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CERRITOS COLLEGE

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FIRST TIME COLLEGE STUDENTS CAN'T FIND CLASSES, BUT WHY?



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY MICHELLE MORENO AND GREGORY HORSEY JR.

133,383 first-time students lost

JOEY BERUMEN
multimedia editor
multimedia@talonmarks.com

A report by the state legislative analyst recommended giving first-time college students higher priority for class registration, and putting a cap on the number of subsidized units continuing students can take, while funding comes out of taxpayers' pockets.

According to an end-of-year analysis, this recommendation is a direct result of losing 140,045 students during the 2009-2010 year after California community colleges slashed funding by 8 percent.

Implementing a 100-unit cap for students who repeat courses, according to the state fiscal and policy analyst for the legislative analyst's office Paul Steenhausen, can save tax payers an estimated \$235 million and make room for first-time students who are being turned away.

The 2009-2010 school year saw 133,383 first-time student, drop, a 13 percent drop from figures of the previous year.

"In light of the huge mismatch between demand for classes and supply of classes, we just thought this was important to examine now," Steenhausen said in a statement. "The 100-unit cap would allow for the 60 units required for transfer or degree [completion], plus a wide margin for any remedial education requirements, basic skills or enrichment."

State Chancellor Jack Scott said the recommendation of putting a cap on students that have loaded their

transcripts with poor grades, repeated courses, and more units than needed to transfer or graduate, "has merit and should be explored."

In 2009-2010, the state subsidized courses for about 120,000 students who had 90 or more units and more than 9,000 of these students had more than 150 accumulated units.

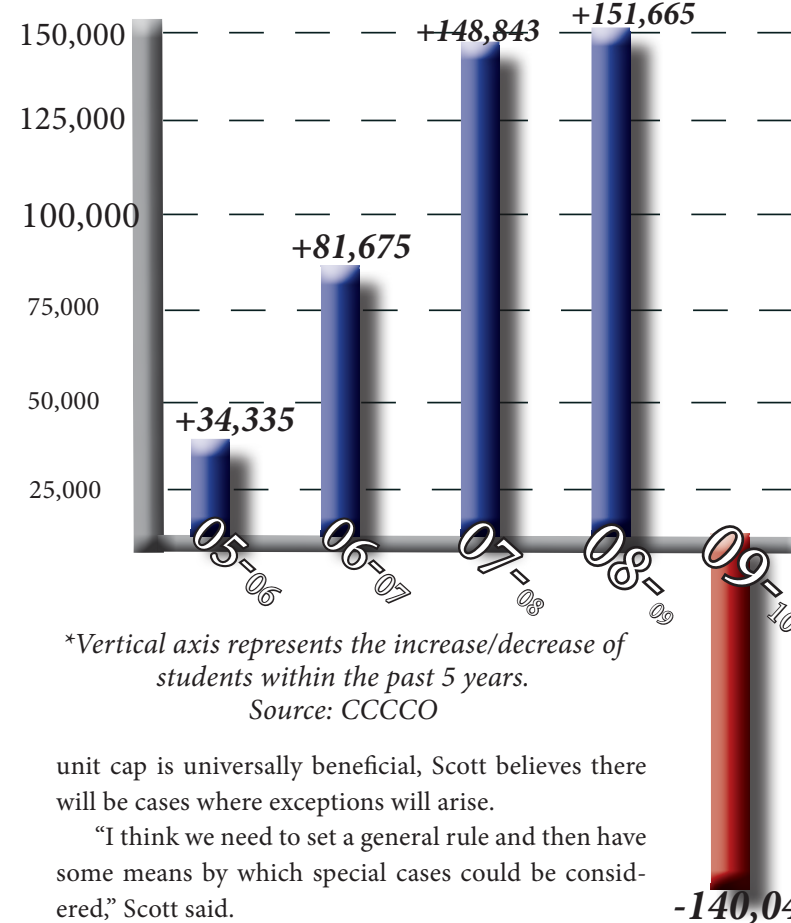
While Scott says that the ideas are something the LAO is working to implement, students, such as ASCC Commissioner of Public Relations Jasmin Ramirez, believe the ideas are misguided and should be approached with caution.

"Things change with people's education. [Students] are young when they come [to college], they might not know what they want to do. Some even change their majors several times. What if someone gets bad advice from a counselor? It happens all the time. It's not that counselors don't give good advice, it is more of a question if they give the correct advice for the situation," Ramirez said.

However, with the consistent drop in the percentage of undecided students in the last four years, from 18.5 percent in 2005-2006 to 17 percent in 2009-2010, and no guidelines as to when the state stops subsidization of units, students like undecided major William Abolda think there are students taking advantage of the system for financial reasons.

"I know a lot of people who just load their schedule up with classes they don't need to get their full financial aid award," Abolda said.

With students like Ramirez unconvinced that a



*Vertical axis represents the increase/decrease of students within the past 5 years.
Source: CCCCCO

unit cap is universally beneficial, Scott believes there will be cases where exceptions will arise.

"I think we need to set a general rule and then have some means by which special cases could be considered," Scott said.

While there is still uncertainty in how or when any of these recommendations will come into effect, if at

See Decreasing Enrollment Page 3

Committee tries to find solutions to help budget

JIM BRANNON
Arts Editor
arts@talonmarks.com

The Cerritos College Budget and Planning Committee held a meeting on Feb. 3 to brainstorm ideas to cut expenditures and generate revenue in the next fiscal year as community colleges statewide face a \$400 million budget cut.

According to David El Fattal, vice president of business services, Cerritos College stands to lose \$4 million if Jerry Brown's budget is enacted, but that number could grow to \$11 million if legislation raising taxes does not pass.

"Of course, the difference between \$4 million and \$11 million is quite large, and will require some dramatic action on the reducing of expenditures," El Fattal said.

During the course of the meeting, many suggestions, which were merely proposed as ideas to consider, were made by those on the committee as well as those representing different groups on campus, on how to rebound financially from the decline in state funding.

Furlough days on Friday were put out as a possible remedy, until it was later addressed that Cerritos could not reduce the number of days of instruction any further, or else it would lose its state funding altogether.

Among the suggestions for generating revenue was a proposal to increase the cost of parking by 50 percent.

Frank Montero, undecided major, said he thinks the idea is ridiculous.

"Students are having a hard

See School Budget Page 3

Mobile News

Scan to hear audio of David El Fattal

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Forensics expert visits Cerritos, explains work to students



On the case: Forensics expert Douglas Wyler presents evidence of the 1947 Black Dahlia Case. Wyler also discussed other famous cases with students.

MICHELLE MORENO
Staff Writer
michelle.moreno@talonmarks.com

A conference was held at Cerritos College, led by a guest speaker, expert witness in forensics identification, Douglas Wyler, Saturday in the Health Sciences building.

The presentation started at 10 a.m. and went on for two and half hours where Wyler showed the different areas of what it is to work in the forensics field.

Paralegal Director of the Law Department Marcy C. Pribble, who is a patient of Wyler Dentistry practice, asked Wyler to come to Cerritos College as a guest speaker for

the Law Department.

Invitations were sent out to more than 66 students in the Paralegal Department program, but since the conference was hosted on a Saturday, less students attended.

"We had more room for more students, we had 66 students who RSVP'd and only six students came by today. I think it's hard because we don't have many students coming on a Saturday," Pribble said.

Although the room still had more space for students to attend, the presentation started on time and Wyler started off by presenting the different confidential cases that he's worked on in the field of forensics and dentistry.

One of the students who was able to attend the conference was paralegal major, Sophia Arias, who commented on the interesting parts of the presentation on forensics identification.

"Overall, I liked learning about the fundamentals of forensics-anthropology, and how through DNA and teeth, there are just so many ways that you can identify a body and solve cases," Sophia said, referring to the information that fascinated her the most.

Wyler has worked in the the areas of DNA, digging up the bones of bodies and mass disasters, such as the Cerritos plane crash in 1986. Wyler has also used his expertise in

identifying the graves of unidentified bodies from the Bosnian genocide.

The slides from the various cases came from field work of searching for bodies, investigating the carcasses and the study of bones, as-tounded some of the students that attended.

"I think that field is very important to the human race, in terms of identifying people. I know it's hard - as he showed when he was in Bosnia, the major amount of people that have to be identified so, families can come together and grieve as one," paralegal major, Silvana Cutre

See Douglas Wyler Page 2

Douglas Wyler:
Speaker addresses
hardships in law
enforcement

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said.
Wyler has worked in a very broad field that has allowed him not only to use his profession as a forensics identifier, but also use his expertise as a dentist.

One of the major highlights of his career as a dentist and forensics identifier was a case that he worked on, that was made into a special on the A&E network, titled, “Cold Case Files.”

In the documentary, he was presented as a dentist who made a major breakthrough on a 26-year-old case on a young boy named James Trotter, who vanished out of nowhere.

“It’s really difficult to imagine his mother’s feelings for all the time that he was gone. To me, every time the phone rang, it was information coming in,” Wyler said about the highlight of the case.

The cases that Wyler displayed inserted a direction that gave the students a wider perspective of what it is to work in the field of forensics and involvement with law.

But it also took notice of how there are certain people who are willing to take the oath and devote themselves into the analysis of forensics identification.

“I think when you see it visually it actually impacts you, especially when you see the bodies and what takes place. I admire somebody who can do that, I don’t think I can do it, but I admire people who can,” Pribble said.

Wyler is now working toward his career as an instructor for the LAPD Homicide Detectives and is pursuing educating students about his field of work by lecturing at colleges and universities.



Putting her best foot forward: Justina Cummings, sports medicine major, showcased her dancing moves for her audition. The Black Student Union will be hosting a talent show and fashion show in honor of Black History Month.

Students audition
for talent show

MICHELLE MORENO
Staff Writer
michelle.moreno@talonmarks.com

The Black Student Union held auditions for a talent show, “Expression Through Black Art,” in the Learning Center on Tuesday.

In the month of February, Black History Month is celebrated and has now created a wave for the Black Student Union to collaborate on a show that will display many talented students on Feb. 25.

The auditions featured a compilation of students who were rappers, dancers and writers.

Nursing major Tiffany Varela tried out for the show with a song that she thought would best be suited for Black History Month.

“It’s going to be a great show that the Black Student Union is putting on. I used Donnie Hathaway’s ‘Someday We’ll All Be Free.’ I think it would be good for Black History Month,” Varela said.

As Varela finished her song, try-outs for the show went on with forensics psychology major, Nashima Davis, who had a difficult time choosing a song that would best fit her dance moves.

Davis performed for 10 seconds and ended by jumping into the splits. “It was fun but I wasn’t really ready. So, it was just kind of a freestyle, but I’m coming back later.”

Davis went on to explain what inspired her to audition her dance moves.

“I’m really into black history and I like showing people what I can do and just get my talent out there,” Davis

said.
Sports medicine major, Justina Cummings, got to perform a short ballet piece before a following class came into session, but her nerves got in the way of her performing to the best of her abilities.

“I was super nervous and I think I did really badly. I’ve done ballet for eight years, but I stopped to play sports. This was my first time dancing in two years,” Cummings said.

Cummings was influenced by her friends to try out and decided to give it a try.

Auditions ended at 12:30 p.m. since there was a class waiting to start. President of the BSU, Ana Pablo, who hosted the auditions for the show commented on the performances that she saw.

“I’m very surprised by the talent that we have both in-house from BSU and what we found on campus,” Pablo said.

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CERRITOS COLLEGE News BRIEFS

Library Club hosts book sale

STEPHANIE COBIAN
Staff Writer

stephanie.cobian@talonmarks.com

The Library Club is holding its third consecutive semester book fair on campus, in front of the library, from Feb. 8 to 9, between the hours of 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

A variety of novels and textbooks can be found for under \$3.

"This is basically our fundraiser and we use the money that comes from the book sale to fund our events," Enrique Siliezar, club president, said.

Falcons show off their style on Mun2

JIM BRANNON
Arts Editor

arts@talonmarks.com

Cerritos College was visited by Mun2 (Mun Dos), Telemundo's sister network, to film a segment asking students about their fashion taste for the show "The Look" on Feb. 4.

Crash Barrera, a host for Mun2, said that it has visited Cerritos several times to film "The Left Coast Connection," which is a segment about west coast fashion.

"Cerritos has been awesome to us. It really represents the west coast, and that's what we're trying to capture for our program," he said.

It's a 'Snowy Day' at Cerritos College

PHILIP OKOLI
Staff Writer

philip.okoli@talonmarks.com

Children, parents, and teachers alike enjoyed their time at the second-ever "Snowy Day" held on Jan. 28 in the Child Development Center.

"I was invited here by my grandson and this is something new. This is a good idea because it gives the kids a different feel to all the seasons," Lori Preston, said, who was one of the many parents who came out and supported the event.

"Snowy Day" was a fundraiser event to raise money for the Child Development Club and it was also a way for the children who are involved in the program to bring their parents to meet the teachers and to have a good time.

This has been the second "Snowy Day" ever held. "[Snowy Day two years ago] was very successful and it will be today, too. Two-hundred came last time, and we expect to do the same this year," Cindy Romero, instructional teacher at the Child Development Center, said.

Decreasing Enrollment: First time students left outside college gates

Continued from Page: 1

all, Scott believes that the real issue lies with priority registration and that students with more than 100 units should be placed at the back of the line.

Cerritos College is one college of the almost 70 percent in the state that give priority registration to continuing students.

Under the Cerritos College district procedure, continuing students have priority based on a point system that, among other things, includes GPA, unit-load after last day to drop and students who are disadvantaged as defined by statute.

After students accumulate 90 units at Cerritos College, their points are reset back to zero and start all over.

"We already have a standard in place, that after 90 units you drop to the bottom. The report is talking about 100 units, and we've already had that system in place for a long time. The system promotes it that the greater number of units you have to complete your degree, you have priority registration over incoming freshmen," Cerritos College President Linda Lacy said.

Undecided major Larissa Morales thinks the solution is rather simple: "Those who have the grades and prove they want to be here should get the priority, but those who aren't taking things seriously should move over and give other students a chance."

While state officials attempt to make sense of the report and colleges face a proposed \$400 million cut under Gov. Jerry Brown's budget, the only thing certain thus far is even more cuts.

Lacy estimates that, as of now, Cerritos College will see \$5.8 million in cuts. She adds that if the tax extensions do not make the June ballot, Cerritos College could see up to \$13 million in cuts.

"We are absolutely going to have cuts," Lacy said, "we just have to wait until the ballot in June to find out how much."

Assuming that the June tax package is approved by voters, state estimates predict a loss of 2,059 students.

If the June tax package fails and 22-year-old Prop. 98 is funded, at minimum, the numbers are estimated to reach a loss of 3,622



LAURA CHAU/TM

All Nighter: Irene Orellana is studying in the library for her upcoming test. Many students don't recognize iFalcon as a learning resource.

iFalcon aids students in success

AASTHA DHAKAL
Staff Writer

aastha.dhakal@talonmarks.com

Students who are thinking of coming to Cerritos College will not have any more confusion about enrollment, counseling or assessment.

This semester, iFalcon is trying to provide an easier and more sophisticated knowledge of the college environment.

Dean of Academic Success and Institutional Effectiveness Bryan Reece said, "From Feb. 6, 23,000 emails will be sent to talk to students directly about using iFalcon and the idea to be more active at school."

For the first time, iFalcon would be directly talking with the students about achieving success in their pathway.

Title V Program Assistant Elizabeth Quintero said, "There would be no more stress during finals and mid-terms from this semester, as iFalcon has decided to provide tutoring for every

subject with the respective instructor, without any interruption or limited space."

Laregis Turner, nursing major, said, "I never knew about the use of iFalcon, no one informed me. I think the school should be more responsible about bringing information to the students."

Members of iFalcon are trying to enforce a few strategies, such as having outdoor advertisements around campus, and an area of interest would be the library. "This will inform more students to manage their time and have good study habits," Reece said.

"In today's world, nobody wants to just see a website and read its contents. [Students] should have an incentive to do it, like a field trip. Students will also have fun and will know important stuff, too," psychology major Rigberto Garcia said.

Due to some changes with faculty positions, the promotion work has been slowed, but it's getting into its phase again.

Daniel Hernandez, computer technician, said, "It helps in encouraging students to develop study of mind and maintain their time split."

New components in iFalcon also include involvement of more faculty talking about students' success in context of iFalcon, which helps students know what they need to be successful.

The iFalcon team is composed of faculty and deans, about seven to eight members who have been working since the Title V Grant was introduced last year. It's a federally-funded grant that started in September 2009 and runs for five years, which helps implement the "habits of mind" campaign that iFalcon stands behind.

"No one will respond immediately, it will take time getting students involved in 'habits of mind,' but once it's being more utilized by students, it will be really beneficial in their life," Reece said.

School Budget: Solutions do not sit well with students

Continued from Page: 1

with paying their classes and buying their books.

"To raise it up is just ridiculous. It just makes it that much harder for everyone," Montero said.

Sonia Hernandez, a student in athletic training, said, "I think it's wrong because [we], as students, struggle to pay our fees and for them to raise them, I just feel like it's not fair."

"We can't work full-time, because we're full-time students and we just want to finish, and in doing so, it's just going to be difficult for us," Hernandez said.

For Walter Fernandez, history professor, new staff and faculty have become a primary issue because Cerritos could be punished for not hiring enough.

"Of concern to me, as a department chairman, and having a department that's possibly going to hire, is whether the cost of hiring 20-something people comes out to be less than the amount of money that the school would be fined if they don't hire these people."

According to Fernandez, the majority of the suggestions made during the meeting have no definite dollar values attached to them.

"A dollar value has to be looked at for every one of these things that are being considered. Right now, it's just some ideas being put up there."



COURTESY OF THAD SZABO

Star Struck: Spiral Galaxy in Ursa Major taken by Cerritos College Professor Thad Szabo from the campus equipment. The Astronomy Club will host a "Night Sky Observation" event.

Students are spaced out during class

TITO BENAVIDES
Staff Writer

tito.benavides@talonmarks.com

The Astronomy Club plans on setting up campus telescopes in Falcon Square to bring stars, nebulae, the new moon and Jupiter into focus on Wednesday at 7 p.m. with its "Night Sky Observation" event.

All Cerritos College students and their guests are invited to a night of star-gazing in an effort to bring more attention to the Astronomy Department.

This will be the first of many events held by the Astronomy Club.

Thad Szabo, a professor of physics and astronomy, hopes more students will find interest in both the club and the department. "We're just getting started up again. The club has been dormant for a few years now, but with club days, we had a lot of people signing up; it seems that people are interested in coming out and seeing what we're doing."

There are other celestial events occurring in the near future, as the

Astronomy Club will be following closely and bringing live images to view for the entire student body.

Szabo said, "By the end of March and the beginning of April, Saturn will rise around the time the sun sets," meaning that Saturn will be visible all night.

Joseph Torres, undecided major, wasn't aware of the Astronomy Club or its activities, but once he was informed, he was excited about the event. "Yeah, it sounds like a pretty good time. I'd be down."

"I never looked through a tele-

scope before. I would absolutely love to, given the chance," he added.

Carlos Diaz, history major, is a self-proclaimed astronomy buff, "If you can put a grid on the sky, every grid would have so many stars in it. I was actually a little terrified by how small we really are." He plans on attending the event.

A trip to Griffith Park, as well as a camping trip to Los Pinos to view the new moon, are just a few activities the Astronomy Club is planning for its members.

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Cerritos College is located at 11110 Alondra Blvd., Norwalk, CA 90650

Telephone numbers: (562) 860-2451, ext. 2617 FAX (562) 467-5044

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Spring 2011 STAFF

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EDITORIAL

In and out is what it's about

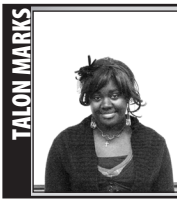


ILLUSTRATED BY JIMMY EDWARDS-TURNER/TM

California's community college students are getting in their own way. Studies show we spend an average of six years experimenting with coursework that should ideally take two years to complete, and we are allowed to repeat courses we've failed up to three times at Cerritos College, all on the state's dime. A report published by the vice chancellor of California's community colleges shows that, in 2009-10 alone, 52,000 students repeated the same physical education course they had completed in a prior term, while 20,000 other students repeated fine arts courses with an activity section. In the meantime, community colleges cited budget woes and a decrease in course offerings as the main offenders in a dip in enrollment. While Joe Schmo was re-enrolling in Beginning Weightlifting on taxpayer dollars, an estimated 133,000 prospective freshmen were unable to attend their first semester of community college. Joe Schmo could have had a legitimate reason for buffering up a second semester, but the real culprits responsible for shutting out prospective students are the ones that won't fly the coop. Taking time to "find yourself" in college should not be a disguise for failing and re-taking general education courses—you know, the ones that "count"—as schools struggle to maintain enough open seats for the next generation of the state's workforce. Even if students decide to take a few extra classes outside of their declared area of study, they need to adopt a "get in, get out" mentality and community colleges need to crack the whip. These reports show that colleges have singled out the slackers and tallied up the numbers. The results are in: students procrastinate. It's time for colleges to tell us something we don't know, like how many units we need in order to transfer or complete an associate degree if we don't fail that next class. Require us to meet with a counselor, or major adviser, every semester as is required at universities. Do more than throw us at the back of the enrollment line once we've accumulated 90 units. We know you care, and we know you have a responsibility to all students who show up at your doorstep, but you need to offer your continuing students more guidance if you'd like to make room for the next batch of eager pupils.

Solicitors sully the students' surroundings

"Excuse me, can you sign this bill to stop baby ducks from being exported to Peru?" "Hi, can I sell you this magic lotion to make your stretch marks disappear?" These kinds of interruptions trouble students as they make their way to and from class. School isn't another way to advertise your products, political arguments or other things. That is why commercials exist, and at least you can mute them. The student government at Lakewood High School finally said enough is enough last semester, and fashioned a bill that not only bars solicitors from coming on the school campus, but now the students are demanding that solicitors be banned from being near campus. The bill creates a safety zone around public schools, K-12, so that solicitors won't bother kids as they hang around outside or go off of campus for lunch. Frankly, this bill is genius and should not only be limited to K-12 schools, but extended to colleges as well.



Arianna Smith
Staff Writer
arianna.smith@talonmarks.com

Some people, like registered nursing major Selina Ramirez, are all for solicitors and even feel that they can benefit our school in a good way. "It's a college and everybody's welcome here, but if they aren't being productive then maybe they shouldn't be welcomed." Ramirez went on to add, "It inspires people to want more in life. We live in a diverse world and we need to learn to get along with different types of people." It's obvious that college students are adults and these solicitors have their rights, but we pay \$26 per unit to learn the courses we signed up for, not to be bombarded like we are walking through a commercial twilight zone.

"We pay \$26 per unit to learn the courses we signed up for, not to be bombarded like we are walking through a commercial twilight zone."

Ridiculous freeways really need remedial reformation

Everyone hears of Los Angeles as being the city of beautiful weather, and the freeways have become the backbone of Southern California commuters, many of whom drive from their homes to work, to school and then back again, five days a week. The same people who think of Los Angeles as the ideal city to live in don't think about how congested its freeways keep getting as new drivers continue to get behind the wheel. They don't realize there are drivers who tend to go over the speed limit. There are many solutions on how to get rid of traffic jams, like carpooling with co-workers or classmates, taking public transportation, or simply using a bike to get to the destination. Maybe they could even walk, but who is willing to waste their time walking anywhere now? Maybe 40 years ago people would have walked to work, school, a park, or a friend's house, but now people have GPS devices that tell them where to go, smart phones that can tell them where their friends are, and hybrid cars, that "save" gasoline with every mile they drive. This new technology can help freeway traffic on a whole by letting the driver know that the freeway has been in gridlock for a half hour, and to take the streets, which are more convenient for the commuter, but it is up to the person to be smart about entering the freeway or just going past it. In order to get these freeways rid of all the congestion drivers put it through, we must stop doing the same ineffective things. Here's a suggestion: create a new system of rules for the freeway. Vehicles with two or more people should take the leftmost lane, while small automobiles such as sedans and sports cars, take the lane next to it. The speed limit for both these lanes would be 70 miles per hour. Sports utility vehicles, minivans and pick-up trucks would drive in the next lane where they will be away from smaller vehicles. This lane's speed limit would be 65 miles per hour. Semitrailers should be in the rightmost lane, out of the way, because they are one of the reasons why there is traffic on the freeways, and would have to drive 45 to 50 miles per hour depending on how heavy their loads are. Another suggestion is that the city of Los Angeles makes separate highways for all these types of vehicles similar to the ones they have near the Harbor of Los Angeles, where semitrailers can only drive in. With all this in mind, we would have to wait for our government to actually sit down and contemplate this problem. If it does stumble upon this issue, what would it say or do? There is a slight chance the government would just put it to the side and discuss the problem of the people in a later matter, but then again, will it just throw the subject around and wait until the next generation resolves this?



J.B. Witron
Co-Opinion Editor
opinon2@talonmarks.com

Alex Morales, art major, and nursing major Priscella Aispuro feel that these solicitors make students uncomfortable. "They kind of upset me," Morales states. Morales went on to add, "When I have my off days and I don't feel like being bothered, it just feels like they just get all in my face." Aispuro adds, "I know some students really don't like it because it makes them late to class." No one likes to have to take alternate routes to avoid these people, making them late to class or just flat-out irritated. To top it all off, sometimes, even when you politely say "sorry, no thanks," they follow you and almost demand that you take their flyer. These people should stick to grocery store corners. It's bad enough we have to see them there, now we can't even escape them at our own school. So, please, let's bond together and put those solicitors back where they belong: on billboards, television screens and newspaper ads; not on our campuses or anyone else's.



FREE ZONE

"How can community colleges make transferring easier?"

COMPILED BY: PHILIP OKOLI
PHOTOGRAPHS BY: MARTIN REYES



NALLELY BADILLO
criminal justice/sociology major
"They could help us by actually giving us the information we need to transfer."



KATHERINE MORALES
English/Spanish major
"We need to look at the students and see how we can help them as individuals."



DAFNEY BRAVO
undecided major
"We need better [counseling] programs. Counseling for me is the biggest issue so far for my time in college."



NATALIE FYKE
undecided major
"I think the school should give more information on how to transfer."



ROY HENDRIK
computer science major
"I think transferring would be easier if [students] didn't need to take so many classes that we don't need."



MAGAL ALVAREZ
cryptology major
"I think they are helping out a lot, but the schools need more people to tell us students what we need to do."

Who has ‘beef’ with Taco Bell?



There may be truth in Taco Bell's claims to "Think outside the bun."

According to a recent false advertising lawsuit filed in California, Taco Bell thinks far beyond the bun, and any natural ingredients one would normally think is in Mexican foods.

The lawsuit claims that Taco Bell's seasoned mystery meat contains about a third of real beef, with the other two thirds consisting of filler.

Not a surprise, of course. When dining at a restaurant that pumps out your order two minutes after you place it, you can't really expect Michelin Star-quality food.

What is shocking is that cheap fast food like this is available on campus to students.

With 560 calories and 22 grams of fat in a Beefy 5-Layer Burrito, schools should not even consider offering this

as a food option on campus.

And if these claims turn out to be true, not only will our campus be contributing to our obesity, but it may also be feeding us pseudo meat.

In a learning environment such as college, students not only learn skills for their careers, but they also pick up proper eating habits.

Taco Bell's cheap cost makes it an easy choice for broke and hungry college students, but what exactly are they paying for?

Recent YouTube videos posted by Taco Bell's president, George Creed, retort claims of false advertising, but

listed on Taco Bell's website, ingredients such as isolated oat product, oats, anti-dusting agents and yeast extract are labeled as seasoning.

I'm not sure about anyone else, but I don't remember the last time I saw isolated oat product and anti-dusting agents on my spice rack.

The lawsuit doesn't ask for any monetary reimbursement, but it does call for Taco Bell changing the name of its "beef" to "taco meat filling."

Somehow, Taco Meat Filling 5-Layer Burrito doesn't have the same ring to it, but for 99 cents, you get what you pay for.

Taco Bell Trivia:
The most unhealthy Taco Bell menu item is also the only one with the word "salad" in its name. The Fiesta Taco Salad has 840 calories and 45 grams of fat. Leave it up to Taco Bell to make a widely-known health food a heart-stopping treat.
Source: www.11points.com



"Which fast food restaurant would you recommend to someone you hate?"

COMPILED BY:
ARIANNA SMITH
PHOTOGRAPHS BY:
DIANNA GUTIERREZ



MYCHEL DIZON
undecided major
"Probably Arby's, because all its food looks really greasy and I'd take a bunch of coupons."



STEVEN LUNA
theater major
"McDonald's, because its employees save the food that people leave behind and sell it again."



JESUS BERNAL
psychology major
"Wienerschnitzel, because its commercials gross me out and the food looks pretty nasty."

If you can eat it, don't beat it



Taco Bell uses fake meat; so what? Before we get into this, let's see whether the facts are straight or not.

While this giant franchise has faced legal action before, there seems to be a lot of buzz around this particular matter of "fake beef."

Aside from Amanda Obney, who's suing Taco Bell for no money, these law firms are in it for the money.

Both entities suing Taco Bell made the claim that Taco Bell has less than 40 percent meat and a lot of additives to preserve its food.

Since these claims are still being investigated, they are not fact yet. That's why these lawsuits are still happening and waiting to be judged by the court.

Let's look at the last point that needs to be emphasized.

So what if Taco Bell meat is not 100 percent real?

It opens up a whole new avenue for vegetarians and vegans, so much that PETA has sided with Taco Bell on these claims alone, stating on Forbes' blog that most of its menu is non-meat.

Why not go all the way?

The ingredients the claims state are in every fast food restaurant you may frequent. So staying away from Taco Bell shouldn't be your only goal if you side with the "What? Taco Bell has fake meat?" argument.

According to Taco Bell, its meat is 88 percent real beef. That's not 100 percent, but the United States Department of Agriculture states that for meat to be considered meat, it must be at a 40 percent level.

This rule doesn't apply to restaurants like Taco Bell, but to the meat-processing companies, such as Tyson. The Associated

Press states processed meat is mixed with different things for preservation and taste purposes.

According to experts, consumers shouldn't worry too much about the hard-to-pronounce names listed in the ingredients box, but the sodium intake these fast foods have.

So where does this information leave us? That depends on what you believe in.

Many people look at one source and immediately come to the conclusion that it is fact because it's online, or covered in the news.

Instead of relying on a source, we should follow the story to see if more information comes up.

Let's look at what Taco Bell has to say and compare its statements to other sources, cross-referencing our sources to reach a cross point where we can easily see truth of the matter.

The real issue is not whether Taco Bell's meat is real or not but what people are willing to

believe without looking into it.

We've eaten Taco Bell before this piece of information came out, so what changes now?

Whichever way this suit goes, Taco Bell can very well be the leading company for vegetarian fast food, or if its claim that it's not exaggerating is true, then it will remain the same Taco Bell we know and eat today.

All the same, Taco Bell's food remains that: food.

Taco Bell Trivia:
In "Demolition Man," Sylvester Stallone and Sandra Bullock discuss how, in the post-apocalyptic future, only one fast food chain has survived the "fast food wars": Taco Bell.
Source: www.11points.com

Internet entertainment instantly inspires everyone

This century brought the developing Internet and, with it, the most successful stars today.

Names such as Antoine Dodson, Justin Bieber and now, the most recent, Ted Williams have shown exactly how popular a little video uploaded on the Internet can be.

Now, some would like these names to disappear as quickly as they came, but the longer they stay relevant, the more they reveal to others that anything is possible.

Those who are annoyed by the power of the Internet just do not understand that this may very well be the average person's only ticket to stardom.

Consider the economy and how tough it is for anyone to move up the corporate ladder.

One individual who is not worrying about moving up that ladder is Antoine Dodson.



He has made a name for himself with his news interview that later was mixed into a song, "The Bed Intruder," which has gotten over 32 million hits on the web.

The official Antoine Dodson costume was one of the top sellers for Halloween and now there are rumors of him starting his own record label, which gives Dodson the power to be his own boss.

Justin Bieber is also on his way to owning his own

record label, due to him being discovered by manager Scooter Braun through YouTube.

Now he is one of the biggest names in the music industry, and with the help of millions of preteens all over the world, this Canadian native will stay on top for years to come.

Someone who also gained stability as an Internet, sensation is Ted Williams, who started the year as a homeless man with no idea where his golden voice can take him.

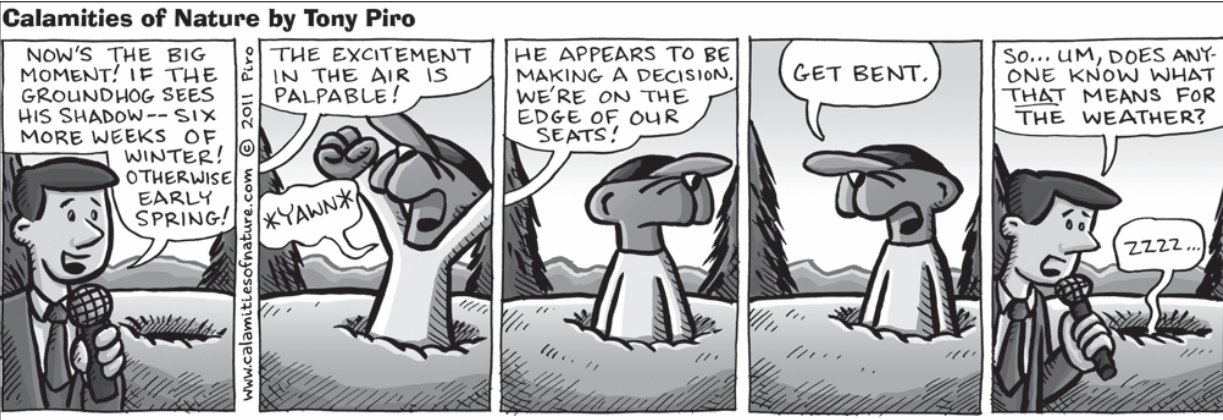
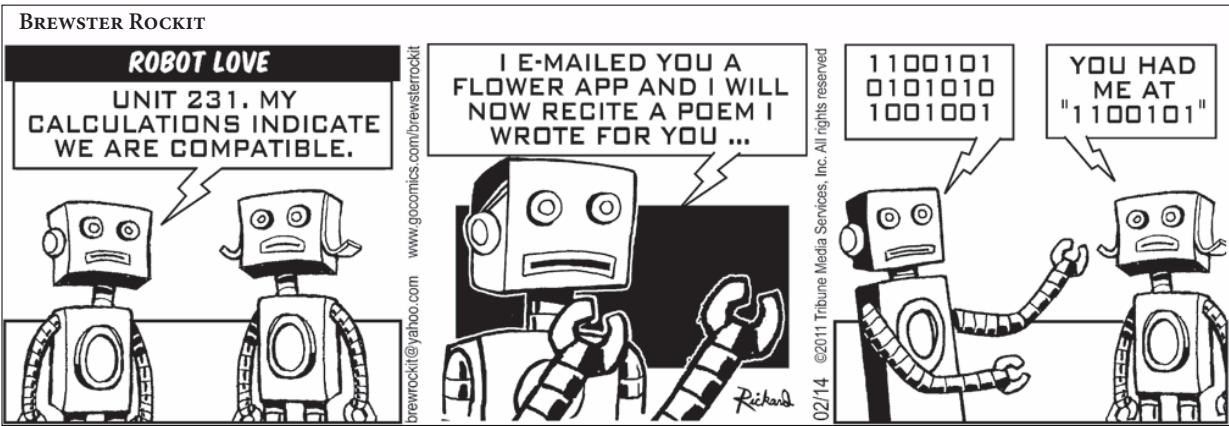
Thanks to the power of the Internet he is now employed and the official voice of Kraft's Mac-N-Cheese.

This quick ticket to fame may be one of the pesky trends of this generation, but for as many people it bothers there are just as many who gain from it.

Even if it is solely for entertainment reasons, at least it is free and we have the choice to view it.



ILLUSTRATION BY RICHARD CARDENAS





Truly Inspirational: Charles Harris shows off his moves. Harris, a young hip-hop enthusiast, says his cerebral palsy won't hold him back from doing what he loves.

Dancer displays ‘illabilty’

WENDY SOLORIO
Managing Editor
managing@talonmarks.com

According to Charles Harris, doctors assured him that he wouldn't be able to walk, talk, or even feed himself because of the physical conditions that come with having cerebral palsy.

"They told me I wouldn't be able to do normal, everyday things," he said, "and yet, here I am. Nineteen years, going strong."

If there is one thing dance major Raul Ortega knows about his friend Charles Harris, it is that the word "disabled" does not apply to him.

"Don't call him disabled, because he's not," Ortega said. "He doesn't have a disability. He has an 'illabilty.'"

Referring to Harris' talent, a dance major at Cerritos College, has been inspiring those who meet him to rethink the impossible.

"Ill' is a hip-hop term we use when we think something is cool," Ortega said, "that's why we take the 'dis' out of disability, because he's really good at what he does."

Born with cerebral palsy, Harris has proved that dancing is for anyone who believes in the art, regardless of what your physical status may be.

"For me, dancing is a way to tell my story," Harris said. "Being on stage allows me to reach out to people and let them understand what I'm all about."

Harris and Ortega have been friends since middle school and he was inspired to dance after seeing Ortega perform in high school assemblies.

Ortega has been supportive of Harris' dancing ever since.

"When I first met Charles, he wasn't using crutches. He was actually in a wheelchair," he said.

"His transition from then to now has made an impact on so many people.

"He's a perfectionist. He will practice a single dance move until he gets it right."

Doctors were not the only ones who questioned Harris' major. His mother was also a bit skeptical when he first told her what his academic plans were.

"In the beginning, she was kind of 'iffy' about it but then she saw all that I was able to do and warmed up to the idea," he said. "That's why I love to dance. I love teaching others to rethink the impossible."

Rethinking the impossible is something Harris lives by and it has been touching the lives of other students in the Dance Department.

Ashley Badali, a fashion merchandising major, was immediately blown away by Harris' determination and hard work.

"He's such an inspiration to me. Just seeing him get down on the floor and do his arm work, is amazing," she said.

"As a dancer, he's taught me to not be so hard

on myself. He's taught me to just be grateful that we can actually dance, that we can move."

Janet Sanderson, dean of the dance department, is also one of Harris' supporters. He is currently enrolled in her Introduction to Dance course and feels he is no different than any other dance student.

"He can move around the studio like a tornado," she said, "He has a true sense of himself, telling me he is neither disabled nor handicapped, just physically challenged, like every beginning dance student."

Sanderson also agrees that Harris has made a positive impact on other students in her class.

"He inspires his fellow students and often gets great applause when allowed a freestyle performance or his take on a dance class combination," she said, "Above all, he expresses his appreciation to be at Cerritos, really enjoys dance class and likes everyone. How great is that!"

As far as his plans for the near future are concerned, Harris hopes to transfer to Cal State Long Beach or UCLA to further himself as a dancer.

For now, he plans to continue dancing at Cerritos and inspire others while he's doing it.

"If people find something they love to do and it's making a positive impact on others, they should do it and have a hell of a time doing it," he said.

"Life is beautiful, so rethink the impossible, because the possibilities are endless."

Artist embraces chaos in exhibit

LAURA CHAU
Photo Editor
photo@talonmarks.com

David Lovejoy's art show titled "Archaos," is currently being displayed at the Bergamot Station in Santa Monica.

Lovejoy says the name for the show is derived from the idea of traditions and technologies that keep their value through time.

"My work includes elements that are arcane, archaic, architectural, archaeological, and when there are over two dozen in one room, a little chaotic. I thought 'Archaos' was a good fit," Lovejoy said.

Lovejoy's art pieces, which are exhibited in the main gallery, consist of old antique and rustic looking parts, beautifully brought together to make a finished work.

While most people would consider this work as "found art," Lovejoy's pieces can be more appropriately referred to as repurposed.

"What he thinks of and what he uses are very distinctive," said Lois Lambert, owner of the gallery.

Lambert fell in love with Lovejoy's pieces and offered him a show.

"His work is very original," Lambert recounts. "There are an awful lot of people who do found object assemblage and they look like junk."

Lovejoy's pieces are in fact very clean, and each part is thoughtfully placed to create an object that looks like it actually has some type of purpose.

For example, his piece titled "Introspector" involves a black case, fitted with gauges, fans, wires and a magnifying glass.

"When I found a gauge reading 'Disintegrations per Minute,' I wondered what type of process would require such a reading. Obviously, it must be a combination lie detector or time machine," said Lovejoy.

Lovejoy does a good job of creating an object that is both complex and simplistic at the same time. They are definitely eye-catching and keep the viewers' attention through intense detail, textures, rustic colors and interesting topics.

Lovejoy's use of lenses is also very prominent in his work.

One piece titled "See Box" is specifically made to be opened and closed in order to see through the different lenses.

When looking through the different lens combinations, the viewer's conception of reality is distorted.

"I enjoy altering or distorting the viewer's view. There is almost always a subject-something to be seen when looking through the lens, but it's not necessarily the focal point of the work. I like that you can both conceal and bring attention to something with a lens."

Lovejoy gives new life to old objects that no longer have a purpose, and the thoughtful and original way he creates his objects does justice to parts that we once depended on, but now consider junk.

"Archaos" will be up until March 13 and is free to the public.



Killer art: Lovejoy's mixed-media piece titled "Soldiers of Fortune" is a politically motivated work, focusing on the military. The show continues until March 13.

Cosmetology shows off its creativity with face art

MELISSA MAESTRO
Staff Writer
melissa.maestro@talonmarks.com

Three students from the Cerritos College Cosmetology Department showcased their artistry in makeup at the Health Sciences Building on Jan. 28.

The students were inspired by films such as "Black Swan" and "Mulan," as well as creating a color-inspired peacock.

Instructor in the Cosmetology Department, Scott

Botma, thinks that there is a lot of art involved when it comes to this profession.

"You have to use your creative side and creative vision. It has the same principles as art: shapes, design, and line proportion," Botma said.

Art major Kimberly Ortega is also in agreement that art and cosmetology intertwine.

"Cosmetology and art share similarities because in cosmetology you use the face as a canvas, and makeup, skin care and nail care would be their medium. They

create unique works of art on an individual," Ortega said.

Because cosmetology and art share similarities, it has been noticed by Debbie Perret, adjunct cosmetology and aesthetics instructor, that cosmetology is where art majors tend to resort to, with their creative talent.

"We definitely cater to the artsy students, as well as the students who like to work around people.

"It's cool; we have a lot of creative projects where we work with hair color and different braiding. Hair cuts to form an art piece, we have shows that depict that, we have competitions that go to different areas in Southern California, as well," Perret said.

Creativity isn't the only thing these artists are being trained in, according to cosmetology major Alissa Goetz, who said they are also taught to disinfect, sanitize and learn some basics of anatomy.

Amanda Gomez, cosmetology major, said, "You have to practice a lot, and remember formulas and anatomy so that you will know how to do hairstyles and makeup to go with your client's face."

Perret mentioned that cosmetology students study the art of color and are taught chemistry, electricity and color wheels.

Ortega said forms of art are based on their appearance and meaning and are temporary images that once created only last in pictures or memories.

"I would compare cosmetology to a performance. You can't save a live performance of a musical unless it is recorded in some way, but it's not the same. You can take a picture of someone's hair and makeup, but they're not the same as in person. Their appearance will only last that night."



Transformed: Amanda Gomez (left) is working on her client and classmate Jaen Flores with a theme that is inspired by the movie "Black Swan." She started with the lining and coloring of the eye makeup and added white powder.



It's art, face it: Alissa Goetz (left) was inspired by her fascination with peacocks by working with her friend Rashelle Todd. It took about four hours to complete.

Mobile News

Scan to view a video featuring cosmetology art



www.talonmarks.com/multimedia

Art Gallery reveals ‘object’ of affection



Psychadelic: Samantha Magowan's "Pattern Factory #1." All of the contents in this piece are real with the exception of tattoos, her mask and everything outside the quilt.

BENJAMIN FARREN
Staff Writer
benjamin.farren@talonmarks.com

The Cerritos College Art Gallery opened an exhibit in its main gallery that can be viewed through March 10.

The exhibit, titled "Object-Orientation: Bodies and/as Things," examines the relationship between the human body and objects external to the body.

In the one "moving" piece, a video, the artist maneuvers herself carefully into straps held on a wall until she has become a bag, much like one we would carry our textbooks or a laptop in.

Taking in the piece, was Ra-

jana Bonsynat, business management major. "It's just holding her up," she said.

The pieces include one ceramic sculpture in the shape of the legless lower torso of a woman. This piece also includes a video that can be viewed by looking into the vagina.

There are two mixed-media pieces that appear to match the color of human skin and use real human hair.

There also are 14 photographic prints, which range include a woman covered in blue body paint surrounded by objects that are different tones and hues of the body paint.

Another photographic print is of a coffee table with arms and

legs that resemble arms and legs.

The show contains four drawings and two photo collages.

The only painting on display is that of a man wearing clothing which contains an identical pattern to the material used to cover his sofa.

Joseph Cervantes, former Cerritos College student and currently the art gallery manager, said students should come see the show. "One reason is people think it is always a student show; it's not," he said.

According to Cervantes, none of the artists are Cerritos College students. They are all professionals that are living in California, New York and one as far away as Berlin.

Mobile News



Scan to view slideshow of other works from the exhibit



www.talonmarks2.com/slideshows/objectorientation



Orange crush: Alex Mirutziu's "Unforgotten if Unpunished." The self-portrait was made with a medical sock, a teddy bear mask and a ball gag.



Skins: This collection, including (from left to right) "Sofa," "High-Backed Chair," and "Table," were made by Jessica Harrison. They are mixed-media pieces that use real human hair.



Drop the bomb: "Enola" by Yuval Pudik. This piece was put together by using graphite on paper.



Lunar eclipse: Candice Lin's "The Moon". It is a ceramic that, when looked through, also displays a video clip.



Viewfinder: "Inside Out," also by Candice Lin, is the video inside "The Moon." The "Robot Chicken"-like piece lasts about three minutes.



Through the peephole: Samantha Shepard, psychology major, watches the video, "Inside Out."

Student artists collaborate

MICHELLE MORENO
Staff Writer
michelle.moreno@talonmarks.com

Five Cerritos College students embraced the idea of combining each other's art and showcasing it at a Bellflower coffee house, Casa De Luna, to get their art displayed and catch the attention of the public.

Rosario Cetina, photography major, experienced her first art show and was the only photographer that presented her work.

"At first I was a little nervous because I'm just starting out and I don't have that many pictures to show, and the coffee house had a limitation on which I could show, so right now I just have some basic ones," Cetina said.

Cetina was asked by her friend, Jeph Ortega, who was also exhibited at the coffee house, to display her art and get a chance to know what it's like to present at a public show.

Art major Galileo Gonzalez said he, and the rest of the artists featured, wanted to host a show even if it didn't have a big outcome of people.

"A lot of us who are, or were, in the Art Club wanted to throw a little art show - nothing too fancy, but just to have something to show our art," Gonzalez said.

Even though the art chosen didn't contain explicit content, one local art admirer, Giselle Carroll, thought some of the art had presented a nice compilation of



Landmark: An inspired painting of the Los Angeles Bridge. It extends over the Los Angeles River, giving the artist Rick De Anda the idea to recreate it as an oil painting.

MICHELLE MORENO/TM

the student's work.

"I really like the paintings and the photography of the little girl," Carroll said.

"I like the painting of the bridge of Downtown Los Angeles. It reminds me of my childhood," Carroll continued to say about Rick De Anda's painting.

Art major Sergio De Anda, Rick's cousin, felt that the limitation of art content for the coffee house didn't allow him to show the paintings that he wanted, but respected the manager's policies and stayed humble.

"I'm excited that it's on here, but I had new paintings that I re-

ally wanted to hang. The content wasn't right for the place and I do feel like a sellout sometimes, but at the same time you have to understand [the manager's] vision.

"Even though I didn't get a painting up, I got a drawing and I think it's good enough. And I think people will enjoy it," De Anda said.

Musician Rick Carroll was asked to perform at the coffee house for the show by De Anda.

"It's all different and unique with all sorts of styles. I'm familiar with Sergio's art and it's fantastic. There are also some here that I haven't seen before and I think

they are all rich and colorful," Carroll said.

Mobile News

Scan to view slideshow of art at the coffee house



www.talonmarks2.com/slideshows/sp2011studentartshow

Nothing more than same old plot in 'Nada'

Movie Review

From Prada to Nada

Starring: Camilla Belle
Director: Angel Gracia
Rating: ★ ★ ½

ARIANNA SMITH
Staff Writer
arianna.smith@talonmarks.com

"From Prada to Nada" was a very touching movie, however, the plot lacked imagination, following the same old rules with the same old results.

It seems that Hollywood has run out of ideas and is barely getting through by shoving household names to get us to the theater, but it does get credit for one thing: This time it took stars we haven't seen for a few years and put them on the payroll.

"From Prada to Nada" is a touching story starring Camilla Belle, Alexa Vega (Spy Kids trilogy), and Wilmer Valderrama ("That 70's Show").

The reverse Cinderella story follows Mary and Nora Dominguez (Vega and Belle) as they move from posh Beverly Hills to dilapidated East Los Angeles following the death of their father, which leaves them penniless.

They meet a friend of the family and neighbor, Bruno, across the street, played by Valderrama.

Like all movies today, they learned some lessons and after a hard tragedy they are humbled, resulting in a happy ending.

Before the movie ended, people pretty much figured out what the outcome was going to be.

Hollywood's tiring plot lines are really over-used and leave one wondering when the next generation of screenwriters will come and save us from this state of redundancy.

On the other hand the movie was cute. This time, instead of an all-American-looking blonde happy rich family, it showed another side of the spectrum.

The girls were Mexican-Americans who were ashamed of their heritage and spent no time trying to learn about their culture.

The movie didn't portray East Los Angeles how some might perceive it, as violent and unsafe, but focused on the close knit family aspect of it.

One of the great things about the movie was that it managed to make East Los Angeles look pretty appealing. The set design was amazing and the houses were very colorful.

Overall, the movie was fairly good, but if you want to see it again all you have to do is just watch any other romantic comedy; it will most likely have the same plot.

The Library Club offers free tutors

JIMMY EDWARDS-TURNER
Co-Opinion Editor
opinion@talonmarks.com

When one thinks of a library club, the first thing to come to mind is a few students in a quiet room reading quietly.

This is not the case with Cerritos College's Library Club.

Currently headed by Enrique Siliezar, geography major, the Library Club has looked to enrich minds and give back to the school's community in a positive way since its inception in 2009.

One method of positive contribution it has taken is the club's ESL Book Reading Project.

Started last semester, the program invites ESL students to join the Library Club in reading a book each month.

"[The club's project] is for the sake of those ESL students who are having a hard time with the transition to English," said Monica Lopez, co-adviser of the club.

Siliezar adds, "We try to help with the small, negligible details of English.

"[ESL students] will ask, 'What's a 'ragamuffin'?' and we can help explain these nuances to them."

The Library Club does provide a service the entire student body can take advantage of: dirt-cheap books.

"Our book sale is a major fundraiser," Lopez stated. "We sell books for as low as \$1 and some of them are textbooks being used by students right now."

The book sale averages about \$500 made each semester for the club, according to Siliezar, and will feature around 800 books this semester.

This semester's book sale will be on Tuesday and Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in front of the LRC.

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Peace in the streets: Daisy Bueno and Allen Galindo call out to passersby. Marchers held up handmade signs and called out to drivers and pedestrians in hopes of recruiting more participants.



Honk for Pico Rivera: Cerritos College student and Peace March coordinator Angel Ruelas leads his followers down Rosemead Boulevard. Ruelas and his supporters walked two miles for their cause.



Spirits were not dampened: Students and Pico Rivera residents are all smiles as they begin their trek at Rivera Park. Participants braved the rainy weather in the name of peace for their community.

Marching to increase the peace

TITO BENAVIDES
Staff Writer
tito.benavides@talonmarks.com

More than 40 students and citizens took to the streets of Pico Rivera calling for peace in their city by using a loud collective voice chanting an insistent ‘Peace in our streets!’ The Peace March was held on Jan. 30 in response to the erosion of families and the community by the abuse of drugs and alcohol.

This rally is also intended to bring attention to the countless victims of violence on local youth, with the most recent being the murder of eighteen-year-old Jose Ramos, a resident of Pico Rivera and Cerritos College Track and Field team

member, killed at a party no more than seven days before.

Gregory Salcedo, who teaches at El Rancho High school and also serves on the City Council of Pico Rivera, also knew Ramos and showed his support for the Peace March by giving a pep-talk before the marchers hit the streets. “What brings me out here is the fact that I’m a father, not that I’m an elected official or a school teacher. I knew Jose. His situation touched me as a dad. There are already laws against murder. We all know that, but it doesn’t stop monsters.”

Cerritos College student Aidee Marquez, undecided major, also works for the city of Pico Rivera and attended the rally to support the cause and to bring attention

for the need for change on how the people of her community treat each other.

“All these streets are coming down to violence. We need to respect each other. I was hearing in the news that [Los Angeles] now is one of the rudest cities. That makes us look really, really bad.”

Vanessa Ayala, child development major, was a personal friend of Ramos. She said she would love to see big changes come to Pico Rivera by its citizens simply being good to one another.

“We have so many young kids that are expiring and we also want everybody to know not to be mean to one another and not to kill innocent people,” Ayala said.

Ayala also makes a plea for Ramos’s killer. “Turn yourself in. You did a wrong

thing to somebody really innocent. It was wrong. You should just turn yourself in because you hurt so many people’s lives.”

The Peace March was the result of the efforts of many students, but it stemmed from nineteen-year-old Angel O. Ruelas. Ruelas explains how his drive for change comes from a need welling from within him.

“I felt like this is what I have to do, nobody motivated me to do anything. I just woke up one morning and said, ‘You know what? I think I should do this.’”

With a police escort in tow, the marchers were greeted on Passons Boulevard with residents coming out of their houses snapping shots and taking footage of a parade of protesters of peace.

When the Peace March reached the intersection of Passons and Slauson avenues, a show of support from citizens was shown through cars honking, thumbs up and a few people joining the ranks along the way.

And finally, at the intersection of Rosemead Avenue and Washington Boulevard, the marchers split into two groups and doused intrigued commuters from corner to corner with the question: “What do we want?” followed by the response, “Peace!”

When do they want it?
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LONG BEACH
TRANSIT

Athletic
infidelity
needs to
be sacked



Pete Moyo'
Co-Sports Editor
sports@talonmarks.com

Many Cerritos College athletes come to Cerritos in hopes of playing their respective sports so well that they are offered an athletic scholarship upon completion of their two years.

Some play exceptionally well and are offered several scholarships, giving them a lot of choices.

Once offered, these athletes make a verbal commit before signing their National Letter of Intent.

While it is completely within the rules to decommit from their verbal commit and choose to attend another university, what shows is a lack of value that recruits put in their commitment.

These players are being rewarded by getting full scholarships to go play at schools and sometimes they decommit simply because another school has better uniforms?

Making a commitment can be hard as an athlete, especially when you are Falcons offensive tackle Fou Fonoti and you have 18 scholarships to choose from, however, strong consideration and making sense of every choice is all you need.

Players also need to remember when making their choice, it should be based on going where you will be most successful and what will help you and your family more in the long run; it's not about choosing a school because its mascot is a tiger.

Making a change of location isn't always a bad thing either.

Defensive back Tyrone Taylor, who has signed with Eastern Michigan University and is already enrolled in classes, chose his school because of far proximity to his home.

"I just really wanted to get out of [the L.A. area]," he said.

"It's really different out here and I'm just trying to get used to it."

Taylor was also recruited by Baylor University and New Mexico State University.

Many players hold scholarships in their back pocket several months before rushing into a decision that they aren't completely sure about.

Respect the opportunity of being awarded a scholarship and instead of taking advantage of it, be grateful and take your time choosing a school.



Bud's legacy: Third baseman Maiya Tallakson pays attention as coach Bud Murray gives her advice on what to do. Murray has been coaching baseball and softball for more than 50 years.

Softball coach's 51-year journey

VICTOR DIAZ
Online Editor
online@talonmarks.com

The early days

Murray lived his childhood in a "house in Dunning, Nebraska with a dirt floor," sharing his home with seven siblings for five years.

He says he was the only one out of his siblings to graduate high school and attend college. Murray graduated from Chadron State University in Nebraska with his master's in science.

While at Chadron State, he helped his basketball team win the Nebraska State Championship, in which he scored 33 points. Shortly thereafter, he earned All-State honors in basketball.

"Athletics have been my whole life. I'm now 75 years old and I still like doing what I do."

Building a legacy

Murray also had the privilege of playing professional baseball.

From 1955-1959, he played in the Brooklyn Dodgers organization, and at one point, he was given the opportunity to play at the major-league level with several Hall of Fame players.

Murray recalls his first pre-Brooklyn experience as something he'll never forget.

"I went out to Forbes field, and the Dodgers were playing the Pirates in 1949 and I got to see Jackie Robinson play. That

was the most astonishing thing I had ever seen in my life.

"When he got on base, the whole game changed. He just changed the game of baseball with his talent and his speed."

In 1956, he was invited to play in spring training in Vero Beach, Florida, where he got the chance to meet legendary Dodger players such as Robinson, Roy Campanella, Don Newcombe and Pee-wee Reese.

Unfortunately, injury did not allow Murray to play in the major leagues. While playing for the Dodgers' Reno, Nev. affiliate, he pulled his trapezius muscle, and he was no longer able to play.

This career-ending injury was what led to Murray returning to school and pursuing coaching.

Passing on a dream

After coaching at Hart, Murray went to coach at California State University, Northridge and during his time there, he offered his daughter, Kodee, a proposition.

"I told her, 'If you ever get a junior college job, I'll come be your assistant.' And sure enough, she got the job at Cerritos and our first season was in 2002.

"Our first years at Cerritos were so tough. I think the team had won three games the previous two years."

Murray said that, due to some help

from Long Beach City College by sending players over, the softball team progressed gradually, including winning a state championship victory in 2008.

According to Kodee, her father has played a big role in her coaching career.

"When somebody coaches and is as successful at it as he's been, there are things you learn just by having the ability to be around someone like that.

"It's a win-win. What he brings to the table is over 40 years of successful coaching," she said.

Center fielder Natalie Garcia said Murray has been a positive influence both on and off the field.

"He is a really good coach. He would tell you what he expects from you and he would just push you to the max," Garcia said.

"He has taught me how to be a better person and how to speak my mind."

Murray described his 50-plus years of coaching experience as a learning opportunity.

"You have to have your standard, you have to have your idea of what you have to have at practice and you have to sell kids on that. They're guessing about this or that and they never learn a certain way to do something.

"I have tossed out the bad things and kept the good things and that works for me."

Softball fails to complete rally in final game of season openers



Safel: Pitcher Gabriela Villarreal beats a throw to a Santa Ana College first baseman. The Falcons finish their first three games with a record of 2-1.

MICHELLE MORENO
Staff Writer
michelle.moreno@talonmarks.com

The Cerritos College softball team went 2-1 in its opening week of games against Santiago Canyons, Santa Ana College and Grossmont College.

In the Feb. 1. game against Santiago Canyons, the Falcons were able to come back and defeat them 9-3 as sophomore pitcher Jessica Lozano threw a complete game.

Lozano threw seven strikeouts in six innings.

After losing against Santa Ana College on Jan. 29 at the Glendale Sports Complex in a tournament, Lozano, thought the women pulled through when they were close to losing the game against Santa Ana on Thursday.

"I have a lot of confidence in my team and I knew we were going to push through and win. [Santa Ana College] beat us pretty bad in the last game. So, it was a good rematch for us," Lozano said.

During one of the most high-pressure situations of the game, Coach Kodee Murray called a timeout.

"She (Murray) wanted to get the girls on the same page to give them a break and breather," assistant coach Nicole Deel said.

"She talked to the pitcher to settle it down a little bit

and take some momentum back."

First baseman Alexxa Sanabria stole home in the sixth inning, tying up the game at 7-7.

The Falcons stayed communicative with one another as the game was coming to a close end.

"We're very well-meshed. So, by thinking and talking with each other we get the strength to keep on fighting," Sanabria said.

It would be the toward the end of the seventh inning when Cerritos College sought its chance to win the game, when Santa Ana made an error on a routine ground ball play and sophomore outfielder Matanaina I' Aulualo scored the winning run, giving the Falcons the 8-7 victory.

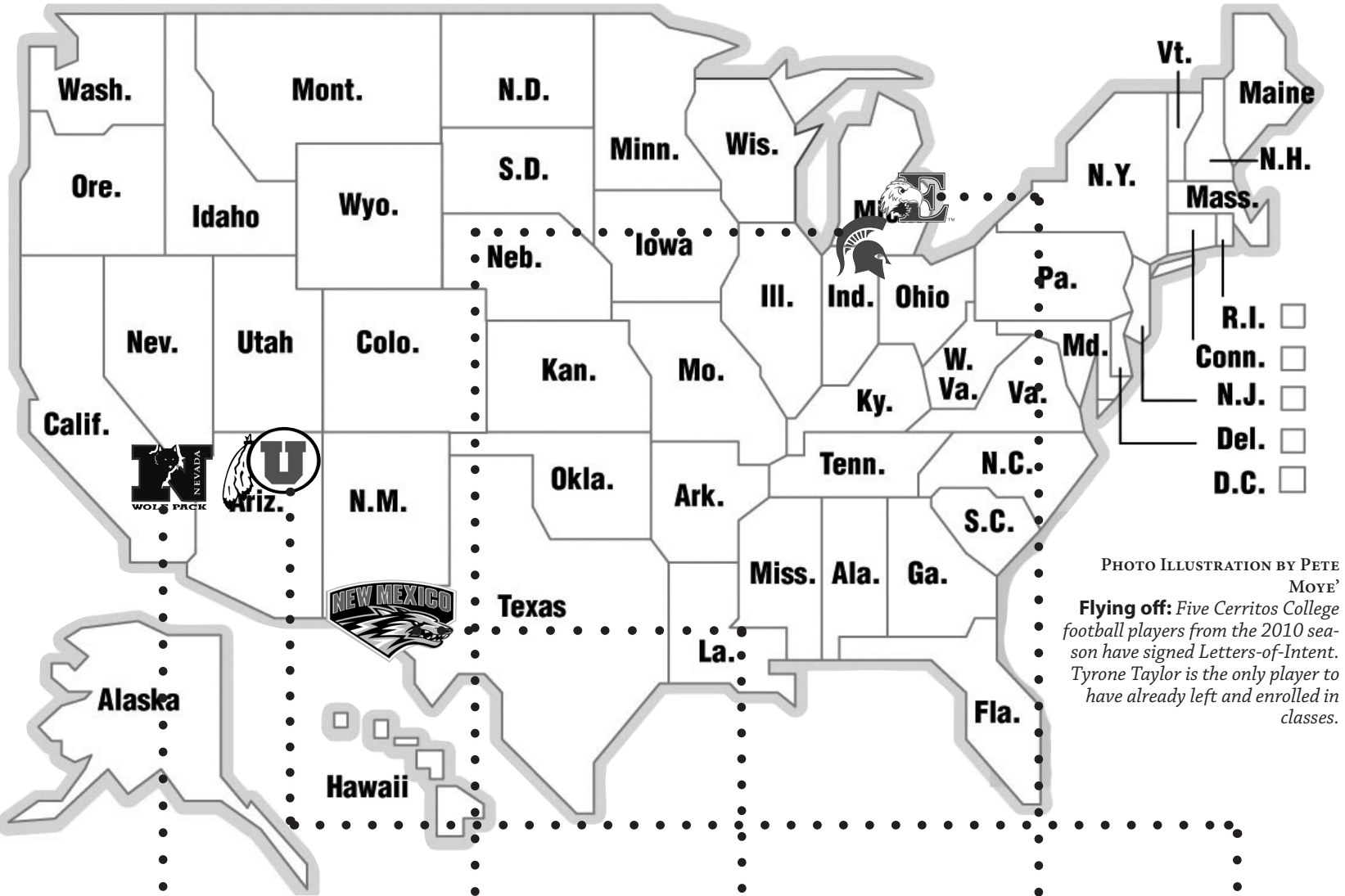
The Falcons went on to play against Grossman College on Friday, where they had a challenging team that almost kept them from a close win with a score of 6-5.

The Falcons strived in the last inning to come up with the winning run as shortstop Briana Quintana delivered home runs in the second and fourth innings.

Technical errors against pitcher Gabby Villarreal in the beginning made it strenuous for the Falcon's to climb back up in the game.

Villarreal gave up six runs on six hits and was pulled in the third inning after facing three batters without getting any outs.

Falcons sign Letters of Intent for next season



Name: Fou Fonoti
Position: Offensive Tackle
School: Michigan State University

Name: Tyrone Taylor
Position: Defensive Back
School: Eastern Michigan University

Name: Jake Peppard
Position: Defensive End
School: University of Nevada

Name: Fatu Ulale
Position: Defensive End
School: New Mexico State University

Name: Keith McGill
Position: Safety
School: University of Utah

MELISSA MAESTRO
Staff Writer
melissa.maestro@talonmarks.com

Offensive lineman Fou Fonoti, defensive back Tyrone Taylor, defensive tackle Jake Peppard, and free safety Keith McGill put pen to paper when they signed their Letters of Intent on Feb. 2 for National Signing Day.

Fonoti was given the opportunity to attend one of the 18 schools he received scholarships to.

As he took visits and weighed his options, the offensive lineman narrowed it down to UCLA, Rutgers University and Michigan State University once signing day arrived.

When deciding between three schools completely separated on the map, Fonoti decided Rutgers was too far east for him.

"They say when you go on a trip, it's all about vibe and that feeling in your gut, and I got a great vibe from them but I just felt in my heart that wasn't the place for me."

Fonoti also based his decision on how comfortable he felt during his visits and how family-oriented each school was. He ended up choosing Michigan State.

"I felt like I clicked with the coaches, they showed a lot of commitment and loyalty to me when they left their families just to visit me for a few hours. Everything just made me feel at home, and it all felt right," he said.

McGill was given numerous offers from prestigious schools but in the end he decided to take his talent to the future PAC-12 conference member Utah.

The La Mirada High School star had not only himself in mind, but his family as well when he decided where his future would take place.

New Mexico State University was pleased when sophomore defensive tackle Fatu Ulale changed his mind about Georgia State University to commit to it.

According to Ulale, New Mexico being a Div1 school had a great impact on his decision. "[New Mexico State University] is just bigger and better," he said.

At 6-foot-3, 250-pounds, defensive end Jake Peppard recorded 77 tackles and ten sacks this season that was noticed and acknowledged by the University of Nevada.

According to Peppard, he chose Nevada because its program was familiar to past programs he has been involved with.

"The reason why I chose Nevada is because it seemed like the program that most resembled the programs I've played in the past. The discipline and the tradition of winning really stood out to me and that's a place that I'll fit right in with. I'm ecstatic about the opportunity."

Taylor was given offers by Baylor University, Eastern Michigan University and New Mexico State University.

However, he made up his mind ahead of time, and decided EMU was the right school for him.

Taylor decided to head out of California before other athletes and is currently settled at EMU so he can enroll in classes, participate in spring ball, and prepare for next season as he will start at one of the corner positions.

According to Taylor, it takes hard work and help from the coaches to get to where he is at right now.

Taylor said, "Do your class work, and work hard at practice. Listen to the coaches because they know what it takes to get out."

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY PETE MOYE
Flying off: Five Cerritos College football players from the 2010 season have signed Letters-of-Intent. Tyrone Taylor is the only player to have already left and enrolled in classes.

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Men's basketball drops a close game against LBCC

ANTHONY HODGE
Staff Writer
anthony.hodge@talonmarks.com

The Cerritos College men's basketball team's losing streak continued in a rematch against its crosstown rivals Long Beach City College 67-65 last Friday.

Freshman guard Keith Wiltz led the team off the bench with 16 points, two assists and one steal.

The score stayed close throughout the entire game, much different than when the Falcons lost to Long Beach 86-77 on Jan. 5.

Freshman guard Robert Gill, who scored 12 points, said, "The first game, [LBCC] came out really aggressive. This game, [LBCC] came at a slow pace and then started off aggressive in the second half."

In less than four minutes in the first half, the Falcons and the Vikings were going back and forth on fast breaks.

Cerritos led 35-31 at halftime.

Vikings head coach Barry Barnes stated, "We didn't play defense like we were supposed to in the first half. We came out [in the second half] and applied the full-court pressure."

LBCC'S aggressive defense helped them take the lead. However, key personal fouls on Cerritos helped the Vikings take the lead.

The game went down to the final seconds of the game.

With the game tied at 63, LBCC's Stephen Heard made a layup with 30 seconds left in the game.

After exchanging possessions, LBCC came out with the victory, 67-65.

Barnes thought his team played well in the second half of this rivalry game.

"Whether you finish first or finish last, you've got a bunch of guys from the same neighborhood that just want to play each other," he said.

"I'm a little upset, but we're all freshmen and we're all learning," Wiltz said.

Falcons head coach Russ May thought his team performed better defense against the Vikings' "big fellas" with this game than on the last game.

"The bottom line is that they beat us on the backboard and got more rebounds than us," May added.

The Falcons will play Los Angeles Harbor College on Friday at 6 p.m. at Gahr High School.

Athletes simply stick together

Melissa Maestro
Staff Writer
melissamaestro@talonmarks.com

It is acceptable for student athletes to associate with each other during their free time because they share the same interests and the same goals.

The separation of athletes and students at Cerritos became evident to me as I walked around the campus and noticed the different cliques that have been created.

This integration of the talented and the average has been a situation that wasn't recently derived at the beginning of the semester; this is something that has been around since the beginning of schooling in general.

Students who come to school have friends they hang around with, but, what they do doesn't matter simply because they are the average Joes that blend in with other students.

Then you have the athletes, the "talent" at Cerritos, and they are noticed because there are so many of them, and they stand out.

Either way, every person seems to have a friend, and eventually creates his own clique, so it shouldn't matter if these athletes choose to spend their leisure time with one another.

These homogenous athletes aren't being anti-social; they're staying connected with those who take pleasure in the same thing and in doing so improve their skills by interacting with others involved in the same sport.

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