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Cerritos College • Norwalk, California

Volume 48, No. 25

# Associated students hosts awards this week

## Awards held to honor exceptional advisers

ALICIA WARNER  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The Associated Students of Cerritos College is honoring students and advisers at its annual semester banquet on Friday.

The ASCC holds the banquet twice per year, once in December (fall) and once in May (spring).

Students usually fill out their own applications, which are avail-

able at an advertised time during the semester. Then a committee selects the recipients for each award.

"It is a time for the associated students to celebrate their achievements with their friends and family and to be recognized for their volunteer work in service or leadership to the community during the semester," said Liz Monge from Student

Activities.

There are several awards given during the night including the Gold and Silver Falcons are the highest and most prestigious awards that are given to students for service, leadership and scholarship each semester. Bronze Falcons are awarded to students who excel in leadership and participation in programs sponsored by the ASCC. Service Certificates are awarded in recognition of ser-

vice and participation in programs sponsored by the ASCC.

The ASCC holds a banquet to honor the students and advisers that have dedicated their time and effort to the college.

"We do this to encourage and honor the students that have unselfishly given of their time to Cerritos College," said Trudy Foster in Student Activities.

The students that are honored at

the banquet come from clubs and student organizations that have been a service to the college.

There are several awards given at the banquet including ASCC scholarship, Inter Club Council Scholarship, Hoe Down Days award, outstanding adviser.

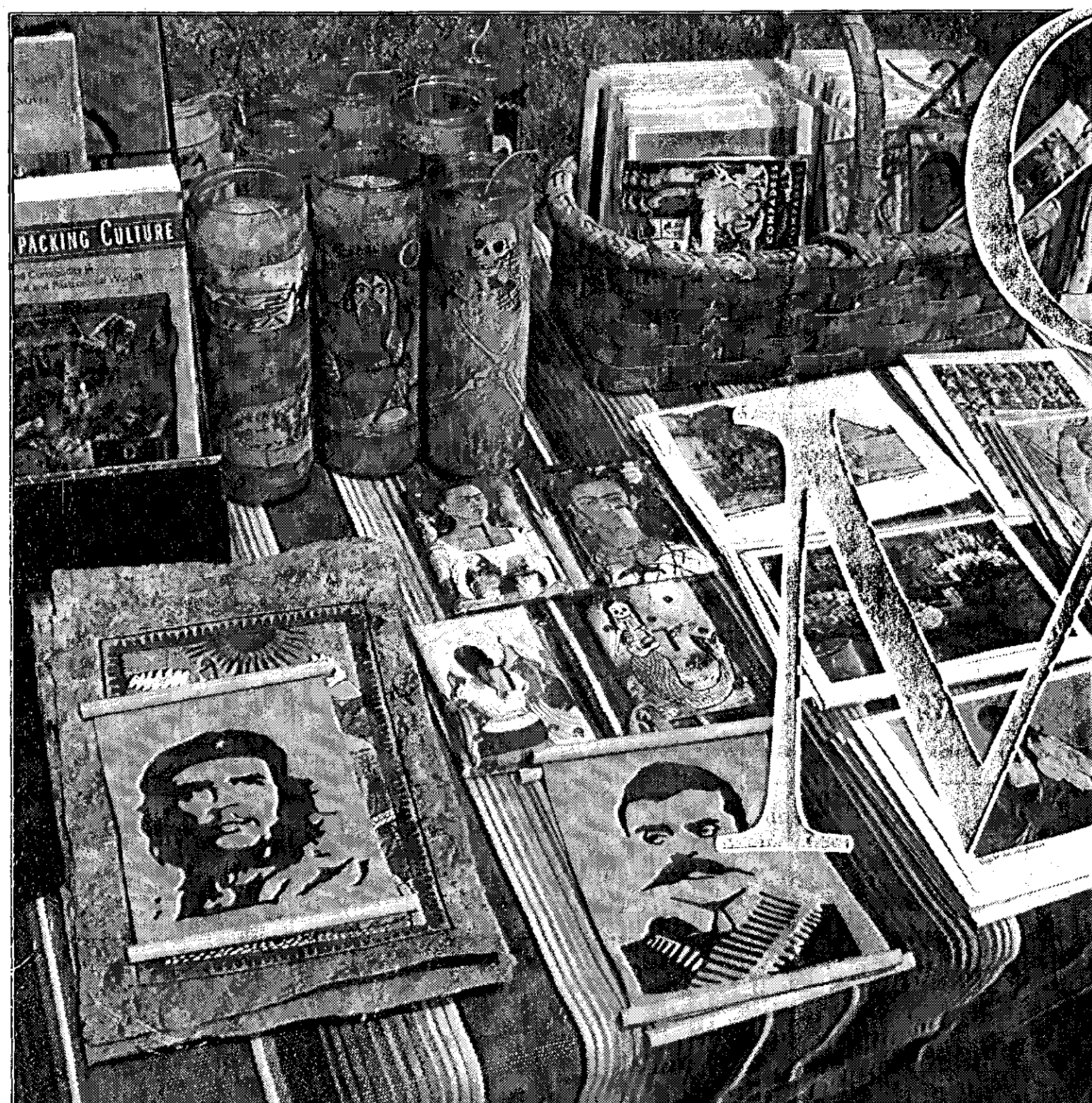
There are three awards that are only given during the spring semester such as Outstanding athlete of the

year, Club organization of the year and the Man and Woman on the year.

Cerritos College students will host the banquet. There will also be several speeches including one from Interim President John Grindel.

The spring banquet starts at 7 p.m. and is only for students and faculty that are invited or have tickets.

Contact Writer at: awarner@talonmarks.com



Vendors selling Mexican inspired books, art and jewelry participated in the Cinco de Mayo celebration organized by the Puente Club.



ERIC GOMEZ  
AGE EDITOR

The Cinco de Mayo celebration was kicked off with a performance from rupo Papuli, who performed traditional Aztec dances.

Mariachi Juvenil de Mexico impressed the audience with their music and showmanship.

Booths sold Mexican art, literature, colorful statues, and fancy

jewelry. Students passing by the quad were treated to churros, banuelos, and a variety of aguas that were being sold.

Contrary to popular belief, the Cinco de Mayo holiday is not Mexican independence day. Rather it is the day in which the Mexican army defeated the French.

## Forensic team wins

The Cerritos College Forensics Team attended the 2003 Phi Ro Pi National Forensic League Tournament for Community Colleges, April 15-19. Taking home a Silver award was student Jill Ratzlaff, for Prose Interpretation of Literature.

Ratzlaff had a great adventure at this year's Nationals Tournament, held in Portland, Ore and says that her favorite part of the forensics squad is, "Making new friendships, having fun times and overcoming my fears of speaking in front of large crowds."

See TEAM page 2

## Jane Harmon accepts lump sum and exits

### President resigns from Cerritos and collects one years salary

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MESSAGE FROM JOHN MOORE  
April 28, 2003

The Board of Trustees of the Cerritos Community College District has arrived on a settlement with College President, Dr. Jane Harmon. Under the terms of the settlement Dr. Harmon, who has been on paid administrative leave since July 17, 2002, resigns from the District effective close of business June 30, 2003.

She will be paid a lump sum of \$145,418.00, the equivalent of her salary for the last year of her contract (July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004). She will also receive health benefits through June 30, 2004 unless she secures another position before that time.

Through the agreement the District will not pay out any more monies than was originally committed to, when Dr. Harmon was placed on an 18-month leave of absence. This time period is mandated by California statute.



Former president Jane Harmon

An insurance policy will cover \$58,000, the equivalent of her salary from the conclusion of her leave of absence to the end of her contract year.

Dr. Harmon's resignation leaves the President's position vacant. Currently Mr. John Grindel has been serving as Acting President, a post that he was appointed to on July 17, 2002 by the Board of Trustees while Dr. Harmon was on administrative leave.

As required by Title V, the College has

begun the process of selecting an Interim President to succeed Dr. Harmon effective July 1, 2003. It is the intent that the process be carried out as quickly and expeditiously as possible so that someone is in place as Interim President on July 1, 2003.

The Office of Human Resources is coordinating the selection process. In the interest of shared governance the Board of Trustees has directed that a screening committee of the different campus constituencies be formed and the Interim President job be posted for college employees only.

The screening committee will be composed of one member of the Board of Trustees, two faculty members, one manager, one vice president, one classified employee and one student. The tentative timeline for the selection process can be found at www.talonmarks.com.

It is the desire of the Board of Trustees to select an Interim President for the 2003-2004 academic year. The Board and District will then conduct a presidential search during the 2003-2004 year with the intent of filling the position by summer 2004.

## Budget update

### Students and faculty realizing school cuts

LAUREN RODRIGUEZ  
NEWS EDITOR

With the semester coming to an end, some of the dust from the budget crisis has begun to settle and both students and college employees are able to look at the cuts and their impact with better understanding.

By no means is the situation perfectly clear, but certain issues have been made known as the result of the schools enduring budget problems.

For example, looking back, it is clear that the budget has not had quite as devastating an impact as was originally thought, explains Interim President John Grindel.

See BUDGET page 2

ADS FOR GRADS

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SEE PAGE 8 OR VISIT WWW.TALONMARKS.COM FOR DETAILS ON HOW TO SEND A MESSAGE TO A GRAD.



Project "Empty Bowls" to Benefit AIDS Food Store on Thursday. The art students have dedicated their time to create ceramic bowls which the hardworking Culinary Arts students will cook and fill with chili. These special, one of a kind bowls will be sold on Thursday, May 8 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. in the Student Center. The bowls full of chili will range in price from \$5.00 to \$15.00. The idea behind project "Empty Bowls" is that as people purchase the bowls with food, they are not only helping out others, but they will also take with them a reminder that there are many people without enough food. The "Empty Bowl" they take home is a symbolic reminder that there are always people around us in need of help. Be a part of this great cause.



Rich Cameron (above) shows off his award along with his eight cases of Dr. Pepper.

Rich Cameron and Edgard Aguilar (right) shows the award received by Aguilar named "The Richard Cameron Volunteer of the Year Award." Photos by Lauren Rodriguez

## Winners & Writers

### Journalism students and adviser win awards at journalism conference

ERIC GOMEZ  
ASE EDITOR

Two members of the Talon Marks and their adviser won awards at the Journalism Association of Community Colleges Annual Convention in Sacramento this April.

Andrew Delira, production editor for the Talon Marks, took home first place honors in page design at the conference.

Talon Marks News Editor Lauren Rodriguez received two honorable mention certificates for a news story as well as a sports feature story.

Richard Cameron, the Talon Marks adviser, received the ultimate honor by receiving the JACC Lifetime Achievement Award at the conference as well as having an award named after him, "The Richard Cameron Volunteer of the Year Award."

Cameron, who has devoted 23 years to the JACC, was nominated for the award during a board meeting. Members were sneaking around a ballot to vote on Cameron as the recipient of the award while he was busy taking the meeting's minutes.

"The executive board voted on it in my presence and I didn't even know

it," Cameron said.

But Cameron was not prepared for the announcement that came during the awards ceremony at the end of the conference, in which members of the JACC board presented the first ever "Richard Cameron Volunteer of the Year Award."

"The fact that they were going to name [the award] after me was a complete surprise," he said.

Cameron has held numerous titles within the organization during his time with the JACC.

Among his many duties, Cameron maintains the organization's web site and is the official historian. He also created and ran faculty-training workshops for nine years, in an effort to build better journalism teaching techniques and courses among other colleagues.

Talon Marks Editor-In-Chief Alicia Warner praised her adviser for the efforts he puts into the JACC.

"He's always been very active in JACC and does more than he should do," Warner said. "He makes the conference more organized."

Warner said that there wasn't a person at the conference who didn't recognize or know him.

"They call him Mr. JACC," she said.

And Cameron's dedication to the field of journalism seems to be reflect-

ing off onto his students.

Delira beat out his competition and won the on-the-spot Page Design-Broadsheet award.

"I was shocked," he said upon learning of his win.

Delira had an hour to design a front page, broadsheet-sized layout and still managed to beat out other entries despite having changed his design at the last minute.

According to Delira, this contest was the first time he had designed a page without the use of a computer.

"It is his first semester [on staff] and he thought he was never going to win. He pulled it off and beat all the other schools," said Warner.

Cameron was especially proud of Delira, who was the only one of the Cerritos College students to win an on-the-spot award.

"He had to learn about newspaper design," said Cameron. "He went in with tough competition and to win first place is kind of cool."

The annual conference brings together many community colleges from around the state. Students compete in journalism-related workshops and writing and photography contests, which involve some of the top teachers and professionals in the field.

Contact Writer at:  
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BUDGET continued from page 1

By no means are the cuts without repercussions, but "the magnitude" as Grindel puts it, is not as great as was expected when the cuts were announced.

Another issue that has become apparent over the course of this semester is that of increased enrollment.

Despite the problems that arose with offering adequate numbers of sections, enrollment has continued to grow.

The impact of this is not yet fully realized, but it is safe to say that budgeting for next year will be adjusted accordingly. More students enrolling with less money to pay for them is sure to cause additional conflict with school's already tight money matters.

In addition, high on many students' lists of concerns is the tuition increase and how it will apply to summer enrollment.

As of right now, enrollment fees are still set at \$11 per unit for the summer but are expected to jump to \$26 per unit for the fall.

If California legislature decides that the entire state will have to pay \$26 per unit starting in the summer, students will be billed for the additional \$15. This, however, is not expected to happen until the second summer session.

Fall will be met with additional challenges concerning meeting enrollment demands because of the changes slated for the UC and CSU.

Should students there look to finish lower division requirements at the community college, the CCCs' resources will be further strained.

Grindel emphasizes that although matters concerning the budget are not entirely clear, the situation can be best handled by looking toward the future and planning ahead for whatever Sacramento

has in store.

There has been speculation that the college should use its reserves as a means of dealing with a budget cuts.

Cerritos College strives to keep its reserves (a savings account of sorts) at 5 percent. (This is, in part, to ensure that it stays well above the state mandated 3 percent.)

The fact is, Grindel explained, that the college has already had to dip into its reserves this semester to help cope with the budget problems, and should now be in the process of paying it back.

"You can't keep dipping into your saving account," he said. "It goes away."

Clearly, that savings account must be there should more unexpected cuts sneak up upon the community colleges in the upcoming year. It is for emergencies only.

For now, the administration is looking at ways to balance next year's budget while keeping academics in tact.

Eliminating sabbaticals as well as offering early retirement have saved money.

And the good news is the cuts now are not as drastically disproportionate as what the other sectors of public education have to endure.

"There has been an effort to get the word out by community colleges and the California League of Community Colleges and it is being heard by the legislature," Grindel said.

Reflecting on this semester and looking toward the next, he says, "Yes, times are difficult, but we're going to be able to get through them and do a good job of serving students. We're committed to that. It is our primary criteria when looking at the budget."

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TEAM continued from page 1

Team Captain of the squad, Gary Pollard said he is, "very proud of his team making it to the Nationals. I enjoyed all the squad members, I've made so many friends in a couple of years."

State Champion Sandra Sparks received a silver and a bronze medal at the state competitions. "I was hoping that more of my teammates could've been up there with me, but I know that we all support each other, so just having them there meant a lot." Sparks said her favorite part of forensics was "The traveling and meeting people aspect. We have a lot of fun hanging out and making great friendships."

Bill Sparks, director of forensics, has been a part of the team since 1995-

96 school year.

"Cerritos College has consistently been Ranked in the Top 20 schools in Large Entry Division. Last year our Debate Team reached the Top 10 Ranking," he said.

Cynthia Lavarriere, forensics instructor, has been apart of the coaching team for two years with Sparks. "I have been a part of a forensics team since 1990 and in 1995 started coaching at Point Loma Nazarine University and Cal State Fullerton."

Lavarriere will be director of the team next year.

Since the state and national tournament, the team has competed in a cool-off tournament, which was open to novices only.

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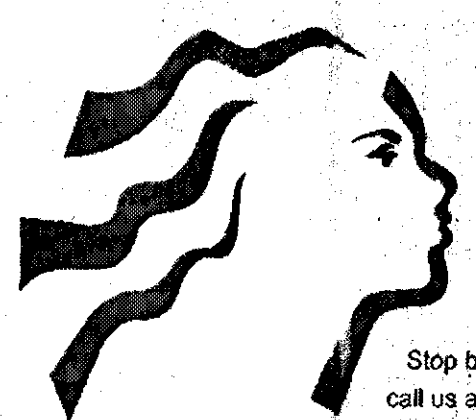
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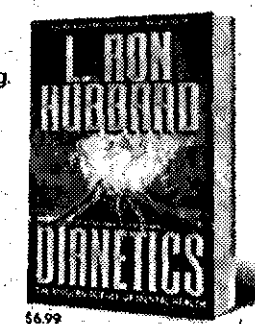
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## EDITORIAL

*James Towns is a legit president*

James Towns is a legitimate president.

And though others may say otherwise, the fact is his opponent was not eligible to run as of last Thursday night and Towns was made president through completely legal means.

Is this the most desirable of situations? Absolutely not.

Whenever an important office, like ASCC president, is being sought the ideal would be several intelligent, capable candidates giving each other fierce competition.

Tiffany Garcia attempted to be that to the incumbent.

But because she was found ineligible, every promise of what she was going to do for the student body, no longer mattered.

Garcia should have been in at least acceptable academic standing and has little reason for complaint if she was not.

The polls closing early are not the issue. At best, continuing to allow students to vote would have resulted in backing for an "I told you so" attitude. At worst, the student body might have had to endure the same shift in presidency in the fall that it did this semester.

That is unnecessary, potentially harmful and, thanks to good choices, avoidable for the upcoming semester.

There was no need to keep the polls open because there was essentially only one person on the ballot.

Garcia knew this would happen. She knew that she had to stay above five units and failed to meet that requirement.

This is not an unfair rule. Does the student body really want a president that cannot make that bare minimum of requirements?

How can a person who can't even keep her personal academics in tact be expected to make decisions on behalf of the entire student body?

The rules exist for reasons such as this.

And because one can only assume that Garcia was well aware of the rules before running (if not, an entirely separate issue plagues this election), she is left with little grounds to whine about the outcome.

In her defense, there is something to be said about a person challenges the system, refuses to take things lying down, if you will.

Garcia has shown the student body and its representatives that she was wronged and intends to fix that.

Making her voice heard may be justification for applause, but it is not the opinion of this board that she has to say is entirely valid.

The bottom line is that Garcia made the choice for the student body by not meeting the academic requirements for presidential candidates.

It was not Towns that let his grades slip, but Garcia. Circumstances beyond his control put Towns in office.

According to the system, Towns is a legitimate president.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the editor are welcome. They may be submitted both online and in person. In all cases letters must be signed with real names before they will be considered for publication, either online or in print. Campus-related issues are given priority. Letters may be edited for length, though online versions tend to include full content, as long as it is not libelous or in poor taste. You may deliver letters to AC 42 or contact the editor by e-mail at editor@talonmarks.com.

## Tomato, tomate, there is a difference

English and Spanish should not be enemies nor lovers but friends with privileges that separate business from leisure.

HERSHON PRECIADO  
ONLINE SPORTS EDITOR

Ladies and gentlemen, as a marvelously culturally diverse and individually intricate society we as a nation and particularly as Angelenos, face a scourge that threatens that individuality.

It has crept up into our way of life throughout the last two centuries. It has slowly become more prevalent especially in those sectors in which the Spanish language is spoken with frequency.

The evil's name is spanglish, the mixing of the Spanish language with English. It is a devastating disease that infects many grade school children.

Unfortunately many parents see this as a simple childish phase in which many children who start their lives knowing only Spanish and are introduced to the English language escape to spanglish to ease their transition into English.

Regrettably many never end this usage of

both languages intermittently and live the rest of their young lives and even their adulthood speaking a language that only those with the ability to understand both languages understand and that sounds awkward to those who only speak one.

Not to mention that these individuals writing in English is sure to suffer due to the propensity to write English in a phonetic manner as in Spanish were much of the writing sounds like the actual words.

The biggest problem with this epidemic is the apathetic sentiment put forth by those individuals whom either speak it or condone it.

I understand that sometimes some words just slip out in Spanish or they just slip out in English when your speaking the other language.

But one thing is an occasional slip and quite another is a sentence that flops more than a politician.

Aside from the fact that it is just out right wrong to mix the languages and in some cases make up words using the common "ing" or "ation" at the end of Spanish words or adding "el" to the beginning and "o" to the end of English word.

A bigger miscalculated danger is the fact that people with limited vocabularies have

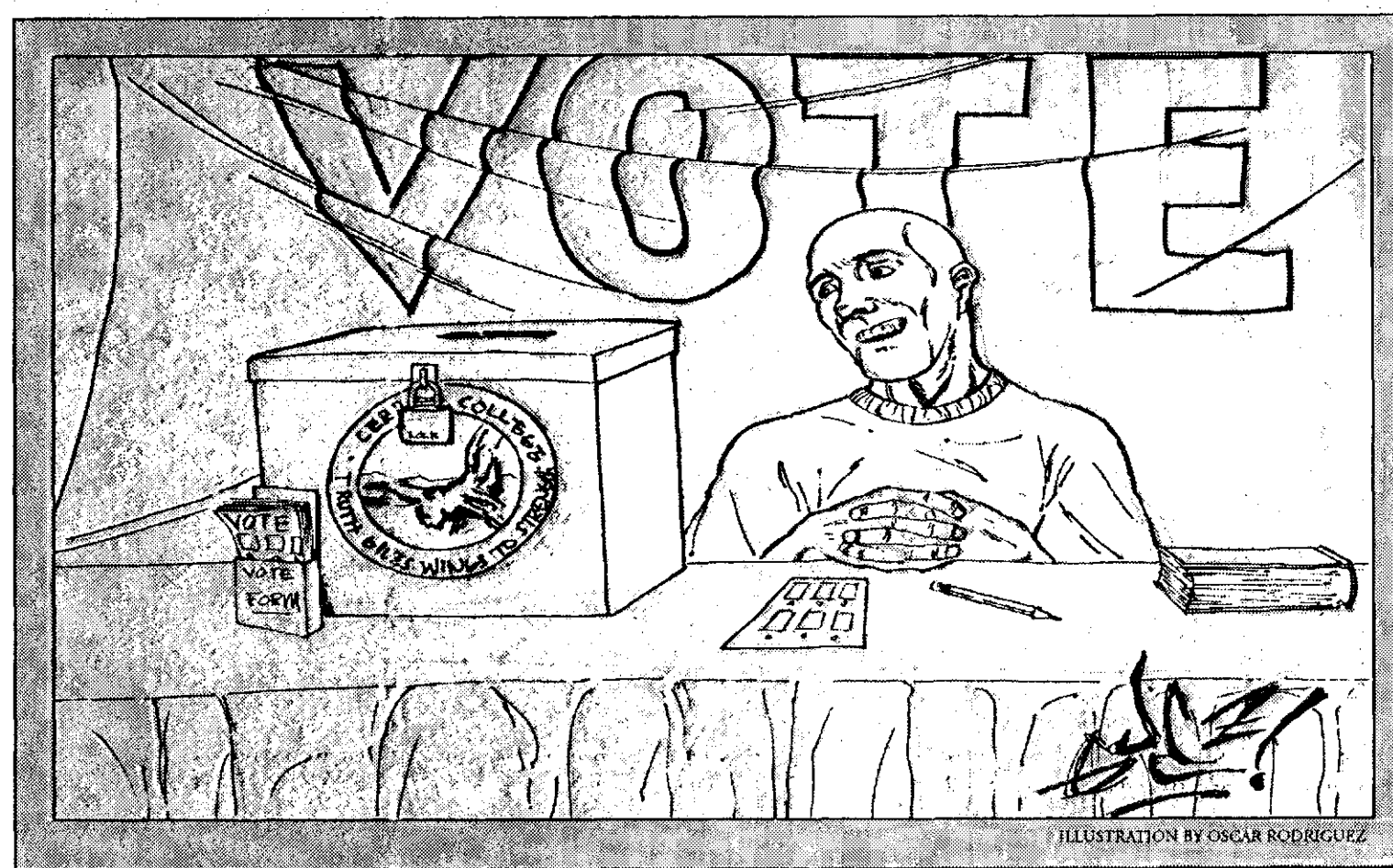
been shown to have limited opportunities and potential to succeed in the world of business and those professions in which social interaction is a must.

The truth is that spanglish is in most cases a result of a limited vocabulary and the absence of the ability to correctly write and speak in English. Even though you might find the right word to say in Spanish when your talking to your family or with friends, you probably won't find that word in English when you will need it.

As it is in the United States not knowing the language in Mexico is looked upon as taboo and just plain wrong. Those with limited range in the language are often shunned or made fun of and thought of as second-class citizens.

Spanglish doesn't have to become a fact of life. If we just fight our own battles in the home, because that is where many learn it if it is not allowed there it will be harder for children to do it outside the home it won't feel natural and hopefully they will see it for the lazy way out of correct conversations and stay clear.

Contact Writer at:  
hpreciado@talonmarks.com



## State budget cuts to affect students

A message from Interim President John Grindel

Dear Students:

The overall budgetary situation for next year remains unclear as the politicians in Sacramento wrangle over how to approach the budget for next year. As you may have heard on the news or read in the papers, the State is looking at a potential shortfall anywhere between \$26 and \$36 billion dollars. However, some issues are becoming clear:

•While the legislators have become more and more convinced that the Governor's original budget proposal in January imposed a disproportionate amount of cuts on the Community College system (as compared to the CSUs, UCs and K-12), the community colleges will still be asked to absorb significant cuts in their budgets.

We are presently presuming that we will experience a seven percent cut in our income from the State next year (July 2003-June

2004). This translates to a cut in our budget of almost \$4.8 million for next year.

•While we are trying to figure out how to deal with such significant cuts from the State, we must also deal with a mandated increase in expenditures that we have little control over (about \$2.4 million).

•Adding these two issues together means we need to cut approximately \$7.2 million in order to come to a balanced budget next year.

This is approximately a nine percent reduction from the budget we began with this year. Making such a cut will mean some significant reductions in the services we offer. For students this means a continuing reduction in the number of sections offered next year and a reduction in the services offered through Student Services.

•Finally, there will be an increase in student fees for next year. As you know, the Governor has proposed increasing fees to \$24 per unit.

In the Legislature we hear various propos-

als from charging \$26 per unit to phasing in an increase in fees over the next few years. Remember that the College itself is not responsible for increasing fees and presently the increased fees do not come to the College.

These extra fees will go to the State to offset the State's appropriation to the College.

While the above picture is a gloomy one, please be assured that the primary goal of myself and the vice presidents as we work on developing next year's budget is serving students. We will do all we can to continue to offer a quality education for you and offer those services that are necessary for you to be successful. You will see changes but be aware that you, the student, are our first priority.

If you have any questions or would like to share any thoughts on what is happening with me, please feel free to do so. You can reach me at 562-860-2451 ext. 2204.

Sincerely,  
John Grindel  
Interim President

## Campus Comment

What do you feel society owes you simply because you are a citizen and human being?

COMPILED BY  
SONIA SAENZ AND REBECCA  
DELANEY

## ONLINE POLL

What do you feel society owes you simply because you are a human being?

- An inexpensive college education
- Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness
- A winning lottery ticket
- A chance at success
- A trip to Disneyland to see Mickey Mouse

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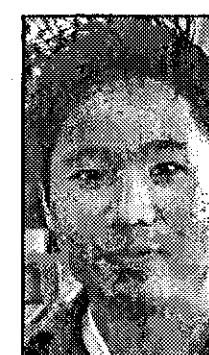
"Nothing. I just come to school and live my life."

CHRIS LOPEZ  
EDUCATION

"They owe me equal rights. Since I'm a minority, they shouldn't look down [on me]."

CATHY SERMENO  
UNDECIDED

"Nothing. You make your own way in the world."

LISA PACKMAN  
ART

"Respect. Because as a human being, I have rights and principals."

EAK SUN  
FOREIGN LANGUAGES

"I'm owed protection, clean air, not to be harassed in work place. No one pushing beliefs on me and to be left alone"

VINCE DANIELS  
RADIO PERSONALITY  
@ WPMO

"All of it and more"

JESSE AMAZCUN  
MUSIC

"We owe society. We are given freedom and we owe [society] for the privileges we have."

JAYNEE OIERTEL  
PSYCHOLOGY

"Nothing-we are here to do good for others. We owe society."

ANNA FARIAS-ROJAS  
EDUCATION

## Opinion



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 authors, the Cerritos College Associated Students, the college administration or the Board of Trustees.

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# arts

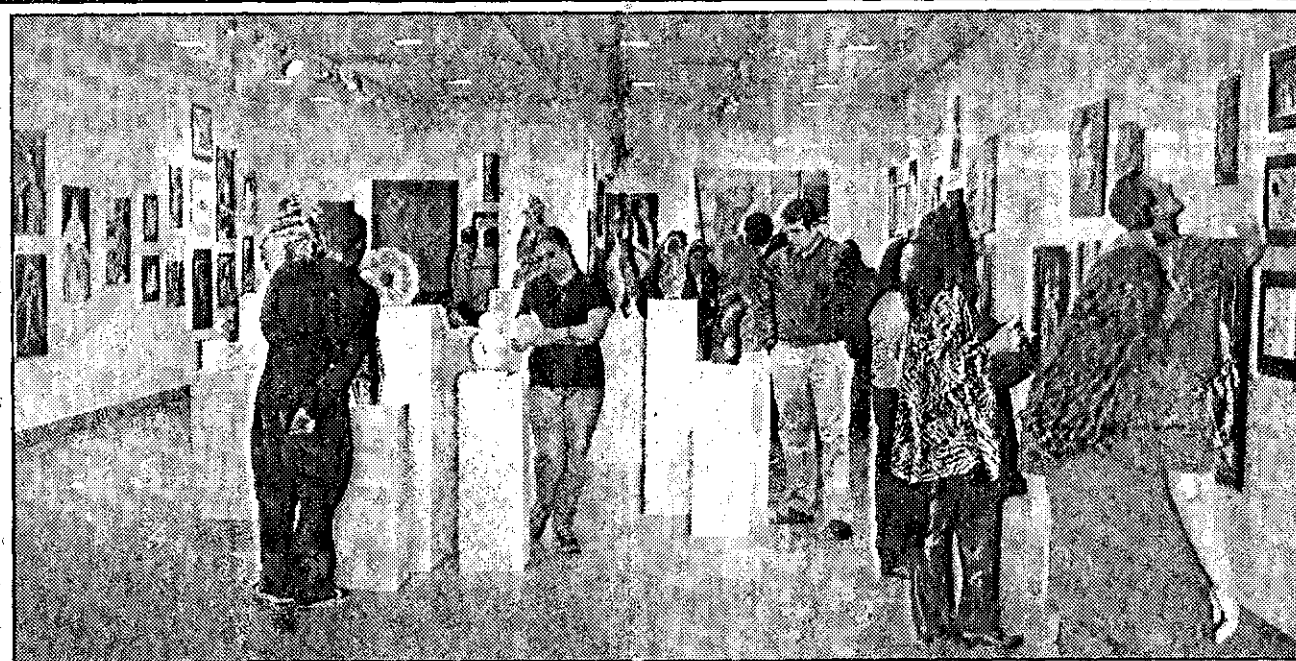
Student Fine Art Exhibition Running through May 15 in the Cerritos College Art Gallery

May 14 Spring Choral concert at the Student Center, 7p.m.

May 16 Cerritos College Band & Orchestra spring concert at the Burnight Theatre, 7:30p.m.

May 23 Cerritos College Jazz & Pop ensembles Spring Concert at the Burnight Theatre, 7:30p.m.

## Coming Down With Art



The opening day of the Student Fine Art Exhibit, contained works like ceramics, sculptures, graphic design, and more.

Claudia Valdez  
Staff Writer

The annual Cerritos College Student Fine Art Exhibition is going on now, Thursday the 15.

This year, like every year, students from all the art classes had an opportunity to have their art displayed.

"The faculty members choose the best four art pieces from every class," said Marcus Adams, Gallery Director.

Students not only have an opportunity to have their work displayed but they also get the chance to have their work judged by a retired sculpting professor who taught for over 30 years.

There were four categories, which included two to six sub-categories within them.

For example, one of the categories was computer graphics, which also

included graphic design, and calligraphy. Another category was painting, which included life drawing, water color, 2-D design, Chinese brush painting, and rendering.

According to Adams, the student show is the best attended show of the year because it is the students' work and their family and friends attend.

Last year the final number of attendees was 473 and this year with one week and a half left of the show there has already been 360 attendees, excluding the people who attended the opening reception which took



Students and faculty enjoy the cultural art.

place on the 29.

Many students from other departments have also taken the time to visit the free art show.

"I love this gallery, there's always real good stuff. The best part is that it's

free and the art is always great. Most of the time you forget that this is work done by students," said sociology student, Patricia Marquez.

In the show there is a variety of art pieces, from still life paintings to jewelry pieces.

For those who would like to attend the exhibition, the art gallery will be open Monday to Thursday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Tuesday to Thursday 6 to 9 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend and enjoy great pieces by Cerritos College students.

### This year's First place winners:

• Computer graphics, Graphic design, & Calligraphy:  
Jaya Hemnani  
Painting, Life drawing.

• Water color, 2-D design, Chinese brush painting, & Rendering:  
Ariel Rios

• Ceramics, Jewelry, 3-D design, & Figure sculpting:  
Gene Namikas

• Free hand drawing & Printmaking:  
Matthew Jaurequi

## Unheard Music

Lauren Rodriguez  
News Editor

There is something charming about knowing that the band I am listening to has recorded its album with almost no money, that the guitarist has to watch where he steps because last year's Christmas lights are strewn across the concrete floor and that the poor drummer is smashed up next to the washing machine.

And whether this image is entirely accurate of local band Awake, these guys have the garage band thing down. Guitarist/singer Jon Usbourne sings of his thus far very independent band, "I'm in a band of gypsies/ nowhere to rehearse..."

But clearly this band not only has somewhere to rehearse but has been doing so for a while.

But make no mistake: the unreleased recording is fuzzy at best but is only an indication of the band's talent on some levels.

For example, the simplistic recording is a fair representation of the band's rather simple lyrics and melodies.

The song "It's Not Bad," tells a general story about the not-so-wonderful things that happen in life but gives a positive response to these occurrences.

He sings, "I sometimes wonder why when it rains it has to pour/ Just when you think it's over, it comes back for more/ I make a hundred bucks a paycheck maybe more (God knows that's true)/ and my house is burnt from ceiling down to floor."

Yes, the album does contain the occasional reference

to the ex-girlfriend but the listener is not forced to endure an hour and a half of "I love you" songs or broken heart sob stories. Thank you!

Even so, the album contains plenty to relate to.

A special treat on the album (and boy do I mean special) is the spontaneous, quirky track, "It's the Eighties."

Half jokingly, Usbourne introduces the song by saying that his fan (note the humorous use of the singular) knows it.

With thought-provoking lyrics like "You've got a nice acid wash, baby," it's hard not to be hooked.

The Proud Star Live Album has catchy lyrics and simple harmony.

Allen Ernst, drummer and backup vocalist brings home the band's straightforward style with his easy-to-hear harmonization.

Although Ernst's vocals play a more obvious role than many popular bands, they are not distracting or intrusive.

Often, bass players, with one of the less recognizable instruments in pop music fade into the background, but Chris Wilsey is featured in several recognizable spots on the album.

Awake is clearly not an impeccably polished band seeking after only perfection. Rather, this band has achieved through its simplicity, meaningful lyrics and enjoyable songs and could easily pass for a band one would hear on the radio.

Garage or not, I'm sure one day we will.

Contact Writer at:  
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# X marks the S P O T

'THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE' WAS MUSICALLY IMPRESSIVE, BUT FAILED TO HIT THE SPOT FOR SOME IN OTHER AREAS

Rebecca Delaney  
Features Editor

The Cerritos College Theatre Department held their musical "The Pirates of Penzance" this past weekend opening along with the music department's fantastic symphonic orchestra.

As the lights faded and the curtain slowly rose, a nicely lit stage appeared exposing an island. Suddenly a ship appeared as it came to a halt. Pirates unload the ship with their luggage while celebrating and singing lively to their newly found treasure.

The musical at first was a little unclear as to what was going on. Sure there were pirates dancing around drinking booze out of their flasks while kissing the jewels on their chests, but the point of the story didn't quite take the attention of the audience until the singing stopped and the talking finally took place.

Frederic decides he wants more out of life than being a pirate and takes off with Ruth, the only lady on the pirates ship, who has been around him since he was eight. After discovering other maidens on the island he leaves Ruth and starts watching other maidens on the island. Only one maiden catches his eye and as well as hers and since there are shows of the play still left over to attend I will not explain the rest.

The play itself was entertaining though it was hard to understand at first. The songs were good though when the maiden Mabel sang her songs, there were times when it would have been nice to shut her off. She would sing and then there were parts she would sing though with no words at all and her voice would trail off and keep going for several minutes. For those opera fans out there that like to listen to lots of singing, then this musical was for you.

The whole play wasn't all bad. Those scenes involving Richard, the Pirate King or Major-General Stanley were the funnest moments especially when the Pirate King sang "Oh, Better Far to Live and Die." During this



THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE SURPRISE THESE DANCERS WITH AN ATTACK. ERIC COMEZZI

mine where the Major-General Stanley sang the song, "I Am the Very Model of a Modern Major-General." The song itself was fast and funny with all the rhyming words. The music stopped for a short second and then picked itself up at an even faster rate.

The costumes were nicely decorated and the singers sung well. The spotlight shown on the stage to the main characters were somewhat shaky, but it wasn't to where it distracted the actors.

This musical is not only a production that should be seen by the students and staff here at Cerritos, but also to younger children who like to laugh and to see an imaginary story taking place in front of them.

Musicals are fun and interesting to those who like them, but for those people like me who do not enjoy a lot of singing, maybe this one should be one to sit out on. Sure there were some songs in scenes that were great, but with a few sentences spoken with words mostly sang, this one I'd rather read about than see.



ERIC COMEZZI THE PIRATE KING (JORDAN CRISPALL) AND HIS CREW

song he danced while shaking his hips from side to side to the different rhymes of the music.

One scene that twisted every one's tongues including

TM Contact Writer at: rdelaney@talonmarks.com

## Pirates of Penzance Upcoming Performances

May 9, 10 curtain 8:00 p.m. May 11 curtain 7:00 p.m.  
Show only tickets \$15.00 general, \$12.50 student/senior/staff  
For tickets or information call the box office (562) 467-5058



# RANT

SATIRE FROM BRIAN'S WORLD TO YOURS

## Unwanted e-mails are like cans of "Spam"

Almost all of us use E-mail these days. It is one of the great conveniences of our time. Therefore, almost all of us are familiar with the concept of "spam", one of the great annoyances of our time.

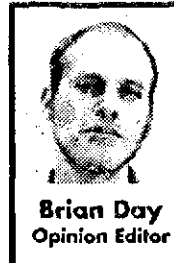
No, I'm not talking about that meat like substance in a can of unknown origin that we all have come to know and ponder over, though Lord knows that's a topic in and of itself. I'm referring to the countless unsolicited, unwanted E-mails you have to sift through in order to find the handful of genuine ones from people you actually know.

These mass-mailings have grown from merely annoying to expensive, costing legitimate US businesses almost \$10 million a year. These greedy a-holes send out millions of ridiculous messages selling any variety of worthless crap, ranging from software, to "the best mortgage rates ever," to the ever present, "You've won!" in hopes that a fraction of a percent of morons will respond, making the endeavor very profitable.

And then, of course, some of them try to get sneaky and make you open their unwanted letter buy mistake. From my experience, any subject line counting a phrase like, "Important memo," "I've been looking for you everywhere," or "Hey cutie, wanna chat," is bound to lead you to some sort of hard-core porn.

These jerks habitually annoy everyone who uses E-mail in hopes of turning a buck. Just yet another example of a handful of a-holes ruining a good thing for the rest of us.

But what can be done? Short of getting the government involved in regulating the Internet, which wouldn't benefit anyone, we the public have been powerless against this onslaught of spam. Many ads claim, somewhere near the bottom, that if you reply with the words, "REMOVE," they



Brian Day  
Opinion Editor

will not contact you again. Well, you can type "remove" till the cows come home, but the crap just keeps coming. Believe me, I've tried.

Well it seems a computer specialist, and self-proclaimed "geek", from John Hopkins University named Francis Uy is on to something. He began tracking down the actual people sending the letters via their own web sites, and posting their personal information on his web site, at [www.geocities.com/francis\\_uy/](http://www.geocities.com/francis_uy/).

One such jerk, was George Allen Moore Jr. Under his Maryland Internet Marketing Inc. Calling himself, Dr. Fatburn, Moore spammed thousands of people with countless advertisements for things like "Extreme Colon Cleanser".

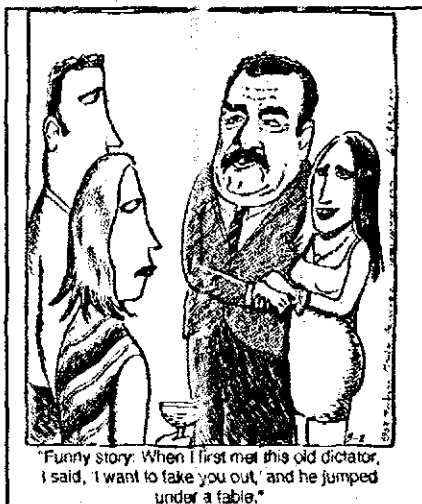
He sued Uy after receiving approximately 70 packages and 200 magazine subscriptions that he did not order, as well as harassing phone calls, etc. The beauty is, a Maryland District Court Judge dismissed the case, largely because all of the allegations and information about Moore on the site was true.

The very same First Amendment defense Moore used to justify his electronic pollution came back to bite him in the ass and I love it. We need more of this type of thinking in America.

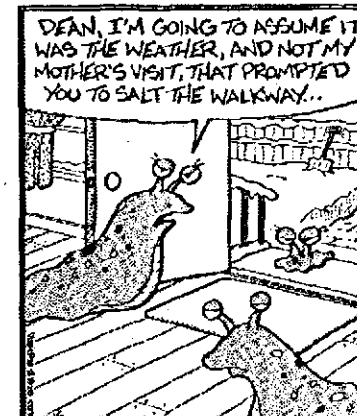
I, for one, am sick and tired of sifting through a list of unsolicited, unwanted, crap in order to find the couple of legitimate correspondences sandwiched in between. Someone had to give these slysters a taste of their own medicine, and the fact that progress is being made without any sort of government involvement just makes it that much sweeter.

But the fact of the matter remains, my box is still full of junkmail crap, and so is yours. One jerk down, millions to go.

Contact Writer at:  
bday@talonmarks.com

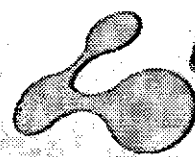
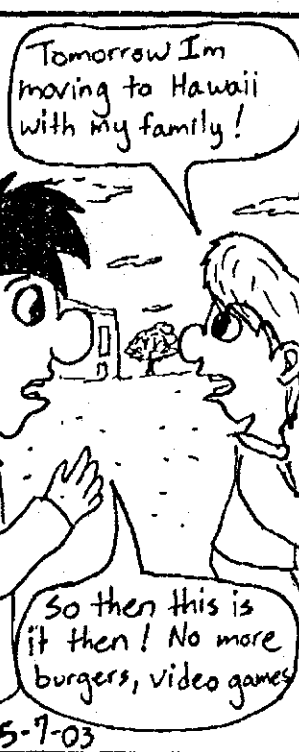
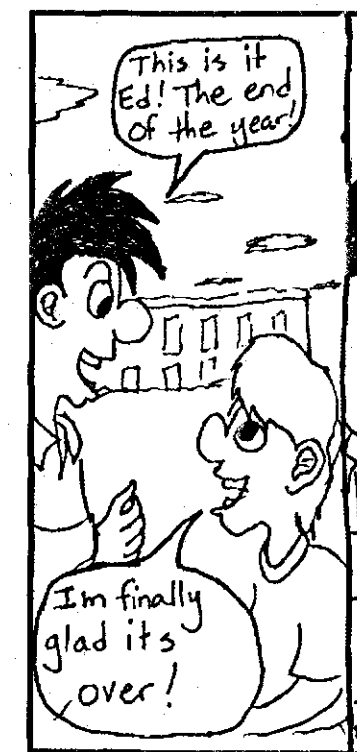


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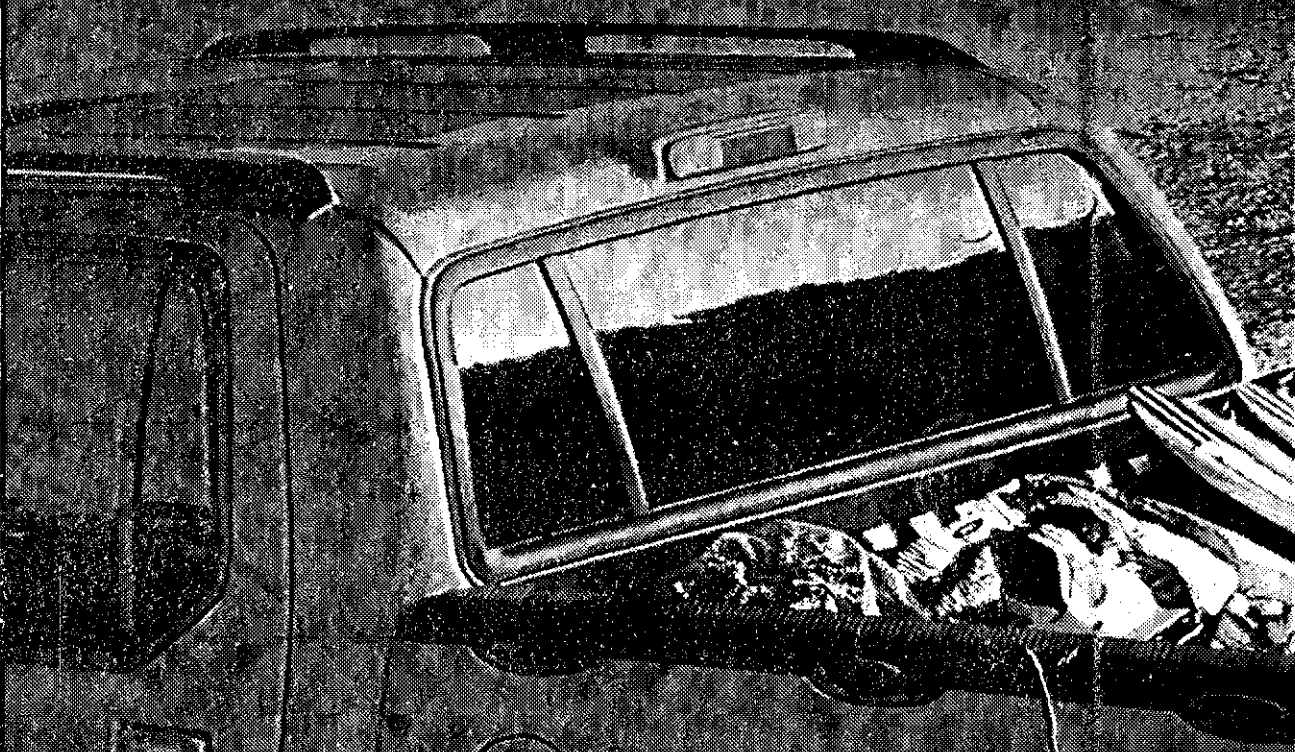
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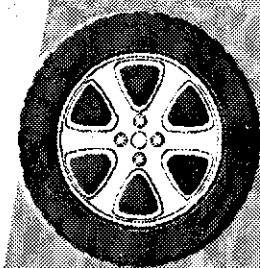
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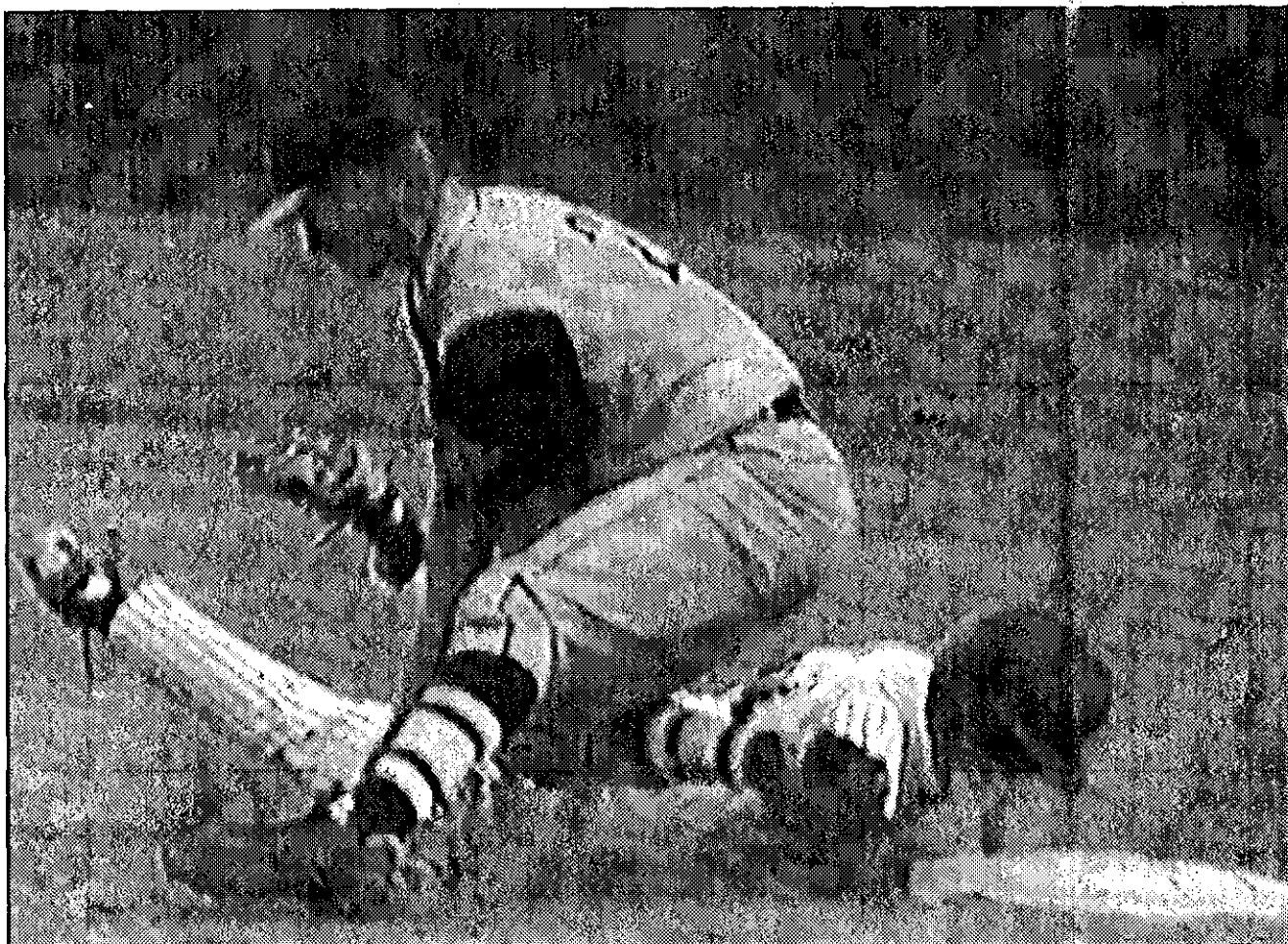
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# sports



Safel Andrew Castillo slides back to first base during the game against El Camino on Friday.

## Falcons swing into playoffs

ELYSE MURO  
SPORTS EDITOR

Facing El Camino College on Thursday and Friday the Cerritos College baseball team has made it to the playoffs.



The Falcons will play its first game of playoffs on Friday at 11 a.m. against San Bernardino College at Cypress College.

But last Thursday the Falcons beat El Camino 4-3 on a last minute pinch hit.

Last Friday it was a different story for the Falcons.

El Camino came back on Friday and beat Cerritos 11-3.

"Our defense made mistakes and we didn't put the ball in play enough to manufacture runs," said head coach Gerardo Perez.

**"Our defense made mistakes and we didn't put the ball in play enough to manufacture runs."**

—head coach Gerardo Perez

The Falcon only managed to put up three runs in the third.

With only one win and one loss the Falcons will go into playoffs on Friday.

"We're going to give some guys the opportunity to play on Friday that we are really going to need," Perez said.



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## Barajas back

After returning from the disabled list with a pulled hamstring, Arizona Diamondbacks catcher Rod Barajas has been hot at the plate.

The former Falcons who played on the 1994-95 teams, has gone 12-for-20 (.600) and has helped the D'Backs go 3-2 in those games.

During his hot streak, Barajas, who is batting .467 (14-for-30) on the year, set a new team record with hits in seven consecutive at-bats.

Barajas has also helped with the team's pitching staff that has seen its two star pitchers, Randy Johnson and Curt Schilling, placed on the disabled list.

Of his 12 hits during the streak, six of them have been doubles, while he has also clubbed one home run and driven in seven runs.

## Falcon sports roundup

### Softball is over

The women's softball season is official over after losing two games at the Southern California Regionals.

The Falcons loss to Palomar 6-5 and suffered another loss to the College of the Desert 6-4.

The softball team finished the season out with a record of 25-18.

### Swimming

Luisa Wilson of the Cerritos College women's swim team made it to the State Championship.

Wilson recorded a 15th place finish in the 50 meter and 100 meter backstroke.

Not only did Wilson place 15th but she gave the Falcons two team points.

### Women's tennis

After a very successful season, the Cerritos College women's tennis team saw it come to an end after their entrants in the Southern California Regionals were eliminated.

The Falcons entered two doubles teams and four individuals, but none

of them were able to advance to the State Championships.

In doubles action, the team of freshmen Jessica Burton and Francine Sorianosos advanced through the first two rounds and would have qualified for the state championships had they won their third round match.

The other doubles team of sophomore Genie Schnakenberg and Irma Farfan won their first round match, but lost to Jessica Jucaban and Tonya Grace, 6-7, 1-6.

For the latest stats and scores go to: [www.talonmarks.com](http://www.talonmarks.com)

## Track and field

HERSSON PRECIADO  
ONLINE SPORTS EDITOR

The Cerritos College men's and women's track teams have begun their journey to the State Championships by participating in last Saturday's preliminaries in Bakersfield.

The Falcons enter the two week event culminating on Saturday, with a third place finish for the men's team and a fourth place finish for the women's in the South Coast Conference Finals on April 26.

The Falcons' success is mainly due to their strength in the 100m and 400m dashes and the 1600-meter relay in which they have excelled all season.

They will have to call on these strengths and their dominant runners such as Antoine Woodward Carshell Wright for the men and April Brown and Melissa Fletcher for the women to be able to be successful.



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Sports  
Schedule

Baseball

Friday

Cerritos vs San Bernardino College at Cypress at 11 a.m.

Track and Field

Saturday

Cerritos participates in the S. Cal Finals at Bakersfield College at 1 p.m.

Softball

Seasons over

Swimming

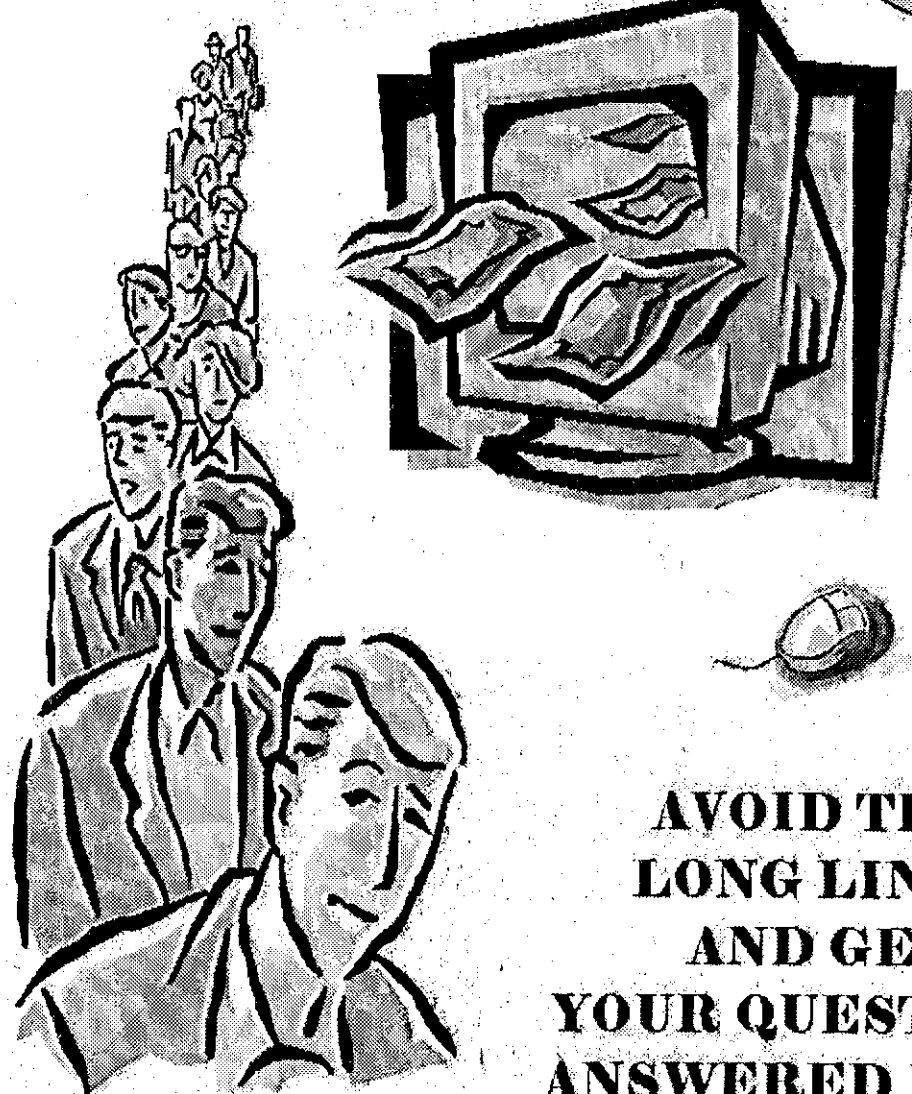
Seasons over

Tennis

Seasons over

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## feature

America  
Mr. India

Ali Haider talks about life, the pageant and what he learned from it

Juan Daniel Flores  
Online Art Editor

Ali Haider, is a Cerritos College student, majoring in advertisement. He is 24 years old, a former President of Muslim Student Association, and now is proudly Mr. India America 2003.

This event is just like a Ms. America pageant. People had to nominate him and submit pictures of himself. 600 pictures were submitted to the competition and only 12 semi-finalist were chosen to participate in the pageant, which took place in San Francisco sponsored by Zee TV (it's like MTV).

After the third day of competition Haider performed a small shear (small poem), but sung it. In addition to the shear, Haider also had a question and answer competition.

## Q &amp; A

Q: How did your family feel when you participated in the pageant?

A: "I didn't tell my family, until I won. They didn't know until I walked in the house with a huge trophy."

Q: What was the hardest part of the competition?

A: "The Q&A part"

Q: Why did you participate?

A: "This was a test for myself. If it was meant for me good, if it wasn't, still good. Singing is my main passion, that's what pulled me up here."

Q: How did you feel when they announced you as the winner?

A: "This was what I always wanted. I wanted to call-up everybody on [my cell phone right on] stage."

Q: What did you learn from all of this?

A: "I learned that a person can do anything if they believe in God. If you think you're on one side and the world is on the other side, don't worry, it will all sort itself out."

Q: Why do you think the judges awarded you the title of Mr. India America 2003?

A: "I think they found something in me. When I won, people clapped for me. I didn't know anybody there except one person, so it was my God gifted talent in me."

Q: Who would you want to

thank?

A: "The MSA for all their support, my friends, and above all, my parents for believing in me and for having so much patience."

Q: What message do you want the readers to know you're sending?

A: "Everything is possible in life, if you just believe in yourself and at the same time in God with a open heart."

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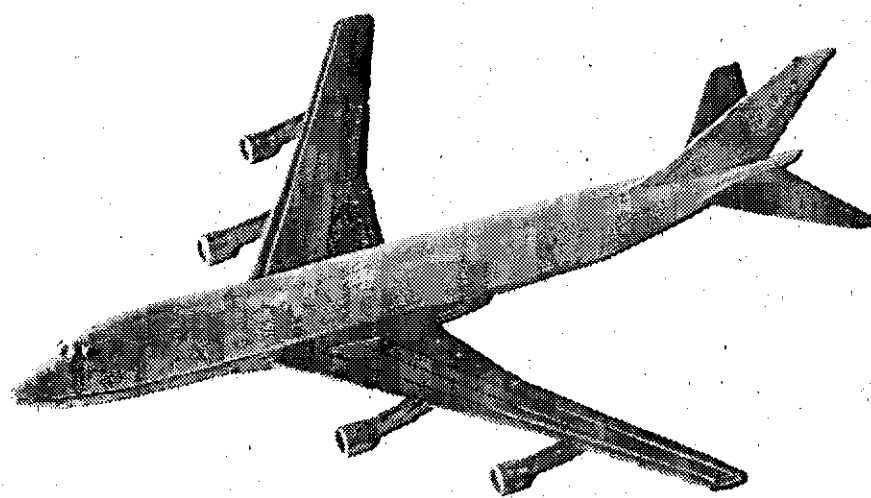
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