

SPILLING MILK

Alexander Vazquez, a Cerritos College student, wants to reach out to everyone, “I want (everyone) to feel like they can come to this club, you don’t have to identify as LGBT you can be anywhere in the letters and come and feel safe.”

SARAH NIEMANN
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The spring semester has brought a lot of attention to the the lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, and transgender community at Cerritos College. Spilling Milk is part of that exposure.

Alexander Vazquez, literature major, is the founder of the Spilling Milk movement that started picking up momentum on Facebook.

“It was just Facebook, it was meant to raise social awareness and discuss current issues. From there I started looking at all of the disparities and inequalities that the community was facing ... it was like a call to action, I had to do something.”

The Facebook page picked up momentum quickly, “I can tell people are inspired and their hearts are changing.”

According to Vazquez people are coming to him for advice and are looking to him to help tell their stories, “I never saw myself as a figure of power, I’m just trying to do something good.”

He plans on going from a Facebook page to a club on campus and involve the community.

He added “I’m not asking anyone for money, I’m not asking anyone to do anything for me, I just want them to hear (the message).”

He started off with wanting to participate in LGBT history month then it spread to him wanting to take part in National Coming Out Day, Day of Silence and other similar things he said, “It won’t just be me, I’m hoping to get many students involved.

“Those are the goals I started with, since then I’ve progressed I’ve started getting all kinds of ideas.”

Some of his other projects include a documentary on the transitioning youth in the transgender community that the Cerritos College Cinematics Club will be filming. He will be following the lives of four individuals as the director of the documentary.

“None of them are over 20 years old, they are all very young and it blows my mind because they are fearless, confident and I admire them for that,” he said.

When the documentary is finished Vazquez wants to bring it to a film festival and has hope that it will help fund some of his other projects.

He also has an anti-bullying play in the

See Milk Page 2

Scan here to see an on-camera interview with Alexander Vazquez



Awareness: Alexander Vazquez founder of the Facebook page Spilling Milk. Vazquez’s page caught so much attention he has decided to make it a club on campus to help bring awareness to the issues the the LGBT community faces.

ROSAURA MONTES/ TM

Math Success Center lives up to its name

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Dr. Bryan Reece expressed how proud he is about the Math Success Center being so successful, based on students doing significantly better in math.

Reece, dean of academic success and institutional effectiveness, runs the Math Success Center located in the Learning Resource Center.

“Every year we assess about 7,000 new students; these are just new students coming to Cerritos College. For the last five or six years when we assess students in math, most of them or the larger number assess into Math 20 and about 7 percent of those 7,000 students assess into a college level math.

“So, 93 percent of those students, when they come to Cerritos College are not ready to do college level math. The biggest

challenge for students is pre-college level math. That is not just Cerritos College, that is a state-wide trend,” Reece said.

At the Math Success Center the highest rate increase of retention is at 88.4 percent for students from 78.1 percent who visit the success center frequently at 11-20 times a semester. And students who visit 21 times or more a semester have the best rate of success and retention at 90.6 percent.

Making the Math Success Center a big success is going frequently, it helps students grades and ability to understand math.

The faculty faces the challenge of getting students ready for college level math.

Victor Barillas, automotive mechanical repair major, said that math has always been something he has struggled with.

“What makes it hard right now is I took a whole year off

See Math Page 3

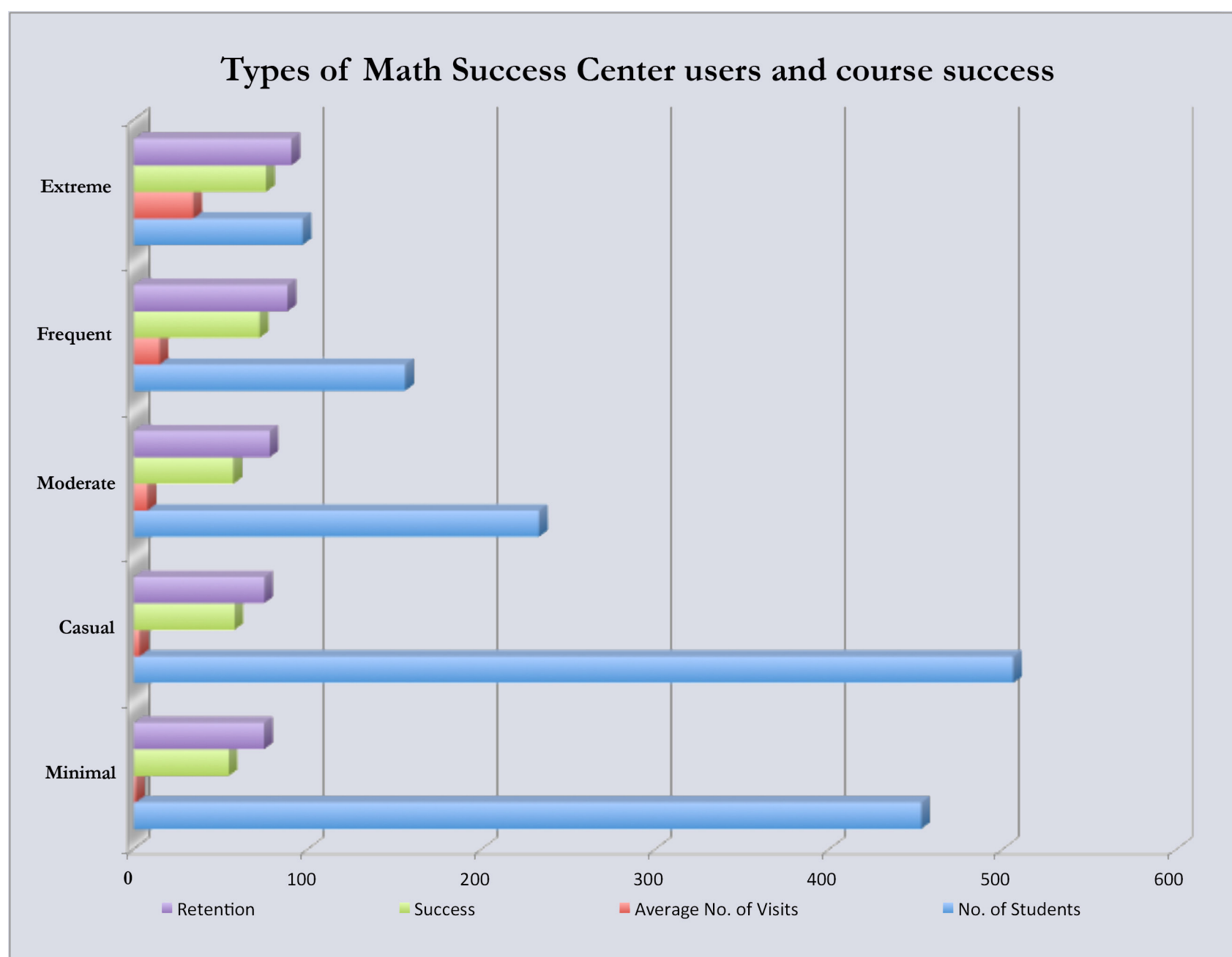


ILLUSTRATION BY JONATHAN GARZA/TM

Milk: Changing the flavor of Cerritos

Continued from Page 1

works written by Josh Craft, a Cerritos College student who has won Academic Excellence Awards in creative writing.

According to Craft the play is still in its early development stages.

He said, “(The play) illuminates equality and empathy, it goes beyond bullying.”

Vazquez said he wants to get students involved in the play, “I hope students will actually try out and I’m even willing to try out if I have to.”

All of his projects are to raise enough money to get a counseling program started for the LGBT community “The whole project is meant to be educational, it’s meant to be informational, it’s meant to be create a space for LGBT and (Queer Straight Alliance) ... I’m trying to get everyone involved.”

Along with the artistic projects he is also working on bringing in people to give workshops on campus, such as “Queer Masculinity” and “Trevor Project: How to Be a Lifeguard” he added “I’m only compiling right now, my goal is to compile 30 workshops. Some of them are still in the works. It takes numerous emails, a lot of calls, and emailing back even if they don’t respond.”

Unity between the possible Spilling Milk Club and the Queer Straight Alliance is something that is important to Vazquez.

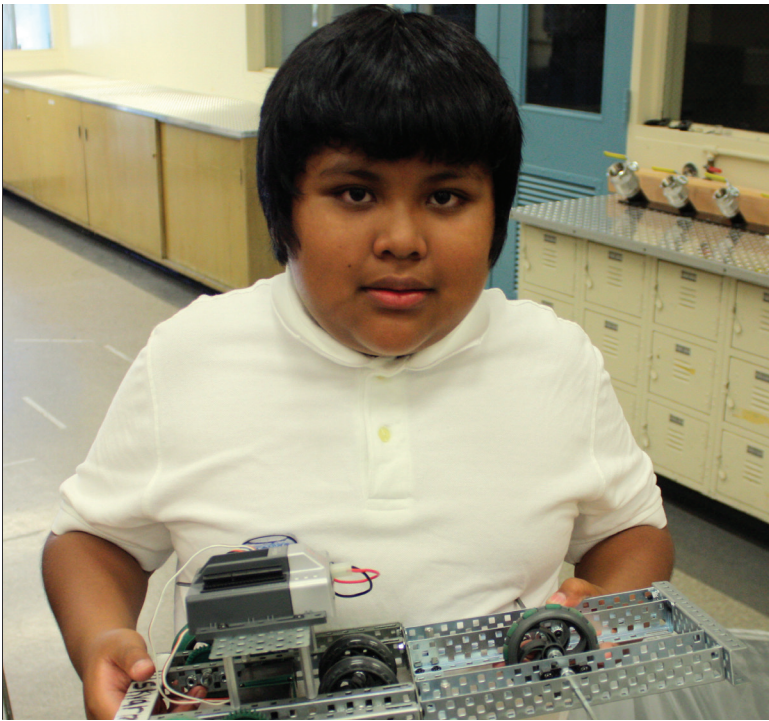
Austin Angel Garrido vice president of the QSA said, “I think there is a strong unity among the gay community on campus.”

As with QSA and Vazquez’s Spilling Milk project working together, Garrido said, “We haven’t worked with (Vazquez) as much, but we do talk to him like notifying each other of events happening.

“We all appreciate (the Spilling Milk project.) We love his passion and drive.”



Skills: Students that participated in the Robotics Club competition created and operated their own robots that dealt with tasks. The picture on the left features Tom Powers and Jonathan Reyes with their robot “Stamina”. The picture on the right features Angel Vicente with his robot, Vicente created his robot after recovering from appendicitis.



FRANSISCO LIZARES/TM

Students’ robots ‘disarm bombs’

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Angel Vicente, robotics competitor, felt the pressure of building a robot since he missed many of the classes due to his appendicitis. He said, “After my recovery, I came back and built my robot.”

Vicente managed to build and program his first robot all on his own, and took part in a Robotics Club competition on Saturday, at Cerritos College.

The Pathway Programs Department at Cerritos College hosted the competition where members of the Robotics Club competed against each other.

Joseph Powers Robotics Club adviser said, “This is all part of gearing these kids up to get into engineering and computer technology.”

Carla York, program facilitator for the Pathway Programs department said, “(The department) received a grant from Southern California Edison. With that grant funding (the

“
This is all part of gearing these kids up to get into engineering and technology
—JOSEPH POWERS
Robotics Club adviser”

department was) able to create a year long Robotics Club for the students.

“All the students that competed today have been working on their robots since October,” York said.

The competition had three judges including York.

According to York, judges were looking for the time it took the robot to finish the competition and whether or not any parts fell off of the robot.

The students built robots that had to navigate a small course which consisted of 10 turns marked by nine water bottles each with a ball on top. Hitting a water bottle and knocking a ball down resulted in the loss of one point.

York also said that the participants came from local school districts and some even came from Orange County.

Maggie Cordero, director of the Pathway Programs at Cerritos College, mentioned that

“(The department) likes to have the competitions because it teaches (students) how to work under pressure.

They are timed and if something goes wrong they have to work as a team so it teaches them real life skills that they will eventually use in the workplace.”

Julio Juarez, robotics competitor, was the programmer for his robot. Juarez wrote 62 lines of code to program his robots basic movements.

He said, “It is trial and error. If we mess up we have to go back and re-program the robot.”

Outside of the program, Juarez is using his programming skills to run Minecraft servers and build websites. He is currently building a social media website.

He expects his social media site to be up and running by October. Juarez adds that, “I just want to build something that can connect people even more.”

A part from finishing in second, Juarez was part of the only team to attempt a special

See Robotics Page 3

Calendar of events

May 8

Senate Meeting
Room BK
111/112 at
2 p.m.

May 9

Awards
Rehearsal at
11 a.m. Student
Center

May 10

ASCC Awards
Banquet at
6:30 p.m.
Student Center

May 16

Model United
Nations
Simulation
LC155 at 11 a.m.

May 18

Commencement
at 5 p.m.


NIGHTS WEEKEND


MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY

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Biople

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Students will simulate UN discussion

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Economics major Ariel Gomez will participate in his last Model United Nations Club event on May 16, before transferring to UC Berkeley this fall.

The upcoming event will be a simulation of the North Korean nuclear crisis and will feature the security council of the MUN Club, which is made up of 15 students all representing different countries.

According to Gomez, North Korea has been very combative in terms of acting with its nuclear weapons.

The simulation is scheduled to present the issue between North Korea and the international community, Gomez stated that recently Russia voted to have sanctions on North Korea which has created more tension on the issue.

He said, "It's an issue that really needs to be addressed, (North Korea) can't really attack the United States, but it could still attack South Korea or Japan."

Gomez added that it is unlikely North Korean nuclear weapons could actually reach Japan.

The security council of the MUN Club, will come together to create draft resolutions to the issue of North Korea, after that they will become resolutions.

Gomez is representing the Republic of Azerbaijan, which is a country located near western Asia and eastern Europe.

The security council that will be present at the event is made up of 15 people, but according to Gomez a possible number of 12 will attend.

Another member of the security council is sociology major Eric Campos, who is in his first semester of the MUN Club and has recently been appointed the director of public relations.

Campos is representing the country of Pakistan and is advocating for North Korea, saying it should be allowed the use of nuclear weapons.

"(North Korea) deserves the right to have a nuclear arms race, for protection of course," Campos said.

He stated that throughout the simulation the council will discuss giving the North Koreans the rights they deserve through international law.

Some of the council members will be representing countries that are advocating for more sanctions in North Korea.

Members of the council have had to research the countries they are representing in order to prepare for this simulation event.

"(It's) a lot of extensive research, especially understanding Pakistan's policies and understanding the Sharia Law, understanding (the) religious background, especially dealing with (the) sovereignty," Campos explained about what he had to research.

Gomez hopes that students who attend the event will receive a more diverse knowledge on the subject of the North Korean nuclear crisis.

"Sometimes I hear people say 'Do you think North Korea is really going to attack (the United States)?' and it shows just how uninformed they are. It's already out

there and well known that North Korea's missiles have no capability of hitting us," Gomez said.

Gomez added that he would also like for students who see the event to realize there are different perspectives of the issue.

Sometimes people often have a misconstrued idea of what North Korea is capable of, because of the media.

"I feel that the media often are just sensationalists. They're trying to get money at the end of the day. That's why they are in business. The corporate media ... the news has to catch people's attention. Even though they usually say something like 'experts say they don't have capability, oh but you should still be scared.'"

Campos hopes that students will also get an understanding of what the MUN Club does.

"It's a very serious MUN event that is going on with the U.S and North Korea, it teaches students to represent themselves publicly," Campos said.

The event will be in the Teleconference Center from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Math: Students continue to gain success from the Math Success Center

Continued from page 1

from math and that gap really made it difficult," Barillas said.

He mentioned how the tutors at the Math Success Center are a huge help and are great at explaining math problems he has trouble with.

Angela Raquelsantos, nursing major, had tested right into a transferable math class.

"Math classes in general are quite demanding and being able to allocate my time between school, work and family accordingly is sometimes a challenge and unfortunately this takes a toll on my academic performance," Raquelsantos said.

She said she'd appreciate some more elaboration on certain concepts from her teacher.

"I feel like if my knowledge on the concepts were to go a bit deeper than I'd be more familiar with the whole subject. (Then) statistics would come much easier for me," she said.

Maria Hernandez, nursing major, expressed that the material she's facing is a little harder to understand this year in Math 114.

"The biggest challenge is definitely the homework. I don't make time for it because it takes way too long to get through one assignment and I have three other classes to worry about," Hernandez said.

Roshni Choksi, graphic design major, is in her first semester of college and is surprised she is doing really well in math. "My biggest

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Scan here to look at the math department website

challenge would be not understanding some methods they used to teach us," she said.

Although students have

trouble with math, the resources available such as the Math Success Center are there to be a help in the student success rate for mathematics at Cerritos College.

Scarlett Tovar, biology major, has taken pre-calculus and feels confident she will do fine this semester.

"I'm doing OK this semester only because I'm taking college algebra after already having taken pre-calculus so I've seen this material before. The biggest challenge I have in math is myself, I allow myself to tune out in lecture and day dream for minutes at a time that's fatal in math," Tovar said.

The Math Success Center is located in the lower level of the Learning Resource Center in room LC 137.

The hours of operation are Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Fridays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



LAUREN GANDARA/TM

Learning about health: Psychology major Alex Rodriguez visits the Student Health Center to speak with a therapist. Rodriguez plans to become a psychologist and went to get a professional point of view.

Speech class promotes health services on campus

ISRAEL ARZATE
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Some students may often wonder what kind of services or help the health center has to offer, last Thursday students from speech instructor Helene Wagner's class held a booth to raise awareness for the services.

These students were assigned to do a good deed for their class and decided to let students know what they are getting when they pay the health fee.

Child development major Arika Liera said, "We have talked to the manager of the Student Health Center and she said a lot of students don't know that (the Student Health Services is) over there or the services that (it) offer(s)."

Administration Justice major Sergio Daniel Chamorro said he didn't know where it is or what services it offered, but the booth has changed his choice to go to the Student Health Services.

"Maybe not regularly but most likely eventually," Chamorro said.

Art major, Jason Arias, said the event taught

him a lot, and besides the free stuff the students gave out a lot of information.

Music major John Eric Santa Maria thinks the event did help students "I thinks it's good (the speech students) are doing this, you actually get people to know about the Health Center and just in case they need a check up or get into a minor injury at least they know where to go."

Santa Maria also said, "(Students) would be aware of what kinds of services we have over their Student Health (Services) or what their \$16 (pays for)."

Robotics: Many students from both Cerritos College and local middle schools show off robots at a competition

Continued from page 2

challenge in the competition. The students in the competition had the option of trying to disarm a "bomb" by picking up and placing a plastic ring on a small cone.

Julio Guzman, pathway program robotics instructor told his

students last year, "I need a working machine that could do specific tasks." These tasks include such things as disarming a "bomb."

According to Guzman, students are expected to build robots that can finish a course with and

without the use of remote control. The Robotics Club students are currently programming their robots to finish a course fully autonomously.

Guzman wants his students to design robots that could function

in real world situations.

He said, "I want to create a scenario where these kids build a robot with a camera for urban rescue where they only use a monitor to maneuver and do specific tasks."

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“What studying techniques do you use?”

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DENNY CRISTALES
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LOUIE BERNARDO
Undecided major

“I just hit the library and get into study groups. You’ve got to have study groups, you can’t do it alone.”

DIANA ALVAREZ
Computer animation major

“Usually I’ll just read the books that are in my class or use the internet . Another technique is I’ll study (by listening) to classical music.”



MARK RAMIREZ
Undecided major

“I use a lot of flash cards. I have a bad memory.”

AMANDA CARY
Linguistics major

“I look over my notes I have taken from lecture. I try to find things that relate to that in the book and connect it together.”



ERNESTO RICO
Engineering major

“Usually read the textbook, take notes and get into study groups.”

FERNANDO AGUILERA
Undecided major

“I’ll get a piece of gum when I’m studying and when the test comes I’ll get the same flavor (of) gum and the smell will help (me) remember stuff while taking the test.”



•EDITORIAL•



ILLUSTRATED BY LAUREN GANDARA/TM

Stereotyping leads to harm

When terror strikes America everyone is put on edge, and is often quick to judge the ones who inflicted terror saying they are automatically a different ethnicity and probably even from a different country and not a citizen of the United States.

Not to say that it should be any one group who commits a terrorist attack.

We as citizens of America shouldn't look at terrorists as just Arabs we have come to know during the 9/11 attacks.

During that period of time it was Al Qaeda that organized those attacks. But that doesn't mean it is them that will do a terrorist attack during the unfortunate times that it does happen.

In the last century alone we have seen attacks on our country from many groups and nationalities for a

variety of reasons.

In 1995, war veteran Timothy McVeigh detonated a bomb in the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City in a attempt to fight back against what he saw as a tyrannical government.

At one time the Ku Klux Klan ran around trying to terrorize African Americans by leaving burning crosses on their lawns or even lynching them.

The fact is that anyone is capable of good and evil and by painting a entire group with the same brush we harm everyone.

When these attacks happen, it would be wise to wait to hear all of the facts before jumping to assumptions.

It is unfair to cast blame onto one entity, seeing as it isn't the ethnicity or country who is doing the attacks, it is one or two people maybe even more.

It is the individual who should be

looked at for what he/she did as a bad thing of committing a terrorist attack.

The police officials should be the ones in charge of dealing out the punishment. All over social media sites people are saying what they think should happen to the individual caught for the Boston Marathon bombings.

It's the act of terror on our country that should remain in our minds as a constant thought that we need to be united together to give each other comfort through these times.

We can't compare every veteran who honored and fought for their country any more than we can compare say every person living in the south was a KKK member.

These stereotypes only lead to mistrust and resentment on both sides and cause more problems down the line.

Less cigarette smoke for the better of all

New York City has proposed raising the age limit to buy cigarettes from 18 to 21 years old. California should do the same.

According to NYTimes.com, “The proposal would make the age for buying cigarettes and other tobacco products the same as for purchasing liquor, but it would not prohibit people under 21 from possessing or even smoking cigarettes.”

This restriction, although allowing people under 21 years old to still smoke, could possibly have health benefits to young adults.

Making buy cigarettes harder to do could prevent people from starting smoking in the first place and getting into a bad habit.

As people get older they make wiser decisions, as a young adult it is often that the consequences of smoking aren't apparent and therefore not something thought about.



Heather Hoelscher
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As you get older the thought of getting sick from smoking or worse is much more apparent then when you are young because adults often think about that much more.

By the time people turn 21 their decision to smoke or not might have more thought to it, and a better decision could come from just being a little more mature.

People might be against this because it should be the responsibility of an adult, at the age of 18, to make the right decision for them. It is the

right of Americans to be able to do what we want.

According to the NYTimes.com, discussing this plan to restrict the smoking age to City Council members, “At 18, New Yorkers are old enough to fight in wars, to drive and to vote, but if the smoking restriction passed they would be prohibited from deciding whether to take the risk of smoking.”

Now although those all are valid points, restricting 18 year olds from just buying cigarettes but not from smoking them seems fair and could potentially be a healthy outcome.

It would be a healthier generation if California follows New York's proposed plan to raise the cigarette buying age to 21, in hopes that young people oblige by this law if it were to come into effect.

Invading Iraq was a mistake



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The attacks on Sept. 11, 2001 did warrant a military response, but two wars were not the answer.

A decade of combat, 4,486 military casualties and \$5 trillion in costs, the Iraq war is a mistake the U.S. should have avoided.

Why is the U.S. a target of international terrorism? It is because the terrorists know that we will over-respond to any attack and in the process hurt ourselves more than they ever could.

Overwhelming military aggression would have served as a deterrent to an attack perpetrated by a country, small groups of terrorist cells have no allegiance to any nation and are not discouraged with a declaration of war.

The U.S. played into the enemy's master plan in the response following the attacks. Al-Qaeda's goal was to cause immediate and long lasting effects for the U.S. that went far beyond the destruction of the twin towers.

Freedom must sometimes be sacrificed to ensure security, but the terrorists have scared us into sacrificing too much freedom.

Lack of freedom is apparent at the airport where Transportation Security Agency officials have the power to thoroughly search passengers and on the Internet where our activity may be monitored without a warrant.

While it made sense to invade Afghanistan to hunt down Osama Bin Laden and Al-Qaeda, there was no justification to invade Iraq.

At first, our government claimed that there was “weapons of mass destruction.”

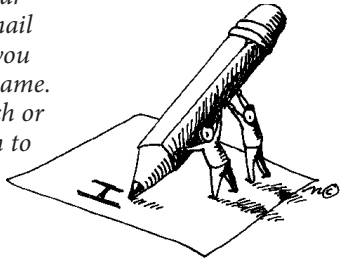
Since no such weapons were found the war was then repurposed to oust terrorist cells, when official reports stated that Al-Qaeda or other terrorist cells did not have a strong foothold in Iraq, the war efforts were then directed to bring democracy to Iraq.

According to IraqBodyCount.com, there are at least 112,000 Iraqi civilians who have been killed since the start of the conflict.

Their deaths cannot be justified since democracy has not yet been taken in to effect. Iraq is not ready for democracy since there are far too many people in that country who would exploit or undermine it.

We are obligated to bring those who commit terrorist acts to justice, but we should not use the same policies of the past decade. Our response of terrorism should be strong, proportional and well directed.

Did one of us write something that ground your gears? Do you want to congratulate us on the great job we're doing? Whatever the case may be, we would love to hear from you, our readers. Send a **LETTER to the EDITOR**. We accept electronic mail at **editor@talonmarks.com** and boring regular mail at our office in **FA-42**. If you want your letter or e-mail to be printed, you must proudly sign it with your real name. Letters in poor taste will not be printed. This means we don't want any hate speech or conspiracy theories (unless they're hilarious). We only edit your letters for length to print them, but they appear in full online. If the subject of your letter is campus-related, then it will be given priority.



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Sermons are for churches only



Daniel Green
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Creationism has no place in the classroom and should not be taught as an alternative to evolution.

It is the belief that the world was created by God as described in the bible.

Why should we be respectful of people who hold this belief? It needs to be kept separated from science classes.

In recent years religious fundamentalists have pushed for creationism in an effort to “teach the controversy” in relation to evolution.

To be clear creationism is based around a Christian point of view.

Considering that we have many students in our country who follow many different faiths or none at all it would be wrong to force one religious ideology on every student.

If the goal is to expose students to different theories why not talk about the Nordic creation story, or the story of Zeus and the Titans?

It seems like the push for creationism is less about teaching the controversy and more about stamping out opposing views and converting students.

According to a report from religions.pewforum.org in America 78.4 percent of citizens identify as Christian.

Creationism also has no evidence that supports the belief, and has not held up to scrutiny from the scientific community.

Many of the knowledge taught by pro-creation sources are factually incorrect and have little to no proof.

Students have been taught that Adam and Eve lived in the Garden of Eden with dinosaurs.

For example it is said that the Tyrannosaurus Rex was not a carnivore, but a herbivore that lived on fruits and vegetables.

This goes against fossil evidence that scientists have found that show the T-Rex was equipped with teeth that were meant to tear and shred flesh.

Some religious fundamentalists also claim that the world is only 6,000 to 10,000 years old, when fossils and geographical evidence show that the world is far older.

In a time when the United States is falling behind other countries it is irresponsible to force students to spend time learning a theory that has no evidence.


Students who do not receive proper education will have trouble when they enter college and face higher level science courses.

If we are going to compete with the rest of the world, students and parents need to speak up and demand that schools teach real science that students can use.

Some states have actually passed laws forcing schools to teach creationism alongside evolution.


Parents and need to put pressure on politicians who support these laws as well as their school districts.

People have the right to their beliefs but religion is a personal matter that is based on faith and should not be forced on others.



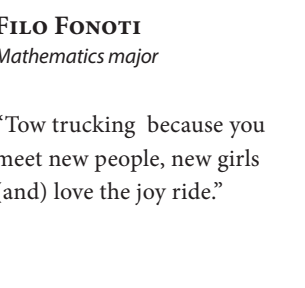
“What would your dream job be?”

COMPILED BY:
ALAN LEYVA
PHOTOGRAPHS BY: ABRAHAM VENEGAS




AMBER DOWNS
Art major

“To become either a writer or an artist, because it allows me to use my creativity in a way to inspire others.”



FILLO FONOTI
Mathematics major

“Tow trucking because you meet new people, new girls (and) love the joy ride.”



ARIANA CASTELLON
Criminal Justice major

“Modeling (because) of the fashion shows, going to places and the attention.”

Equality for all criminals



Luis Guzman
Contributor

Not reading the Miranda Rights to Boston bombing suspect's, Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, Miranda Rights is a major blow to his rights as an American citizen.

According to CNN, authorities decided to use the public safety exception the day they apprehended Tsarnaev on the fateful night.

For those who don't know what the public safety exception is basically it's not acknowledging the suspects right to be silent when authorities are questioning him. It is basically used on an individual who is believed to be a danger to public.

However, the only real concern is how authorities decide on using the public safety exception when all the pieces of the puzzle haven't even been put together. It was irrational to detain Tsarnaev without saying his Miranda Rights.

Authorities should have just given his Miranda Rights right when they apprehended him. According to Huffington Post, Tsarnaev wasn't tied to any terrorist organizations.

No terrorist organization has claimed the attack so it would be reasonable to think that both brothers did what they did out there because of their own mysterious beliefs and reasons.

How would the officials know if Tsarnaev was still a threat indirectly at the moment of him being detained?

Authorities should have been aware of all the info about the suspect and whether there were more immediate threats that he may

cause indirectly.

However, the fact of the matter is that they didn't know that. Authorities basically raced to the conclusion that he might cause more damage.

There is no doubt that he is a homegrown terrorist and deserves the full impact of justice of his actions that he and his brother deserve.

The point is that law enforcement both in the federal and state level, should be knowledgeable about his status, and whether or not he is part of something much bigger than what it seems to be.

Officials did find out that the Tsarnaev brothers were planning on bombing NY Times Square. However, the plan was foiled due to the apprehension of the surviving Tsarnaev brother, so the public exception policy didn't really fulfill anything.

Through great moments of tragedy, we can't let our emotions affect our decision in dealing with a terrorist.

Tsarnaev wasn't an enemy combatant. He is a criminal that should be charged like other criminals that terrorize the American people.

It is only rational when our intelligence knows that a particular suspect is an enemy combatant. That is the only time that law enforcement should be able to use the public exception policy.

Our law enforcement therefore how prudent even in the most evil of offenders.

Liberties and doobies for all?



Trinity Bustria
Staff Writer
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Our Constitution's framers believed in state's rights. If the grand majority of them lived today, they would be supportive of Washington and Colorado's laws on marijuana use.

On April 12, after three U.S. House republicans demanded that the president enforce federal laws on marijuana in Colorado and Washington, their Californian colleague Dana Rohrabacher proposed an act entitled Respect State Marijuana Laws Act (HR 1253).

The name of HR 1253 is highly appropriate for it de-

scribes what would happen if it were passed and signed into law.

If Rohrabacher's bill succeeds, marijuana users and growers in the 27 states where medical and non-medical marijuana is legal or decriminalized would only be subject to the marijuana laws of their states.

That means the federal government would have no say on the use and ownership of marijuana within those 27 states.

Finally, the costly and unnecessary Drug Enforcement Administration raids on stores that produce and sell marijuana would come to an end. Cannabis and hemp growers would not be subject to the rules, regulations, and fines the federal government imposes on

them.

The federal government is formed by the union of the states. The federal government exists for the states and the people, not the other way around. Basically, the federal government cannot tell the states what to do with marijuana.

The signing of Rohabacher's bill into law would result in the federal government being more in tune with what our Constitution's framers wrote and intended.

To date, two Republicans and two Democrats are co-sponsoring HR 1253. However, this bill is unlikely to succeed because the federal government benefits from the current “War on Drugs.”

The irony is that most congressmen recognize that the Drug War is a waste of limited resources and man-

power.

Why is that they would not end the war on pot?

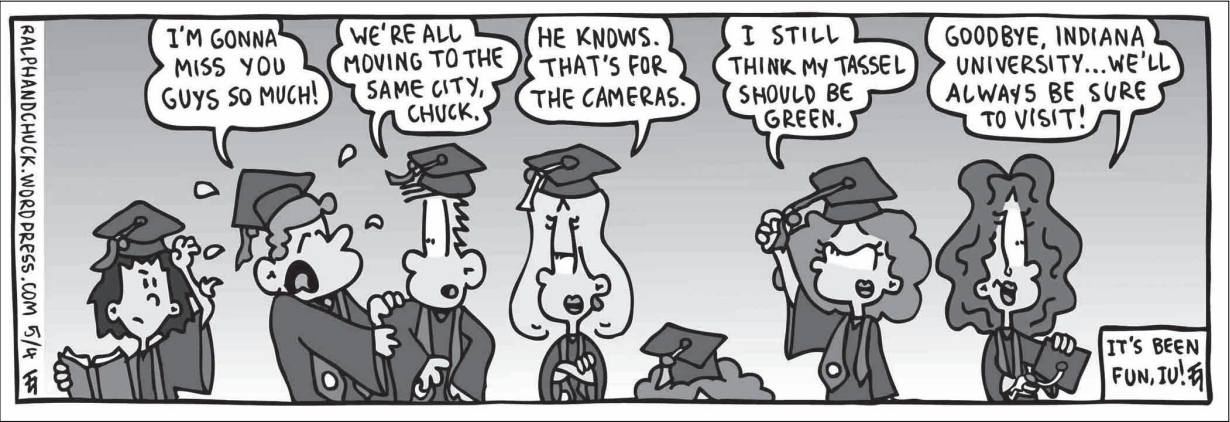
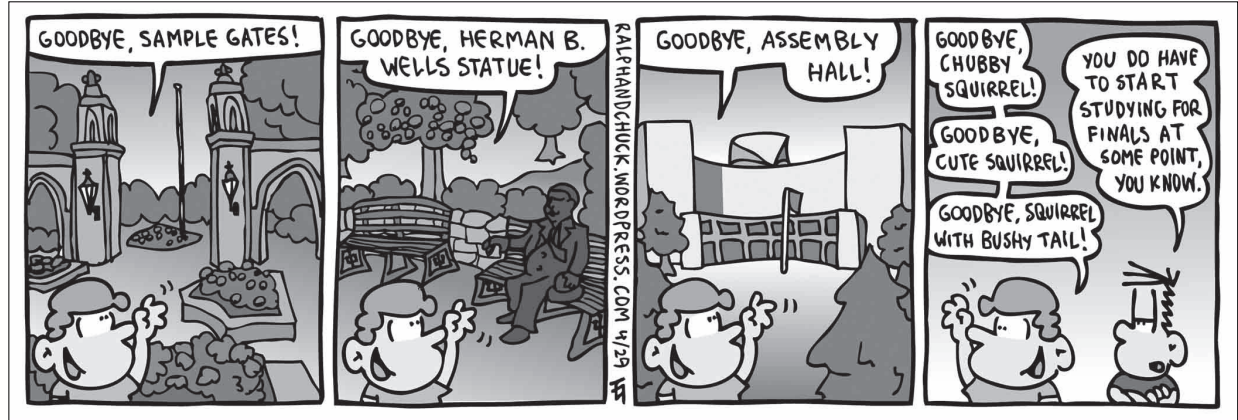
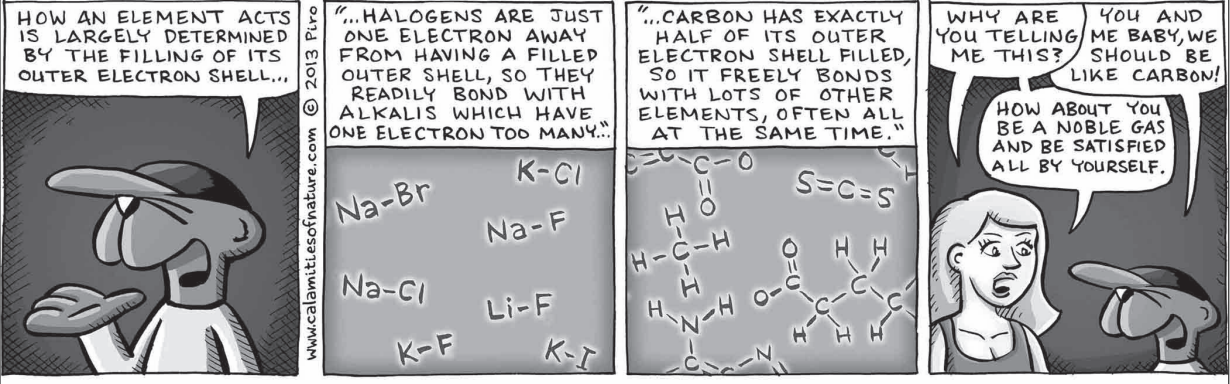
“The love of money is the root of all evil” (1 Timothy 6:10).

Instead of honoring the marijuana laws of the states and save the taxpayers money, the federal government would rather crack down on people's Fourth, Ninth, and 10th Amendment rights.

Sound religious and ethical arguments can be made against non-medical use of marijuana for, but the federal government has no right in trumping the states and peoples' rights to use the plant as their laws decide.

Let's hope more House Republicans and Democrats pass this bill for the Senate to vote on and place it on the president's desk.

Calamities of Nature by Tony Piro





PHOTOS COURTESY OF CERRITOS COLLEGE THEATRE DEPT.
Showtime: Students can indulge in the Broadway musical 'The Drowsy Chaperone' from today until May 12. Admission runs from \$10 to \$15.

Man in Chair not so drowsy

Musical based on book from the 1920s brings life to Burnight Theatre

The Drowsy Chaperone
Starring: Ted Fujioka
Director: Patrick Pearson
Rating: ★★★

EDUARDO ALVARADO
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Elyssa Alexander was a force to be reckoned with at the opening night of the Cerritos College Theater Department's new comedy musical production "The Drowsy Chaperone."

Man in Chair, played by Ted Fujioka, took audience members from his apartment complex into the 1920s, where audiences were able to see first hand the troubles of Broadway star Kitty, played by Alexander and her fiancée Robert Martin, played by Jacob Patrick Thomson.

Although the opening number "Fancy Dress" might have left a couple of audience members to feel as they were watching "Inception" on

stage, due to the timing of the number and the confusion it brought. The performance which included the entire cast, was enjoyable to watch as member were on cue in not only the dance routine but in their vocals as well.

Fujioka portrayed Man in Chair perfectly up until the very end.

From the quirky interruptions to the hilarious dialogue, watching Fujioka was enjoyable throughout the night.

It wouldn't be a musical comedy without some great musical numbers that were delivered every single time perfectly.

One of the best performances of the night must have been the performance of Patrick Thomson and Sean Casey



Flanagan's "Cold feet."

Not only did the number include a couple of long notes, but the actors had to hit each and every single note while roller blading on the stage which made the performance that much more enjoyable and entertaining.

Best performance of the whole night?

Not only did Victoria Sasso impress audiences with her portrayal of "The Drowsy Chaperone" with every line, but wowed them as well with her performance of "As We Stumble Along."

Sasso made an impression with her vocals during the number as she showcased her voice with one of the longest musical notes of the night.

Sasso truly made an impression with the audience members as they cheered her on from beginning to end.

The ensemble cast, formed by 10 cast members, four of which are current Cerritos College students, were the backbone of the musical as they kept every musical number entertaining with some rocking dance moves and background vocals.

"The Drowsy Chaperone" was definitely worth sitting two hours for, from the beginning to the very end.

If you love or hate musicals, then "The Drowsy Chaperone" is a must watch.

The musical spent a year from 2006 to 2007 on Broadway, and has toured many cities since, and has now arrived at the Burnight Center Theatre.

www.talonmarks.com

Scan here to buy tickets to 'The Drowsy Chaperone'

Keaton Simons rocks out at The Hotel Cafe

HEATHER HOELSCHER
Associate Arts Editor
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Keaton Simons, singer and songwriter, had an album release party Saturday at The Hotel Café in Los Angeles.

There was an exciting atmosphere at the event, as a red carpet and a photo op with Keaton Simons after the show, was outside The Hotel Café.

Robin DiMaggio, co-producer and drummer for Simons, expressed how great Simons is to work with as an artist.

"He is a great artist and a true singer and song writer. He is a great storyteller," DiMaggio said, "It was a wonderful experience working with him on this CD"

He mentioned that this was his last show he will be performing with Simons for a while.

On stage, Simons mentioned there is "no where else I would like to start out," the Hotel Café was where he had started.

Simons played a lot of his new material, some old songs, and played some covers.

The audience was extremely excited about each song, and really enjoyed the new song

"Beautiful Pain" which is also the title of his new album.

He captivated the audience with his voice and deep, heartfelt songs, including both an acoustic guitar sound and an electric guitar sound throughout his set.

According to a bio sent from Lizz Potter of Deborah Radel Public Relations, "Simons is truly what the Los Angeles Times terms 'a triple threat.' The energy and passion that Keaton brings to his work (whether in the studio or performing live) is as infectious and stirring as his lyrics and melodies."

He also has worked with Jason Mraz and "he has toured nationally and internationally, opening for Coldplay, Train, Guster and REO Speedwagon amongst others," according to the bio by DRPR.

"There are a lot of amazing people who collaborated with me on this album. Including, Mraz, Glen Phillips, Jason Reeves, Mikal Blue, Robin DiMaggio, Sherri Short, Josh Zegan, Jay Ollero, Ehud Kaldes, and more," Simons said.

"My very first performances were when I was in preschool. The first one I can really remember clearly was a bit later in the first

grade. I performed the song 'Rainbow Connection.' Still one of my favorite songs," Simons said.

Simons expressed his thoughts of Saturday's performance. "Seriously, one of the best nights of my life. The show was sold out and the excitement was palpable.

"I had my full band, which included DiMaggio on drums, David Garner on keys and Darwin Johnson on bass. Wish I could relive it every day for the rest of my life."

He mentioned that Saturday he enjoyed playing "The Medicine," a song on his newest album.

Simons spoke about his routine before a show and said, "I try not to be too precise before shows because I pride myself on being able to perform anywhere anytime for anyone. I make sure to warm up as much as possible.

"I make music because I love music, and I share it because I want to share that love and connect with people.

"This CD and everything I create is my soul set to music. I hope that comes across and can't wait to see what the future holds," he said.



ALEXANDRA SCOVILLE /TM
Music entertainer: Simons performing at The Hotel Café in Los Angeles. His album release show went off with a bang, the show was sold out.

'Iron Man 3' questions if the suit makes the man

DANIEL GREEN
Associate News Editor
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"Iron Man 3" is a strong entry in to the Iron Man trilogy. Even with some flaws, the movie manages to avoid being a paint by numbers superhero movie and throws twists and turns that even the most avid comic book reader will not see coming. Director Shane Black took the story in a different direction that is interesting, but may upset some fans.

While the previous two movies were enjoyable they both had flaws that this movie manages to fix.

The movie takes place after the events of "The Avengers" and Tony Stark played by Robert Downey Jr. not dealing well with the aftermath.

This couldn't come at a worse time since he is being targeted by multiple villains such as The Mandarin played by Ben Kingsley and rival Aldrich Killian played by Guy Pearce.

The Mandarin is a sadistic terrorist who fights against America and its imperial tendencies.

As in any good villain he believes in what he says and ev-

'Iron Man 3'
Starring: Robert Downey Jr.
Director: Shane Black
Rating: ★★★

everything he says is tinged with a little bit of truth as he uses America's darker history as a rallying point.

One of the flaws of the first two movies was the fact the villains were never fully fleshed out or portrayed as true threats to Stark.

They mostly appeared at the end of the movie only to be defeated in one scene.

This installment actually makes the major villains character and even the foot soldiers more interesting than past villains.

Most enemies are dangerous foes who can kill Stark easily even with his armor, making battles more captivating.

For the first time the viewer feels like Stark is in danger as his life falls apart and the people he cares about are hurt.

While most of the villains are handled well, one of the major villains is written off in disappointing, but funny, manner.

While this does not ruin the movie entirely it will be a let-

down to fans who are aware of the character as he is portrayed in the comics.

One of the interesting things is that Stark spends more of the movie out of the armor than in it.

This forces him to show what he can do without his weapons and shows the viewer that he is more than a man in a fancy suit of armor.

One of the flaws was the fact that established side characters were mostly forgotten.

Even though James "Rhodey" Rhodes played by Don Cheadle and Pepper Potts played by Gwyneth Paltrow had scenes where they stood out, they were mostly missing.

Both characters spent most of the movie as comic relief or plot devices to motivate Stark.

It was most disappointing to see a lack of the Iron Patriot or War Machine.

The ending will leave fans wondering where Stark goes next and leaves the next Avengers movie up in the air.

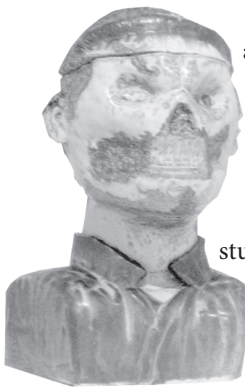
Despite its flaws "Iron Man 3" is a fun ride that holds up to its predecessors and entertains throughout the entire movie.

Students put on an exhibit of art

Media, drawings, paintings, ceramics, computer graphics, and photography displayed at exhibit

MARCO ZEPEDA
Staff Writer
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Special guest Kristina Newhouse, Curator of Exhibitions at the University Art Museum of California State University Long Beach, will be the jurist for the 2013 Student Art Exhibit.



A variety of art pieces are being displayed in a massive exhibit at Cerritos College.

Over 125 students art pieces have been hand chosen by Cerritos College art, design, and photography instructors.

Fine arts major Sonia Hernandez received first place for her photograph at the awards ceremony Monday night. The ASCC awarded her with a cash prize.

"Practice, practice,

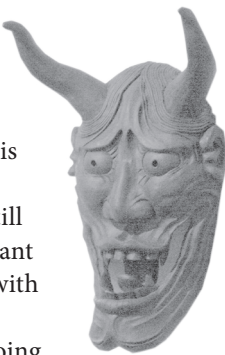
practice taking lots of photos," she said, "It definitely felt good and I feel honored being picked as the winner at this event.

"Even though I won I still feel like an observer so I want to keep moving forward with taking photos."

The gallery has been going on since April 29 and will be open until May 17.

Photography major Sylvester Givens received third place in the photograph section and spoke proudly of his achievement.

"Being nominated makes me feel proud and inspired for being recognized by my peers," he said.

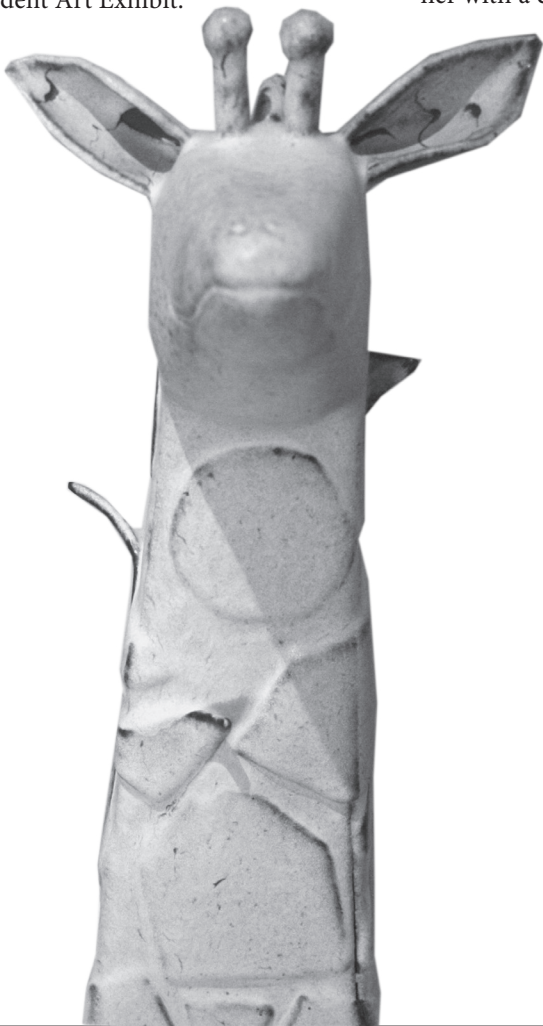


"Life is an image, therefore, I take a camera everywhere I go and use creativity though the process to get my photos," Givens said.

"You can depict through photos -- the good, the bad, the ugly and the pretty side of life," he added.

Undecided major Eric Pierson explained how he was impressed with the work displayed at the exhibit. "The pastel work is great. It is definitely noticeable how much dedication goes in to every piece of art. The quality of work is captivating."

The exhibit is closed on weekends.



PHOTOS TAKEN BY: ALEXANDRA SCOVILLE AND MARCO ZEPEDA/TM
Appreciated: The students of Cerritos College are able to view several artistic pieces that will be displayed over the course of three weeks. Admission to the exhibit is free to the public.

COMING SOON TO CERRITOS COLLEGE

May 8-17

'Student Art Exhibit'

Cost:
Free

Location:
Cerritos College Art Gallery

Synopsis:
The students of the Cerritos College fine arts department will be displaying their artwork from the course of the semester.

May 9-12

'The Drowsy Chaperone'

Cost:
\$10 - \$15

Location:
Burnight Center Theatre

Time:
8 p.m. (May 9-11), 2 p.m. (May 12)

Synopsis:
Head back to the Roaring 20s in a Broadway musical based on the book.

May 15

'Jazz and Pop Concert'

Cost:
Free

Location:
Burnight Center Theatre

Time:
7 p.m.

Synopsis:
Dr. David Betancourt will direct groups in an evening of jazz and pop music.

May 17

'Choir/Band Spring Concert'

Cost:
\$10 - General Admission

Location:
Burnight Center Theatre

Time:
7 p.m.

Synopsis:
Anna DeMichele's choir will gather to give a family oriented concert.

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Last serve for men’s tennis team

DENNY CRISTALES
Staff Writer
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Head coach Alvin Kim is proud of the men’s tennis team’s effort at the State Championships along with the energy it brought to the court throughout the entire season.

“State is always hard,” Kim said. “I felt like we played as hard as we could.”

The men’s tennis team’s season came to a close April 27 when freshman Nathan Eshmade lost in the semifinals at the Ojai Valley Athletic Club.

“We were pretty focused but the practice and preparation is what killed us,” said freshman Mathew Espiritu, who teamed with Eshmade in doubles competition throughout the season.

“I feel that’s what made the difference in the win and the loss.”

Sophomore Todd Jenkins added, “Overall we could have done better. Personally I had an off day. As a team our doubles team and singles player got far considering the opponents they went up against.”

Jenkins wishes he had another chance seeing as he will be leaving the team after this season.

“I wish I could do this all again since this

“*Out of all the teams we had, this is one of the most special teams where everyone gets along.*”

—ALVIN KIM
Head coach

believes will fuel the fire for next season.

“We’re motivated to do better in terms of wins and losses,” he said. “We had a pretty mediocre record but we want to do better and especially do better in our state rankings.”

Despite the record that the team finished with, Kim is satisfied with the effort the team had during the season along with the togetherness the team had.

“We did okay. There’s more to just winning and losing,” he added. “We did really well as a team. Out of all the teams we had, this is one of the most special teams where everyone gets along. Everyone likes each other.”

Espiritu notes that the season’s ups and downs serve as a lesson for next season.

“From what I’ve learned from this season is that a lot of preparation and a lot of hard work makes a difference.”

Jenkins added, “There’s a lot of room for improvement and I’m pretty sure if the team puts (its) mind to it, (it) can do it.”

is my last year,” he said. “It was a pretty solid team this year but there’s only two guys leaving ... so the team will pretty much be the same. Not to mention the newcomers for next year.”

The team finishes the season at .500 with a record of 11-11, a record Kim be-



ROCIO RODRIGUEZ/TM

End of the season: Freshman Mathew Espiritu practicing on May 1. Espiritu continues to practice to prepare himself for next season.

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Scan here to look at the audio story

Women’s swim team picks up 11th place finish



CARLOS MARISCAL/TM

Dive: Freshman Raquel Gabayeron diving into the pool in a race against El Camino College and Long Beach City College on March 1. Gabayeron came in ninth place in the 100-yard butterfly with a time of 58.61 on April 27.

DENNY CRISTALES
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A three day span at the State Championships saw freshman Carla Harvey and freshman Raquel Gabayeron, among many, lift the women’s swim team to 11th place overall to finish the season.

The Championships took place April 25 through April 27 at East Los Angeles College and saw the team clocking in personal best times and breaking school records.

“I’m pleased with the performance throughout the season, including the State Championships,” head coach Sergio Macias said.

“Our team was either able to maintain (its) seed time or move up in the rankings.”

Macias noted swimmers such as sophomore Katherine Gabayeron, who was able to move up her seeding, Raquel, who finished ninth place and earned her personal best in the 100 butterfly, and Harvey who was .02 seconds away from breaking the school’s backstroke record.

“I think we did awesome. Carla (Harvey), Katherine (Gabayeron), and I all got our personal best times in our events,” Raquel said.

“Our relays did an exceptional job of representing our school, swimming hard, and competing,” Macias added.

As the season comes to a close, the women’s swimming team is very reflective on how it played out.

“Now that the season is over, it’s weird. I don’t see my teammates all the time and we were a tight group


of girls,” Harvey said.

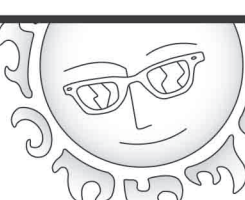

“I really enjoyed this past season. We accomplished much more than I ever thought we could.”

Raquel added, “I swam with a great group of girls, especially during my sister’s last season. I broke one of the school records. And I got my personal best in the 100 butterfly. I accomplished more than I could have asked for.”

Macias is content with the season the team had and thought that it ended on a positive note at the State Championships.

“I’m pleased with the performances. I believe a majority of the (swimmers) hit their personal best times of the season so that’s always a nice way to finish it off. The hard work pays off, and everybody is pleased with the results.”

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Jump: Freshman Ricky Carrigan, who placed first in triple jump on April 23, practiced his takeoff last Wednesday. The men's and women's track and field teams will compete in the Southern California Championships at Antelope Valley College this weekend before heading to College of San Mateo for the State Championships on May 17 to May 18.

CHRISTOPHER MACIAS/TM

Track making run toward state

The Falcons look to build on recent success as they approach state

CHRISTOPHER MACIAS
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Coach Christopher Richardson spoke highly of his men's and women's track and field teams over their recent success at the South Coast Conference Championships, "I knew we had the caliber and potential to be successful, but the athletes stepped up in areas I never would have expected."

The men's and women's track

and field teams both took home first place finishes at the South Coast Conference Championships last weekend.

Richardson, who also coached both the men's and women's cross country teams to their championships, said, "Overall being able to come in as my first year coaching, and win both the conference championship for cross country and track and field is pretty cool."

"Something extraordinarily special is our men's 800-meter team, we placed first through sixth (place). It's never been done before."

Distance coach Daniel Ozan

likes the fact that his runners placed in the top six.

"Having six guys make it into the final is pretty good, to sweep is even more beautiful."

"I knew we had the caliber and potential to be successful."

—CHRISTOPHER RICHARDSON
Head coach

Sophomore Adam Vega, who placed first in the 800-meter said, "I didn't think I was going to be able to race because of my previous race, but it was pretty exciting being able to win and lead all my teammates."

The Falcons also had Ricky Carrigan place first in the men's triple jump with a mark of 47-05.

"The first couple of jumps I was nervous and a little bit rusty, but after that it felt natural. As soon as

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I went off the board I knew it was going to be a big jump, and when I landed I heard the crowd so that confirmed it," he said.

The Falcons will participate in the Southern California Championships at Antelope Valley College on Saturday before competing in the State Championships on May 17 and May 18.

Falcons start SoCal Championships strong

On the first weekend of the SoCal Championships, the Falcons saw good results on the men's and women's sides.

Sophomore Munir Kahsay came in second place in the 10,000 meter with a time of 32:20.12.

Freshman Elisha Toler came in fourth place in the 400 meter with a time of 48.77.

Sophomore Angel Sifuentes won the javelin event with a throw that traveled 43.57 meters.

—CARLOS MARISCAL

Men's swim team's season ends on a positive note

DENNY CRISTALES
Staff Writer
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Freshman Joshua Owens was one of four swimmers on the relay team that broke a school record on the final day of the State Championships on April 27, ending the men's swimming season on a positive note.

The 400-yard freestyle relay team finished with a time of 3:10.59 and the Falcons came in 17th place overall in the State Championships at East Los Angeles College that took place April 25 to April 27.

"We performed well together and swam our best," Owens said.

"Our guys stepped up and swam hard all three days."

Head coach Joe Abing praised the team's performance and was proud of the improvement on the team's swimming times.

"We had a great performance at state," he said.

"We were able to drop a little more time. It was a nice experience for the six guys that qualified."

The end of the State Championships marks the end of the men's swimming season and Abing was pleased with team's consistency throughout the season.

"Our team had a successful season. (The swimmers) swam their lifetime best times," he said.

"You can't ask for much more than that. (The team) broke three school records which was nice. Many of the guys on the team are freshman, so we are hoping to have an even stronger unit next year."

The team will indeed remain unchanged for the most part next season, however improvement is imminent over time.

"It went by extremely fast," Owens added regarding his thoughts on the swim season.

"I don't think we clicked until halfway through the season. Individually, I set my goals high so I didn't quite get there yet. There's always room for improvement so next year will be interesting."



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*Tickets required for event

iFalcon Club Meeting
May 9 at 11 a.m. to Noon in
LC-134

PTK Club Meeting
May 9 at 11 a.m. to Noon in
SS-139

**ASCC Awards
Banquet/Ceremony**
May 10 at 6:30 p.m. in
Student Center
*Tickets required for event

**Catholic Newman
Club Meeting**
May 14 at 4 p.m. in SS-138

Commencement
May 18 at 5 p.m. in
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