

CERRITOS COLLEGE *Talon Marks*

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TM Photo By SEAN DECKER

Kastan's 'Earth Tales'

Showing through Feb. 5 in the campus Art Gallery is Cerritos art prof Cynthia Kastan's acclaimed sabbatical offering of dynamic mixed media works.

Emphasized are photosilkscreening techniques, with oil painting and oil pastel processes used to "enhance the idea of shared themes running throughout the imagery of the earth and that of human and animal culture."

Eligibility raised in vote today

By MONICA MERTZ
TM News Editor

The ASCC Senate race enters its final day with 10 candidates uncertain as to whether or not they will be allowed to serve if elected.

Their grade point average may be too low.

Section 2.885 of the Government Organizations Code states that all ASCC officers must have a grade point average of 2.0 or higher for the previous semester. The ruling created some confusion among Supreme Court members who met Tuesday to discuss the interpretation of the rule.

"Eligibility is a touchy subject," said Chief Justice Dave Carpenter. "The section just needs to be tied down. Maybe the people who wrote it 30 years ago knew what they meant, but we don't," he added.

Discussion of the matter, brought to the Election Board's attention by incumbent Senator Robert Hooper, was postponed by a vote of the Court.

Carpenter reminded the Court Justices that their responsibility was to "interpret policy" and not to make laws.

Also under discussion was code section 2.886 which deals with failing grades during a term of office.

Candidates or those holding office who receive a grade of "F" are disqualified from holding office or seeking an elected position.

Justice Alex Macksoud commented that "It's embarrassing when your name appears on the ballot with lots of votes and you're not eligible."

According to Carpenter, some of the students involved in these two issues are not campaigning even though their names remain on the ballots. Others are grouping with blocs and running under one banner.

The Court's decisions on the two issues will be made public tomorrow morning.

Those whose eligibility is in question who receive sufficient votes for a Senate seat will have the designation "pending eligibility" noted beside their names on the official election results.

One of the "blocs" on the ballot this semester is a group put together by incumbent Robert Hooper. The 10 independents in the bloc are not listed together on the ballot.

Hooper said the slate is a mixture of under-represented clubs and organizations.

"This bloc will bring good representation into the Senate," said Hooper. "It'll bring everyone together."

Voting continues through 9 p.m. this evening at polling booths at the Student Center, Social Science Walkway and the Health Sciences Walkway.

Students may cast votes for any 10 names on the ballot.

Re-stocking charge sought by bookstore

By NANCY BALLARD
TM Executive Editor

A re-stocking charge — or "surcharge" — it all still adds up to the fact that they're thinking of hitting you up for more money.

Costs involved in handling books at the Student bookstore, returned within the two week grace period, may prompt a 5% re-stocking charge.

The issue is expected to go the Administrative Council on the recommendation of the Bookstore Committee, according to newly appointed chairman Tom Jackson, a business prof.

Jackson told the Faculty Senate yesterday that the committee had just met and was informed by manager Allan Beaulieu that the bookstore has already returned more than \$34,000 in books.

One reason for the refund problem is when students purchase books before the start of the semester, for whatever reason, the bookstore has to send a "rush order" to accommodate students coming through the lines after they get their classes.

No fee would be charged for book returns on cancelled classes.

These and other returns create shipping costs which add dramatically to expenses, officials said, acknowledging that a certain amount of returns is part of doing business.

However, several Senators weren't convinced that students should be tagged with the 5% hike, although a motion to recommend against it was defeated by a 2-1 margin.

Senate president John Boyle noted, however, that this defeat should not be considered an endorsement from the Senate.

● CAMPUS ?/3

Roving reporter seeks definition of alumni. Wide range of responses leaves question unanswered.

● REBOUND!/6

Cerritos' Brigitte Frazier sets new school career rebound record, tallying 419 boards and still going strong.

● ILLITERACY/8

First of a three-part series takes a look at the alarming state of our nation's increasing illiteracy.

TM Photo By SEAN DECKER



SETTLING IN

President seeks community ties

By SUSAN PHILLIPS
TM Editor-in-Chief

Deciding on a career came easy for Dr. Ernest A. Martinez.

He comes from a long line of teachers, including his grandmother, father and several aunts and uncles.

New Mexico's Highlands University (a teacher training college close to the small town of Dixon where he was raised) was the first step on the road that would eventually lead to his position of President/Superintendent of Cerritos College.

Stops along the way included a stint as an elementary school teacher in Blythe, a professorship at Sonoma State, Dean of Instruction at Santa Rosa Junior College, Vice President of Instruction at Cabrillo in Santa Cruz and President of Seattle Central in the state of Washington.

During his teaching years he concentrated on helping others to improve their skills. It was the apparent lack of sufficient reading and writing skills among his students that prompted Martinez to earn a Master's

degree in reading. As director of special education programs at Santa Rosa, he developed tutorials, summer-readiness programs and programs for the handicapped.

Here at Cerritos, says Martinez, the "key word" will be communication.

Community ties will give a "clear understanding of what the institution is," said Martinez, making the citizenry aware "that Cerritos College belongs to the community and that they have a right and are entitled to participate in what we call education."

Settling into his new position is time-consuming but there is still time for his main interest which is reading.

"Reading is comfortable and relaxing," said Martinez, who enjoys the works of John O'Hara, Robert Ludlum, Carlos Fuentes and Rudy Anais.

Martinez has four grown children living in northern California and a two-year old granddaughter who will be visiting soon "once she finds out I'm close to Disneyland."

CAMPUS QUERY

How would you define the word alumni?

Jo Condon
Clerk/Typist

"Somebody who's gone and left."

Isabel Calderon
Student

"A person that graduated."

Ed McGinn
Student

"Someone who is no longer actively associated with the organization, however he is still considered part of that organization."

Olivia Barajas
Student

"Someone who graduated from a school."

Andrew Celaya
Student

"A person who graduated from a certain school and who even though they left the school they still have a great loyalty to the school."

Hank Gray
Student

"Someone who has attended a said institution and has moved on to other things yet still in some way is involved with the said organization."

Sylvia Verdin
Student

"Someone who goes to the school or has previously gone to the school."

Jaime Lomeli
Student

"A student who returns back after being out for a while."

Alex Figueroa
Student

"A student."

Blanca Perez
Student

"A person who just graduated."

Shelley Colaluca
Student

"Somebody that's not going to a college anymore that used to."

Allen Holland
Student

"Someone who used to go to school but doesn't anymore."

David Lewallen
Student

"Well, someone who's graduated from the school."

Reporter JUDY van WINGERTEN



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VOTE FOR ABEL ESTRELLA**

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Local company needs people with a clean, neat appearance to fill position in the marketing division. May work in field or on phone. Good communications skills required. No experience necessary. Call 923-0641 between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. and ask for Mel.

DELTA PHI OMEGA

Girls! If you're seeking fun and excitement and sisterhood, RUSH DELTA PHI OMEGA. Established 1960. Come out to Panhellenic Day on the Quad, Jan. 29 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call Maria (924-3957), Lisa (402-9487), Wendy (809-1511). You have nothing to lose and EVERYTHING to gain!

HELP FOR THE HOMELESS

E.O.P.S. aids needy, plans fundraisers

By KENNY O'LEARY
TM Staff Writer

The E.O.P.S. club and office at Cerritos College has already gotten into the swing of things this semester.

A joint effort by both the club and the office is to help the homeless throughout Los Angeles county by donating old blankets, jackets, sweaters, and other types of clothing to keep these people warm during the excessively cold weather we have been experiencing.

Boxes are set up in the Student Affairs/ and E.O.P.S. Offices as well as the Student Activities Office. The boxes will be there

through the week of January 26.

E.O.P.S. club members are involved in voter registration. The E.O.P.S. club earns points for each voter it registers, which will be converted to dollars for the club's treasury.

Next month the club is sponsoring a raffle in which prizes such as radios will be awarded.

Last semester the E.O.P.S. club raised \$500 which was given out to needy students in the form of grants.

This semester the fundraising goal is

\$5,000. The E.O.P.S. club hopes to give out more money in the form of grants and hopes to be able to make student loans.

The E.O.P.S. program is designed to help students who have language, social or economic disadvantages. The students involved in the program receive registration assistance, college information, career and personal counseling, tutoring, grants, and loans. There is a university transition program called CARE, set up to help single parents.

The E.O.P.S. club will be having their first meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 27 at 11 a.m. in Arts and Crafts room 62.

Coffee Shop offers more variety to menu

By KENNY O'LEARY
TM Staff Writer

The coffee shop is more than a place to get a cup of coffee; it's a place where friends can get together and talk about their classes or the next student activity.

Under the leadership of June Crisp, the coffee shop manager, students receive fast, friendly service at reasonable prices.

The coffee shop has a wide variety of foods and drinks to choose from, recently adding pizza, egg rolls and fried rice to the menu. There is a wide range in the food prices so that any student can afford to eat there.

The hours of the coffee shop are from 7:30 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 7:30 a.m.-1:45 p.m. on Friday.

Happiness and love workshops given by Community Services

By BRENT SIMS
TM Staff Writer

Cerritos College Community Services will be presenting a workshop Tuesday Feb. 3 entitled "How to be Happily Single."

The workshop, which will last from 7 to 10 p.m. in Technology Room 4, will help uncover personal blocks to happiness, and is designed to allow one to develop a blueprint for a happier life.

The fee is \$10.

Two related workshops will also be held Saturday Feb. 7.

One is "Looking for Love in All the Right Places," a class offered from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Lecture Hall 3.

This session will help to develop skills needed to meet the right person and establish a relationship.

Also on Feb. 7 is the series "Exploring Human Potential." Topics to be discussed in this workshop include: "Men Who Hate Women and Women Who Love Them," "Untangling the Web of Success," "Surviving the Loss of a Relationship," and "The Not So Tender Trap-Sex Roles."

These sessions will be held in the Student Center and Lecture Hall from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

A CPR training class will also be held that day from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. in Health Science Room 305.

All courses are subject to fees. For more information call (213) 860-2451 ext. 521.

William Hall Chorale auditions open at San Gabriel High School

By JUDY van WINGERDEN
TM Features Editor

The William Hall Chorale has announced audition dates for the remainder of the 1986-87 season. Interested singers may audition on Monday, Jan. 26, and Monday, Feb. 2, at San Gabriel High School's Music Room.

The 110-voice William Hall Chorale, under the direction of Dr. William Hall, has delighted Southern California theatre-goers for over three decades. The Chorale will round out their successful 31st season with an evening of works by Ralph Vaughan Williams in March, and Benjamin Britten's "War Requiem" in May.

San Gabriel High School is located at 800 N. Ramona St., San Gabriel. Auditions will begin at 9:30 p.m. Those interested

may also attend the regular chorale rehearsal which begins at 7:30 p.m.

For further information regarding the audition call the Chorale office at (213) 255-4417.

Re-Entry Center offers workshops

By DIANE MARIL
TM Staff Writer

A two-part workshop series aimed at helping women achieve their goals in life will be held in Bookstore Room 111 on Jan. 28 and Feb. 4.

The workshop program, "Women and Success: Getting Past Go," is sponsored by the Cerritos College Re-entry Resource Center. Dr. Marti Parker will conduct the series.

A brown bag lunch is suggested.

For reservation and more information call the Cerritos College Re-entry Center, (213) 860-2451, ext. 530.

Speaker set for first Court Reporting meet

The first Court Reporting Club meeting of the spring semester is set for Wednesday, Feb. 4 at 1 p.m. in AC 65.

Featured at the meeting will be guest speaker Bruce Conlin, co-owner of the highly successful Jennifer Southward and Associates, a court reporting agency.

Conlin will speak on transcription problems and motivational factors in the field of court reporting. New theory students are encouraged to attend.

Refreshments will be served.

Cast and crew ready for semesters opening

By KEVIN LINDSEY
TM Staff Writer

Cast selection is complete for the Theatre Department's first production of the semester, *Uncommon Women and Others*, scheduled for six performances between Feb. 26 and March 7.

Lead roles went to Sherry Hodge, Patti Williams, Annette Lee Barnette, Susie Peppers and Bernice Niavez.


Also cast were Lanae Milroy, Kimberly Wells, Shellie Rancilio and Anna Garcia.

Uncommon Women and Others is the story of five Mount Holyoke College friends reuniting six years after graduation. Their reflections on their past and present lives makes for an interesting comedy.

BETTE MIDLER **SHELLEY LONG**

The CIA is trailing them
the KGB is tracking them
the phone company is tracing them
the police are chasing them
the cowboys are herding them
and the Indians are hunting them.

Are they going to fall for all of that?



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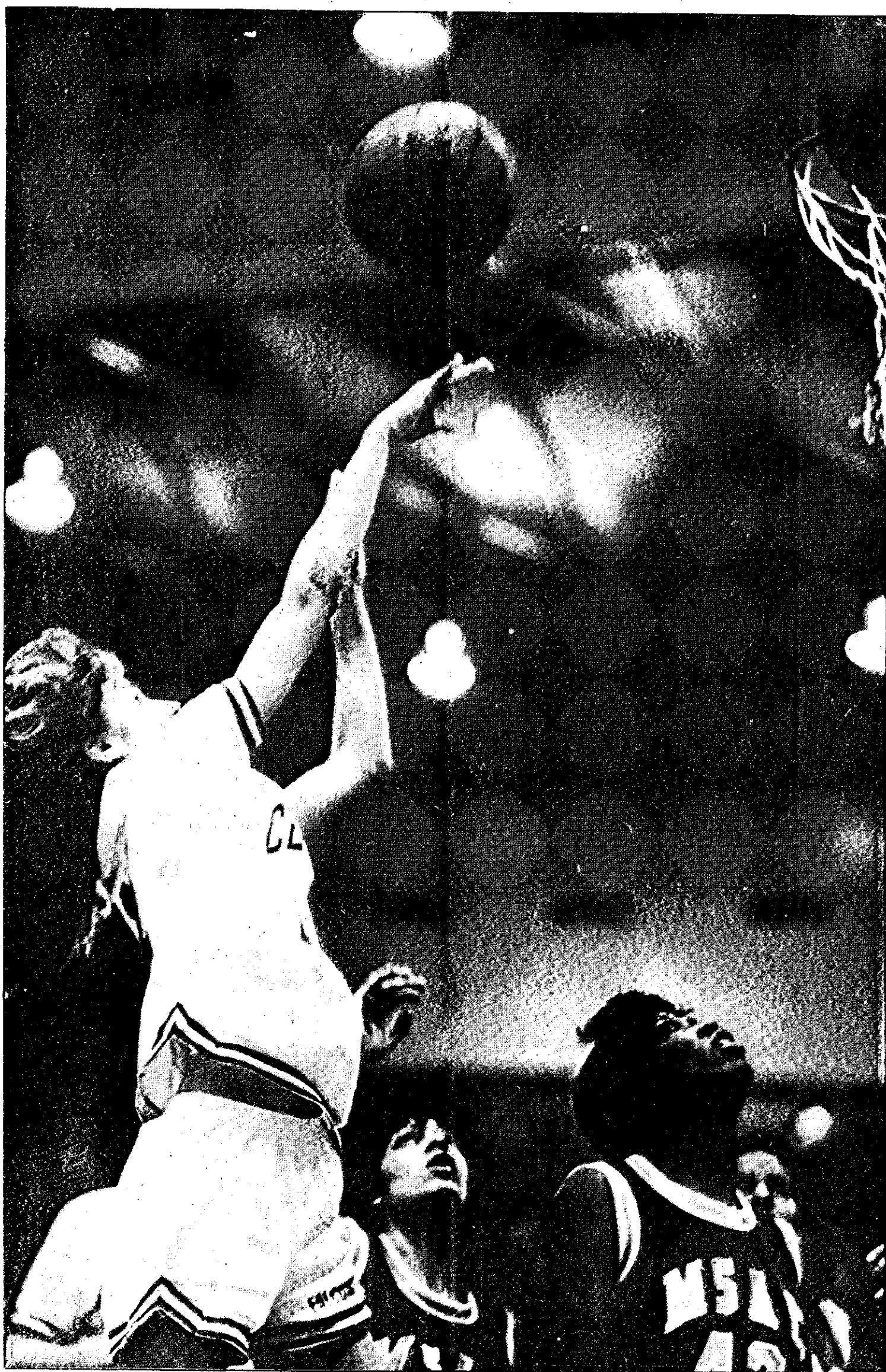


Club Booth Day 1987



MEMBERSHIP DRIVE — Campus organizations set up shop on the quad Thursday in hopes of attracting new members for their clubs. The ASCC provided free hot dogs and sodas and the clubs provided the information. The annual event gives new and returning students an opportunity to become better acquainted with what's happening on campus.

TM Photos By GARY APODACA and HELEN HERNANDEZ



Basket Bound

Guard Shelley Schack jump shots over awed Mt. SAC defenders

Boards Lady — Guard Brigette Frazier topped school career rebounding record of 414 set by Merrie Everett in her 1983-84 seasons this past week. With eight games left in the season and 419 boards to her credit, Frazier is setting the mark to even higher standards.



Brigette Frazier

TM Photos By SEAN DECKER

Women's hoop squad led by record-breaking Frazier

By KEVIN LINDSEY
TM Staff Writer

Women's basketball enjoyed yet another fine week, toppling El Camino, 58-45, Wednesday. Then holding down Mt. San Antonio, 55-37 Friday night at home to improve to 5-1 in the South Coast Conference and 19-3 overall.

The wins were nice, of course, but the week was highlighted with a 5'9" sophomore forward by the name of Brigette Frazier breaking the school's rebounding record.

Tonight the number three state ranked Falcon women will be at Fullerton for more SCC action, returning home Friday for a 7:30 p.m. tipoff with Golden West.

"I was really relieved afterwards," said Frazier on recording her 415th career rebound to surpass Merrie Everett's 414 set in her 1983-84 career.

"She goes after the ball," said head coach Karen Peterson of Frazier's talent.

"She's real consistent. She goes after the ball and brings it down with authority. She works real hard in there."

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ALLEY OOP — Falcon center Ron Fischer drives through the lane during Wednesday night's home triumph over El Camino. The Birds (20-3 overall) beat the previously unbeaten in conference team, 82-77, then recorded 80-66 win at Mt. SAC Friday. Cerritos now 5-1 in SCC.

TM Photo By SEAN DECKER

Jammin' Joseph scores big Falcon overall record 20-3

By JOHN WELSH
TM Sports Editor

Tonight inside the "Aviary," or simply the Cerritos College Gym, the Cerritos men's hoop squad will trade baskets with a Fullerton outfit that trails first place in the South Coast standings by only one game.

Only thing is, they trail three schools by that margin.

Fullerton is 4-2 in the SCC, one game behind the leaders: Cerritos, El Camino and Compton, all at 5-1 in conference play.

Tipoff is set for 7:30 p.m.

ON THE REBOUND

Rebounds are definitely a large part of basketball. Without them, games are bound to end in defeat.

In the week past, the men's basketball team had a rebound of sorts.

After losing their first conference basketball game to Compton, 89-79, on Jan. 17, the Falcons rebounded for a 82-77 triumph at home over previously SCC unbeaten El Camino Wednesday evening.

Rounding out the week with a 80-66 victory at Mt. San Antonio Friday improved the men's overall record to 20-3.

JAMMIN' JOSEPH

Willie Joseph led the attack against El Camino with his 34 point onslaught.

Orange County Register writer Carl Sawyer started his story on the game with the sophomore sensation in his lead. He wrote: "After scoring from every other spot on the court, Willie Joseph capped a 34-point show..."

El Camino head coach Paul Landreaux expected a display from the 6'4, 210-pound guard, but got a bit of surprise with Joseph's performance.

"Willie Joseph destroyed us," Landreaux said. "I knew he was good going in, but he did some things I've never seen him do before. I thought the big guy (6'7" center

Ron Fischer) would give us problems, but we couldn't handle Willie. He was tremendous."

A reasonably close first half was opened up towards the end with a couple of Joseph-to-the-basket drives, added with a Dave Brieg perimeter buzzer shot with five seconds on the clock, giving Cerritos a 39-32 at intermission.

The Falcons worked up a 12-point 48-36 advantage with 2:23 gone in the second half when Fischer hit both ends of a one-and-one situation at the free throw line.

Fischer produced 14 points on the night.

WARRIOR RALLY

At the seven mark, however, when the Falcons were up, 71-61, El Camino rallied back into the ball game with a respectable 9-2 spurt.

The Warriors, with 2:57 to play, narrowed the Falcon edge, 73-70, when Otis Livingston connected on a free throw.

Thereafter, the Birds regained control with a pair of El Camino turnovers, sparked by Falcons Jimmy Taylor and Bryan Williams, respectively.

With less than a minute to play, Cerritos was up by a commanding lead, 77-70, picking up some clutch free throws at the end. Cerritos hit 27 of 32 total free throws.

Taylor contributed in the Falcon cause with 13 points.

Against Mt. SAC Taylor was the Cerritos top scorer with 18, tying his game high for the season.

Cerritos led 41-36 at halftime against Mt. SAC and pulled away with the help of Mountie turnovers.

Pep squad places third in annual cheerleading superbowl

By JOHN WELSH
TM Sports Editor

The Falcon blue and gold did shine.

"Big C", also known as the Cerritos College Pep Squad, with a reputation for their high spirit and energy at athletic events, pep rallies, and other school related activities, was recently awarded for their extreme hard work and determination.

The squad placed third out of twelve teams in the First Annual Cheerleading

Superbowl at the Clarion Hotel in Ontario, on Jan. 3.

In a combination of dance and cheer the Cerritos team impressed the judges in a two minute minimum routine.

And, impressingly enough, Cerritos has

done this in what head cheerleader Theresa Leedy called an "independent semester."

Apparently, the pep squad has been working alone, in terms of not having a choreographer, in working out their routines.



TM Photo By SEAN DECKER

"We did this all by ourselves," said Leedy.

Of course, the team does have an advisor — two to be exact.

Janet Sanderson and Virginia Romero carry the squad under their wing, so to speak.

"They do have close supervision," said Sanderson, who heads the Big C on away games.

Romero advises the club at home contests.

The preceding demonstrates on how busy the team actually is. They cheered at every football game of the 1986 South Coast Conference championship season.

Currently the squad is on tour with the Falcon basketball team. Whether or not the men's hoopsters have been successful because of the cheers or not, the Big C has rooted the Falcons to a present 20-3 overall record.

"They're probably the most active club on campus," said Sanderson. "The club does a lot of service around campus," she added, pointing out that they have served as host and hostesses at banquets, work at the dances, and even presented a goodbye cheer to retired Cerritos College president/superintendent Dr. Wilford Michael.

"We were really glad about the results," Sanderson said of the third place finish in the competition.

ASCC EVENT LINEUP

SENATE ELECTIONS — Jan. 28
ATTORNEY NIGHT — Jan. 27, 6-9 p.m.

ATTORNEY DAY — Jan. 29, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

MOVIE: Top Gun — Feb. 3

SPIRIT NIGHT — Feb. 4, at 7 p.m.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES OPEN HOUSE — Feb. 5

WELCOME DANCE — Feb. 7

☆ For information on these and other events, contact Student Activities at extension 471.

STUDENT SENATE

VOTE FOR NUMBER 1 LIZ ARCALAS AND NUMBER 7 HANK GRAY

Peep show premieres at Cerritos theatre

By KEVIN LINDSEY
TM Staff Writer

The Generic Improvisational Peep Show has returned to Cerritos College to entertain audiences.

Director and founder Kevin Hoggard will have his madcap troupe of performers back for three special performances on Jan. 29, 30 and 31 in the Burnight Studio Theatre.

These performances are a warm-up for the group's regional tour which begins Feb. 20.

Catch them before anyone else can as they perform their own particular brand of comedy known as improvisation.

Audience participation is a highlight of the show.

Tickets are \$1 and students holding a valid ASCC card are admitted free.

Top Gun at Burnight

By ELIZABETH ARCALAS
TM Associate Editor/Photography

Tom Cruise swoops in for a landing Tuesday evening Feb. 3, when the ASCC movie Showcase presents Top Gun.

Cruise plays Maverick, a Navy Pilot of an elite flight group known as Top Gun, who are trained at the prestigious Fighter Weapons School for the toughest pilots in the world.

So, put on your flight jackets and jet on over to Burnight Center Theatre. Top Gun shows at 7 p.m. and 9 p.m.

Admission is free to students with a current ASCC card with sticker attached.

Food Services student returns as instructor

By KENNY O'LEARY
TM Staff Writer

Donna Kulleck is the newest addition to the Baking and Cooking staff, joining Rudy Rosier, Ellis Robinson and Earl Douglas in teaching the skills needed for a career in professional baking.

Kulleck isn't new to Cerritos. From 1979-1981 she was one of Rosier's baking students.

While a student at Cerritos College she received an A.A. in Commercial Baking and one in Music.

According to Kulleck, all the classes she took at Cerritos College were necessary in the running of her business. "I needed everything" remarked Kulleck.

To students who want to have their own business she says, "Get as much experience as possible and learn as much as you can."

Kulleck says her grandmother influenced her to go into baking. She watched her grandmother spend hours in the kitchen cooking and baking.

She was also influenced by the job opportunities.



TM Photo By KENNY O'LEARY

Illiteracy in the United States: a growing tide of mediocrity

By SUSAN PHILLIPS
TM Editor-in-Chief

Functional literacy is defined as the ability to use reading and writing skills to meet the demands of survival, work, well-being and participation in society.

Here in the U.S., 98% of the population can read and write on at least a minimal level, but competency and functionality tests alarmingly report that 10-50% of these so-called literates are, in reality, functionally illiterate.

Who is to blame? Critics of the education system blame poor teachers who in turn blame disinterested parents and uncooperative students. Regardless of where the guilt lies, it is sadly true that illiteracy is on the climb in America.

The recent influx of aliens from all over the world has added to the figures. Those from non-English speaking nations who are above school age make do with little or no English, making it near-impossible to earn a decent living. How can anyone not proficient in English survive in the dog-eat-dog world that has become the standard in business today? Even the minimum wage jobs available in fast food restaurants require the basic skills of operating a cash register as well as a knowledge of basic English for communication with customers.

This series will look at the education of America: where it has been, where it is now, and what we can hope to see in the future with regards to educating the functional illiterates that comprise such a large part of our community.

The educational system in the U.S. has taken the beginning steps to combat illiteracy among its youth. Beginning in 1965 with the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, federal funds were made available under Title I to target programs toward the poor. The prevailing theory of the time was that educational disadvantages

could best be eliminated at an early age before their cumulative effect was impossible to reverse.

Head Start programs sprang up in communities nationwide, drawing the youngest students into a program designed to teach them the basics before they entered the school system.

The Bilingual Education Act of 1967 provided federal funds for areas having substantial numbers of students with limited mastery of the English language. This problem still exists today as the influx of immigrants continues.

Opportunities for students with special needs was funded by the Education for All Handicapped Children's Act of 1975, taking care of one more segment of the population who needed help in getting a decent and sufficient education.

Why then, with the millions of dollars provided readily by the government, are Americans so obviously lacking in the three R's?

Why are America's students falling further behind those of other nations in areas

important to success in the business world?

Tests conducted in the areas of algebra and foreign cultures show U.S. students lacking. In a 1982 algebra test given by the International Association for Evaluation of Educational Achievement, the U.S. placed 14th out of 15 countries. Although standardized math test scores have been rising since 1980, U.S. students are still ranking low when compared to other countries.

A United Nations survey on foreign cultures found American students again one slot from the bottom.

In yet another survey, 20% of American 12-year olds were unable to locate their own country on a world map.

According to Herbert Walberg, a comparative-education expert for the University of Illinois, "Fifty-five percent of America's jobs involve information processing. If we don't have good, solid skills in language, geography, math and science, we'll be at a severe disadvantage."

Compulsive education for children is a basic method for combatting illiteracy.

Although we have a compulsory system of education in the U.S., our students ranked consistently lower than other countries in a survey of scholars conducted by U.S. News and World Report. Twelve of the scholars surveyed are based in the U.S., the others in western Europe and Japan.

The countries were ranked on a scale of 1-10 in the subjects of math, science, social studies, proficiency in own language and foreign language. The U.S. place fifth in math behind Japan, U.S.S.R., West Germany and France. In science, the U.S. place fifth, again behind the same countries. We did fare better in the areas of social studies (second only to West Germany) and foreign language (fourth) but placed an alarming sixth when it came to being proficient in our own native language. The low placement is felt to be due to the fact that the U.S. has so many non-native language students.

The failure of U.S. students to perform has largely been caused by a poorly structured teaching system, according to a recent Time magazine article.

University of Illinois Education Professor Kenneth Travers stated that the spiraling concept of teaching (giving a light introduction in the early years with subsequent returns at more sophisticated levels) "fails miserably...we keep on returning and revisiting the same ideas."

A 1983 government report, "A Nation At Risk," warned of "a tide of mediocrity," yet it has not resulted in the type of major reforms needed to put America higher on the list of countries excelling in educating their citizens.

Illiteracy can be conquered but it will take a joint effort between industry, the community and the education system to eradicate this disease of the intellect.

NEXT WEEK: Illiteracy in our own backyard: the Cerritos Community.

The Facts

In the U.S.

- 1 out of 5 adults cannot read.
- 40% of these illiterates are under the age of 40.
- 27 million Americans are functionally illiterate. Another 45 million are marginally illiterate.
- The United States ranks 49th in literacy among 158 United Nations members.

Cerritos College District

- SAT scores are far below state averages in both verbal (346 vs 424) and quantitative (391 vs 480).
- 1/3 of students taking the assessment battery in 1985-86 could not read above the 10th grade level.
- 4 out of 10 had not mastered basic writing, 1/4 had not mastered basic math.
- 20% of new campus population indicated English as their second language, yet only 7% declared a need for English assistance.