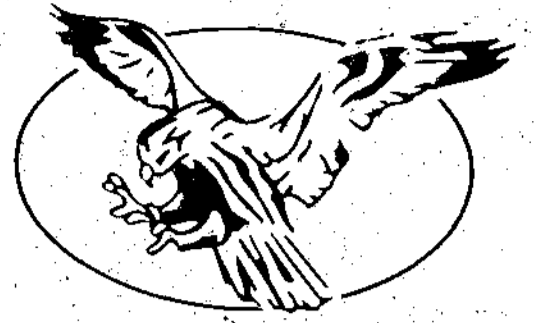


Talon Marks



VOL. 42, NO. 4

CERRITOS COLLEGE, NORWALK, CA

MARCH 5, 1997

The Club and pepper spray are hot items

■ Campus police say crime is not rising despite recent incidents.

By D. S. PEREZ
TM Staff Writer

Most students would assume that the Cerritos College Bookstore would generally sell books, but lately the hotter items it has been offering are the Club, pepper spray and personal alarms.

In fact, the self defense and theft protection units being sold at the Bookstore have been popular items with the amount of crimes occurring and the rising number of cars being stolen on campus.

"The squealer units sold well, in fact that item is sold out. Sales of the club were steady at the beginning of the semester but they have slowed down," said Vicky Koshe, night supervisor of the Bookstore.

However, according to campus police, items like personal alarms and pepper spray will see little action on campus grounds.

Campus police downplay the notion that crime is on the rise in the wake of a recent armed robbery that took place two weeks ago on Falcon Way, where a female student was forced to give up her ATM card and code number at gunpoint.

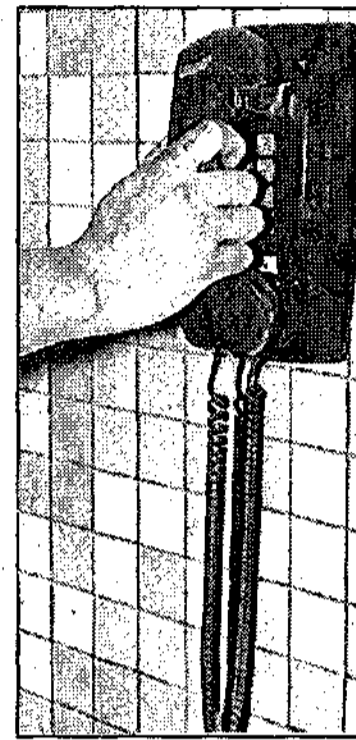
According to Lt. Richard Bukowiecki, most of the crimes on campus involve items and not people, and Cerritos College has a low crime rate when compared with surrounding areas.

This squad has two or three unarmed officers and 10 parking lot enforcers patrolling the campus grounds at a given time.

"We have very few assaults. Most of the crimes that take place involve vehicles. The few crimes we do have between people are usually minor scuffles or arguments," Bukowiecki said.

One new type of incident on the rise is fighting over parking spaces—something that has been troubling campus police, parking lot enforcement and the year-and-a-half-old bicycle patrols.

Please see CRIME, Page 3



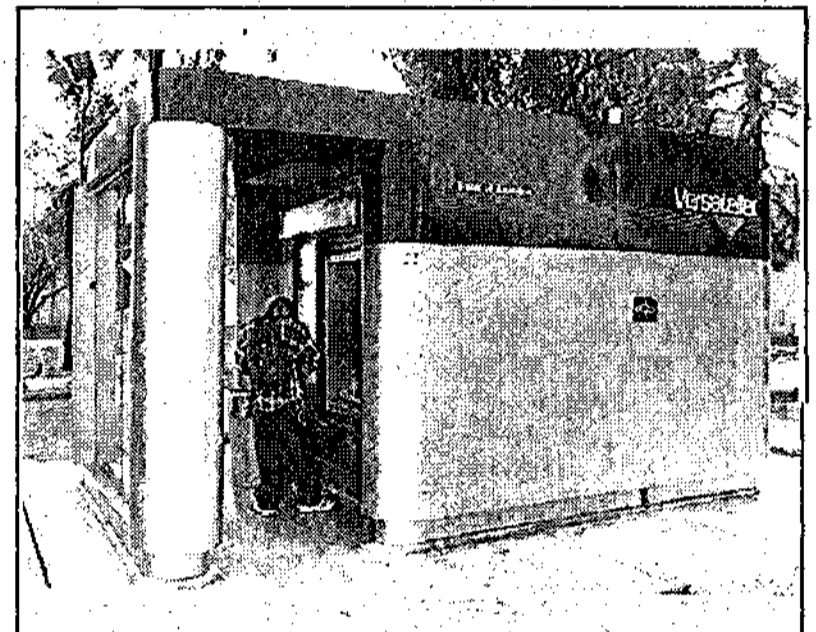
Photos by
FAUSTO RAMOS/Talon Marks

Clockwise from left:
Campus police officer
Rey Reyes (left) and
Sgt. Don Hatori on bike
patrol; Phones that
connect to campus
police are in every
building; Police
recommend caution
when using ATM.



SAFETY TIPS

- Stay in well lit areas
- Don't go to ATMs at night
- Park close to classes
- Use the buddy system and campus shuttles
- Call the campus police for escort
- Take a self-defense class
- Contact campus police whenever something is out of the ordinary



Free chili and chicken served at Hoe Down

■ Western Booth Day and Mr. Cerritos contest are among the popular events.

By JENNIFER KHO
TM Feature Editor

In seven more days the quad will be filled with the carnival-like atmosphere of games, prizes, music and country line dancing.

Western Booth Day, along with a chili cook-off, the Mr. Cerritos competition, an activity night and a student luncheon will continue the 18-year tradition of Hoe Down Days, the spring counterpart to fall's homecoming festivities.

"Hoe Down Days provide the opportunity to bring the campus together through activities and entertainment programs," said Phil Houseman, associate dean of student activities.

Art major Erik Norman agrees, "Hoe Down Days will bring students together through the allure of free chili and a free lunch."

Western Booth Day will be on March 11 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the quad. The chili cook-off will be on March 12 at 10:30 a.m. in the quad and the Mr. Cerritos Contest will be at 11 a.m. the same day.

That evening, there will also be an activity night on the social sciences patio. On March 13 at 11 a.m. there will be a luncheon and a concert in the quad.

According to Dean Ackland, coordinator of student activities, the booths, luncheon and Mr. Cerritos contest have occurred annually since Hoe Down

Days was first celebrated.

"The purpose of the booths is to raise money for the clubs to support the various activities and programs they sponsor on campus and in the community throughout the school year," he explained.

According to Eileen Esquivel, student government clerk, the 20 available booths were taken by clubs within the first half hour of sign-ups this year. There will be a dunk tank run by the ASCC with student government members being dunked. Cosmetology will also have a booth offering haircuts and manicures for \$1 each.

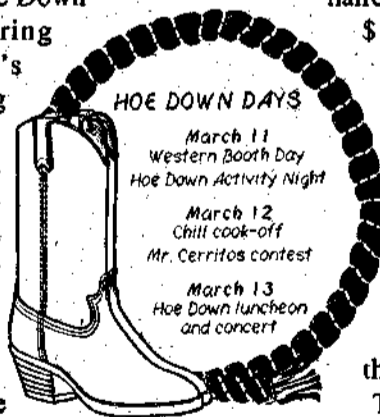
Jammie Hann, a music education major, said, "It sounds like it will be really exciting to go and experience all that Hoe Down Days has to offer. I'm especially interested in the cosmetology booth!"

There will also be line dancing on March 11. The instructor will be Bill Robertson, who taught at the leadership conference in January.

"We had a good turnout for country line dancing at the leadership conference. It might be a little embarrassing, but it will be a lot of fun!" said Debbie Arthur, commissioner of activities.

The Mr. Cerritos Contest was set up by students and has continued to be a popular event, Ackland said. Mr. Cerritos is considered the equivalent of the homecoming queen even though he does not have duties all year.

The luncheon will include chicken, vegetables and soda. A country western band will play during the luncheon to entertain the students in the quad.



Student Center almost done

■ Food vendors may move in Friday.

By SOREN WILLIAMS
TM Graphics Editor

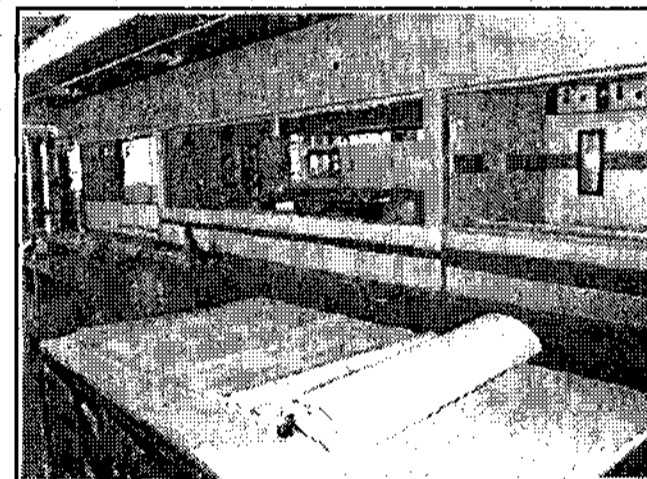
After well over an extra month of waiting, students craving for more food on campus need only endure a few more weeks of anticipation.

"The food court will definitely be done soon after spring break and [maybe] it'll be open before spring break," ASCC President Wayne Nunnery said.

The food court section of the Student Center is in the final stages of construction. "We expect the restaurants to be able to move in this Friday," Nunnery said.

After getting approval from the student senate to take \$10,000 out of undistributed funds for furniture and fixtures, the furniture has been ordered and should be in place by the end of spring break.

Construction crews cited changes in the building plans by the architect and unavoidable problems, such as bad plumbing pipes, as reasons for the numerous delays in the opening of the



FAUSTO RAMOS/Talon Marks

Renovation on the food court is scheduled to be completed around spring break.

food court.

Robert Bradshaw, architect for The Blurock Partnership, disagreed. "There have been no major changes in the plans, only minor ones. We only observe the construction and can't control how long it takes the construction company."

Worker Carlos Torres said, "All we have to do is put in the lights and the restaurants should be able to move in. They'll probably be able to start moving in on Friday."

The old faculty lounge that will become a full service restaurant will be named Cafe d' Arts and the cafeteria will be called La Chef Cuisine according to instructor in culinary arts Michael Pierini.

INSIDE



■ **KIDS GET PLAYGROUND**
Child center receives 153,333 pennies for new playground. Page 2

■ **A PLANT'S PARADISE**
A little greenhouse goes a long way in ornamental horticulture. Page 4

■ **CAMPUS IS CLEAN**
Despite being understaffed, custodians are doing a good job of keeping the campus clean. Page 6

■ **BASKETBALL ROLLS ALONG**
Mens' team hosts Fullerton tonight in second round of playoffs. Page 8

Nunnery wants the money

By MONICA COTO
TM News Editor

"Show me the money," ASCC President Wayne Nunnery said, and the students did.

An expenditure of \$10,000 to buy furniture for the new Student Center was approved almost unanimously at the Feb. 26 student senate meeting.

This money will come from the ASCC endowment that is made up of funds from the Bookstore, ID card sales and the interest the endowment generates.

The furniture will include eight camel-back couches, four solid oak coffee tables and five solid wood pedestal tables with large round bases and claw feet.

"It's like the stuff you would see on 'Friends,' the television show," Nunnery said.

Although some of the senators questioned how this would impact the endowment, Nunnery assured them that the move would enhance the presentation of the student center and that the money could mostly be replaced a month after the opening of the Student Center.

"What I promise you as the student body president," Nunnery said, "is we will replace that \$10,000 as soon as we possibly can before I leave as your president."

One of the ways he plans to do this is through a raffle.

Please see MONEY, Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS



Give the gift of life

The American Red Cross is holding a blood drive March 13 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in BK 111/112.

Donors should be 17 or older, weigh at least 110 pounds and not be at risk for HIV or AIDS.

Any students interested can sign up at the Student Health Center.

For more information contact Jill Kendall at (310) 426-1311.



Macintosh Users Unite

An organizational meeting for Macintosh users will be held March 6 at 11 a.m. in AC 62.

Faculty, staff and students will share techniques and tips, and there will be demonstrations featuring the latest Macintosh hardware and software.

For further information, contact Dr. Robin Huber at (562) 860-2451, ext. 2649.



Scholars to visit UCLA

Scholars' Honors Program students will visit UCLA March 14 to "get a feel for the campus," program director Don Karvelis said.

The SHP, in its inaugural semester, is open to students with a 3.25 GPA or better who are eligible for first-year courses in English and math.

Applications are being accepted by Karvelis for summer and fall.

Thirty-nine students have been approved this semester and more applications are pending, Karvelis said.

The activity at UCLA is just one of many the SHP organizes to enhance transfer.



University Mini-Fair to be held

The Transfer Center will hold a University Mini-Fair in front of the Cerritos College Library on March 12 from 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Representatives from many UC, Cal State and private universities will be present to answer questions.



Library improves

The Cerritos College Library is making great strides in the improvement of its book collection and electronic resources, said John McGinnis, director of the library.

The library's book and periodical collections can be accessed Online at <http://library.cerritos.edu>.

Faculty and students can access over 3,200 different magazines and journals.

They also have access to full text on 1,000 of these from any computer connected to the network on campus.



Petitions due soon

Students who wish to participate in commencement May 17 must turn in a petition to graduate by March 7.

Students may see their counselor to file a petition.

Commencement will be at 5:30 p.m. in the Falcon Stadium.



Applications for student election will be available

Applications for the ASCC president position are available at the Student Activities Office. The deadline to submit them is March 21 at 4 p.m.

Requirements include a sophomore standing and a 2.25 GPA, previous and cumulative.

Students must have at least six units to maintain office status and no F's in the spring semester.



Applications for financial aid due

Financial aid deadlines are coming soon.

The last day to submit financial aid applications will be this Friday. Study abroad applications are due March 27 and the loan applications deadline is April 24.

All of this for just pennies



FAUSTO RAMOS/Talon Marks

Kids in the Child Development Center thank the campus community for their new playground.

Children and staff are thankful for the support.

By ESTEL TONI
TM Staff Writer

The Child Development Center's "Pennies for a Playground" campaign has raised 153,333 pennies and more are still coming in although the campaign is over. Who counted and wrapped all the pennies?

"My secretary Cathy Didion and I," said Tricia Kepner, director of the CDC, "and the children helped too."

Kepner said the staff, students, faculty and parents have been very supportive. "The pennies have been coming in faster than we had expected."

The inter club council collected 18,200 pennies.

The children at the center also brought in their share of pennies and cannot wait to play on the new playground.

They made a big "thank you" sign for all who contributed.

It will hang on the fence of the center. Four-year-old Katarina Taylorsaid she felt good about getting a new playground and that was why she drew a cross for God.

Three-year-old Evan Stiles said, "I am [usually] shy, but today I am not. I will play on everything."

He showed off a purple and orange-colored drawing that he had done and pointed out that it was a crocodile with seven legs saying thank you.

Judy Dodge, one of the teachers, said she is excited about getting the new and upgraded equipment for the children.

Public is not happy with the Board

By DAVID FEENSTRA
TM Sports Editor

From Bookstore prices to the new golf training center and the running of the Cerritos College Foundation, the public is not pleased with how this college is running.

Gilbert Grinnie, a paralegal major, presented the Board of Trustees with a petition that had roughly 200 signatures of students complaining about prices in the Bookstore.

"How can a bookstore off campus and at other colleges sell books cheaper than at our campus?" Grinnie asked.

Associated Students of Cerritos College president Wayne Nunnery feels that the problems are coming from the campus itself. He directly blames the *Talon Marks*.

"It doesn't help our Bookstore's business when the so-called campus newspaper accepts advertisements from off-campus bookstores," Nunnery said.

A lengthy debate ensued and then ended after Nunnery promised to form a committee to look into the price discrepancies.

The Board has yet to set a hearing date for Bookstore manager Alan Beaulieu, who has been on

paid administrative leave since last September.

Donn Irving, community member, questioned the Board about the handling of the foundation.

"Normally it takes a couple of years for a foundation to get up to speed before it is self-sufficient," Irving said. "It's been over 18 years and the foundation still isn't self-sufficient."

Irving was also concerned that the foundation's financial status is being ignored by the Board.

He cited the fact the Foundation only needs to turn in an audit once every ten years as long as it doesn't make more than \$25,000 in a year, but in 1990 the foundation reported an income of over \$75,000 without changing its auditing status.

In his conclusion Irving asked for the minutes of all the foundation meetings.

On a side note Board member Mary Loya questioned her colleagues about whether or not the public ever receives what they ask for.

A brief discussion was held but no definite answer came out of it.

Gary Cordova, an instructor on campus, spoke to the Board about the golf training center project.

Cordova presented the Board with two companies who were willing to do a feasibility study for the 10 acres of land where the strawberry patch is

currently located.

One of those companies stated that if the land is truly worth \$10 million then it should make 10 percent of that in rent a year.

All Seasons Golf projected rent for that space is \$135,000 per year, roughly one percent of the lands estimated worth.

Cordova stated that not only would either of these companies do the feasibility study but they would also help the college find a lease to rent the land.

Talk then turned to the quarterly presidential summit.

The summit was hosted by Cerritos on Feb. 13. The one-day workshop is held to bring together administrators and faculty from various community colleges.

The faculty that was involved reported to the Board that the summit went extremely well.

It was pleasantly surprised that the majority of community colleges shared common ground on many issues.

Also in the meeting, members of the ASCC executive cabinet and student senate presented College President Fred Gaskin with a plaque for his leadership and outstanding service to the Cerritos College community.

Local standards stir up the pool

CCA discourages recruitment of foreign students to colleges.

By DAVID DM COUTANT
TM Entertainment Editor

The textbooks are in and the new academic calendar is out.

In addition, local standards and lacking attendance shared the agenda with sabbatical leave and foreign student enrollment at last week's faculty senate meeting.

Local standards and minimum qualifications for hiring practices were discussed.

It was clarified that local standards, imposed by individual schools and departments, could not be considered as minimum requirements, but as preferred qualifications.

Some departments impose local standards, which may or may not appear on distributed flyers that advertise job availability.

"You can only use the local standards insofar as they do not impact the diversity of the pool," Cynthia Convey, interim director of personnel services, said. "In short, you're not discriminating in your hiring practices."

Then a memo was referred to in which college president Fred Gaskin reported that

the Master Planning Committee meeting was not well-attended.

According to the memo, of the six members on the committee, one showed up late, one sent a substitute and three were absent.

The topic of conversation then changed as faculty senate president Pat Pinder drew attention to an article in the *Nota Bene* newsletter, published by the Community College Association, regarding foreign students.

"CCA has challenged the practices of some districts to actively recruit foreign students which has resulted in an enrollment rate of foreign students in excess of 10 percent for one community college!" the article stated.

The CCA believes the California community college system's mission is "to provide access specifically to Californians."

Pinder announced that no reports were made to vice president of business services Judith Christensen regarding a lack of textbooks available in the Bookstore.

The senate also approved the sabbatical leave proposals, which were to be approved by the Board along with the final documents from last year's sabbaticals.

The senate then approved the academic calendar for the 1997-98 year.

The next faculty senate meeting will be held Tuesday at 11 a.m. in the Board room.

Women's History Month begins

By JOYCE KELLY
TM Staff Writer

The Associated Students of Cerritos College and the Black Student Union kicked off the eleventh annual Women's History Month yesterday.

This two-month event will pay tribute to women of all races and walks of life. The activities scheduled are free and open to the community. Some include a reader's theater, a film festival and workshops that highlight women in politics, the arts, history and more.

The keynote speaker yesterday was Sandra Sharp, a writer, producer, filmmaker and actress. Based in Los Angeles, Sharp is currently working on a documentary film called "The Healing Passage."

She has written volumes of poetry, a stage play and adult non-fiction. She has also produced and edited many audio books. As an actress, she has starred in television movies and performed on stage in both New York and Los Angeles.

The schedule for tomorrow will present Dr. Matilde Barker, faculty sociology, as moderator for "A Celebration of Black Writers' Reader's Theatre" with a number of students and faculty reading literary and historic works by African women in the Diaspora. This event will be held in teleconference room LC 155 from 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

"Women and Money" will be on the schedule for Tuesday from 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. in teleconference room.

The ASCC and BSU are also sponsoring an essay contest on the topic "A Long and Fine Tradition of Community Leader." Ship Essays must be turned in to the Re-entry Center by April 2 at 4 p.m.

Cerritos' future comes into focus

By MONICA COTO
TM News Editor

A sneak peek at how Cerritos College might look ten years from now was given at a recent Master Plan preview as architect Deborah Shepley of IBP Architecture presented the site development plan.

The Educational and Facilities Master Plan is a document that merges what the college projects for educational programs with what should be done with its facilities.

For the last seven months the college has been working to develop the Master Plan so that it can become eligible for state funds that will make all the changes possible.

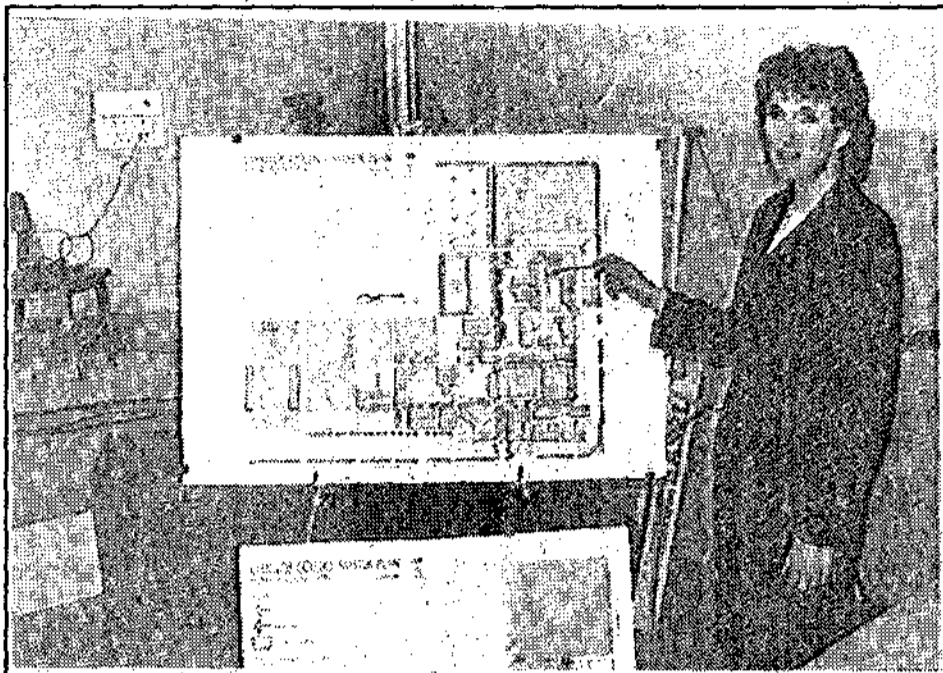
The site development plan is an accumulation of this work.

"This is the first public showing of where we are in the process," Dean for Institutional Advancement and Planning Jan Dennis-Rounds said. "I've heard from every audience that sees this that it is a big improvement."

Some of the most dramatic changes proposed included the demolition of three buildings along Studebaker Road and the elimination of Falcon Way.

The Lecture Hall, Natural Science, and Business Education buildings will be removed and replaced with a new business/computer complex, a store similar to the Elbow Room and an expanded Child Development Center.

"The Child Development Center, which is in the heart of the campus, is nestled in there and not easy to access," Shepley said. "It has a potential public use al-



FAUSTO RAMOS/Talon Marks

Deborah Shepley points out highlights of the site development plan.

though it is not currently being used because the space isn't available."

Another great change is the elimination of Falcon Way. Shepley said this proposal will increase safety by reducing pedestrian and vehicular crossing and unite the north and south campuses.

Other proposed changes include centralizing Disabled Student Programs and Services in the Physical Science building and moving the dance studio to the Fitness Center.

All these projected changes are based on the suggestions of every department on campus.

"It was a very open process," Dennis-Rounds said. "Every department on cam-

pus completed a unit level plan outlining what they wanted to do over the years. We extracted from those."

She also reminded those that attended the Master Plan Preview that these plans are not set in stone. "There is a lot of room for comment. We are planning on taking the item to the Board of Trustees at their next meeting summarizing the comments and they will have an opportunity to comment."

The target date for the completion of the Master Plan is in mid-April 1997.

Students interested in commenting on the renderings before they are finalized can view them in the Institutional Advancement Office.

MONEY: Senate sells raffle tickets to replace funds

Continued from Page 1

"A private party has donated a 27-inch, color television for this purpose," Minority Leader Greg Wylie said. "If every senator and executive student board member sold 50 of these raffle tickets for \$1 each, we could get \$2000 just like that."

Tickets will be sold during Hoe Down Days.

Anyone interested in supporting the raffle can contact Wylie in the Student Activities Office.

The club that sells the most tickets will be awarded \$200.

"If we're successful in the raffle, that's \$3000," Nunnery said. "Another \$3000 will be paid by the coffee vendor as soon as he moves in."

"So we only have to put \$4000 in there to make up the difference."

Nunnery said this can be easily raised by revenues from the new food court.

"Remember from Taco Bell we got \$10,000 in two months? We now have theoretically four Taco Bells. I don't suspect it will take more than a month," Nunnery said.

He said the most important thing now is to support the new Student Center.

"Guys, we've got to work hard to get the customers into the food court," he said. "If they use the facility then we get the money and we fill our endowment back up and then you will be able to do great things here at Cerritos College in the future."

CRIME: Police offer advice to students

Continued from Page 1

"Parking spaces are not worth going to jail for," Officer Garth Dale said. "We have had incidents of vandalism and fights over parking spots on a weekly basis."

Most crimes that do take place have something to do with cars or backpacks.

"At the beginning of the semester we had a lot of reports of backpacks being stolen. Students should use the pay-locker bins, but they still prefer the open bins," Bukowiecki said.

However, students do not use the metal pay lockers because they are slumped alongside a corner, with most of the locks broken or missing keys that students use to open them.

"We were finding that students were taking the keys, or leaving their belongings in the lockers," Koshe said. "We would have to break open the locks, and since it was expensive to repair the lockers, they are no longer operational."

"People didn't even notice them to begin with."

Many students also overlook the presence of the red phones that are located in every building and connect directly with the campus police station.

Koshe also noted that the security cameras monitoring the open bins have also cut down on the number of backpacks being stolen from the Bookstore.

As for using such cameras to monitor the campus or more likely the parking lots, Bukowiecki and Dale believe that it will never happen.

"Security cameras have been researched," Bukowiecki said, "but it would need the chief's and the Board of Trustees' vote."

"We would rather have more bodies in uniform. It's more effective than hiring someone to monitor the campus through a video monitor, which would be quite tedious."

Dale backed Bukowiecki's statements, and added that a similar idea to build a tower for security staff to monitor the lots

was also shot down.

"Cameras would be expensive to install, and all those wires would have to go to the campus police station, which would be quite a mess," Dale said.

One idea still being shuffled around is for students majoring in administration of justice to be student officers, a notch above the current rank of parking lot enforcement.

These officers would deal with non-emergency situations and would get class credit and pay.

Pay phones will also be upgraded for students to dial 3000 for the campus police, instead of dialing 911 and having to wait for the Norwalk police officers to respond.

According to Dale, the best advice for students is knowing where the safest — and most dangerous — areas of the campus are.

"The football field area is very dark, and it is a very easy place for the community to enter the campus, so it has a lot of potential for criminals," Dale said. "Around the ATM, use common sense, and don't go to this one — or any ATM — at night."

"ATM are big potential spots for crime."

Other tips for students to use are to park as close to their classes as possible and to remember the red phones that are placed inside campus buildings.

Also the officers remind students to use the buddy system, campus shuttles that run across campus or call the campus police for escort. Taking a self-defense class is also useful.

But the most helpful way to reduce the number of incidents on campus, Dale said, is to contact the police whenever something is out of the ordinary. "Students should report suspicious individuals immediately."

"We are doing the best we can do, but it's the student's campus and they should work with police to keep their campus safe."

"Parking spaces are not worth going to jail for."
— Officer Garth Dale

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Kansas City	\$49**	San Francisco \$59**
New York/Newark	\$109*	San Francisco \$139*
Oklahoma City	\$49**	San Francisco \$119**
From The WEST		
Phoenix	\$49*	Miami \$159**
San Diego	\$69*	Miami \$149**
San Francisco	\$69*	Miami \$149**
Seattle	\$79*	Miami \$149**
Los Angeles	\$69*	Orlando \$139*
Portland	\$79*	Orlando \$159*

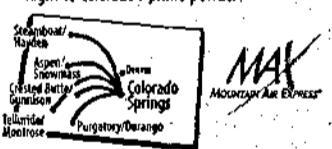
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POLICE BEAT

Sharp and petty

On Feb. 18 at 2:30 p.m., an officer responded to the Social Sciences building, Room 313, to investigate a reported petty theft.

The instructor reported that a pencil sharpener and a chair had been taken.

Sleight of manicure

At 9:30 a.m. on Feb. 19, a student stated that during her cosmetology class in the Health Sciences building, someone had taken \$20 from her wallet.

Tailgate freak show

At 7:30 a.m. on Feb. 24 two staff members reported that another staff member was acting suspiciously in the football stadium.

Two officers confronted the staff member and he appeared to be under the influence of a controlled substance. The staff member, who a day before mentioned that he was going to party all night, was subsequently advised that his shift was over.

A report of the incident will be forwarded to the facilities department for their review.

Burglary in processor

On Feb. 26, a \$2,250 computer processing unit was stolen from a computer in the Social Sciences building.

A staff member stated that someone must have entered Room 139 between the time of 7:40 and 8:15 a.m. and stole the component.

Mutual combat

At 12:30 p.m. on Feb. 26, a female student reported that she was involved in a fight with a male student.

An investigation determined that the argument was a mutual combat between her and her former boyfriend.

There were no injuries, and both parties were counseled and released without incident.

VCR 21 days late and counting

On Feb. 26 an instructor reported that a VCR had been stolen three weeks before at Lecture Hall Room 3.

The instructor had waited to make sure that the \$389 VCR, missing since Feb. 5, had not been borrowed by a colleague.

Ejected from the game

Working a basketball game, a campus officer was informed that two students in attendance were currently suspended and should not be present.

The officer contacted the two women and determined that they were suspended and therefore could not remain on campus.

The women were allowed to pick up their friend, and then left campus. The two were warned that their presence on campus might result in their arrest.

Cerritos Auto Square

At 6:35 p.m. on Feb. 21, a red 1991 Chevrolet S-10 was reported stolen from Lot C-10.

The student who owned the vehicle stated that he had been away from his car since parking it and locking it at 7:45 a.m. -- almost 12 hours.

On Feb. 26, a red 1993 Mazda Rx7 was stolen from Lot C-11. The student had been away for only two hours.

On the night of Feb. 27, a 1978 Chevrolet El Camino in Lot C-10 was reported missing by its owner. The vehicle had been left alone and locked for three hours.

As of March 2, 14 automobiles have been stolen from the campus parking lots, and four vehicles have been vandalized.

— Compiled by CAMPUS POLICE

Greenhouse hides on campus

By DAVE COWDRICK
TMOpinion Editor

It is a little-known fact that there is an area of Cerritos College with ideal 70-80 degree weather conditions, plenty of sand and lush tropical palm trees.

You may walk past this place every day and not even realize it because it's so small. It is the campus greenhouse.

The greenhouse became a part of the campus in 1979 when the ornamental horticulture program was added to the Cerritos curriculum.

Dr. Louis Wilson, who was the division chairman of science, engineering and math at the time, was one of the significant persons behind the introduction of the greenhouse, ornamental horticulture instructor Franklin Yee said.

"The purpose of the greenhouse is to have a controlled environment for growing plant material and also for what we call plant propagation," Yee said.

The greenhouse is mainly used as a storage facility for plants that would not be able to grow without controlled conditions.

The plants that can be found in the greenhouse are used in experiments in botany and specialized ornamental horticulture classes such as professional floral design and greenhouse management.

"We need certain kinds of plants for certain kinds of classes," Yee said.

Among these plants are African violets, different species of cacti, palm trees, silk trees, different kinds of ivy, orchids and many others.

Many of the plants and trees that are in the greenhouse were grown by students who were in plant propagation classes years before.

When the greenhouse begins to get too

full, some of the plants and trees are taken out onto the campus and planted.

Because of the different needs of these individual plants and trees, the greenhouse is equipped with heating, ventilation, cooler and even mist systems for plants that need a lot of moisture.

The actual placement of the plants also plays a part in meeting their different needs.

In regard to the equipment in the greenhouse, Yee said, "We could use a little

upgrading and replacement of some things."

He's hopeful that with all of the renovations that are being done on campus the greenhouse will be somewhere on the list of things to do.

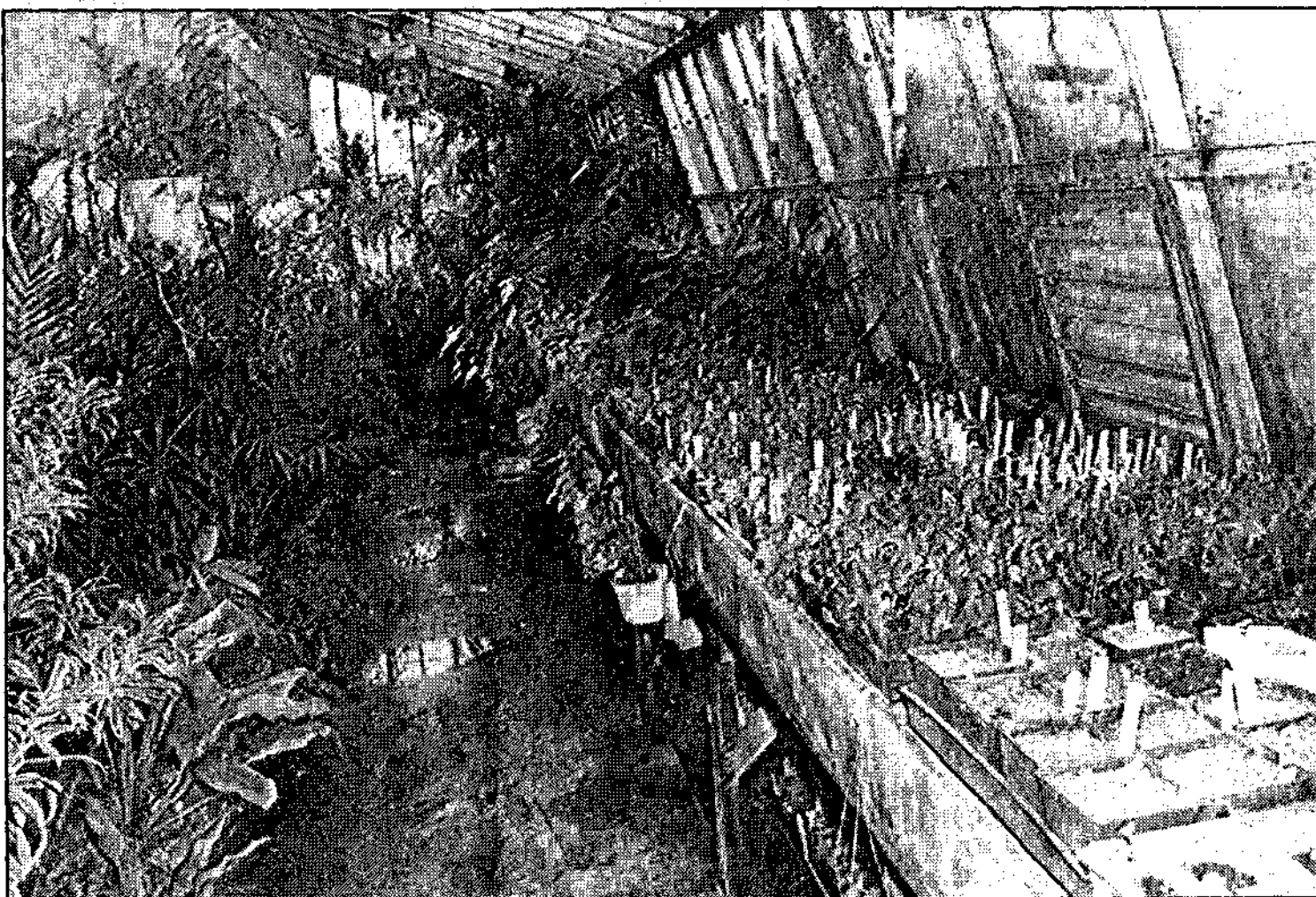
If this were to happen and the greenhouse became a more prominent part of the campus it might stir the interests of many more students.

"I'm sure a lot of people don't know it's here," greenhouse technician Adam Girgle

said, "Nobody knows about it."

Yee said, "We'd like to let the students know that we are available and we have a program and that it's viable. We feel it's a good option for a lot of students here."

Anyone who is interested in the greenhouse can find it between the natural sciences and metals buildings and can become more involved with it by taking a botany class or a beginning ornamental horticulture class.



FAUSTO RAMOS/Talon Marks

The campus greenhouse has plants that require controlled conditions. It is used for ornamental horticulture.

Net Head News

By SOREN WILLIAMS

Laugh it up on the Internet

Humor is truly one of the greatest things in the world and thankfully, the Internet is just like one big library of laughs.

It seems that no matter what you'd like to hear or read, the Internet can help tickle the old funny bone. It's easy to find anything from cartoons to stand-up comedy.

Probably the easiest way to find something funny is just go to Yahoo (www.yahoo.com) and click on humor. This will give you a list good enough to keep you busy for days.

If you don't feel like searching through all those humor sites, here's one I highly recommend; College Humor (acs4.bu.edu:8001/~tlarkham/humor/college/home.html). This site has a wealth of great things to do as a college student.

Free cards for St. Patrick's Day

St. Patrick's day is coming up March 14. There is a great place where you can send free virtual cards for just about any occasion.

The site at www.marlo.com/st-p.htm has all kinds of cards. What it does is create a web site for the card you make. Then the program e-mails the person you want to send the card to and tells them the web address of the card.

If you'd rather be more personal, you could print out the card and hand it to them.

Internships listed for the finding

Because summer is actually quite close a lot of college students are looking for internships to provide them with the skills they need for their profession. Once again the web can help.

Lots of web sites are dedicated to internships, but many just advertise some book you can buy for \$20 at any book store.

The most thorough site I found is located at www.tripod.com/work/internships.

It lists the internships methodically by profession. It also gives you brief descriptions of the companies offering the internships and how to contact them.

Most sites haven't figured out how to make finding internships as easy as this site.

Students invited to explore the Dragon

By JENNIFER KHO
TM Feature Editor

In several old legends and fables, dragons helped people.

They still do.

Cerritos College has its own modern-day dragon, a menu that can be used with Cerritos College Internet accounts.

The Dragon has a list of options that are accessible by pressing a single letter or number and then hitting the return key. For example, electronic mail via Pine can be accessed by pressing "P". Pine is an e-mail program.

"The Dragon helps a lot of people out. Not all students have the time to take a course in e-mailing or using the Internet, and the Dragon makes it a lot easier for students who do not have a clue about the Internet," Jennifer Rodriguez, a nursing major, said.

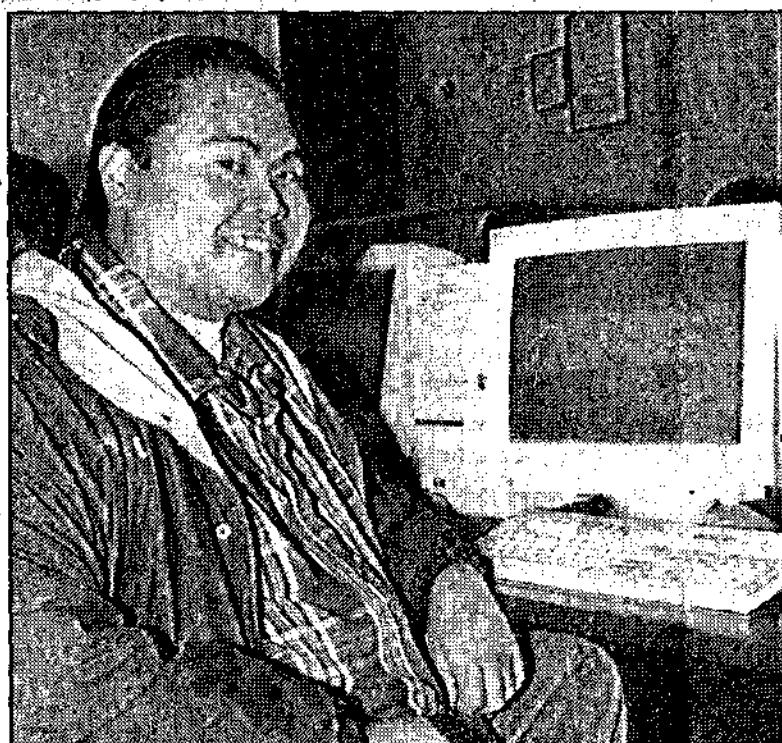
"The menu was my savior due to the fact that I only knew how to use Pine. I first used Pine at Fresno State and had no idea how to use the mailer here. The flyers they gave me did me no good either," she added.

But not everyone agrees that the Dragon is a good thing.

"There are many students and faculty members who are very angry with the Dragon junk mail. It is intrusive and very confusing for students who are just starting to learn about the Internet and using e-mail," Liberal Arts Instructor Michael Bettino said.

The creator of the Dragon, Ray Resurreccion, is nicknamed Magic Man.

"I started performing magic when I was 11 years old. People started calling me 'Ray, the Magic



FAUSTO RAMOS/Talon Marks

Ray Resurreccion is the creator of the Dragon.

Man' and the name stuck. I quit doing magic to go to school full time, but maybe I will perform again in the future," he said.

His interest in magic began when he visited Presto, a magic shop in Long Beach. He is self-taught.

Resurreccion also taught himself about computers. "In 1994, I didn't even know how to open Windows. I learned most of what

I know from friends or from looking it up. After that I took a programming class."

Resurreccion credits curiosity as being his driving factor. "I'm driven by hunger for information. Anything that provides me with new or fascinating information draws me in."

He has always been interested in people. He is a math tutor in LAP, as well as a private tutor. He

does private web page and computer consulting and he even sells pagers for Team Spirit in his spare time.

"Some of the commands [on the school mailer] are so long. I decided to make a little menu. I didn't know anything about programming, so I learned by example. If I didn't know how to do something, I would look it up. But I kept finding things that could be added, and the Dragon began to grow," he explained.

"When I saw people on-line, I would mail the program directly to them and ask them to review it," he said.

But that is where the problems began. He also sent the mailer to students who were taking classes to learn about the Internet for the first time.

Douglas Brantley, the Programming Services Facilitator said, "This is the first time some students are using a computer. The faculty member would introduce e-mail into their lecture, telling students what to do when they log in. If students are sent a message that encourages them to download the Dragon and use it, then that totally throws off all the prep work the instructor has done."

Many instructors are on a very

limited time schedule. Some were upset that they had to waste so much time explaining the Dragon to their students, he explained.

Alan Gelhar, Director of Computer Services said, "Computer Services does not support student-created programs because we can't control them. We recommend that students don't download the Dragon. Programs could be downloaded with faulty software or viruses that could bring the whole system down."

Brantley agreed, "We have a large scalability and if many students were allowed to create programs it would be very difficult to prevent proliferation of them."

Resurreccion said, "I want to try to accommodate every student and faculty member to make it as easy as possible. Now I am relying on flyers and word of mouth rather than mass e-mail."

Interested students can e-mail him at resur001@cerritos.edu with the words "Send me the Dragon" on the subject line.

A committee has been set up to review the procedures for club and student web sites as well as student programs. Public relations commissioner Eddie Levine said the formats and policies will be completed this semester.

Smithsonian photographer displays at CC Gallery

By JOYCE KELLY
TM Staff Writer

Just like Othello or a modern day Moor warrior, this massive form of a man entered and dominated the doorway, as well as the entire room.

His appearance was as incredible as his work.

Willie Middlebrook was that man. The man of the hour. His art work, "Portraits of My People," is on exhibit in the Art Gallery.

"I am obsessed with the need to communicate. I need to tell, to show what I see, what I feel... I am intrigued and motivated by the life experience; the human condition. Photography is the tool I use to communicate my feel-

ings," a passage of Middlebrook's philosophy reads.

He said he spent almost all of his life seeing negative, non-quality images of his people and decided to focus on producing true images. These images are not necessarily positive or light, but they are always true, he said.

He said of his photopaintings, "It is just a big black and white photograph. It has no bleaches or toners."

Edward Ewell, an artist of landscape and seascape who resides in Los Angeles, said of Middlebrook's work, "It's very exciting. He is not a follower, he is an innovator."

Dan Cautrell, the coordinator of the art gallery, is excited about

it's new look. He has created a dividing wall with a plexiglass sign that announces the artist and title of the works displayed.

Mike Coppenger, a photography instructor, said, "I enjoy the large pieces and the way the developer was allowed to drip was really terrific."

Mary Loya, a Board of Trustees member, said, "His work is thought-provoking, haunting and amazing. It's truly a work of art... I see sadness."

Middlebrook's mixed-media pieces cost \$1,500 and the silver gel print photopaintings cost up to \$20,000.

Middlebrook's works are also on display at the Smithsonian Institute.

Sculptures available for viewing in L.A.

Clay sculptures representing the myth of Sisyphus are on display at the Korean Cultural Center in Los Angeles.

In this myth, Sisyphus has to face the punishment of pushing a boulder to the top of a mountain over and over again forever.

These sculptures are the work of Steven Portugal, an art instructor at Cerritos College who teaches design and sculpting. "Clay is a magical material. It's very common. It can be found all over the earth and yet, in the hands of an artist, it's capable of creating amazing things," Portugal said.

Four artists including Portugal have their sculptures displayed until March 20. The exhibit is titled "Transition in Clay" and is part of a series of exhibitions.

The Korean Cultural Center is located at 5505 Wilshire Blvd. The gallery hours are Monday - Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Josine Ianco-Starrels, a curator with a long and well-respected career in L.A., invited Portugal to display his works at the Center.

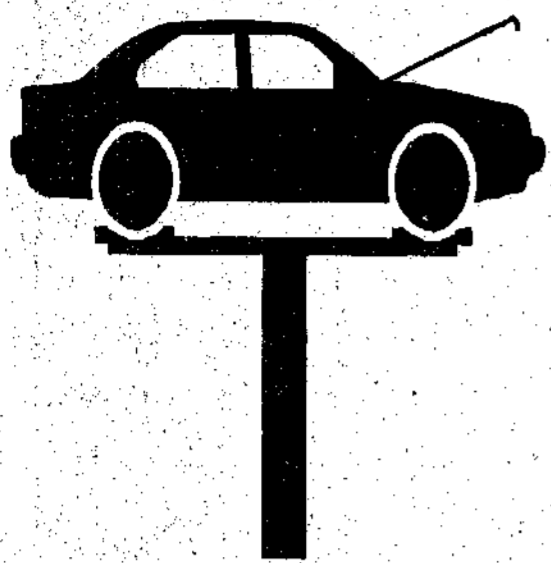
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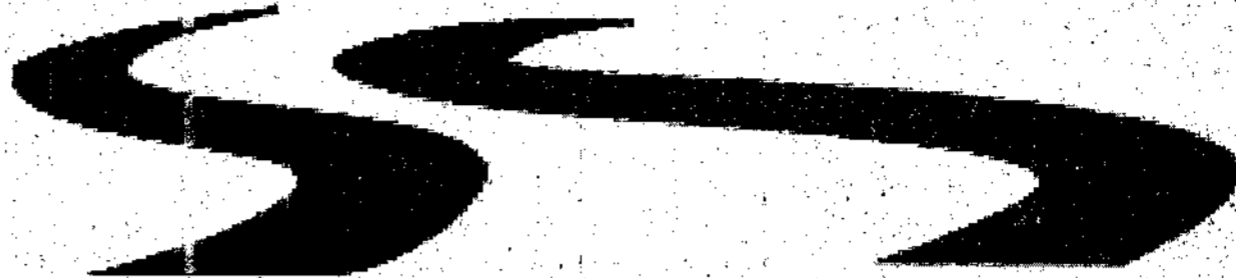
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On the fast track



Auto department goes the extra mile

By KELLY BARTH
TM Staff Writer

Around the fast track of college automotive departments, Cerritos is sporting a vintage model.

With the largest department of its type in California, Cerritos' autotechnology produces 90 graduates a year, who immediately go to work full time at dealerships.

The program consists of an estimated 640-720 students and 31 classes that are offered days, evenings and Saturdays.

Some students are commuting to Cerritos from as far away as San Diego and Ventura. One of the students making the commute is Jeremy Ellsworth, who comes in from Redlands.

Ellsworth is a second-year student at Cerritos and is in the General Motors corporate program which started in 1981.

"I'm learning everything about GM cars," Ellsworth said. "I really like the program here at Cerritos. It was my first choice out of high school."

His choice was made a little bit easier by the service manager at Tom Bell, where Ellsworth works.

"He knew I was interested in automobiles and he came to me and asked if I would be interested in Cerritos," Ellsworth said.

For Ellsworth, the motivation for making a two-hour commute every day is to get out of school and start working.

At this point Ellsworth is undecided on which area he will specialize in but feels it will ultimately be electrical area of the automobile.

Greg Keegan, who is in his second year as head of the department, teaches the GM apprentice program and has been a Cerritos College employee since 1981.

"I teach half of the GM program and I have about 80 classes completed at the GM training center," Keegan said.

In addition to Keegan, the department is

made up of six full-time and seven part-time instructors, some of whom have worked as mechanics on the Indianapolis speedway as well as for the FBI.

Instructor Tony Barron was hired in 1985 to coordinate the Ford training program.

In 1986, Ford and Chrysler joined the GM program.

Cerritos is currently one of only two schools in the United States that offer all three corporate programs.

"Having the corporate programs here enables us to teach state-of-the-art stuff," Barron said. "Because of the corporate input, we've got all the tools and equipment — everything they have at the dealerships."

In 1991 Cerritos was named the number one post-secondary vocational school in the United States, a feat Barron attributes to the program's corporate involvement and a key reason why students like Ellsworth are willing to make the commute.

"That's a major part of our program because it really enhances our other programs," Barron said.

With an annual budget of around \$35,000, Cerritos' auto department receives tremendous support from the Ford, Chrysler and GM corporations.

The corporations donate everything from cars to components to textbooks. The textbooks, which are written at college level, would normally cost students \$45.

It's also because of the motor companies that 150 corporate cars are on the Cerritos lot for the students to learn with.

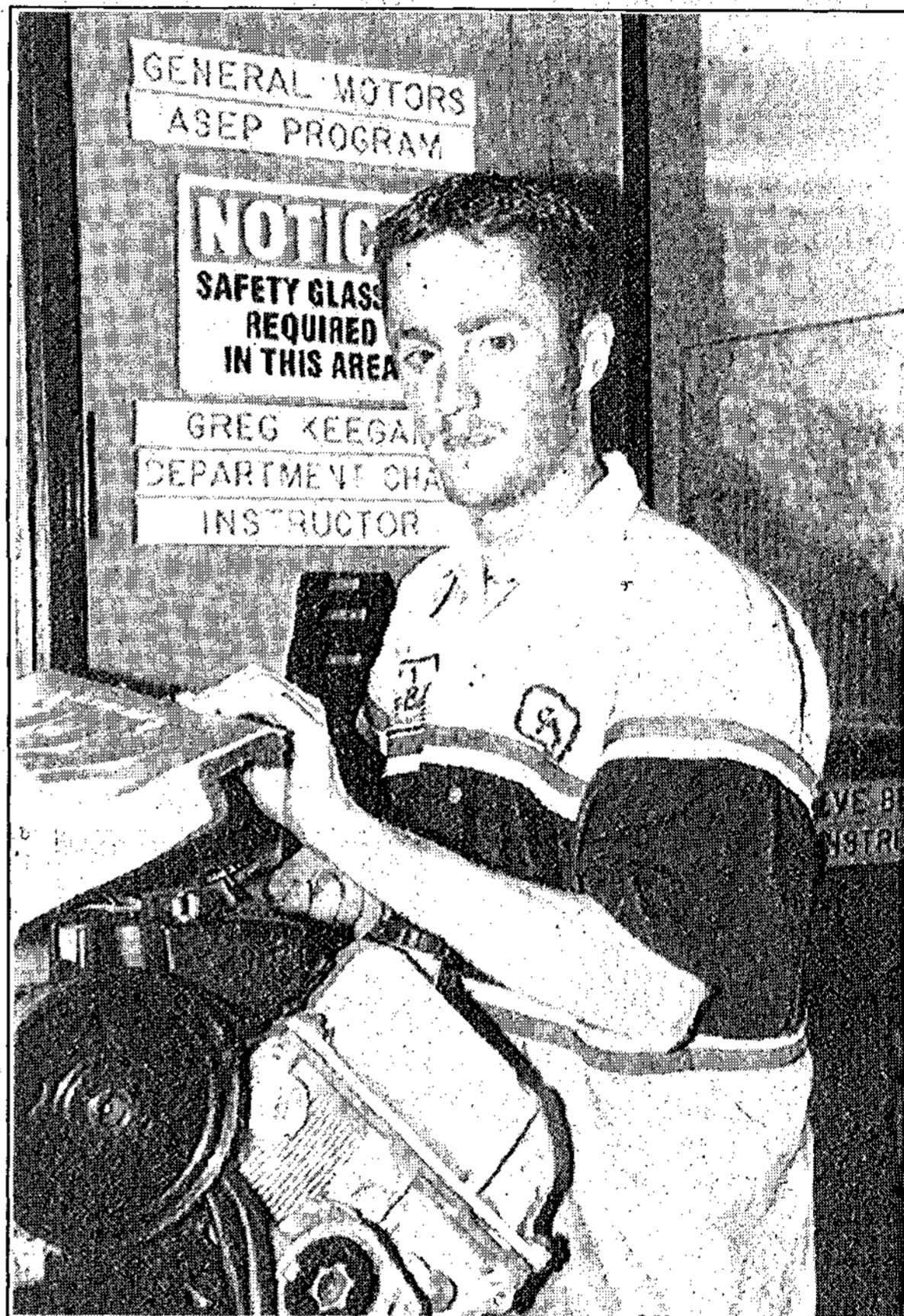
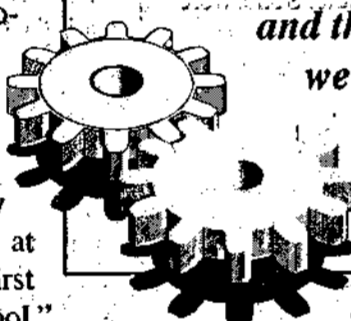
"The cars are donated because they have certain features, certain components we need to teach with," Keegan said.

What sets Cerritos' auto program apart from others at the community college level is the large amount of component parts made available to it as well as the modern facility that was built in 1978.

Keegan, who makes recruiting trips to high schools, sees what really attracts students to Cerritos. "When we show the pictures of the facility and the stuff we have, it sells the place."

When students

"When we show the pictures of the facility and the stuff we have, it sells the place."



FAUSTO RAMOS/Talon Marks

Jeremy Ellsworth commutes from Redlands to gain work experience with GM cars in the Cerritos College auto program. Students are coming from as far as San Diego and Ventura.

decide on Cerritos College they find three different levels of education offered to them. One is as a "generic" student, others are as a member of the corporate or apprentice programs.

All three are based on the student's knowledge in the field.

"Generic" students, a term Keegan doesn't

favor, begin at entry level by taking Auto 1 and can earn three different degrees.

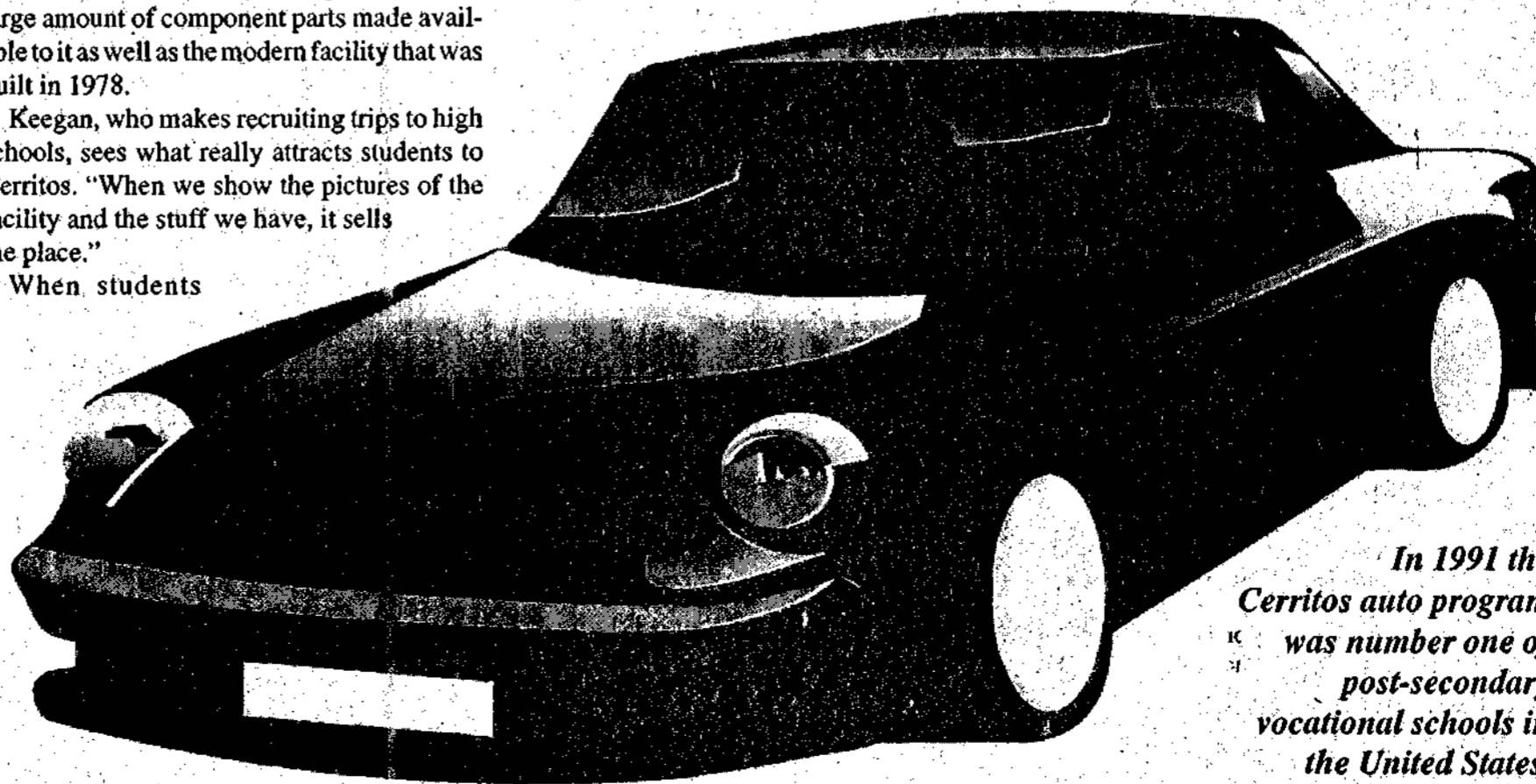
The corporate program consists of 180 students who work toward associate in arts degrees.

The students in the apprentice program take classes while being employed at the dealership in their area of expertise.



FAUSTO RAMOS/Talon Marks

Robert Mejia and Ivan Ortega work together reassembling a transmission.



In 1991 the Cerritos auto program was number one of post-secondary vocational schools in the United States.

EDITORIAL

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TALON MARKS

MARCH 5, 1997

EDITORIALS

Is our campus as safe as it could be?

Is it safe on our campus? After reading the police reports from each week, it's hard to have much of a secure feeling.

We worry if, every time we go out to our cars, we will have cars to go out to. We wonder, every time we go to the ATM, if we will walk away with all of our belongings, including our lives. We, as students, should be able to come to school, bring what we need, go where we have to and not be frightened for our lives.

If we have people on our campus with automatic pistols and assault warrants, how can we confidently go to and from our classes?

If right here on Falcon Way people are being robbed and humiliated at gunpoint, like one such incident last week, our priorities shift from our education to our personal safety.

If we're afraid to leave our cars in the parking lot, (considering there were at least nine cases of auto theft and break-ins in a recent week) how can we concentrate on our studies?

It's hard enough to fight the minor distractions of the day-to-day. Stressing about going to check on our cars every half hour and worrying if we will make it back alive doesn't exactly enhance our educational experience.

But what can we do about it? We know we can't have foot-patrol police covering every inch of the school, and checkpoints at all entrances would be very inconvenient for all of us.

We need to do what we can, such as staying in well-lit areas, not going alone to the ATM, and keeping an eye out for each other. You may think it has nothing to do with you, but if we portray our campus as crime-free, it may discourage criminals and protect you as well as everyone else.

The best way to change our situation, (and don't think ours is the least-safe campus or anything,) is if the criminals would stop. There are such better options for our lives. What is wrong with people that they rely on crime as their livelihood? Do people have no skills to utilize other than a cold heart, a total lack of compassion?

Are there people so insecure that they need to make defenseless women beg, at gunpoint, for their lives? Don't you just want to take these people, these poor, sad, neglected and dejected people and give them a big, comforting hug? We don't.

Talking trash

Considering that there aren't nearly as many custodians as there should be, the Cerritos campus is kept exceptionally clean.

With over 20,000 students on campus throughout the day, it can be expected that they are going to generate quite a bit of trash.

Whether that trash ends up on the floor or in the trash cans like it is supposed to, it is dealt with in what seems to be an efficient manner.

There is hardly ever any trash on the campus and the trash cans never seem to be full to the point of being eyesores.

The funny thing is, we probably don't even notice the custodian crews cleaning up after us. They're out there but we don't acknowledge them.

Yet if they weren't out there we'd probably be swimming through banana peels and Doritos wrappers.

They are an essential part of the school. After all, who wants to attend a dirty college?

So, to the entire custodial crew, as understaffed as they may be, we should extend our gratitude. Maybe we should extend extra gratitude just because they are so understaffed but are still able to do their job well.

Every time we visit other colleges, we are able to compare the exceptionally clean condition of ours.

Our halls are clean, the whole school is clean and the feeling is great.

It's really nice to go to the clean bathrooms and have them stocked with soap, toilet paper and hand towels.

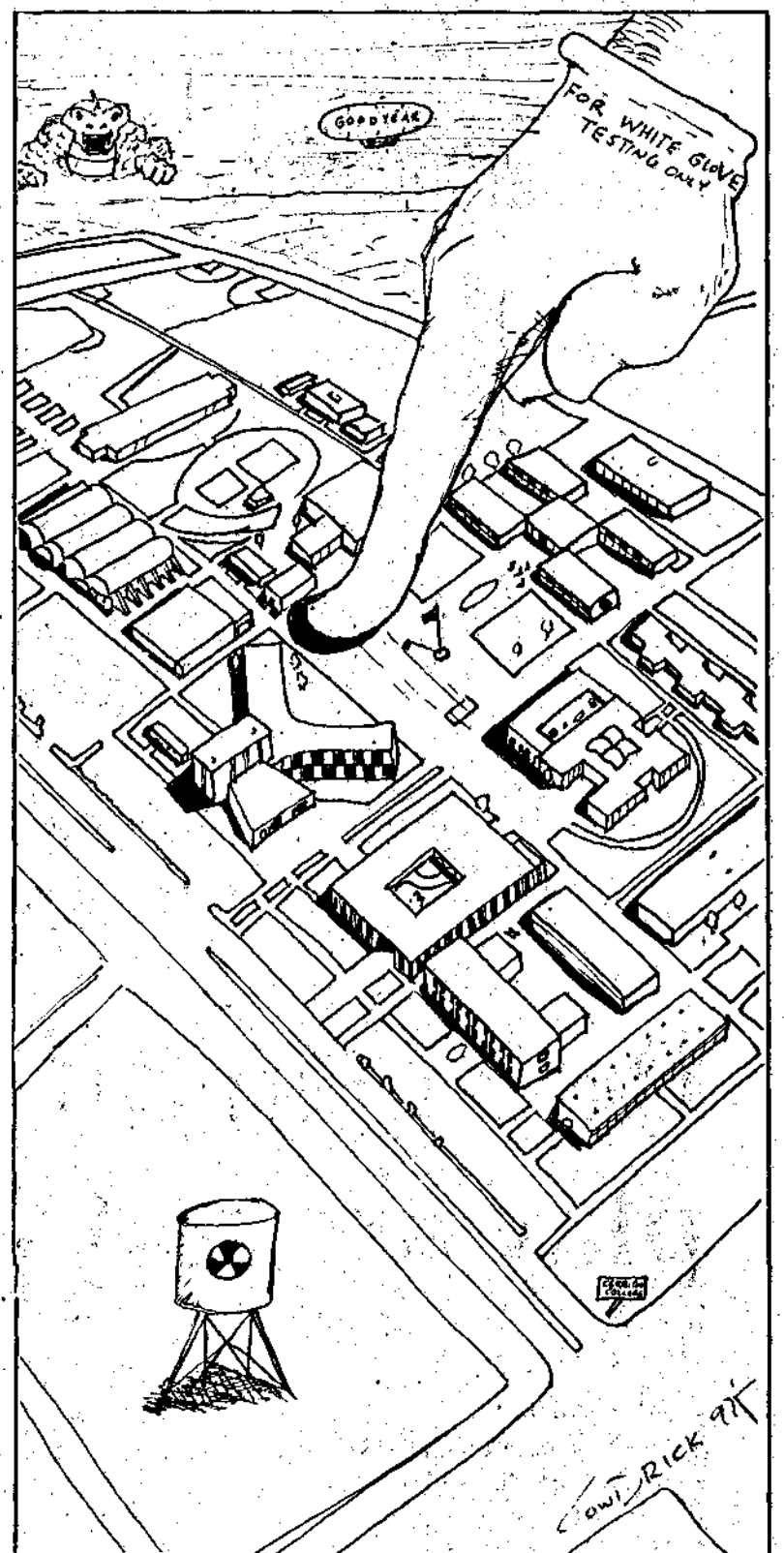
Our classrooms are clean even though many students go through them, sometimes leaving behind lots of trash. Everyone should avoid taking food and drinks into the classrooms and the library.

It is important to be grateful to all the good janitors who work hard every day. Sometimes they start cleaning our school even before we get to it.

They organize themselves really well in order to keep our school clean for us.

It is not an easy task to clean a school the size of ours, but they do it.

We have to be more conscious about our role in keeping our school clean. Let's keep our school clean and not abuse the good work our janitors are doing.



C.C. Falcon



It about knocks me out flying along Falcon Way by the automotive department. What is that smell? Sometimes it's lacquer, which I understand, but other times there's the overwhelming odor of bananas. Occasionally it reeks of crumb doughnuts. What are they doing over there?

Wayne Nunnery is winning awards for debating... so why can't he

persuade that contractor to finish our Student Center? Maybe they could get Cosmetology over there to at least make it look done.

Our radio station is a nice addition to the campus. The DJs play a lot of different types of music. But ever since the Student Center went down, you can only hear it while walking past the station. As for the promotional events in the quad, I'd love to go to some, but they only last an hour or so, and they're so early! Who goes to

a concert at 11 a.m.? I think they could do a lot with a night show, with some creative lighting and such. Maybe they just need more support. Long live KCEB!

Do you drive a car to school? I don't, I could never grip the steering wheel with my feathers, but anyway... I hear that if you leave your car for more than three hours, you might come back to find it gone. I don't know what good the Club does, but I guess there isn't much else to do. Those alarms are useless and annoying; the only people who hear them are the ones they bug. Let's keep an eye out for each other... report anything suspicious to the campus police. And park your car on a wing and a prayer.

The Master Planning Committee

would seem to be a model for other faculty committees on campus. Maybe it is. At the beginning of the Committee meeting last week, only one of the six faculty reps was there. What does this say about faculty involvement in school affairs? What involvement? It kind of makes their cry ("We want our department represented!") go down without much of a whimper.

At a recent student senate meeting our esteemed Party Whip Joel Esparza brought up a good question: The difference between a duck and an eagle.

Joel: A duck has a flat bill and webbed feet, lives in water and eats corn and plants. An eagle, on the other hand, has a sharp, curved beak and sharp claws, or talons, which can catch fish right out of the water, though the bird actually lives

in a nest, often high in rocks or trees. Some eagles are endangered, while ducks can be found in local parks.

Wayne Nunnery recently filed a complaint about the closing of the parking lot C-4. In spite of his efforts, which included taking off his parking permit and showing it to them, they would not let him park there.

At the budgeting and planning committee meeting it was proposed that the cost of faculty parking be lowered. After all, they're paying the same amount as students right now, and that's just not right. Nunnery, jumping to student defense, (really!) said he would agree to the lower rate if faculty would give up their preferred spaces. They didn't go for it.

Campus Comment

"How safe do you feel on campus?"

Compiled by MARCELA PEREZ and JOSH SHOPFNER
Photos by NOFO TAUTOLO and JOSH SHOPFNER



"I feel safe because the campus is small and well lit."

Valerie Mejia
Undeclared



"I feel safer now because I see more parking attendants around."

Ariadna Tajova
Paralegal



"I've never had anything bad happen to me on campus."

Brian Briggs
Criminal Justice



"Most of the time I feel safe on campus, but not the parking lots."

Ken Chin
Undeclared



"I feel very safe because I don't stay here very long."

Norma Uribe
Psychology



"Yeah I feel safe because there's always a lot of people around."

Carol Johnson
Public Administration



"I feel extraordinarily safe. Some people think I'm the danger."

Jackie Troup
Sociology teacher



"It's too dark and the police don't offer to escort you to your car."

Jessica Gómez
Art

Talon Marks

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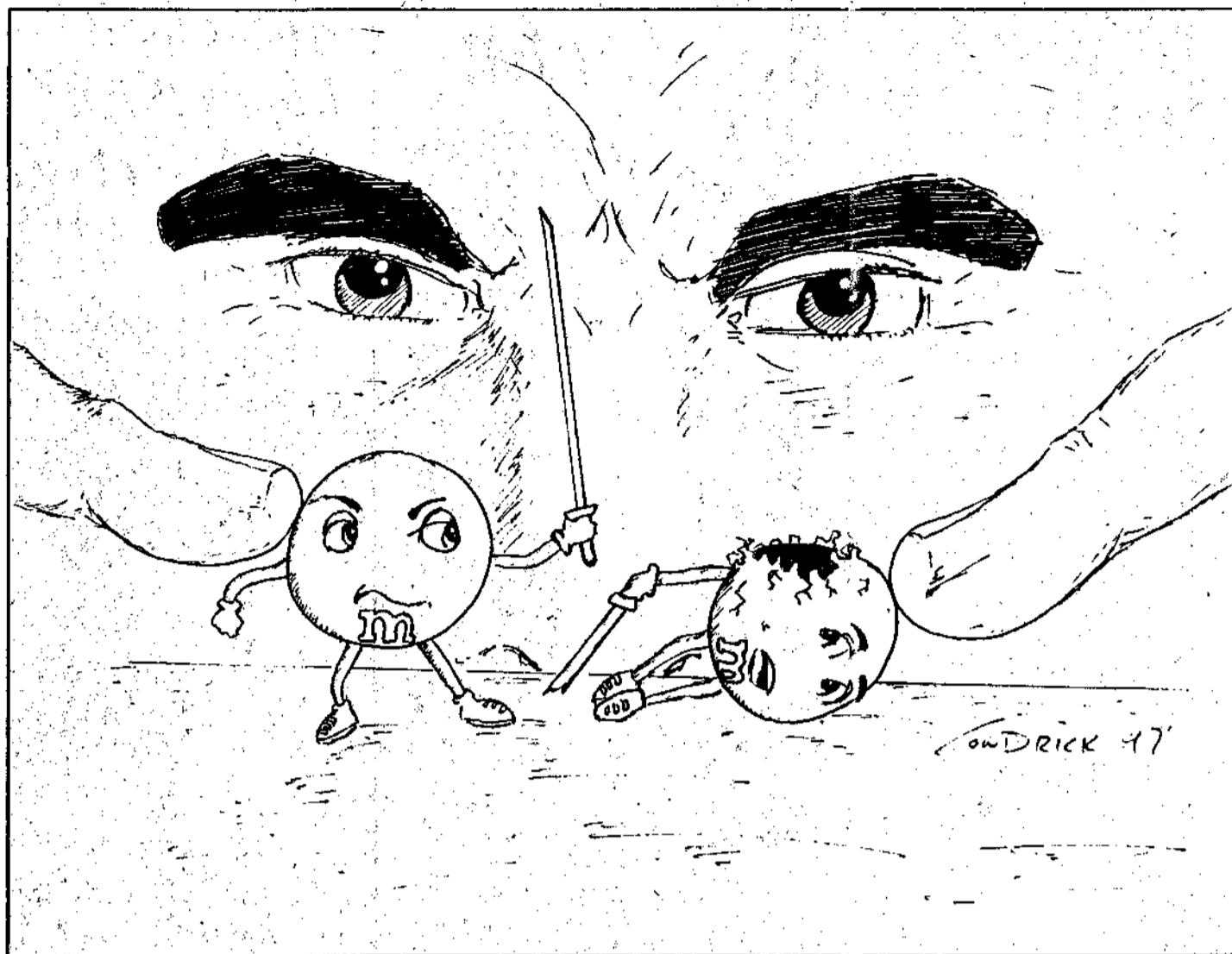
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Real men eat red meat and play around with M&Ms

By JAMES REYNOSA
TM Staff Writer

Being a self-proclaimed bachelor, and not by choice I might add, I have realized certain dietary habits that are performed by the real man.

The real man doesn't eat quiche. Essentially, real men eat nothing but meat and potatoes.

Almost all varieties of meat are good enough for the real man, except veal.

For those of you who are not real men, veal is very young beef and, like a girlfriend, it's cute but boring and expensive. It usually looks better than it tastes.

When cooking meat you must remember that real men eat their food rare.

We like it bloody and disease-ridden. We want it almost crawling away. The motto is, "If it ain't mov'n, then I ain't eat'n (real men do not use proper English).

The real man also loves candy.

Whenever I get a package of plain M&Ms, I make it my duty to continue

the strength and robustness of the candy as a species.

To this end, I hold M&M duels.

Taking two candies between my thumb and forefinger, I apply pressure, squeezing them together until one of them cracks and splinters. That is the "loser," and I eat the inferior one immediately.

Real men sometimes have a Caesar complex. Sometimes I give the "loser" a thumbs-down before I eat it.

I have found that, in general, the brown and red M&Ms are tougher, and the newer blue ones are genetically inferior. I have hypothesized that the blue M&Ms, as a race, cannot survive long in the intense theater of competition that is the modern candy and snack-food world.

Real men sometimes have way too much time on their hands.

Sometimes I will get a mutation, a candy that is misshapen, pointier or flatter than the rest. Almost invariably this proves to be a weakness, but on very rare occasions it gives the candy extra strength. In this way, the species

continue to adapt to its environment.

When I reach the end of the pack, I am left with one M&M, the strongest of the herd.

Since it would make no sense to eat this lone survivor as well, I pack it neatly in an envelope and send it to M&M/Mars, a division of Mars, Inc., Hackettstown, NJ 17840-1503 U.S.A., along with a 3x5 card reading: "Please use this M&M for breeding purposes. The real man needs more candy like this!"

In case you're a woman that's involved with a real man, as a general rule, a real man won't eat anything that is poached, sautéed, minced, blended, glazed, curried, flambe'd, stir-fried or en brochette.

I have to go now. This week M&M/Mars wrote back to thank me and sent me a coupon for a free 1/2 pound bag of plain M&Ms.

I have to start the grand tournament. From a field of hundreds, I will discover the true champion.

There can only be one...
For the real man at least.

The long and winding road to nowhere

By DAVID DM COUTANT
TM Entertainment Editor

Everyone else on the road must be smarter than I am. They all leave where they are, to get where they're going a lot earlier than I do.

That's the way it seems, anyway.

Every time I'm in a hurry to get somewhere, (which is my own fault for leaving so late,) there's all these people in front of me in no hurry to get anywhere at all.

They always drive a little too slow. Not slow enough that I can pass them easily, but not fast enough to get the hell out of my way.

And they're always so much more courteous to other drivers when I'm in a hurry. They let people into the lane from driveways, let people turn left, cross in crosswalks or out of crosswalks, wait for busses to pull from the curb, slow way down for railroad crossings...

But other drivers aren't the only things that get in my way. (I won't even go into the big trucks. They have a job to do and it just happens to entail dragging this huge, lugubrious mass around with them while shifting gradually through their thirty-thousand gears,) there are also the stupid lights.

From two blocks away I can see the green light, sitting there green for several minutes. Just before I get to it it changes to let this one poor guy go that has been waiting who-knows-how-long. Then I sit at the empty intersection waiting.

Then, like a savior, just when I've started to think I'm not stopped over the sensor, another car comes along the perpendicular street, headed surely for the green light. Of course that's when it changes to let me go.

I want to reach out to the other driver with a pathetic, victimized shrug and say, "what can we do?"

More often, though, it lets the left-turn lane have a chance, even though there's

"Other drivers aren't the only things that get in my way."

no one in it. Of course, when I'm in the left-turn lane, it doesn't know I'm there. The light goes through two full cycles before I finally get a green.

Or it doesn't change at all and I have to get out and push the crosswalk button to let it know it's not a still-life.

But then, on the other side of the coin, I get really upset at the people rushing about when I'm not in a hurry. I keep thinking, "what can be so important?" forgetting what it's like when you really do have somewhere to be, and now.

Yes, I know I'm a hypocrite, but it's all relative.

One time a friend and I were driving to San Francisco. Going up the Grapevine I was lamenting about all the people going a hundred miles an hour when my friend

started laughing hysterically.

It didn't take me too long to catch on to what she had caught, and I looked at the speedometer. I was going exactly 100 miles an hour.

I'm happy to say, though, that much of this "driver's envy" that makes people such butt-heads is largely limited to Southern California or even just L.A. County.

Driving through Phoenix, for instance, is much more pleasant of an occasion. (There are three key factors that I attribute this to: 1. I'm in Phoenix and far, far from L.A.

2. It's a nicer place to be, and so it's not so annoying to see more of it.

3. I'm nowhere near L.A.)

Driving can be a drag when it's taking a long time, but when I'm in a hurry, even with no traffic or signals, (or should I say "especially") the open road takes a long time to traverse and I don't feel like I'm getting anywhere.

Driving through Utah is one example. You can drive for three hours in Utah and still be in exactly the same place.

When I'm not in a hurry, though, and all the lights are green, and no one else is on the road, driving can be such an extreme joy.

Especially if you're in a town like where I grew up, and you pass the police station and find all three patrol cars parked out front.

Better yet, turn me loose on the dusty roads of Johnson Valley and I'll show you what the joy of driving is all about.

Religious groups are going too far

By DAVE COWDRICK
TM Opinion Editor

I stopped going to church when I was nine because I convinced my parents that the donation tray was coming around too many times.

Since then I've had no problem with my God or anyone else's God. I haven't been struck by lightning or ailed by any unexplainable diseases.

The only thing I can see that maybe God has sent to torture me with are the hoards of religious fanatics who, every once in a while, approach me and try to persuade me to join their religion.

Now let me make it clear, I have nothing against any religion or those who have faith in their religions. It's just something that isn't for me.

Unfortunately some people can't understand this. They find it necessary to bombard me with their beliefs and their spirituality.

When I'm walking on campus I don't need people coming up to me and trying to convince me to join their faith.

On top of that, I don't need them not to be able to take no for an answer. Following me around and trying to enlighten me is only going to irritate me.

Going to church may provide a feeling of unity among individuals. It may make them feel as though they're not alone in the world. If that's what church is for, fine, but keep it there.

I don't need people coming up to me and trying to sell me their

religion. I know there are churches out there and if I wanted to attend them I would.

I find it almost demeaning to religions when their individual representatives find it necessary to argue with me because I am not part of their faith.

If anything I am swayed away from their religion even more because of the way they treat me.

I understand that some churches encourage their partitioners to convert others.

But by bombarding complete strangers with their preconceived beliefs they're doing a disservice to the church.

They're only turning people off to their religion.

If someone wants to have an intelligent religious conversation with me that's fine.

I'll share my beliefs and listen to theirs with an open mind.

But these people who approach me don't want to listen to what I have to say. They just want to be heard.

It's already set in their minds that whatever I believe in is wrong.

I don't need any coaxing. I believe in God, maybe not anyone else's God, but a God nonetheless and I feel my beliefs should be given the proper respect.

I find it hard to believe that anyone could possibly have the same beliefs that I do.

Because of this I don't try to persuade anyone else to believe what I believe and I feel others should do me the same favor.

Looking for employment

By EVELYN GARRIDO
TM Staff Writer

Do looks really matter when applying for a job?

Do all of us need to look in a mirror before becoming qualified for a job?

Michelle Trigo, a 25-year-old recalls being 18 and looking for her first job.

"I walked into a grocery store dressed casually to asked if it was hiring," Trigo said.

The manager was very polite and told her he needed a clerk's helper. "He hired me immediately," Trigo said. The manager said experience wasn't necessary.

At the time she didn't fill out an application. After two weeks Trigo never showed up for work. "I felt it intervened with my schedule at school," she said.

Until this day Trigo feels the reason she was hired had to do with looks.

A 1987 study in the Journal of Applied Psychology titled "A model of hiring: Real employment interviews" shows that attractive people are favored over equally qualified unattractive people in hiring decisions.

Twenty-one-year-old Brenda Lopez was shopping at a fashion store and decided to apply for a job. She was hired

on the spot.

The manager told her she was a very pretty girl and he needed someone like her to do the job. Lopez worked for six months and decided to quit because she found a better job. She also felt that looks played a major role in the reasons for why she was hired.

According to a 1996 report in the Journal of Applied Psychology, "Gender and Attractiveness Biases in Hiring Decisions," attractiveness is not always a plus.

In male gender-type occupations attractive women were judged to be less qualified than unattractive women and less likely to be hired.

Twenty-six-year-old restaurant manager Diego Sosa said, "Looks aren't very important for an employee. I don't care what a person looks like, I seek people with good performance skills and friendly personalities. Maybe in the back of my mind it may play a role."

In a competitive job market it is hard to imagine attractiveness not playing a role in hiring decisions.

Based on these three experiences, attractiveness does seem to play a significant role in job hiring practices.

LETTER

The few, the proud, the military men

Go ahead, take a walk around the student parking lot. You might see what I saw recently. There was one bumper sticker with the line, "Wouldn't it be great if the Air Force had to hold a bake sale to buy more bombs instead of taking money from schools?"

This is demeaning and cruel to America's service personnel. I can honestly say this hits me right where it hurts. I served four and one-half years in the Airborne Infantry.

The veterans at Cerritos are proud of their academic achievements. We feel we make a difference on this campus.

On the cover of the last issue of the

Talon Marks (Feb. 19), the Cerritos College forensics speech team of which I am a member was pictured. I would like to point out there are no less than five vets on the Falcon team, three of which were pictured. We are proud of our military service.

The military provided us with self confidence and attitude. Just remember, those soldiers being labeled negatively and being degraded are the ones who fought and bled to give us the rights we all cherish.

Armando Borboa
Cerritos College Student

Small team gives Falcons big headache

■ **Falcons escape first round with close win, 77-67.**

By JAMES REYNOSA
TM Staff Writer

It wasn't supposed to be that difficult. Coming in, Cerritos had a third straight South Coast Conference title, the SCC Player of the Year in Tony Harvey and a bench big enough to start two separate teams. And the traveling Arabs of Imperial Valley had *what?* A team consisting of six players?

Is this some kind of a joke?

But it was no laughing matter when Cerritos was tied with Imperial Valley late in the game and needed a surge to capture a 77-67 first-round victory last Saturday night. Cerritos will host Fullerton College tonight at 7 in the second round.

"The first round is always tough," assistant coach Dean Ackland said. "A lot of good teams lose because they have that week off and they get nervous when things get tough."

"Yeah, I know I was," said forward Eddie Ellis, who had 22 points, 10 rebounds and three assists. "There were a lot of butterflies on that court."

Maybe the only player not fluttering was guard Jason Nicholas, who led the team with 23 points—18 coming from behind the arch.

"I was getting real good looks [at the basket]," said Nicholas, who went 6-10 from the three-point line. "The guys were giving me some nice screens and I felt comfortable out there. Maybe I was making the shots because I stayed after practice and shot around for an hour. Who knows?"

Whatever the reason, the Falcons needed him. Especially in the last

1:17 of the game.

With the game tied 62-62 and less than four minutes remaining, the Falcons went away from their 3-2 zone, put there because the Arabs ran a three-guard outside shooting offense, and switched to man-to-man defense.

"We realized that we had to quit messing around and start playing some tough defense," Ellis said.

The switch worked as the Falcons went on a 15-5 offensive run to end the game. Maybe the Falcons should have went with the man-to-man earlier.

"Yeah, we should have ran the man-to-man all night long. But we did pick up the intensity in the final four minutes," Ackland said.

Maybe the change worked for a simpler reason.

"I think we remembered that if we don't win, we'll just be doing our homework with no basketball afterward," said Tony Harvey, who had 17 points, 10 rebounds and three assists.

With 1:13 remaining and the Falcons holding on to a 68-65 lead, Nicholas made his last and biggest three-pointer on a play that was executed to perfection.

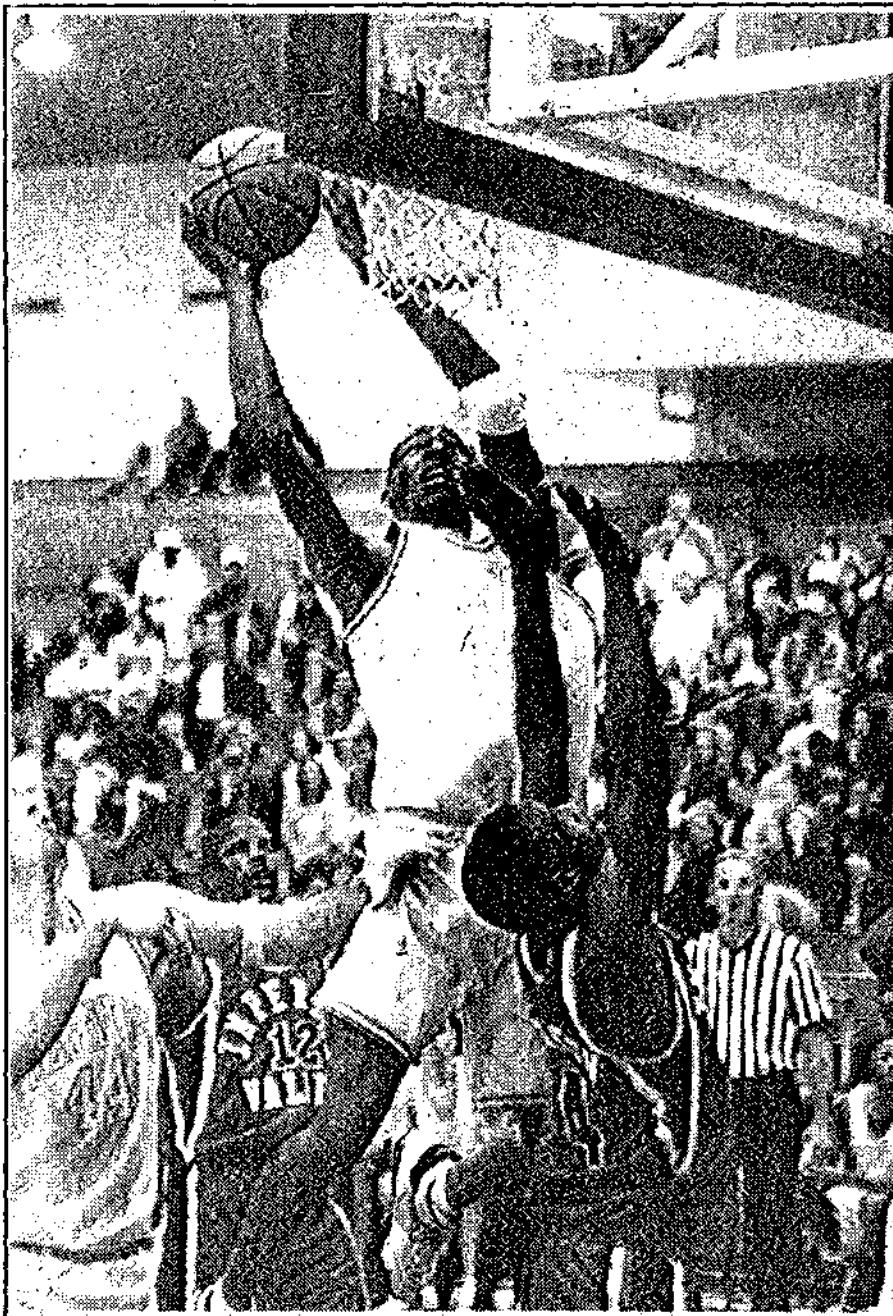
"That was the first time we ran that out-of-bounds all night, and we caught [Imperial Valley] in a man-to-man," Cerritos head coach Jack Bogdanovich said.

"We got lucky with the defense and Nicholas hit a very big three," he said.

The game started with Cerritos showing their size advantage by going inside early and often, and jumping out to a quick 10-point lead.

But the outside shooting of Imperial Valley's John Cabanilla (17 points, five assists) and Tod Anderson (15 points), kept the Arabs close at halftime as they trailed, 39-37.

"By halftime I thought that if we stayed close enough we might have a chance to steal one," said Cabanilla, who went 3-3 from behind the arch in the first half.



Forward Tony Harvey raising up for two of his 17 points.

Imperial Valley head coach Marty Zwart said, "But the [Falcons] had the same consistency in the second half and we couldn't make a shot in the last minutes. They just don't hurt themselves. They're really well coached. We tried to change our [defensive] look and then

they bury that three. When it came down to the final minutes, they just had a little bit more than we did."

Coach Ackland said it best when walking away and looking at the scoreboard. "It's just good to get this one out of the way."

Basketball hopes third time's a charm

By KELLY BARTH
TM Staff Writer

The Cerritos College women's basketball team will have to do something it hasn't done all season—prove it can beat the Compton College Tartars.

Cerritos (20-9, 9-3) hosts Compton, a team that defeated the Falcons twice this season, in the second round of the Southern California Regionals Tuesday at 7 p.m.

"We lost to Compton twice so we have something to prove," said Cerritos head coach Karen Noel.

Cerritos finished second in the South Coast Conference, and closed out the season on a roll as the team posted one-point conference wins over Long Beach City and a road victory over Pasadena City.

The hard work will have to continue for the eighth seeded Falcons if they hope to snap their two-game skid against the ninth seeded Tartars.

"We're going to do a few things differently to try and attack Compton and we'll do things a little differently defensively to try and slow the [Tartars] down," Noel said.

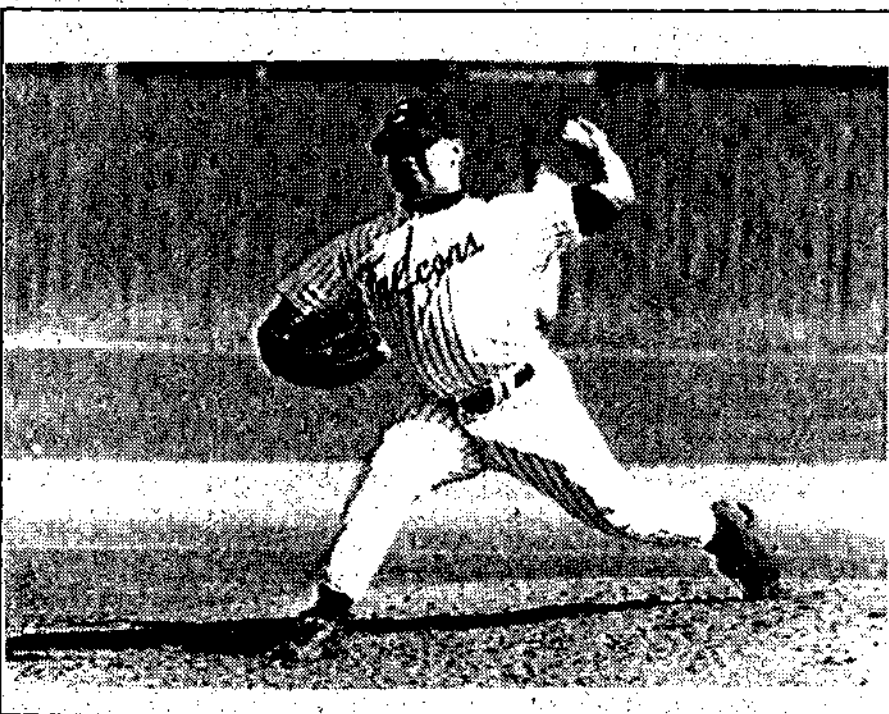
Cerritos will also be looking for a strong effort from point guard Tenesha Ware, forward Tanisha Coleman and 6-foot-2 center Keisha Harris.

"I think we're ready to step up and play," Noel said.

This belief comes from the fact that Cerritos has played well in Southern Section's toughest conference, based on state power rankings.

In Cerritos' conference alone, the Falcons have played against three teams with 20-or-more wins.

"I tell the girls no one has played a tougher schedule than we have, so we know that we can play with anybody," Noel said.



FAUSTO RAMOS/Talon Marks

Mike Martinez pitches his way to a 12-2 victory over Golden West.

Solid pitching lifts Falcons to an undefeated conference record

By DAVID FEENSTRA
TM Sports Editor

Pitching is just like real estate.

The three most important things are location, location, location.

Head Coach Ken Gaylord has always had confidence in his pitching staff. "I think that we have the best staff on conference."

After losing in a shoot-out to Glendale on Feb. 20, the Falcon pitching staff has rebounded allowing only three earned runs in its last 18 innings.

Against Golden West on Saturday freshman Mike Martinez made his first start of the season going five innings to pick up the victory.

The game was not without its turmoil though.

The entire Golden West coaching staff was extremely upset about the way the umpires were calling the game, and the coaches were consistently screaming from the sidelines, heckling the umpires.

"You've lost complete control of the game," screamed the coaches from the Golden West bench. "I can't believe you've lost this much f*%@ control of the game."

But the Falcons had everything under control, everything except the sprinkler system, that is.

Early in the top of the fifth inning all the outfield sprinklers were suddenly turned on. They were on only a few minutes until Rey Sanchez, an assistant coach, ran and turned the water off.

He returned to a standing ovation from the Falcon bench.

From then on the game was a wash-out with the Falcons cruising to a 12-2 win.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Sweep puts Falcons on up swing before conference opener today

Following her team's 12-5 victory over the University of Pepperdine Saturday afternoon, Cerritos' softball coach Nancy Kelly had one thing on her mind.

"Now we start preparing for conference," Kelly said.

Cerritos (10-4) opens South Coast Conference play today when it hosts East Los Angeles College at 3 p.m.

For now Cerritos will have to settle for a weekend double-header sweep. Prior to its win over Pepperdine, Cerritos scored a run in the bottom of the seventh to post a 3-2 win over the University of Southern California.

Veronica Cornejo came in for relief of Reanna Mendoza, who was starting her second game of the day. Cornejo came in during the fourth inning and dominated the Pepperdine batters.

The win was Cerritos' sixth in its last seven games.

Golf continues undefeated start thanks to Vance's one-under par

So far the golf team has come up with all aces, winning the first two tournaments of the season. And having the South Coast Conference and Southern California individual champion in Sam Vance can't hurt its chances at winning the conference title.

Led by Vance's score of 69, the Cerritos College golf team tied for first place in a three-team conference meet. With the win, the Falcon's are in first place in the SCC with 10 points.

With Vance's one-under par and teammates Mike Ramos (even) and Tyson Roberts (even), the Falcons pulled away with a six-stroke lead over Long Beach City.

The Falcons traveled to Palos Verdes Country Club (El Camino to host) on Tuesday for the third SCC Tournament and will challenge Rancho Santiago in a non-conference home match today. The Falcons travel to Saddleback Monday.



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Sit up and take notice of this bench

■ Team hopes to use depth and balanced offense to make a run at the State Title.

By JAMES REYNOSA
TM Staff Writer

The Bench.

In team sports those words can have a stigma all their own. It might mean that you're not good enough to play or you're just a body that's on the team just to practice with the starters.

But to the Cerritos College men's basketball team, the bench is more than just a sitting place. It's a productive tool in the building of a championship contender.

"Our greatest strength is our flexibility," said Cerritos head basketball coach Jack Bogdanovich. "And that's because of our players on the bench."

"We can play a lot of players at different positions. We can put out a real athletic team or we can put out a big team."

That flexibility and depth was one of the reasons why the Falcons are 22-7 and won their 10th South Coast Conference title in 15 years.

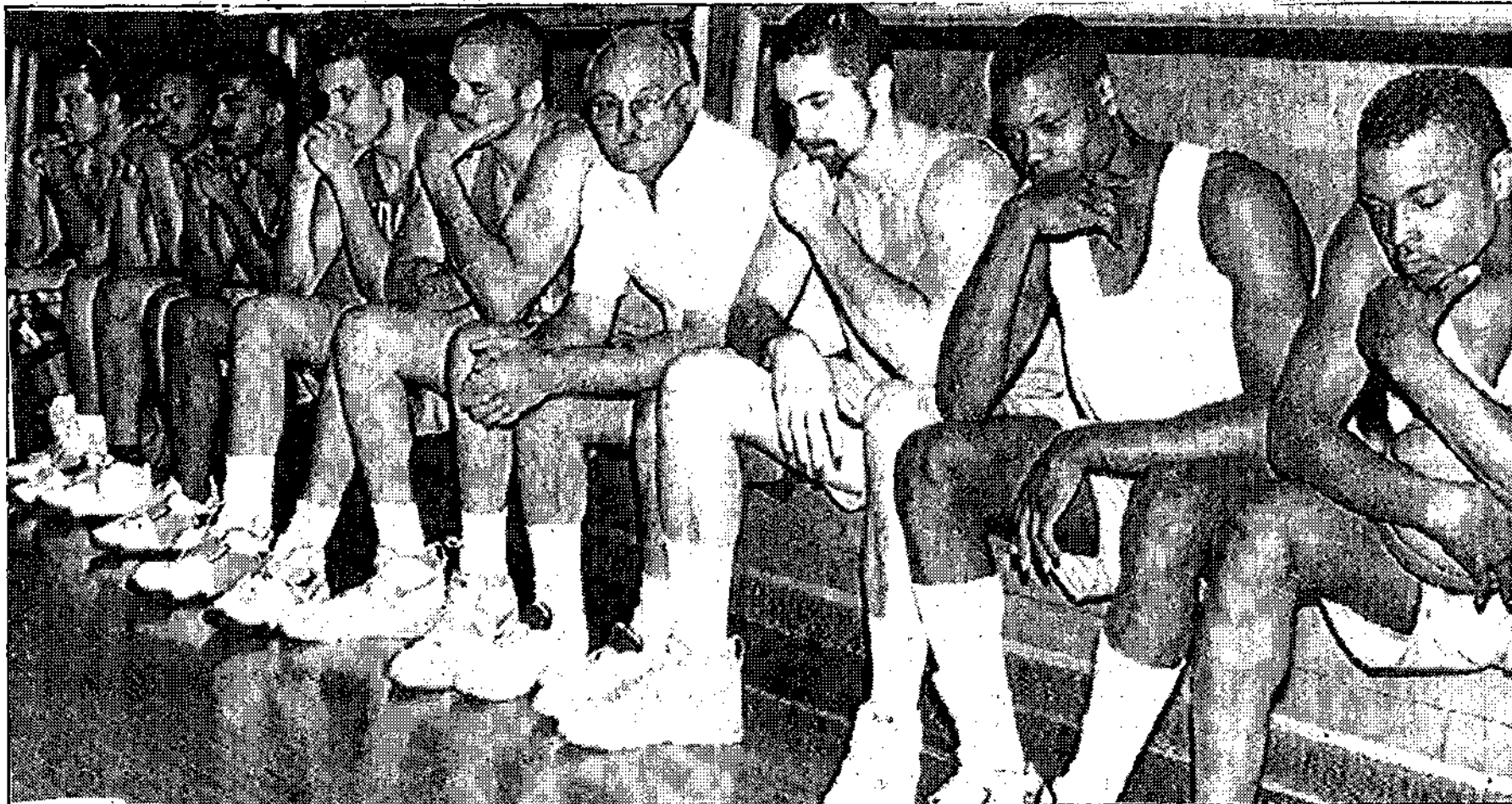
"They have great depth. During a game they can mix and match for a combination that works for them," said Gary Anderson, head coach at Long Beach City. "A coach likes to have that option."

That option accounts for almost 50% of the Falcons' points.

"We have so many weapons, it's impossible for a team to stop just one player. I love it when we have so many different players that can come in, contribute and score," said Dean Ackland, assistant coach at Cerritos.

Sometimes there's a gap between starters and bench players. A gap that's more ego than ability. But the Falcons have side-stepped that problem with one simple saying.

"We all believe that no one is better," said freshman forward Cornell Washington. "Everybody can't possibly start, but everyone is equal."



Cerritos men's basketball coach Jack Bogdanovich is sitting pretty with one of the deepest rosters in the state.

Just because they play supporting roles does not mean they are not good actors. Center and co-captain Roger Rousell averages 7.2 points per game and 4.5 rebounds, forward Bobby Terrell averages 8.2 ppg and 3.4 rebounds, guard Jason Sanders averages 11.7 ppg and 1.7 rebounds, and forward Washington averages 5.8 ppg and 4.2 rebounds.

"The bench players we have here could be playing at another school and probably getting more playing time. But they're here for the same reason we're all here, we want a chance to win a championship," said starting forward and SCC Player of the Year Tony Harvey.

That is why the bench players, who could be playing more at other schools, come to Cerritos and

accept the bench. It might be their best chance for a ring.

A good example is Rousell. Last year, because of an injury to Chad Bell, Rousell started nine games. But this year Rousell has been asked to come off the bench. A move he has no problem understanding or accepting.

"That's part of life, everything happens and everything changes. You've just got to accept your role in whatever you do. You can get upset and put your head down or you can strive to do better and do what you can when you're called upon," Rousell said.

Coach Bogdanovich has handled the touchy situation of keeping his bench players ready by using his own experiences.

"When I was in college I was a bench guy for most of my life, so I understand what it is like to 'sit and wait.'"

The experience of the players and the understanding of the coaches only tell part of the success. The most deciding factor of the play of Cerritos' bench is motivation.

Rousell explained what drives a bench player. "Remembering that the bigger picture is the State Championship and you must contribute whatever you can to get there."

The bench is not a stigma when talking to players or opposing coaches.

In fact, the bench has become a stepping stool on Cerritos' climb for a State Championship.

Noel: 304 wins and counting

■ Milestone carries team into playoffs.

By D.S. PEREZ
TM Staff Writer

Guiding players on trips down the lane of a basketball court or career has been the norm for women's coach Karen Noel for the last 18 years.

But memory lane is tricky for Noel, as she can't remember the score on her recent 300th win, a landmark in itself, but can remember contests that finished years ago at the buzzer.

"As a coach, you always remember which games were buzzer-beaters...like the time when 5'11" Jane Hansen shot the game-winning basket for us over

the heads of two women that were six feet tall," Noel said.

That's just one of many memories for a coach that has an overall record of 303-154, has been named South Coast Conference Coach of the Year twice and has taken her Falcon teams to four South Coast Conference titles and in 1990, the state semi-finals.

"She's great and she deserves all 300 wins. She and her assistants worked hard for all of those wins, but you have to count all her teams' contributions too," freshman Anitra Washington said.

"She's a good coach," Keisha Harris, freshman center, said. "She always has something positive to say or point out. She keeps our heads up during wins and losses. With her, you won't be down, because she's always motivating us."

Perhaps that is the reason why,

on Jan. 29, Noel earned her 300th career victory in a 82-56 win over the Lancers of Pasadena.

Noel, who has been with the women's basketball team for 18 years, hasn't just worn the hat of coach at Cerritos. Previously the assistant coach under then women's basketball coach Jeanine Prindle, Noel has been at the helm of the women's basketball team for 15 seasons, and before that she coached at Magnolia high school in both women's basketball and women's volleyball.

During those seasons, not only have Noel's stats increased over the seasons, but her philosophy and coaching style have changed over a career that first started with two losing seasons and one .500 season.

"She has gotten more positive and more supportive. She's grown and matured from just being a

coach, and she's added more consistency," assistant coach Jennifer Zylstra said.

Consistency might be a strength during the season, but it has been a problem at the end of the season.

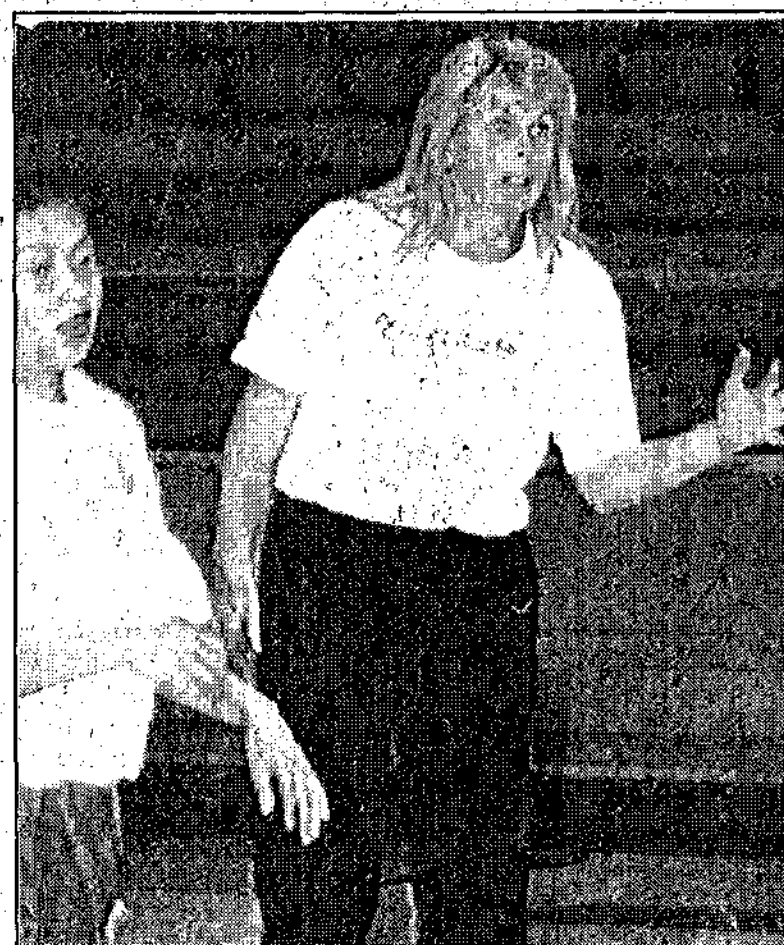
For the past five years Noel's teams have been one win away from the State Championships.

"She's had tough luck at the end of every season...an injury, or some bad luck," men's basketball coach Jack Bogdanovich said. "But she gets back."

That turns out to be Noel's only peeve in her job. "Losing...I never liked that," Noel said.

Still, despite the ups and downs of the job, Noel is not shrugging away from continuing with the basketball program at Cerritos.

"Being successful on the court is always fun, but watching the players become successful in life is what I really value," Noel said.



Karen Noel works with her players during practice

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It's a nice day for a 'Blood Wedding'

By DAVID DM COUTANT
TM Entertainment Editor

Federico Garcia Lorca's play "Blood Wedding" is as painful as its title suggests.

This is the story of a man and a woman. It is also the story of the man's mother and brother and father and vineyards, and the story of the woman's cousin and father and ex-lover and his horse. This, like many Spanish dramas, is a very convoluted story.

The man's father and brother were killed by a neighboring family. His mother has never forgiven the family.

The woman, who lives in 'the wastelands' and who few people know anything about, has had a lover who happens to be the younger brother of the murderous family.

The ex-lover is now married to the woman's cousin and has a child with her.

The man plans to marry the woman, knowing something of her questionable past and not letting it affect him.

His mother finally consents to bless the marriage and goes with him to the woman's house.

The woman's father is a kind and friendly man played by Eddie Cervantes and is one

of the characters more agreeable to the senses.

The man, (the characters have no names, except for the ex-lover 'Leonardo') is played by Jorge Cordova and is the other truly likeable character, not to mention the most handsome.

The night of the wedding, the woman runs off with Leonardo, a complete jerk very effectively played by Alexander Patino.

The man's mother, Katrin Kern, is an overplayed, way-dramatic woman who will not let a dead dog or two lie.

The good thing about the play (besides Jorge) is the music.

Guitarists Ray Sandoval and Anthony Centeno provide fabulous flamenco music to make the drama go down easier.

The cast rotates from stage to sideline, where they add various percussive elements to the action. Everything from maracas and tambourines to xylophones and chimes are used to create an atmosphere that would most definitely be otherwise lacking.

Blame cannot be placed on the actors or on director Norma Bowles. I think the play's major flaw is in the story.

"Blood Wedding" probably has a place in society, probably has a deeper meaning than is easily attained, but personally I couldn't get into it.



Cristina Nava and Jorge Cordova star as bride and groom in 'Blood Wedding.' Photo Courtesy of ABEL G. OLIVERI

Imagine a Beanstalk

By MONICA COTO
TM News Editor

Magie popcorn bean seeds, a cow named Mrs. Karen Alred and a 20-foot-high giant with 300 really big heads were just a few of the things kids described when asked to help in a retelling of the classic fairy tale "Jack and the Beanstalk."

On Feb. 23 in the Burnight Theatre, the Center for Lifelong Learning presented the Imagination Company, a group of improvisational actors specializing in children's theater.

During the show, children in the audience were asked to fill in certain details of the story and performers tried their best to incorporate these into the act.

The audience helped out in everything from deciding how old Jack would be to actually getting on stage and playing a part.

Members of the company say these shows are fun but they present a real challenge for them as actors.

"You ask an adult to give you the color of a castle and they say 'gray.' But this audience is willing to go into fantasy and entertain an idea to the extreme," said company actor Omar Barba.

"They're tough," Elizabeth Tobias, another actor, added. "If they don't like you they'll yell out they don't like you."

The children at Cerritos seemed to enjoy the informal, quick-paced environment the company created.

"I thought it would be like a real show would be," Lauren Bussey, 5, said, "but it was different than a real show. I liked it."

"My favorite part was when Jack hid behind the salt and pepper," 5 year old Megan Gough said.

Adults who attended also enjoyed the play.

"[My children] have been to a lot of ballets, plays and musicals," Robin Gough said, "but they've never been to something like this. It was really fun."

Improv strikes!

By DAVID DM COUTANT
TM Entertainment Editor

The cast of "A Night of Improv (The Sequel) - The Improvers Strike Back!" are rehearsing for their March 14 fundraiser in the Burnight Studio Theater.

Wait a second... Rehearsal? For an improv show?

In a play, "You know your lines, you know your blocking, you know your surroundings, you know your cues," Improver Ernie Macias said.

"The only thing an improviser ever has is that he knows the person he's improvising with. You've got to know what they can and can't do."

So eight actors and an assistant manager from Trak Auto are getting to know each other for the next couple of weeks, and will present two shows of "The Improvers Strike Back" in the Studio Theater. At 8 p.m. will be the PG-13 version, and at midnight, the NC-17. Tickets are \$5 at the door.



Redd Kross, (from left) Eddie, Steve, Jeff and Brian. Photo Courtesy of MARINA CHAVEZ

Redd Kross shows the world

By MARCELA PEREZ
TM Campus Editor

The pop-lovin' sound of Redd Kross' "Show World" is like the aftermath of the Stooges going into a Beatles' session.

"Show World" is the band's first album in almost four years. The band gained popularity as part of the early L.A. punk scene. It was Scott Weiland and Thurston Moore's favorite band.

Redd Kross has released over 25 albums since 1978, including "Dancing Queen," "Switchblade Sister," "Third

Eye" and "Love Doll Superstars."

"Show World's" standout track is the song "Follow the Leader." The song is complete with a fuzz-bass solo. The album includes other songs with vicious solos like "Mess Around," "Vanity Mirror" and "Stoned."

The band members, brothers Jeff and Scott McDonald, Brian Reitzell and Eddie Kurziel are very satisfied with their new release. "This album will definitely go platinum," bassist McDonald said.

If you like bands like NOFX or Dead Kennedys, this isn't for you.

A festival of depravity

By DAVE COWDRICK
TM Opinion Editor

It takes quite a bit of fine-tuning to be able to appreciate off color, dark humor, but if you are one of the few who do, Spike and Mike's "Sick and Twisted Festival of Animation" is for you.

The festival consists of a series of short cartoon skits.

In most cases the artwork isn't great and the music seems to penetrate your spine, but the cartoons are pretty hilarious.

The highlight of the first "Sick and Twisted" Festival was the unedited version of "Beavis and Butt-head in Frog Baseball."

If you like Beavis and Butt-head, you'll probably like "Sick and Twisted."

If you've been to see "Sick and Twisted" before you might be pleasantly surprised to find that at the most recent festival, some of the old favorites returned.

"No Neck Joe" was among the cartoons that withstood the test of time.

Joe finally does get a neck but don't expect him to have it for long.

There were also twenty cartoons that

were showing for the first time.

"How to Make Love to a Woman," "Big, Dumb, Fat Stupid Baby" and "Left Over Dog" were among the premiers.

If you're on some heavy drugs you don't want to miss "Tie Dye Dick."

The psychedelic nature of this cartoon will have you glued to your seat and telling all your friends you visited another world.

My favorite cartoon in the onslaught of madness this year was "Ah! L'Amour."

It combines just the right amount of the truth, irony and insanity of a relationship that every cartoon should have.

At past shows, Spike and Mike have made an appearance at the theaters during intermission to frolic with the audience.

Of course, "Sick and Twisted" isn't for anyone with a weak stomach or a closed mind. It can be quite offensive and sometimes downright disgusting. But that's what it's all about.

If your favorite cartoon character is Tweety Bird you probably won't like it.

It's hard for anyone to come up with a cartoon idea that's so disgusting yet so funny, so annoying yet so hard to turn away from.



No Neck Joe

Comedian sheds new light on his disability

By JENNIFER KHO
TM Feature Editor

If laughter is the best medicine, then Alex Valdez is definitely a top healer.

A comedian born and raised in Southern California, he has performed on CBS' 48 Hours, PBS, "Look Who's Laughing," and various other television shows.

Although he has performed on television, Valdez still prefers the live arena. He has performed at clubs across the United States. On Feb. 27, he performed at Cerritos College.

"His performance was great! He has a fantastic personality and sense of humor. He is a very inspiring and motivating individual," education major Cristina Rosales said.

Valdez put the crowd under his spell. "Nice looking crowd," he said. "I know what you're saying to yourselves right now. You're looking at me and saying 'Alex, why no sunglasses?' Yeah, well I don't see deaf people wearing earmuffs!"

Oh yes, Valdez is blind.

Glenn Barnett, disabled student programs specialist, said, "The first thing you notice about Alex is that he's blind because he has the cane and he [usually] has the dark glasses. The second thing you notice is he seems

absolutely fearless. He has an aura of confidence."

This confidence is probably best illustrated by Valdez's hobbies. "He has gone hang gliding, downhill skiing and even had flying lessons," Jana Valdez, Alex's wife said.

He even does chores. "People are surprised when they see him mowing the lawn. Everyone was so upset when he went under the house to rewire our fountains," Mrs. Valdez said.

Valdez attributes his success to his family and to his ability to laugh. "Laughter is one of the ultimate tools in keeping life's complications in perspective," he said. "In third grade, I discovered the power of humor. We were going to see a film in class, and from my seat in the back row I yelled out 'Hey! Duck down Marty, I can't see!' It broke the classroom up and I was hooked."

"I also had a very normal childhood and maybe within that I gained the strength that I have."

Valdez and his wife married in April. "I love being married," Valdez said, "It certainly beats the life that I had before."

His wife agrees. "Sometimes it's difficult being together all the time. But I can't imag-

ine what life would be like without him. We do everything together," she said.

Mrs. Valdez quit her previous job to be Valdez's boss. "Even though this is a lot more work, I don't miss the work force because the rewards here are just amazing. I've seen people cry while listening to him speak and sometimes he even has the opportunity to change things."

Valdez hopes that he will help to bridge the gap between able and disabled people. "My goal is to give the message to people around the country that we have valuable abilities just like everyone else."

Alex is a role model through example. "He has courage, determination and perseverance," psychology major Nelson Martinez said.

But Valdez is shy about being a role model. "I have a hard time believing that I am," he said. "I just try to do my best and hope that sharing my everyday life with other people will give them the impetus to do the same."

Still, he is an easy person to look up to. "The words 'inspirational' and 'uplifting' are almost too trite to convey how dynamic he is," Barnett said.

Valdez is a motivational speaker, an attitude trainer and a comedian all in one.

Not enough healing power

By DAVID DM COUTANT
TM Entertainment Editor

At first listen, Radio Iodine's Ellen Persyn has a sort of Annie Lennox vibe to her. She's supported by a subtle drum machine beat.

Anna Berry's gorgeous backups round out the sound beautifully.

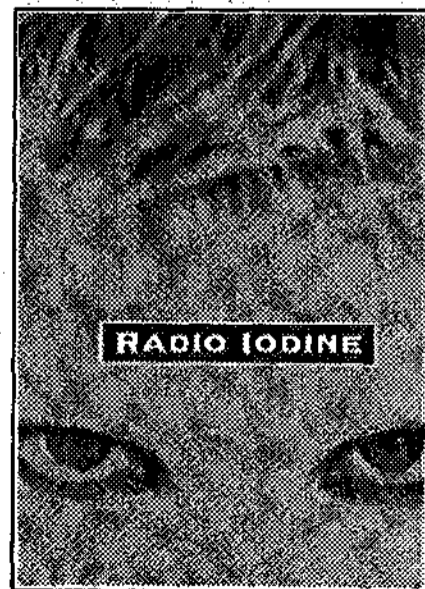
Then the cheesy-quality studio drum kit kicks in with some bad editing and Ellen morphs into an Alanis Morissette demon.

The bridge part, with the guitar on the neck-position pickup and the phaser on the voice, is interesting but that's about all.

Radio Iodine, a St. Louis quintet who crawled from an alternative sampler put out by KPNT, "The Point," in Missouri, to a four-song EP on Radioactive Records, consists of two guitars, drums, vocals and "Tony Persyn — bass, loops, noise & toys."

Here's a quandary for you— "Amid a flurry of major-label interest, Radio Iodine... decided on Radioactive Records." (??)

It won't take long for the wound to heal and you won't need Iodine anymore.



Ellen Persyn