

TALON MARKS

CERRITOS COLLEGE

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Planned Parenthood may no longer be a free service

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The Republican lead House of Representatives on a 240 to 185 vote is another step closer to end funding for Planned Parenthood under Title X, eliminating no-charge medical services for low income citizens.

Republican representative Mike Pence comments on the vote for the amendment he introduced. "This

afternoon's vote is a victory for taxpayers and a victory for life."

Pence adds, "By banning federal funding to Planned Parenthood, Congress has taken a stand for millions of Americans who believe their tax dollars should not be used to subsidize the largest abortion provider in America."

Federal law currently prohibits federal dollars for abortions under the guidelines of Title X. This amendment would cut funding for family panning, both pre-

ventive and medical services, as well as birth control.

K. Marie Anthony, nurse practitioner for the student health center at Cerritos College believes this amendment would have severely negative effects on the community. "I used to work at Planned Parenthood and 95 percent of what [happens] there is family planning. People think of Planned Parenthood and they think abortions, which is about 5 percent. The rest is family panning, education, STD testing. It would be catastrophic."

Anthony adds, "What I see in the long term is a rise in pregnancies, a severe rise in STD rates, which are high already...preventive health is so much cheaper than trying to detect problems after the fact. The cost of testing is so much cheaper than treating chlamydia or having it go to pelvic inflammatory disease."

Lucia Sarabia, Broadcasting major believes the funding cuts would ultimately cost taxpayers even more, "I think teenagers are sometimes scared to go in and get
See Planned Parenthood, Title X Page 3

Talent show combines art forms



ORLANDO DOMINGUEZ /TM

Black Student Union shows talent

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Cerritos College's Black Student Union along with its family and friends honored Black History Month with its presentation of "Black Expressions through Black Art" on Friday at the Student Center.

Guest speakers included entertainment elder Howlette 'Smitty' Smith, Jazz musician and actor. Smith gave a stirring oration of the strides of past champions of the black movement as well as hope for the future.

Mandla Kayiseu, CEO and founder of New World Education, gave a spirited speech based on three key black art movements; the Harlem Renaissance, the Black Arts Movement and the Hip-Hop movement.

"The Hip-Hop movement basically had an impact on every aspect of our society. And it inspired young people again to affirm

their identity."

His passion for the achievement of future BSU leaders is that they, "learn to fully appreciate each individual they represent. [They] don't let leadership go to their head and not see themselves above other students that they're trying to represent.

Vending booths with hand crafted goods from Egyptian Musk soap, incense and hats and hand made jewelry adorned the event. Snacks and raffle tickets were sold as well as a BSU fundraiser.

Supporters of the event were provided with food, art, music and dancing throughout the night. Awards were given out to family members who have inspired members of the BSU.

Jasmine Right, communications major and historian for the BSU, surprised her grandmother by presenting her with a medal.

"She's an incredible inspiration to my whole family. And she's the reason I keep going academically because I know that she

created a standard that my whole family has to stand up to.

"She achieved educational success in a time when blacks were oppressed and they couldn't enjoy school like we can now. She set a foundation and now I have to build on it."

Benjamin Lewis, English and architecture major provided expressive artwork at the event, "my inspiration comes from my past. Just stuff I've seen other people do and other people go through. Just life. And another big influence is music."

Lewis said his premier painting titled "Back to the Future" is inspired by his view of some people going back to slavery by forgetting the past.

Tremel Stewart, President of the BSU, was very pleased with the 'Expressions through Black Art' event. "I'm so excited about how it turned out. We were able to get every vision we were trying to get out tonight. These [people] worked hard and it all showed tonight."

Stewart is looking forward to future BSU events coming to the campus, saying, "This was just one major step that we were trying to make. But now that this one is over, we're just going to start that steam roller effect."

Mobile News

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BSU Talent Show



www.talonmarks2.com/
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FAFSA deadline nears

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The Financial Aid Department suggests students to sign up for early financial aid to avoid late money disbursement for the fall semester.

Students who wish to receive their financial aid money by August should submit the FAFSA required documents by April 30.

Kim Westby, dean of Students Support Services, suggest that Cerritos College students apply early to prepare for the fall 2011 term.

"The free application for federal student aid (FAFSA) is available every January for the upcoming academic year," Westby said.

Students who wait after the deadline to submit their FAFSA application not only receive late money disbursement, but do not catch any errors they made on their applications on time.

Cuxan Valladares, student affairs technician, said, "When filling for financial aid, one of the problems that students usually have is on the dependency questions."

"Students believe that because they work, pay their own bills, and have their own place, they are dependent, but that is not the case."

According to Valladares, "the state of California does not recognize students who are under 24 years old as independent students, unless they are married, emancipated, in the military, a veteran, or their parents are deceased" said Valladares.

Students should also take note to respond to all financial aid missing-information letters that they receive in the mail to complete the application process.

Applicants who are filing for financial aid and have not yet filed for a 2010 tax return should still file for early financial aid.

"Students should file even with-
See Financial Aid Page 2

Cerritos College erects new Physical Sciences and Technology Building

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Prehistoric skeletons and astronomical designs are some of the features that will adorn the new Physical Sciences and Technology Building, as it finishes development.

Cerritos College is in its fourth year of the bond build-out program responsible for the construction of this building, among other renovations.

This specific project has a particularly unique set of plans for it.

The building will include the departments of physics, astronomy, and earth sciences, and will don a number of related supplemental compo-

nents on the inside and outside.

Physics and astronomy instructor Janet McLarty-Schroeder welcomes the new building and its additions.

"Well, anything that helps a student learn is a good thing. That's the goal and I'm all for it!" she said.

Not all were content with all of the new features.

Nasreen Sarvi, psychology major, said, "I think the money used for those things would have been a lot better for something like an observatory for the building."

Outdoor features have been completed, and are most prominent in the east plaza.

It is the designated Astronomy Observation

Area for classes to use telescopes.

The design in the concrete of the plaza showcases the historical Tyconic model of our solar system.

The Tyconic system, published by astronomer Tycho Brahe in the late 16th century, has all the other planets revolving around the sun, with the sun and the moon revolving around Earth.

Tatiana Cortes, marketing major and astronomy student, said of the layout, "Honestly, I think it's interesting. I went over there to see it myself."

Overlooking the design is a 12-foot sundial, with brass plates inlaid into the concrete to mark the time.

Surrounding the plaza are numerous stone
See New building Page 3



LAURA CHAU/TM

Physical Sciences and Technology : The bond build-out program enables Cerritos College to yet again expand its campus.

BSU honors military school



Surprise: Cerritos College President Linda Lacy is caught off guard as former president of the Black Student Union Tremel Stewart hands her a trophy. Lacy referred to receiving the award as, "thrilling."



Recognition: Stewart, along with BSU Adviser Constance Hunter, President Lacy, Southeast Academy High School Superintendent Gil Montano and Master Sgt. Schafer, hand Master Sgt. Steve Allard an award for his work with the student cadets at Southeast Academy. After the ceremony, cadets performed drills and other Friday morning activities that impressed Stewart.

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Representatives of the Black Student Union visited military training classes at Southeast Academy High School on Friday to reward four community leaders for their service.

Former president of the BSU Tremel Stewart presented Master Sgt. Marty Schafer, Master Sgt. Steve Allard and Cerritos College President Linda Lacy with a trophy, a handshake and words of gratitude for their continued support at BSU events.

An additional trophy and a \$100 scholarship were awarded to S.E.A. senior Tyrece Britton who plans to enroll at Cerritos College in the fall, but was unable to attend the event.

The drills carried out by cadets after the ceremony impressed Stewart, who enlisted in the U.S. Navy at 18 years old and served for four-and-a-half years.

"It was inspirational to see high school students learning discipline and honor for themselves," Stewart said, "They're changing lives over there."

Schafer, director of Southeast Academy High School, said he is happy to

help the BSU by sending students to help out at club events.

"[S.E.A.] is really committed to the community and wants to build strong relationships, especially with Cerritos College, because it's important for our students to understand that there is Cerritos College out there and it has a lot to offer."

Allard was humbled by the experience and remains focused on serving as a role model.

"I'd rather just teach my students and not have all the fanfare, as long as they're getting something out of it, I'm good with that," he said.

For Lacy, receiving an award was a pleasant surprise.

"I try to work with students as much as I can, but I don't get a chance very often anymore. I love to go to the student events, so it was great for me, it was thrilling."

Stewart and other BSU members are currently working on recruiting students from other local high schools and universities to help at club events.

Financial Aid: Students advised to file for financial aid before deadline nears

Continued from Page 1:
out their taxes, once they get their taxes, you can always come back and make corrections," Valladares said.

Students who are filing for financial aid for Cal State and have not filed their 2010 tax return, should consider an early application, as well. Cal States will allow students to make corrections before the March 2 deadline.

Martina Salguero, nursing major said, "I always apply for financial aid around February when I do my taxes and I get my money on time for the fall semester."

Important Financial Aid Deadlines:

March 2
Deadline for initial financial aid awards, including Cal Grant

March-April
Respond to Missing Information Letter (MIL) or view To Do's on MyCerritos.

July
Financial Aid Office begins mailing of Award Letters to students

*Information courtesy of fafsa.gov and cerritos.edu

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New Building: New features created to assist Cerritos students

Continued from Page: 1

seating columns aligned in a circle that form Morse code messages.

When translated, they depict four physics equations: $E=mc^2$, $F=ma$, $W=mg$, and $W=fb$.

Three rock outcroppings were created by stacking large slabs of sandstone at an angle protruding out of the ground as the landscaping was completed.

These types of structures are typically used in geology labs to demonstrate the analysis of rock types and visualization of the shift of the earth's crust over time.

These are complimented by a Mesozoic garden, which contains plants from the age of the dinosaurs, such as ferns, cycads, ginkgo trees and conifers.

The Mesozoic garden will be contrasted by a Sonoran Mojave Desert garden, which houses plants adapted to a hot, dry climate.

On the outside of the entrance are Stegosaurus and Iguanodon tracks in the concrete.

McLarty-Schroeder said, "Personally, I found the dinosaur footprints interesting. They are exact replicas of footprints found in California, but those are protected, so most people don't get to see them."

These will be accompanied by a steel globe, five feet in diameter, to present concepts of longitude and latitude, and relations between land, water and climate distribution.

Many decorations will be found in the two-story atrium inside, as well.

Suspended from the second-floor ceiling will be the skeleton of a Pteranodon, a flying dinosaur with a 15-foot wingspan. Fish skeletons will also be hung to simulate Pteranodon food.

Display cases will contain Pterodactyl skulls and fossil dinosaur tracks.

Pictures of field trip locations and students will be shown on a digital picture frame.

As part of UC Riverside's seismograph network, the atrium will even house a MacBook laptop with a built-in accelerometer, continuously running a seismometer application to teach seismograph analysis while keeping an eye on current seismic activity.

Dean of Science, Engineering and Math, Carolyn Chambers said, "We have made a significant start at creating this very attractive and interesting contribution to the college and to community education."



Waiting it out: Students wait outside of the school near the "Emergency Evacuation Assembly Area" sign by the Burnight Center Theatre. A campus-wide evacuation drill took place on Thursday.

ANTHONY HODGE/TM

Campus clears out for drill

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Classes were about to begin, students were studying in the library, and a DJ booth was set up outside by the Music Department; these things and more were interrupted by the evacuation drill that took place last Thursday.

Vice President of Student Services Stephen Johnson explained the importance of having the annual drill.

"Emergencies can happen anytime. Drills serve as a reminder that emergencies arise, that we should and can be better prepared," he said.

Johnson said all of the college's employees were notified via e-mail about the drill.

"The drill includes designated-area team leaders and building marshalls carrying out assigned roles, as well as faculty, staff, and managers helping to evacuate the buildings," he added.

Students and faculty were to meet at eight "use Emergency Evacuation Assembly" signs located across the campus.

Johnson continued saying that those with mobility disabilities were evacuated through lockers containing the Evacu-Chairs.

The school's special guest DJ known as "DJ Kram" was scheduled to perform around the same time the evacuation started.

"I'm really not surprised, I knew ahead of time it was going to happen," he said.

A faculty member told DJ Kram before his

booth was set up that the evacuation would take place.

"It was cool, after that [my team] got to spin," he said.

Students shared their experience with the evacuation drill.

Psychology major Joey An was standing in line in front of the cafeteria ready to order his food.

An, along with his friend, was told by security to go the parking lot in front of the school until the drill was over.

"For a fire drill, I don't think it's that important," he said. "I think people know what they should do."

However, many other students thought that it was important to have an evacuation drill.

Kinesiology major Briana Givens was in the computer lab when the school started the drill.

She stated, "I think if there was no one to tell us to evacuate, then we all would have just ended up staying in there and acted like nothing was going on."

Some students arrived after the drill had started, but were still a part of the experience.

Ronald Banks, administrative justice major, said, "I walked up and saw everyone standing in the grass area."

"It was my first experience at Cerritos to acknowledge an evacuation," he added.

Banks added, "I was just very concerned because I didn't know that it was real or a practice evacuation, but I still know what to do from high school experiences."

Chemistry major Heather Miller did not make it to the evacuation, but heard about it from Cerritos College mobile.

"I knew something was weird because me and my friend were trying to park and everyone was outside," she said.

She was able to hear the fire alarm once she was able to get out of the car.

Many students were not aware about the evacuation.

Liz Trujillo, undecided major, shared her experience on the drill.

"It was pretty hectic, I could say, not much organization."

"[The drill] was okay it didn't take long, which I liked," she added.

Not everyone was with the crowd during the drill.

Anthony Velasco, psychology major, was at the grass near Studebaker Road and Alondra Boulevard when the evacuation started, waiting for his class to start.

"When I saw the drill, it seemed unorganized," he said.

Velasco added that if there is going to be an evacuation drill, to "do it right."

"Because, the thing is, no one takes it seriously."

Johnson encourages students to get familiar with emergency posters, learn the college's procedures, "and understand what to do in the event of a need to evacuate buildings on campus."

CERRITOS COLLEGE News BRIEFS

University tour on the way

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The Cerritos College Transfer Center is offering students a chance to visit Arizona State University as a university tour is scheduled for March 17 to 18.

The tour cost \$20, \$15 of that is non-refundable, but includes transportation, a campus tour, overnight stay and an information session provided by ASU's admissions.

Intermediate Typist Clerk Sandra Rivera explains how some of the colleges that are visited get chosen. "They (counselors) look at what school's students are interested in and they try and choose a tour that gets overall popularity."

Students that are interested must have a 2.0 GPA and fill out an application

Clothes and models needed for festival

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The International Student Center and the Cerritos College Public Relations Office are looking for international students and students who have clothing from other cultures to take part in this year's Spring Festival's main event, the Cultural Fashion Show, on March 12.

"Up until last year, the Chinese school was the group who organized the fashion show, but this year there was a situation where its costumes were being used in another event; so we are looking for models, and those who can lend us some costumes for use," Aya Abellon, coordinator of media affairs, said.

The ISC also has been trying to encourage students to get involved in the fashion show; even by having it promoted at a recent club meeting.


Lecture looks into civil rights

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Students crowded into a classroom in the Science Building on Feb. 22 to partake in a civil rights presentation in honor of Black History Month.

Speaker and history professor George Jarrett said, "My goal was to increase awareness and understanding of the civil rights movement."

Walter Fernandez, history professor, stressed the importance of educating students. "A lot of freedom and opportunities that students have today are a result of these struggles. If they don't know, they take these things for granted."



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CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH

Planned Parenthood: threats to cut funding cause concern among students

Continued from Page: 1

tested as it is, and if it's no longer provided free of charge, then that is even more of a reason not to go in and get tested."

The Amendment is now scheduled to head for the Senate for a

vote later this month, though no exact date has been set.

President Obama is resolved to veto the bill as soon as it reaches him. The Senate is also poised to vote in favor of continued funding to Title X.



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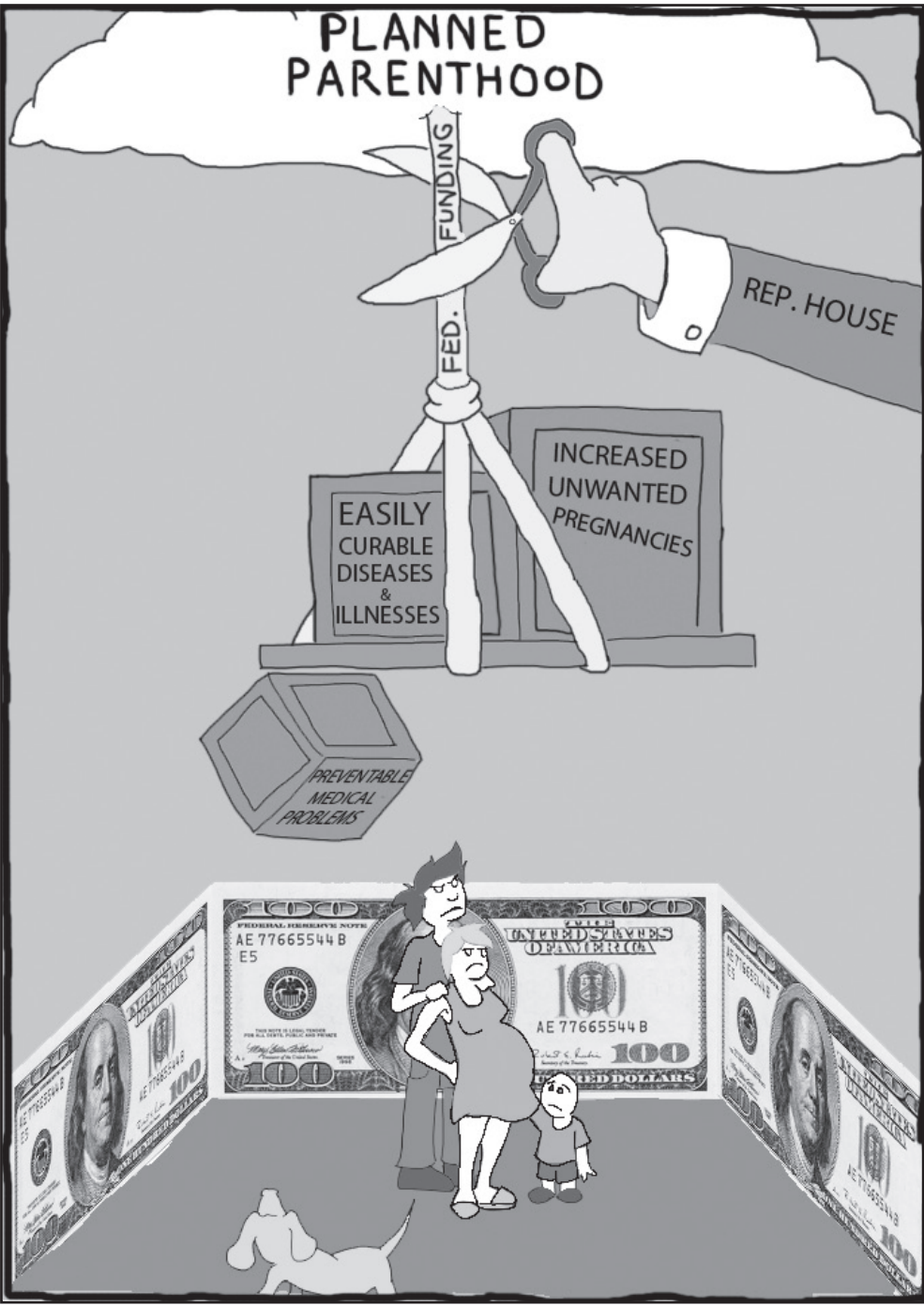
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•EDITORIAL•

Parenthood plan is severed



ILLUSTRATED BY JIMMY EDWARDS-TURNER/TM

With the government trying to cut spending, Planned Parenthood is looking like the next program to get the ax.

The recent House decision to cut funding to PP will not only add to our deficit, but it will be signing a death warrant for the nearly five million people who use PP's services, according to the PP website.

The House seems to believe that cutting this vital program will reduce spending.

Of course it will, for the first nine months at least.

PP provides low-income citizens and families with birth control and Plan B, the morning after pill.

Cutting access to free contraceptives can, and will, lead to unwanted births and add to the 31.6 million people, according to the U.S. Census, already living in poverty and under government welfare.

Although cheap contraceptives are available, we can't be optimistic and believe that people who don't have money to pay for their bills will go out and buy a pack of condoms.

Not only does PP provide family planning, it also provides free STD screenings, pap tests, breast exams, consultations and more.

Without access to these screenings, people who can't afford doctor

visits can go on for years living with syphilis, chlamydia, gonorrhea, HIV and AIDS.

Add to that the women who are denied breast cancer screenings and pap smears, and Christina Aguilera can start singing, "O say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave, o'er the land of the pregnant and the home of the diseased," and no one will give her heat for it.

This vote is not only an ignorant and ill-thought out decision, it will also set the women's rights movement back at least 50 years.

Betty Friedan, a women's liberation movement icon and founder of the National Organization for Women, stated in her Women's Bill of Rights that women had "the right to control their own reproduction by removing from penal codes the laws limiting access to contraceptive information and devices and laws governing abortion."

Women should have the right to control their bodies, and the government should give them access to the tools they need.

It doesn't matter what your feelings are toward PP; is it really a good decision to cut it?

If this amendment passes, Friedan will be turning in her grave.

'Doomsday budget' shall ruin educators

The Los Angeles Unified School District just approved its "doomsday budget" as a way to prepare for whatever financial situation may come.

The budget is ridiculous and should not go into effect because 5,000 teachers are at risk of layoff.

What does that mean? Well, it means that class sizes will increase. There will be one teacher for every 36 students.

How can a single teacher attend to 36 kids at one time?

Students have special needs and should get the right to have one-on-one time with the teachers if they don't understand the lesson, but with 35 other students in the class, it will be hard for the teacher to provide the help that every student requires.

Respected and beloved teachers will be let go, take with them their abilities and knowledge.

Teachers that have been dedicated and devoted to the education of their students will be forever gone.

TALON MARKS

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Schools will also become less safe with all those layoffs.

There will be too many children and not enough adults to supervise them.

Students need to be constantly monitored and watched over for their own safety, but with less staff, the students will have the chance to create a dangerous environment for themselves.

With less staff members around the children, they won't be able to receive as much counseling and health services as before.

"Our classes aren't large enough," Graham Elementary School teacher Maria Elena Ortiz said. "It's hard to tend to each student's needs and still get them ready

for the state testing."
The district is trying to save money, but in the long run, this will drastically affect the education of the children.

The children will get discouraged with school, since not a lot of help will be given to them and will not want to continue on to a university.

Some may not even receive the skills they need to be prepared for a university.

Is it really worth saving a little bit of money for the moment at the expense of the education of the leaders of tomorrow?

LAUSD already has a very high drop-out rate, this budget will only increase it.

Parents should be outraged by what the LAUSD is trying to do to their children and should take a stand by protesting and petitioning this budget.

We cannot let the education of the children crumble down to nothing.

"LAUSD already has a very high drop-out rate; this budget will only increase it."

Brown's freeze gives the working class a profound chill

Déjà vu should be felt among everyone who remembers the "hiring freeze" that we were struck with in 2008.

Gov. Jerry Brown's icy orders on Feb. 15 were reminiscent of former governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's Mr. Freeze-like behavior nearly three years ago.

According to the dictionary, it means an employer decides to stop hiring employees for all non-essential positions.

According to me, it means chaos among people who will be contemplating on ways to support themselves and their family.

The resources we need to live daily come at an expense. Without accessible employment, our well-being suffers.

Not only has employment been hard to find for the past decade, but now any new employment has come to a halt.

Our state has resulted in yet again another ridiculous hiring freeze that is unnecessary and should be

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reconsidered.
If the reasoning behind Jerry Brown's idea is that it will help save money for our state, then why won't he cut the wages of those who work for the state?

Politicians are sacrificing the lives of ordinary people who need jobs, to support their families, yet they will not sacrifice some of their own money?

That simply proves that those who run our state will not support their people.

They will only invest in themselves.

Our government works in rotation, just as everything does. By hiring more people, more money would be spent.

With more money being spent, revenue would

eventually end back into the state's hands and our rotation will continue.

We have gone from one governor to another and not one of them can create a proper budget that will suit everyone.

Why can't any of these politicians get it right? Wasn't Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger also supposed to help us get through our statewide debt?

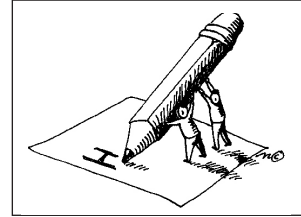
Instead we have another public figure that can't agree on a proper budget and continues to ruin any chances for people to land jobs.

He's disappointed the people who voted for him, who had hoped he could, in fact, help our state with its money issues.

We're stuck in the same boat we were in before Brown got voted in as governor.

If there is going to be a freeze in hiring that will affect every person, that should include state-employee paychecks.

What's good for us is good for them.

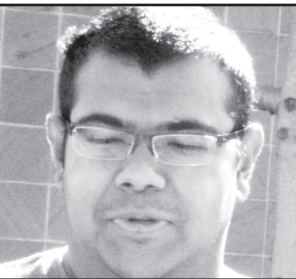


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"Is it fair for traffic control officers (students) to give parking tickets?"

COMPILED BY: PHILIP OKOLI
PHOTOGRAPHS BY: JIMMY BOTTOM



NAIMUL HAQUE
biology major
"I do believe that some may need occupational work to pay for their tuition, but I recommend jobs, like in the library."



DREW GOODWIN
undeclared
"They are just doing what they get paid to do; if we're doing what we aren't supposed to, we will be punished."



CUXAN COLVIN
English major
"If they give out citations and tickets on students' driving, then that's beyond their jobs."



JESSICA COVIN
undeclared
"I don't understand why the patrol officers should give parking tickets. I got one but didn't know how to contest it."



ANDREW WAY
biology major
"They are doing a good job because I wouldn't want students to drive anywhere they want."



NOEMI YONEBAYASHI
cultural anthropology major
"The officers at the drop-off zone are doing their jobs because some people who drop off aren't considerate."



STEVEN KIM/TM

Orator: Clayton Peters, English literature major, founded The Writers Block with a friend. This night was a milestone for the group, reaching a six-month anniversary.

Writers take to the street

MICHELLE MORENO
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When one thinks of an open mic night, what comes to mind might be a coffee shop full of blank faces from strangers that are probably judging what the performer has to deliver.

The Writers Block is simply an audience of musicians, poets and writers that gather on the shore of Long Beach not only to watch performances but to perform, as well.

English literature major Clayton Peters started the Writers Block with his friend Alex Black.

"One day, Alex brought up the idea to get it started and turn it into something so other people would have a forum that isn't an open mic and doesn't have a pretentious and intimidating vibe to it.

"It's really open-aired and free-formed. You can do and say what you want without being judged," Peters said.

In this group, the individual doesn't have to deal with signing up or pre-show anxiety. Instead,

this is a less intimidating method and encourages participation.

Constant support from those that come out every Wednesday at 10 p.m. has led the Writers Block to celebrate its six-month anniversary on Feb. 16.

Dennis Ashcroft-Zanabria, who met a contributor to the Writers Block while in San Francisco, has been collaborating with Peters for the past six months.

Ashcroft-Zanabria described his first time performing at Writers Block, where he met Black and Peters.

"When I came back down to Los Angeles, I met Clayton, Arthur Hitchcock and Alex Black for the first time. I read, and liked the atmosphere and just kept going."

Ashcroft-Zanabria and Peters both announce the Writers Block at Portfolio Coffeehouse, then head toward the beach across Ocean Boulevard to set up for the night.

On the night of its six-month anniversary, Writers Block had more than 30 people that gathered together around a lit candle on a

microphone stand.

Clayton and Ashcroft-Zanabria gave out an introduction to the group, as Clayton mentions a letter he found on the platform written by an anonymous person.

Setting up on a platform where a mural is displayed, the location has gotten the Block in trouble with the Long Beach Police Department.

The night went on after Peters and others recited poems, stories and performed a variety of songs.

People were supportive and respectful of the participants that chose to share.

The crowd even started to sing along with a young man who dedicated Gnarls Barkley's "Crazy" to his mother. He played his guitar and stirred up the group into a big applause.

It was 1:15 in the morning, only eight artists were left and began to pack up. In the midst of leaving, Long Beach police showed up with a helicopter.

No one was arrested but the small group was lectured for a half hour about how dangerous it was

to be at the location.

"Beside the fact the police shut us down, the Writers Block No. 24 (six-month anniversary) was an awesome night," Peters said.

The Writers Block continued its tradition this past Wednesday.

The support from so many people has prevented the Writers Block from actually shutting down for good.

Mobile News

Scan to listen to audio of Writers Block co-founder

www.talonmarks2.com/audio/writersblock.mp3

‘Hall’ tasteless, shows no class

Movie Review

Hall Pass
Starring: Owen Wilson
Director: The Farrelly Brothers
Rating: ★ ★

GONZO SAUCEDO
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"Hall Pass" can be best described as a very confused movie, aimless and inept, more uncomfortably awkward than anything.

The movie revolves around two aging suburban husbands, Rick (Owen Wilson) and Fred (Jason Sudeikis).

Their wives, played by unnaturally tanned Jenna Fischer and Christina Applegate, notice a loss of interest in their respective relationships and decide to give them each a "hall pass"—a week for Rick and Fred to do whatever they want—in hopes of fixing things.

Incidentally, it is at this point that the movie loses its appeal.

It starts out as subtly funny, a potentially charming portrayal of modern suburbia.

If it continued this path, it very well could have emerged a more-than-decent movie.

However, it loses itself, childishly chasing raunchy comedy that just seems to tally out of place.

Some of the choices made in putting this film together are befuddling.

One moment is supposed to be warm and charming, and the next moment, characters are defecating in a golf bunker.

Is this the best the writers could do?

Couple that with stereotypical depictions of certain minor characters, and the tastelessness of it all is astonishing.

At one point, the film even resorts to the horribly unfunny "there's-a-penis-on-the-screen,-now-laugh" gag.

"Hall Pass" was much better off as a modest PG-13 comedy about two doofuses getting into all sorts of silly trouble.

Instead, it tried and failed miserably at replicating the trendy rated-R over-the-top style comedies of today.

And it became a movie about two doofuses doing and saying really weird things, in exceedingly uncomfortable contexts.

It's unbelievable how far off of its intended target this movie landed.

Despite its initial promise, "Hall Pass" is ultimately very passable, more "miss" than "hit", and leaves viewers' with nothing but a bad taste in their mouths.



COURTESY OF MCT

'Gag' reflex: "Fred," played by Jason Sudeikis (left), and "Rick," played by Owen Wilson, get a free pass from their partners to date other women.



STEVEN KIM/TM

Open air, open mic: Artists who participated played music (top) and recited poetry (bottom), as well as other works in Downtown Long Beach. Peters said that this was the largest turnout (right) for the event since it began.



‘Do You Hear What I Hear’ lecture series plays opera ‘Carmen’

ANTHONY HODGE
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"Do You Hear What I Hear?" was the question that was asked last Friday in room BC-51.

The Cerritos College Keyboard Studies Program put on the lecture and piano performance known as "Do You Hear What I Hear?"

In this full-house event, Christine Lopez, director of the applied music and piano studies programs, started the show with a lecture on George Bizet's "Carmen" and "Jeux d'Enfant's," also known as, "Children's Games."

Performing these songs with Lopez were faculty members Sung Ae Lee, Greg Schreiner and Bruce Russell.

Lopez said, "My whole concept of the day was for my students to get familiar with the composer, George Bizet."

She added that she wanted the audience to know Bizet as "the composer who wrote opera, and of course, as a composer who writes for the piano."

Lee, piano instructor, said, "this

was such an exciting opportunity for me. It's such a rare arrangement of two pianos, eight hands, and four people playing together."

Helping out with the technology of the show was music major Nelson Molina.

"[The show] actually taught me the story of 'Carmen.' I had no idea what it was and I learned about the French composer," he said.

Lee talked about the audience's participation.

"[It was] a great audience, very enthusiastic. I could tell [it] enjoyed it a lot," he said.

Lopez also said that students come in with so much information about a certain subject, in this case, Bizet's "Carmen."

"But I wanted them to know more about him and the fact that, yes, 'Carmen' was a very famous opera, but that [Bizet] was a very fine pianist," she added.

There will be shows on March 18 and April 15, with special guest California State University, Long Beach piano professor Althea Waites in March, as well as CSU Fullerton and Chapman University professor Sergei Martinchuk in April.



Mic check: Rapper J-Roz performs one of her songs to students at the Cerritos College Amphitheater. J-Roz, along with two other hip-hop artists, shared the stage on Thursday.

Emcees featured in Music Club concert

VICTOR DIAZ & JIMMY BOTTOM
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The Cerritos College Amphitheater played host to performances by several hip-hop artists courtesy of the Music Club on Thursday. The first artist to perform was J-Roz, a female rapper who has already had her share of experience, including performing in Moscow, Russia. J-Roz, a 10-year emcee, says that self-competition has been her inspiration for her work. "It's like a game. I try to put down in lyrics what someone hasn't put before, but still try to reinvent the past. "I always try to find something new that someone hasn't done." Undecided major Gerardo Esparza enjoyed J-Roz's performance, saying that her music was able to draw a crowd. "I'm impressed that she's able to come out like this and start rapping," Esparza said, "I'm pretty sure this crowd wasn't here waiting for her. I'm sure (the audience members) came when they heard her rapping." Another artist that was featured went by the name of J-Flash, a rapper hailing from the city of Whittier. After his performance, he shared his motives for performing. "The concepts that I'm trying to get across are not to subject yourself

to anyone's opinion on how music should sound or trying to fit in to the music lifestyle." J-Flash also explained the path that led him to where he is today, including his beginnings as a freestyle rapper to his desire to begin recording albums. "I just wanted to write songs and write verses and it just evolved from freestyling to wanting to make albums and put a message on a full-length track," he said. Theater student Tremel Stewart also gave a brief performance, despite not having everything he needed to perform. "I actually had this song pre-written and I didn't really have the beat (the instrumental track) or anything with me, so I asked the DJ to play something and I went off with it."

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Stewart also elaborated on his reason for performing, saying, "Hip-hop has always been a part of everything that I do, so when I heard [the other performers] up there, I just felt like I had a message that had to get across and it went across pretty well." Music Club President Rusty Kennedy saw the concert as an opportunity to use the club as a means to gain recognition for these up-and-coming artists. "I don't know how much of what we did had the Music Club attached to it, versus having the Music Department presenting it. It's all about them [the artists]. It's about us giving them an opportunity to perform for other people."

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'Unknown' packs thrills
Movie Review
Unknown
Starring: Liam Neeson
Director: Jaume Collet-Serra
Rating: ★ ★ ★

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"Unknown" is an action thriller, soon to be a classic. The film sets viewers on a mental quest to depict what would happen next and at times it is so unpredictable that it would even bewilder the great Sherlock Homes. Based on the novel, "Out of My Head," by Didier van Cauwelaert, "Unknown" follows Dr. Martin Harris' journey to reclaim his identity after a mishap during a trip to Berlin for a biotechnology convention. Harris, played by Liam Neeson, soon sees that his quest is not as easy as he must overcome obstacles, such as his benedictory wife, unbelieving German authorities, and assassins trying to kill him for some reason he does not know. The film was developed in such a great way as for every action and

exciting scene; the build-up was well constructed and presented in a way that several angles could be interpreted. It begins slowly, although once the nucleus of the film starts to emerge, it is full of action-packed sequences, accompanied by small clips of humor every now and then, including seeing a couple having sexual intercourse during a fatal altercation. This movie is appealing for those who enjoy well-developed plots interlaced with lots of action. It includes the necessary products needed for a great film, such as action, violence and femme fatales. Diane Kruger portrays the hard-working and assisting Gina,



'Taken' again: Gina (Diane Kruger) and Martin Harris (Liam Neeson) are detained by officials in Germany. "Unknown" was released in theaters Feb. 18.

March is Women's History Month
New Events!
Reading discussion forums on classic feminist readings.
Pick up readings at the library and come join us!

Our Strength is Our History
2011 Womens Hlstory Calendar of Events
SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY
1 Discussion Forum 1: "Growing Up Female and Male" 2 "Breaking the Bars: Women in Criminal Justice Careers" 3 "The Secret in Their Eyes" 4 "Women's History Essay Contest" 5 American Association of University Women (AAUW) Scholarship Brunch
6 7 Discussion Forum 2 "Gender: Where Have We Been?" 8 WHM Film Series: "The Mistress of Spices" 9 International Women's Business and Professional Panel 10 11 12
13 14 15 "Claiming Their Rights: African American Women in the Civil Rights Movement and South African Black Women in the Anti-apartheid Movement" 16 "Reworking the Web of Life: Feminism and the Peace Movement-Post Vietnam" 17 18 19
20 21 Discussion Forum 3: "Gender: Where are we Going?" 22 "Women, Technology and Power" 23 24 "Tribute to Women Writers" 25 26
27 28 29 30 31 April 6, 2011 Board Room Essay Contest Winners Acknowledgement



Swan dive: Freshman Robert Mercado practices his diving techniques while on the diving board trying to keep his balance. Mercado lost part of his leg in a lawnmower accident four years ago.

STEPHANIE ROMERO/TM

Disability fails to halt diver

STEPHANIE ROMERO
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After not taking physical therapy and learning to walk on his own, Robert Mercado made it through crutches after getting his prosthetic leg.

Learning to walk without crutches and walking with his prosthetic leg took him two to two-and-a-half weeks.

"I felt that therapy was going to be a waste of time for me and I felt I had a strong positive mind to go through with it on my own. I am the type of person that likes to achieve things on his own," Mercado said.

Four years have passed since the accident that changed Mercado's life.

It took place in Davis Middle School while Mercado was playing football and a lawn mower cut half his leg off. Mercado was just 14 years old when it occurred.

The life-changing moment

While Mercado was running, the lawn mower hit him and he fell, it went over his left foot, leaving him with broken bones in his leg, and a broken ankle.

He was later rushed to the hospital.

The blades were rusty and dirty, which caused him to develop an infection that arose when a considerable mass of body tissue died.

The doctors had to cut from 6 inches above his ankle.

"First, it was hard for me to adjust to it, but I got the hang of it. I got a prosthetic leg eight months after my accident and then I adjusted right away," he said.

"My orthopedist laughed at how I always broke them. What can I say, I was staying active."

Relearning to walk

One of the challenges he went through was learning how to walk again with his prosthetic.

"I felt like a one-year-old baby learning to walk while waddling," he said.

"I was young; I didn't think much of it. I saw it as a normal thing, a new challenge I had to overcome."

Mercado took a beginner's swimming class that was being taught by swimming head coach Joe Abing.

Already having some experience in swimming, he wanted to practice his techniques.

"Robert was always on time to my class, he was a hard worker, and had an incredible attitude. He didn't seem to have any limitations and wouldn't complain for anything," Abing said.

Diving in the water

As the fall semester was coming to an end, Abing took his entire beginner's swimming class and had them jump off the diving boards.

"I knew he had incredible latitude. I told him it might be a crazy thing, but asked if he wanted to learn how to get on the diving boards to learn how to dive," Abing said.

Now with one year swimming for Cerritos and prior experience, Mercado was excited that Abing had offered him a chance to join the diving team after seeing him on the diving boards.

"If I tell him what to do, he goes for it. Sometimes he goes for things before I even tell him. He helps motivate his teammates if they see him diving. Seeing him is a way of saying to themselves, 'If he can do it, how can I not?'," diving coach Glen Myers said.

"Being on his first season on the diving team, I'm impressed and he has never said no to anything I tell him to try, since day one," Myers said.

Along with being part of the diving team, Mercado also cycles, snowboards, paintballs and go-karts outside of school.

The persistent efforts

Diving is one of his top priorities, and he will keep doing it even though he is well aware he might get hurt.

"I try everything everyone else does, but I have to work twice as hard as them," Mercado said.

Despite his prosthetic leg being a hindrance throughout the first season, he has become an inspi-

ration to his peers on the diving team, showing them to go beyond their boundaries.

"Some of the divers see that he can do a certain technique without mentally blocking out. Others on the team get the mental blocks, but seeing Mercado up on the board doing it pushes his teammates to go up there and overcome the block," Myers said.

He attends practice on time and always goes out to take a few breaks, but he puts more practice forth than others on the team.

"I want people to treat me the same as any other person with every piece of his body."

"This season on the team, my goal is not to be the last one and improve my diving techniques," Mercado said.

Mercado failed to place in his first tournament this season by performing the wrong technique, after he misunderstood the challenge that was given to the divers.

Tilman Tran heads to Embry Riddle University

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After fighting off a knee injury and missing out on tournaments, Cerritos College wrestler Tilman Tran has received a scholarship to Embry Riddle University in Arizona.

Embry Riddle coach Kenny Ramsey said, "He was really open-minded when it was coming to moving on to a four-year college, so evidently, that played a big part."

Ramsey said his academics played a huge role in his decision.

"His style fits the style the we like to see on the mat," Ramsey added.

Tran had an offer to go to Menlo College, but said that he really wanted to go to Embry Riddle.

"I got hurt toward the end of the season, and even with [coach Ramsey] knowing about this injury, he still wanted me," he said.

However, injuries are still a big concern for Ramsey.

"Of course I'm concerned with the injuries, but that doesn't necessarily mean that he can't be a good wrestler, he'll have to stay healthy when he's here," Ramsey said.

Tran also explained the transition from going from a junior college to going to a four-year school.

"The goals I have set here (Cerritos), I know I've got to bring that level way higher and set the bar a lot higher," Tran said.

One of Tran's toughest challenges in going from high school to Cerritos College was moving up a weight class.

"I'm always used to cutting a lot of weight and maintaining that; it was really hard. Wrestling some stronger guys was really different for me," he said.

Tran added that he is plan-

ning on devoting his time a lot more toward wrestling and school.

Head coach Don Garriott shared his thoughts on Tran earning his scholarship.

"I think the number one thing that I think impressed the coach was his maturity," Garriott added.

Tran said, "The way I like to lead is by example. I don't really go around telling people what to do, instructing them and telling them what they did wrong."

"[My teammates] see me

doing well, I expect them to kind of do the same thing or see what I'm doing," he added.

Tran said that putting the team down is "like a disease, it just spreads after that."

In the 2010 season, Tran was

named team co-captain until his partner quit the team, and he became one of three captains.

"I wasn't really expecting that; it gave me more responsibilities, a lot was expected of me. I just took it and that's how I finished the season," Tran said.

Assistant coach Eric Gould was also happy that Tran received his scholarship.

"I think that ability to get financial support is great," Gould said.

Gould added that Tran would have a slight transition for wrestling going into Embry Riddle University.

Both coaches are proud of Tran and can see him being a success.

Garriott said that if Tran could stay healthy, he can see him being an All-American."

In the 2010 season, Tran competed at the 141-pound weight class, putting his record at 18-11 and placing 6th at the So-Cal Championship.

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Scan to view slideshow of Robert Mercado diving.

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Falcons gets eliminated by RCC in the second round of the playoffs



Rejected: The Cerritos College women's basketball team walks off the court after its 68-66 loss in the second round of the playoffs. The Falcons finish the season 23-7.

ORLANDO DOMINIGUEZ/TM

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The Cerritos College women's basketball team failed to pick up the victory against Riverside Community College, 68 to 66, ending its run to the state championship in the second round of the Southern California Regional Playoffs.

"Well, we were the higher seed in this game, so the loss hurts a lot. The girls tried very hard, and I'm very proud of them. We had a chance at the end; we made a comeback, that shows the team's toughness, but it just wasn't our night," Cerritos head coach College Karen Welliver said.

The second-seeded Cerritos (23-6) started the game smoothly and quickly, getting the early lead over the Tigers, even having a 29 - 18 lead.

During the last two minutes of the first half, Tiger Monica Sinclair picked up the pace for her

team by scoring 10 points, helping her team tie the game at 33 at the half.

"[The half] was a team effort, and the team stepped up. Each game, there's a player who steps up, and the player who really stepped up this game was Monica Sinclair. She, on average, got two minutes of playing time, and she rarely played in high school, but she's up and coming, and she helped us out a lot this game," head coach of Riverside, Alicia Berber, said.

Falcons started to bring the pressure to Riverside, even with the offense. Guard April Perry made a three-pointer near the one-minute mark, helping Cerritos close the gap to 67-63.

With both teams putting intense defense on each other, the Falcons were only able to score three more points in the remainder of the game, making the final score 68-66, leaving Riverside to advance to the next round of playoffs.

"In the second half, we went right into the game. We had more shots, but we were lacking

the free throws," Welliver said.

With the win being so close, Riverside's team manager Wendel Wells was happy for the ladies and feels they deserve the win.

"The win feels real good for the women. I was really nervous, but hey, the women pulled it off. They played with real knowledge and I'm really happy for them," Wells said.

Berber had nothing but positive things to say about the Falcons and the coaching during the season and game.

"I have nothing but respect for Welliver and her team. Welliver is a great coach; one of the most winningest coaches in junior college history, and I always enjoy coaching against her. It's never an easy time to coach against the team, and I have nothing but respect for her coaching and the program," Berber said.

Theodate experiences success as a dual-sport athlete

MELISSA MAESTRO
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For freshman football and track athlete Sony Theodate, his struggles in school were more difficult than his move from New York to Florida and then California.

“Some of the challenges that I have faced are school, school, and school.

“I put my mind into it. I get up every-day go to school, go to class, be on time and be prepared,” Theodate said.

His biggest challenge going through school is self-discipline, which includes getting to his classes and keeping up with the work.

Born in New York and raised in Florida, this dual-sport athlete moved to California after he graduated from Fort Lauderdale High School to attend a junior college so he could work his way to being recruited by a Div. 1 football program.

The big move

During his transition from the East Coast to the West Coast, Theodate made the best of his excursion.

“The journey was an experience in itself,” he said, “I learned to be around different people and live different lifestyles.

“It’s making me become more of a man and more mature.

“I love the experience and I would not trade it for anything in the world,” he said.

This out-of-state prospect chose to attend Cerritos College after being recruited by the track and field program.

Theodate says he was later recruited to play football by head coach Frank Mazzota and defensive coordinator Tom Caines after they saw him walking

around campus and they were impressed with his size.

Moving up

Theodate understands the importance of overcoming his struggles with school in order to advance to the next level.

“I think I’ve got the athletic part, that’s the easy; it’s the school part that’s hard.”

Fortunately for him, he has his church family to help him get through those struggles, both on and off the field.

Aside from his church family, Theodate also has his coach’s support.

Mazzota has expressed his confidence in Theodate, and knows he will continue to make great improvements within the coming season.

“Sony is a young man who came to us from track last year, so he’s a little behind as far as the football part goes.

“Physically, I don’t know if we have a better looking, or stronger, or faster guy than Sony is right now. I think right now he has a good chance to be a good football player.”

‘Will you teach me to football?’

Teammates and linebackers Josh Finau and Dominick Sierra explained how Theodate made the transition from a track athlete to football.

“Sony is pretty much a beast now,” Finau said.

“When he first came here, he didn’t really know what he was doing. We saw it in his technique, but as time went on, he progressed.

“We’re really excited to see what he does.”

Sierra added, “He’s going to be a force to be recognized.”

Both track and football have similarities and, because of that, it benefited Theodate on the field.

“Each sport compliments another sport, so when I’m in football, I’m getting stronger and when I’m in track, I’m getting faster.”

Along with the physical benefits, being in two sports will look good on his transcripts and help him get interest from college recruiters.

At the moment, he does not have offers from any college, but because he is a freshman, he isn’t worried about that.

“I’m pretty sure that schools are looking at me right now, they’re just waiting for my second year in football.”

Although he’s expressed interest in returning to the East Coast, Theodate is willing to transfer to any Div. 1 school that offers him a scholarship.

“It honestly doesn’t matter to me, it could be Mexico, as long as it’s a free.”

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Get big: Athlete Sony Theodate trains with a dumbbell in the weight room during a weightlifting session. Theodate is making the transition from track athlete to football player.

LAURA CHAU/TM

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