's way too big. Others think it's too small for all the cars.

If it were up to me I'd just have carpools going. That way at least the spaces would be available.

I say everyone should just ride bicycles! You wouldn't have to worry about someone

stealing or breaking it.

Unless of course you are one of those "cool" kids who has it raised with huge tires for the Himalayas or souped up with extra neat racing gear and tires that can peel out the tar underneath it.

The "cool" kids would probably have tri-cycles going. So many advantages. Crashes at 10 miles an hour max. Three dollars for damage repairs. No break-ins.

The most sound they'd make is a squeak. Less maintenance. Keep you in good health.

The biggest advantage would be not having to listen to two people trying to show off their amplifiers playing Nate Dogg or Linkin Park.

And why are there so many stalkers in the lots all the time. Can I walk to my car without being followed by a shadow car trying to get a parking space.

It's like I have to adjust to their pace and walk faster. No time to tie that loose shoe lace

cowboy, just keep walking, faster unless you have an infatuation for having tread marks on your back.

Does the college need more lots?

What it surely doesn't need is more cars!

The problem is one car has one driver to it. We need a college bus! Going around picking up all of its students.

We can all even sing get-along-songs in a melody while coming and going.

But on the serious side. The parking lot is always crowded. If you want proof, go to the police station and ask for a report about a girl getting hit by a car on Tuesday in the C-10 lot, the one by strawberry field.

I am hoping, and I'm sure every other student is, that the tram from parking lot to campus is up and running soon.

"Ahhhh..." screamed Jimmy Mistry and quickly jumped to the sidewalk when he saw a big Chevy Blazer that would've probably ran him over.

TALON MARKS

The Talon Marks is a First Amendment publication. Editorials express the views of the Editorial Board. Other opinions express the view of the author and are not to be considered opinions of the publications staff, the Editorial Board, the advisers, the Cerritos College Associated Students, the college administration or the Board of Trustees.

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2002 Talon Marks

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Letters to the Editor are subject to editing due to content and spacing. Letters must be submitted the Thursday before publication at Talon Marks, AC 42.

Campus Comment

Do you think the parking lots should be improved?
And if so, how?

COMPILED BY
Terese Leon and Laura Aguilar

ONLINE POLL

what club did you
sign up for on
Club Day?

- ☐ Poetry and Arts
- ☐ Puente
- ☐ Hellfire
- ☐ Feminist Majority League
- ☐ Gay Straight Alliance
- ☐ Disabled Students of Cerritos College

Register answer online at
www.talonmarks.com
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"I don't know what improvements they can make. It's just too small."

MELISSA BAUGH
UNDECIDED



"I don't know if they should be improved because in the beginning of the semester everyone goes to class but a third of the way through the semester, everyone drops their classes so parking is fine again."

Ryan Lara
Anthropology



"We're lucky to have three different parking lots in three different locations opposed to most junior colleges that only have one or two. Although I do think they need better lighting."

Victor Shen
Philosophy and Psychology



"Yes, I think it might need to be made bigger and it needs more stop signs."

Danny Daniels
Undecided



"I don't think the parking is that bad. It's pretty spread out and you park wherever you want. We need safety phones for night time students."

Kelly Stewart
Biological Engineering



"I think the teachers should have to park in the back and the students that are here early should get the spots up front."

Chris Keeler
Computer Science



"I think they're ok, compared to other schools. It's only a 10-minute walk."

Melanie Freeman
Child Development and Sociology



"There's not enough parking. Everyone has to park in the back. There should be more spaces so students can get to class on time."

Christina Salomon
Nursing



Campus plays are minimalist

BY TERESE LEON
A&E EDITOR

School plays. Sounds pretty cheesy, right? Those two words usually invoke images of over-dramatic, hardly talented kids running around a stage in sequined costumes singing Broadway show tunes in front of gaudy sets.

Or maybe you really dig the idea of school plays. Getting to see your friends acting onstage, in sequined costumes, singing Broadway show tunes...

Either way, if the aforementioned scene is what you usually expect from a school production, then a performance of "Babel's in Arms" and "Line" will leave you rethinking your bias.

Both plays lack extravagant sets and costumes (although a few sequins might be found here and there in "Babel's in Arms"), neither one has show tunes, and the actors are amazingly capable.

This might sound boring to some people. No costumes? No props? No scenery? But it makes the plays more interesting and thought provoking than they could be if props and scenery were there to get in the way.

"Line" is the story of five people waiting in line for an unnamed event, each one of them fighting for first place, no matter what the consequence.

With extravagant scenery, props and costumes a person could get wrapped up in the surface story and not realize that the play is actually a metaphor for life. What would you really do to be a "winner?" Sleep with someone else's wife? Beat up a stranger? "Line" tackles questions like these and entertains at the same time.

"Babel's in Arms" is about two blue-collar workers who are told to build the tower, or Babel.

The two Beavis and Butt-head-like workers, Cannaphilt (Marc Leon) and Gorph (Giovanni Martinez), question God and his place in the universe. They wonder why they must build a tower "infinitely high and infinitely wide" when God is all around.

The story might sound very religious and thus somewhat boring to many people but it's kept modern through modern music, dance, speech and acting.

Both plays are minimalist in sets and costumes but make up for it by having thought provoking stories, talented actors and interesting plots.

Film collateral damage victim

BY ALICIA WARNER
FEATURES EDITOR

After being put on hold for about five months due to the terrorists acts in New York on Sept. 11, 2001, Arnold Schwarzenegger's new movie, Collateral Damage will be playing in box offices soon.

Warner Brothers decided to move the movie back to a later date due to the recent terrorism acts, the movie wouldn't be very appropriate for viewers, but viewer ratings are high so its time for the final release.

The main character, Gordy Brewer, a Los Angeles County Firefighter, who is played by Schwarzenegger is caught off guard by a terrorism act in downtown L.A. where he was running late to meet his wife and child. Brewer didn't get to his wife and child in time and with their passing, he seeks to find the terrorist.

Brewer's family being in the wrong place at the wrong time resulted in his determination to find the terrorist who took his family away from him.

Along with the CIA and FBI, Brewer is out to find the man who stole his family away from him. All the information they know is the main targets are members of the Colombian consulate and American intelligence agents that were in the building at the time of explosion.

Brewer begins to search out the terrorist under the name El Lobo meaning The Wolf. He begins to research Colombia and find out where he needs to go to get into the Guerrilla territory. All the odds are

against him as he goes in to the war-torn country, but he is a man with nothing left to lose.

While in Colombia, he goes through many obstacle to get into the Guerrilla territory. Between all the bullets he had to dodge and running through the rough terrain of the vast green country, he discovers the Wolf and begins to find out where he will strike next.

Collateral damage is full of action, suspense and emotion. It is not the normal blood and guts kind of movie. The movie draws the viewer into the driven emotion that Gordy Brewer holds in for the loss of his family.

It is one movie that viewers will find a hero in this heroic firefighter, just as America has found a hero in the firefighters that were involved in the terrorist act in New York.

The ending of the movie holds a life long lesson for all viewers, Collateral Damage is something that will change the viewers life.

As Americans not many know what collateral damage is; this movie will give the viewer a big insight to what collateral damage really is. It is not just a movie title, it is really happening in today's world.

Americans are quite fortunate for what we have and Collateral Damage will make viewers realize that Americans take things for granted. There is a lesson to be learned from Collateral Damage.

The movie will be in theatres for viewing pleasure on Feb. 8th.

With suspense so intense, hold on to your popcorn tight.



Photo by Alicia Warner
Arnold Schwarzenegger meets with press to discuss the postponement of his new movie Collateral Damage.



Edmond Dantes returns to society.

Count's greasy face graces the screen

BY SYLVIA DUHAN
OPINION EDITOR

Alexandre Dumas' novel, The Count of Monte Cristo, is the story of Edmond Dantes (Jim Caviezel), a handsome young sailor with a promising future who plans to wed his beautiful fiancée, Mercedes (Dagmará Domínguez).

His freedom is stolen when he is betrayed by his best friend Fernand (Guy Pierce) and wrongfully accused of treachery.

Edmond is sent to Chateau d'If, an island prison, where he befriends a fellow inmate (Richard Harris) who disciplines and teaches him the art of sword fighting.

After enduring 13 years in the prison, he escapes and with vengeance in mind, returns to the life he was ripped apart from.

Disguised as the wealthy Count of Monte Cristo, he reinstates himself into French nobility and retaliates against the men who framed him.

The film, directed by Kevin Reynolds, was filmed in beautiful Dublin, Ireland.

The costumes and location gave the film a genuine appearance.

The acting enriched the film, but the only extraordinary performance in the movie was delivered by Caviezel.

The Count of Monte Cristo was a good movie, yet it lacked violence. There was a couple of sword fights but the movie mostly consisted of backstabbing, gasp-inspiring revelations, bad teeth and greasy complexions.

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Men rebound from unexpected conference loss

Most observers thought that the Cerritos College men's basketball team would extend their season-long 10-game winning streak to 11 before the start of their South Coast Conference South Division game against Los Angeles Harbor.

The Seahawks came into the game with a 5-13 mark and had an entirely new team, including head coach Tony Carter-Loza and assistant Todd Malecki, both former Falcon assistants.

Well, the Seahawks flew through The Aviary and came away with a surprising 55-52 win that not only ended Cerritos' winning streak, but forced them into a must-win situation against Compton two days later.

Cerritos, who lost a one-point decision to the Tartars in the Modesto Tournament, turned in one of its best games of the season. The Falcons out-rebounded Compton, 46-29, which led them to their 73-58 win.

The victory improved the team's record to 17-6, while they are 1-1 in divisional play. This week, the Falcons will host El Camino on Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. before they face defending state champion Los Angeles Southwest on the road on Friday.

Against the Tartars, the Falcons played the most intense game they have all season, as they fed off the energy of the coaching staff.

Head coach Gary Cain, along with assistants Tito Ortiz and Roland Preciado, did not allow the

team to get lazy, as they fed them encouragement the entire game.

The team seemed to respond very well and played a tight man-to-man coverage for most of the game. Their tenacious defense led to the Tartars' shooting just 40% from the field, while it committed 19 turnovers.

Offensively, the Falcons were led by sophomore guard/forward James Perkins (Gahr), who netted 11-of-18 shots and finished with a game-high 22 points and six rebounds.

One of the keys to the win was the play of sophomore center Antoine Smith (Gahr), who hauled down 17 boards off the bench, while also adding eight points and four steals.

Sophomore center Dwight Blair (Dominguez), who has been a rebounding monster lately, added 10 rebounds to go with his seven points, while freshman guard Geovanny Aispuro (Long Beach Jordan) netted 6-of-10 shots to conclude with 14 points, with five assists, three rebounds and two steals.

Also coming off the bench to add a spark was sophomore guard DaJuan Wilson (Inglewood / Ventura JC), who finished with eight points and three rebounds, while sophomore guard Curtis Williams (Warren) finished with seven points.

The loss snapped a 16-game winning streak against the Seahawks.



Photo by Daniel Aguilar
A Citrus College player lays down a hit in one of Cerritos' first games of the season Tuesday at Cerritos. The Falcons prevailed, winning 9-8.

Former Falcon signs free agent contract

Former Cerritos College offensive lineman Tupe Peko, who was a seventh round draft choice by the New York Jets last season, was signed by the Seattle Seahawks as a free agent.

Peko, who was a two-year starter for the Falcons and then at Michigan State, was cut by the Jets on the last day before the start of the season.

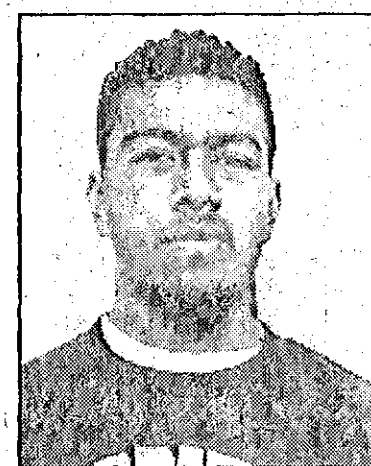
He is expected to compete for the starting center position against Robbie Tobeck and Chris Gray.

However, Peko is capable of playing any position on the offensive line, and came to Cerritos as a tight end before being converted to offensive tackle.

While with the Falcons, Peko was a two-time 1st Team All-Mission Conference Northern Division selection, while earning All-American honors his sophomore season.

He was coveted by almost every Division I program, but finally decided to attend Michigan State.

He helped anchor their offensive line and they experienced their best season in decades during his senior year.



TUPE PEKO

Women set new points record

The Cerritos College women's basketball team set a new school record for most combined points for two games last week, as they defeated Los Angeles Harbor (107-30) and Compton (92-28).

With the wins, the Falcons are now 18-5 overall and 2-0 in the South Coast Conference South Division.

The 199 points eclipses the old mark of 194 points in consecutive wins over the Alumni (103-68) and Santa Monica (92-46) during the 1993-94 season.

This year's team also beat the three-game scoring record of 284 points, as they have scored 295 points in their last three games.

This week, the Falcons will close out their three-game homestand with a 5:30 p.m. contest against El Camino (6-15) on Wednesday.

On Friday, the team will travel to Los Angeles Southwest for a 5:30 p.m. game.

Amazingly, in the team's two huge wins last week, no player scored 20 points, with freshman forward Tiffany Amete coming the closest. She netted 19 points in the win over Los Angeles Harbor, as six players scored in double-figures that night.

Amete also added 10 rebounds, five steals, and three assists in that game, while three players each scored 15 points.

Now is the time to apply!!!

The new year marks the start of the filing period to apply for financial aid for the 2002-2003 academic year.

2002-2003 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) forms are available at the Financial Aid Office. Stop by and pick up a FAFSA.

Cal Grant deadline is March 2, 2002!!

You can either complete a hard copy of the FAFSA and mail it in or you can complete the FAFSA on the Web:

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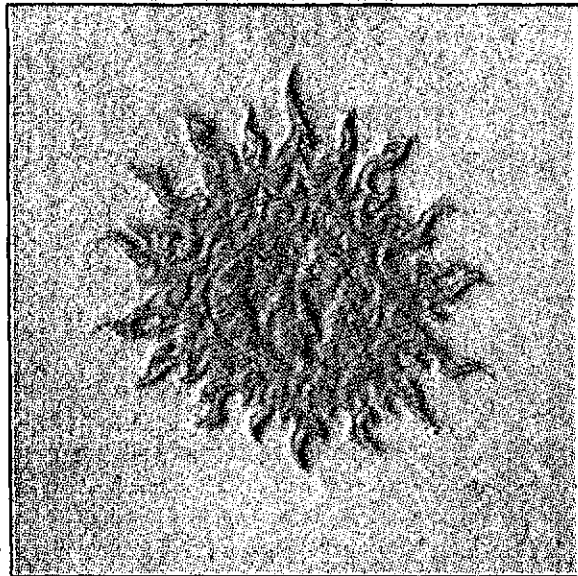
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FEATURES

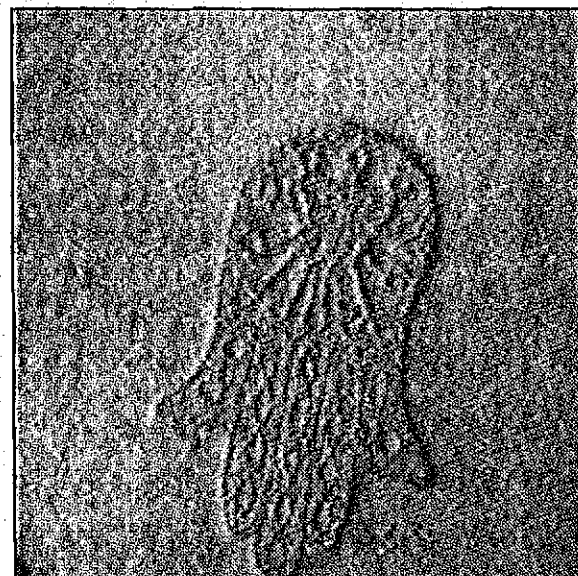
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TALON MARKS

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Always Shining—Webster Ware Jr. shows his stuff.

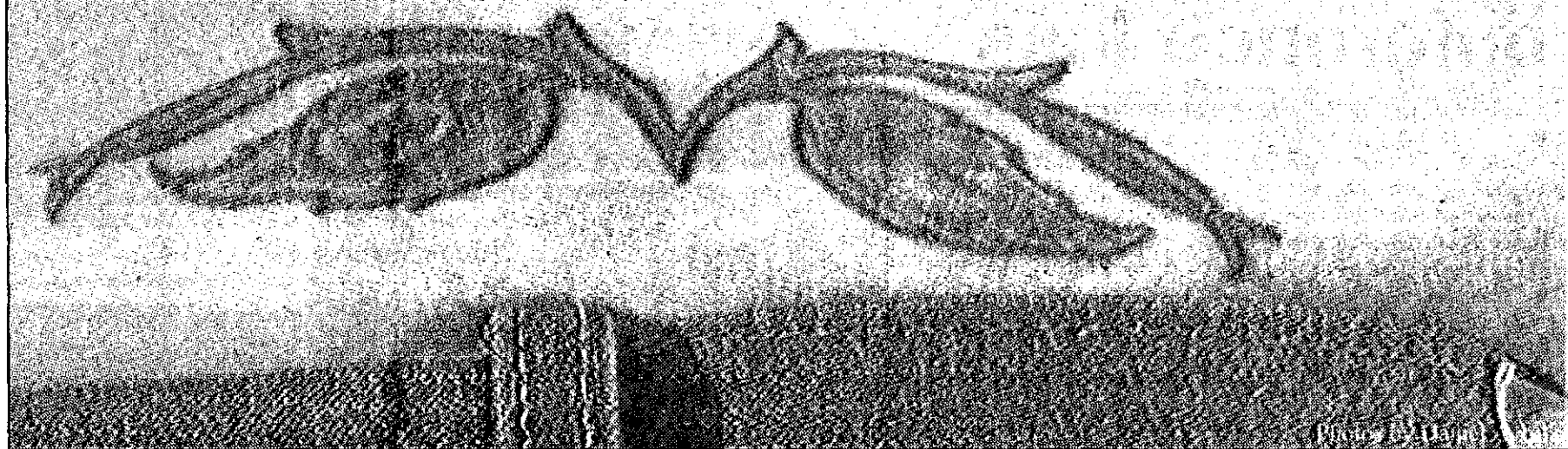


Lucky Charm—Mikaela Sanchez displays his arm.



Sugar—Anabelle Perez shares her sweet tattoo.

TATTOOS MAKE MARK



Ladybugs—Ami Sylvester received her first tattoo as a graduation present from her father. Sylvester wanted to have a ladybug tattoo because she loves ladybugs.

BY SYLVIA DURAN
OPINION EDITOR

Webster Ware Jr., 29, has a Sun tattoo on his right shoulder. It is a "reward" for coping with a past bad couple of years he experienced. "It reminds me that no matter how bad the situation gets, the sun always shines."

Ware is one of the many Cerritos College students who dons a tattoo. A recent study showed that tattooing is most popular among young adults 18-25 years old. Whether it was performed while drunk, to be part of the latest trend, or if it signifies a particular phase in life, the art is permanent.

Doreen Pagano, Student Clerk, plans to "get a tattoo by the end of this year, I've wanted one ever since I was little. I can get it simple then embellish it in time."

Catey Chamberlain, business major, has "Mommy's Little Monster" tattooed on her right ankle. "That's what I am. I am mommy's little monster," Chamberlain advises students, "If you get a tattoo, remember that it is forever. Also, if you're gonna get one, don't get vulgar." Narcus Arrendondo, Teaching major, has a huge Aztec calendar on his shoulder. "Aztec is my heritage and I am proud," he said.

Other students get tattoos for religious reasons. Mikaela Sanchez, has the Hamsa tattooed on the nape of her neck. "It represents the hand of god. It is a good luck charm."

Denise Ruiz, majoring in Child Development, wanted to "show my parents that I am an adult. I got the sun on back because the sun always rises around your shoulders."

Ami Sylvester's father took her to get her first tattoo. "It was a graduation present from my dad. I got the Lady bug tattoo because I love ladybugs."

Anabelle Perez has a tattoo of a heart with the word "Sugar" in it. "It signifies pain and endurance. Sugar was my father's favorite song. That's why I got it."

Charles Gale Jr., Director of Health Services, advises students to "think hard and long before getting a tattoo. Make sure you are going to a reputable tattoo artist who is licensed. Also, make sure he is using gloves and clean needles."

Tattooing has been performed as a decorative practice since ancient times. Nowadays, it is used for popular purposes and cosmetic permanent applications. Tattooing, involves multiple intradermal injections of the skin by a small machine having one or more needles connected to tubes containing the dyes. The site of application usually takes 7 to 10 days to heal. Removal can involve painful surgery or dermabrasion and possible scarring. "Sometimes the scars are as bad as the tattoo," Gale said. Two significant risks to tattooing are allergic responses to the pigments and exposure to blood borne pathogens. There has been cases of

Hepatitis B transmission through tattooing. Though there is no reported cases of transmission of Hepatitis C nor HIV, it is possible. People with tattoos are 9 times more likely to be infected with hepatitis C, according to a recent study by University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center.

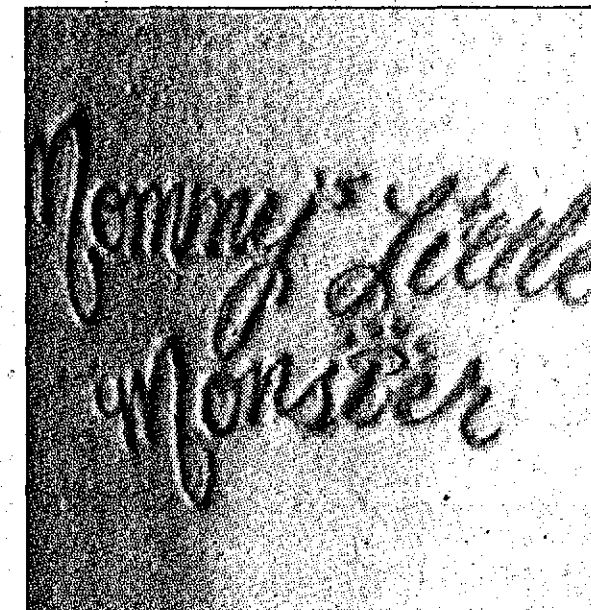
Gale said "Think hard and long, before doing it. Even try a temporary tattoo. See if you like it, and if you do, then you can be sure of what you are getting." He also reminds students that tattoos may not be acceptable in certain settings. Other people may not appreciate your tattoo as much as you do. Employers may not want to hire you based on your appearance."

"We have had students come in with tattoo and piercing infections," Gale said.

"Tattoos are for ever. They can fade, lose their color, or you can change your mind 20-40 years from now."



Aztec calendar—Narcus Arrendondo displays tattoo.



No Words Needed—Catey Chamberlain says it all

Alumnus interns at ABC studios

It is not every day that a student lands an internship at ABC Studios. Cerritos College alumnus Ravindar Brar was accepted by ABC Studios to work in the programming area of KABC, along side Velia La Garda, producer of Vista L.A. Her focus will be production and development.

Brar attended a job fair at California State University, Long Beach where she met Al Reyes of KABC. She introduced herself and briefly talked with him about her major and the possibility of available internships. At a later date she was invited for an interview and was accepted.

"Upon getting accepted, I was truly elated. I felt like anything in life is possible, if you truly believe in it wholeheartedly," comments Brar about her internship. "The thought of actually getting the chance to work for a station that I like, and for people who are just as friendly, really made me feel special. Of course, knowing that my parents and brother would be pleased added delight to the situation as well."

While at Cerritos College, Brar majored in Theatre Arts with an emphasis in Media. "I chose Cerritos College because it offered me a quality education that was both beneficial and convenient," says the Lakewood resident.

"I get the feeling that I am free to try out anything, and truly have the freedom to experiment. No one has ever given me the impression that I am restricted in any way, and that is what I really respect about Cerritos College."

Ultimately, she would like to work in media in a position that will satisfy her creatively. Academically she plans to gain a B.A. in Film/Electronic Arts and move forward from there.

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