

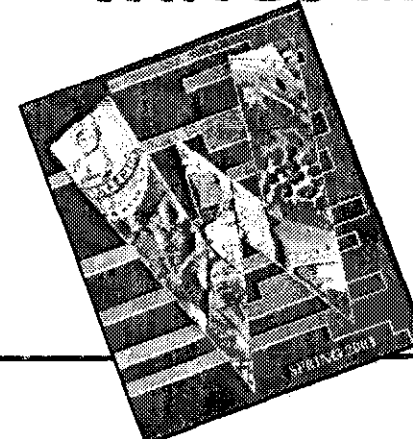


MOVIE REVIEW

See the mutants of X-Men and their review on A&E

Page 4

WINGS MAGAZINE



Be sure to check out the spring issue of Wings magazine, on newsstands this week

Wednesday, May 14, 2003

Cerritos College • Norwalk, California

Volume 48, No. 26



Eric Gomez/TM
Woman of the Year Shannon Leahy-Ladwig and Man of the Year James Towns proudly show their awards Friday during the ASCC Awards Banquet.

ERIC GOMEZ/TM
OUTSTANDING FACULTY WINNERS (LEFT) AND ATHLETES OF THE YEAR (RIGHT).

ASCC Awards

JUAN DANIEL FLORES
ONLINE ART EDITOR

As the 2003 Spring semester comes to an end, everything seems to be coming along as schedule finals, goodbyes, and of course the Associated Students of Cerritos College annual awards banquet was no exception.

Friday was the banquet held at the Students Center from 7 to 9 p.m. The Student Center was transformed into a elegant ready to serve, four star dining room.

Set for 200 people and spoiled by the Culinary Arts with full services and a three course meal.

The annual banquet is held to acknowledge those who have excellence in service, leadership, and scholarships.

There were scholarships to pass out, and four levels in Service and Leadership Awards: Service and Leadership Certificate: Recognition of students for service and participation in programs sponsored by the ASCC.

Bronze Falcon: Recognition

of students who excel in service and participation in programs sponsored by the ASCC.

Silver Falcon: Recognition of students who show scholarship and personal integrity in addition to excelling in service and participation in programs sponsored by the ASCC.

Gold Falcon: Recognition of students who excel in service and participation in programs sponsored by the ASCC, show scholarship and personal integrity and strives to go above and beyond to participate and help others.

Man and Woman of the year: Recognition of the most outstanding student for the entire year to be awarded only at the Spring Awards banquet.

This year's Man and Woman of the year are Shannon Leahy-Ladwig and ASCC President James Towns.

"[It is a] privilege and honor to be a part of such a wonderful student activity...There is no words, there's nothing I can say to described how I feel, to me it's never about the awards, it's always about the students," Towns said.

"I'm grateful that I was to be a part of such a structure and well advise Student Government, any award I'm given it's because of the opportunities, given by this awesome college," Leahy-Ladwig said.

Bronze Falcon winner and Mr. Cerritos 2003 Henry Jesse Martinez said "I feel very proud to win an award, I feel this gives me a voice, here at Cerritos, it gives me strength."

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Cerritos students it's time to graduate

CLAUDIA VALDEZ
STAFF WRITER

Hundreds of students will take part of the Cerritos College Commencement Ceremony this Saturday at 5 p.m. at the Falcon stadium.

Though many students have chosen to participate in the ceremony there also those who will just transfer and move on without taking part of the commencement.

Each and everyone of the students who will move on has his and her own personal thoughts about the college they are living behind.

Francisco Flores, who is transferring to California State University at Dominguez Hills in the Fall, said, "I enjoyed my time here. I liked the campus, the environment and I liked most of the professors who I had. I also met a lot of cool people here."

Some students will be taking sometime off before heading off to a university, either to work or to relax or to do both.

Diana Garcia, Sociology major, has decided that she will work two jobs during the Summer and Fall to have extra money once she continuous at UCLA.

"I know that I won't be able to work as much once I'm there [UCLA] so I will work extra hard before I go. I know that I'm prepared to compete with the students there because I had a lot of great professors here," Garcia said.

Flores and Garcia will both be participating in the commencement this Saturday,

but each for different reasons.

Flores will be at commencement because he wants to show everyone that he is proud of himself.

"I worked really hard for this [A.A. Degree], I was here at Cerritos for a little over three years and I want to be there to let everyone know that I'm proud."

Like Flores, Garcia is also proud of herself but she is more interested in showing her family what she has achieved.

"The most important thing to me is my family and I want to show them what I have been up to all these years," she said.

One of the most important things that Garcia learned while attending Cerritos was that although she was told that she would finish in two years she didn't.

"And I still haven't met anyone who has finished in two years."

"I would tell students not to stress out too much about not finishing in that amount of time, just concentrate in whatever you have to do. If you need to work and go to school then do that but do both things right," she continued.

Flores said that what he treasures most from this college is the time and dedication that he received from his instructors. He wishes to also let students know that they should take advantage of all the facilities available to them.

"Everyone should go to the tutoring and to the computer lab if they need to, it's free and you will get a lot out of it," Flores concluded.

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WHEN
Saturday
5p.m.

WHERE
Falcon
stadium

Impeachment proceedings ahead

Rumors of foul play at elections fly towards the Chief Justice Pro Tempore

ALICIA WARNER
EDITOR IN CHIEF

With the controversy of the elections still looming over at Student Activities there seems to be rumors of impeachment proceedings flying around Cerritos College.

Cerritos College Chief Justice Pro Tempore is under attack by Senate members and students accusing him of not being professional at the election polls.

Sergeant at Arms Miguel Ramos two weeks ago on April 30 informally at a senate meeting said that two students have complained to him about Jerry Ramos's conduct at election polls and he felt that it warranted the chief justice pro tempore impeachment according to Jerry Ramos.

With this happening at the meeting it was a surprise to most that were there.

Associated Students of Cerritos College President James Towns feels that it has something to do with the election results.

"I believe personally that it has something to do with the elections. We expected everything to run smoothly and it didn't happen," Towns said.

Also Towns said that the people making such charges against Jerry Ramos have given neither him nor the senate or court any reasons for the impeachment. There also have been no facts presented as to why the proceedings should continue.

"Jerry Ramos is a hard worker and out-

standing chief justice pro tem. He has been extremely professional throughout this whole thing," Towns said.

Jerry Ramos confirmed that the impeachment proceedings are going on and that he is not apart of the meetings going on in the Judicial Branch because of the impeachment proceedings has to do with him.

"I am concerned, but not worried about the impeachment proceedings. I don't take it lightly though, it is a very serious accusation," Ramos said.

Ramos added that in the April 30 meeting the move to impeach was not formally done in the proper steps to take action. It was not in

See IMPEACH page 2

Learning community proves successful

Students and faculty celebrate the semester with an end of year celebration

JUAN DANIEL FLORES
ONLINE ART EDITOR

"I have had a great experience in [the] Learning Community [Program]. It has help me pursue my goals," Evalina Gracia said, after winning one of the Learning Communities Programs' scholarships.

The 'End of the semester' brings finals, term papers, and stress to students. To those who participate in the Learning Community Program know in every ending semester there's a



JUAN DANIEL FLORES/TM
Learning Community Students celebrate the 'end' with faculty and friends.

"End of the year celebration." The end of the year celebration is to knock off finals and to wrap up the semester.

"[This is] a time when all of the Learning Communities faculty recognize the achievements of their students," Counselor

Marmalita Barcelo said.

The celebration included social activities, prize give aways, awards, scholarships, and above all, fun.

"[I] wish the students success with finals and a pat on the back, to do well," Dora Mazias said.

In the "End" it seem that the students and the faculty all had a special connection to one another.

"[The Learning Community Program] was very fun, I would recommend it to anyone," said Oscar Catzin, Pre-Med.

Contact Writer at:
dflores@talonmarks.com

Retirement
celebrations

Facilities
Celebrate

You are
invited to join
Facilities on
Wednesday,
from 11 a.m.
- 2 p.m. to
celebrate Toni
Ann Salade's
retirement.
Toni Ann
will soon
be enjoying
the seasonal
changes and
colors in her
hometown of
Pennsylvania.
Please stop
by to
wish her well.

Health
Occupations
Celebrate

Division
cordially
invites you to
a retirement
reception hon-
oring Marie
Downey-
Jackson for
41 years of
service
Thursday,
from 3 - 5
p.m. in the
Health
Science
Building,
Room 105.
Please contact
Jan Senf at
ext. 2552 or
Luanne Korn
at ext. 2551
if you have
any questions.

Library
Celebrates

The
Library staff
cordially
invites you to
join them
at a
retirement
reception
honoring
Sheri De
Bellis.
Festivities
will be held
on May 21
from 2:30
until 4 p.m.
in the
Technical
Services
area of
the Library.
Please stop in
to say
goodbye
to Sheri and
enjoy
some
refreshments.
Contact
Mary Ann
Pawlisz at
(562) 860-
2451 ext.
2421 if you
have any
questions.

IMPEACH continued from page 1

the agenda like it is supposed to be. So at the last Wednesday's meeting it was introduced formally to the senate by placing it on the agenda, which was the appropriate steps taken to make such action.

He is confident that the senators will make the right decision in the matter on Wednesday when the senate meets.

Ramos has been apart of four elections and has had part in tallying the votes for each election.

Ramos was there the last night of the elections when the polls closed early.

"It wasn't my decision to close the polls early. I had to call the other Chief Justices to let them know what had happened and that there was no need for them to come down to count the ballots," Ramos said.

Dean Ackland in last Wednesday's meeting also took responsibility for the polls closing early during the elections. He told the senate that Jerry Ramos had nothing to do with the polls closing early according to Ramos.

This Wednesday there will be a senate meeting to talk about the impeachment proceedings for Jerry Ramos and could be possibly be a closed session for the senate.

So far there has been no written evidence shown to the senate and it is expected to be shown to the senate at Wednesday's meeting.

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Library cards gain access

DENISE GONZALEZ
STAFF WRITER

The City of Cerritos library personnel are encouraging everyone to take advantage of this great opportunity. It is offering cards to all Cerritos College employees and students.

The new Cerritos library extends its services into the community by providing cardholders with online access to proprietary subscription databases with a wealth of information. To access the databases, patrons must log in by entering

their Cerritos Library card numbers.

People who are interested in obtaining a library card can find the registration form online available on the library's web site at www.cerritos.ca.us/library.html

Here is what you need in order to obtain your card:

STUDENTS:

- Student ID with current sticker
- Valid Driver's License or ID
- One bill/statement with home address (i.e. electric, phone, auto bill)
- If address on license/ID is different from current residence, then two (2)
- bills/statements are required for proof

EMPLOYEES:

- Cerritos College pay stub within last 60 days
- Valid Driver's License or ID
- One bill/statement with home address (i.e. electric, phone, auto bill)
- If address on license/ID is different from current residence, then two (2)
- bills/statements are required for proof

If you have not been by to see the beautiful new library, stop by soon. The City of Cerritos Library provides a wonderful, fun learning environment for children and adults alike. For question and library hours call (562) 916-1360.

Dental hygiene wins

Cerritos students win big at the California Dental Association meeting

CLAUDIA VALDEZ
STAFF WRITER

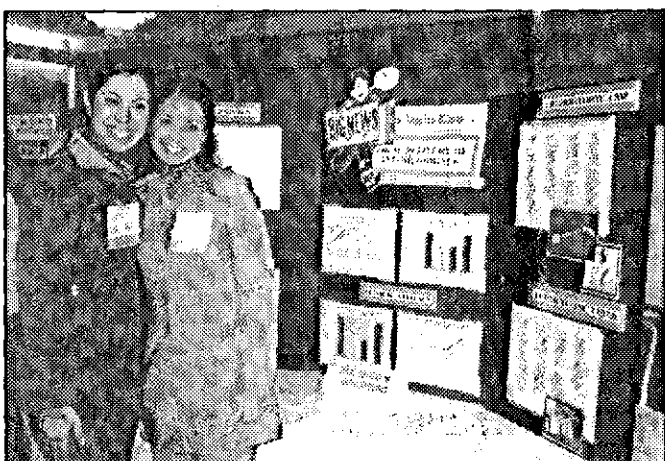
Students from the Cerritos College Dental Hygiene Program won, for the fifth year in a row, in the table clinic presentations at the California Dental Association meeting.

The Dental Hygiene Class of 2003 competed in the table clinic presentations, which are short visual and verbal informational or original research presentations.

The winning table clinic was presented by graduating seniors, Ellie Naderi and Kim Lower.

The presentations were judged by members of the dental and dental hygiene professions.

Cerritos College Dental Hygiene students



Courtesy of Dental Hygiene

won the first place for the fifth consecutive year, the winning table clinic was, "Local Delivery of Antimicrobials."

In this year's event there were 31 table clinics presented from 11 dental hygiene schools in California, Cerritos College had five entries.

In addition, for the first time the dental hygiene program entered in the California Dental Association table clinic competition and two students won second place.

The winning entry, presented by seniors, Cathy Przykucki and Katie Dennis, was an original research table

clinic and was titled "Skilled Nursing Facilities and Oral Health Care Under Investigation."

According to Dani Carroll, a full time dental hygiene instructor, the dental hygiene students who won will be representing Cerritos College and will compete in the table clinic presentations at the American Dental Hygiene Association annual session in New York in June.

This year's theme at the ADHA's will be "Turning Ordinary into Extraordinary."

"That's what these graduating dental hygiene students have done," Carroll said.

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Weight Watchers classes held at Cerritos

REBECCA DELANEY
FEATURES EDITOR

Ever thought about taking a weight loss program at school?

Cerritos College is currently offering the Weight Watchers At Work Program, which began on Apr. 29 in the Health Sciences building.

Each class is held every Tuesday in room HS-103 at 2p.m.

The program is a 13-week class and any student who is interested in joining can still participate at anytime. The fee to join is \$142.35 or can be paid through three easy payments of \$47.45 in the first two weeks. If anyone wants to join after 10 weeks, the payment will be prorated.

Each person that joins is given recipe cards, pamphlets about everyday foods with their point system and a calculator to add up their points from day to day.

There is no limit on how many people are allowed to join. So far the program has only faculty and staff members.

Monica Acuna, a staff member here at Cerritos College joined the program elsewhere and it changed her life. After she had her baby, she asked Weight Watchers to come to Cerritos and in return, they agreed with the minimum enrollment of 20 people.

"The Weight Watchers At Work Program currently has no students involved

maybe because they don't know about its existence here at Cerritos," Acuna said.

There are many advantages for students to join this program.

Students won't have to worry about attending off-site locations since the class will be at their fingertips.

Since the program is a group effort, members can receive moral support from each other as well as sharing new recipe ideas or their trials with the program.

"The Weight Watchers instructor helps everyone stay motivated in their talks by giving their members daily inspirational quotes and talks about certain behaviors to overcome, and why we eat the way we do," Acuna said.

By doing this, members are kept motivated to get the weight off.

Throughout the 13-week course, members are rewarded from time to time on their active efforts with losing weight.

Each person that loses five pounds is rewarded a star. After losing 10 percent of their weight, individuals are given a key chain.

The program encourages anyone to join and will make sure each person feels good about themselves throughout the course of the following weeks.

For more information about the Weight Watchers At Work Program, contact Acuna at (562) 860-2451 ext. 5044.

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Join the Talon Marks Staff Next Semester | Sign up for Journalism 103 or 105

EDITORIAL

Money well spent?

Former Cerritos College President Dr. Jane Harmon was recently granted \$145,418.00, the equivalent of what she was contractually obligated for a year's worth of work. She will receive full benefits until 2004 unless she secures another job before that time. Finally, it seems that the controversy that has followed Harmon from her job in New York and then here at Cerritos College has come to an end. Prior to becoming president of Cerritos College, Harmon created waves for herself at Adirondack Community College. She was accused of turning away from anyone who objected to her management and failed to treat employees with respect, which were only small acts in the big picture. Eventually, Harmon was ousted from that job.

Then Cerritos College was in search for a new president and Harmon became the sole person in the running. Most of those who have heard of Harmon's past here at Cerritos were wary to give her the job. According to a member that was on the hiring committee that eventually led Harmon to become president of Cerritos, said that several individuals were anxious for Harmon to become president. But in her opinion, it was for their own agendas. And only after her controversial work ethic came to light, was when the Board of Trustees decided that she was not the best choice for Cerritos after all.

Shouldn't the hiring committee have been more precise in their research in finding out as to why Harmon was ousted from her previous job given that she failed to impress faculty from the two other community colleges that she was heading? It is obvious that Harmon, despite her Ph.D. degree from a distinguished community college program, cannot manage to maintain a positive work place. She has had issues with the last three colleges she's worked for. There is definitely something wrong here. Should members of the committee have allowed Harmon to come into Cerritos College only because they felt they would benefit from her presidency personally?

So, now the Cerritos Board of Trustees decides that they could do better without her. All the while exorbitant amounts of money are being spent at the college's expense. Cerritos College deserves better. The Board of Trustees should have made better strides to ensure a better candidate and should have made better decisions from the beginning. Shouldn't they have realized that they had concrete evidence to prove that she was not right for our school?

Once Harmon was here, however, she seemed confident in her ability to work at Cerritos because of the way our community backed the school and how it worked with students, something that she said lacked at her other colleges. But the Board of Trustees did not give her a chance once the controversy surfaced and quickly pushed Harmon away. Cerritos might have been the perfect fit for Harmon, but now we will never know. Still, it is probably best that we not find out.

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.

Judge me not by my actions but by ignorant misconceptions

Don't tell me, your asian so your smart right?...no wait you love rice and anime right?...no, are you sure? how can that be?



HERSON PRECIADO
ONLINE SPORTS EDITOR

Stereotypes, oh no my friends were not talking about the extensive differences and similarities between Sony and Panasonic audio equipment today.

Were talking about the ever broad brush that paints many of our faces red and the two by four foot plank that keeps on giving.

After you've been thoroughly beaten by it you may go home and walk right off of it in to your well defined role as a violent and strict dancing fool Mexican that brakes his gut wrenching nap only to eat dispel bodily fluids or to add to them consequently transforming into: loveable drunk Mexican mode.

If that's not your cup of tea maybe the plain good ole boy from the south with the particularly rouge neck at the club house kicking back beers and Cubans discussing the fiscal solvency of the economy in between the bigger issue... CART or IRL (don't wrack your brain "them's racin terms.")

Bad mouthing those inferior to you as a cover for your ineptitude in dancing and taste in music (Not that country is considered music) is a built in feature but the volume never goes up above a whisper so don't try adjusting it....does this sound more like you?...no?

Well how about one of our more colorful lines like Ode de African American this stylish debonair suit comes with racial profiling and residential black outage as standards, and if you show your membership card you can get reverse racial discrimination at no charge at any place were politically correctness is accepted.

You can always let out the sleeves and add an inch or 10 to the pants to go for the whole package were the only thing louder than the clothes would be the personality.

You can also expect a 20 percent bonus to your speed your jumping ability and anything else to do with athletics, singing, or dancing, because the rest of the world sure will.

It is strange to think about it this way but its fair because even though few have the testicular fortitude to say it, it is widely thought of as "TRUE" and I use that word with the highest hesitations because stereotypes are

just wide spread assumptions that misrepresent some and corner other people into acting a certain way in the extreme.

Those stereotypes used in the beginning are are vague and not nearly as intricate as others but for space and dignity we will limit it to those because the Catholics would nearly hang me those of Islam would bomb me and the Jews would sue me. So were not going to go there.

Many stereotypes are instilled into our being early on and thus stay with us for a very long time. But these sentiments often grow into more than just simple "rules" about people that we need to keep in mind.

To butcher a quote from a small green wise old alien... Ignorance leads to fear fear leads to anger and anger leads to the shameful acts of violence that we see in the world today.

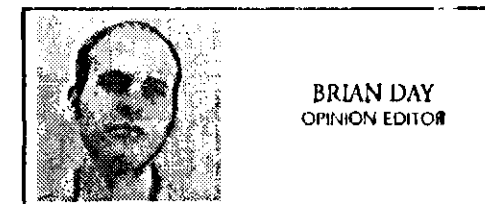
To sum it all up you should not judge a book by the color of its cover or the layout of its index page, but by the size of its wrap sheet, the score on its credit report and the honest opinion of three references.

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Carpool lanes, L.A. traffics forbidden fruit

It's bad enough they are soccer mom and vacationer exclusive now they are going to stick it to Joe Schmoe even more



BRIAN DAY
OPINION EDITOR

Traffic is a part of life for anyone living in Southern California. Over the years, politicians and citizens alike have racked their brains to think of solutions to the problem. The champion of today, is the glorious carpool lane.

This ridiculous idea, which may have looked great on some eco-friendly drawing board, has proven itself a joke in practical application. Furthermore, we're not willing to give up trying yet, oh no. There is currently a \$3.4 billion proposal in the works to add two carpool lanes in each direction on the Ventura Freeway, better known as the 101.

Simple addition tells us that this plan calls

for four new carpool lanes added to the 101, at the cost of \$3.4 billion, years of construction, and over 1,000 homes, businesses, churches, and schools.

Don't get me wrong, I understand the necessity of Imminent Domain. Sometimes, the pains of a few are necessary to keep society running smoothly. If this project elected to focus on widening the freeway as a whole, I would probably be all for it. But no, this project calls for the addition of four of those god-awful carpool lanes.

First of all, they don't accomplish the goal they were put in place to do. Carpool lanes exist to eliminate gridlock, therefore reducing traffic, and pollution caused by thousands of idling automobiles. This, theoretically, happens when people pile into one car to share a ride to work, reducing the number of cars on the road, etc.

In reality, what happens is, people still don't share rides because 90 percent of the time

it's a huge inconvenience. In my case, it's flat out impossible. No one at my job lives remotely near me, let alone one who lives near by and has a similar schedule.

Carpool lanes make traffic worse. A precious lane is taken away from real commuters and people driving for the purposes of business, and handed over to soccer moms with toddlers in the back seat, and groups of people headed to the beach. This proposal calls for the construction of only one regular lane, and only in areas where only four lanes currently exist.

Mayor James Hahn is in support of this proposal, and I'm scared. This costly venture, in a time of economic crises, no less, will not help the problem one bit. Freeways, yes. Wider freeways, yes. But carpool lanes to reduce traffic? You've got to be out of your mind.

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Campus Comment

What's the worst thing that happened to you this semester?

COMPILED BY HERSON PRECIADO

ONLINE POLL

What are your goals for next semester?

- To get better grades
- To get a better job
- Who cares I'm transferring
- Stay enrolled in all my classes
- I'm out of goals I'm perfect

Register answer online at
www.talonmarks.com
Results are immediately available.



"My car got towed when I parked in front of someones drive way."

Erica Wrona
ANIMAL SCIENCE



"Bad grades."

Aaron Kang
ENGINEERING



"I got a ticket for driving without working headlights."

Pablo Romero
ECONOMICS



"I got a very low score on my test."

Paul Grow
UNDECIDED



"Couldn't find a job that payed more than \$10/hour."

Jennifer Martinez
ENGLISH



"They stole my math book."

Marlene Varela
UNDECIDED



"They broke into my Mustang and stole several things, and I know who did it too."

Mario Miranda
ADMINISTRATIVE JUSTICE



"My car just stopped and I was late to class"

Jeizol Alvarez
UNDECIDED

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

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'Awake' evolves into garage band

LAUREN RODRIGUEZ
NEWS EDITOR

I have to be careful what I say to you, I'm on the record right now," Jon Osborne says to his fellow band mates, Allen Ernst and Chris Wilsey.

Inside of the Long Beach TGI Fridays, they look around at the wasted food.

"One time at Fridays," Ernst explained. "Some people left a whole Jack Tower!" "Yea, they left all the chicken," Osborne chimed in.

"So," Ernst said matter-of-factly. "We ate it."

Wilsey listened on in laughter. And for the entirety of the meal and conversation, the three acted in a similar manner.

One would dominate the discussion; another would briefly join with short comments or anecdotes and the third would watch and laugh.

It seems to be the way this band functions.

But this tightly knit trio was not always such. Osborne explained that prior to the last band he was in (Ernst was also a member of this band), he didn't know how well a band containing only three members could work.

"It gave us the confidence that we could be a three-piece," he said.

The three are so close, it is hard for one to reconcile the idea of a fourth member joining the crew.

But the three are currently in the process of obtaining an additional guitarist and backup singer, a woman they describe only as "Kelly."

"For a long time we've wanted another guitar player," Wilsey said, "but it's hard to find someone who fits us, but she does."

Osborne is quick to add, "She writes good music too—not just because she is a girl, but because she is really good."



SONIA SAENZ/IM
JONATHAN OSBORNE

He said it will be a challenge to be playing with a guitarist other than Ernst; Ernst said that it is a challenge for him to be playing the drums at all.

But these guys don't seem to be very afraid of the change.

They are looking forward to a major change in the upcoming

months: the introduction of a string quartet to play with them at all their shows.

All three are excited. They seem to worry little about the future, and instead concentrate on good things they know are coming.

Ernst points out, "The difference between our demo and the way we sound now is like night and day."

Osborne says, "We're gonna re-release our demo; we'll go wherever God wants us to be."

He and the other band members seem relatively unconcerned.

He concludes, "I think we've finally achieved garage band stardom."

Contact Writer at:
lrodriguez@talonmarks.com



PHOTOS BY SONIA SAENZ/IM
BASSIST CHRIS WILSEY (ABOVE)
DRUMMER ALLEN ERNST (BELOW)

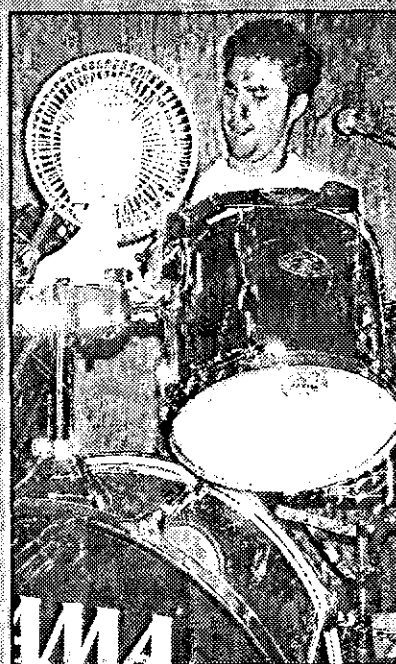


PHOTO COURTESY OF COLUMBIA PICTURES

Who's your daddy?

CHRIS OLIVARES
STAFF WRITER

Charlie (Eddie Murphy) has been fired from his no hopeful marketing position. Stuck at home with his wife Kim (Regina King) and son, Charlie tries hard to find a job in a slow economy that cannot help him.

Taking over the duties at home while his wife returns to work, Charlie has the idea to start a day care service. While recruiting his buddy Phil (Jeff Galt) and a former colleague Marvin (Steve Zahn) to help run the business. The teams open a "Daddy day care"; soon becomes a super hit.

Having a high changing preparatory day care teacher Mrs. Harridan (Angelica Houston), while watching her students drop like flies to attend Daddy day care.

With many jokes in how a man is an advertiser and his wife is a lawyer. Looking forward to sending their child to a preparatory day care having it been the best in the area. Charlie and his wife search high and low for a substitute day care service, they visited three day cares and got worse after another. The scenes have emotional outcomes with the women thinking that these men can't watch their children. There neighbor agrees that they can handle it and eventually they do even though it takes time.

It seems 2003 is to be Eddie Murphy's year, because in past years his

films have bombed, such as the sequels to "Nutty Professor," "Dr. Dolittle," and latest misguided film destroying his career "Pluto Nash," "I Spy," and "ShowTime."

Murphy provides much laughter in all this films but maybe he would better fit as a comedic father than when he started his early years as a foul mouth comedian did, with the help from co-stars and all the characterized children. All the children have each their own personality.

Hollywood shows a vision of a stay-at-home-dad who can't find anything to do. But that doesn't mean a man can't take care of children because Eddie Murphy proves that in his role as Charlie, the man who started the Daddy day care. Opening during Mother's Day weekend, it only ranked #2 in the top 5 in the world with \$41.4 Million. Daddy day care showed that new released films can't beat powerful thrillers such as X-Men 2, but it can beat others such as the Lizzie McGuire Movie, Identity and Anger Management.

Charlie and all the help of his creative men, women and silly children give lots of luck with the flowing of love for him and his partners as it ends with more laughter.

If you enjoy laughter, comedy, and children running wild go watch Daddy day care now in theaters.

Contact Writer at:
colivares@talonmarks.com

Student Fine Art Exhibition

Running through May 15 in the Cerritos College Art Gallery
Art Gallery Phone: (562) 860-2451 ext. 2612
Hours: Mon-11:4 Tue-Thur. 11:4 & 6-9p.m.

Concerts

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.

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- 1. Set financial goals**, say, to take a vacation, go back to school, get married, buy a house, or start saving for an early retirement. Put your goals in writing, then calculate how much you'll need to save each month to reach them.
- 2. Make a spending plan**, limit your debt, and concentrate on paying off existing bills. Limit debt to your ability to repay. Monthly credit payments, excluding a mortgage, shouldn't exceed 20% of your monthly take-home (after-tax) pay.
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- 6. Make the most of your money** by investing. Lazarz says the key to making the most of your money is investing small amounts gradually and sensibly over time.
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RANT

SATIRE FROM BRIAN'S WORLD TO YOURS

The shame of Cerritos College

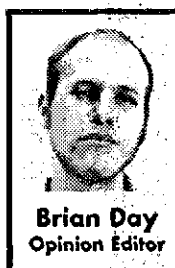
Without a doubt, the community college system in California is one of the best things the state has going for it. It makes a college education available to almost anyone.

So why is it, that when you ask the average Cerritos College student, or any community college student for that matter, where they are studying, the answer will invariably begin with, "Well, right now..."?

Before we sheepishly utter the words, "Junior College," we want to make them understand that this is only temporary, and we can do better. "High-school with ashtrays," it's called by many.

This phenomena, which I call "The Shame of Cerritos," is not isolated to Cerritos, of course, or even to "Junior College" as a whole. If you ask me where I work, my answer is sure to begin with the infamous, "Well, right now..." as well.

But why? For students in their first two years of higher education, is a university really that much better? Well, I did a year at Cal State Long Beach, and I,



Brian Day
Opinion Editor

along with thousands of others, can tell you that the answer is no. The main difference I noticed after transferring to Cerritos was about \$1,500 a year.

It's true that four-year schools do offer some advantages, obviously. There are more courses, and your instructor is more likely to be a Ph.D. at University than at a community college.

Other perks include healthy two-mile treks to class, and a study-aid program which helps to eliminate distractions by relieving you of excess money.

On the other hand, one could keep one's GPA up at a community college, transfer to a four-year school as a junior, continue his education, buy a new car with the money he saved, get his degree from the University, and no one's the wiser.

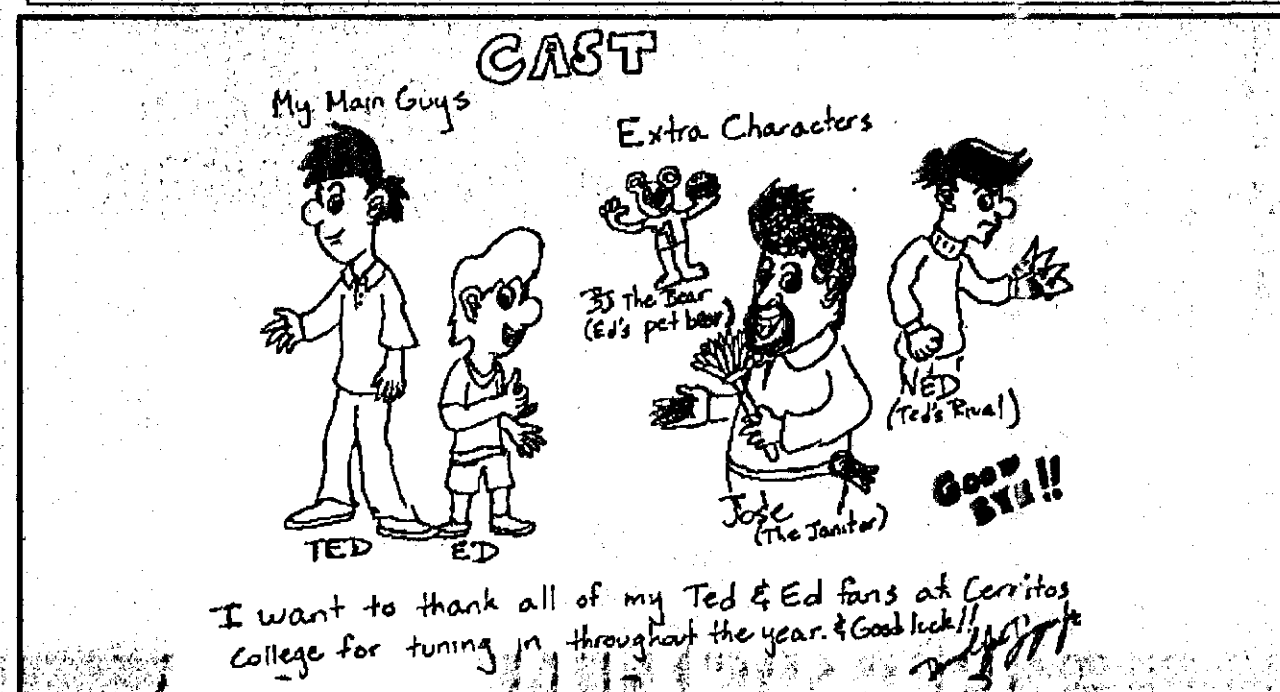
If you're paying your own way, unless you have some gnarly scholarships or something, community college is the way to go.

And to hell with the stigma. We create it ourselves when we offer a two-minute explanation before we will shamefully admit we attend Cerritos.

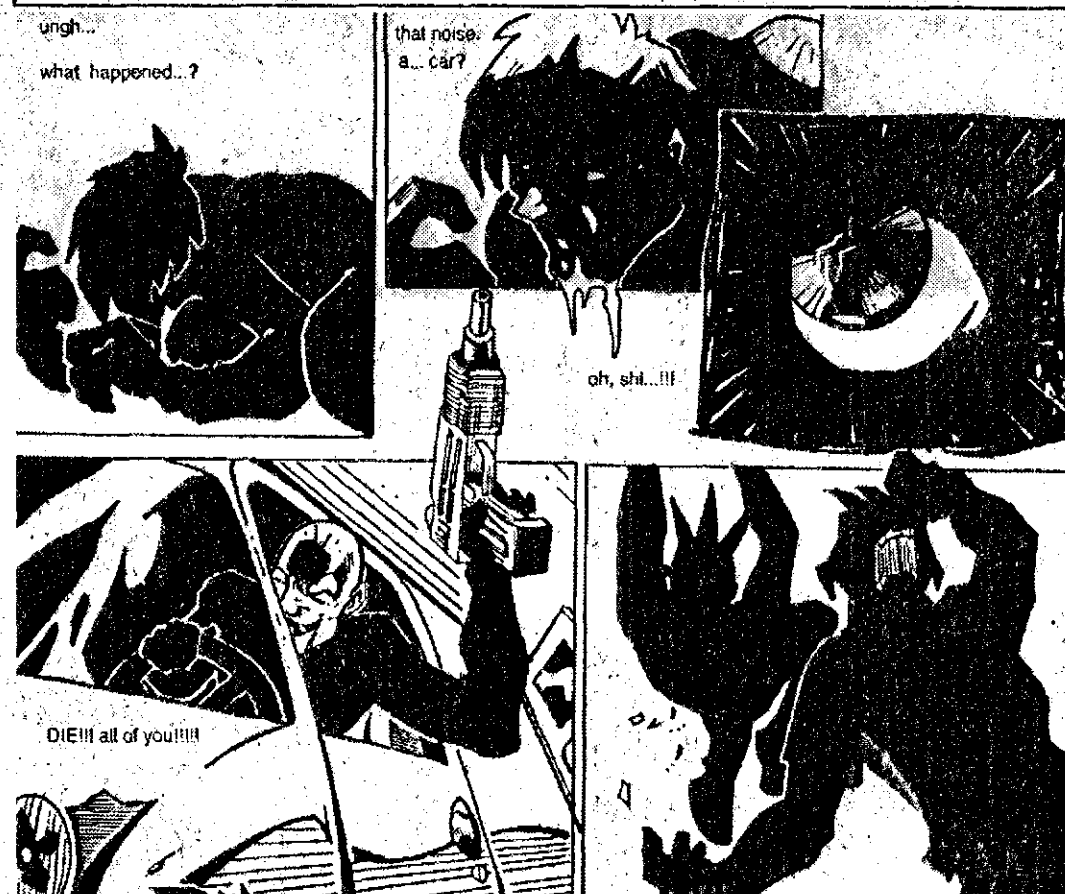
So next time someone asks you where you go to school, lose the disclaimer and proudly announce that you are a student of Cerritos College...for now.

Ted & Ed

David Dugan/TM

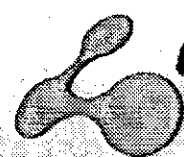
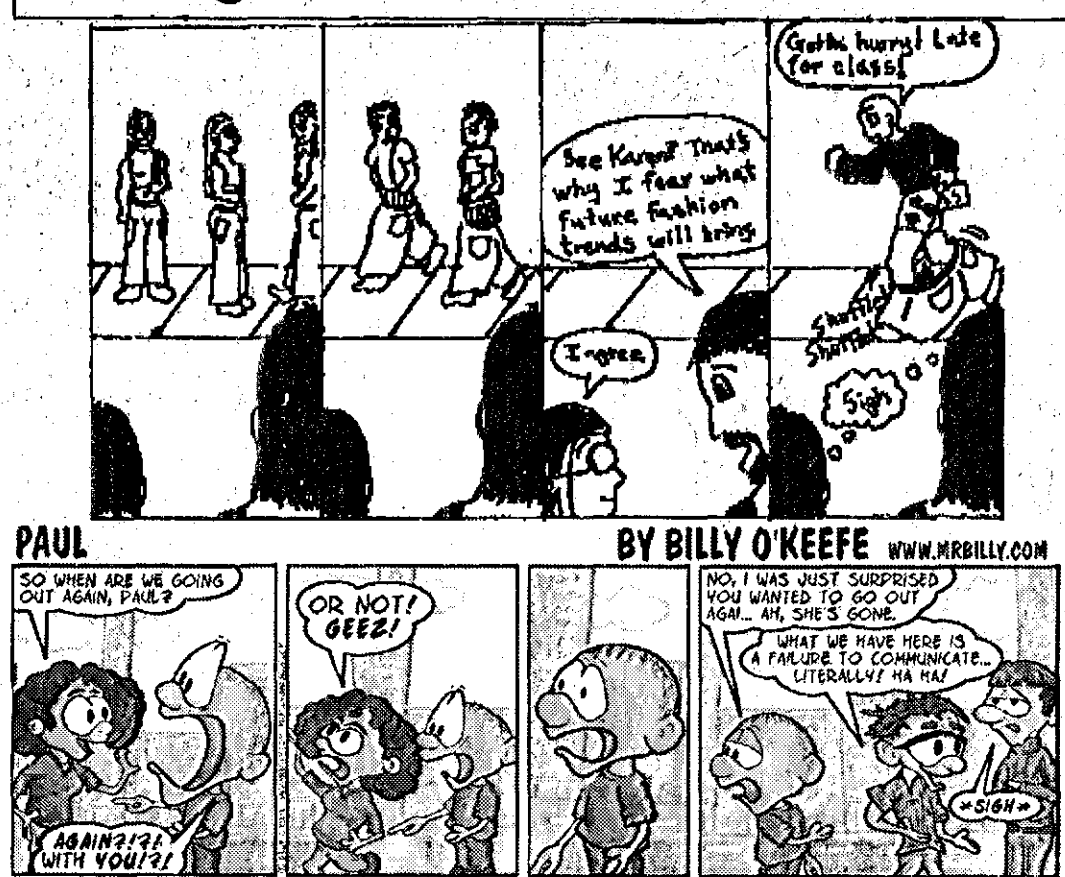


Significant Other Oscar Rodriguez "Guez"



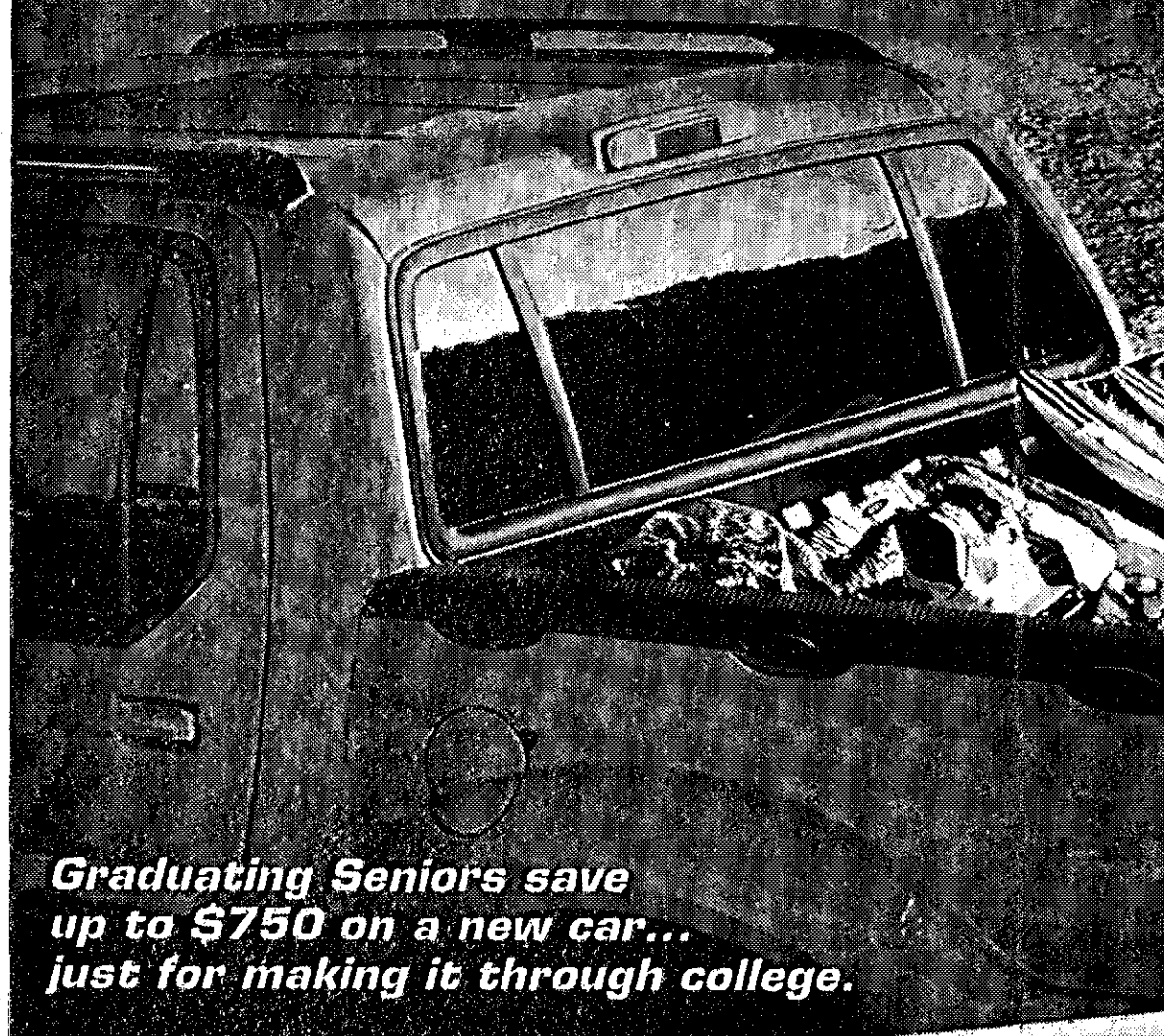
College Daze

John Luna



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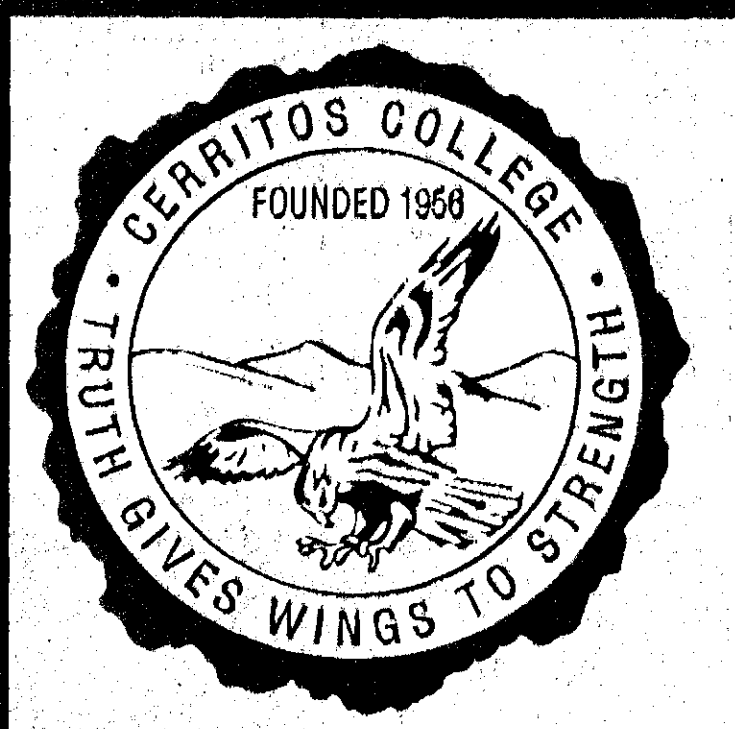
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news

Former MLB Star Selected as Commencement Speaker

Dave Frost, former California Angel's pitcher, will be this year's keynote speaker at the Cerritos College Commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 17, at 5 p.m. in Falcon Stadium.

Frost played for the Angel's from 1978 to 1982, and helped lead the Angels to their first division championship.

After his retirement, he presented seminars and training to businesses on a wide variety of topics including motivation, team building, attitude, and stress management.

A former columnist for the Orange County Register, Frost wrote a weekly feature on "sports and family issues."

For more on the 2003 Commencement ceremony, contact the Cerritos College Public Affairs Office at 562.860.2451, ext. 2401.

Breakfast for Classified Employees
In honor of Classified Employees of Cerritos College there'll be a Continental Breakfast and Reception on Thursday. Held in the Student Center, all Classified Employees are invited to stop by anytime between 8 - 10 a.m. The breakfast is hosted by the President's Office and Human Resources.

Transfer Center awaits student arrival

SONIA SAENZ
ONLINE EDITOR

It's the end of the semester, and it's not too late to turn for help. Despite rumors that the Transfer center had ceased tours due to the budget crisis, the center's biggest problem this semester has been recruiting people to sign up for campus tours.

Although last Saturday's tour to UC San Diego was the last tour of the semester, that doesn't mean that that's the end of planning for the summer.

On June 17, the Transfer Center will hold a University Mini Fair on campus.

The required amount of volunteers for a campus tour is 25 to 30. "We take our trips depending on how many students we have," head of the Transfer Center Kristen Towhid said, "if we have over [the required amount] then we go on the district provided buses."

Thira Lach, a photography major, felt that the center was "very helpful" in her decision to attend a very hopeful Cal State Long Beach.

"I'm hopefully transferring at the end of this semester," Lach said, "because I neglected it before I went to the center."

There are many resources available at the Transfer Center aside from college tours.

They have representatives from different colleges in the sitting area, where students can talk about and plan their futures.

There are also computers available for student use to research what school they want to transfer to and that are also available during registration time.

Summer planning shouldn't stop just because the regular semester has. Along with the mini fair, one can also expect representatives from colleges like Cal State Dominguez Hills, and Cal State Fullerton every Monday during the month of June.

For more information on the services the Transfer Center offers, visit the Admissions office or call them at ext. 2126.

Contact Writer at: Online@talonmarks.com

Psychology club accepts and encourages

After welcoming 24 new students, the Psychology club encourages others to join

DENISE GONZALEZ
STAFF WRITER

The Psychology club inducted several students into the Psi Beta National Honors Society and is currently receiving applications for students who are interested.

A total of 24 students were accumulated for the fall and spring semesters. Each was welcomed into the society with cords and medals. In addition, a special candle lighting was held for the recognition of the initiated students.

The Psi Beta National Council states that "The mission of the Psi Beta honor society is a professional development of psychology students in two-year-colleges through promotion and recognition of excellence in scholarship, leadership, research and community service."

Club member, Rosa Trani, said: "Basically it's for students at the Jr. College level to further their education in psychology."

Psi Beta is open to graduate and undergraduate students who are making the study of psychology one of their major interests, and who meet the minimum qualifications.

Students must have a 3.0 GPA and an average grade of a "B" in their psychology courses.

To apply students are required to obtain an unofficial transcript from the admissions office and have one of the psychology advisors review it. The primary advisor is Kimberly Duff, PhD and the secondary advisor is Todd Gaffaney, PhD.

Once approved students can fill out the application.

Beginning next semester, the application will be available to fill out online.

There is a minimum registration fee that changes every semester.

However, membership is for life. The registration fee is the only payment ever made to the national organization which preserves the membership records in the national office and archives of the history of American psychology and verifies membership.

The benefits of Psi Beta membership are permanent record of achievement which will be beneficial on applications and resumes, one-on-one relationships with professors who can stimulate interest in psychology and write letters of recommendation, community service involvement, socializing with other students with common interest, and the opportunity to participate in regional and national psychological associate conventions.

"It always looks good on transcripts when transferring to a university, just to see that students have gone that extra mile to be in the honors society," said Trani. "Some employers are totally impressed when they see the honors society on job applications."

Students who are interested in applying next semester can visit the psychology club meeting to find out more information. Meetings are held every Tuesday from 11-12 pm in the social science building room 215 (SS 215).

Contact Writer at: dgonzalez@talonmarks.com

Seminar helps students cope

REBECCA DELANEY
FEATURES EDITOR

Francesca Giordano, an active coordinating therapist in the Student Health Services and at Cerritos College Hospital, offered an "Anxiety and Depression Awareness" seminar on Apr. 30 in the Teleconference Center for faculty and staff members recognize issues in their environment as well as helping students around them.

Because of such issues like the war in Iraq, the hefty Calif. budget cuts, rising gas prices and other anxiety causing agents, Cerritos College felt a need to help their campus cope with such issues.

Besides answering questions about symptoms and treatments about depression, Giordano described other types of the disorder such as dysthymia, bipolar, and major depressive disorder. The difference between depression in males and females were also discussed.

In upcoming semesters, students may be able to receive extra credit in their health, psychology, or other related classes by taking a mental health screening test online at www.mentalhealthscreening.org/screening/login.asp

After accessing the site, students will answer a short questionnaire about themselves. Then the student will proceed to answer other questions about a specific topic like anxiety or depression. After they push the send button, results will come back telling the student where they stand.

When the results come back, the student can see one of the therapists at the Student Health Services Center where they will receive a card.

This card will verify that he or she took the screening. Not only will a student get extra credit, but maybe learn a little bit more about him or her self mentally.

All mental related health issues are free of charge for students. Faculty and



A Cerritos student buries her head in the books and even deeper into stress.

staff may have to pay a small fee.

As Giordano explained, "Not all students have to take the screening to talk to someone here

at Student Health Services. The online screening is just an added addition. Students can walk in and ask to see someone they can talk to."

Unfortunately, only short-term sessions are available at Cerritos College. Six sessions a semester are offered to students here on campus.

"No one ever leaves the psychological services without what they need. We help everyone with what they are looking for," said Charles Edward Gale, Jr. Director of the Student Health Services Office.

Where can the clinically depressed people go if Cerritos College can not help them? Gale suggests getting further treatment at Rio Hondo Community Mental Health Center, where sessions are free of charge.

Giordano made sure her audience didn't leave the room without some helpful pamphlets. Staff and faculty were given a depression questionnaire at the end of the seminar to test their knowledge and see where they had to improve.

Students and faculty interested in finding out more information about other psychological services can contact Francesca Giordano at College Hospital at 1-800-352-3301 or on campus at (562) 860-2451 ext. 2322.

Contact Writer at: rdelaney@talonmarks.com

Finals Schedule

Exam Time	May 19 MONDAY	May 20 TUESDAY	May 21 WEDNESDAY	May 22 THURSDAY	May 23 FRIDAY
6 a.m. to 8 a.m.	6:30 MW	6:30 TTH			
8 a.m. to 10 a.m.	7:00 MW 7:30 MW 8:00 M 8:00 MW 8:00 Daily 8:30 Daily	7:00 TTH 7:30 TTH 8:00 T 8:30 TTH	8:00 W 8:00 MW 8:00 WF 8:30 MW 8:30 WF	7:00 Th 8:00 Th 8:00 TTH	8:00 F 8:30 F 8:30 MF
10 a.m. to Noon	9:00 M 9:00 MW 9:30 M 10:00 MW 10:00 MWF	9:00 T 9:00 TTH 9:30 TTH 10:00 T 10:00 TTH 10:30 TTH	9:00 W 9:00 MW 9:30 W 9:30 MW 10:00 W	9:00 Th 9:00 Daily 9:30 Th 10:00 Daily	9:00 F 9:30 F 10:00 F
Noon to 2 p.m.	11:00 MTH 11:30 MW 11:30 MTWTh 12:00 M 12:00 MTWTh 12:30 M 12:30 Daily 12:30 MW	11:00 T 11:00 TTH 12:00 TTH 12:30 T 12:30 TTH	11:00 MW 11:00 W 12:00 W 12:00 MW 12:30 W	12:00 Th 12:00 MTH 12:30 Th 12:30 WTh 12:30 MTWTh	11:00 MWF 11:00 WF 11:00 F 12:00 F 12:30 F
2 p.m. to 4 p.m.	1:00 M 1:00 MWF 2:00 M 2:00 MW 2:00 MWF 2:30 M	1:00 TTH 1:30 T 1:30 TTH 2:00 T 2:30 T 2:30 TTH	1:00 W 1:00 MW 1:30 MW 2:00 W 2:30 MW	1:00 Th 1:00 Daily 2:00 Th 2:00 TTH	1:00 F 1:00 MF 2:00 F 2:00 Daily 2:30 F 2:30 Daily
4 p.m. to 6 p.m.	3:00 M 3:00 MW 3:15 MW 3:30 MW 4:00 M	3:00 T 3:00 TTH 3:30 T 3:30 TTH 4:00 T 4:15 TTH	3:00 W 3:00 MW 3:30 W 4:00 W 4:00 MW 4:30 MW	3:00 Th 3:30 Th 4:00 Th 4:00 TTH 4:00 MTWTh 4:30 TTH	3:00 F 3:00 Daily 4:00 Daily 4:30 WF
Extended Day Finals					
5 p.m. to 7 p.m.	5:00 M 5:30 M 5:30 MTh	5:00 T 5:30 T	5:00 MW 5:00 W 5:30 W 5:30 MW 5:30 MTWTh	5:00 Th 5:30 Th 5:00 TTH 5:30 TTH	5:00 F 5:30 F
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.	6:00 M 6:30 M	6:00 T 6:00 TTH 6:30 T 6:30 TTH	6:00 W 6:30 W 6:00 MW 6:30 MW	6:00 Th 6:00 TTH 6:30 TTH	6:00 F
7 p.m. to 9 p.m.	7:00 M 7:30 M 7:30 MW	7:00 T 7:00 TTH 7:30 T 7:30 TTH	7:00 MW 7:00 W 7:30 W 7:30 WF	7:00 Th 7:00 MTWTh 7:30 Th	7:00 F 7:30 F
8 p.m. to 10 p.m.	8:00 MW 8:30 MW	8:00 T 8:00 TTH		8:00 Th	

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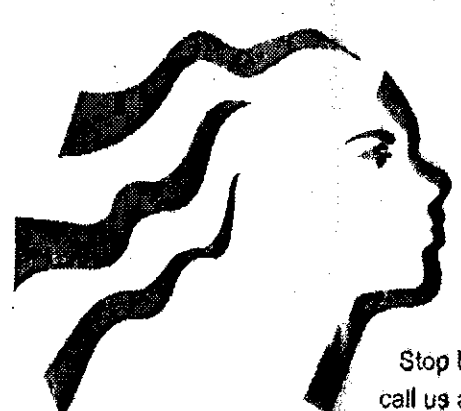
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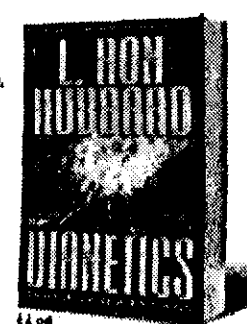
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Brown is golden

Cerritos College Falcon April Brown has broken two individual school records and has been a member of four school relay records

ELYSE MURO
SPORTS EDITOR

Breaking two school records in the 100 and 200 meter run as well as being a member of setting four school relay records, April Brown has awed the Cerritos College track team and dusted her opponents.

In the State Championships last Saturday, Brown took first place in the 100 m, the 200 m, and in the 4 by 1 the team Brown was on took first.

Brown started running as a freshman in high school.

As a freshman Brown made the varsity team of Bellflower High School and stayed on varsity all four years with her dad in the crowd at every meet.

"Having my dad there gave me support and knowing that my dad was there to watch me made me run even faster," Brown said.

Brown broke a couple of school records at Bellflower as well as her senior year.

"I think I am capable of running the 100m and the 4 by 1 relays in the Olympics."

— April Brown

In 2001 Brown was also a member of Bellflower's CIF finals and attended Masters.

Since Brown has attended Cerritos College she and her coaches have noticed an improvement in her running.

During high school Brown ran at 11.7 seconds but since she has trained at Cerritos Brown has improved her time to 11.62 seconds.

Brown has made it clear that she is going to continue her running career no matter where she goes to school.

Although she does hope to attend USC or Dominguez Hills.

At the moment Brown is receiving letters from USC, Dominguez Hills, Cal State L.A., and Long Beach State.

Brown wants to take her running as far as she can.

"I think I am capable of running the 100m and the 4 by 1 relays in the Olympics," Brown said.

Brown not only wants to be a runner but she also hopes to have a career as a registered nurse or a beautician.



ELYSE MURO/TM
April Brown stretches her muscles before practice.

Q & A

Q: What records have you broken at Cerritos College?

A: The 100m at 11.62 and the 200m at 23.91.

Q: Who do you most admire and why?

A: My parents because they have always kept me in school and helped me to keep my head on straight.

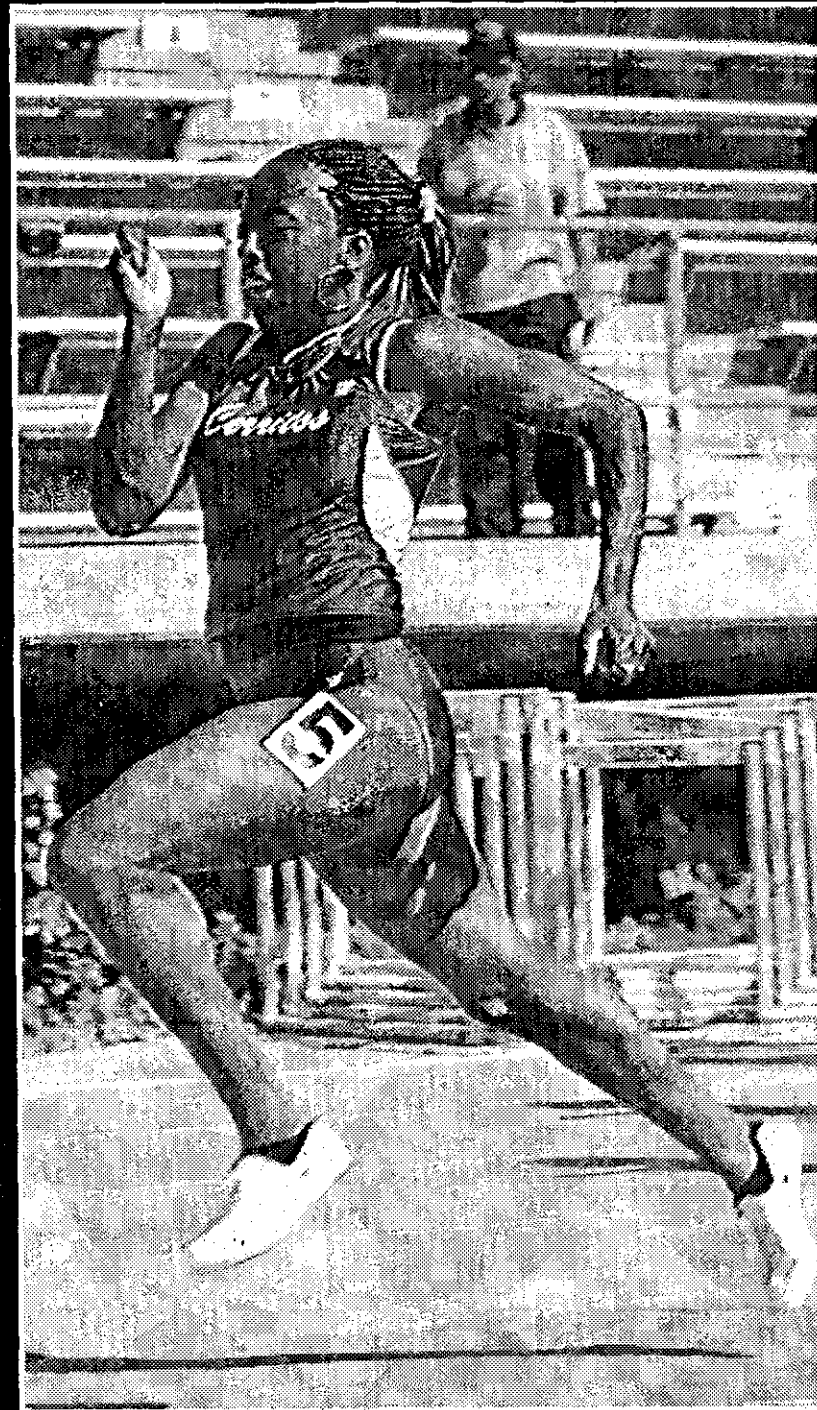
Q: In ten years where do you see yourself?

A: I hope to be running the 100m and doing the 4 by 1 in the Olympics.

Q: If you had a choice which college or university would you attend?

A: USC or Dominguez Hills.

TM Contact Writer at:
emuro@talonmarks.com



CHAD UYENO/TM
April Brown passes up all her opponents in the South Coast Finals.

Sports

SWIMMER RACES IN STATE

Cerritos College swimmer Luisa Wilson was able to advance to the State Championships over the weekend based on her performance in the South Coast Conference Championships.

She advanced in both the 50-meter backstroke and the 100-meter backstroke.

She recorded a 15th place finish in the 50-meter event in a time of 30.90 seconds, while her clocking of 1:05.25 in the 100-meter was not good enough to advance her to the championships.

Wilson did earn the Falcons two team points for her showing in the 50-meter backstroke, which placed the team tied for 33rd in the team scoring.

TOURNAMENT NOTES:

Several players had some outstanding week-ends, led by Anthony Norman, who reached base 17 times in the five games, batting .385 with seven walks and was hit by three pitches.

Chad Gabriel batted .346 and scoring six runs.

Aurio O'Neill made some magnificent defensive plays, while also batting .250 with three RBI.

Ryan Andrews went 8-for-16 (.500) with two home runs, seven RBI and collected a save in the win over Allan Hancock.

David Gomez batted .500 (7-for-14) with a home run, seven RBI and three walks.

Falcons win first place with Conference title

The Falcons finished the season with a 33-16 record, marking the 27th time the team has won 30 or more games.

It was announced that Los Angeles Harbor was forced to forfeit 11 South Coast Conference wins due to an ineligible player, which moved Cerritos into first place and won the conference title, their first since the 2000 season.

Chad Gabriel concluded a remarkable first season for the Falcons who wound up batting .403 on the season, marking just the 14th player in school history to bat over .400.

Knowing they had to defeat host Cypress twice, the Falcons put on a hitting show in the first game, posting a 16-10 win, forcing a second game.

The Chargers fought back for a 7-4 win.

The loss ends the season for Cerritos, who finished the year with a 33-16 record.

The Falcons opened the playoffs with a 12-8 loss to San Bernardino Valley, which dropped Cerritos into the loser's bracket.

The team started their comeback with a 1-0 win over Allan Hancock, followed by a 16-1 win over SBVC, which eliminated both teams from the playoffs.

All nine Falcons in the lineup collected at least one hit in the first game against Cypress, while right-handed pitcher Jimmy Shull threw a 136-pitch complete game, the second in a row for the Cerritos pitching staff.

Cerritos scored runs in six of the eight innings they batted.

The Falcons were shut down for the next four innings against Charger starter, Austin Miller.

The team knew that, in order to remain in the Southern California Regional Playoffs, they had to win two games the next two days after their opening game loss, and then follow up with two more wins the next day.

They responded with an exciting 1-0 win over Allan Hancock, followed by a 16-1 win over San Bernardino Valley.

Gabriel Bueno picked up his sixth win of the year against two losses.

Falcon head coach Gerardo Perez made several defensive replacements to start the top of the ninth inning.

The Falcons pounded out 16 hits against the Wolverines in the next game.

After the first four innings in their opener against the Wolverines, the Falcons trailed 7-0 and things certainly looked bleak.

The Wolverines were able to win the game 12-8 on a grand slam.

advertisement

Attention Graduating Students

Did you know that you can reduce the interest rate on your student loans and save thousands of dollars by consolidating your student loans after graduation?

The Higher Education Act, established by Congress, allows any graduate (or parent with PLUS loans) to consolidate their student loans by combining all their eligible student loans into a single loan issued by a new lender. Graduates who do this immediately after graduation (while they are still in their non-repayment period) are able to reduce the interest rate on all their eligible loans by 0.60% - potentially saving themselves thousands of dollars.

There are several other benefits associated with Student Loan Consolidation and these include:

- The ability to reduce your monthly interest repayments by up to 54% by extending your repayment period. This may help you in matching your income level to your repayment obligations.
- Fixing the interest rate on your loans to take advantage of the historically low interest rates that are currently available for the life of your loans. Your existing loans are variable and could rise over time as interest rates rise. Consolidation can ensure that this doesn't happen.
- Dealing with only one monthly loan repayment from one lender can make your life easier.
- Save even more on your repayments by taking advantage of 'borrower benefits' that can reduce your interest rate by up to an additional 1.25% by making electronic and on-time repayments.

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Does it Matter When You Choose to Consolidate?

Yes. If you are about to graduate (or have recently graduated) timing is critical to maximizing the amount that you can save with consolidation. If you wait too long to apply for consolidation, you might miss out on the opportunity to reduce the interest rate on all your loans by 0.60%.

What Does it Cost to Consolidate?

There are no fees or credit checks, nor is there any penalty for early repayment of your consolidation loan. Note however, that you can only consolidate once and consolidation can affect certain deferment and cancellation benefits associated with loans.

Are you about to Graduate?

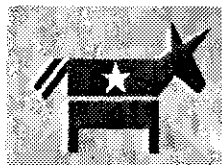
Act now by registering with the Student Loan Consolidation Program (SLCP). It is free and involves no obligation. SLCP will simply provide you with information on what consolidation is all about and contact you after graduation to remind you of the opportunity to reduce your interest rate by consolidating early.

For more information, call a loan counselor at 1-866-311-8076 or click on our ad at www.talonmarks.com to see if you qualify for these savings.

While visiting the paper online, be sure and sign up for the email edition. It's the best way to stay informed beyond graduation, and it's free.

STUDENT LOAN CONSOLIDATION PROGRAM

www.slcp.com



The Hubert Humphrey DEMOCRATIC CLUB

is proud to announce that California Teachers Association President

Wayne Johnson

will be its featured guest speaker at our General Meeting
at 7 p.m. on Monday, May 19
at the Cerritos College Student Center.

Topic: The Crisis Facing California's Schools

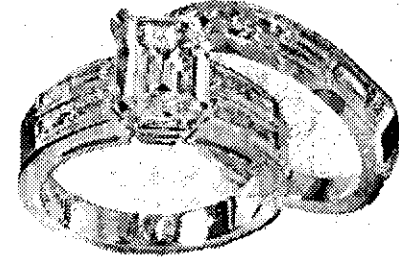
Park free in Lots C-10 or C-9 • For further information, call Charlie Ara, President 562-865-4075
Cerritos College students interested in joining a Young Democrats Club, call Nikki Noushtkam at 562-809-8608

feature

You are getting sleepy...

Sonia Saenz Online Editor Ever thought of taking part in something that's both interesting and educational? How about Hypnotherapy? From June 17 through August 19, students have the opportunity to take a course in Hypnotherapy Instructor Frank Genco leads this course from 7-10 p.m. every week on Tuesdays and costs \$189. Hypnotherapy is the use of hypnosis for self improvement or healing. In the learning, experiential environment provided by Genco, students will learn to understand and work Hypnosis in a way that will benefit not only the patient, but themselves as well. The course, which calls itself a "Learning by Doing" class, is beneficial to those pursuing a career in the health industry, such as doctors, nurses, physicians, and psychologists. But don't be deceived, this class is also for you, if you are seeking a job in business, sales and athletics. For more information on this course, you can visit the Community Education center on campus, or call them at ext. 2521. You can also contact them on the web at www.cerritos.edu/ce/

Getting Married



The world's biggest engagement ring store shows guys how to make their future wives love them forever

Alicia Warner Editor In Chief

Guys, are you planning to pop the big question to your lady? Ladies, ever think about that two-carat dream ring you want from your man? Well, now there is a company that can help you find the ring you want on a budget that you can afford.

Remember Robbins Brothers?

If you haven't seen the Robbins Bros. commercials and even if you have, you might know who Skip and Steve Robbins is. They have been on television and radio commercials and they pride themselves in giving the customer the best services they can offer.

Steve Robbins, Chairman and CEO of Robbins Bros. said, "Engagement rings can be expensive but there are enough alternatives out there for you to find exactly what you want—no matter the size or style—at a price you're comfortable with. It's not about buying the biggest diamond; it's about selecting a ring that symbolizes your love, connection and commitment together."

Robbins Bros. is the world's biggest engagement ring store, but they just don't stop with engagement rings. Robbins Bros. is expanding their store to accommodate anyone with every type of need.

Settling down in college

College students are one of the most popular age group getting married in the United States. They tend to fall in love in college and then after graduation they are ready to settle down and get married. College students in general have a wide variety of incomes and Robbins Bros. can accommodate anyone with any type of budget. Students are often paying back loans after college and starting to balance life and work.

Robbins Bros. is a company where they specialized in helping couples find the perfect ring on a budget the couple can afford. They also provide couples with wedding and engagement services.

"We give each couple a wedding planner that has everything they need to plan a wedding and also vendors they can contact if they want such as photography or florist," said Barbara Brode, Sales Manager of the Torrance store.

Don't be nervous. Relax....

Brode also said that when guys come into the store to find an engagement ring they are very nervous and not too sure in what they are looking for and they are there to help them.

To make the guy get comfortable in his sur-

roundings they offer a beverage to them and that tends to help settle the nerves.

"When the guys come in, we go through a tour of what they might want and what size diamond they might want to select for their girlfriend," Brode said.

Sometimes guys come in with the notion that their girlfriend might want a large diamond to show-off to her friends and sometimes that is true but the guy can always get a ring with a smaller diamond on it and eventually trade up to a large diamond when the time is right in his budget.

The company has a new service offered to guys planning on popping the question. They have engagement services such as planning trips for the big day to ideas of what to do to make the day romantic. They have services from florist to restaurants to make the day, one that she will never forget. Those services are available when they come in to find a diamond for their girlfriend.

5 WAYS ON HOW TO PROPOSE

- Make everything perfect and surprise her when she least expects it.
- Recreate instances when your partner said or felt something romantic.
- Be yourself in the moment.
- Pick a special place meaningful to both of you.
- Speak from your heart.

Each ring can also be custom. Even someone on a limited budget can get a custom ring for under \$1,000. That includes a setting and a stone in several different shape diamonds.

Cheryl Albert, General Manager of Robbins Bros. Torrance store location, has serviced many Cal State Dominguez Hills students over the years and recommends that you "develop a realistic budget for the ring including monthly payments and stick to it. Remember, you can always upgrade the diamond."

Expensive vs. inexpensive

For anyone on a budget Robbins Bros. also offers a convenient payment plan for everyone including first time buyers.

Robbins Bros. rings can start at \$39.95 for a gold band to \$195 for a diamond solitaire ring.

How would you like your ring....?

The most sought-after ring shapes include the Round Brilliant, which has rated #1 for years, and the Princess Cut, which has recently gained popularity. In terms of metal, white, white Gold and platinum are top choices. Yellow gold is now second but remains just as amorous. There is a strong interest in new metals such as titanium and tungsten steel.

After the big question is popped. The couple comes back to the store to start shopping for the wedding set. Each couple goes through the same process of buying a ring with a sales associate. They look at the four C's with the couple. The four C's are carat, clarity, cut and color of the diamond they are choosing.

Preparing for the big day

Robbins Bros. also has gift ideas for grooms-men and bridesmaids. The items can be engraved also.

The company also has a wish list on their web site to help people look and choose the rings they want to have.

"This is a way that the couple can look at what each other might want," Brode said.

For many of the customers that come into Robbins Bros. they have an idea of what they want in a ring and this makes the process go easier because they are prepared.

"Most jewelry stores you find in the malls people go in and out as they please. Here at Robbins Bros. people are a little intimidated by being buzzed in at the entrance and that is because we are a specialty store and we want the best," Brode said.

The rings at Robbins Bros. range from \$195 diamond solitaire to a \$9,995 ring. They offer carat sizes from 1/5 of a carat to two carats.

They offer a trade up program so the diamond can always be upgraded to a larger carat if so desired.

So Robbins Bros. is a place where any guy can go find a ring of his choice and walk out with ideas for the engagement.

"College students can find the ring of their choice on a budget that is right for them," Brode said.

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