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Cerritos student stalked, murdered by childhood friend

ARMANDO BROWN
EDITOR IN CHIEF

"When you tell the police your son is being stalked, they should do something to protect him."

These are the words of a grief stricken mother who feels enough was not done by police to protect her 22 year-old son from the blade of the stalker that killed him on Aug. 31.

Becki Rico, mother of Cerritos College student, Anthony Rico, tries to be strong as she recounts the events that led up to her son's murder.

On that fateful Friday, while her son was alone in the family's house doing homework, Brandon Pacheco, a young man whom the family had known for approximately 17 years entered their home, overpowered Anthony, and brutally stabbed him to death.

"I had four sons, now I only have three," Rico painfully said of the tragedy.

The only female in a house full of men - husband Jesse and her three remaining sons, ages 25, 19 and 15 - who are trying to do what men do, be tough, Rico does her best to comfort her them, and keep their spirits up with hugs, words of

encouragement, and love, while she tries to remain strong as well.

Rico says she constantly asked police to patrol her neighborhood more, but she feels like her pleas went unanswered.

Hostilities toward Rico had been growing for some time in Pacheco, but the boiling point came in March when the two young men happened to run into each other at the home of mutual friend Thomas Marino.

According to a subsequent police report on the incident, Pacheco threatened the lives of Rico, his mother and his father.

Marino described Pacheco as "flipped out on drugs."

After he "went off," Marino says he took him outside and asked him what was going on.

"I don't know, I just (expletive) hate him, I hate his brother, and his family," Pacheco said to Marino.

It wasn't the first time Pacheco had threatened someone.

According to Rico, he had been arrested for threatening the owner of a Union 76 gas station, and Marino said he had also been arrested "a couple of times for

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By Elizabeth Parra

"Watch yourself! Shake it fast" Danny Boy, David Nelson, Keith Stewart, Danny Daniels show their stuff at Cerritos RadioFest II.

Get down wit' WPMD

ARMANDO BORBOA
OPINION EDITOR

With a squeal of amplifiers and the screech of music, WPMD radio at Cerritos College kicked off its live "Radiofest II" at the outdoor amphitheater last Thursday.

This concert had been planned as a promotional event since the early summer, but was quickly modified to include thoughts for the victims of the tragedy in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania.

The International Students Association made an appearance, with several students expressing thoughts of peace and brotherhood. Members running a banner around the quad to display their unity of purpose followed their presentation.

The RadioFest event, combined with a mini-health fair, brought to student's attention several of the services and activities available at no cost to them.

The Health Center had a booth where students could get their blood sugar and pressure tested.

According to Nurse Lorena Cardenas, "Students should get their blood checked often, just to be sure."

Also available was a booth offering a full range of low-cost dental services for students, such as a complete cleaning and check-up for \$9.

Nantucket Nectars gave away free samples of several beverage drinks, such as the Kiwi Berry and the Orange Mango flavors.

The live band "Downshift" played several of their favorite hits and had the audience clapping and cheering in time to the music.

A freestyle dance contest whipped up the noontime activities, with the audience screaming and cheering for its favorite dancer. Eleven guys and girls danced to music ranging from hip-hop, rap to salsa, with the winner being decided by the

loudest applause from the audience.

A prize give-away and a celebrity spot by local radio personalities rounded out the day's activities.

The program was put together by a team of broadcasting students who also help keep WPMD 1700 AM playing 24 a day, seven days a week.

WHERE PEOPLE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The call letters WPMD define the program as Where Students Make a Difference.

The radio station is a wholly student-run program, with students selecting content, programming and music styles.

It operates under FCC regulation, which means it is community oriented and not-for-profit.

Daily newscasts cover college events and activities, both on and off campus. Employment opportunities, sports scores, class schedules/cancellations and traffic reports are covered under the news segments.

For the sports programming, WPMD has live coverage of all Cerritos Falcon's home football and basketball games all year long.

The station follows a variety of professional radio formats, with shows such as a dating info bit called "Arousal Hour" where the lovelorn can call in with their most critical issues about love, dating and romance.

Tuning into Dr. David Young's broadcast; "You and your Career" can yield advice that is more professional.

Dr. Young is a Career Counselor here at Cerritos College and brings his experience to the air every Wednesday from 3 to 4 p.m.

Two of the students who keep the station on the air are M/C and on-air Host, Jeff Harris (J-Roc) and Promotions Director Eileen Arencibia.

A LUCRATIVE CAREER

Harris is a full-time student who has parlayed his radio experience into a lucrative career with a major record label, Arista Records.

This is his last semester here at Cerritos College as Harris will be leaving next month for New York to take his place as a new talent scout for Arista.

While in California, Harris has had the opportunity to work with such stars as Snoop Dogg, Kurupt Daz and other members of the "Dogg Pound."

His signature sign-off is "Stay positive, be positive and positive things will come to you."

I still have other things I want to do before I leave," said Harris, referring to a planned slamdunk fundraiser contest and another live radio promotion.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Arencibia is just as active as a part of the station, responsible for outreaching into the community, as well as helping to produce all other activities.

Since WPMD is non-profit and carries no advertising, Arencibia ensures the station carries as much community information as possible.

Arencibia brings a variety of strengths and knowledge to the program by combining beauty and brains into a dynamic package. She is an aerobics instructor, a free-lance choreographer as well as currently running for the Cerritos College homecoming court.

"My major is actually Psychology," she said, "but I love what I do here at the station."

The station has an external speaker on the west end of the Burnight Center building where broadcasts can be heard.

Suggestions and musical requests can be made by calling 860-2451 ext 2626.



photo by Armando Brown

Marcellino Gerrera prepares the ground for cement by watering it down. Crews worked throughout the day.

Laying down the foundation

CHARLES PURNELL
STAFF WRITER

The key to success is time management, isn't it?

Not only does the sun and moon rise and sink on a schedule but we on earth oblige appointments or we miss out.

Now, four weeks behind schedule, Gate West Construction Incorporated worked steadily with ATO Construction Company on Tuesday, pouring cement for the forthcoming Senior Center on the west end of Cerritos College's

strawberry patch.

According to Gate West's Superintendent Hekmat Abou-jamara, 48, they're behind schedule because they had to obtain a permit for ATO Construction, a construction company contracted by Gate West, to begin pouring concrete, and the permits took longer than envisioned.

"We are behind a little bit partly because of the permit and some issues with the county and fire department, but we solved the

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Photo by Armando Brown

Football fans cheer on their teams in the Student Center during the first week of Monday Night Football. Games will be shown every Monday night throughout the rest of the season.

Jumbo screen brings the big game home to Cerritos College Student Center

BY DAVID AMEZCUA
STAFF WRITER

The on-campus Student Center hasn't been, "ready for some football," during the past two Monday's. And the reasons for that are pretty solid and non-debatable.

The NFL game between the Minnesota Vikings and Baltimore Ravens on Sept. 17, was cancelled by the league in the wake of the terrorists acts six days prior.

And last Monday's game between the Washington Redskins and Green Bay Packers was not shown in the Student Center because of a previously planned school administration function.

All systems are go, however, for next Monday's NFL game between the San Francisco 49ers and the New York Jets. The game, as was the case on Sept. 10, is expected to be shown live in the Student Center.

The Student Center is attempting to bring students closer together via sports. The atmosphere during the Giants-Broncos was like that of a non-crowded sports bar, minus the alcoholic beverages.

An estimated 20 people stopped by for the initial Giants-Broncos game.

Student Center manager Melissa Swank said that the ASCC is also planning to show pay-per-view movies, DVD movies, basketball games, boxing, and baseball playoff and World Series games as well as football.

"As long as there are not any concerts or events showing (on campus) during that time, we plan on showing students concerts and other events," Swank said.

Swank also added that the Center plans to host improv comedy and stand up comedy nights.

According to Swank, this is the first year that the ASCC is hosting events.

"We are still figuring out what kind of events the students are interested in," Swank said.

Games start at 6 p.m., and the remaining schedule is:

Oct. 1st San Francisco vs. NY Jets

Oct. 8th St. Louis vs. Detroit

Oct. 15th Washington vs. Dallas

Oct. 22nd Philadelphia vs. NY Giants

Oct. 29th Tennessee vs. Pittsburgh

Nov. 5th Denver vs. Oakland

Nov. 19th NY Giants vs. Minnesota

Nov. 26th Tampa Bay vs. St. Louis

Dec. 3rd Green Bay vs. Jacksonville



Courtesy of Rico family
Anthony Rico, second from left, in 1998 during better times at his grandmother's house. From left to right are his older brother Jesse, his younger brother Joseph and his cousin James.

Friends until the end

Continued from page 1
pulling a shotgun on his mother."

She had to get a restraining order out on him.

As a result of the March incident at Marino's house, Rico said Pacheco "only got a slap on the wrist."

The Rico family was in the process of trying to obtain a restraining order against Pacheco at the time of the murder.

Rico says that because of the fear Pacheco had his family living under, she tried to get his mother to commit him. "I tried to get his mother to put him away, I tried to get the cops to put him away, I tried to get somebody to do something, but nobody did."

A Sheriff's spokesman said they get several reports of threats on people's lives a day, and that it is "overwhelming" for them. "It's amazing how many of these threats are made," the spokesman said.

Anthony's father said, "I'm going to miss him, miss him a lot. He was a good boy. He would go out of his way to help

anybody."

He said that the two weeks before his son's death had been special because he had been spending more time than usual at home. Two nights before the attack, the two of them spent hours together marinating a pig they were going to roast on Labor Day.

Rico was a young man who had many interests, and they kept him away from home a lot.

"He loved film," his mother said. "He especially loved Martin Scorsese films."

He would make me sit down and watch gangster movies with him. . . . Once, for a class project, everyone had to make a one minute video, but Anthony made his a 10 minute video," Rico said proudly.

In the paper, Anthony wrote that their friendship wasn't a very good one for long.

On one particular occasion, Pacheco wanted to fight, so his cousin "obliged him," and proceeded to beat Pacheco up.

"That took a bit of his pride, [and] from that

tenance, welding, acting and architectural drafting. The family's youngest son, Raymond, is a best friend with Pacheco's younger brother, yet despite the tragedy that has befallen the Rico family, they hold no grudges against the Pacheco family.

Rico said, after the murder members of her family told the younger Pacheco "not to feel guilty, that it was not his fault, he's still part of our family."

Rico met his killer 17 years earlier, when at the age of six his family moved to the Whittier street they still live on.

In a paper his mother found after the murder, he recounted the stormy relationship he had with his future murderer, during the course of his life.

In the paper, Anthony wrote that their friendship wasn't a very good one for long.

On one particular occasion, Pacheco wanted to fight, so his cousin "obliged him," and proceeded to beat Pacheco up.

"That took a bit of his pride, [and] from that

moment on, Brandon displayed sporadic outbursts of animosity toward my brothers and me," Anthony wrote.

She feels that Pacheco's animosity toward her son might have come from jealousy that there was always a family atmosphere at her house; something she says was missing at Pacheco's house.

Anthony wrote, "Oh well, he probably missed out on the best friend he could have ever had."

Approximately 400 friends attended Rico's funeral.

His aunt read a poem that Rico had only recently wrote that moved many at the church to tears.

One of the verses read: "What are my words? Hopeful, positive, recognition. Thoughts of inspiration when, gathered and reflected upon. A provider of comfort in the uncomfortable hour of life."

At the wake Marino went up to say a few words about his friend Rico. The last few words were, "He was simply the best."

CalWORKS is the way to go

ARMANDO BROWN
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Staff of Cerritos College's CalWORKS program held their first ever "Kickoff" luncheon Friday in the Student Center.

The event was designed as a "refresher course," a way for students in the program to familiarize themselves with services CalWORKS offers.

There were presentations on requirements for the program, services offered and how to fill out necessary forms.

New coordinator, Renee DeLong Chomiak, as well as other new staff were introduced, prizes were given away, and lunch was served.

CalWORKS job placement tech. II., Regina Alvarez said the luncheon was a chance for the mostly female participant of the event to "network with other women, who are going through similar situations."

According to Chomiak, California Work Opportunity and Responsibility for Kids is a welfare to work program.

It assists women and families that are getting some kind of aid, to get work training, child care and skills.

The program lasts from 18 to 24 months, depending on the individuals circumstances. It is hoped that in that time frame, an individual can get some job skills to get a good job, then go from welfare, to work, to self sufficiency.

"Our goal is to help people move forward, not just to get a minimum wage job, but to move up in the world and be able to get a high-

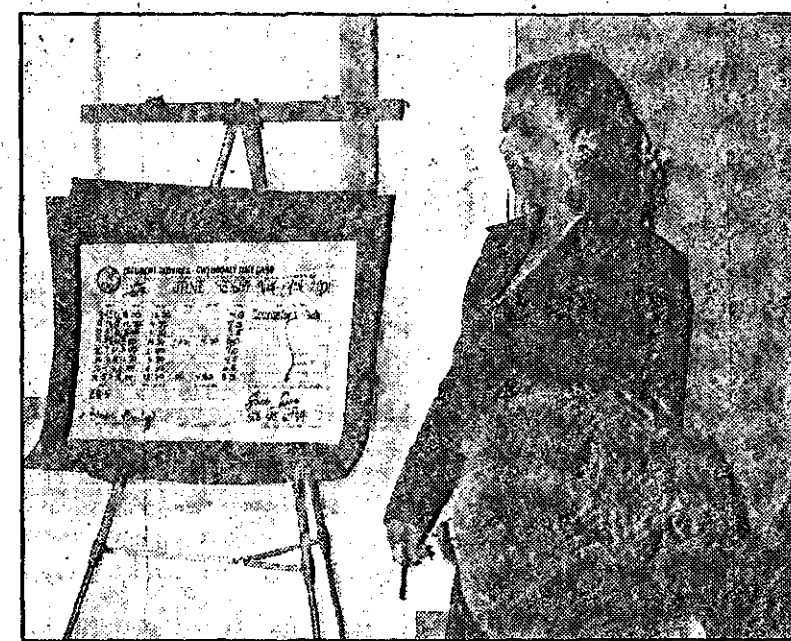


Photo by Armando Brown
CalWORKS Job Placement Tech II., Regina Alvarez shows students how to fill out time cards. She coordinated workshop.

ly skilled job," Chomiak said.

CalWORKS helps students "move on to a four-year university, or get a certificate in programs such as paralegal or cosmetology, something that will really help them with life skills, and job skills in the future," she said.

The CalWORKS program is in its fourth year of existence, and Chomiak says there has been several hundred successful students go through it so far.

Developed in 1996, and instituted throughout California in 1998, the program is part of the Welfare Reform legislation of the mid-90s.

In the past, in welfare issues, families were almost split apart because if a man was in the home, there wouldn't be any assistance given.

"We realized that's a mistake, and so the goal is to try to help families," Chomiak said.

Marina Rodriguez, account technician III, for CalWORKS said she thought the event was a success.

Mostly all of the students that were invited to the luncheon showed up. There were 27 students who made it.

While the students got a chance to meet other students who are going through the program, they also got to hear from people like Shamika Harris, who has completed the program, is three classes away from obtaining an AA degree, and plans to transfer to Cal State Long Beach soon.

She said, "Cal WORKS made a big difference in my schooling. I wouldn't have stayed without it."

In talking about the help she received through the program, the psychology major cites the personal attention, counseling and motivation she received.

Shamika says she accidentally found out about the program.

Chomiak said, part of the reason for the events is to make the CalWORKS program more visible, so people won't have to find out about it by accident.

New senior center

Continued from page 1

cement to the center area at 7 a.m. on Tuesday.

By 6 p.m., they had applied 25,000 square feet of cement. At 7 a.m. Wednesday, they will begin applying 25,000 square feet of cement to the ace ends of the layout.

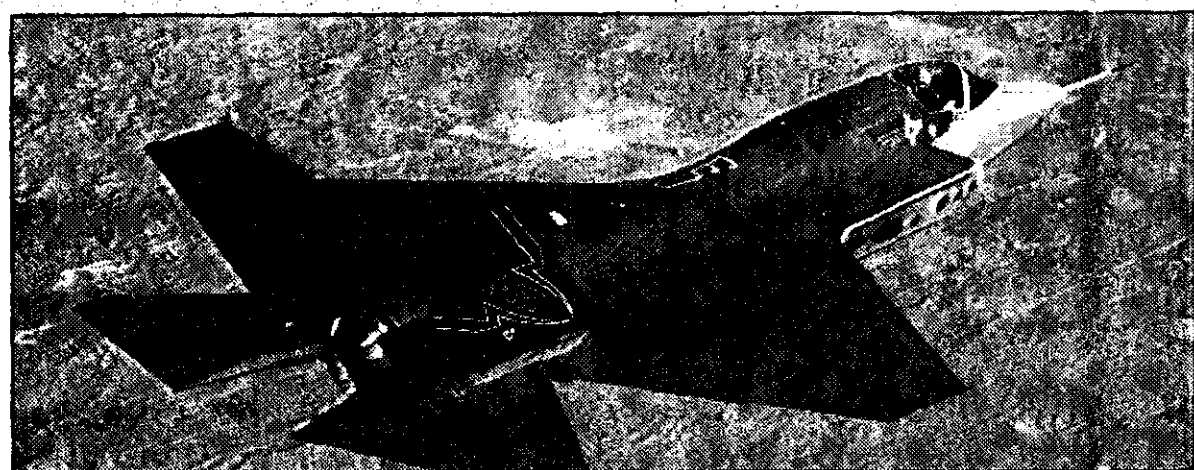
With 48 people working on cementing the ground, Aboujama said they are scheduled to be finish-pour-

ing cement on Monday Oct. 1.

GWC1 has already treated the property for termites and will begin framing on Oct. 1.

"It was so hot from upstairs but it (the concrete) looks ok," said David Koh, the project manager with ATO.

ATO applied a curing compound to the cement which protects it from moisture.



Cerritos brings air combat technology to the forefront of the new Millennium

TARA CARTER
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

In keeping with its reputation as the most technologically advanced community college in the state of California, the Cerritos College technology division has recently entered into a \$235,800 training contract with the Lockheed Martin Aeronautics company in order to assist it in manufacturing the F-22 Raptor, the "most advanced, expensive and deadly aircraft ever built."

"It is a great opportunity for Cerritos College to be awarded the contract. Lockheed Martin is one of the largest prime manufacturers of aerospace activity in Southern California," said Terry Price, department chair of manufacturing technology at Cerritos College.

According to Randy Peebles, instructional dean of technology at Cerritos College, this new 18-month training contract will be carried out in two phases: curriculum development and curriculum delivery.

Phase One -- Curriculum Development, which is already underway, will require Cerritos college faculty members and staff

to develop a "total of six sections of new Composite I courses" that will be specific to the needs of the Lockheed Martin Aeronautics company.

In the second phase, Curriculum Delivery scheduled to begin in October, faculty members will travel to Lockheed Martin's Palmdale worksite and provide specialized composites related training to its employees.

Despite the new contract, Cerritos College is not new to the contract training business. In 1985 the Center of Composite Studies was founded and ever since Cerritos has been doing work for prominent manufacturers of aerospace technology, working with large companies such as British Aerospace and working on fighter aircrafts the F-18 and the B-2.

"They came to us because we have a lot of history and background in doing this kind of specialty training," Price said. "Of about 106 community colleges in California we are the only one to offer training, degree programs and be certificated in plastics and composites."

"The Lockheed Martin Aeronautics company could have gone anywhere in the country for a vendor, but sought us out over any other state."

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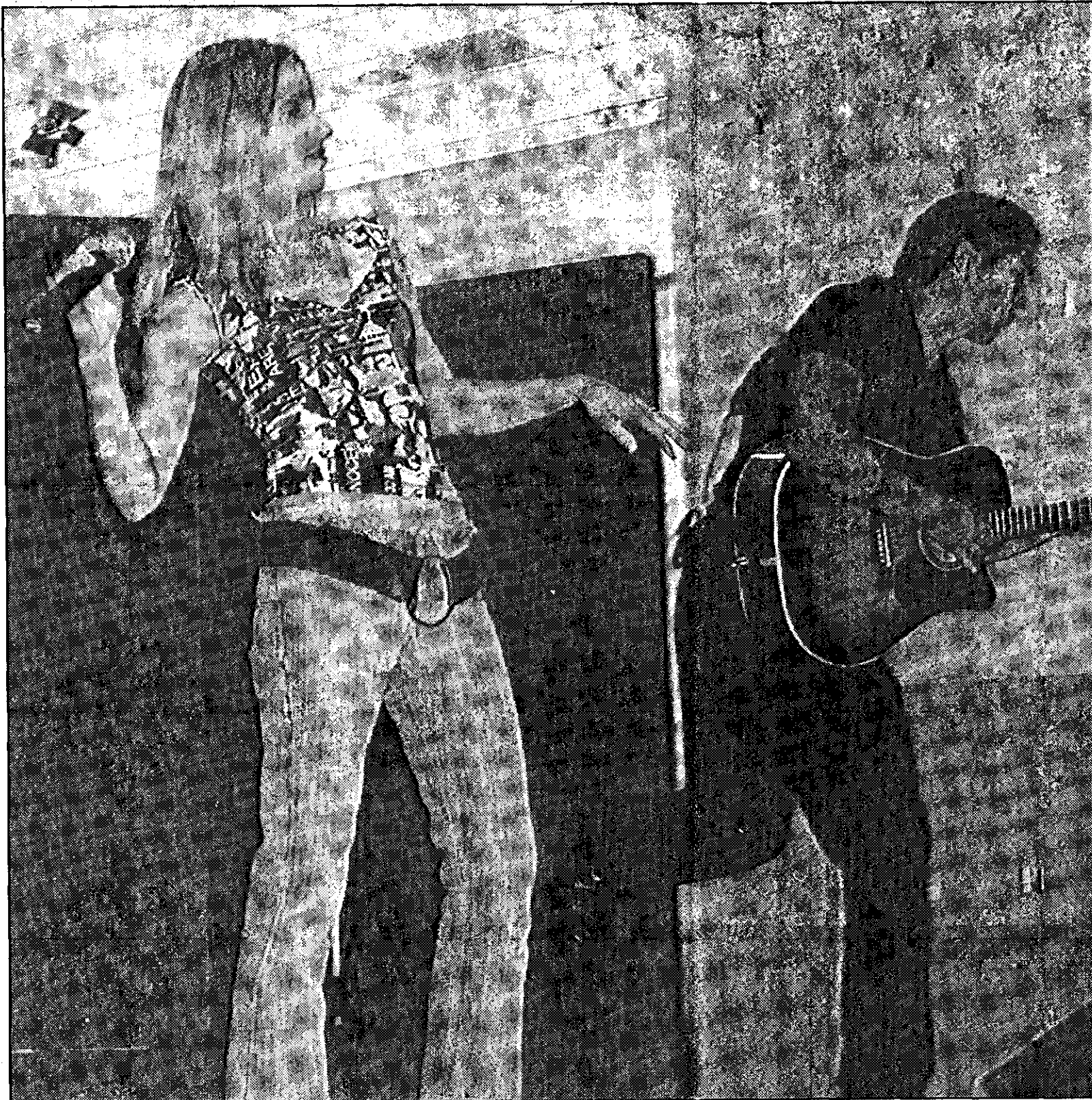
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Singer Alicia Grant and guitarist Dan Sisto sing, dance and work up the lunch-time crowd in the Student Center.

Photo by Armondo Borboa

Grant delights lunch crowd

CHARLES PURNELL AND JUN-SIK KIM
STAFF WRITERS

A live acoustic show was presented as a special lunch time event in the Student Center at Cerritos College Sept. 18.

Pop/rock singing sensation, Alicia Grant performed a concert on stage from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The lunch-time crowd was there listening to her interpretation of old favorites and a few of her own tunes.

A slight equipment problem delayed the concert, but soon enough Grant was belting out her tunes and rocking the crowd to her own brand of musical delight and stage magic.

She sang contemporary easy songs by Natalie Imbruglia and Sarah McLachlan, and also several original songs that she and her guitarist, Dan Sisto wrote themselves, such as "Conversation" and "All in time."

Sisto has a bit of notoriety in his own right, having worked with famous artists such as Tony Braxton and many others. He has also performed as backup on events such as the Grammys.

Cerritos College Art student, Ernesto Abea, said he thought the concert was very nice and that Grant had "skills."

Grant is now a 10-year veteran of the Los Angeles and Orange County stage scene. She has also performed at numerous festivals, music clubs and shopping mall events all over the Southland.

According to this amazing vocalist, singing is something she has always wanted to do. One day she simply woke up and said, "I better do it before I go through my whole

life and regret not singing."

The first time Grant ever performed before a live audience was when she was 19 years old, and she has been rocking the crowds ever since.

But her passion for music started much earlier, ever since the time she could first stand up in front of the television and sing along to the commercials.

Cerritos students were certainly glad she made that decision, as the applause and cheering at her concert clearly demonstrated.

Grant has entertained Cerritos College students several times in the past, and has expressed a love for performing here.

"I've gotten a really good response from the people, and I think they're really cool. I mean, really cool," she said.

Admitted Grant fan, Cerritos College Culinary Arts student Esther Esparga rushed the pop/rock diva after her performance and asked for her autograph. "She has fans here," Esparga said.

The aspiring pop/rock star plays frequently at local nightclubs and enjoys her shows at Coffee Houses and shopping centers in Orange County because they "pay me well, plus it is just plain fun!" she said.

Grant has cut her first master demo CD and is being scouted by several major record labels. She already has plans to cut a full-length CD and make it available in such venues as the Cerritos College bookstore.

Look for her to return here sometime soon and watch out for her music to rock the roof.

Armondo Borboa contributed to this story.

'Tortilla Soup' spices up family bonding experience

LISAJOYCE VERGARA
SPECIAL TO THE TALON MARKS
If you liked the movie Soul Food, you'll love Tortilla Soup. It

has a Latino flavor with spicy drama and comedy. This movie is about a widowed L.A. chef, Martin Naranjo, played

by Hector Elizondo, who has raised three daughters, and is now trying to give them direction as adults.

Leticia, played by Elizabeth Peña, is a chemistry teacher who falls in love with a baseball coach, played by comedian Paul Rodriguez. Maribel, played by Tamara Mello, is a confused girl who's trying to find herself, while Carmen, played by Jacqueline Obradors, is debating if she wants to accept a job offer she has gotten in Spain.

While all this is going on with his daughters, Martin, a hopeless romantic, tries to find love with the beautiful man-eater, Hortensia, played by Raquel Welch.

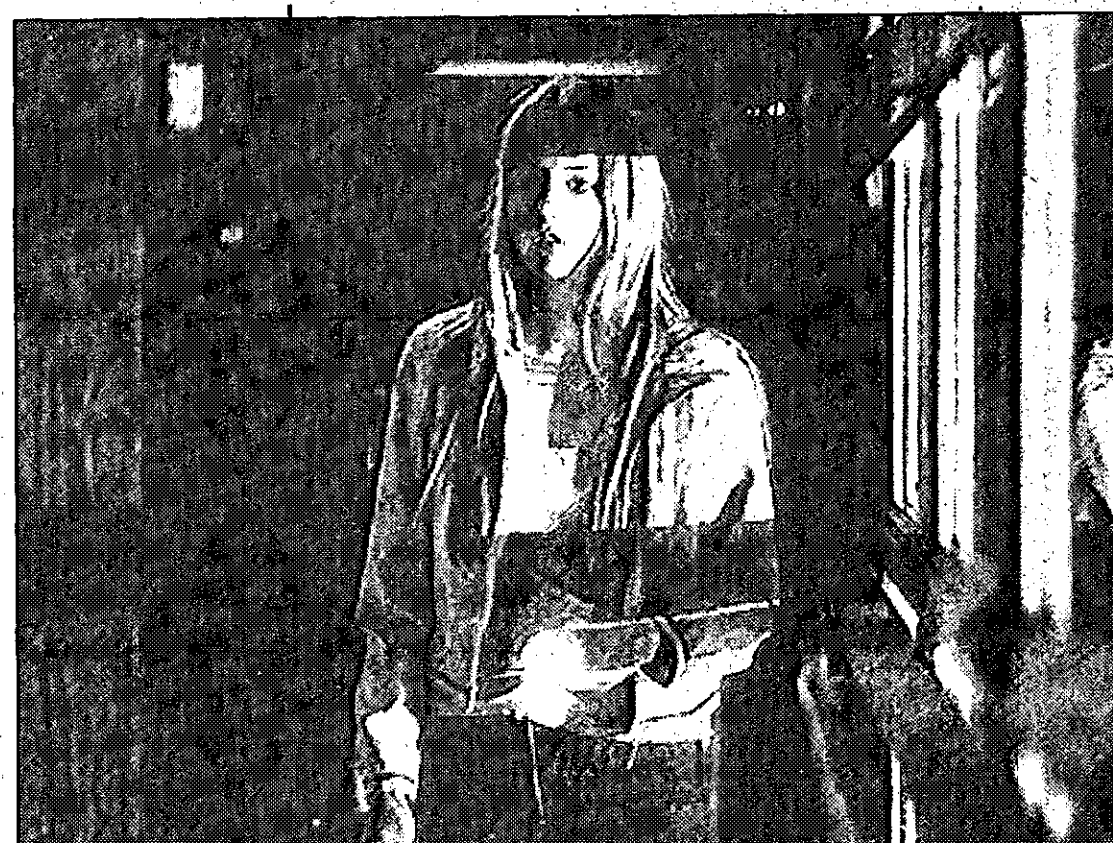
Tortilla Soup's plot was done well, but predictable.

It is full of sister bonding, and of course rivalries.

I would rate this movie a B; better to see it at matinee price.



Elizabeth Peña, Jacqueline Obradors and Tamara Mello bond as sister in Tortilla Soup.



Leelee Sobieski stars as Ruby in the psychological thriller, The Glass House.

Go ahead, throw stones at this 'Glass House'

JUN-SIK KIM
STAFF WRITER

If you decide to see the movie, "The Glass House," you may want to give your decision a second thought. What we're trying to say is: "Don't do it."

This is one of the worst movies I've ever seen. This film is a ludicrous attempt at a thriller which is based on a cliché-filled story.

In the movie, misfortune greets a warm and happy family. ... Gee, that's something new, see what I mean?

Ruby Baker, played by Leelee Sobieski, is a rebellious teenager. She loses her parents in a mysterious auto accident and from there, she and her brother Rhett (played by Trevor Morgan), are informed they have inherited their family estate. All of a sudden, the two are millionaires.

The brother and sister then move in with a new family, Erin and Terry Glass (played by Diane Lane and Stellan Skarsgard).

The movie plugs onward at a snail's pace. The events in a movie cast their shadows before they actually occur, however, there is no shadow or reason for the events that take place in this movie.

Although it could be said that the fun of seeing

a suspense thriller is to dig into the mystery, what is the mystery in this movie? Everything seems to occur in what seems to be about a 10-minute span.

Eventually, Ruby becomes suspicious of her new "parents." So, she decides to do a little snooping. With the resourceful experiences in, "The X-Files," and, "N.Y.P.D. Blue," director Daniel Sackheim somehow develops the story in the wrong way.

Ruby sees things she shouldn't see and hears things she shouldn't hear. Terry approaches her and then injects her with a syringe full of drugs to quiet her down.

The Glass home, which is perched on a Malibu beachside, is the only thing actually worth seeing in the movie. Naturally, Rhett was lured into the home by the array of video games.

Filmmakers could have spared themselves the lavish set. This movie would have been suited the same if it were filmed in a trailer park or apartment complex.

No sense giving away the final outcome or the plot of this so-called movie. But if you have a decision between a Friday night staring at the walls and going to see this movie, you want to consider counting the bricks in the wall.

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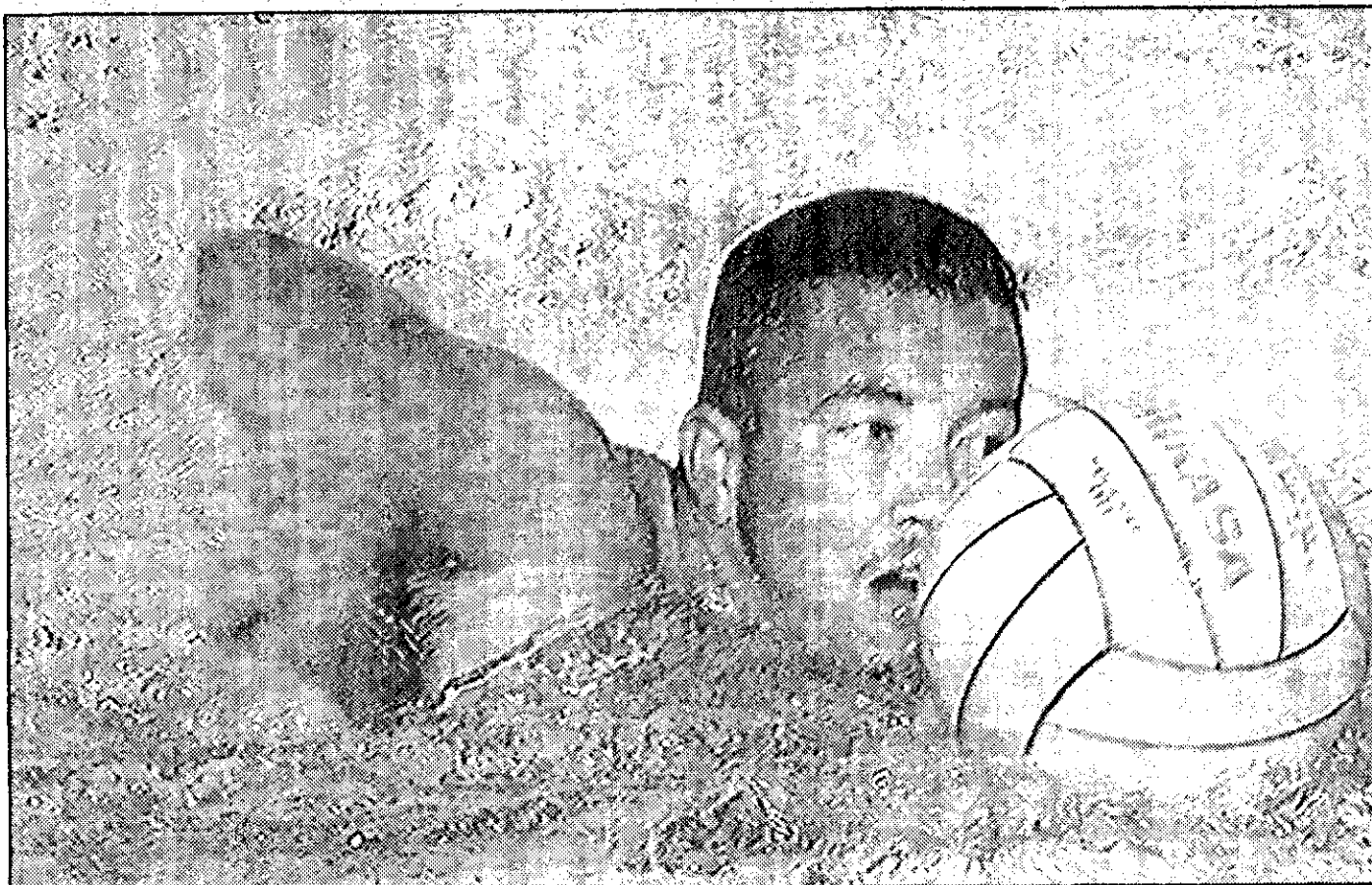
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DRIVING THE BALL -- Ralph Puga of the Cerritos College men's water polo team advances the ball during practice. Puga is a member of the Army reserves.

Falcon poloist is ready to serve

DAVID AMEZCUA
STAFF WRITER

Ralph Puga is waiting for the call from his country.

Puga, a member of the Cerritos College men's water polo team, is a member of the Army reserves.

"My military unit is the 693rd Quartermaster company," he said.

"Right now I am waiting for my sergeant to tell me when the unit is going."

He enrolled in the junior recruit officer training course in high school, and has been in the army reserves for two years.

Puga said that one guy does not make the team, and that the team will have a great season with or without him. "I want the team to take every game one at a time."

He said that he wants the team to keep playing hard and not to quit.

Charlie Eldridge, a teammate at Cerritos, said Puga's priorities are his priorities. "He has to deal with the decision of being in the army. If he has to go to war, then that is his

responsibility.

"I am not going to get mad at Ralph if he has to go to war, because that is his decision."

Eldridge said that he wants Puga to worry to about his duties in the army. "We just have to go by the old song, one player does not make a team."

"We could use him, but he has other things to do. We are going to support him if he has to go to war."

Puga said that this will be his second time going to a foreign country, but he doesn't yet know where he will be stationed. The first time he was in Germany.

He said that he made the decision to go to the army by himself, because he wanted to make a great future out of his life in the army.

"What I enjoy the most about being in the army is making a difference in my life."

Teammate Marcus Alvarez said that Puga is fulfilling a commitment to the army. "The team is always going to be here."

"We will be alright if he has to go to war, and we will support him."

FOOTBALL

Cerritos escapes Hornets' nest, 26-23

JOHN KITANO
SPORTS EDITOR

It may have been the one-week layoff, yet the Cerritos College football team overcame a sluggish first half to defeat Fullerton College, 26-23 Saturday at Cal State Fullerton.

The week off came when Canyons cancelled its game with Cerritos, and Falcons' linebacker John Lopez said that may have affected the team.

"It was like a first game all over again."

He added that the Falcons (2-0) came together in the second half.

"We hung in there, and showed (everyone) who the better team was."

In the second quarter, with Fullerton (2-1) leading 7-6, the Hornets scored a touchdown on a fake play from field goal formation, then added a field goal to lead, 15-7 at halftime.

Cerritos head coach Frank Mazzotta said, "I told the players, I don't think that trick plays are going to beat us."

The Falcons came out of their slumber in the second half behind Jermaine Whiten.

With 13:03 left in the third quarter, the freshman running back from Cerritos High School caught a screen pass from Mike Harrison and broke several tackles before outrunning everyone on the way to the end zone.

He also scored from 20 yards out when he ran up the middle, broke away from a would-be tackler and ran to his left for the touchdown to give Cerritos a 20-15 lead.

Whiten, who finished the game with 70 yards rushing and four catches for 109 yards, said that being able to break tackles is the

result of learning it in practice.

"If you learn all the drills in practice, breaking tackles, lowering your shoulders, getting under the man, running him over, you're going to do things like that."

"After a while, I just figured, all we had to do was do our job, and they couldn't stop us."

Whiten put the Falcons ahead to stay with his third touchdown of the game on a nine-yard run with 6:35 left in the fourth quarter.

Mazzotta said that the team was so wired up to play that "they're running around like a bunch of goons. We didn't look very well coached at times."

"I think that's caused by being off and not hitting anybody."

Josh Herrera led the Falcons with 131 yards rushing, and Harrison completed 21 passes out of 33 attempts for 288 yards and two touchdowns.

The Falcons return home Saturday to face Golden West College. Game time is 7 p.m.

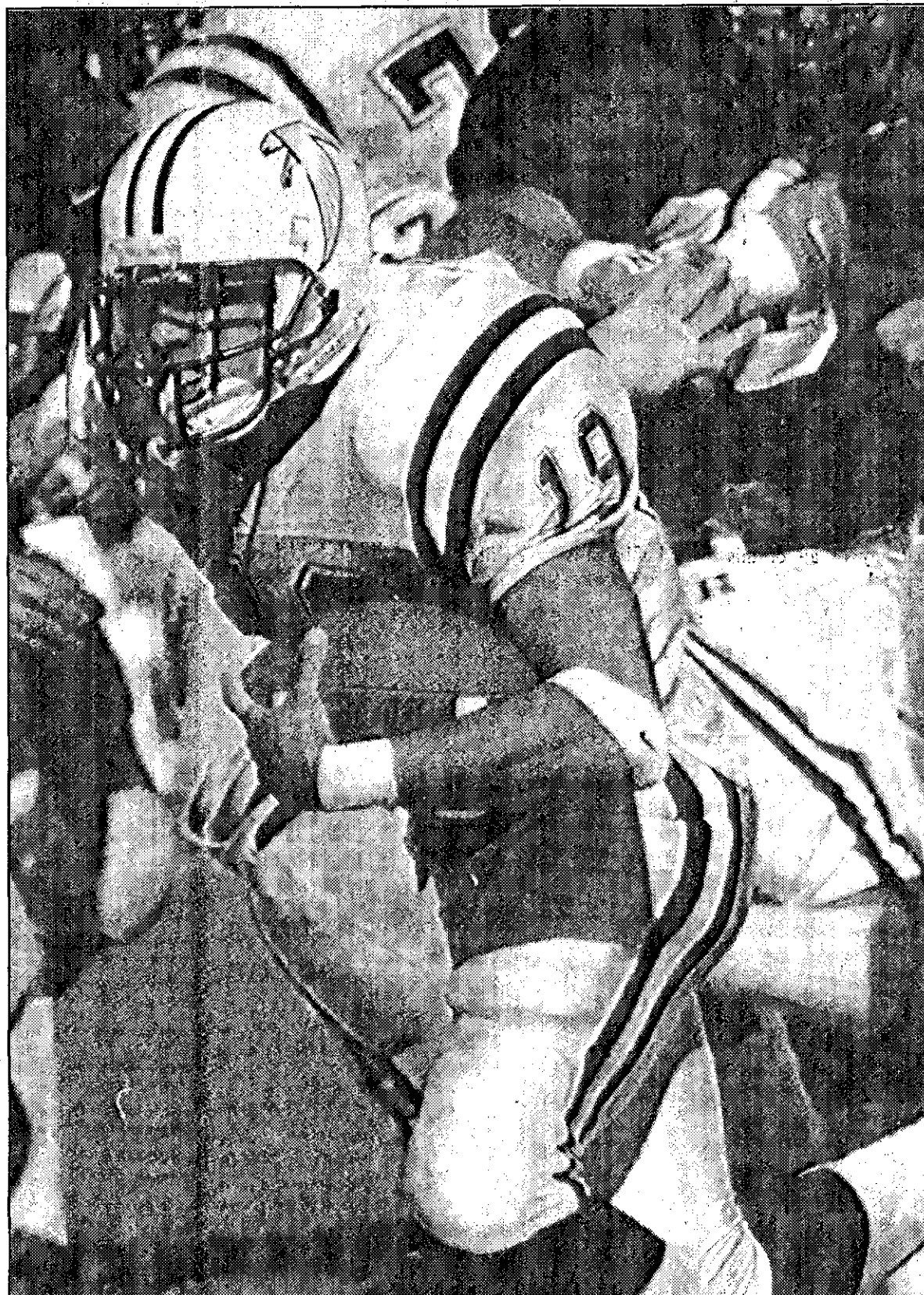
The Rustlers (1-2) are coming off of a 44-17 loss to Pasadena. One week earlier, they ended a 31 game losing streak with a 14-3 win over L.A. Valley.

FOR STATS, GO TO
WWW.TALONMARKS.COM AND
CLICK ON SPORTS.

COC game rescheduled

The Cerritos football game at College of the Canyons, originally scheduled for Sep. 15, will be played Oct. 13 at 1 p.m. on the Cougars' field in Santa Clarita.

The game was cancelled in wake of the tragedies in New York and Washington.



GRINDING OUT THE YARDAGE -- Josh Herrera runs the ball against Fullerton College Saturday. Herrera led Cerritos with 131 yards rushing in the Falcons' 26-23 win over the Hornets.

Women's soccer team stopped short of goal

VERONICA CAMPOS
STAFF WRITER

Claudia Lozano and Mauriel Chaidez kept knocking at the door, yet members of the East Los Angeles College women's soccer team refused to budge.

Lozano and Chaidez, forwards for Cerritos (2-5, 1-3 in SCC), had numerous chances to help the Falcons get the game-tying goal late in the match.

However, the duo was not able to push in the tying goal during a 3-2 South Coast Conference loss at ELAC Friday.

Cerritos tried to rally from a two-goal deficit as Lozano and Chaidez each scored a goal and assisted on the other's tally.

"They (ELAC) got lucky," said Cerritos defender Elba Rodriguez. "It's 'on' when they come play at our field (Oct. 23)."

Goalie Carmen Cortes, who was forced to stop 25 shots against Long Beach City on Sep. 18, stopped eight shots.

Before Cerritos can focus on ELAC they play seven SCC matches, including Friday's conference match at Mt. San Antonio College.

"The game we had with ELAC was played in the spirit of athletics and sportsmanship on both sides," said Falcons coach Debbie Jensen.

"The desire to win and the effort shown, created the best environment for any sporting event."

The Falcons will play on the road this week and host Pasadena City Oct. 5.

For more sports, go to
www.talonmarks.com
and click on "Sports"

Men's soccer splits games

VERONICA CAMPOS
STAFF WRITER

Angel Valdez and Angel Piazzi scored goals for Cerritos (4-4-1), but host Pasadena beat the Falcons, 6-2 Tuesday in men's soccer.

Valdez scored on a free kick, and Piazzi scored with an assist from Nestor Elias.

The Falcons host San Bernardino Valley College Friday at 4 p.m.

The Falcons surged past visiting East Los Angeles, 5-3 Friday.

Falcon defender Julio Maldonado said, "It was a hard game, but we controlled the game and won."

Coach Juan Torres said, "Once we got into the second half the (performance) level increased."

"We hope to maintain this kind of level through the end of the season."


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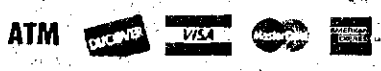
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LETTERS

Sept. 26, 2001

TALON MARKS

Page 5

We are a free nation

While I realize that Tuesday's attack on our country was tragic, and I feel upset and vulnerable, the newspaper says nothing about our response.

To me, it was amazing the way the attacks were coordinated; the people who planned and carried them out did what they intended.

First, they killed thousands of innocent people.

Second, they brought the biggest city in America (and the world) to its knees.

Third, they dealt a tremendous blow to our sense of freedom and security.

Tuesday, September 11, 2001 is truly a day "which will live in infamy," as Franklin D. Roosevelt once said of the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

While I do want the people who were responsible for the attacks punished, I do not want this to

ignite another world war.

How will the United States look if we go and bomb countries that house and advocate terrorists?

We would have done exactly what the cowards wanted us to do.

And yes, I call them cowards. Anyone who can kill innocent civilians during a time of peace, by surprise attacks is indeed cowardly.

Dropping a nuclear bomb on someone will not solve anything (it will) only create more carnage.

The people who are responsible for the attacks on the World Trade Towers (the nation's symbol for our power of commerce), and the Pentagon (the nation's military center), who attacked our freedom, our security and our way of life, need to be brought to justice.

We cannot necessarily point our finger at the Islamic nations because it could be someone different. This could be like Oklahoma

City and the attackers could be American.

One thing is for sure, we as a nation need to take responsibility and upgrade our security procedures.

Something must be done to improve our national security.

But I agree with President Bush. Tuesday's attacks were acts of war and we do need to defend ourselves.

America truly showed the world that we are indeed united.

The help that was sent to New York and Washington by states and cities all over the country and how quickly we reacted and secured our borders, airports and skies was utterly astounding.

We showed the terrorists that not only are we still a free nation; we are a free united nation.

Jessica Cejnar,
Undecided



Courtesy of KRTcampus.com

Sarcasm not appreciated

By Gordon Sinclair, a Canadian television commentator. What follows is the full text of his trenchant remarks as printed in the Congressional Record:

"This Canadian thinks it is time to speak up for the Americans as the most generous and possibly the least appreciated people on all the earth."

Germany, Japan, and to a lesser extent Britain and Italy, were lifted out of the debris of war by the Americans who poured in billions of dollars and forgave other billions in debts.

None of these countries is today paying even the interest on its remaining debts to the United States.

When France was in danger of collapsing in 1956, it was the Americans who propped it up and their reward was to be insulted and swindled on the streets of Paris.

I was there. I saw it.

When earthquakes hit distant cities, it is the United States that hurries in to help. This spring, 59 American communities were flattened by tornadoes. Nobody helped.

The Marshall Plan and the Truman Policy pumped billions of dollars into discouraged countries. Now newspapers in those countries are writing about the decadent, warmongering Americans.

I'd like to see just one of those countries that is gloating over the erosion of the United States dollar build its own airplane.

Does any other country in the world have a plane to equal the Boeing Jumbo Jet, the Lockheed Tri-Star or the Douglas DC10? If so, why don't they fly them? Why do all the International lines (except Russia) fly American Planes?

Why does no other land on earth even consider putting a man or woman on the moon?

You talk about Japanese technocracy, and you get radios. You talk about German technocracy, and you get automobiles. You talk about American technocracy, and you find men on the moon-not once, but several times-and safely home again.

You talk about scandals, and the Americans put theirs right in the store window for everybody to look at.

Even their draft-dodgers are not pursued and hounded. They are here on our streets, and most of them, unless they are breaking Canadian laws, are getting American dollars from Ma and Pa at home to spend here.

When the railways of France, Germany and India were breaking down through age, it was the Americans who rebuilt them. When the Pennsylvania Railroad and the New York Central went broke, nobody loaned them an old caboose. Both are still broke.

I can name you 5,000 times when the Americans raced to the help of other people in trouble. Can you name me even one time when someone else raced to the Americans in trouble?

I don't think there was outside help even during the San Francisco earthquake.

Our neighbors have faced it alone, and I'm one Canadian who is damned tired of hearing them get kicked around.

They will come out of this thing with their flag high. And when they do, they are entitled to thumb their nose at the lands that are gloating over their present troubles.

I hope Canada is not one of those."

Message was received, here is our reply...

We'll go forward from this moment.

It's my job to have something to say.

They pay me to provide words that help make sense of that which troubles the American soul. But in this moment of airless shock when hot tears sting disbelieving eyes, the only thing I can find to say, the only words that seem to fit, must be addressed to the unknown author of this suffering.

You monster. You beast. You unspeakable bastard.

What lesson did you hope to teach us by your coward's attack on our World Trade Center, our Pentagon, us?

What was it you hoped we would learn? Whatever it was, please know that you failed.

Did you want us to respect your cause? You just damned your cause.

Did you want to make us fear? You just steeled our resolve.

Did you want to tear us apart? You just brought us together.

Let me tell you about my people. We are a vast and quarrelsome family; a family rent by racial, social, political and class division, but a family nonetheless.

We're frivolous, yes, capa-

ble of expending tremendous emotional energy on pop cultural minutiae-a singer's revealing dress, a ball team's misfortune, a cartoon mouse.

We're wealthy, too, spoiled by the ready availability of trinkets and material goods, and maybe because of that, we walk through life with a certain sense of blithe entitlement.

We are fundamentally decent, though peace-loving and compassionate. We struggle to know the right thing and to do it.

And we are, the overwhelming majority of us, people of faith, believers in a just and loving God.

Some people-you, perhaps think that any or all of this makes us weak.

You're mistaken. We are not weak. Indeed, we are strong in ways that cannot be measured by arsenals.

IN PAIN

Yes, we're in pain now. We are in mourning and we are in shock. We're still grappling with the unreality of the awful thing you did, still working to make ourselves understand that this isn't a special effect from some Hollywood blockbuster, isn't the plot development from a Tom Clancy novel.

Both in terms of the awful

scope of their ambition and the final death toll, your attacks are likely to go down as the worst acts of terrorism in the history of the United States and, probably, the history of the world.

You've bloodied us as we have never been bloodied before.

But there's a gulf of difference between making us bloody and making us fall. This is the lesson Japan was taught to its bitter sorrow the last time anyone hit us this hard, the last time anyone brought us such abrupt and monumental pain.

When roused, we are righteous in our outrage, terrible in our force.

When provoked by this level of barbarism, we will bear any suffering, pay any cost, go to any length, in the pursuit of justice.

I tell you this without fear of contradiction. I know my people, as you, I think, do not. What I know reassures me. It also causes me to tremble with dread of the future.

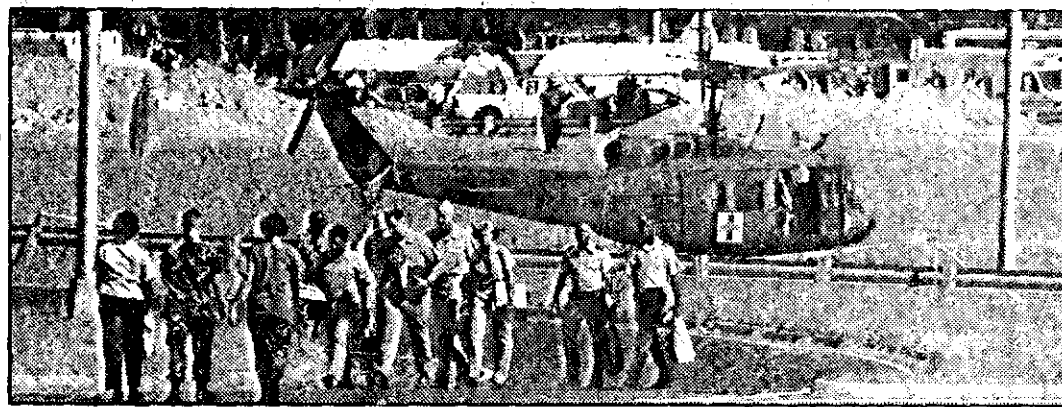
In the days to come, there will be recrimination and accusation, fingers pointing to determine whose failure allowed this to happen and what can be done to prevent it from happening again.

There will be heightened security, misguided talk of revoking basic freedoms. We'll go forward from this moment sobered, chastened, sad.

But determined, too. Unimaginably determined.

THE STEEL IN US

You see, the steel in us is not always readily apparent. That



Courtesy of KRTcampus.com

Deeds follow the words

As I sit out here in front of the library watching hundreds of people walk past me, the feeling in my blood rises. After all, isn't everyone asking how can they help?

A girl walks up to me and asks, "Do you know where they sell flags?" "I'm sorry I don't," I said, and she walked away.

Meanwhile, I am thinking "You have the money to buy a flag, but you don't have a penny to put in the can for all the victims of this horrible act that made you (feel) this patriotic in the first place?"

I know this sounds harsh... and it should. This is tough for everyone, and the orphans and widows need our help.

People walk by and glare at the flag, then look at the banner that reads "They need our help," and most of them just keep on walking.

What is wrong with us? Just when I am about to give up hope, a girl walks over and puts money in the can. That act of

pure, unselfish, generosity keeps me sitting here.

For all of you who have donated, thank you.

Thank you on behalf of the Future Teachers of America Club. Thank you on behalf of the Red Cross.

Thank you on behalf of the thousands and thousands of victims and their families.

In fact thank you on behalf of America, you are the people that are making a difference.

If I may quote one of my teachers, Mr. Frank Yee, "There are three kinds of people, people who make things happen, people who watch things happen and, lastly, people who have no idea what's happening."

Thank you to all of those who make things happen.

For all those who were not able to give today, please give the next time you can for those in this time of need.

Shannon Leahey-Ladwig
Co-president of the Future Teachers of America club

Time to heal America

"We Shall Overcome" are the common but comforting words that America needs to know. The past days have been nothing but sleepless nights, not only for New York City, but all across America.

We, as the sweet land of liberty, are now in the state of the healing process. They say time heals all wounds, but it seems like it will be a while before we heal from this deep wound.

LisaJoyce Verara

Gays, feminists, lesbians not to blame

Two days.

That's all it took. Two days full of unspeakable grief and pain, two days of stunned disbelief staring at images on the television screen with teary eyes and a heavy heart.

Two days I suspect we all will remember for the rest of our lives.

Then I found out the terrorist attacks were partly my fault. Well technically it wasn't my fault, but it was the fault of people like me.

You see I am a gay man and to some people that really makes a difference. Who told me that it was my fault you may ask? Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson did, that's who.

A mere two days had passed when Jerry Falwell, while appearing on the nationally syndicated "700 Club" stated: "the pagans, and the abortionists, and the feminists, and the gays and the lesbians who are actively trying to make that an alternative lifestyle, the ACLU, People For the American Way, all of them who have tried to secularize America I point the finger in their face and say 'you helped this happen'."

After hearing these words Pat Robertson, who runs the Christian Broadcasting Network and is a former candidate for the presidency of the United States, stated three little words that shook me to the core of my existence.

His three little words were "I totally concur."

Wow.

I vote regularly in elections

(not for Bush in case you were wondering) I am a student getting more education to be a better person, I pay taxes, I contribute to charities, I am a Christian and I love America.

But all these things make no difference to Falwell and Robertson.

The fact that I believe in a woman's right to choose and that I am a gay man is all the justification they need to lump me in with the most inhumane monsters of our times. And God help me because Falwell and Robertson won't.

I have to admit that I am not in any way surprised. I knew that it would only be a matter of time until the Conservative Christian Leadership found a way to link these horrible attacks to their favorite political enemy. What did shock me is that it took only two days for these

two men to attempt to use this awful event to further their own political agenda.

In the last week since the attack on humanity, we have seen the bipartisan support that our President has received from virtually every American.

Although I personally dislike President Bush, I have done all he has asked of me, as I suspect others have.

President Bush asked for our prayers and I prayed. President Bush asked for cash donations and I donated. President Bush asked for all Americans to donate blood and, if they would have let me (gays legally can't donate blood), I most certainly would have.

I have done my part for God and Country.

I deeply resent these statements. In a time of hurt and pain all they have done is add that hurt and pain to a segment of our population, and that pisses me off.

I was not allowed to feel like an American. I was made to feel like I was less than human, I was made to feel substandard.

To those of you that agree with Falwell and Robertson, that somehow from my simple existence here in Norwalk I am at least partly responsible for the atrocity that happened to our county and our world, I say that you are mistaken.

And while I've got your attention, please stop linking us with terrorists.

Because we are people.

Lee Harmon



Courtesy of KRTcampus.com

EDITORIAL

Page 6

Sept. 26, 2001

EDITORIAL

Capitalism at its best

The recent terrorist attacks on America have left many Americans fearing for their lives and questioning their safety.

Showing signs of a nation defeated by terrorism, many Americans have run away and covered in their homes in fear of another terrorist attack.

Because of fear, ground transportation has become the number one travel method of choice for many Americans as they now travel in cars, R.V.'s, busses and anything to keep them out of the skies.

Airtrak has reported an increase in business, while the airline companies have felt the impact of a fearful America with a 20 percent drop in their regular business, forcing them to make cutbacks in their budgets and lay off thousands of employees.

The American economy has also felt the strong hand of terrorism. After the attacks, shopping malls and retail stores reported a drop of 20 percent in sales and the stock market suffered its worst week since the crash of 1987.

Economists are now reporting the United States is heading for a recession, if one hasn't already begun.

What does this say about the will of the American people? Are we a nation of cowards who run and hide as soon as a threat to our safety arises?

By overcasting our nation with a cloud of fear, have we in some strange way given in to terrorism and admitted defeat?

If the answers to these questions are no, Americans must return to their normal lives, life as it was before the morning of September 11.

Take this attack as a wake up call, learn to cherish the time you spend with your loved ones, because as the last two weeks has proven to us, it may be your last.

If money is the universal symbol for success, let's show the terrorists and the world how resilient the American people really are.

Reinvest money in the stock market, buy plane tickets and take a trip. Go shopping. In other words, revive our economy.

We must not forget the lives lost in this terrible tragedy but we must move past it.

Hold a special place in your heart for the victims, continue to pray for their families and the safety of your loved ones as they head off to war, but do not lose your self and the things you love because of fear.

A sacred retort to holy jihad

Though Leo Tolstoy observed that, "A good portion of the evil that afflicts mankind is due to the erroneous belief that life can be made secure by violence," there is a moral argument for killing terrorists, since the morality of the terrorist includes the killing of one's self at the expense of the innocent.

On a purely utilitarian basis, one is morally obligated to kill terrorists.

Thus, lives are saved and lost in a manner consistent with the maxim of utilitarianism, which argues that goodness is "the greatest happiness for the great-

est number." Innocent victims want to live, and fanatical religious terrorists want to die in a way congruent with their misinterpretation of the Koran.

Killing terrorists fulfills the wish of the fanatic and preserves the lives of ordinary people.

We are witnessing the Bronze Rule: "Repay kindness with kindness and evil with justice," especially for those who use the Iron Rule:

"Do unto others before they do unto you."

But, on the model of the eternal return, there is also a mild

emergence of the Silver Rule:

"Don't do unto others what you don't want done to yourself."

And, who knows? Maybe all the suffering of mankind will one day get us to the Golden Rule: "Treat others as you would be treated."

Rather than the gold rule: "Those with the gold make the rules."

The Koran: "God does not pardon setting up partners to God, but pardons anything else for anyone, by divine will."

And whoever attributes partners to God has invented a serious wrong.

Have you not observed those who commend themselves? God, on the contrary, commends whom God will; and they will not be treated unjustly in the slightest degree.

Look how some invent falsehood about God; and that is sufficient in itself to be an obvious wrong."

(The Essential Koran, trans. By Thomas Cleary. New York: Harper Collins, 1993)

Joseph van de Mortel/
World Religions instructor



Who do you think I really am?



ARMONDO BORBOA
Opinion Editor

After a decade of military service, the Army has sent me everywhere from Europe to South America and all over the United States.

People have mistaken my ethnicity for everything from Jewish to Muslim, Italian to south African and everything in between.

People I talked to on the phone usually assumed (from my manner of speaking) I was blonde-haired, blue-eyed and white bread through and through.

Usually, this reaction was amusing and I often took the time to have a bit of fun with it, pretending to be something I am not.

Of course, there was the one exception.

When I was in Germany, people would mistake me for Albanian or Serbian.

With the Balkan war, there was a huge influx of refugees into western European that overwhelmed all the basic services.

These refugees brought with them poverty, disease and injuries. Few had money and even less could speak the language.

Germany is very cosmopolitan, with people from all over the world living within its borders. Many are citizens, some are tourists and the rest (like me) were just there to play soldier, drink beer and chase fraulines.

My buddies and I were taking in the sights one day when we ran into a group of University girls. Soldiers being who they are, we made a beeline straight for them.

As we were chatting them up, a particular blonde caught my eye and we started to hit it off. Plans were made for the bunch of us to meet at a club later that night.

Unfortunately, the blonde's friend drew her to the side and said something to her. The only word I caught was "Kanko."

My buddy later told me because of my complexion, those girls assumed I was a Serbian refugee and therefore lower than dirt.

I guess my Levi blue jeans and leather Hollywood Hard Rock Café jacket were not enough of a hint.

Being the only one dateless that night was bad enough but what really hurt was the humiliation of being stereotyped in such an open and derogatory fashion.

Then again, being mistaken for a penniless refugee is nothing compared to the people who are facing suspicion, fear and anger because they are assumed Islamic terrorists.

I never have to worry about being pulled out of a car and being beaten. I never fear I will have to duck rocks or garbage thrown at me. I never have people crossing the street just to get out of my way.

Then again, maybe I should be ashamed of myself. I have not pretended to be Muslim in quite some time now.

Campus Comment

With the possibility of Islamic terrorists walking the streets of America, do you find yourself reacting differently to people of Middle Eastern descent?

COMPILED BY TARA CARTER
AND ELIZABETH PARRA

ONLINE POLL Are you looking at Middle Easterners differently?

- ☐ I think I might.
- ☐ No, everybody deserves some respect.
- ☐ I hate everybody exactly the same.
- ☐ I don't trust anybody.

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"Yes, I do. Now I feel very bad for them, because they are walking around campus with their head down, they need to keep their heads high."

SHANON LEAHEY
TEACHING

"They didn't attack New York. If a Mexican attacked, I wouldn't (want) people to discriminate against me because of my heritage."

HECTOR ORTEGA
UNDECIDED



"They came here for a reason, to get away from the horrible stuff in their country. They are here to be free. I can't look at them any differently. I respect them."

SABRINA KELLI
TEACHING

"No, because I don't think they were included. They didn't have anything to do with it."

PEDRO SUN
ENGLISH



"I look at people of middle eastern descent as my brother and sisters."

TIAH CARTER
BUSINESS
ADMINISTRATION

"I don't. Because not everyone from that descent is responsible for the attack. We shouldn't hate because of a certain section of that race."

FABIAN DUARTE
UNDECIDED



"You can't just judge people because of the way they look."

TERESSA LOPEZ
TEACHING

"No, I don't. I wouldn't judge anybody because of (where) they are from. I would just be fine because they are American people."

MATTHEW
HERRERA
UNDECIDED



Talon Marks

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