



Talon Marks Press Club 'Newsies' Best Displays the Spirit of Cerritos College



Phi Theta Kappa 'Phantom of the Opera' Best Utilization of Paper



Take your cancer stick somewhere else



Hannah Bradley
Staff Writer
hannah.bradley@talonmarks.com

The smell of cigarette smoke automatically causes discomfort on any occasion, and the establishment of designated smoking areas for nonsmoking students to avoid this issue is a necessity moving forward on the Cerritos College campus.

The only real regulations regarding smoking are posted near some campus building entry ways. The sign states that it is prohibited to smoke within 20 feet from the entrance.

20 feet from the doorway can be right in the middle of a crowded sidewalk, where numerous non-

smoking students walk from class to class daily.

This 20-foot rule is also set up around all main entrances to the campus, leading to an even cloudier idea of where it is both safe to smoke and safe to avoid smoke.

With large amounts of research and awareness campaigns broadcasted through television such as those put on by thetruth.com, an anti-smoking campaign that is trying to raise the awareness through statistics.

Cerritos College needs to have designated smoking areas.

According to the American Cancer Society website, inhaling secondhand smoke is more harmful than inhaling smoke through the actual cigarette.

According to the website, "Non-smokers who breathe in sec-

ondhand smoke take in nicotine and other toxic chemicals just like smokers do, and the more you are exposed to, the higher the level of these harmful chemicals in your body."

Larger particles of chemicals and nicotine are released from the ignited end of the cigarette rather than the side designated for the smoker to inhale from, causing the involuntary smoker to take in particles that can easily maneuver into the body's cells more easily.

These facts may not automatically come to mind as you walk through a plume of smoke trying to walk across campus to your 10 a.m. lecture.

Clearing up the confusion as to where the appropriate locations to both avoid and take part in smoking before an issue erupts would be

the smartest approach to the situation.

The inconvenience of having to walk an extra two minutes to a designated smoking location in order to light up a cigarette is completely minuscule in comparison to the inconvenience of developing a serious illness due to inhaling secondhand smoke.

Secondhand smoke dangers should be announced and made aware to both smoking and non-smoking students on the campus, such that Cerritos College and the community can take bolder and safer steps to making this a healthy environment that everyone can enjoy.

This could all be achieved with the addition of well-posted designated smoking areas around the Cerritos College campus.

People shouldn't be judged on their sexuality



Abraham Venegas
Associate online editor
abraham.venegas@talonmarks.com

It's child abuse for parents to put their child through gay conversion therapy.

It's not the kid's fault that he/she has a gay sexual preference; the parents should support how their kids feel.

It shouldn't matter if a kid is gay or straight, they shouldn't be judged on their sexual preference because they are still human.

California Governor Jerry Brown signed a bill which bans sexual orientation change therapies for minors. The ban will take effect on Jan. 1, 2013.

Those who oppose the bill argue that the bill infringes on the right of the parents to take psychological care of their children. Trying to change a kid's sexuality in order to fit the parent's standard of normal is cynical.

American Psychological Association, American Academy of Pediatrics, National Association of Social Behaviors and other institutions oppose reparative therapy by stating that there is no scientific evidence of its efficacy.

Research no longer concentrates on the causes and cures of homosexuality; instead it now approaches homosexuality in a neutral manner.

There is this stigma surrounding homosexuality. Some believe being gay is a choice and it's a mentally disorder.

If it's a choice, that means anyone can choose to be gay. That also means anyone can choose to be straight.

If people choose to be gay, people would have to put a lot of thought into it. Give it thought; try to make yourself be attracted to the same gender.

If it was a choice, why would people choose a lifestyle where so-

ciety views them as a freak and/or social outcasts, where they would be ridiculed, abandoned by their family, or even beaten or killed just because they are different?

Research like that of Evelyn Hooker, a psychologist, found there was no distinguishable difference between gay men and heterosexual men in terms of personality.

French philosopher Michael Foucault's belief is that society constructs gender roles for men and women.

At a young age, boys are taught how to act like men. They are taught to be independent, assertive, and aggressive.

Girls at a young age are taught to be emotional, passive and supportive.

For a kid who is trying to understand his/her homosexuality and expresses traits from the opposite sex, he/she will be ridiculed by society.

Society will tell them to repress those thoughts and traits, even though those same traits can be found in every man and woman.

In the long run, these therapies only bring psychological torment to kids who are trying to cope with their sexuality and are being told that homosexuality is unnatural and immoral.

According to www.fiercegoodbye.com, 30 percent of suicides involve gay and lesbian youth.

Therapies that aim to change sexual orientation only reinforce stereotypes and prejudice.

Southern Poverty Law Center analysis of 14 years of hate crime found that gays and lesbians are the most targeted group which amount to 17.4 percent of the total of 88,463 reported violent hate crimes.

If society just accepts people for who they are, labeling people "gay" or "straight" wouldn't exist. Ultimately, society needs to stop caring if a person is gay or straight and just accept people for who they are.

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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Cerritos College is located at 11110 Alondra Blvd., Norwalk, CA 90650
Telephone numbers: (562) 860-2451, ext. 2617 FAX (562) 467-5044
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