



EL CAMINO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

16007 Crenshaw Boulevard Torrance, California 90506-0001
Telephone (310) 532-3670 or 1-866-ELCAMINO

December 13, 2007

Board of Trustees
El Camino Community
College District

Dear Members of the Board:

President Fallo is on the mend, but is home today to keep from sharing a virus.

We'll plan to keep parking places available for you just outside the Administration building as usual, but you will notice that the south entrance door is closed due to construction. You may enter the building through the main entrance.

The December Board meeting will be held next Monday, December 17th, 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room. We will be joined by members of the Women's State Championship Volleyball Team, Coach LeValley Pattison and Athletic Director, Rory Natividad. See related news articles in your packets.

Mr. Robert Amos will present the El Camino Community College Foundation Annual Report.

The Annual Organizational Meeting is scheduled as the first item of business and the Board will want to select officers of the Board and make appointments to various committees. You will note that President Fallo is suggesting that future Board meetings be scheduled for 3:30 p.m.

The rest of the agenda presents normal business matters including salary schedules reflecting the \$8 minimum wage increase for student workers and the 3% salary increase effective January 1, 2008, for all units.

There are several items scheduled for the Closed Session.

The following items are presented for your review:

1. "El Camino Takes a Balanced Approach," *Daily Breeze*, November 29, 2007;
2. Memo from Los Angeles County Office of Education giving election results for the Los Angeles County Committee on School District Organization, November 5, 2007;
3. Memo from the Community College League of California regarding California Community College Trustees Board Election – Call for Nominations, December 1, 2007 along with Board Supplemental Board Information Letter - December 17, 2007

4. Amendments to the Brown Act effective July 1, 2008, are outlined in the attached memo from Spencer Covert;
5. Copy of a letter from President Fallo to Dr. Garcia, President, California State University, Dominguez Hills, November 27, 2007;
6. Comments made by Kellie Johnson, Ace Clearwater Manufacturing, at the All Campus Advisory Dinner on November 14, 2007;
7. President's Newsletter, November 14, 2007;
8. Memo from Joseph Holliday, Honors Transfer Program, December 3, 2007;
9. Letter from American Association of Community Colleges, to President Fallo, regarding membership in the organization, October 2, 2007;
10. Listing of high schools in the District provided in answer to a recent Board member inquiry;
11. Letter from Sarita Brown, President, Excelencia in Education, regarding the First-Year Experience program, December 3, 2007;
12. "El Camino Student Paper Enters the Digital Age," *Daily Breeze*, December 3, 2007;
13. "El Camino Cruises to First-Round Win," *Daily Breeze*, December 3, 2007;
14. "El Camino College Student Assaulted," *Los Angeles Times*, November 15, 2007;
15. "Dan Walters: Education Cutback on Agenda," *Sacramento Bee*, December 10, 2007;
16. "Dan Walters: Governor's Quandary on Budget," *Sacramento Bee*, December 9, 2007;
17. "Dan Walters: Economists not Seeing a Recession," *Sacramento Bee*, December 2, 2007;
18. "Dan Walters: Are Schools Half Empty or Half Full?" *Sacramento Bee*, November 23, 2007;
19. "Gov Finds Himself in a Bigger Budget Bind," *Los Angeles Times*, November 24, 2007;
20. "Dan Walters: Fiscal Woes Becoming Ever Deeper," *Sacramento Bee*, November 15, 2007;
21. "School Plan Comes Amid Fiscal Crisis," *Los Angeles Times*, November 23, 2007;

22. "\$9.8 Billion Hole Seen in State Budget," *Sacramento Bee*, November 15, 2007;
23. "School Districts Sue Over State's Failure to Pay for Mandates," *SFGate.com*, November 21, 2007;
24. "Daniel Weintraub: These Guys Will Give Us Leadership on Reform?" *Sacramento Bee*, December 9, 2007;
25. "UC Looks at Ending Admission Guarantee," *SignOnSanDiego.com*, November 25, 2007;
26. "UC Regents Oppose Community College-Funding Measure," *SFGate.com*, November 16, 2007;
27. "State Must Pay Interest to Teachers Pension," *Sacramento Bee*, November 15, 2007
28. "L.A. Community College Wins Green Award," *thedailygreen.com*, November 30, 2007;
29. "County Labor Coalition Gives Politicians Notice," *The Daily Breeze*, December 4, 2007;
30. "Prop. 92 Finds Two Teachers Unions at Odds," *Sacramento Bee*, November 16, 2007;
31. "UC Board Opposes Community College Funding," University of California, San Diego, November 25, 2007;
32. "Colleges and Their Accreditors Seek Compromise, Fearing Education Department Rules," December 10, 2007;
33. "U.S. Review of Accreditors May Produce a Showdown," *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, November 30, 2007;
34. "Colleges Prepare for Possible Budget Cuts," *The Bakersfield Californian*, November 29, 2007;
35. "I Needed Help, Not Ostracism," *Washington Post*, December 2, 2002;
36. "Community Colleges Bridge a Tech Gap with Cell Phones and Summer Camps," *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, November 23, 2007;
37. "State Owes Schools, Suit Says," *Sacramento Bee*, November 21, 2007;
38. "Faculty Fire Alarms at Santa Ana College Put Thousands at Potential Risk," *Los Angeles Times*;

39. "Fallout From Fresno State's Multi-Million Dollar Case(s)," *InsideHigherEd.com*, December 10, 2007;
40. "Fresno State to Seek New Trial," *Fresno Bee*, December 10, 2007;
41. "In Seattle, a Firsthand Lesson in College Access," *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, December 14, 2007;
42. "Educators Strive to Find Harmony for Holidays," *SignOnSanDiego.com*, December 10, 2007;
43. "Man Alleged in DVC Grade Scam Falls to Surrender," *NBC11.com*, December 3, 2007;
44. "Second Key Figure in DVC Grade-Change Case Pleads Guilty, Is Sentenced," *SFGate.com*, November 27, 2007;
45. "Rental Services Take Sting Out of Costly Textbooks," *San Jose Mercury News*, November 27, 2007;
46. "S.F. State is Latest School to Start Naming Buildings for Donors," *SFGate.com*, December 10, 2007;
47. "California Crusader News, November 29, 2007.

Please phone Kathy Oswald who will coordinate a response from the appropriate administrator if you have any questions, comments or concerns about the agenda or any other matter. President Fallo will be in his office at 3:30 p.m. on Monday if you wish to arrive a little early.

Sincerely,



Francisco Arce,
Vice President-Academic Affairs

CC: Vice Presidents, Director of Community Relations



N E W S

El Camino College | Public Relations & Marketing Department
16007 Crenshaw Blvd., Torrance, CA 90506
Telephone: (310) 660-3406 | FAX: (310) 660-3946 | Contact: Ann M. Garten

For Immediate Release

December 3, 2007

El Camino College Women's Volleyball Team – State Champs!

The El Camino College Women's Volleyball team won the 2007 California Community College State Championship this past weekend. The Warrior Volleyball team defeated Golden West College in the finals to become the state champs. This is the team's first state volleyball title since 1983 – a team victory that included MVP LeValley Pattison, who is now El Camino College's head volleyball coach.

Sam Taylor was named tournament MVP and fellow teammates Lauren Simmons, Marcella Hernandez, and Karina Worhstien were named to the All Tournament Team.

ECC is the first college outside the Orange Empire Conference to win the state tournament in 15 years.

As the South Coast Conference champs for the seven straight seasons, the Warriors were poised to become champions, roaring out of the loser's bracket to defeat Fullerton College in three games. El Camino College then forced a final and deciding game against Golden West College, where the Warriors triumphed in a tension-filled 30-26 match at the tournament staged at Fresno Pacific University. The Warrior victory is the first time a team from the loser's bracket won the tournament.

Coach Pattison is a graduate of Mira Costa High School and El Camino College where she played on the Warrior Volleyball team. She is the 2006 AVCA Regional Coach of the Year, 2006 Southern Section Coach of the Year, and the 2007 South Coast Conference Coach of the Year, an honor she has won seven times in her career.

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SOUTH COAST CONFERENCE 2007 WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL STANDINGS

Conference Commissioner
Rich Kollen
13141 Sutton St.
Cerritos, CA 90703
e-mail: dayofgame@aol.com
(562) 239-2001 (office)

Conference Statistician
Robert Lewis
SID-Pasadena City College
e-mail: rmlewis@pasadena.edu
(626) 585-7018 office
(626) 585-7929 fax

December 4

REPORT 11-FINAL

**records are based on best-of-5 game matches only*

| | Conference | | | | Overall | | |
|-------------------------|------------|----|-------|--|---------|----|------|
| | W | L | | | W | L | |
| El Camino (No. 1 state) | 14 | 0 | 1.000 | | 31 | 2 | .939 |
| Long Beach (16th) | 11 | 3 | .786 | | 18 | 6 | .750 |
| Mt. San Antonio (19th) | 10 | 4 | .714 | | 14 | 7 | .667 |
| Pasadena | 9 | 5 | .643 | | 11 | 11 | .500 |
| Cerritos | 6 | 8 | .429 | | 6 | 19 | .240 |
| LA City | 4 | 10 | .286 | | 4 | 13 | .235 |
| East LA | 2 | 12 | .143 | | 2 | 17 | .105 |
| LA Trade Tech | 0 | 14 | .000 | | 0 | 17 | .000 |
| | 56 | 56 | | | 86 | 92 | |

CCCAA ELITE EIGHT TOURNAMENT

at Fresno Pacific University

November 30

South 2-El Camino d. North 3-Cabrillo, 30-14, 30-25, 30-21

December 1

El Camino d. North 1-Sacramento, 30-18, 30-18, 30-21

South 3-Golden West d. El Camino, 30-21, 13-30, 30-25, 30-24

December 2

El Camino d. South 4-Fullerton, 30-17, 30-22, 30-22

Championship Final

El Camino d. Golden West, 30-24, 29-31, 21-30, 30-22, 18-16

1-Game Final Tiebreaker

El Camino d. Golden West, 30-26

*El Camino wins state championship. First time for school since 1983.**3rd state title in sport.*

MVP-Sam Taylor, Setter, (El Camino)

Other All-State Tournament Selections (from El Camino only)

Lauren Simmons (OH), Marcella Hernandez (MB), Karina Woehrstein (Libero)

Thursday, November 29, 2007

El Camino takes a balanced approach

Once-beaten Warriors head to the eight-team JC women's volleyball state championships with a varied attack.

If you want to know how the El Camino College women's volleyball team has fared heading into Friday's opening day of the eight-team state championship tournament, you might want to take a look back at where the squad was at this time a year ago.

It's seed: No. 2 coming out of the Southern Regionals for the second year in a row. It's South Coast Conference finish: first for the seventh consecutive season. Even it's overall records are nearly identical, this year's mark of 24-1 being two more wins and an equal number of losses to what it had heading into the tournament last season.

But that's where sophomores Kerry O'Brien, Lauren Simmons and Marcella Hernandez hope the similarities end between El Camino then and now.

After all, they were there when the Warriors finished fifth last year, losing back-to-back matches on the second day of the three-day, double-elimination tournament.

"We wanted to win last year, but we went in a little tentative," Simmons said. "This year, everyone knows that we have a big opportunity because we have such a well-rounded team."

El Camino rode All-Americans Beverly Hazell and Lindsey Spainhour to its previous two state tournament appearances. Coach LeValley Pattison was happy to see a balanced team evolve this season.

"I said at the beginning of the year that I didn't know how well this team was going to do because we don't have the big hammer, but really I think it has benefited us," she said. "The players aren't looking for anyone else to do their job. It's a pretty balanced team."

The result is El Camino might have even exceeded what it did in the regular season a year ago. El Camino, which begins play Friday at 3 p.m. against Cabrillo (23-2) has dropped just eight games in its 25 matches, only one of which came during conference play.

"We have so many people who can play different positions that we don't really have much to worry about," O'Brien said. "I think that's almost better because we don't have that one person the team is always looking to. You know that no matter who is out there on the court, we are going to do well."

O'Brien and Simmons' roles as outside hitters are important to El Camino's offensive success. Either player is capable of dominating a game and both have done so this season.

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O'Brien and Simmons' roles as outside hitters are important to El Camino's offensive success. Either player is capable of dominating a game and both have done so this season.

"We've had some great performances from our outside hitters all year," Pattison said. "Kerry and Lauren have really been the steadiest players. They've taken a lot of swings and won a lot of games for us."

While El Camino has received consistent play from the outside, Hernandez has been a force in the middle, recording 29 kills and 11 blocks in two Regional playoff matches last week.

Whatever shots Hernandez hasn't been able to stop have routinely been cleaned up by libero Karina Woehrstein, who has the most digs El Camino.

"I think we have a really strong defensive setup," Woehrstein said. "We have good outside hitters; we have great middles, but it all comes down to defense. Offense sells tickets, but defense wins games. It all starts with us and then they finish it. It's a good feeling to be a part of that."

Setter Sam Taylor and right-side hitter Amrita Tuladhar once again will be called upon to be versatile contributors in El Camino's pursuit of its first state championship in 24 years.

"We don't have one player that stands out and gets all the kills and all the digs," Simmons said.

"It's not every man for themselves. Everyone is together. That's why I think we won't let what happened last year to happen again."

david.saunders@dailybreeze.com

Friday's match

CCCAA Championship Tournament

First round, at Fresno Pacific University

Cabrillo (23-2) vs. El Camino (24-1), 3 p.m.

HOW THEY GOT HERE: Cabrillo won the Coast Conference, then beat College of the Sequoias, 30-26, 30-18, 30-15, in a regional semifinal, and College of the Siskiyous, 19-30, 30-18, 30-25, 30-13, in the regional final. El Camino won the South Coast Conference, then beat Moorpark, 30-16, 30-24, 30-16, in a regional semi, and Cuesta, 30-26, 24-30, 30-26, 30-15, in the regional final.

OUTLOOK: The first round proved no problem for El Camino last year, but virtually all eight teams are capable of beating one another. Cabrillo's Bernadette Erlach (6-foot-3) could be a matchup problem for El Camino, which doesn't have a player taller than 5-11. If El Camino wins, it plays again Saturday at 10 a.m. If it loses, it plays an elimination match Friday at 8 p.m. Depending on first-round play, El Camino could have a second-round matchup with Fullerton, the only team that has beaten El Camino this season.



RECEIVED

NOV 07 2007

November 5, 2007

TO: Superintendents and Presidents
Los Angeles County School and Community College Districts

FROM: Daniel G. Villanueva, Secretary
Los Angeles County Committee on School District Organization
and
Assistant Director
Regionalized Business Services
Division of Business Advisory Services

SUBJECT: Los Angeles County Committee on School District
Organization-Election Results

The annual election for members of the Los Angeles County Committee on School District Organization (County Committee) was held in conjunction with the fall meeting of the Los Angeles County School Trustees Association on October 18, 2007. The County Committee appreciates your support and wishes to thank the school and community college districts that submitted nominations and all who participated in the election process, either as candidates or as governing board voting representatives.

This bulletin is to apprise you of the results of the election.

Election Results

Third Supervisorial District (one vacancy)

There were no nominations and no one was elected to fill this seat. The process contained in Education Code §4006(c)(2) for filling the vacancy will be followed.

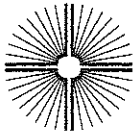
Fifth Supervisorial District (one vacancy)

Ms. Suzan Solomon was re-elected to this seat and will serve as the representative of the Fifth Supervisorial District through October 2011.

Ms. Solomon has served on the County Committee for four years and is the current Chairperson. She also serves on the Newhall School District governing board.

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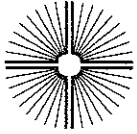
COMMUNITY COLLEGE LEAGUE
OF CALIFORNIA

DATE: December 1, 2007
TO: Support Staff to the Local District Board
FROM: Jody Ansell
SUBJECT: CCCT Board Election – Call For Nominations

Every year at this time we send the enclosed CCCT call for nominations to all California Community college trustees and to the 72 California community college district chancellors and superintendents/presidents. We have found it works best if we also send the call for nominations to the district office support staff person to the board, therefore, it is attached for your information and convenience.

The call for nominations takes place from January 1 – February 15, but we mail well ahead of the December holidays, to be sure there is adequate notice and time to prepare. Also included are the same attachments which are sent to the district CEO. Trustees have been sent a copy of the call for nominations memo only.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding the election. I can be reached at the League office at 916.444-8641 or via email at jansell@ccleague.org.



**COMMUNITY COLLEGE LEAGUE
OF CALIFORNIA**

Date: December 1, 2007
To: California Community College Trustees
California Community College Chancellors/Superintendents
From: Scott Lay
Subject: CCCT Board Election - 2008

The California Community College Trustees (CCCT) board serves a major role within the Community College League of California. Meeting five times a year, the twenty-one member board provides leadership and direction to ensure a strong voice for locally elected governing board members.

From January 1 through February 15, nominations for membership on the CCCT board will be accepted in the League office. Nominations are to be made by a member district board of trustees; and each district may nominate only members of its board.

Each nominee must be a local community college district trustee, other than the student trustee, and must have consented to be nominated. Only one trustee per district may serve on the board.

An official Biographical Sketch Form and Statement of Candidacy **must** accompany the Nominating Ballot mailed to the League office, and please use only these forms. Nomination materials should be sent by certified mail – return receipt requested. Faxed materials will **not** be accepted due to the quality of transmission.

The election of members of the CCCT board will take place between March 10 and April 25. Each member district board of trustees will have one vote for each vacancy on the CCCT board. Ten persons will be elected to the board this year. Nine incumbents are eligible to run for re-election. Per CCCT Governing Policy II. A. 5, Rebecca Garcia will remain on the board for one additional year in order to serve as Immediate Past-president. This will not impact the election and the two-year CCCT board seat she has termed out of will be filled during this election cycle.

Election results will be announced at the CCCT annual conference. The newly elected members of the board will assume their responsibilities at the conclusion of the annual conference, May 4.

If you have any questions about the CCCT board election process, please call the League office.

Attachments: (mailed only to CCC Chancellors/Superintendents)

- Official Nominating Form
- Official Biographical Sketch Form
- Official Statement of Candidacy
- CCCT Board Terms of Office
- CCCT Board Roster

December 4, 2007

There is a change to the Brown Act, that will become effective July 1, 08. (I think that you can tell when the League of Cities or some other group is concerned about an amendment; hence the late effective date. There was another amendment to the Brown Act which has no applicability to school districts. It was a technical change that will not be discussed.)

With respect to Chapter 298, the Brown Act was amended at Government Code section 54957.5 to provide information to the public distributed to board members within the 72-hour period prior to the start of a regular board meeting. The amendment to the Brown Act reads as follows:

(b) (1) If a writing that is a public record under subdivision (a), and that relates to an agenda item for an open session of a regular meeting of the legislative body of a local agency, is distributed less than 72 hours prior to that meeting, the writing shall be made available for public inspection pursuant to paragraph (2) at the time the writing is distributed to all, or a majority of all, of the members of the body.

(2) A local agency shall make any writing described in paragraph (1) available for public inspection at a public office or location that the agency shall designate for this purpose. Each local agency shall list the address of this office or location on the agendas for all meetings of the legislative body of that agency. The local agency also may post the writing on the local agency's Internet Web site in a position and manner that makes it clear that the writing relates to an agenda item for an upcoming meeting.

(3) This subdivision shall become operative on July 1, 2008.

Your district may commence compliance with this amendment before July 1, 2008, but there is no requirement to do so.

Before getting to the amendment, it is common for many agendas to contain a statement that "Copies of the agenda materials are available in the _____ office at the District Education Center," or words to that effect. Consequently, if your current agenda contains similar language, then no addition is necessary. If not, then the following as of July 1, 2008 should be included on your agenda: "Copies of the agenda materials are available in the _____ office at the District Education Center."

Please note that this requirement is to provide notice to the public that non-confidential materials provided with the agenda to the members of the board are available within that 72-hour window. Therefore, once the meeting commences, there

is no reason to continue to maintain a set of these materials unless requested at the meeting. Presumably, a copy of such materials is always available for the public at the meeting. Since the purpose of this legislation is to provide notice and a means for materials to be available during this limited 72-hour window, the maintenance and disposition of such materials would be in accordance with the district's record retention policy and Title 5.

Please do not hesitate to call if we may be of further assistance.

Spencer

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Suite 204 – East Building
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Ph (714) 573-0900 Fax (714) 573-0998



EL CAMINO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

16007 Crenshaw Boulevard Torrance, California 90506-0001
Telephone (310) 532-3670 or 1-866-ELCAMINO

November 27, 2007

Dr. Mildred Garcia, President
California State University
Dominguez Hills
1000 E. Victoria Street
Carson, CA 90747

Dear Dr. Garcia:

Again, welcome to California. Our delightful meeting earlier this month encourages me for the future of California State University, Dominguez Hills.

I trust you enjoyed a Thanksgiving holiday visit full of family, friends and festivities. I know you your hopes, plans and dreams for the University are challenging the vision for the University. El Camino College's relationship with California State University, Dominguez Hills will surely improve as we focus on student success.

Please accept this formal invitation to be the keynote speaker for the sixty-first El Camino College Commencement on Friday, June 6, 2007, at 4 p.m.

I look forward to working with you in improving academic access and excellence in our South Bay communities.

Respectfully,

Thomas M. Fallo
Superintendent/President

TMF/kao

EL CAMINO COLLEGE
Division of Community Advancement
Comments made by Kellie Johnson, Ace Clearwater Manufacturing
at the All Campus Advisory Dinner on November 14, 2007

Some solutions at ACE to fill the skills gap: internships and tuition reimbursement for technical and 4yr colleges. And we've developed a robust mentoring program for our future workforce.

Currently we have employees attending classes at El Camino- Miguel tool crib attendant is now taking a machining class. We have many success stories from graduates of El Camino. Thank you for teaching them real-world job skills, and instilling in them a professional work ethic.

We could easily be at 200 employees if we could find qualified people that have the right attitude, work ethic and like to make things and work with their hands.

This is the first time in recent history that commercial and military aerospace is growing at the same time.

1. Yet the perception is that mfg has all gone away and that it doesn't really matter anymore. The fact is mfg remains a vibrant sector of our economy. By itself, US mfg which employs 14 million people would be the 8 largest economy in the world. Mfg is important to our economy and our quality of life
 - multiplier effect-economic impact study for every one mfg job creates 3 other
 - Think about it. Our 185 employees buy homes, cars, go to the dentist, go out to dinner, shopping, take vacations. They are responsible for sustaining hundreds of other jobs in their communities.
 - Uganda
 - Most people have a negative image of mfg, dirty, dark ,dangerous, boring
 - People think of mfg the way it was 50 years ago. Most people don't realize that cutting edge technology has transformed mfg in ways that are hard to imagine if you haven't visited a factory lately
 - Open invitation for students and teachers to visit ACE
2. Truth is there is more opportunity for career advancement in mfg than in most other industries
 - Tell entry level stories 10.00-18.00 3 yrs.
 - Two of our best hires came from community college. One of them Chris, a welder, is making 45k a year...not bad for a 19yr old. And the best part is, he loves his job, and is actually training some of our fitters to become welders
 - Machine programmer, training at a community college making 32hr came on board to be a mfg engineer now making 62k
3. Mfg needs to do a better job of getting our story out there.

Which is why we recently hosted Governor Schwarzenegger at a career tech ed summit at our company last March. We wanted top leadership to know:

Mfg is not dead

We don't have enough skilled workers to meet our customer's demand

We want to keep our economy strong by ensuring businesses have skilled workforces and individuals have the skills they need to stay employed

We believe training and workforce development is a necessary investment (imagine the broader economic impact of failing to invest in training programs?)

Bottom line, not everyone goes to a 4 yr college and therefore there needs to be more than one way for people to succeed. Career pathways need to be developed as early on as high school with career tech ed a part of the curriculum.

75% of new job growth will require some level of post high school training. A 2yr degree particularly focused on technical skills is becoming increasingly important.

4. The skills gap is urgent and closing this gap is vital to our economic competitiveness as a nation . I believe business leaders need to step up and speak out about the importance of these issues to the 21st century workforce and to the future of manufacturing in the United States.

I hear too often from education that they can't get industry involved. Is it availability or willingness?

Industry must be involved to let the community colleges know the kinds of skills that are needed in todays modern mfg plant.

5. Community colleges are playing a vital role in addressing the gap with solutions that are preparing thousands
6. However, current levels of effort are not enough. Together we need to operate with an urgency to do more
7. These are some ideas of what college leader can do to make a difference
 - Build your partnerships with employers who will join you as investors in solutions. Employers cannot solve the skilled workforce crisis alone, colleges can't do it alone. We need each other.
 - You also need to tell employers what you need/expect from us. Some ways you should expect us to contribute are 1) making investments in workers (tuition reimbursement, opportunities for advancement for skills) 2) investments in programs (help with curriculum, provide internships, equipment, and our time) 3) help in educating other leaders (such as other employers, legislators and elected officials)
 - Monitor your college programs in regards to workforce competitiveness.
 - Is your work relevant to employers? Do the goals of the partnership address workforce shortages in industries that pay good wages? Get to know our industry, learn about the kinds of jobs we offer, the skills required and where we have shortages.
 - Does your work reach into segments of our workforce that are growing and that will comprise our future workforce? Does the partnership address changing demographics in the community? Is work designed in a way that will result in expanded opportunity for key populations?

-Is the college making productive and efficient use of limited resources? McGivor, reengineering our process to be more efficient and competitive

12. With this sense of urgency comes the opportunity for us to join together

-Employers need skilled workers

-People need skills to get and retain good jobs-both youth and adults need skills

-Communities need to attract and retain employers that pay good wages and offer opportunity for advancement.

13. Our society has made working in Hollywood a lot more sexy than a career in mfg.

Yet, how many people can work in a studio for 10 years and go out and start their own?

Over the years ACE has helped create at least 10 other companies from employees leaving to start their own business

14. World is changing-becoming a lot smaller. We can't be protectionists.

Globalization has provided us with affordable products- Target gift cards

Maybe not everything should be made here. GE Story

But I believe we should be the world leader in innovation. Need to invest in

R&D and maintain our mfg capabilities. At ACE we like to think of ourselves as the M in R&D

We need to fight unfair competition, can't just sit back and watch it all being taken away from us.

15. R&D and innovation are critical to our future quality of life. Most innovative ideas at ACE come from the operators on the shop floor.

16. Think about it, the DC3, B2 Stealth Bomber, C17, Mars Rover, Surfboards, Barbie Dolls, the Space Shuttle, all of them came from the talents of people in southern California.

Let's continue to work together, forming strong partnerships and speaking out publicly about the need for systemic changes in order to have the skilled workforce we need now and in the future.

I am proud to be a partner of this college and I thank you for continuing to lead the way.

Kellie Johnson
President
ACE Clearwater Enterprises

Kellie Johnson graduated from USC in 1982 with a B.A. in International Relations. She joined the family business ACE Clearwater Enterprises in 1984 working in all areas from purchasing to production control. At that time the company had annual revenues of approximately 10 Million dollars, primarily in aerospace sheet metal forming and fabrication.

Kellie took over operations in 1985 and was promoted to President in 1989 concentrating on building an infrastructure to what at the time was a very loose organization. Changes in the industry and increasing demands from the customer base required new thinking. No longer a simple build to print job shop, ACE was evolving into an extension of its customers manufacturing operations. Large investments were made in Human Resource policies and procedures, IT and capital equipment. Kellie brought on several key personnel and created a new position, Director of Change. This position has evolved into Director of Progress to help lead the continuous improvement process. Recognizing people are our biggest asset, ongoing training is a hallmark of Kellie's leadership. By 1995 Kellie had doubled annual sales to over 20 Million dollars, with current (2006) projections at 28 Million. Focusing on speed and quality, ACE Clearwater Enterprises has become a preferred supplier for several prime OEMs. Under her leadership the company received the highly coveted Boeing Supplier of the Year award in 1993. Specializing in complex formed and welded assemblies, Industry Week recognized ACE Clearwater Enterprises as "One of Americas Top 25 Small Manufacturers" in 1999. In 2002 Kellie completed her companies acquisition of the Honeywell metal forming business, which has led to a nearly 20% increase in revenues. She has also positioned ACE Clearwater Enterprises and its 175 employees as the full service manufacturing facility of choice for Lockheed Martin, General Electric, Honeywell, Textron/Bell/Cessna and a host of primes. ACE Clearwater was recently awarded the largest single contract in its 54 year history for exhaust nozzles on the Apache AH64 Helicopter. Under Kellie's leadership, ACE Clearwater Enterprises has been certified to the new ISO 9001:2000 and AS 9100B international quality standards, as well as Nadcap approvals in NDT and Welding, making ACE Clearwater one of a handful of aerospace companies of its size working under this new quality standard.

Kellie Johnson was Chairman of the Board of Directors for the CMTC (California Manufacturing Technology Consulting) in 1995 and served as a Board Member for 12 years. Kellie also sits on the Board of Directors for the National Association of Manufacturers, and is a member of the Board of Trustees for the Manufacturing Institute. In 2005 Kellie accepted the position of Chairman of the South Bay Economic Development Partnership for a two year term. Additionally Kellie is a member of the Technical Advisory Board for City National Bank. Kellie was nominated to the Presidents Manufacturing Council by Assistant Secretary of Commerce Al Frink in 2005, and was accepted by Secretary of Commerce Carlos Gutierrez in March of 2006. In the civic arena Kellie is actively involved in the local school system promoting careers in manufacturing, and through ongoing facility tours, she encourages educators to promote manufacturing as a great career opportunity. ACE sponsors several local high schools in the First Robotics national competition, and promotes internship programs to expose young people to engineering and other manufacturing related careers. Kellie is a proud supporter of Move America Forward, and Spirit of America. She was recently selected to participate in the Joint Civilian Orientation Conference, a program sponsored by the Secretary of Defense and hosted by the U.S. Central Command. This program connects America's leaders with their U.S. Armed Forces in the Middle East.



NEWSLETTER

Volume 19 • Number 14

November 14, 2007

PRESIDENT'S

"The mission of El Camino College is to meet the educational needs of our diverse community and ensure student success by offering quality, comprehensive educational opportunities."

Accreditation Update

We continue to make progress on our accreditation reports. Along with this we are updating our planning process for all divisions/departments. Please remember that all new plans created by the divisions/departments must be tied to our strategic initiatives approved by the Board of Trustees in June 2007.

The strategic initiatives are:

Offer excellent educational and student support services:

- Enhance college services to support student learning using a variety of instructional delivery methods and services.
- Maximize growth opportunities and strengthen programs and services to enhance student success.
- Strengthen partnerships with schools, colleges and universities, businesses and community-based organizations to provide workforce training and economic development for our community.

Support self-assessment, renewal, and innovation:

- Use student learning outcomes and assessment to continually improve processes, programs and services.
- Use research-based evidence as a foundation for effective planning, budgeting and evaluation processes.

Modernize the infrastructure to support quality programs and services:

- Use technological advances to improve classroom instruction, services to students and employee productivity.
- Improve facilities to meet the needs of students and the community for the next 50 years.

All El Camino College employees and students are welcome to join any of the nine standard committees working on our accreditation process. The first draft of the accreditation report is posted on the portal for review and input by faculty and staff. Go to this link and then sign in as usual to view: <https://portal.elcamino.edu/portal/main.html>

Facilities Update

As facilities upgrades continue across campus, we are excited about the completion of the brand new, \$29.36M **Humanities Building**. Work is continuing on the interior and exterior. Furnishings have been ordered and information technology equipment will follow. Our spring semester classes will be held in the new building!

Here is a quick recap of other projects under construction:

The **Learning Resource Center's** metal decking is complete and the second floor concrete deck has been poured. Interior wall framing will begin this month and the roof deck and stairs will be poured. The completion date for the \$13.7 million project is set for April 4, 2008.

Structural work at the **Central Plant** is completed and equipment and piping are being installed. **Supplemental Board Information Letter** December 21, 2007

finished on December 1, 2007 at a cost of \$15.485 million.

The Infrastructure Phase 1 project, the installation of **underground piping**, continues with a scheduled completion date set for February 15, 2008.

Retro Pay Update

In our most recent discussions with the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), we have been informed that all El Camino College employee retroactive paychecks for January-June 2007 will be released by Friday, December 21, 2007. It is anticipated that the retroactive paychecks for the month of July will be available sometime in January 2008.

LACOE representatives also stated that the delay in the retroactive paychecks is partly due to the fact that the pay period covers two different fiscal years. January-June is fiscal year 2006-07 and those retroactive checks will be

July falls in fiscal year 2007-08, and those retroactive checks will be available sometime in January 2008.

Additionally, the county must calculate and verify each individual paycheck for accuracy.

Our retroactive paychecks are being handled by LACOE concurrently with the issuance of regular paychecks for all employees of every school and college in Los Angeles County.

Any updated information from the county will be shared with faculty and staff as quickly as possible.

High School Principals Visit Campus

Principals and superintendents from high schools throughout the El Camino Community College District recently visited campus for a breakfast meeting designed to enhance communication between the college and our feeder schools.

The breakfast, held once each semester, offers the opportunity for South Bay academic leaders to ask questions about El Camino College and to learn about the many services available to high school students. In addition, El Camino College staff members are able to assess the needs of college-bound high school students before they graduate from high school.

Representatives from El Camino College's Women in Industry (WIT) program provided a presentation about the program. Three outstanding students from WIT shared their personal experiences with the group. Information was also presented regarding CalPASS, a statewide initiative that collects, analyzes and shares student data in order to track performance and improve success from elementary school through university. Finally, an overview of concurrent enrollment requirements was provided by our Admissions and Records Department.

The next breakfast is scheduled to take place in March 2008.

ECC Helping Others

Many activities are planned around campus to help others who need a little extra boost this holiday season. The outreach efforts provided by our generous El Camino College community will go a long way to help area families celebrate the holidays.

Here is a round-up of activities happening around campus – feel free to contribute

where you are able.

ICC Children's Holiday Party

The InterClub Council will start the holiday season with a celebration for children from noon to 2 p.m. Nov. 30. About 100 children from area Head Start preschools will come to campus for refreshments, entertainment and fun holiday activities.

"Adopt a Family for the Holidays"

The El Camino College Alumni Association/EOPS Chapter is sponsoring "The CalWORKs/CARE Holiday Celebration" on Tuesday, Dec. 18. Please join in celebrating the holidays by "adopting" one or more children of our CARE/CalWORKs students. During the holidays, many CARE/CalWORKs students cannot afford to purchase gifts for their children. You may choose to "Adopt a Family" with one child or up to five children; or feel free to make a general contribution such as non-gender specific toys, books, gift certificates, or cash donations to help purchase toys for the children.

More info: Lorena Perez, Ext. 3395 or lperez@elcamino.edu.

Nursing Department Giving Programs

Students in the nursing department's Iota Kappa Chi are collecting toys for needy families. A Toys for Tots collection box is in the nursing department lobby - all donations are welcome! Students are also sponsoring a blood drive for Little Company of Mary Hospital from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 10 in the Activities Center.

More info: Call 310-660-3281.

Happy Thanksgiving

We wish everyone in our El Camino College community a happy and restful Thanksgiving holiday weekend – a wonderful celebration with family and friends. Just a reminder: the college will be closed Nov. 22-25.

CAMPUS CALENDAR

November

- 15 Native American Month Celebration
- 16 Last Day to Drop w/a "W"
- 18 ECC Dance Band
- 22-25 Thanksgiving Break (campus closed)
- 27 Environmental Fair
- 29-30 ECC Dance Concert
- 30 ICC Children's Holiday Party



To: El Camino College District Board of Directors
From: Joseph Holliday, Director, Honors Transfer Program
Date: December 3, 2007
Subject: Honors Transfer Program Students' Success at UC

The Honors Transfer Program at El Camino College has great success in student transfer to the UC of their choice. For instance, about 90 percent of ECC honors students who applied to UCLA last year were admitted (versus only 52 percent overall). We have high transfer success rates to UC Berkeley (63 percent) compared to the overall transfer rate (40 percent). The HTP has even better rates to UC Irvine. We are counting on the transfer rising even further after the college hires an honors/transfer counselor during the coming year.

We are very proud of our close relationship with UCLA through the Transfer Alliance Program. The HTP works closely with their Admissions staff to make sure that every one of our applicants (approximately 80 annually) has the best chance of admission. UCLA is so proud of the TAP program with select community colleges that they put the effort and money into creating a professional video about community college transfer to UCLA. **We made a copy of the DVD for you in the hope that you will take the time to view this high-quality video of our successful transfer connection to UCLA.** I believe you will enjoy it as much as I did, when it was unveiled at the 20th anniversary celebration of the Transfer Alliance Program at UCLA.

We also have a very close connection with UC Irvine. As the president of the Honors Transfer Council of California, I will be meeting with the new Vice Chancellor, Stephanie Reyes-Tuccio, this week about finalizing plans for our annual Honors Student Research Conference. This conference is a showcase for over 100 honors students from community colleges all over California to present their academic research in a university setting. There are dozens of scholarships awarded at this conference. For instance, ECC students received two of the 15 Exceptional Achievement Scholarships that were granted last year. Better yet, the honors students' abstracts are printed in a UCI publication called Building Bridges. **You will find a copy of the abstract publication attached, with names of El Camino College student presenters and faculty mentors highlighted.** In addition to the presenters, we had ten students attend as volunteers, as well as a few ECC faculty members.

By the way, this HTCC Student Research Conference was first initiated by one of our professors (and now interim dean of Natural Sciences) Dr. Jean Shankweiler when she was president of HTCC. In fact, the largest scholarship will be named in her honor during the conference on Saturday, March 1, 2008. You are cordially invited to attend as our guest at this conference, where El Camino College will have about a dozen scholarly oral and research poster presentations. Please contact me if you are interested in attending the student presentations and/or plenary session with scholarship presentations. Complimentary breakfast and lunch will be provided for all attendees.

The Honors Transfer Program is increasing in quality, as mentioned in preceding paragraphs. The HTP has also been growing in quantity, with a 45 percent increase during the past two years. ECC now has one of the top five largest community college honors programs in California.



October 2, 2007

Dear President Fallo:

Did you know that El Camino College received \$40,228,226 in the past five years from Pell Grants! In 2006-2007, 4,130 of your students were granted an average Pell Grant of \$2,248. Over the last five years, Pell dollars awarded to community college students have grown from \$4.17 to \$4.6 billion in 2007! Thanks to recent legislation AACC advocated for with Congress, the Pell Grant maximum will rise steadily over the next five years.

One Dupont Circle, NW
Suite 410
Washington, DC 20036

www.aacc.nche.edu
[T] 202.728.0200
[F] 202.833.2467

Protecting and increasing Pell Grant dollars is just one of the ways your association worked for you during 2007. Other major gains resulting from AACC's advocacy and outreach include:

- AACC worked to promote funding legislation that would increase Pell Grant maximum by \$390, to \$4,700. The legislation also adds \$25 million to the Basic State Grants in the Carl D. Perkins Act and provides increases for TRIO, GEAR UP, HSIs and HBCUs. For the 2006-2007 academic year, more than 2 million community college students benefited from Pell Grants, receiving over \$4.6 billion dollars.
- AACC actively pursued its agenda to change the Hope Scholarship tax credit to provide greater benefits to community college students and needy students in general.
- Successfully advocated community college priorities in the reauthorization of the Carl D. Perkins Act to maintain Tech Prep as a separately authorized program and establish separate postsecondary performance indicators
- AACC collaborated with the American Council on Education on a new phase of the national "Solutions for Our Future" campaign, to better engage community colleges.
- AACC supported efforts by Columbia University's Hechinger Institute to increase news coverage of community colleges through a new fellows program that will result in more in-depth coverage of community colleges in such areas as funding, transfer, and access.
- AACC helped to develop new legislative proposals to Congress that would expand nursing faculty and increase enrollments in associate degree nursing programs.
- In cooperation with nine national partners and 18 funders, AACC is advancing work on equity and student success in more than 80 colleges in 15 states through the Achieving the Dream: Community Colleges Count national initiative established by Lumina Foundation for Education.
- AACC's Project Reach is working with community colleges to develop community service learning opportunities for students with disabilities to explore possible career paths, enhance employability, and foster personal growth.

We know our colleges face serious challenges. Beyond federal policy issues, AACC is working to expand leadership development opportunities and other services, leverage grant opportunities and corporate partnerships, and increase the visibility of community colleges at multiple levels.

AACC is the national "voice for community colleges" with the federal government, national news media and business. Your membership commitment is essential to our shared success.

Sincerely,

George R. Boggs
President and CEO



October 2, 2007

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Dear President Fallo:

In July, we wrote to you as a member of the AACC Presidents Academy to inform you of actions taken by your elected representatives on the Presidents Academy Executive Committee at their July meeting. We wanted to remind you of the important programs sponsored by the Presidents Academy designed to support your work as a community college leader.

The work of the Presidents Academy is focused on the support and professional development of AACC member CEOs to help you and your colleagues meet current and emerging challenges. The Academy sponsors multiple sessions during the AACC Annual Convention, as well as presentations for CEOs and trustees during the ACCT Annual Congress. A special pre-convention workshop assists first-time CEOs as they assume their responsibilities as institutional leaders. The Presidents Academy also recognizes retiring, 25-year, and first-time CEOs at the convention's Hail and Farewell Luncheon.

The Presidents Academy Summer Institute provides a retreat-like atmosphere for both new and seasoned CEOs to meet and explore in-depth critical issues facing today's community college leaders. This popular event offers presidents a rare opportunity for renewal and reflection as they explore in-depth critical issues facing today's community college leaders.

All of the sessions organized by the Presidents Academy are assessed and continuously updated for relevance and substance and evaluations from participants are consistently positive. However, ensuring high quality of all programs makes them expensive to operate, and they have become a significant cost for AACC. The Presidents Academy Executive Committee decided that these professional development opportunities merited a modest \$50 annual institutional fee to help defray the costs. This additional charge is in accordance with the Presidents Academy constitution and will ensure excellent programs in years to come.

The enclosed dues notice to renew your college's membership in AACC includes the \$50 institutional fee for the Presidents Academy. We trust that you have enjoyed the many benefits of participation in Presidents Academy events and will agree with the decision of your elected representatives to support these important programs.

We thank you for your past support and welcome any questions and comments you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George R. Boggs".

George R. Boggs
President and CEO
gboggs@aacc.nche.edu
202-728-0200, ext. 238

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frances L. White".

Frances White
Chair, AACC Presidents Academy
and President/ Superintendent,
College of Marin, California
fran.white@marin.edu
415-485-95

Subject: RE: Listing of High Schools within the district

That is a difficult question to answer – the number seems to change all the time. My usual answer is there are 14 main high schools in our district and 5 continuation schools. Below is a basic list of most of the schools:

Public (13)

Hawthorne
Lawndale
Leuzinger
El Segundo
Mira Costa
Redondo Union
Inglewood
City Honors
Morningside
Torrance
North Torrance
West Torrance
South Torrance

Continuation (5)

Redondo Shores
Arena
Lloyde
Hillcrest
K. Shery

Charter – (not all are certified yet or eligible for charter certification) (3?)

Animo Leadership (certified)
Animo Inglewood (certified)
Lennox Math Science Academy
Media Arts Academy
Hawthorne Math Science Academy
Environmental Charter (certified)

Private/Independent (3)

Bishop Montgomery
St. Mary's Academy
Vistamar

There are also a number of independent study, home study and small private high schools affiliated with local faith-based organizations like the South Bay Faith Academy and South Bay Lutheran to name a few and others like Sigma high school which is a private Japanese school.



Applying Knowledge
To Public Policy And
Institutional Practice

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December 3, 2007

Thomas Fallo, President
El Camino College
16007 Crenshaw Blvd
Torrance, CA 90506

Dear President Fallo:

It is with great pleasure I write to let you know that on October 9, 2007 in Los Angeles, CA, the **First Year Experience** at El Camino College was announced as an honorable mention for the 2007 Example of *Excelencia* award at the Associate Level. Your campus program was selected through our national initiative, Examples of *Excelencia*, as one of this year's programs to be commended for accelerating Latino student success at this level.

Enclosed are materials from the 2007 Examples of *Excelencia Celebración* and Symposium for your review and to share with members of your staff and faculty. More about the Examples of *Excelencia* initiative may be found by visiting our website at: www.edexcelencia.org/programs/examples/default.asp.

The 2007 Examples of *Excelencia* events this October kicked off the beginning of an effort by *Excelencia* in Education to share information about *what works* for Latino students in higher education. Several events are being planned to bring the First Year Experience and other 2007 Examples of *Excelencia* featured programs to the attention of higher education decision and policy makers. This will include the Examples of *Excelencia* Showcase on Capitol Hill currently scheduled for early March 2008. We hope you will consider attending and bringing a campus team with you. Please visit our website for more details as they develop and let us know if you have any questions.

Thank you for your support of the First Year Experience and its service to Latino students at El Camino College. We look forward to working more closely with your campus in the future.

Sincerely,

Sarita E. Brown
President

cc: Ruth Banda-Ralph, FYE Coordinator; Francisco Arce, Vice President of Academic Affairs; Jeanie Nishime, Vice President of Student Affairs

Enclosures

cc: Bd + VP's.

Daily Breeze

December 03, 2007

El Camino student paper enters the Digital Age

"It's not a choice anymore," The Union Web editor Kathy Gaytan says. "You have to be online."

By Shelly Leachman
Staff Writer

They're sarcastic, self-deprecating and sometimes snarky. They procrastinate because they thrive under pressure. Their office is comfortably cluttered.

Typical journalists.

Meet the reporters and editors of El Camino College's newspaper, The Union, who recently snared nearly 30 awards at a regional journalism competition and a Best in Show honor at a national convention that pitted them even against four-year universities.

The accolades are nothing new for this crew, which made a similar showing last year and whose predecessors have frequently done the same. Myriad awards, going back decades, adorn the walls of their campus newsroom near Torrance.

Next time a contest comes around, The Union staff will at last be eligible in a category in which it's never competed - online journalism.

Among "the last of the major players in college journalism" to do so, according to department head Jolene Combs, the paper just last week launched a Web version.

"We've finally hit the 21st century," joked Web editor Kathy Gaytan, 20, a four-semester staff member who's planning for a fall transfer into San Francisco State University's journalism program.

In the digital world, the weekly newspaper now has daily capability. Staffers say they plan to slowly move in that direction, first by offering more up-to-date sports scores, posting big breaking news when it happens and possibly offering fresh content in its historically dark months between fall and spring semesters.

"It's not a choice anymore. You have to be online," Gaytan said. "If you're not, get out of the way."

A former staff started the online effort two years ago, but ran up against some bureaucratic red tape that kept it from going live.

Until now - well, sort of. The company that hosts the Web site was having technical difficulties over the weekend, and The Union site was down. They're hoping that's fixed soon.

Editor in Chief Matt Lopez, 21, said his crew has been working since last spring to finally provide The Union a Web presence after realizing just how behind the times they were.

"We'd be going to journalism workshops where they don't even teach you how to go online anymore because they just assume you already are," Lopez said. "We're like, 'Hey, uh, we're not online.'"

At last live on the Internet, The Union next semester will reverse its focus and give its Web site top billing, hoping to thereby retrieve what Lopez described as a waning readership and extend its reach.

Replicating the more evergreen pieces weekly in print, reporters from here on out will be trained to file stories straight to the Web, Lopez said. And ultimately they will also produce video packages, slide shows, podcasts and more.

"There are so many possibilities now," said news editor Jaena Cabrera, 21, a Carson native who will transfer to San Francisco State this spring. "We can tell stories better, do things better and do them faster."

And they're likely to speed up further in the future. Combs, the department chair, said there are plans in motion to introduce two new classes in multimedia journalism by early 2009.

The Union also has landed prime real estate in El Camino's new humanities building. The first fresh structure there in 30 years, it slated to open for spring semester.

The staff will start packing for its new digs today, leaving behind mismatched desks, worn-out chairs and peeling paint of its basement-level location. It's a serendipitous move and symbolic of the paper's push to get current and its goal to go cutting edge.

"There's not much more we can learn as far as print goes," Lopez said. "But I don't think print will die out. It will become secondary, like what the cassette became to the CD, but it won't totally go away."

"Yeah," Gaytan concurred, "you'll still need something to read in the dentist's office."

Daily Breeze

December 3, 2007

El Camino cruises to first-round win

Warriors open the eight-team, women's volleyball state tournament with a sweep of Cabrillo. Northern No. 1 Sacramento awaits this morning.

From staff reports

Outside hitter Kerry O'Brien had 14 kills to lead El Camino College in Friday's 30-14, 30-25, 30-21 victory over Cabrillo in the first round of the eight-team CCCAA State Championships at Fresno Pacific University.

Middle blocker Marcella Hernandez (North Torrance High) recorded 12 kills and four blocks and outside hitter Lauren Simmons (North Torrance) added 12 kills and 12 digs to lead an efficient offensive effort for El Camino (28-1). The Warriors hit .308 as a team.

"That's pretty good for us," El Camino coach Le Valley Pattison said. "Everyone came in and played pretty well today. It was a good start for us."

Setter Sam Taylor (San Pedro) had 42 assists and helped El Camino get off to its fast start in Game 1.

"We passed well and they struggled a bit with their passing, so we just kept the pressure on," Pattison said.

El Camino (Southern Region's No. 2 seed) will face Sacramento City (Northern No. 1) today at 10 a.m. in the second round of the double-elimination tournament.

LaTimes.com

El Camino College student assaulted

By Tami Abdollah
Los Angeles Times Staff Writer

10:40 AM PST, November 15, 2007

Police are searching for a man who sexually assaulted a 20-year-old female student at knifepoint after an evening class at El Camino College this week, officials said today.

After a dance class in the women's gymnasium Tuesday, the woman walked around a corner to a soda machine on her way to meet her mother in a nearby parking lot, El Camino College Police Chief Steve Port said today. A man approached her at knifepoint near the vending machine, took her behind the women's gym to an alcove near the locker room, where he sexually assaulted her for 15 to 20 minutes, Port said.

After the assault, the victim called 911 from her cellphone, Port said, and a campus police cadet walking nearby heard her sobbing and went to help her. The victim's mother, curious about the arrival of emergency vehicles and equipment, left her car and walked over to the area, finding her daughter being attended to by paramedics, Port said.

The woman was taken to a hospital, where she stayed overnight, and evidence was gathered and sent to the county crime lab, Port said. As of Wednesday, she was home with her family, officials said.

Port said the area was "fairly well populated" in the evening. He said police hoped the public would provide tips and that a student might have seen something.

"When he grabs her, he's holding the knife, he has a ski mask on, a hood over the ski mask, all in black dark clothes, a non-police person is still going to see this person and know it's not Halloween," Port said.

Police will try to talk to the woman today and draw a sketch of the suspect.

"It's kind of an oxymoron -- we're going to sketch a guy with a ski mask and hood on," Port said, adding that the process of coming up with a description might spur memories.

Police said they had increased their presence on the 25,000-student campus in Torrance. Students were informed of the assault through e-mail and by bulletins posted on campus, said Ann Garten, a college spokeswoman. They also were reminded about safety measures, such as a courtesy shuttle, she said.

A 1990 federal law requires colleges and universities to notify students in a timely manner about

ongoing threats and to disclose crime statistics. The Jeanne Clery Act was named for a Pennsylvania college student who was raped and killed in her dorm at Lehigh University in 1986. Her parents have charged that she should have been informed of the crime problems at the university.

Port said there had been no sexual assaults on campus over the last three years.

"I've talked to sergeants and they can't remember when or if this has happened over the last 10 years, so this is very extraordinary," Port said.

College students are one of the most vulnerable age groups for rape, said Gail Abarbanel, director of the Rape Treatment Center at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center. She said about 80% of rapes were committed by an acquaintance.

"Stranger rapes get more publicity," she said. "But there's probably been hundreds of rapes on college campuses this week that nobody's written about."

Anyone with any information is asked to call El Camino College campus police at (310) 660-3100.

Dan Walters: Education cutback on agenda

By Dan Walters

December 10, 2007

Pick your cliché. An 800-pound gorilla. A third rail. A sacred cow. The bull in the china shop. The big enchilada. A \$64 question. Or, perhaps, ants at the picnic.

Whatever phrase you apply, when it comes to the state budget – and especially to the budget's chronic, ever-growing deficit – the biggest number is 98, as in Proposition 98, the extremely complex, 1988-vintage ballot measure that guarantees the schools a certain share of state revenue.

Although it passed with a very scant majority nearly 20 years ago, Proposition 98 – backed by a powerful coalition of school unions, administrators and trustees known as the "Education Coalition" – has dominated fiscal politics ever since, consuming 40 percent of the general fund budget, nearly three times as much as the next largest portion.

Every governor since 1988 has collided with Proposition 98's requirements because they are largely immune to the volatility of state revenue, which has worsened as the state has become more dependent on personal income taxes.

When revenue takes a dip during an economic downturn, and politicians seek ways to avoid large deficits, they can scarcely ignore Proposition 98 in a fiscal sense, although even suggesting that its requirements be altered in some way risks the wrath of the Education Coalition.

Arnold Schwarzenegger has had an intimate acquaintanceship with Proposition 98's political reality. One of his first acts as governor four years ago was to negotiate an agreement with Ed Coalition leaders for a one-time, \$2 billion cutback in school financing to ease the immense deficit he inherited, but comity turned to hostility when Schwarzenegger reneged on a verbal promise to pay back the money later as state revenue improved.

Schwarzenegger was naive about how politics work in the Capitol. He not only reneged but boosted spending in other categories rather than subjecting them to the same austerity he was imposing on schools. And then he proposed a ballot measure that would have permanently altered Proposition 98's guarantees.

The result was a bloody political war in 2005 in which the California Teachers Association and other groups spent more than \$100 million to undermine Schwarzenegger's public standing and defeat his package of ballot measures.

Since then, Schwarzenegger has carefully avoided any confrontations with the Ed Coalition, fully funding – even overfunding – Proposition 98's requirements and pledging full financing for inflation and enrollment growth. But the deficits have persisted, and with the slowdown in the state's economy, Schwarzenegger faces a projected \$10 billion budget gap over the next 18 months. He is being compelled by fiscal circumstances, therefore, to return to Proposition 98.

A Department of Finance memo suggesting a 10 percent across-the-board cut in state spending did not specifically exempt school spending. Over the past couple of weeks, the governor has met privately with the CTA and other Ed Coalition groups, sounding them out about how much they'd be willing to contribute to closing the deficit while promising to consider new revenue.

All sorts of steps are being kicked around, including erasing the estimated \$400 million overappropriation to schools in the current budget, or reducing next year's Proposition 98 inflation and enrollment growth, about \$2 billion, to some lower number.

Another complicating factor is that the state must make up any deficiencies in property taxes that go to schools, and property taxes have been flattening due to the meltdown in the housing sector.

Proposition 98 could take a hit, perhaps a billion dollars or more, but having been badly burned in the past, Schwarzenegger is clearly unwilling to do anything that the Ed Coalition doesn't accept in advance.

Dan Walters: Governor's quandary on budget

By Dan Walters

December 9, 2007

A few weeks ago, the Legislature's budget analyst, Elizabeth Hill, dropped a fiscal bombshell by revealing that the state faced a nearly \$10 billion gap between income and outgo over the next 19 months.

This week, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger will receive the final numbers from his own bean counters and then decide how – and if – the deficit is to be closed. And the most important decision is whether to deliver on the promise he made four years ago to balance the state's finances, or try to slide through another year on borrowed money and gimmicks.

His promises to stop "crazy deficit spending" notwithstanding, he'll be tempted to skate because of projections that the budget picture will improve markedly later in the decade – assuming, of course, that economists are correct in forecasting a flattening of the economy, but not a recession – and because it probably could be done.

For one thing, the state still has \$3.7 billion in borrowing capacity left from the \$15 billion deficit-refinancing bond issue passed in 2004. He could probably talk leaders of the powerful "Education Coalition" into accepting some short-term reductions in school aid, although the funds would have to be repaid later, and he could postpone about \$1.6 billion in bond payments.

Although local governments won passage of a ballot measure, with Schwarzenegger's support, to protect their treasuries from raids by Sacramento, there are still some potential "savings" from that source. And he still wants to sell EdFund, the state's student loan operation, and lease the state lottery to an outside operator, although the latter had been designated as a financing vehicle for his health care plan that appears to be going nowhere.

Put it all together and throw in some of the usual tricks, such as overestimating revenue and underestimating expenses, and Schwarzenegger and the Legislature probably could cobble together another get-out-of-town, balanced-on-paper budget that delays the day of fiscal reckoning for one more year.

Were Schwarzenegger, however, to stop playing hide-the-pea and really bring income and outgo into balance, it would mean not only spending cuts that would bring howls of protest from

affected interests – including school aid, 40 percent of the general fund budget – but raising revenue.

Schwarzenegger has indicated in private conversations with budget stakeholders that new revenue would be considered in return for spending cuts. The conventional wisdom is that new taxes are politically impossible because Republican legislators would never supply enough votes to meet the required two-thirds margin. But there are ways around the barrier – especially if Schwarzenegger were to take a gigantic step backward.

His first gubernatorial act was to restore a \$4-plus billion reduction in the property taxes that motorists pay on their cars, which predecessor Gray Davis had rescinded in a desperate attempt to balance the budget.

Technically, the tax cut, now valued at \$6 billion, is not really a tax reduction but a subsidy paid from the state treasury to local governments to make up what they lose by the state not collecting the full "vehicle license fee." Because it's an expenditure, Schwarzenegger could by law declare – as Davis did – that the state lacks enough money to pay local governments, thereby triggering full collection of the tax from motorists.

Rescinding the car tax cut would be both the easiest way for Schwarzenegger to close the budget gap because it wouldn't require a legislative vote and, politically, the most difficult, given his vociferous advocacy during his 2003 campaign for governor.

He is, as the old saying goes, hoisted on his own petard – which literally translates into being hurt by his own gaseous emissions.

Dan Walters: Economists not seeing a recession

By Dan Walters

Published 12:00 am PST Sunday, December 2, 2007

California is ground zero for the implosion of the housing industry, having experienced about 40 percent of the nation's foreclosures, especially those on so-called "subprime" borrowers who couldn't cope when unrealistically low teaser interest rates were adjusted upward.

It was a bubble that had to burst sometime, and when it did, it impacted hundreds of thousands of homebuyers, hundreds of lenders and developers and many others with stakes in the game. California, the land of wretched excess, was more caught up in the housing frenzy than most states, and so when the bubble popped, the state was hit harder.

It is, in a sense, a continuation of a pattern in the multifaceted California economy – one segment surging ahead, showering some with immense wealth, and then tumbling spectacularly.

We saw it in the early 1990s when the Pentagon spending boom of the 1980s, which had pumped hundreds of billions of dollars into California's defense industry, deflated with the end of the Cold War, creating the worst state recession in a half-century.

A decade later, it happened again when the Bay Area-centered technology industry, which had attracted countless billions of dollars in speculative investment, foundered on the not-unreasonable expectation of investors that it produce real profits and not just paper gains. That collapse is still being felt in Silicon Valley.

The housing bubble has exhibited a similar dynamic – a lot of speculative capital flowing into one sector based on unrealistic profit expectations and then a panicky retreat. So California has been burned again, but does it foretell a genuine economic recession like the one that afflicted the state in the early 1990s and drove more than a million Californians to pack up and leave?

So far, the consensus of economists is that while the housing debacle is certainly affecting the lives and personal finances of many Californians, including homeowners facing foreclosure and housing and lending industry workers, it will have, relatively, only a small impact on the overall economy.

"It's definitely going to have an impact, but not a recession," says Bill Watkins, who heads the University of California, Santa Barbara, Economic Forecast Project. His colleagues at UCLA's

Anderson School, in the state Department of Finance and in the Legislature's budget office generally agree.

Last week, the U.S. Conference of Mayors published a lengthy white paper on the impact of the housing market's decline, and while it confirmed that California is likely to see the most negative consequence of any state, and the impact on particular communities could be heavy, the overall economy will be affected only slightly. Specifically, the study, conducted by Global Insight, a well-respected economic analysis firm, projects that California will see a 1.1 percent decline in economic output – roughly \$18 billion in a \$1.6 trillion state economy.

The looming question – which may be partially answered during this Christmas gift-buying season – is whether consumers' anxiety not only about flattening or declining home values, but gasoline prices and other factors, will dampen their appetite for goods and services. In today's economy, consumers' confidence, or the lack thereof, can have a major impact. In other words, even if the economic impact of housing's decline is scant, the perception that it's a disaster could become a self-fulfilling phenomenon.

No one is more nervous about the situation than those who draw up state and local government budgets, because their revenue is extremely intertwined with consumer spending. The state has been facing multibillion-dollar deficits, thanks to irresponsible budgeting for the past half-decade, and flattening revenue is already widening those deficits.

Dan Walters: Are schools half empty or half full?

Published 12:00 am PST Friday, November 23, 2007

Gary Hart is a former teacher and state legislator who authored many of the reforms enacted in the late 1990s, including tougher curricular standards and mandatory statewide testing. He takes umbrage at a recent assertion in this space about the new flurry of reports and seminars on California's educational problems:

"If this account of educational verbiage sounds a little jaded, it's because California's schools, at least as measured by such things as test scores and high school dropout rates, have been deteriorating for several decades despite countless studies and programs that were supposed to fix things."

Hart contends that while the state's educational performance remains very low, it has improved marginally in recent years and, in fact, may not be any worse than it was in past decades, although there are no hard, comparable data on what was happening previously.

It's almost one of those philosophical, half-empty, half-full debates. Hart points out that as measured by national academic tests, the percentage of California's fourth- and eighth-graders rated as proficient in English and mathematics, has risen, generally from the mid-teens to the middle to high 20s over the past 15 years. He also notes that similar gains have been seen in state standardized tests.

It's a good point, although the state's rate of improvement has slowed to a crawl in more recent years in both testing systems. Perhaps my original assessment was overly broad, but whether the recent gains represent a truly positive trend, or merely a blip on a record of long-term decline, is another issue that cannot be resolved by objective numbers simply because we don't have data from decades ago.

If Hart is taking the half-full side of the debate, the half-empty position is exemplified by an op-ed article that appeared recently in the Los Angeles Times, authored by John Rogers and Jeannie Oakes, co-directors of UCLA's Institute for Democracy, Education and Access.

They were critical of Hart's political protégé, state Superintendent Jack O'Connell, for convening an elaborate "summit" that drew 4,000 educators to Sacramento and focused solely on the "achievement gap" between white and Asian American students on one hand and African American and Latino kids on the other.

"Strikingly," they wrote, "the state's other 'achievement gap' was barely mentioned at the summit; this is the gap between California and the rest of the nation. The most recent results from the National Assessment of Education Progress test (popularly known as 'the nation's report card') place California's fourth- and eighth-graders below those in nearly every other state in math and reading achievement. ... This national achievement gap affects students across the state regardless of their race. If we don't address both the racial and national achievement gaps, it's hard to imagine solving either one.

"For example, for years, people have been describing and lamenting California's general decline in education. We've all heard it. Test scores of California's Latino and African American students are, on average, among the lowest in the country. However, white students don't do well either, and by a wide margin: California's white eighth-graders score below white eighth-graders in every state but West Virginia and Nevada on the NAEP reading test."

Whether the state's schools are performing better or worse than they were a generation or two ago ultimately is less important than what's happening now.

Even if they are improving slowly, as Hart contends, it may be too slow to prevent California from becoming lodged at the bottom of the barrel. The fact that in the most recent NAEP tests, California's fourth-graders were second from the bottom, ahead only of the District of Columbia, should be a wake-up call.

Gov. finds himself in a bigger budget bind

Many of the spending options Schwarzenegger used to have are no longer available.

By Evan Halper, Los Angeles Times Staff Writer
November 24, 2007

SACRAMENTO -- -- Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger could soon come to regard the epic budget mess he inherited four years ago as a minor nuisance compared to the challenge he faces now.

As he prepares the budget blueprint that he will release in January, the governor is in a bind. There isn't as much red ink this time, or an emergency cash shortage -- at least not yet. But deals he made to keep the state afloat earlier in his tenure now hamper his ability to take on a rapidly swelling deficit that early projections show will hit at least \$10 billion.

Those deals, made when the deficit was substantially larger, put a lock on billions of dollars. Large pots of money that lawmakers have tapped to patch past budget deficits are no longer available to them. The prohibitions are even etched into California's Constitution, thanks to ballot measures championed by Schwarzenegger.

"There is no question this budget will be tougher" than when the deficit was \$14 billion, said Mike Genest, the governor's budget chief. "A lot of options we had before have been removed."

The governor has promised that the state would never again raid local government funds, never again borrow money earmarked for transportation and never again balance the budget through borrowing.

Public university students were guaranteed no more surprise fee hikes through at least 2010. Courts were also guaranteed no more cuts. An after-school program the governor pushed costing more than half a billion dollars annually can't be suspended.

Billions of dollars in potential cuts or funding shifts have been precluded in the last few years. Although the governor has long complained that his ability to tame budget deficits was held in check by "autopilot spending" -- programs that under state law get a set share of the budget -- there is more of it now than ever. And Schwarzenegger is one reason for that.

"We have just tightened the noose around our neck instead of figuring out how to get out of the noose in the first place," said Hannah-Beth Jackson, a former Democratic assemblywoman from Santa Barbara who plans to run for the Senate next year. "We have all these spending

requirements, and they end up working against each other. We can't take from this, we can't take from that; we've become immobilized."

Lawmakers have been complaining for decades that voter-imposed budget constraints are a straitjacket, taking away needed flexibility to address fiscal problems as they arise or bring a rational approach to setting spending priorities during good times.

But legislators have played a role in creating the dilemma they face. Citizen ballot initiatives often draw on the public's distaste for a Legislature perceived as financially incompetent and politically tone-deaf. Only 25% of likely voters trust state government officials to do what is right most or all of the time, according to a September poll by the Public Policy Institute of California.

Lawmakers' slowness in addressing skyrocketing property tax bills led voters in 1978 to pass the landmark Proposition 13, limiting how much such bills can increase every year. In 1988, voters approved Proposition 98, which set aside about 45% of the state's general fund for education programs and gave lawmakers complicated rules for allocating it.

"The reason voters lock in spending is because they don't trust the Legislature to share their priorities," said John G. Matsusaka, president of the Initiative and Referendum Institute at USC.

Sometimes it's lawmakers who restrict what can be cut. The governor and legislators placed on the ballot the measures that voters ratified prohibiting the government from touching transportation and local government money.

They did so after taking billions of that money to help narrow the deficit a few years ago. Then they said they would never do it again. But they need money again.

Genest said the governor has no regrets.

"It's like saying we no longer have the option of robbing banks," Genest said. "Why should we balance the budget by taking money that belongs to someone else? . . . The government will take from local government, transportation, anyone it can in lieu of making hard decisions."

Now is the time, Genest said, for hard decisions.

"The governor made these deals fully aware that the day would come when some of us would say we wish we had more options," he said.

But some question the fairness of a system that protects state money for programs whose advocates managed to get ballot measures passed and leaves other services to be cut to make up

the difference. Polls consistently show that, given the opportunity, voters would opt to protect almost everything the state spends money on.

Some interests are scurrying to get ballot measures passed even as the budget ax looms. An initiative that will come before voters in February, Proposition 92, would change the Constitution to protect community college funding and limit future student fee increases.

Senate President Don Perata (D-Oakland), who campaigned for some of the existing budget constraints, now says those requirements have left the state's budget "fatally broken." In a letter to the governor in August, immediately after the 51-day budget stalemate ended, he said it was time for Schwarzenegger and legislative leaders to begin the long process of reviewing them and even dismantling some -- which would require voter approval.

"We have finally reached the end of the line," Perata wrote. "If we don't seize the initiative now, the same competing special interests who . . . shaped the quagmire in which we currently find ourselves will lead us into another."

In the meantime, lawmakers are jockeying to use the myriad rules governing state money to their advantage. Fiscal conservatives are hoping the limited options lawmakers now have to close the deficit will bring into sharper focus the need to restrain spending elsewhere. Others are hopeful voters will see that the state lacks the funds to provide all the services they expect, and a tax increase is not unreasonable.

State Treasurer Bill Lockyer says that at minimum, that is a healthy debate to have. And one long overdue after years of the state spending more than it brings in and papering over deficits by shifting funds around from accounts that now cannot be touched.

"The constraints limit our flexibility, but they do not cause overspending," Lockyer said. "The real problem is tooth-fairy budgeting."

Dan Walters: Fiscal woes becoming ever deeper

By Dan Walters - dwalters@sacbee.com

Published 12:00 am PST Thursday, November 15, 2007

Elizabeth Hill, the Legislature's long-serving budget analyst, is the epitome of a low-key civil servant. Her dry, if authoritative, reports on state finances reflect that diffident demeanor.

When, therefore, Hill italicized some of the key words in her latest appraisal of the state's worsening fiscal dilemma Wednesday, it was her equivalent of shouting. And to translate those shouting words into everyday language, the state is in deep doo-doo, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and the Legislature are running out of gimmicks, and they'd better get serious before it becomes a full-blown debacle.

Specifically, Hill says this year's budget – the one that Schwarzenegger crowed was balanced with a \$4.1 billion reserve – is already upside down, thanks to some fiscal trickery that misfired and a slowing economy, including the bursting of the housing bubble, that has dampened revenues.

The \$4.1 billion reserve has already morphed into a \$1.9 billion deficit for the year, Hill projects, and the state can look forward to another \$8 billion gap between income and outgo in 2008-09 unless the governor and lawmakers slash spending and/or raise taxes.

The Legislature "will need to develop a budget plan that provides almost \$10 billion in solutions," Hill wrote. "Addressing the state's current budget problems is even more urgent because we forecast a continuing gap between revenues and expenditures. Without permanent budget solutions, the state will continue to face annual budget problems. A plan to permanently address the state's fiscal troubles must involve ongoing solutions." Some of Hill's italicized shouts are in that passage.

So there it is, official confirmation of the \$10 billion problem that some journalists and outside analysts had already calculated, and, as if to underscore the dilemma, Schwarzenegger's own Department of Finance released a report saying that revenues through the first four months of the fiscal year are running more than \$1 billion under expectations.

Will 2008, one wonders, be the year when the Legislature and the governor – who was elected to clean up the state's chronic fiscal mess and has utterly failed – eschew the funny-money gimmicks and backdoor borrowing that have permeated budgets over the last six years and get serious?

It could mean touching a third rail of Capitol politics, the 1988-vintage ballot measure, Proposition 98, that guarantees schools an ever-rising level of financing regardless of the state's fiscal situation – no small irony, given Schwarzenegger's pledge to make 2008 the year of education reform. Or it might mean cuts in welfare and health care for the poor, another irony given that the governor and legislators are trying to expand health access, not reduce it.

It could mean even higher college fees or sharply reducing prison populations with all the political angst that would generate. K-12 schools, health care, welfare, prisons, higher education and servicing the state's rapidly mounting bond debt consume all but a tiny portion of the state's general fund budget.

On the other side, permanently closing an \$8 billion operating deficit – just about the size it was in 2001, incidentally – would take a 2-cent increase in the state sales tax, or about a 15 percent increase in state income taxes. Or it might require a brush with another third rail, the property tax limit, Proposition 13, that voters enacted in 1978.

Historically, Democrats have believed that holding the line on spending would eventually force Republicans to raise taxes. Republicans have believed that if they hold out on taxes, Democrats will eventually make big spending cuts. The stalemate has generated years of deficits and massive borrowing to cover them.

What will happen? Absolutely no one knows.

LA Times.com

School plan comes amid fiscal crisis

Governor's education panel recommends new outlays, merit pay and other reforms. But lawmakers are facing a \$10-billion deficit.

By Patrick McGreevy, Los Angeles Times Staff Writer

November 23, 2007

SACRAMENTO -- A blue-ribbon panel is poised to propose a multibillion-dollar plan for overhauling education in California just as the state has become immersed in a fiscal crisis that could make its recommendations dead on arrival.

The 15-member committee, appointed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, concluded after two years of study that state schools are "hobbled in red tape, riddled with inefficiencies and impossible for parents and students to understand," according to a draft of the plan obtained by The Times.

The Governor's Committee on Education Excellence says in its 40-page report that "California's K-12 education system is broken. It is not close to helping each student become proficient in mastering the state's clear curricular standards, and wide disparities persist between rich and poor, between students of color and others, between English learners and native English speakers."

It proposes \$6.1 billion in new spending and some controversial changes, including performance-based pay for teachers, special resources for students who primarily speak a language other than English and a stronger role for the elected superintendent for public instruction -- who now has little say in how school systems are managed.

The report was intended to provide a blueprint for Schwarzenegger's next legislative initiative: a restructuring of the state's education system. But it arrives as revenues are plummeting in the wake of a housing crisis, and lawmakers face a \$10-billion deficit that experts predict will grow.

Officials who were hoping that next year would bring major improvements now say any significant efforts costing money will have to be shelved.

"Without any added revenues, it looks like we will be holding in abeyance any bills . . . that provide for comprehensive education reform," said Assemblyman Gene Mullin (D-San Mateo), chairman of the Education Committee.

The governor's education secretary, David Long, hopes some reforms would be possible but is

pessimistic about changes requiring significant new financing.

"There will be some things, because of the fiscal picture, that we won't be able to do," he said.

Although the governor has ordered state department heads to draw up plans for 10% cuts for next year, he has sought to keep alive the chance to fix a system in which fewer than half of all ninth-graders end up with a high school diploma.

"We have had a bipartisan group go out and study our education, Democrats and Republican, really the No. 1 experts in the state, that have studied this now for two years, and we know what needs to be done," Schwarzenegger told a group of Silicon Valley executives this month. "So the question is, shouldn't we put that plan up there and say: Bring all the stakeholders together, and let's figure out a way of how we can do that?"

Schwarzenegger is expected to use his State of the State address in January to preview his education program. But some elements of the committee's report are already drawing fire from the teachers' unions and others.

Stephan Blake, the panel's executive director, cautioned that some proposals may change before the document is finalized and released in coming weeks.

The draft proposes creation of a new funding system for students in poverty and English-learners that would cost an additional \$5 billion. It recommends an expansion of preschool that would cost \$1.1 billion.

Some of the expense could be defrayed by better use of existing resources, said committee member Russlynn Ali, executive director of the nonprofit Education Trust-West, which works to reduce the achievement gap between minority and non-minority students and between the poor and those who are better off.

Ali said committee members are fully aware that the report arrives at a time when the state budget is in trouble. California spends about \$50 billion annually on education.

Budget issues aren't the only potential obstacles.

Barbara Coe, head of the California Coalition for Immigration Reform, said her group would strongly resist expansion of programs aimed at English-learners because that would encourage schools to take in illegal immigrant children.

"That's not our obligation, to teach them English," she said.

Another hot-button issue is the way teachers are paid.

Performance pay is "a non-starter that just creates a brush fire around the whole plan," said Bob Wells, executive director of the Assn. of California School Administrators.

The draft suggests "linking compensation to performance that would directly reward teachers for, among other factors, gains in student academic achievement, additional responsibilities and demonstrated advancement of their skills and knowledge, as documented by their professional evaluations."

But the recommendation may lose support even within the committee before the report is finalized, said Ernesto Cortes, a committee member who is director of the Industrial Areas Foundation, a group that advocates for the poor.

"For me, merit pay is off the table," Cortes said.

The powerful California Teachers Assn. has batted down past merit pay proposals and would oppose any in the future, said union spokeswoman Sharon Jackson.

"It sounds like merit pay to me," she said. "If it is, we certainly would have a problem with it."

The draft report recommends bonus pay for "effective teachers" in math and science, where there is a shortage of instructors, and in "schools that serve high concentrations of low-income and minority students."

The committee also recommends a simpler way of disbursing money, reducing the number of funding categories and other existing requirements. A base amount would be set for each student, with 40% of that amount added for those from low-income families and 20% added for English-learners.

"The idea was to prune those funding categories back and streamline the process," said committee member David Gordon, superintendent of the Sacramento County Office of Education.

Paul Mitchell, of the education advocacy group EdVoice, said a change in funding could generate opposition because it would "rob money from high-income schools with high voting populations."

Controversy also may greet the committee's recommendation to overhaul the governing system for state education, which the governor's panel said is convoluted.

"Not only are local educators not effectively supported by the state, their efforts can be impeded by state operations," the report found.

The proposal would return primary decision-making authority to local officials and reduce the state requirements that local districts must meet. The superintendent of public instruction would, starting in 2011, serve as "an independent guarantor of success throughout the system," charged with creating and managing a network of school inspectors to hold districts accountable.

State Supt. of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell declined to comment on the report, saying he will wait until he reads the final document.

SacBee.com

\$9.8 billion hole seen in state budget

By Judy Lin - jlin@sacbee.com

Published 12:00 am PST Thursday, November 15, 2007

State leaders on Wednesday called for "an honest dialogue" about closing California's spending gap amid news that next year's budget will contain nearly a \$10 billion deficit.

That figure is more than the state spent this year on the University of California and California State University systems combined.

In releasing her five-year fiscal outlook Wednesday, Legislative Analyst Elizabeth Hill said lawmakers face tough decisions for the fiscal year that begins July 1.

"All the easy solutions are gone," she said.

Hill, the state's top budget analyst, called for immediate cuts to "double up" savings for the current and upcoming fiscal years. She also offered solutions certain to meet political opposition, including raising taxes.

Her projections were worse than previously stated by the Schwarzenegger administration, which pegged the shortfall at \$6 billion. Hill said the deficit has increased due to growing government expenses that have outpaced revenues in an economy weakened by the real estate slump.

In recent years, a strong economy and a surge in personal income taxes had brought extra cash to state coffers, helping to mask the imbalance. State spending is projected to increase 7 percent next year while revenue will grow only 4 percent.

Gone are days of double-digit growth in corporate earnings, Hill said. About the only good news, she said, is the state isn't heading into a recession.

Assemblyman Roger Niello, R-Fair Oaks, vice chairman of the Assembly Budget Committee, called the forecast a wake-up call for lawmakers.

"We cannot continue to put off the tough decisions required to get our fiscal house in order without facing serious consequences for our state," Niello said.

Senate President Pro Tem Don Perata, D-Oakland, said in a statement the governor and lawmakers should begin "an honest dialogue" that "must include exploring all options."

Hill echoed that sentiment: "We've always said spending and revenues should be on the table."

The Senate budget committee is expected to review the report later this month.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has focused his efforts on cutting costs. He recently ordered all departments to prepare spending plans that are 10 percent less than what they had anticipated.

In a statement, Schwarzenegger said, "I have not made any final decisions yet, but it's clear that the decisions that will be involved will be tough."

The state in August passed a \$102 billion general fund spending plan that contained a \$4 billion reserve. But lower tax and property revenues, a legal settlement to repay retired schoolteachers, a pay increase for prison guards and the unexpectedly high cost of fighting wildfires have already begun to erode that safety net.

Hill's forecast predicted the state will be \$1.8 billion in the hole by next June. Absent change, the gap between revenues and expenses will increase by \$8 billion in the 2008-09 fiscal year, bringing the total deficit to \$9.8 billion.

Hill said the state's structural imbalance has been around for years – a challenge state leaders have failed to address.

"We've been facing a problem every year since 2001-02," Hill said. "And when you look out to 2012-13, we still do not have our expenditures and revenues in line."

The state has confronted bigger fiscal crises before. In 2003-04, lawmakers were facing gaps as big as \$38 billion. The state resorted to borrowing, which Hill said is exacerbating the current problem because cash is going to debt payments.

All this will likely impact key services, such as schools, public transportation and social services.

The report suggested saving \$250 million by suspending a cost-of-living increase scheduled to go into effect in June for the aged, blind and disabled poor receiving Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Program benefits.

Schwarzenegger also has the authority to delay \$1.6 billion in debt payment, according to the report. The suggestion was made during the 2007-08 budget negotiations, but the governor opted against it.

In the current fiscal year, state revenues are \$1.1 billion below forecast, according to the latest financial bulletin. Finance Department officials attributed the decline largely due to the weakened real estate market.

Besides a surge in foreclosures, the Finance Department reported that the median price of homes sold in September fell 10 percent from August – "the steepest one-month decline on record."

According to the legislative analyst's report, a drop in local property tax revenue will place an extra burden on the state general fund. Because property taxes help offset education expenses, the state will have to contribute \$1 billion more to fund Proposition 98, the state law guaranteeing schools a minimum level of funding.

Other factors driving down revenue forecasts include a delayed sale of EdFund, the state's student loan guarantee program.

And instead of pulling in \$1 billion, as the budget assumes, the analyst now assumes the state will receive just \$500 million from the sale.

Palmer, the governor's spokesman, disagreed with that estimate.

"We still believe in the \$1 billion figure," Palmer said.

Bigger budget problem

A budget report released Wednesday forecasts a \$9.8 billion deficit in the upcoming fiscal year.

| 2008-09 general fund | BILLIONS |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Balance from prior year | -\$1.13 |
| Revenues | \$103.51 |
| <i>Total available:</i> | \$102.38 |

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Expenditures | \$111.43 |
| Future spending commitments | \$0.75 |
| <i>Total needed:</i> | \$112.18 |

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Forecast deficit | \$9.8 billion |
|-------------------------|----------------------|

Source: Legislative Analyst's Office

Sacramento Bee

School districts sue over state's failure to pay for mandates

By JULIET WILLIAMS, Associated Press Writer

Wednesday, November 21, 2007

Several school districts and a statewide association representing them sued the state on Wednesday for nearly \$1 billion the districts say they are owed for programs the state forces them to offer but hasn't paid for.

The lawsuit, filed in San Diego County Superior Court, challenges the state's authority to defer payments for the 38 mandatory programs, which the districts say the state has done by failing to include full funding for them in the last five state budgets.

The California School Boards Association argues in its lawsuit that the state is constitutionally obligated to pay the full cost of programs it forces local governments, including school districts, to run. This year, as in previous years, the governor budgeted just \$38,000, or \$1,000 per program for those school mandates.

The lack of funding "forces school districts to divert their limited discretionary revenues from the core educational program and use those revenues to accommodate an increasing number of state mandates," the lawsuit said.

Among the mandates are pupil health screenings, which CSBA estimates cost districts nearly \$4 million a year; meeting the state's graduation requirements, at a cost of nearly \$66 million a year; and reporting attendance figures, which cost districts about \$3.8 million a year.

Richard Hamilton, director of CSBA's Educational Legal Alliance, which filed the suit, said the state owes school districts \$415 million for programs it underfunded and \$475 million for programs it never funded, as well as another \$160 million to run the programs this year.

Administration spokesman Bill Maile said the state Department of Finance had not yet seen the lawsuit, and could not immediately comment. Still, he said, the state is meeting its obligation to schools.

"K-12 has, and will continue to receive, the lion's share of budget dollars, even with the fiscal challenges we face," Maile said.

Last week, the nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office forecast a \$10 billion state budget shortfall over the next two years, which could force deep cuts in spending.

The LAO has referred to the underfunding of state education mandates as "credit card debt" and has urged the state to repay it, according to the lawsuit.

Because voters limited the ability of local governments to collect new tax revenues when they approved property tax-slashing Proposition 13 in 1978, they also later made it a constitutional requirement that the state reimburse local governments whenever it mandates a new program or a higher level of service.

The state repaid about \$900 million in accumulated debt and costs for school mandates in the 2006-07 budget, but it failed to pay off the entire debt and didn't fully pay for this year's programs, CSBA said.

"The state expects schools to foot the bill for millions of dollars in mandated costs that they do not fund and rarely pay back," CSBA president Kathy Kinley said in a statement.

The San Diego County Office of Education, Riverside Unified School District, San Jose Unified School District and Clovis Unified School District also were named as plaintiffs in the lawsuit.

The case is California School Boards Association Educational Legal Alliance et al v. State of California.

Sacbee.com

Daniel Weintraub: These guys will give us leadership on reform?

December 9, 2007

I don't know if it was a private joke or a stroke of brilliance when the good-government types who set up a recent forum on "restoring credibility" to the California Legislature chose as their panelists four men who, arguably, are as responsible as anyone for the decline of that body's public esteem.

I like them all and have enjoyed working with them, especially since they have been such a wonderful source of material over the years. But Willie Brown, John Burton, Jim Brulte and Fabian Núñez are not the first people to whom I would look for leadership on legislative reform.

Then again, they are the experts. Their knowledge of what's gone wrong in the Legislature over the past generation is firsthand.

Brown, the longest-serving speaker of the California Assembly, once referred to himself as the "Ayatollah" of that body. He was a champion at squeezing campaign cash out of the special interests while never quite crossing the line of offering anything in return or threatening to withhold official action as punishment for those who refused to donate.

He was also famous for yanking members off committees at the last minute and adding new members to ensure that the outcome of every important vote matched his desires, which he always insisted reflected the will of his Democratic caucus. Brown was in charge in 1992 when the Legislature and former Gov. Pete Wilson, who also attended last week's confab, went two months without a state budget and forced the government to pay its bills with IOUs.

Brown's diagnosis of the problem with today's Legislature: too much public disclosure. Things worked much better in the good old days, he said, when legislators could meet and cast votes in secret so they wouldn't have to worry about the interest groups or those pesky voters giving them a hard time about it.

Burton's take was even more interesting. The former leader of the state Senate is a man whose passion for helping the poor was matched only by his colorful use of the English language. Burton's favorite negotiating tactic was to lose his temper, or pretend to, and storm out of a meeting in a profanity-laced rage.

His take on what's wrong with the Legislature: not enough boozing. In his youth, he said, lawmakers could take free food and liquor from lobbyists and then head out to the strip clubs together, where partisan differences soon melted as the guys found common cause watching breasts bounce. Back at the Capitol the next day, supposedly, they were more likely to work together for the good of the state.

Brulte and Núñez are more recent occupants of the Capitol, but they've managed to put their own imprint on things. As Senate Republican leader, Brulte helped draw the district lines in 2001 that have all but eliminated competition in elections for the Legislature and Congress. And he once threatened to use all of his powers to try to unseat any fellow Republican in the Senate who voted for a tax increase.

At least Brulte now recognizes the error of his ways. He said it is time to give the job of drawing political boundaries to an independent commission so the next batch of leaders can't do what he did. He also argued for tweaking term limits so members aren't looking for their next job the minute they arrive in Sacramento.

Núñez, the current Assembly speaker, was a sport to attend this gathering, given that in recent weeks his own credibility has been battered by reports of his spending habits. Núñez was found to be using his campaign fund as a private piggy bank, buying lavish dinners, fancy hotel suites and expensive gifts for friends and colleagues around the world – all legal, presumably, because the purchases were for a government purpose or intended to help advance his political career.

Núñez said the public would love the Legislature more if it were not for the requirement that two-thirds of the members vote for a state budget or to raise taxes. That supermajority typically holds up action on the annual spending plan as Republicans refuse to hike taxes. I am not sure that the voters would be as thrilled as Núñez suggests with the higher taxes that a newly empowered Democratic majority would impose. But he is into something.

The dirty little secret about legislative popularity is that the public likes action. Voters don't so much care about political boundaries, campaign finance, the influence of lobbyists or even who is sleeping with whom. And most people are not nearly as tied to their ideological moorings as legislators seem to believe.

The voters like the Legislature more when the economy is healthy and they feel good about their own lives. And their fondness increases when legislators pass bills that at least appear to be solving big problems. When the parties come together, stop fighting and work out their differences like adults, the voters are thrilled. For better or worse, most people don't pay attention to the details unless they affect them personally.

So that's probably the quickest route to restoring the Legislature's credibility. Just get stuff done.

UC looks at ending admission guarantee

UCSD faculty group to discuss proposal

By Eleanor Yang Su
STAFF WRITER

November 25, 2007

LA JOLLA – A proposal to eliminate the University of California's long-standing guarantee of admission for students making minimum grades and standardized test scores is generating debate among faculty ranks.

The measure, to be discussed Tuesday by UC San Diego's faculty senate, would replace the guarantee with a promise to review each qualifying student's entire application.

The proposal is designed to help students attending rural and inner-city high schools who may lack access to honors courses and advisers who can inform them about the courses and standardized tests that UC requires for admission.

It would do so by also eliminating a requirement that applicants take two SAT subject tests, thus reducing the number of compulsory SAT tests from five to three.

In addition, it would modify the calculation of the minimum grade point average to place less weight on honors and college-level courses.

A separate policy that guarantees admission to students in the top 4 percent of their graduating high school class would remain.

Although fewer students would be guaranteed admission, as many of 50 percent more could have their entire application reviewed, as opposed to being rejected for not meeting the minimum grades and test scores.

Supporters of the proposal, which was submitted in May by a UC faculty committee, said the current process rejects thousands of applicants because they didn't take all the courses and tests required for admission.

“The overarching objective here is to simply be more fair by removing a filter which arbitrarily excluded some students, even though they were high-achieving,” said Mark Rashid, an engineering professor at UC Davis and chairman of the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools, the systemwide faculty committee that came up with the proposal. “That is nobody's idea of an optimal admissions process.”

But some faculty members fear the loss of the guarantee would remove the predictability that students and parents count on.

Under the current system, students are guaranteed admission to one of UC's less-selective campuses, UC Merced or UC Riverside, if they:

Receive a 3.0 grade point average (B average) on required courses;

Earn an average score of 470 on each of the SAT math, English and writing tests and two SAT subject tests, such as history or science.

Those achieving higher grades can be admitted with lower SAT scores, based on a sliding scale.

If a student applies to a specific campus, such as UCSD, and is not admitted but meets the minimum UC requirements, he or she is accepted to UC Merced or UC Riverside. About 300 students accept those referral admissions each year.

“Right now, parents and students can say that if I do this, then I'm guaranteed a place at UC,” said Jim Posakony, a biology professor and chairman of UCSD's faculty senate. “That's valuable for planning and just for psychological knowledge.”

Posakony, who stressed that the views he expressed are not his own but those he's heard from other faculty, said there also are concerns about the political repercussions of eliminating the guarantee.

Such concerns include a fear that the change would be expensive to implement while having a limited effect across the system. Each UC campus has its own selection process that considers more than a dozen criteria, including leadership, community service and ability to overcome hardships. The proposal would not change those procedures.

Some faculty members support the provision to eliminate the SAT subject test requirements because it could boost minority enrollment. Blacks and Latinos don't take the SAT subject tests as often as members of other racial groups.

“California is becoming more and more diverse, and we're worried we're not looking as representative as we would like,” said UCSD physics professor Kim Griest, who chairs UCSD's faculty senate committee on educational policy. “We don't want to lower intellectual standards, but we do want to give everybody a chance.”

UCSD professors won't vote on the proposal Tuesday, but their comments will be sent to a systemwide faculty group. The proposal is expected to go through several rounds of review and comments before being submitted to UC's board of regents.

UC regents oppose community college-funding measure

Tanya Schevitz, Chronicle Staff Writer

Friday, November 16, 2007

The University of California's governing board voted Thursday to oppose a ballot measure to boost funding for the community colleges, saying it would shrink the pool of discretionary money available from Sacramento for the state's universities.

"It will squeeze us," Regent Joanne Kozberg said during the Board of Regents meeting at UCLA. "It is going to limit those funds that can go into higher education and certainly UC."

Fourteen regents joined Kozberg in opposing Proposition 92 on the Feb. 5 ballot, while two abstained.

Trustees for the California State University system voted unanimously this week to oppose the measure, as did the California Faculty Association, which represents CSU faculty members.

The initiative, if approved by a majority of voters, would create a new way of calculating state funding for the state's 72 community college districts. Currently, one formula sets funding for both community colleges and public K-12 schools. Prop. 92 would create separate criteria for the community colleges and would guarantee \$300 million in new money for K-12 schools and community colleges. It does not create a funding source, meaning the money would come from the state's general fund, which is already projected to be \$10 billion in the red next year.

The measure has drawn support from K-12 school and community college groups, including a host of labor unions representing teachers and instructors.

The state Legislative Analyst's Office found that over the next two years, about half of the new money would go to the K-12 schools. In the third year, most of the \$300 million would go to the community colleges. It's not clear what would happen after that.

The move by the regents to oppose the initiative is unusual. The regents have taken a formal position on only five nonbond-related ballot propositions in the past 23 years, according to the item presented to the regents. The vote was 15-0, with abstentions coming from Regent John Garamendi and student Regent Benjamin Allen.

UC President Robert Dynes said the initiative puts UC officials in an awkward position.

"It is very difficult to oppose one of our sister institutions," he said, adding, however, that he couldn't imagine proposing a ballot measure that would hurt either CSU or the community college system.

"I don't think we can be silent," he said.

But Andrew Acosta, a spokesman for the Yes on Prop 92 campaign, said the opposition from UC and CSU is wrongheaded.

"I think the voters of California are going to see that this initiative will help the community college system put more students into college at CSU and UC," he said. "Unfortunately (they) couldn't see the benefits of that but we will continue moving forward."

The proposition includes a popular provision to lower community college fees by \$5 per unit next fall for an estimated 2.5 million students. The current fee is \$20 a unit.

UC Regent Eddie Island said that many people may look to UC for guidance on how to vote.

"We ought to say to the public, vote against this ... don't allow this obvious grab at the purse of the Legislature at the expense of UC."

State Senate President Pro Tem Don Perata, D-Oakland, also came out against the proposition Thursday, saying it would worsen California's budget crisis by siphoning money out of the general fund without bringing in any new revenue.

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State must pay interest to teachers' pension

By Gilbert Chan - gchan@sacbee.com

Last Updated 2:45 pm PST Thursday, November 15, 2007

The California Supreme Court has turned down the Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger administration's appeal of a \$200 million interest payment owed to the state teachers' pension fund.

Faced with a looming \$10 billion budget gap, the administration sought to lower the interest obligation ordered by a state appellate court.

California State Teachers' Retirement System successfully sued to recover \$500 million the state withheld four years in a budget-cutting move by lawmakers and then-Gov. Gray Davis. The original ruling came in 2005 and the appellate court this summer upheld it.

In September, the state repaid the half-billion dollars, which is earmarked for a special supplemental fund for 63,000 older retired schoolteachers, who use the benefits to protect their pensions against inflation. But the administration challenged the interest rate set by an appellate court, hoping it would be reduced.

"The long-delayed payment of interest owed to the teachers' retirement fund is necessary to ensure the retirement security of California educators," CalSTRS chief executive Jack Ehnes said in a statement Thursday.

thedailygreen.com

11.30.2007 11:32 AM

L.A. Community College Wins Green Award

Schwarzenegger Awards State's Highest Environmental Honor

Recognizing again the environmental leadership of the Los Angeles Community College District, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger Nov. 20 bestowed the state's highest and most prestigious environmental honor upon the district. The 2007 Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Award was presented during a ceremony at the California Environmental Protection Agency Headquarters Building in Sacramento. The program recognizes individuals, organizations, and businesses that have demonstrated exceptional leadership and made notable contributions in conserving California's precious resources, protecting and enhancing our environment, and building public-private partnerships.

"Receiving this prestigious award validates our commitment to promoting environmental preservation and protection while fulfilling our mission to train our students for the jobs of the 21st century Los Angeles economy," said Dr. Marshall E. Drummond, Chancellor, LACCD. "Following the recognition of our partnership with the Clinton Climate Initiative, it's clear we are leading with green."

"This honor is for the entire LACCD team, including our students, administrators, construction team, faculty, and staff," said Larry Eisenberg, executive director, facilities planning and development for LACCD. "It's especially great for our students, who through our green curriculum, are learning that not is only building green good for the planet, it's good for their careers."

The annual Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Award Program is administered by the California Environmental Protection Agency and Resources Agency, in partnership with the Department of Food and Agriculture, Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, and the State and Consumer Services Agency.

LACCD's Board of Trustees has directed that all new buildings at least half-funded with Proposition A/AA Bond monies will be green buildings, built to the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED™) certification standards developed by the US Green Buildings Council (USGBC). More than 40 new buildings throughout the District will be LEED-certified.

A major feature of the District's effort to build green is to use innovative and environmentally-friendly construction practices and materials, decrease its dependence on fossil fuels, and increase energy efficiency in every building. This is being demonstrated through the LACCD's 9-megawatt Solar Energy Plan, which calls for the installation of enough photovoltaic (solar)

panels to produce at least one megawatt of electricity on site at each of its nine colleges, enough to meet daytime electricity needs and take the campuses “off the grid.”

The Los Angeles Community College District is the largest community college system in the country, educating more than 188,000 students each year. The LACCD has embarked on a \$2.2 billion construction and modernization program at its nine college campuses. As funded by the Proposition A/AA Bond construction program, the LACCD is also currently undertaking the largest public sector sustainable building effort in the United States. For more information, visit www.LACCDBuildsGreen.org.

December 04, 2007

County labor coalition gives politicians notice

By Rick Orlov
Staff Writer

In a fiery, fist-pounding speech, the leader of Los Angeles County's largest labor organization issued a warning Monday to elected officials that unions want to see firm support for labor efforts in return for backing in the upcoming elections.

The strident challenge came as contracts are set to be negotiated next year for 30 unions covering 350,000 workers ranging from actors and longshoremen to home-care workers, teachers and janitors.

Maria Elena Durazo, executive secretary-treasurer of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO, told some 1,000 delegates at the group's second annual congress that labor is in no mood to be used for political purposes.

"Truth be told, we have a lot of fake political friends and precious few real ones," Durazo said. "How many times do we hear our political friends tell us, 'I can be with you on some issues but not on others.' Or, 'You don't understand the pressure I'm under.'"

Durazo did not single out specific elected officials, but spokeswoman Mary Gutierrez said she was referring to all lawmakers who have voted against the union on issues including tribal gaming compacts and health-care reform.

The pressure comes as labor seeks to use an election year to boost gains for better pay and benefits for workers.

"Each contract is unique and every union is different," Durazo said. "But there is a commonality of interests and concerns. Workers are not looking at breaking new ground. Their basic goals are better wages and holding on to their hard-won health-care and pension protections."

A \$3-an-hour increase in wages and health benefits for security workers translates into a \$150 million investment in the city, she said.

Durazo said the union is planning a 28-mile march from Hollywood to the ports.

And she said labor will launch an aggressive political campaign.

"Every resource we spend on politics will help us win contracts," she said. "Every organizing resource will help us win political races."

In addition to state and federal legislative contests this coming year, Durazo said the federation wants to play a major role in the race for the 2nd Supervisorial District seat, which South Bay Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke is vacating.

Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa was one of two officials, along with State Controller John Chiang of Torrance, invited to appear before the delegates.

Villaraigosa, a former union organizer, pledged to continue to support union efforts.

"The fact of the matter is that anyone who understands what America is about understands it is because of our middle class - a middle class built largely by the labor movement," he said.

As part of Monday's gathering, the County Fed released a study by the Economic Roundtable on the impact of the labor movement in Los Angeles.

It estimated there are more than 818,000 union workers in the county accounting for 15 percent of the total work force.

Union membership has remained relatively flat since 1990 and union workers are paid an average of \$41,000 per year, higher than the average for nonunion members, the study said.

Despite that the study noted that per-capita income in the county is below the state average and continuing to decline despite the rising costs of living.

SacBee.com

Prop. 92 finds two teachers unions at odds

Measure would cut fees, guarantee funding level for community colleges.

By Shane Goldmacher - sgoldmacher@sacbee.com

Published 12:00 am PST Friday, November 16, 2007

The community college measure on the Feb. 5 ballot is shaping up to be a battle royale between California's biggest teachers' unions.

On one side is the California Federation of Teachers, the state's second-largest teachers' union. It has been the biggest financial backer of the campaign for Proposition 92, which would lower community college fees and set aside a percentage of the state budget for the two-year schools.

On the other is the California Teachers Association, the largest teachers' group in the state, which so far has been the sole funder of the opposition campaign – to the tune of nearly \$300,000.

"We're used to being on the same side of issues," lamented Marty Hittelman, president of the federation of teachers backing the measure.

"I can't say that it never happened, but I don't remember any measure where it has," said Sandra Jackson, communications director for the teachers association opposing it.

Proposition 92 would lower community college fees to \$15 per unit, from the current \$20. More controversially for the CTA, the measure would tinker with the funding formula in Proposition 98, the 1988 ballot measure that locked in K-12 education's portion of the state General Fund at roughly 40 percent. It is considered sacrosanct by the education community, particularly the teachers association.

Opponents fear that by locking in community college funding, money could be siphoned away from the K-12 schools, where most CTA teachers work.

David Sanchez, president of the CTA, co-signed the lead ballot argument against the measure. "Nowhere in the measure does it identify a way to pay for all the new spending. ... They could cut education funding, including K-12 schools," he wrote.

But Hittelman said that argument "doesn't hold up."

"It goes back more to Proposition 98 was their invention and they don't like to see it messed with," he said. "I think the rationales (for opposing the measure) that are being given don't make much sense."

Union membership rolls are likely also playing a part in the split. Hittelman estimated that teachers in the community college system constitute about 30 percent of CFT members. They make up only 2 percent of CTA teachers.

"We have more concern for community colleges than they might," Hittelman said.

Jackson said the CTA "supports more funds for community colleges," just not the way Proposition 92 does it.

Scott Lay, president of the Community College League of California and a backer of the measure, said theoretical support of community colleges isn't helping students.

"Everybody loves community colleges right now. I've never heard so many people say community colleges need more money," Lay said. "We've tried for 20 years to play the game in Sacramento, and what it has meant is fewer Californians being able to go to college."

The intra-teacher squabble doesn't bode well for the fate of the initiative, said education consultant Kevin Gordon, who isn't affiliated with the campaign.

"I think that the lack of support from the CTA and/or their activism against it, combined with the really horrible budget outlook, is going to be enough to sink that ballot measure," Gordon said.

Legislative analysts have pegged the cost of the measure to the state at roughly \$300 million per year for the first three years.

Senate President Pro Tem Don Perata, D-Oakland, announced his opposition Thursday, saying Proposition 92 "will make California's bad budget problems worse."

The deep-pocketed teachers association, which spent tens of millions of dollars in 2005 sinking Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's special election agenda, has put in \$290,000 opposing the measure – an amount Gordon called "chicken feed" for the union.

"I am sure they will spend whatever it takes to make sure it's defeated," he said.

Jackson declined to comment on potential future spending by the association.

At least one major local CTA affiliate, the 45,000-strong United Teachers Los Angeles, has bucked the state organization and endorsed Proposition 92.

Other education groups are split on the initiative as well, most often with groups protecting their educational turf.

The California Faculty Association, which represents teachers at the California State University system, is actively opposing the measure, while the Faculty Association of California Community Colleges is supporting the measure.

Community colleges' partners in California's public higher education system – the CSU Board of Trustees and the University of California Regents – both voted this week to oppose the measure. Each cited the potential loss of state funding for their system.

"The CSU is worried that the passage of the proposition could mean leaner times by shrinking the pool of discretionary money available for higher education from Sacramento, which of course would impact CSU," said spokesman Paul Browning.

"There's a sincere debate about the future of higher education," said Lay, the community college advocate. "We are trying to have a system that will be accessible and affordable and the other universities have a different agenda, talking about their fee increases and executive pay this week. ... We believe we are going the direction the people want."

UC Board Opposes Community College Funding Measure

By Marianne Gray
Contributing Writer

Sunday, Nov. 25, 2007

The UC Board of Regents voted Nov. 15 to oppose Proposition 92 in February 2008's upcoming ballot, an initiative that would benefit California community colleges by increasing funding by approximately \$300 million.

Also known as the Community College Governance, Funding Stabilization and Student Fee Reduction Act, Proposition 92 would reduce the college system's fees by \$5 and limit future fee increases to no more than the cost of living. It would also lock in funding for the state's community colleges, regardless of fluctuations in their population, and guarantee the community college system independence from state politics. But Californians for Improving Community Colleges, a coalition of educators and community college organizations, claims that these changes could be enforced without affecting K-12 funding or raising taxes.

Community colleges aim to prepare students for four-year colleges while teaching workplace and basic skills such as reading, writing and mathematics. These institutions account for 70 percent of California's public higher education enrollment, and educate more Latino and black students than the UC and CSU systems combined, according to a statewide poll conducted by Yes On Prop 92.

Despite acknowledging that the community college system's educational mission is "vital to educating the people of California," the regents expressed concern for the unintentional effects of the proposition on "unprotected" state programs run by the UC and CSU systems.

In a statement released by the UC Office of the President, the board said that the proposition would "lock up" a great amount of the California's General Fund, the state's primary funding source for general government services including business, transportation, housing and legislative operations, therefore restricting its spending priorities. California Secretary of State Debra Bowen estimated that the state would lose \$71 million next year, while the impact in subsequent years

is unknown.

Since the proposition does not offer new sources of income, spending an estimated \$300 million on the community college system would require an increase in fees or reduction of available programs and services. Although one-third of UC undergraduate students transferred from community colleges, the regents defended their decision to oppose the initiative, arguing that the board could not aid one sector of higher education at the expense of another.

The decision has drawn significant criticism from the proposition's supporters, who argue that improving community colleges is vital to opening up education for all Californians.

John McDowell, political director of the Los Angeles College Faculty Guild, said that the regents were "flat wrong" to oppose the item.

"California needs to educate more people for the future," he said. "Proposition 92 would keep the promise made in 1960 in the California Master Plan to allow all Californians to go to college."

Jennifer Wonnacott, official spokeswoman for Yes on Proposition 92, was also disappointed with the decision, which she said was "wrong-headed."

"The proposition is about one thing: giving millions of students the opportunity to study," she said. "It is unfortunate [the regents] could not see the benefits."

Supporters of Proposition 92 include United Teachers Los Angeles, California Labor Federation, California State Council of Laborers, California Federation of Teachers, the Community College League of California, the Faculty Association of California Community Colleges, the California School Employees Association and the Los Angeles College Faculty Guild. Wonnacott said the regents' objection to the measure will not stop its proponents from continuing to advocate on its behalf.

"We'll continue moving forward," she said. "Voters will see the benefit."

Readers can contact Marianne Gray at m1gray@ucsd.edu

The Chronicle of Higher Education

Monday, December 10, 2007

Colleges and Their Accreditors Seek Compromise, Fearing Education Department Rules

By PAUL BASKEN

As angry as the nation's colleges and accreditors may be with each other, their common fear of the Education Department appears even stronger.

The two sides began sniping three weeks ago when a group of accreditors quietly persuaded members of the U.S. House of Representatives to delete language from a bill to renew the Higher Education Act that would have given each college the chief authority in setting the criteria used for its own accreditation review. That bill, approved by the House education committee last month, now goes before the full House (*The Chronicle*, November 16).

The accreditors felt the change would give the colleges too much power. But the sides have been engaged since then in intensive talks aimed at finding a compromise, wary of creating an opening that instead might give the education secretary, Margaret Spellings, greater power to write the criteria for judging colleges. There is no guarantee that Congress would accept a compromise hashed out between the colleges and the accreditors, although representatives of both sides said they believe a unified front is critical to avoid losing authority to the Education Department.

"The politics of it right now," said Steven D. Crow, president of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools' Higher Learning Commission, one of six regional accrediting agencies, "is that everybody is afraid that if it gets opened up and rewritten in the House, suddenly the secretary is going to make it say whatever she wants to have it to say."

The battle last month over language in the House version of legislation to reauthorize the Higher Education Act is the latest skirmish in a three-year campaign by Ms. Spellings to force colleges to demonstrate a greater level of effectiveness in teaching their students.

Colleges need approval by an accrediting agency recognized by the Education Department in order for their students to remain eligible for federally guaranteed loans, a critical source of income for most colleges.

Ms. Spellings has been using that power to press the accreditors to require the colleges to show clearer results. She favors methods such as the increased use of standardized tests and job-placement data.

Shift in Accreditors' Views

The accreditors have largely opposed Ms. Spellings and sided with the American Council on Education and other associations representing the colleges, which argue that American colleges are too diverse for their student accomplishments to be measured by any common set of standards.

Some accreditors, however, split from that consensus after the Senate included language in its bill to renew the Higher Education Act, approved in July, that would explicitly give the colleges, rather than the accreditors, the primary role in setting their own evaluation criteria (*The Chronicle*, July 25).

Opposition to giving colleges such wide authority over their own accreditation procedures was led initially, according to lobbyists, by accrediting organizations that review training programs in specialized professions and for-profit colleges, both of which have an easier time tracking their graduate job-placement data. They then won support from the leaders of the six regional associations, such as Mr. Crow's, the older, more established agencies that handle accreditation for most of the nation's traditional colleges and universities.

When the House education committee included language similar to the Senate's in its bill, giving colleges authority over their own evaluation criteria, the accreditors fought back, persuading Rep. Robert E. Andrews, a Democrat from New Jersey, to include an amendment that stripped it out.

Reaction From Colleges

Colleges felt "ambushed" by the move, Becky Timmons, assistant vice president for government relations at the American Council on Education, said at the time. The action "unravels months of hard work to get language into the Higher Education Act acknowledging the right of institutions to establish their own student-learning-outcome measures," Ms. Timmons said after the committee's vote, on November 15.

Colleges and accreditors have engaged in an almost-daily series of conference calls since then trying to find language acceptable to both sides, Mr. Crow said at a meeting last week in Washington of the Career College Association, the lobbying group of for-profit institutions.

The accreditors were forced to seek help from Representative Andrews, a traditional ally of the proprietary institutions, after colleges refused earlier even to negotiate on the matter, Mr. Crow told the conference. "We did not win a hearing on this from other components of higher education," he said.

The dispute is unfortunate because "it has pitted the accrediting community against some components of the broader higher-education community," Mr. Crow said. Both sides recognize the danger of allowing a continued split that could give the Education Department a greater ability to dictate the outcome, he said. "Everybody's doing the risk analysis on this."

Ms. Timmons denied that her association had refused to negotiate with accreditors prior to the Andrews amendment, but said she didn't want to dwell on past events. "We're moving on, we're looking forward," she said.

Several participants in the talks declined to describe the outlines of possible solutions. There must be "a certain creative ambiguity" in the accreditation process, said Judith S. Eaton, president of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, the main umbrella group of accreditors.

Final House action on the Higher Education Act is expected to be delayed—possibly until next year—giving participants in the talks more time to negotiate than originally anticipated. The participants also agreed that their final solution must leave the power to set evaluation criteria in the collective hands of the colleges and accreditors, not the Education Department.

The chief objective is to return accreditation to the key underlying purposes, such as voluntary collegiate self-improvement, that originally motivated the process, Ms. Eaton said. "At its heart, accreditation is a judgment-based review activity," she said. "It's not a regulation-based review activity."

Ms. Spellings has been unapologetic about her efforts to hold colleges more accountable for learning outcomes. In September 2005, she created a commission that spent a year studying the problems it sees in higher education, and then identified the accreditation process as a leading tool for fixing those problems.

Accreditation "is largely focused on inputs, more on how many books are in a college library, than whether students can actually understand them," Ms. Spellings said last year after receiving the commission's final report. "Institutions are asked, 'Are you measuring student learning?' And they check yes or no. That must change. Whether students are learning is not a yes-or-no question. It's, How? How much? And to what effect?"

The government, now that it has established its role in accreditation by making that process a gatekeeper for the student financial-aid system, keeps "trying to do more and more" with its authority, Ms. Eaton said. She called that shift unwise. "The department's difficulty with accreditation," she said. "is it wants it to do something it was not set up to do."

The Chronicle of Higher Education

From the issue dated November 30, 2007

U.S. Review of Accreditors May Produce a Showdown

Bush administration is expected to push colleges for more accountability

By PAUL BASKEN

A dispute over the federal agency charged with reviewing college accreditors may come to a boil at a key review session next month, when the waning Bush administration will have one of its highest-profile chances to try to force colleges to do more to demonstrate how well they help students learn.

The federal agency is scheduled to assess five of the six main regional accreditation bodies and decide if they deserve renewed recognition.

Some of the accreditors say the session has the potential to play out as a politically explosive showdown between the Education Department and the accreditors and colleges that have been seeking to take control of decisions about how institutions' performances are measured.

Earlier this year, the review agency, the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity, or Naciqi, penalized some smaller accreditors, like the Association of Advanced Rabbinical and Talmudic Schools, for failing to require their institutions to improve how they demonstrate their students' performances. Naciqi board members criticized the association for having insufficient data, like test scores, to measure student achievement at the colleges it accredits.

And now leading accreditors are worried that they may have to face the same sanctions.

"They're apprehensive, given the past several meetings," says Judith S. Eaton, president of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, an umbrella group of accreditors.

Since Margaret Spellings became education secretary almost three years ago, Naciqi has been stocked with administration appointees who have demanded that colleges use more measurements based on outcomes, such as graduation and job-placement rates, as opposed to using "inputs," such as the test scores of new freshmen. And now Congress, concerned by Naciqi's behavior, is considering whether to curtail the Education Department's authority to appoint all the members of the panel and will debate that as part of proposed legislation to renew the Higher Education Act.

At the crux of the dispute are questions of what the government should be forcing colleges to measure, who should get to define those metrics, and what accreditors should be doing to monitor institutions' quality effectively.

Throughout her tenure, Ms. Spellings has pushed for an emphasis on student outcomes. The Commission on the Future of Higher Education, which she appointed, questioned whether accreditors do enough to hold colleges accountable for their performances and suggested greater use of tests like the Collegiate Learning Assessment, which measures student achievement in reading, writing, and comprehension.

"Accreditation agencies should make performance outcomes, including completion rates and student learning, the core of their assessment as a priority over inputs or processes," said the commission's final report, issued in September 2006.

But some accreditors and college officials believe that Naciqi, in trying to carry out goals of the Bush administration, has been making demands on accreditors to overhaul their methods without the clear authority under federal law and without giving accreditors sufficient notice to prepare for the new standards.

Even though Congress has repeatedly moved to rein in Naciqi — and leading college associations themselves have agreed to provide more data on student achievement — that might not spare the nation's most-influential accreditors from one more battle, during next month's review session, over the degree to which U.S. colleges must prove the value they provide.

"I'm not sure they care what Congress is saying," Steven D. Crow, executive director of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools' Higher Learning Commission, says of members of the federal review panel. His group is one of the accrediting bodies due for renewal next month by Naciqi.

Naciqi members who were contacted by *The Chronicle* declined to comment on the record, citing the need to maintain impartiality in the midst of the debate over the agency.

"Since, as a Naciqi member, I am sitting in the middle of all that, I think I will have to take a pass," said Anne D. Neal, president of the American Council of Trustees and Alumni, an outspoken critic of accreditors who was appointed to Naciqi this year.

Tough Reviews of Accreditors

Colleges need the endorsement of a federally approved accreditor for their students to remain eligible for government-subsidized financial aid. So Naciqi's push to have accreditors take a more critical look at how well colleges are serving students is crucial for the institutions.

So far the agency has taken that stance mostly with smaller accreditors like the American Academy for Liberal Education and the rabbinical and talmudic schools' group. Both groups failed to win Naciqi's endorsement for full, unconditional renewals of their accrediting authority in the past year, with Naciqi demanding more evidence of student-performance assessment.

But at the federal agency's most recent review session, in May, the panel indicated that, at least in some cases, it is also willing to take a tougher position with more-prominent accreditors. It voted against extending the accrediting authority of a division of one of the nation's six main regional accreditation bodies, the New England Association of Schools and Colleges'

Commission on Technical and Career Institutions. Naciqi's complaints included the group's poor record of measuring student learning.

The five top accreditors up for review in December are North Central's Higher Learning Commission, the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, the New England Association of Schools and Colleges' Commission on Institutions of Higher Education, the Western Association of Schools and Colleges' Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools' Commission on Colleges. The last group is due for a follow-up review at the session, after it was criticized in June 2006 by Naciqi on a series of matters, including the need "to more clearly define what SACS itself considers acceptable levels of institutional success with respect to student achievement."

The sixth major group, the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools' Commission on Higher Education, won Naciqi's endorsement for a five-year renewal this year.

Accreditors Plot Strategy

The six major associations, through their Council of Regional Accrediting Commissions, have been debating how they should respond to what may come their way at the December review, said the council's chairwoman, Barbara A. Beno. Ms. Beno is also executive director of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges' Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges.

The associations scheduled for review in December have received initial written reports from Naciqi setting out the expected areas of discussion, and none appear to seek broad changes in how much the accreditors focus on student assessments, Ms. Beno said.

But that is not necessarily reassuring, accreditors say, since Naciqi members often introduce such issues during the actual review sessions, or in final reports issued just days beforehand.

The division of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges that accredits four-year colleges, for instance, received its final status report only about three days ahead of its Naciqi review in December 2006, Ms. Beno said. That report set out a series of new questions on its policies for monitoring student achievement. The representatives of the accreditor nevertheless managed to win the agency's approval.

"They sort of took a due-process line of argument, and they were successful in showing the department both that they do a lot of monitoring and that the feedback that they got was inappropriately late," Ms. Beno said.

The Education Department has promised to deliver Naciqi's final reports earlier than it has in the past for the December meeting, at least a week before, Ms. Beno said.

Mr. Crow remains skeptical that Naciqi has changed its recent approach. Several panel members have shown themselves to be determined to fault accreditors for not doing enough to measure outcomes, such as student scores on standardized tests, he said.

"Naciqi has become a spectator sport," Mr. Crow said, "because you never know what may happen at any given Naciqi meeting, and you never know what may be the new agenda of the day."

Congress Weighs In

Colleges and their accreditors have been helped by Congress. Ms. Spellings abandoned an effort to rewrite rules governing accreditation this year after lawmakers from both houses and both parties, led by Sen. Lamar Alexander, Republican of Tennessee, protested on behalf of the colleges. The lawmakers argued that Congress, rather than Naciqi or others in the Education Department, should take the lead role in defining how colleges should measure student achievement.

Lawmakers are also debating a proposal in the legislation to extend the Higher Education Act that would give colleges primary responsibility to develop the measures of learning that their accreditors would use to judge them. That provision is included in the Senate version of the bill but was struck from the House legislation in committee this month.

Congress also appears intent on limiting in other ways the department's ability to dictate how colleges' performances are assessed. The House bill includes language that says measures of student achievement should be considered "in relation to the institution's mission, which may include different standards for different institutions or programs, as established by the institution." The version of the bill approved by the Senate contains similar language.

Both the House and Senate versions would also revamp Naciqi by giving Congress the right to select the majority of the review panel's members in order to limit the ability of the president to push his agenda on accreditation. The administration now names all 15 members.

The House version of the bill would also give colleges and accreditors an extra layer of protection against demands from Naciqi by creating a federal "accreditation ombudsman" who would try to resolve any complaints involving accreditation. The ombudsman, according to the House bill, would also collect data on such complaints and issue an annual report containing recommendations for corrective actions.

One Last Chance

Naciqi, however, still gets at least one last chance at its meeting next month to make its mark on accreditation before any reforms could take effect, which leaves accreditors worried.

Part of the reason they are worried, Mr. Crow says, is that the federal agency's zeal for change appears to come from Secretary Spellings herself.

At the public event last year at which she received the final report from her Commission on the Future of Higher Education, Mr. Crow said, the secretary looked straight at some of her Naciqi appointees and said she expected them to help her carry out the commission's recommendations.

The Bakersfield Californian

Colleges prepare for possible budget cuts

BY TARA MCLAUGHLIN, Californian staff writer
e-mail: tmclaughlin@bakersfield.com | Thursday, Nov 29 2007 9:05 PM

Presidents of the three Kern Community College District schools will need to identify about 5 percent in their budgets this year to save for anticipated state budget cuts next year, officials said.

"This is something we're doing proactively," said Tom Burke, the district's chief financial officer. "But it's clear state agencies are being required to start planning as well. That kind of a budget (cut), it will get to us."

The district itself also is anticipating tapping about half of its 10 percent general fund reserves, Burke said.

By slowing spending -- limiting big purchases or filling vacancies -- the district hopes to create a savings allowing it to weather turbulent financial times better than it did in the previous round of cuts, Chancellor Sandra Serrano said at Thursday's finance meeting.

There were midyear budget reductions in the 2002-03 school year, with more the following year, Burke said.

On top of that, when those cuts came down, the district was contractually obligated to make pay increases, he said. The district now, however, is still in negotiations.

Bakersfield College, for which Serrano was president at the time, was forced to lay off staff, she said.

"(We are) truly hoping we don't have to go there (this time)," Serrano said.

BC is looking carefully at its \$78.3 million budget to come up with the targeted savings, said President Bill Andrews.

"This is not the time to ask for the replacement of a desk," he said.

Any cuts would not hinder the school's plans for expansion, though, because it's still about five years out, he said.

The other KCCD schools are Cerro Coso Community College and Porterville College.

As for the West Kern Community College District and its only school, Taft College, general fund reserves of about 20 percent mean the school isn't considering cuts just yet, said William Duncan, interim superintendent and president. Last time around, Taft was able to balance its budget with cuts in such things as supplies and travel and no layoffs, he said.

I Needed Help, Not Ostracism

Advertisement

By William Frawley
Sunday, December 2, 2007; B01

In our zero-tolerance times, when a public figure melts down, everyone wants answers -- right now. Explain yourself! voices demand. Take responsibility!

But as someone who has suffered a calamitous breakdown, I know that anyone at the center of a public storm needs months to comprehend what happened, move away from shame and give a coherent account of events. In the meantime, the impulse to self-punish and angry demands for retribution from others help no one heal.

Earlier this year, while president of the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, I was, Lindsay Lohan-like, charged with two DUIs. But where Lohan and other celebrities are nourished by their public embarrassments, my meltdown cost me my job and may well have cost me my career. As I grapple with the aftermath, I wonder whether things had to turn out as they did and what lessons should be learned from my crisis.

As is true for most people, college presidents' behavior doesn't always match our ideals. But when we do something embarrassing, the gap between the two is highlighted and our sins are broadcast to all. Then, as Jeffrey Rosen wrote in his book "The Unwanted Gaze," the public quickly mistakes mere information about us for genuine knowledge of our characters. But there's always more to the story, and that critical extra needs to be told openly and in its proper course. A rush to explanation is just as treacherous as a rush to judgment.

I came to the presidency of Mary Washington in 2006 with a solid record of achievement: I had been a dean at George Washington University, published more than a dozen books and hundreds of papers and reviews, won recognition for my teaching, raised millions of dollars. But the way I left -- with no apparent consideration for my illness or my record and no support for my family's transition to a new life -- contrasted sharply with the exits of other university presidents in similar situations. What it shared with them was the realization that the first casualty in such crises -- but the only thing that saves you in the end -- is honesty.

My April meltdown was of my own making, as I've repeatedly acknowledged and publicly regretted. I've always said that I should not have been driving, and I'm thankful that I alone was hurt. I know that my actions cracked the trust that the UMW board and community had placed in me. But their hard-edged reactions also cracked my trust in them.

For 45 years, I had self-treated a case of undiagnosed depression with compulsive work and, lately, alcohol. New heart problems and allergies added to the mix, as did the stress of separation from my family, which remained in Maryland. I wouldn't listen to those who urged me to slow down, and even foiled an arrangement by one of my vice presidents to get me to do so. I didn't want to know myself.

On April 10, I got up at 4:30 a.m., as always. Racing around, I was afraid I'd be late for my autistic son's assessment in Bethesda, which I had already postponed twice. On the way there, I felt as though I was going to have a nervous breakdown. To calm down, I drank some wine (after taking allergy medication) before I got on the road.

I'd never driven to Bethesda from UMW before, and I took the wrong exit off I-495. Confused, distracted and on a twisting road, I went off a curve and flipped the car. I recall little of what happened

afterward, except for telling the emergency crew not to defibrillate me because of my history of Wolff-Parkinson-White syndrome, an electrical problem of the heart. That evening, I awoke in the intensive care unit of Inova Fairfax Hospital. I argued my way out, insisting that I had to work the next day. At 1 a.m., I drove back to Fredericksburg. I have no idea how I made it there in my exhausted and still-sedated state.

I got up again at 4:30 a.m., wrote some e-mails (which I later saw were gibberish) and went to work. My startled staff sent me home, but I couldn't rest. Jittery and consumed again with the feeling that I was about to have a breakdown or a heart attack, I drove up to horse country, parked, took in the scenery and drank again. On the way home, I hit a pothole and blew a tire but continued on, sleepless and disoriented.

Thankfully, someone noticed my erratic driving and called the police, who surely thought I was a nut case heading into . . . well, the UMW president's driveway! Filled in by some of my staff who had shown up at the scene, the police recognized what was happening; they charged me with DUI but, more important, took me to the hospital.

The upshot of that 26-hour sequence was six days in the hospital, a newly diagnosed cardiac problem -- and scandal. My story was splashed across the local and national papers and (endlessly, it seemed) on television and the radio. I felt relentless shame.

Two days out of the hospital, I traveled to Fredericksburg to give the board of trustees an explanation. The scene was Kafkaesque. I don't believe I told the story very well; nor did the board listen very well. UMW's legal counsel, a representative from the state attorney general's office, instructed the members to say nothing. They listened in preternatural silence without being able to ask any questions to help them understand my story. My attorneys had advised me to limit what I said, so I wasn't able to give a full account, even if I'd had one.

Board members responded to my sincere questions -- "Why would I throw away a 30-year career?" and "Why would I hurt such a good institution?" -- with quizzically tilted heads. I asked them to allow me to begin treatment under a team of medical experts and not to act precipitously.

The university rector came to the president's house the next morning. Standing in the kitchen, I asked him whether I'd be able to preserve my tenure as a distinguished university professor. "They want you out of here," he said. I asked for a medical leave. "They don't want to do that," he replied. I would have to resign all association with UMW or be fired.

Ten days later, I accepted a severance package in exchange for my resignation. But in a surprise move, it was pulled off the table that same day, and I was fired. I was instantly left with no salary or benefits, no severance, no tenure. Our zero-tolerance times have seemingly produced zero tolerance for tolerance.

I spent the summer in a deep depression even as I began six months of intensive treatment at clinics, hospitals and an inpatient rehabilitation facility. On July 13, I accepted another board-approved severance -- this one negotiated by an independent mediator. But in October, I learned that the state attorney general's office had rejected the settlement. The mediator was the only one more flabbergasted than I was.

The DUIs were resolved in September. My attorneys wanted to go to trial, but I insisted on Alford pleas, a form of guilty plea. Justice was not blind to the extenuating circumstances of these incidents: My suspended sentence and fines and the loss of driving privileges in Virginia recognized that the DUIs were the culmination of a long, complicated series of events.

But the public reaction was mixed. Many faculty, students, community members and even strangers

wrote to me with sensitivity and expressing support. But many others wrote to the Fredericksburg newspapers suggesting that I had gotten off easy or had been handed a sweet deal. Letter writers compared me to Michael Vick and Virginia Tech shooter Seung Hui Cho. If I read the letters correctly, it seemed that for many my first sin was not the DUIs, but my reported salary as president.

In the push of public scrutiny, many observers cited their "right" to know details about my personal life. To what extent does the public have a right to know a public figure's medical history and personal past? When does the clamoring for personal information become mere prurient interest? The Fredericksburg Free Lance-Star questionably dredged up a decades-old incident in which I had confronted a stalker who had harassed my wife for many years. I went from pillar to pilloried, and the debasing revealed a great deal about the community's expectations, social values and public and private faces.

Close on the heels of public humiliation came institutional erasure. I was immediately cut off from the UMW e-mail system and couldn't even receive the e-mail notice of my firing. At the board's summer retreat, the strategic plans I had set in motion -- buying the nearby shopping center for major expansion, building a new facility at the Navy research site at Dahlgren, Va. -- were reaffirmed. But I was told that when someone asked who had recommended the excellent retreat site and my name surfaced, others gestured to silence the speaker. I had become, Harry Potter-style, He-Who-Must-Not-Be-Named.

Some in situations similar to mine have outlived their disasters. In 2004, an Emory University vice president faced serious charges. He accepted responsibility, sought help and eventually returned to his position. Wisely, the university allowed him to take leave for treatment. Blessed are the judicious.

Others, like me, have had their fractures brutally displayed. American University President Benjamin Ladner had to resign in 2005 because of alleged financial transgressions; in 1990, Richard Berendzen had also been forced to resign as AU president after being charged with a sexual misdemeanor. The firing and vehement self-defense of Eastern Michigan University's John Fallon -- dismissed this past July purportedly for his handling of a campus rape and murder case -- have reached the "Larry King" show. Yet these institutions, recognizing that trauma involves a whole family, offered severance packages to ease the transition to a new life. Berendzen even returned to his tenured professorship.

But as I endure the vicious new cyber-punishment of permanent exposure on the Internet, I am challenged to remake my reputation while being simultaneously denied the opportunity for redemption that I accorded others.

As a longtime teacher, I know that there are lessons to be learned from my situation. I've learned that honesty can guide you through dissolution into hope. My family is no longer four people living alone together. My wife and I are committed to a new future. My pre-teen daughter endured teasing with grace and has grown in the process. Recently, she asked me how I was feeling. "Pretty down," I replied. Her response was full of insight: "Why don't you go to a meeting?"

Another lesson is that institutions must keep the past an open book and spread the wisdom gained from uncomfortable situations. But that doesn't mean we can't have regrets. UMW can speak for itself, but I regret losing the chance to help students, faculty and staff discuss and deal with compulsion and substance issues. I regret, now that I'm healthy and my problems are cured or managed, that I can't teach and learn at UMW again. These are deep regrets from a permanent and painful loss.

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Post a Comment

The Chronicle of Higher Education

From the issue dated November 23, 2007

Community Colleges Bridge a Tech Gap With Cellphones and Summer Camps

By DAN CARNEVALE

Nashville

Although computers are often thought of as ways to connect people over long distances, when the League for Innovation in the Community College held its annual technology conference here last week it drew about 2,350 participants, live and in person. People came from 374 colleges around the country and overseas, and listened to faculty members and technology officials discuss new teaching techniques using gadgets like cellphones. They also heard about attempts to get more women interested in technology, and that, contrary to stereotype, not all students know which end of a computer is up.

The Non-Tech-Savvy Student

Students who enroll in community colleges don't always have the extensive backgrounds in technology that college officials expect from younger generations. In fact, some students come in having never used a computer in their lives.

Unlike students who enroll in major universities, students who go to community colleges do not always get much computer experience in high school. "That's our job, to get them up to speed," said Foster Stewart, project leader of business and tourism at SAIT Polytechnic, in Calgary, Alberta.

Mr. Stewart said during a presentation that his institution handled the technology-knowledge gap by requiring that all students take an orientation course on the basics of using a computer, starting with how to boot it up. The computer novices appreciate the chance to learn in an environment where they aren't expected to know anything and can ask all the seemingly dumb questions they would otherwise be too embarrassed to pose.

But what about the students who are comfortable with computers? They benefit from the orientation too, Mr. Stewart said. Although they think they are familiar with computers, many of them do not know how to perform basic functions like setting up a printer.

Some colleges take it for granted that students will come in with computer expertise, Mr. Stewart said. But even to this day, many of them need help. "We don't take it for granted," he said. "We take it as our responsibility."

Tech Camp for Girls

Collegiate computer-science and technology programs still face a dearth of female students. But by the time those students reach college, it's too late to persuade them to enroll. In fact, high school may be too late as well.

The key to getting young women interested in technology is to capture their attention in middle school, said officials of Anne Arundel Community College, in Maryland, during a presentation at the conference. The college runs a weeklong summer camp every year designed to attract girls to technology.

By high school, many students have decided their likely career path, said Brandi Shepard, an instructor in architecture, interior design, and construction management at Anne Arundel. The magic moment is ages 10 through 13, she said, so the college designed the camp program with those girls in mind.

While boys are often eager to like to take things apart and see how they work, she said, girls often need some extra prodding. So the camp program emphasizes exercises that appeal to girls, such as designing Web sites and using digital photography. The camp also teaches girls older types of technology, like how to build and operate a trebuchet (a type of medieval catapult). Students have a blast launching marshmallows across the room, said Ms. Shepard.

Those lessons are meant to open the doorway to understanding technology and to get girls thinking of possible career opportunities.

If young women do choose that route, Ms. Shepard said, they will have no problems getting hired by technology companies looking to diversify their staffs.

Education to Go

Instructors are usually trying to get students to leave their cellphones alone during class. But now some professors have the bright idea of bringing those devices into the educational process.

Lucianne Sweder, an education lecturer at Governors State University, in Illinois, doesn't recommend that anyone teach an entire online course via a hand-held device. But cellphones and other mobile devices work well for some educational purposes, she said in a talk at the league meeting.

Instead of using flashcards, students can use their cellphones to use computer programs that quiz them on various subjects. The wireless programs can even adjust to how well a student is doing by asking fewer questions on what he or she seems to have down cold and more on topics that aren't going as well.

Other options include providing images with audio commentary, or even video snippets covering different subjects. Cellphones and other devices nowadays are able to play video at high resolution, she said, even on such a small screen. "Never worry about the size of the screen," Ms. Sweder said. "You get one that you like, that's good for your eyes."

She recommended that instructors decide ahead of time whether they need to set any guidelines for their students' cellphone text messaging. Young people are known to abbreviate their text messages to the point of incomprehensibility. And that could be counterproductive if an instructor is working on, say, improving student literacy.

sacbee.com

State owes schools, suit says

Districts join advocates in seeking \$1 billion for mandated programs.

By Judy Lin - jlin@sacbee.com

Published 12:00 am PST Wednesday, November 21, 2007

Education advocates are expected to file suit today against the state of California for shortchanging school districts \$1 billion – a move they say has left districts feeling used like "credit cards."

The California School Boards Association, joined by a handful of school districts, wants the state to reimburse K-12 districts for programs they say the state required and should have paid for.

"The state expects schools to foot the bill for millions of dollars in mandated costs that they do not fund and rarely pay back," Kathy Kinley, president of the California School Boards Association, said in a statement.

Richard L. Hamilton, director of the Educational Legal Alliance, said the state owes school districts \$415 million for programs it underfunded and \$475 million for programs it never funded. The current budget contains \$160 million in unfunded programs, he said.

"These are claims filed by school districts over the years," Hamilton said.

Kinley argued that the state paid only a fraction of what it owed this year, appropriating just \$38,000.

Finance Department spokesman H.D. Palmer said the Schwarzenegger administration has not seen the lawsuit, which is expected to be filed in Sacramento Superior Court.

"We will have further comment once we have reviewed the particulars of this lawsuit," Palmer said. "Regardless of the suit, K-12 has been and will be receiving the lion's share of budget dollars even in a challenging fiscal environment."

Under a change in the state constitution instituted in the wake of property-tax-cutting Proposition 13, the state is required to reimburse local agencies when it mandates new programs or a higher level of service.

In the past, state finance officials have said school districts became increasingly demanding in requesting payment over the years.

Education advocates say Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and the Legislature have avoided paying for a wide range of additional responsibilities given to schools.

The anticipated lawsuit is expected to seek reimbursement of "new programs and higher levels of service" the state demanded of school districts. School districts involved in the suit argue they never got paid.

Besides the school boards association, plaintiffs include the San Diego County Office of Education, Riverside Unified School District, San Jose Unified School District and Clovis Unified School District.

Latimes.com

Faulty fire alarms at Santa Ana College put thousands at potential risk

The alarms have been broken since 2005, according to contractor reports. 'Something's rotten, trustee board president said, 'and we're going to find out about it.'

By Tony Barboza, Los Angeles Times Staff Writer

Seven buildings at Santa Ana College, including the administration offices and the library, have faulty fire alarms, placing thousands of students, faculty and staff in potential danger.

The alarms have been broken since at least June 2005, according to reports given to the school at that time by a contractor the college hired. Some have broken handles, others do not ring, and at least one was turned off because it would not stop sounding.

The Rancho Santiago Community College District has hired a law firm to find out why nothing was done for more than two years after reports documented the problems.

"It is an unacceptable practice to compromise the safety of our students or visitors," said Board of Trustees President John Hanna, who called an emergency meeting Tuesday for trustees to pass a resolution to repair the alarms. "Inspectors don't issue reports just for the fun of doing it. Somebody knew about this and made a conscious decision not to do anything about it. Clearly something's rotten in Denmark, and we're going to find out about it."

Inspections completed in 2005 and 2006 revealed widespread problems with the college's 1960s equipment, citing several buildings that lacked working fire alarms.

In some of those cases, campus security would not have known if there were a fire because the system makes noise only in the building where the alarm is pulled and does not alert authorities. The campus security building is one of those where the alarms don't work.

The college district in 2003 earmarked \$400,000 in state maintenance funds to go toward replacing Santa Ana's nearly obsolete fire alarm system, but four years later, the overhaul has not been started.

The problems came to the attention of top district officials last month. Short-term repairs approved at the board meeting, expected to cost \$68,000, should be completed in about a month. Meanwhile, security guards at the college have started a fire-watch program and hourly are patrolling buildings without alarm coverage. Other buildings without working alarms include the

gym, the fine-arts building and the theater.

Three portable classrooms also had broken alarms, but they recently were fixed.

"I'm not sure whether it was a communication thing, a process thing, or an individual person thing," district Chancellor Eddie Hernandez said. "This should not have taken this length of time to solve it. There are plenty of people in retrospect that dropped the ball." Santa Ana Fire Department officials, who annually review the college for fire code violations, do not inspect fire alarms but rely on the college to hire a contractor to ensure they are working.

The college's fire alarms date to about 1966, making replacement parts nearly impossible to find, according to a contractor's report this month.

Officials said the district will replace the old alarm system with one that will notify security staff of fires and include loudspeakers and strobe lights.

It could take as long as two years before the new system, expected to cost between \$1.5 and \$2 million, is installed.

Santa Ana College President Erlinda Martinez said she did not learn of the broken fire alarms until inspectors brought it to the college's attention again last month. She declined to state which college officials had known about the broken alarms in 2005, saying only that reports about the alarms "didn't rise to the level to where we took action."

Hernandez, the district chancellor, said he was certain some school administrators knew about the problem. "This is a classic case of something falling through the cracks, but safety should come to the top of everyone's list."

Santiago Canyon College, which is part of the same community college district, finished replacing its alarm system in 2005, after two years of construction at a cost of \$247,000.

Dec. 10, 2007

Fallout from Fresno State's Multi-Million Dollar Case(s)

Just five months ago, a \$5.85 million verdict in favor of Linda L. Vivas, the former California State University at Fresno women's volleyball coach, set a record for Title IX verdicts. On Thursday, a second Fresno jury blew that mark away, ordering the university to pay \$19.1 million to Stacy Johnson-Klein in a case that involved alleged sex discrimination and retaliation for the former women's basketball coach's advocacy for female athletes. In between the two verdicts, Fresno State settled a similar case with its former associate athletics director, Diane Milutinovich, for \$3.5 million

Meanwhile, elsewhere in the country in 2007, appeals courts reinstated two high-profile sexual harassment lawsuits filed under Title IX — the landmark 1972 federal law barring gender discrimination in institutions receiving federal funds — against the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the University of Colorado at Boulder, respectively. (Both cases had major developments last week. The decade-old suit against UNC women's soccer coach Anson Dorrance got an April trial date, as *Sports Illustrated* reported on Tuesday. And, on Wednesday, Colorado settled the suit filed by two former students who claimed the university had failed to do enough to prevent an alleged rape by football players and recruits for \$2.85 million.)

Other claims challenging alleged retaliation against coaches who stood up for the law's principles — their right to sue under Title IX for retaliation settled by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2005 — are percolating at Feather River Community College in California and Florida Gulf Coast University, said Erin Buzuvis, an assistant professor at Western New England College School of Law. On top of that, the decision by the University of Hawaii at Manoa women's cross-country and track coach to file a lawsuit this fall alleging gender inequities in athletics — while she's still employed there — could only be possible in a climate in which coaches and others are legally protected from retaliation, Buzuvis said.

"This is the year to be a Title IX plaintiff," said Buzuvis, who writes a blog on Title IX issues. "I wouldn't want to be a defendant in a Title IX suit this year."

At Fresno State, university officials have vowed to appeal the Johnson-Klein verdict, which the president called "excessive." And while the university's appeal of the Vivas verdict has barely begun, a judge did reduce the award from \$5.85 to \$4.52 million. Dan Siegel, a lawyer for Johnson-Klein, Milutinovich and Vivas, estimates, however, that as of right now, the three cases would cost the university \$40 million, including legal costs and interest. On the Vivas case, "we have interest of about \$1,000 a day on the verdict, so it keeps growing."

By all accounts, from among the three lawsuits, the university had the strongest legs to stand on in the Johnson-Klein case. The trial evolved into a media spectacle in Fresno, the university's defense gripping, as summarized in Wednesday's *Fresno Bee*: that the coach was dependent on prescription painkillers and had taken some from a player, that she had engaged in financial improprieties, and that her players had been in rebellion due to her erratic behavior and alleged verbal abuse. Those were the reasons she was fired, for the welfare of the students, *not* because of sex discrimination or retaliation for her attempts to ensure gender equity, the university defense said. The jury didn't buy it.

"This was just a colossal mistake to take this case to trial thinking they were going to win it," said Siegel. "It wasn't an easy case, but still they could have settled the case for a million dollars, actually for \$950,000."

"I think it's very much about forcing them to be accountable. This is just an incredible story of the abuse of the university's powers and resources to back an athletic director to wage a campaign against women who fought for Title IX," he added of the results to the three lawsuits.

"The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and getting the same results," Nancy Hogshead-Makar, a law professor at Florida Coastal School of Law and former Olympic swimmer, said of the university's handling of the string of multi-million dollar suits.

"At what point do you go, you know, we have a real problem in our athletics department and how it is that we are treating women and let's get in here and fix it rather than putting their head in the sand?" she asked.

The Fresno State Case

In interviews Friday, both Fresno State President John D. Welty and the athletics director, Thomas Boeh, described what Welty called "a new era in Fresno State athletics."

"We have pretty much an entirely new athletics administration," said Boeh, who came to the university in 2005 after the events alleged in the three lawsuits took place. Boeh said seven new administrators, including him, are in place. After cutting women's swimming and diving in 2004, university leaders expect to announce the addition of new women's sports teams later this month in order to obtain proportional distribution of scholarship monies.

For his part, Welty — president of Fresno State since 1991 — rebuffed a question about calls for his resignation by saying "I've got a lot to do at the university and I'm going to get it done." He pointed to the work of a gender equity plan task force established this summer as an example of a changing athletics culture. The task force is nearing completion on a five-year plan.

But Margie Wright, a women's softball coach who has been at the university for 23 years and whose own Title IX complaint regarding retaliation is pending mediation, questioned the university's official line. She said she offered this fall to testify to the gender equity task force about her experiences as a veteran of the department through the turbulent 1990s — about her account of the battles surrounding a review by the U.S. Education Department's Office for Civil Rights that found

the university out of compliance with Title IX in 11 areas, and the subsequent backlash over the construction of new facilities for women's sports.

Asked about the environment, which she called the definition of a hostile one, she recalled first-hand the shameful celebration proclaimed on a sign as "Ugly Women's Athletes Day" in the athletics department business office. It resulted, Wright said, only in letters of reprimand — for the participants, yes, but also for her, "because I didn't have control over my softball players who went in there and took the sign down."

Wright said she was initially told "in no uncertain terms" that she would not be welcome to speak to the task force about the department's past. Members apparently had a change of heart on Thursday, inviting her for a 15-minute window at this morning's meeting. She will have five minutes to speak, she said, and 10 to answer questions. Suffice to say, she believes the time is insufficient.

"You clearly have to worry about what's happened in the past in order to change the future. And that is not happening," she said.

Uptick in Title IX Suits Expected

Back on a national level, several experts said Friday that the 2005 Supreme Court decision, *Jackson v. Birmingham Board of Education*, clarifying the right to sue for retaliation under Title IX, as well as recent lower court decisions unpacking the responsibility of institutions to prevent harassment, will likely pave the way for more plaintiffs.

"The first generation of cases litigated under Title IX's expanded standard has clearly begun to navigate the courts. As a result of Jackson, the number of retaliation claims against institutions of higher learning brought under Title IX is likely to increase," Kerry Brian Melear, an assistant professor of higher education at the University of Mississippi who has written about the Jackson case, said via e-mail.

More broadly, Sheldon E. Steinbach, a lawyer in the postsecondary education practice of the Washington law firm Dow Lohnes, said the Fresno State verdict, while "an aberration," still "sends a clear warning sign to institutions throughout the country of the potential for liability for mistreatment of university personnel" throughout the institution, not just the athletics department.

"It's just a startling wake-up call to senior university administrators that will spur a scrutiny of existing policies and procedures and the mechanism for ensuring that they are employed consistently," he said.

"Universities, certainly in faculty cases, have been vindicated time and time again when they follow all their own procedures. And they have lost dramatically when they haven't."

Fresno State to seek new trial

Lawyer in Johnson-Klein case wants venue change.

By Doug Hoagland, Pablo Lopez and Bryant-Jon Anteola / The Fresno Bee
12/10/07

Fresno State's attorney in the Stacy Johnson-Klein case said Monday he will ask a Fresno judge to overturn the \$19.1 million verdict, and female basketball players condemned it as a travesty of justice during an afternoon campus news conference.

Meanwhile, some Fresno State professors and students are worried that the university will suffer financially because Johnson-Klein -- the school's former women's basketball coach -- won the multimillion-dollar judgment Thursday after a two-month civil trial.

"The money has got to come from somewhere," said English professor Lisa Weston. "It's not the product of a leprechaun's pot of gold."

A California State University spokeswoman said Fresno State's pocketbook will take a hit, but how big is in dispute.

Four days after Johnson-Klein's sex discrimination trial ended, the high-profile case continued to stir strong emotions and difficult questions from faculty, athletes and students at Fresno State -- and the turmoil might not end anytime soon.

"This case is far from over," said Mick Marderosian, Fresno State's attorney.

Within two weeks, Marderosian said, he also will ask Fresno County Superior Court Judge Donald Black to grant a new trial -- including a change of venue.

Marderosian declined to specify legal grounds to have a verdict overturned. Reasons could include newly discovered evidence, irregularity in the proceedings, jury misconduct or excessive damages.

"We're moving quickly on this," said Marderosian, adding that he expects Black -- who presided over the Johnson-Klein trial -- to schedule a hearing on the motions in mid-January.

Labor law expert Dean B. Gordon, a Fresno attorney, said Marderosian will have difficulty getting a change of venue. Fresno County is the proper jurisdiction, Gordon said, because "Fresno State is here and so are the witnesses."

But Marderosian might get a new trial if he can prove juror misconduct, Gordon said.

Several instances of possible misconduct have been reported.

Marderosian told Black on Thursday that a lawyer who was not involved in the case said a juror during deliberations had phoned someone. Black had told jurors not to have contact with anyone during deliberations.

And on Oct. 26, Marderosian filed a motion asking Black to remove a juror who had been overheard at a Clovis restaurant loudly discussing the trial. Black repeatedly warned jurors not to discuss the case with anyone until they began deliberations, but no juror was removed for such a cause.

It's more likely that Black might reduce the judgment for being excessive, Gordon said.

Gordon said that happened to his clients -- three former campus police officers who sued Fresno State for discrimination and won \$4.25 million in damages in 2000.

Black reduced the three men's damages, and a higher court upheld it, so the plaintiffs received about \$1.2 million, which they collected about two years ago, Gordon said.

Meanwhile, an impromptu news conference with 10 current and former women's basketball players was held Monday on the Fresno State campus.

Roughly 40 people attended the event.

Former player Kendra Walker-Roche, who organized the gathering, said the purpose was to voice displeasure with the verdict, show support for university President John Welty and bring attention to what the trial was supposed to be about.

"Somehow, [the trial] got spun around as an attack on the school system and got away from the student-athlete experience," Walker-Roche said. "This is really a personal thing for us. ... We want people to know we've been nothing but truthful ... and the university did the right thing taking the case to trial."

In response to the players' news conference, Johnson-Klein said she still "cares very deeply about each of those players. It saddens me to see that those women are being used to further the university's mission. And they don't even see that they're being used."

"I'm baffled why there's confusion on the verdict," Johnson-Klein said. "The case was a sexual harassment, gender discrimination and wrongful termination lawsuit that was proven 156 times with a yes against Fresno State. This is not about the players."

Walker-Roche and former teammate Angelica Lopez said they've thought about filing a lawsuit against Johnson-Klein but weren't sure whether they would follow through.

"At this point, we just want to focus on getting the word out to the community that we don't agree with the verdict," Lopez said.

"We went through a lot because of her. It's not right."

Also on Monday, two high-profile professors at Fresno State said faculty were beginning to ask how the university will be affected financially by the Johnson-Klein judgment -- and judgments in two other sex discrimination cases.

Earlier this year, the university lost a case filed by former volleyball coach Lindy Vivas and settled one by former associate athletic director Diane Milutinovich. Those two judgments totaled \$8 million.

The Johnson-Klein verdict brings the total to about \$27 million.

Concern over the multimillion-dollar obligation has prompted the university's budget committee to schedule a meeting for Wednesday, said committee Chairman James Kus, a geography professor. The committee advises Welty.

"The real question is whether it will have an effect on Fresno State's budget," Kus said.

English professor Weston said she knows that the CSU system's risk-management fund pays for judgments against the university.

"I know it's not going to come from the individual pockets of administrators, and I doubt it will be charged back to athletics -- though it should be. Will it affect the overall running of the CSU system and Fresno State? No. But it has to have some effect," said Weston, who also serves as president of Fresno State's faculty union.

Fresno State eventually will pay higher premiums into CSU's risk-management fund, said CSU spokeswoman Clara Potes-Fellow. She did not know what Fresno State now pays but said the premiums for all 23 CSU campuses are based on their claims history.

"It will affect operations. Of course, when you have less money to do the same job, your ability to do the same things is restricted," Potes-Fellow said. "But how it's going to restrict Fresno State, I don't know."

Cynthia Matson, Fresno State's chief financial officer, challenged this view.

"It's an oversimplification to say that we will be paying higher rates, because our rates are based on a number of factors. There will be some effect on our operations, but it's premature to say it would have significant impact," Matson said.

This should not cause student fees to increase, she said.

But students aren't convinced.

Sara Campbell, a senior English major and student government senator, said she hoped the appellate process would decrease the amount of money paid to Johnson-Klein.

"We always talk about student fees going up and all these programs we want to pay for," Campbell said. "And I don't see settlements being one of those programs students want to pay for."

Junior psychology major Akadius Ashby said: "We already pay enough as is."

The Chronicle of Higher Education

From the issue dated December 14, 2007

In Seattle, a Firsthand Lesson in College Access

A program dreamed up by a U. of Washington freshman puts students in the role of admissions counselors at local high schools

By ANNA WEGGEL

Chunda Zeng expected to study for a career in chemistry and physics. But then the freshman at the University of Washington signed up for the Dream Project.

The program teaches undergraduates at the university about higher-education policy at the same time that they help disadvantaged high-school students apply to college. And it led Mr. Zeng to trade the laboratory for the lecture hall.

Now he plans to do graduate work in educational policy and leadership, having chosen to major in international studies. He also hopes to land a job on the campus. "I want to be able to contribute to the college and help develop programs," he says. "I want to stay."

The Dream Project, which started in 2004, pairs students at the University of Washington with first-generation and low-income students in six Seattle high schools. The college students help the high-schoolers prepare for the SAT, fill out college applications, and apply for scholarships. Unlike many similar programs, the University of Washington's project is paired with a course on its campus. In the classroom, the college students study issues of social justice, educational opportunity, and socioeconomic mobility.

The experience is transforming some students into aspiring college administrators, says Stanley E. Chernicoff, principal lecturer in the department of earth and space sciences, who is the project's adviser.

"A remarkable number of them," he says, "have been diverted into pursuing careers in higher education."

The program hopes to send a message that the University of Washington is still trying to recruit minority students, nine years after the state's voters banned the use of racial preferences in public-university admissions. "We're going into communities saying, 'We want you and will help you. You have demonstrated that you're capable of doing it, so here's how you do it,'" says Mr. Chernicoff.

The project, along with changes in the university's admissions process, seems to be paying off. Sixty-five students are involved, working with more than 250 potential applicants at local high schools. Thirty-five freshman are enrolled at Washington after having been counseled through the program.

In the past few years, says Mark A. Emmert, the university's president, freshman classes have been more ethnically and racially diverse. Members of minority groups made up about 36 percent of the undergraduate enrollment this fall, compared with 30 percent in 2001.

"We certainly changed admissions standards, which has had a big impact," Mr. Emmert says. Applicants' essays and personal backgrounds count for more now.

"We aggressively recruit students," he continues. "We follow up on admissions and scholarship-support programs, and programs like the Dream Project have made clear to the community of color that we want them to be part of the university."

One Student's Idea

The Dream Project was founded by a student, Alula Asfaw, who arrived at the University of Washington in 2003. Mr. Asfaw, who is black, says he wondered where everyone who "looked like him" was.

When Mr. Asfaw was 6, his mother brought him from Ethiopia to the United States so he could live in a safer environment and get a better education. Twelve years later, with the help of a volunteer in Upward Bound, a national program that provides college-entrance support, he found himself at Washington.

He considers himself lucky because of the way things turned out: "I knew there wasn't anything particularly special about me that made me deserve to be there."

That led him to start thinking about the difficulties some students have with access to college. He realized that many people on the campus didn't understand those issues. The campus is full of "good-hearted, good-meaning students that grew up in completely different circumstances," he says. "But they come blind to this."

He decided to create a program that would promote access and provide support for underprivileged high-school students who want to attend college. A key part of that program would be teaching college students about barriers that limit access to higher education.

"We're not just a high-school program," says Mr. Asfaw. "With these discussions we have, we look at statistics and we think about our experience in high school and get a different level of understanding."

Students essentially run the program. They manage the budget, do the fund raising, and design and maintain the Web site. Mr. Chernicoff's role, he says, is to make sure the students get academic credit, to give assignments and an occasional speech, then sit back and watch.

Giving Back

The project has become one of the university's major efforts to recruit students from low-income families and those with no college graduates. High-school students who are chosen for the program must be not only academically capable but also motivated to attend college.

"If you start with 1,000 students," says Mr. Chernicoff, "many fall by the wayside, and there's only a narrow stream that end up at college."

The program looks for students who don't know how to apply to college or for financial aid — often because their parents didn't go to college, or because English is not their families' first language.

Because the program encourages college students to volunteer at the same high schools they attended, they find themselves teaching students they shared classes with the previous year, or with whom they still play sports on weekends.

Oscar Castro Jr., who was helped by the Dream Project in high school, started classes at Washington this year, and participates in the program as a mentor. "Most of the high-school students I know, because I went to that school for four years," he says. "A lot I play baseball with. It gives them extra encouragement, and they know that they've talked to me before, so they trust me."

Coaching students on their college-admissions essays is the hardest part for him, Mr. Castro says, because many of them have endured extraordinarily difficult lives, and he must convince them that their stories are worth telling. "We find out a lot of things about them, about hardships or struggles that they've gone through," he says. "You've got to be attentive and help them turn that into something strong that can help them."

Italiana Hughes, a senior at Renton High School, was struggling with her personal essay. She found it difficult to write about herself. Her friends and a couple of Dream Project members decided to meet outside of school, at a coffee shop, and go through their essays together. "I really didn't have any idea about college," she says. "Didn't know which ones to go to, what to major in, and that was mainly because my mother and father didn't go. I'm the oldest sibling. I didn't have anybody to look up to."

But the Dream Project mentors "were there, friendly and nice, and it was really, really easy to talk to them about it," she says.

Ms. Hughes has been accepted at Liberty University, Northern Arizona University, and Northwest Christian College. She is also applying to the University of Washington, which she favors because the "business school is amazing, and that's what sold me. And I want to get involved with the Dream Project."

Cultivating Campus Leaders

For some high-school students helped by the Dream Project, the opportunity to become mentors themselves is a big draw to the University of Washington. Although some are accepted by other institutions, many choose Washington to give something back to their own high schools.

When most students go to college, they get little more than a "handshake, congrats, go do a great job," says Mr. Chernicoff. But the project allows incoming students to be a part of an organized and supportive group that not only meets regularly for class, volunteering, and social activities but also runs an important part of the university's outreach beyond the campus.

"This has become the best crucible for leadership on campus," he says. "It projects an image of the university that there's a place for students to develop friendships and meaningful connections. It's a powerful message to kids who are scared stiff to come to a university of this quality."

Educators strive to find harmony for holidays

By Chris Moran
STAFF WRITER

December 10, 2007

Chula Vista High School's choir will tackle one of its most ambitious challenges in recent years when it performs selections from Handel's "Messiah" this week.

The seniors have sung together for six years under the direction of David Trevino, and he thinks they are up to the technical demands of a beloved piece of baroque music.

It's also Christian music, and one of Trevino's singers will sit out the Handel portions of the concert for religious reasons.

The occasionally awkward intersection of religion and public education at this time of year is popularly known as the "December dilemma." Educators find themselves caught between acknowledging religious and secular holidays and avoiding anything that could be construed as endorsing one religion over another.

Usually educators quietly negotiate concerns that arise from parents or students and reach a quick accommodation. In recent years, there haven't been any conspicuous public fights on campuses in the San Diego area about December holidays.

Finding middle ground can be complicated. In other areas of the country, occasionally attorneys and judges get involved:

- A federal judge ruled last year that a New Jersey elementary school student's First Amendment rights were violated in 2005 when she was not allowed to sing "Awesome God" at an after-school talent show.
- Families sued a school district north of Dallas in 2004, charging that it had unconstitutionally banned students from distributing candy canes with religious messages on them.

Locally five years ago, the principal of a Carmel Valley elementary school refused a mother's request to tell the story of the birth of Jesus to her daughter's class. The principal said at the time that the story didn't cover material in the state's standards for fourth grade, which focus on California government and history.

Although educators have grappled with the December dilemma for decades – South County's Sweetwater Union High School District adopted its policy in 1979 – the way schools handle it is still evolving.

Larry Perondi, superintendent of the Oceanside Unified School District, said school officials 20 years ago never discussed whether to use the word "Christmas."

"It was, 'You're going out on Christmas break.' Then it went to holiday break, and then it went to winter break," Perondi said.

Longtime music educator Ron Bolles said he named his student holiday concert "A Bonita Christmas to You" in 1974 without thinking twice. Today, Bolles said, he would consult the principal and the superintendent's office first.

Bolles also said that it's important that educators teach music that has stood the test of time – whether it's religious – because students otherwise might not be exposed to anything they don't see on TV or download to their iPods.

Local educators said they allow classroom discussion about religion as long as teachers aren't proselytizing. In planning holiday concerts and classroom lessons, educators need to answer a question: "Do we have a clear educational purpose?" Area Superintendent Carol Barry wrote in an e-mail to the 30 principals she oversees in the San Diego Unified School District.

In the e-mail, Barry also asked them to consider, "Will any student or parent be made to feel like an outsider by the concert or activity?" and, "Is our overall curriculum balanced and fair?" She also referred them to the Web site for the First Amendment Center, a nonpartisan forum for the study of freedom-of-expression issues.

Perondi said he has no problem with his schools including religious songs in their holiday concerts. Deciding how many religious songs are too many is largely a matter of common sense, he said. He recently sent his principals guidelines the Anti-Defamation League distributes each year.

"This is a period that requires special sensitivity on the part especially of teachers in the lower grades, because teachers still represent models of authority," said Morris Casuto, San Diego director of the Anti-Defamation League. "Teachers have a special responsibility not to even inadvertently marginalize students."

Casuto said he once received a call from a black parent who was upset that her child's teacher had read the class a story about St. Nicholas and his Moorish slave. Although the parent's concerns were racial, it turned out to be an opportunity for the teacher to think about how religion was presented in the classroom, Casuto said.

"It's easy to step over the line," Casuto said. "One simple recommendation is, when in doubt, talk to someone about it."

Douglas Napier, senior legal counsel for the Arizona-based Alliance Defense Fund, which defends religious expression, agreed.

"There are some teachers who are caught in the middle, and I do feel bad for those teachers who want to do the right thing," Napier said.

The alliance last year sent letters to 11,500 school districts because it believes educators often violate students' rights by restraining religious expression.

“I would hope that they would value as educators the Constitution of the United States more than they would the opinions of a few renegade activists,” Napier said. And if it's a borderline call, he said, “tie goes to us.”

Although much of the music that has survived from Handel's time was written for the church, Trevino, the Chula Vista High choir director, said his inclusion of Handel's “Messiah” is about history, not religion.

His students agreed. Senior Kyle Mendiola, 17, said singing the composer's work reinforces his 18th-century history lessons.

“It makes it easier to remember things for quizzes,” Kyle said.

What has worked for him in planning programs in more than two decades of teaching, Trevino said, is varying song selection, making participation optional and informing parents.

LaMicha Sellers, 17, a senior in the choir who is a Jehovah's Witness, said she feels awkward stepping off the risers when the group sings religious songs but that the class has been extraordinarily accommodating. For example, the students had a group feast recently that they made a point of not identifying as Thanksgiving because she does not celebrate the holiday.

When the choir performs at 7 p.m. Saturday at Chula Vista High School to raise money for scholarships, they'll sing religious and secular songs.

“In that mix, it's probably OK,” the Anti-Defamation League's Casuto said. “But also it's in the eye of the beholder or the ear of the beholder.”

HEADLINE...Man Alleged In DVC Grade Scam Fails To Surrender

NBC11.com

Monday, December 3, 2007

MARTINEZ, Calif. -- One of the suspected masterminds of the Diablo Valley College grade-changing case was scheduled to surrender in Contra Costa County court in Martinez on Monday, but failed to show up, prosecutor Dodie Katague said.

Liberato Rocky Servo, a 27-year-old Vallejo resident, has been charged with 18 felonies in connection with the alleged conspiracy that includes unauthorized changes to more than 400 grades over a six-year period beginning in 2000.

According to Katague, in eight of those felony counts Servo is alleged to have accessed the Pleasant Hill community college's admissions office computer to change students' grades in exchange for money. In the remaining 10 felony counts Servo is alleged to have conspired with others to change grades.

Servo, who was charged Wednesday along with 14 other former students accused of paying to have their transcripts doctored, had arranged to surrender at 8:30 a.m. today, Katague said.

A total of 49 former students have been charged in the grade-changing scheme so far. Prosecutors filed charges against 34 former students in July, including four who were accused of accessing the school's computer to change grades.

The remaining 44 defendants from both sets of charges were students who allegedly paid to have their grades improved.

Three defendants from the new set of charges surrendered Friday and posted bail, which was set at \$10,000, Katague said. Many of the other defendants are attending school outside the area and prosecutors are waiting for arrest warrants to be entered into the system, Katague said.

Servo is accused of conspiring with Julian Revilleza and Jeremy Tato, both 26-year-old Pittsburg residents, in the scheme.

Revilleza and Tato have both agreed to cooperate with prosecutors in exchange for reduced sentences, according to Katague.

Tato was originally charged with 14 felony counts of computer fraud and conspiracy and could have faced up to 12 years in prison. He pleaded no contest Nov. 26 to eight felonies and will serve only one year in county jail followed by three years formal probation.

Revilleza struck a similar deal in September and pleaded guilty to 15 felony counts of computer fraud, Katague said.

Revilleza was originally charged with 23 felony counts of computer fraud and conspiracy and could have faced as many as 17 years in state prison. Instead he will serve one year in county jail. He also received a four-year state prison sentence that was suspended, Katague said.

Ronald Nixon, who is alleged to have acted independently from Revilleza, Tato and Servo when he allegedly accessed the school's computer to change grades, still has a warrant out for his arrest and hasn't been found, Katague said.

Erick Martinez, who is also believed to have accessed the schools computer to change grades, is the only one of the five so-called masterminds who is not accused of accepting money in exchange for grade changes. He is believed to have acted independently from Nixon, Revilleza, Tato and Servo.

<http://www.nbc11.com/news/14762348/detail.html>

HEADLINE...New look at MPC districting
Subhead...County panel, college trustees take up issue this week
By CLARISSA ALJENTERA
Herald Staff Writer
Tuesday, December 4, 2007

The issue of separate trustee areas for Monterey Peninsula College board members returns to the forefront before two local agencies this week.

The 2-year-old issue will be debated by the college board of trustees and the Monterey County Committee on School District Organization. The county committee has the power to split the college district into five areas. Board members are now elected in at-large, district-wide elections.

The county committee will decide Wednesday if it should reverse a June decision and consider trustee areas for the college.

"Although we have the authority to change the election process for MPC, we felt it would be more useful to see a petition from the community," said Harvey Kuffner, chairman of the county committee.

The college board will decide Friday whether to ask district voters in a November 2008 election if they want board members to be chosen by separate trustee areas. The board has rejected the idea twice before.

Kuffner said the committee Wednesday will hear from the Citizens Committee for MPC Redistricting, a community group that says separate trustee areas would provide better representation for all parts of the college district, particularly Marina and Seaside.

The committee has gathered about 800 signatures demanding that the county committee put separate trustee areas on the June 2008 ballot, five months before the election being considered by the college board.

"Our main goal is to get the (county committee) to carry out its legal authority under (state law) to establish districts," said Mel Mason, a Seaside civil rights leader who started the citizens committee.

The push for trustee areas resumes as county election officials released detailed results from last month's election for four college board seats. The vote breakdown showed mixed results on their home turf for two losing candidates from Marina and Seaside.

Carl Pohlhammer of Pacific Grove defeated Diane Cordero de Noriega of Marina for a 2-year seat. The statement of votes released last week showed that Pohlhammer outpolled Noriega, even in Marina precincts.

MPC trustees had asserted for months that if qualified candidates ran from Seaside or Marina they would win in an at-large election. That was the crux of their argument against separate trustee areas.

"I don't know how (Pohlhammer) pulled it off," said Lynn Davis, board president. "I don't think many people thought he had a chance."

Pohlhammer, a longtime MPC political science instructor, was unavailable for comment.

Noriega said Pohlhammer's extensive work in local Democratic politics could have helped him in the election. She had made separate trustee areas the focal point of her campaign.

"I really listened to the argument that if the right candidate ran from Seaside or Marina they would clearly win and therefore everything would be OK," said Noriega, a former provost at CSU-Monterey Bay.

She said her loss shows how hard it is, even for a well-qualified candidate, to win in an at-large election.

In a four-way race for three 4-year board seats, incumbents Davis, Loren Steck and Charlie Page outpolled Alvin Edwards, a Seaside fire captain and elected member of the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District board.

Edwards fared strongly only in Seaside precincts, while his opponents drew widespread support in the rest of the district.

"It is too hard to run at-large," Edwards said. "I was impressed (that) without a candidate's statement I came up with the 6,800 votes."

The college board's decision to consider an election on trustee areas — which represents a major shift for the board — is prompted by the return of the issue to the county committee, Davis said.

He said the board changed its position at a meeting last week and will tackle the issue head-on.

"We have no choice," Davis said. "We don't want the county board to take over ... This is a political question and needs to be handled at the polls. People need to have a voice in this."

But Mason said his group won't support a November 2008 election because that's too long away, and it would cost more than a June vote. Ideally, Mason said, the county committee could create trustee areas without holding an election.

The MPC board has reviewed trustee areas twice in the past two years. The local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People raised the issue in 2005. The group said trustee areas would better reflect the Peninsula's distinct communities.

The board hired a demographer and created a single trustee area for Seaside in 2006, but later backed off that move and returned to its current at-large election format.

http://www.montereyherald.com/local/ci_7630181

HEADLINE...Toyota Seeks Nominations for \$1.12 Million in College Scholarships
Earthtimes.org
Tuesday, December 4, 2007

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 4 /PRNewswire/ -- Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc., (TMS) is searching the United States for 100 of the brightest, most community-minded high school seniors.

Those chosen to represent the 2008 Toyota Community Scholars class will share in a total award of \$1.12 million in college scholarships. "We are seeking students who have outstanding academic records, are effective leaders, and have a well documented record of service both within and outside the school setting," said TMS President Jim Lentz.

While academic performance is a prime factor in the selection process, the distinguishing characteristic will be the overall impact of the student's contribution in the area of community service.

Overall, eligibility is based on the following: -- Be a high school senior with a grade point average of 3.0 or better; -- Be actively involved in a service organization or project that has a positive impact on the school and/or community; -- Be a U.S. citizen, U.S. national, or U.S. permanent resident; -- Plan to pursue an undergraduate degree at an accredited four-year college or university in the U.S. Nominations

Students must be nominated by their school. Each school may nominate only one student, with the exception of schools with more than 600 graduating seniors, which may elect two. Nomination materials must be submitted to Educational Testing Services (which administers the Toyota Community Scholars program) and postmarked by January 4, 2008. Nomination

forms were mailed to each secondary school in the U.S. They are also available on-line at: <http://www.toyota.com/communityscholars>.

The scholarships are valued at \$20,000 or \$10,000 each, over four years, for study at a four-year college or university starting in the fall of 2008. Since the Toyota Community Scholars program began in 1997, TMS has awarded over \$12 million in scholarships to 1,100 students across the U.S.

Awards Program

The 100 students who are chosen for the class of 2008 will be invited to attend an all-expense paid recognition event in San Antonio, Texas, May 8-10, 2008. At that time, the 100 Toyota Community Scholars will be introduced, 12 of whom will be named national winners. (National winners will receive \$20,000 each; the 88 regional winners will be awarded \$10,000 each.) In addition to an awards dinner, the students will also have the opportunity to learn about historic San Antonio, plus take a tour of Toyota's newest up-and- running automotive manufacturing plant, which produces the Tundra truck.

Tomorrow's Leaders

When you combine strong academics with dedication to community, the end result is leadership. The Toyota Community Scholars program is designed to provide financial support and encouragement to students who demonstrate a commitment to these two important areas.

"The Toyota scholarship not only helped me greatly with college costs, but also gave me the opportunity to meet great students from all over the country and we still keep in touch," said Sarah Grace Epps, 2006 Toyota scholar and student at Furman University in Greenville, S.C. "It opened many doors for me and I had the time of my life at the scholarship recognition weekend."

About Toyota's Education Programs

In addition to sponsoring a number of non-profit educational organizations, Toyota offers three major programs that support teachers with grants and students with scholarships: Toyota TAPESTRY, the largest K-12 science teacher grant program of its kind in the U.S.; Toyota Community Scholars; and the Toyota International Teacher Program. Toyota also supports scholarships through the Hispanic Scholarship Fund; United Negro College Fund; Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation; National FFA; and the American Indian College Fund. In 2006, Toyota USA contributed \$40 million to U.S. philanthropic programs, with a majority of funding supporting education. For more information, visit <http://www.toyota.com/community>.

ETS Scholarship & Recognition Programs (SRP) has been Toyota's administrative partner on the Toyota Community Scholarship program since its inception. A unit of Educational Testing Service, SRP has, for over 50 years, provided administrative and consultative services to corporations, foundations, and other philanthropic organizations seeking to identify academically talented students for scholarship awards and other types of recognition.

ETS, located in Princeton, New Jersey, is a not-for-profit organization with the mission of advancing quality and equity in education by providing fair and valid assessments, research, and related services for all people worldwide.

2nd key figure in DVC grade-change case pleads guilty, is sentenced

Henry K. Lee, Chronicle Staff Writer

Tuesday, November 27, 2007

A second accused mastermind of the grade-changing scandal at Diablo Valley College in Pleasant Hill pleaded no contest Monday to eight felonies and was sentenced to a year in Contra Costa County Jail, a prosecutor said.

Jeremy Tato, 26, entered the pleas before Judge Charles "Ben" Burch of Contra Costa Superior Court after prosecutors agreed not to charge his younger sister for having him change her grades at Los Medanos College, an affiliated community college in Pittsburg, prosecutor Dodie Katague said.

At a hearing in Martinez, the judge said Tato could serve the one-year sentence while under home detention and electronic monitoring.

Tato had been charged with 14 felony counts for helping to oversee a scheme in which student employees in the admissions office at Diablo Valley College accepted thousands of dollars to change the grades of students at that campus and at Los Medanos. Both are part of the Contra Costa Community College District.

John Rodriguez, Tato's attorney, said, "He admits he did this. He admitted this from the very beginning when the police first approached him. He was open, he was honest, and he was responsive to their questions."

Rodriguez said he believed that prosecutors had succumbed to political and media pressure in the case and that charging Tato with eight felony counts was "overkill."

Katague filed criminal charges against 34 current or former students. He said Monday that he is reviewing evidence against 21 other people and that more charges could be filed as early as next week.

Another ringleader, Juan Revilleza, 26, pleaded guilty in September to 15 felonies and agreed to meet with investigators and provide additional information, the prosecutor said.

"We're very satisfied with (Tato's) sentence," Katague said.

The suspects were student employees in the admissions office who made changes on the college's computer, as well as students with low grades who paid to have the changes made, authorities said.

Authorities said as many as 400 grades were changed from 2000 to 2006 in deals that sometimes involved payments of thousands of dollars to Revilleza, Tato and at least two other students who had worked in the admissions office: defendants Erick Martinez and Ronald Nixon. A preliminary hearing for Martinez is scheduled for next week.

Court documents say the grade changes enabled some students to graduate or transfer to four-year universities, including UC Berkeley, UCLA, San Francisco State and San Jose State. One student graduated from UC Santa Barbara.

University of California and California State University officials have said that anyone involved in the scandal could have offers of admission rescinded or degrees revoked.

E-mail Henry K. Lee at hlee@sfchronicle.com.

San Jose Mercury News

Rental services take sting out of costly textbooks

By Lisa M. Krieger

Mercury News

Article Launched: 11/27/2007 01:33:40 AM PST

Faced with escalating textbook prices, college students are applying a lesson from Econ 101 to the book-buying experience: competition.

This is the time of year when students finish final exams and schlep their used books over to the campus bookstore, only to discover that the shiny, near-new Calculus text that cost \$120 only four months ago is now worth \$24.95.

But increasing numbers of students are opting to rent, not buy, through a new Santa Clara-based, Netflix-style textbook rental company.

Others are organizing online book swaps. And online price comparison sites are growing in popularity.

Some students are opting out of textbooks altogether. The Foothill-De Anza Community College District encourages faculty to post course materials online, as a substitute for commercial textbooks.

"The more options that are out there, the better for students," said Danny Katz of California Public Interest Research Group.

Book publishers say they welcome the competition - but caution that it could have the unforeseen consequence of pushing up textbook pricing still further.

As rented and other used books grow in popularity, fewer new books are sold. To recoup their investment, publishers say, they must boost the price of each new book.

"The single biggest factor behind the increased price of new books is used books," said Bruce Hildebrand of the Association of American Publishers.

"Everybody's looking for a bargain," Hildebrand said. "But the used book market is so efficient that the ability to sell new books goes down. So the student saves money up front, but in the process, raises the price of all books."

Critics dismiss that argument, saying that free enterprise could transform the entire industry. Until recently, they charge, the textbook market was about as open and free-wheeling as the bread business in Cuba.

Books set back the average American college student about \$900 a year, according to the federal Government Accountability Office. Prices have risen an average of 6 percent annually for the past two decades - twice the rate of inflation.

The reason is that the buyers - that is, students - don't choose the titles. Professors do. So publishers don't compete for price but for the attention of professors.

Furthermore, most professors assemble their reading lists without regard to price. Publishers aren't required to release wholesale price lists to faculty members - and some even offer faculty incentives for selecting certain texts.

"Colleges serve as the uncompensated marketing arm of the commercial textbook publishers," Hal Plotkin, vice president of Foothill-De Anza's board of trustees, complained to a state Assembly subcommittee last year.

Comparison shopping is tough, because book lists are rarely posted by faculty until school starts.

And to make matters worse, used books are devalued because publishers often update books each year - offering a new edition of *Worldly Philosophers*, for example, even though the critiques of Immanuel Kant haven't changed since the 1780s.

Publishers also "bundle" pricey CDs, workbooks and other bells and whistles with textbooks - a practice akin to Honda adding GPS and aluminum racing pedals to every Civic.

"It doesn't function like a normal market," said CalPIRG's Katz.

Publishers refute that charge, arguing that pricing information is readily available. "PIRG is saying that faculty are too dumb and lazy to find out what a book costs," Hildebrand said. "In fact, the process is totally transparent."

They say that the supplemental materials aren't extra frills but are requested by faculty to help students succeed.

To help solve the problem of high book prices, new textbook rental Web sites such as Chegg.com and Bookrenter.com offer students cheaper alternatives. After the quarter, semester or summer term, students simply mail back a book to the company in a pre-paid package.

Students can use highlighters to mark up rental books - in moderation. And if they love a book, they can keep it, for a price.

Chegg, founded by Santa Clara-based Osman Rashid and Aayush Phumbhra, has more than 250,000 titles stored in a Chicago-area warehouse, ready to be quickly shipped. What it doesn't have, it can quickly get, Rashid said.

Students from 420 universities, including Stanford, Santa Clara University and San Jose State University, use their services, the company says.

"It's pretty helpful if I know I'll just get rid of the book," said Celeste Tom, 22, of Oakland, who is studying biology at Mills College.

She rented "Fundamentals of Conservation Biology" from Chegg for \$35 - half the cost of the \$70 price tag if new, and much cheaper than the normal \$55 if used.

Parents, whose credit cards often bear the brunt of education, represent a large share of book rental customers, according to Chegg's Rashid.

Karen Silva of Redwood City priced out books for her daughter Rayan, a freshman at Cañada College. "Psychology was \$110; math was \$110. Holy Mackerel!"

Renting, she said, "has saved me a bundle - and I don't have to stress out and try to sell them."

The demand by students shows that there is a need for more competitive pricing, Rashid said.

"I understand students' pain, because I went through it myself," said Rashid, who studied electrical engineering and business at the University of Minnesota before moving to Silicon Valley. "I remember holding my head when I discovered it would cost me \$450 for only three books."

And where are those books now? "They're sitting in a box in my garage," he said.

S.F. State is latest school to start naming buildings for donors

Tanya Schevitz, Chronicle Staff Writer

Monday, December 10, 2007

San Francisco State University is ending a long tradition of naming buildings after people connected to the university and for the first time will dedicate a structure to a rich private donor.

It's a sign of leaner financial times and a wave goodbye to the days when a dormitory could be named after a beloved janitor.

The university's planned Mashouf Creative Arts Center will honor Manny Mashouf, an alumnus and founder of the fashion company Bebe, who gave \$10 million toward the project. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2010.

"We have gone from naming them after custodians to looking for donors to name them after," said A. Lee Blich, San Francisco State's vice president of university advancement.

From Cal State Chico to UC Irvine, state universities are increasingly supplementing funding from Sacramento by luring private donations with the promise of naming something after the individual or corporate sponsors.

And they aren't naming just buildings. Classrooms, laboratories and even individual seats in an auditorium are now being named.

With the minimum donation for naming a building generally at one-third to half of the cost of the building, the practice is irresistible to campuses.

Blich believes it will become commonplace at his campus as the enrollment grows by 5,000 students, for a total of 35,000, and development follows a new master plan, calling for construction of 24 buildings by 2020, most of them replacing old facilities.

"With our new master plan, we will have other (naming) opportunities," Blich said.

It's already routine at some of San Francisco State's sister campuses within the California State University system. At nearly every one of its bimonthly meetings, the CSU Board of Trustees adds at least one donor's name to a building on one of its 23 campuses.

California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, for example, has had 16 buildings named for donors since 1993, including 10 in the past three years.

"Because we are not getting enough state money, it is very important. As we look at the cost of these, we have got to raise more money," said Blich.

After San Francisco State, Humboldt State appears to be the last CSU campus without donor-named buildings.

Between 1996 and 2006, the CSU system raised \$468 million in private gifts for capital purposes and its various campuses have named nearly 100 buildings for donors, a practice that began slowly at first, about 15 years ago.

"This is (relatively) new in the public sector," said Claire Van Ummersen, a vice president at the American Council on Education in Washington, D.C., an umbrella group representing thousands of colleges and universities.

"At one time there was an unwritten rule that construction at public colleges and universities would be covered by the state," she said. "In most states, that is one of the areas now where they are cutting back. Institutions are looking for other ways to deal with it."

It's a trend being seen across the country. The University of Colorado Denver, for instance, named several buildings and its entire new health science campus in Aurora after Philip Anschutz after he donated \$91 million to the university over eight years.

"We are definitely seeing that trend as the state funding continues to go down. You can't expect it all to come from the state and taxpayers. It definitely helps to fill the gap," said Tonya Ewers, a spokeswoman for the university.

Within the University of California system, the practice of naming a building in recognition of a gift dates back to the beginning of the 20th century, said UC spokesman Trey Davis.

UC Berkeley's landmark Sather Gate, for one, was named for Peder Sather in 1913, after his wife donated money for its construction.

But later, as the state began fully funding capital projects, the practice waned. Over the past decade, as legislators faced serious financial challenges, the practice has taken off again at UC's 10 campuses.

Since 1998, UC campuses have raised about \$2 billion in private funds for capital projects.

UC officials had no hard numbers for how many buildings have been named for donors, but it's a bunch.

In 2005, for example, UC Irvine received \$36.2 million in donations from 14 donors who had their names put on buildings. This year, Donald Bren Hall was named for the real estate developer who contributed \$20 million to its construction.

Some of the projects, such as those around UC Davis' high-profile Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts, have almost become the public face of the institution.

UC Davis broke ground last week on a new \$20 million, three-story, 40,000-square-foot Graduate School of Management building with technologically advanced classrooms that will be named for Maurice J. Gallagher Jr., the Las Vegas airline millionaire who pledged \$10 million for the project and an endowment for the school.

Gallagher Hall, to open in 2009, will be part of a new public entry to the campus along with the Mondavi center, the Buehler Alumni and Visitors Center and the Robert Mondavi Institute for Wine and Food Science, which are all named for donors. And the campus hopes to attract donors to help with development of an art museum in the same part of campus.

"It is for us one of the most important ways we can thank our donors. We are honored to be able to put people's names on buildings," said Cheryl Brown Lohse, associate vice chancellor for development at UC Davis.

Manny Mashouf said his gift to San Francisco State was a desire to "expand opportunities for students and the public."

"It is essential that we keep cultural resources open to the public," Mashouf said in a news release announcing the gift. "It is important that we invest in our own communities and inspire the next generation to do the same."

At UC Berkeley, officials last month dedicated the \$46.4 million C.V. Starr East Asian Library, which was financed entirely with private contributions from more than 1,000 donors. It is named for the late Cornelius Vander Starr, a UC Berkeley graduate and businessman whose foundation donated \$8 million for the project.

The library's media center will be named for businessman Coleman Fung, also a Cal alum, who donated \$5 million. Hong Kong businessman Henry Fong has the new Rare Book Room named for him.

Many of the other areas of the new library were also named for donors.

While some institutions still do name the occasional building for someone who contributed to the university in another way - such as the veterinary medical building at UC Davis that was recently

named in honor veterinary science Professor William R. Pritchard - that practice is becoming the exception.

"The university's needs are great and state funds will only go so far," said UC spokesman Davis.

"State funding levels that in the past would have been adequate no longer are."



California Crusader News

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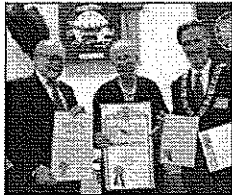
VOL. 23 NO. 94

MULTI-CULTURAL COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

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Community

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ELKS

Community

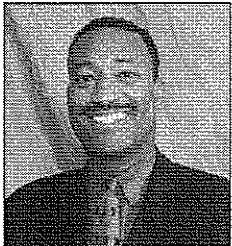
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Spirit of Excellence
Award

Community

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Kim Hunter's
Donation

Sports

Page 6



Player of the Year
Award

CALENDAR SECTION

see page 8

Lax Hilton Cited



LAX Hilton housekeeper Adela Barrientos speaks at a press conference where a landmark citation against the Century Boulevard hotel was announced. The LAX Hilton was cited by CalOSHA for violating the state's repetitive motion law, which seeks to protect workers from ergonomic injuries.

Just In Time For The Holidays: Over 1,200 Families To Benefit From 34th Annual Food Distribution



see HOLIDAYS on page 10

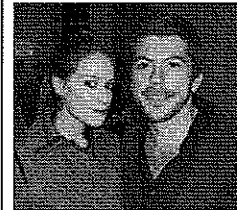
Hawthorne VFW Post



see HAWTHORNE on page 3

VFW members and high school volunteers welcome veterans as they arrive at Hawthorne VFW Post for Thanksgiving luncheon.

The 4th Annual Vallarta Film Festival



Vallarta Film Festival founder, Robert Roessel with director David Ayer

Los Angeles, CA - Angelinos and film buffs were treated to a special event, the introduction of the prestigious 4th Annual Vallarta Film Festival on November 16th, 2007, at the Four Seasons Hotel Los Angeles at Beverly Hills. The Vallarta Film Festival is sponsored by the tourism boards for Mexico's newest destination - see VALLARTA on page 10

Meg Roi's Holiday Drive Continuing through January



Meg Roi

We were able to feed five families for Thanksgiving from Hawthorne and Inglewood last year. I have faith that each year more families in our community will be helped.

As God is blessing you, don't forget to be a blessing to others. We will continue to accept any and all donations and non perishable food. All sponsors will be given recognition for their donations.

see MEG ROI on page 10

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Supplemental Board Information Letter - December 17, 2007

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THE LIGHT

He Restores Your Soul

Today's Scripture

God wants to restore your soul! Your soul is your mind, your will, and your emotions. You are a three-part being: you have a spirit—that's the part of you that lives for eternity, you have a soul, and you have your body while you're here on earth. Your soul is where the enemy tries to wound you and hold you back. Your soul is where you may have brokenness from the past, or hurts and disappointments. When God restores your soul, He brings His healing power to those broken places. He makes you whole again. And when God restores you, He makes you better off than you were before!

I love the picture painted in this verse. Notice that He leads us beside quiet waters. He makes us lie down in green pastures. This is a picture of rest. When we are resting in Him, He is able to do a work in our lives. He is able to bring that restoration. Don't let the busyness of life keep you going so fast that you don't stop and rest. Take time to be still before the Lord and meditate on His Word. As you do, He will restore and heal your soul, and you will live the life of victory God has planned for you!

R&B/Hip-Pop Latin Trio the D.E.Y. Selected as MTV Tr3s 'Descubre & Download' Artist

Exclusive free download of 'Give You the World' available now



New recording artist The D.E.Y., who's sultry R&B vocals ride sabroso hip-pop beats, has been selected as MTV Tr3s "Descubre & Download"

Artist and will get the channel's multiplatform support throughout MTV Tr3s signature programs, MTVTr3s.com, MTV Tr3s Radio, MTV Tr3s Mobile, MTV.com, VOD, and MTV Networks' Rhapsody digital music service. A free download of the trio's Tower of Power inspired "Give You the World" is available exclusively at MTVTr3s.com through January 15th, 2008.

see D.E.Y. on page 10

Cycle World International Motorcycle Show To Take Over Long Beach Convention Center December 7-9

Hundreds of New Street Bikes, Dirt Bikes, ATVs and More

WHAT: The Cycle World International Motorcycle Show® presented by Toyota will cruise into the Long Beach Convention Center as part of a 13-city nationwide series. This show offers attendees an upclose look at hundreds of 2008-model street bikes, dirt bikes, cruisers, ATVs, concept bikes, customs, vintage bikes and more. New on display this year will be a collection of historical record-setting bikes, including the world's fastest motorcycle. Additionally, enthusiasts of all ages will have the opportunity to try out the latest gear and aftermarket accessories, as well as experience action-packed entertainment. From cool custom choppers and tricked

out sportbikes to everything off-road, this show offers something for everyone.

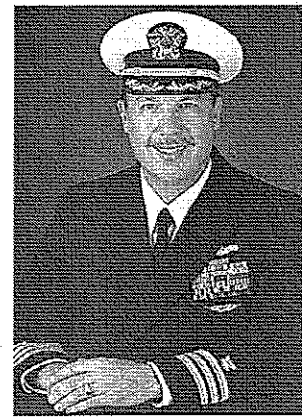
WHEN: Friday, December 7, 4 p.m. – 9 p.m., Saturday, December 8, 9:30am. – 8 p.m., Sunday, December 9, 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

WHERE: Long Beach Convention Center, 300 East Ocean Boulevard, Long Beach, CA 90802

TICKETS Admission to the event is \$13 for adults and \$6 for children 6-11. Children 5 and under are admitted free. Advance tickets are available on the Web at www.motorcycleshows.com.

INFORMATION: www.motorcycleshows.com or 800/331-5706 M SHOW■

Hometown Hero



Navy CDR David R. Sutton has arrived for duty at the Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA) Pratt & Whitney at Canoga Park, Calif.

Sutton will serve as the Commander of DCMA Pratt and Whitney.

Prior to his current assignment, CDR Sutton served at the Naval Support Activity in Naples, Italy. The officer has served in the military for 28 years.

He is the son of Mary J. Sutton of Valleyview Drive, Winder, Ga.

His wife, Espy, is the daughter of Angel Garcia of S. Brannick Ave., Los Angeles, Calif.

The Commander graduated in 1973 from Winder Barrow High School, Winder, and received a bachelor's degree in 1981 from Mercer University, Atlanta, Ga. Sutton earned a master's degree in 1997 from the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, Calif.

Army Pfc. Horacio I. Fuentes has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C.

During the nine weeks of training, the soldier studied the Army mission, history, tradition and core values, physical fitness, and received instruction and practice in basic combat skills, military weapons, chemical warfare and bayonet training, drill and ceremony, marching, rifle marksmanship, armed and unarmed combat, map reading, field tactics, military courtesy, military justice system, basic first aid, foot marches, and field training exercises.

He is the son of Elsy Fuentes of Bronson, Los Angeles, Calif.

Fuentes is a 2007 graduate of Los Angeles High School. ■

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Reality TV Series Hydra Executives; An International Reality TV Show is Coming Soon to a Network Near You

Casting begins next month for New TV Series bringing two countries and 16 entrepreneurs together for First International English Language Reality TV Show filmed in UAE

Hollywood, Calif. & Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE) – Hydra Properties LLC announced today that casting for the first International reality TV series "The Hydra Executives" begins on December 15, 2007 in Hollywood and will feature a cast of budding American and British entrepreneurs to be filmed in Abu Dhabi, but broadcast entirely in English. (Hydra Properties YouTube <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5B62RLEJcEw>) Hydra Properties is hosting a brunch at the Beverly Hilton Hotel, 10 AM, Oasis Room (RSVPs only).

The reality TV series is the brainchild of CEO Sulaiman Al-Fahim, Hydra Properties LLC, a leading Abu Dhabi-based international real estate company and the key backer of the show. Abu Dhabi Tourism Authority and Chamber of Commerce and Industry are also sponsoring the show. According to Fahim around \$5 million would be spent on the first season.

neers, eight Americans and eight Brits, to Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates to compete against each other for 15 weeks," said Al-Fahim. "Contestants will fly to the capital city of Abu Dhabi where they will spend their first 2 weeks in boot camp to learn the art of the real estate deal and how to identify various playing fields. Following this they will be split into two mixed teams to compete in real estate business assignments for a three month period." At the end of the competition one winner will walk away with the grand prize worth \$1 million to set up his or her own style real estate venture.

The executive boardroom-style program is currently being shopped for global distribution in March 2008. It is being produced in association with Showtime Arabia, which is partly owned by Viacom, and Dubai's Infinity TV.

For the full story visit: <http://www.mayocommunications.com/2007NewsReleases/NR-108-2007-HydraExecutivesCasting11-19-07FINAL.htm>

Hydra Properties YouTube <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5B62RLEJcEw>

Supplemental Board Information Letter

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Westchester Elks



Left to right Rich Magyar (Chairman of the Trustees), H Weldon McClintock (Veteran of the Year) and Dan Baccelliere (Exalted Ruler) holding scrolls from Congresswoman Maxine Waters, Supervisor Don Knabe, Councilman Bill Rosendan and the Westside Veterans Memorial Committee.



left to right Rich Magyar in one of his WW I uniforms, Bob Smith (MC and Vice President of Westside Veterans Memorial Committee), Dan Baccelliere (Exalted Ruler wearing his navy uniform from twenty five years ago), Joe Stephanopolis (wearing a WW II pilots uniform), Scott Bixler (Airman USN) and Jean Freeman (Secretary Westside Veterans Memorial Committee) Holding proclamations from Congresswoman Maxine Waters, Supervisor Don Knabe, Councilman Bill Rosendan and the Westside Veterans Memorial Committee

Summer 2008 Internship

INROADS, a international organization that helps place minority youths In competitive internships with Fortune 500 companies, kicks off its 2008 Summer Program Application on August 18, 2007.

Join business leaders and local politicians such as Los Angeles Mayor Villaraigosa, San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders, Long Beach Mayor Bob

Foster and Pasadena Mayor Bill Bogaard on August 18th in celebrating "INROADS DAY," which marks the 2008 Summer Program Application kick-off!

More than 1,000 diverse undergraduates are expected to apply and Compete for the anticipated 150 openings in the 2008 summer program. Interested students can visit www.inroads.org to apply and get a jumpstart on their summer 2008 internship ■

3N1 Christian Business Network presents it's annual Christian Business Mixer on December 1, 2007. Dinner will be served promptly at 5pm.

Guest artist this year will be the Gospel Comedy Slam.

Location: Veteran Hall

4563 W. 131st

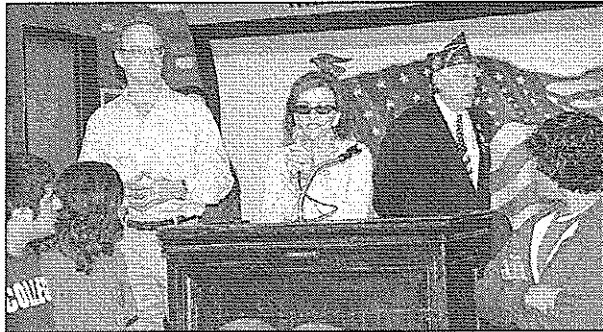
Hawthorne, Ca.

Tickets: \$20.00 (includes dinner)

Contact: (310) 516-6100 Abe Benryhand

Booths also available to showcase business. Call for information. ■

Hawthorne VFW Post from page 1



City council members Ginny Lambert (holding microphone) and Gary Parsons (at left) greet veterans and volunteers.

More than 60 disabled veterans and staff from the Veterans Hospital in Westwood were the guests of Hawthorne Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2075 and Ladies Auxiliary, November 18th, for a Thanksgiving Luncheon. Congresswoman Maxine Waters provided the bus transportation for the veterans and all food and refreshments were do-

minated by VFW members and community volunteers. Several baked turkeys with all the trimmings was donated by HomeTown Buffet in Hawthorne. Fifty volunteers from the Hawthorne High School Rotary Interact Club greeted the veterans and served them their meals. Later everyone enjoyed bingo games and conversation. ■

El Camino College Football Team Honored by Mission Conference

El Camino College Football Head Coach John Featherstone and 16 student-athletes were honored recently by the Mission Conference, a nod to the Warriors' outstanding season in conference play. Quarterback Boo Jackson and Simi Kuli were named offensive and defensive players of the year. Featherstone was voted American Division Coach of the Year.

Other award winners include: Boo Jackson, Tavares Pressley, Corey Surrency, Cedric Mack, Brent McNeil, Jonathan Price, Josh Berard, Simi Kuli, Kaipo Sarkissian, Corey Lattimore, Lamar Chapman, and Chris Williams - First Team All Conference.

Also honored: Jeremy Francis, Patrick Hill, Verran Tucker, and Taylor Wallace - Second Team All Conference. ■

El Camino College Journalism Students Win Top Awards

El Camino College journalism students recently won 27 awards at a competition at California State University, Fullerton, sponsored by the Journalism Association of Community Colleges.

In both mail-in and on-the-spot events, students from the college newspaper and magazine were honored with general excellence honors along with several first-place awards in news writing, column writing, page design, magazine feature and opinion writing and profile coverage. Students from 31 area community colleges attended the event.

El Camino College students honored with first-place awards include: Anna Mavromati, David Saunders, Jeremiah Dobruck, Matt Lopez, Sylvia Madsua, Jaena Cabrera, Nancy Ponder and Sara O'Connell.

The newspaper, the Union, was commended for its coverage of the historic agreement between El Camino College and Compton Center; and for its special pages. The campus magazine, Warrior Life, received many top honors, including a general excellence commendation. The conference followed the student newspaper's first national award of the year; the Oct. 18 edition was named one of the top three "Best in Show" publications at the Associated Collegiate Press Convention in Washington, D.C., where it also received a regional Pacemaker award as one of the top 15 community college newspapers in the nation. Twelve students and two advisers from El Camino College attended the convention.

Editors of the honored publications are Lopez, Dobruck and Saunders. Advisers are Jolene Combs, Lori Medigovich and Kate McLaughlin. ■

Congestive Heart Failure Clinic at South Bay Family Healthcare Center, Inglewood is Saving the Lives of the Uninsured

For Franklin Tse, P.A., at South Bay Family Healthcare Center's (SBFHC) Inglewood facility, Mondays and Wednesdays are his favorite days to work. Those are the days when he is scheduled to follow-up and care for patients who are receiving specialty services for Congestive Heart Failure (CHF).

The CHF clinic, which began over two years ago, has expanded to two days per week and continues to grow. Dr. Wishner, cardiologist from Good Samaritan Hospital, continues to offer his expertise to Franklin and the SBFHC/CHF team. With the assistance of Dr. Wishner, Franklin and the team are able to provide SBFHC patients with intensive specialty care in a primary care setting.

After spending several years of spinning in and out of local emergency room doors, Sam, a 50 year male came to SBFHC through a referral program established by Jann Hamilton Lee, President / CEO. Sam was suffering from Atrial Fibrillation, "where the heart's two small upper chambers (the atria) quiver instead of beating effectively. Blood isn't pumped completely out of them, so it may pool and clot," and because he had no insurance, Sam's care was insufficient. Sam would get an inexpensive medication to relieve the swelling and a release slip to be on his way until his next medical event when he would experience shortness of breath, extreme fatigue and anxiety, due to mismanaged CHF.



When Sam arrived at SBFHC to begin care, he could barely stand or walk. His pulse was elevated and it was very difficult to breathe. Sam also suffered from diabetes and hypertension.

Today, after several months of care with Franklin at SBFHC, Sam is walking daily, his diabetes and hypertension are under control and recently he was able to undergo surgery for a pacemaker. According to Franklin, Sam is "feeling better than ever" and "never thought he would ever feel this good again."

Franklin Tse P.A. expressed great compassion for his CHF patients but is especially proud of Sam's progress. Franklin observed that, "although access to services in our community are limited, SBFHC plays a major role in the medical system and truly makes a difference in health and wellbeing of those in need."

For more information regarding

see HEART on page 10

INGLEWOOD UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

INGLEWOOD COMMUNITY ADULT SCHOOL
106 E. Manchester - Inglewood, CA 90301 - (310) 330-5225 - Fax: (310) 330-5218

"Serving the community with personalized learning programs"

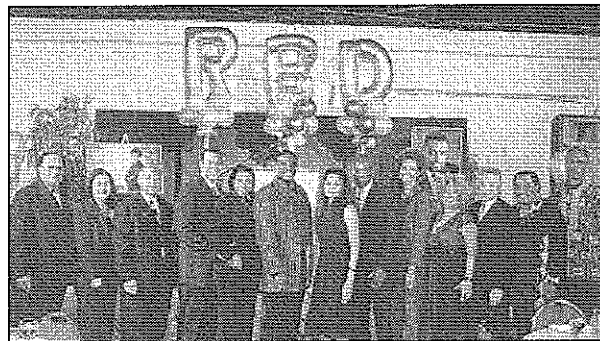
| | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Adult High School /GED | Business and Computer Technology |
| Adult Basic Education | Independent Study |
| Foreign Language | Citizenship |
| Older Adults | Parent Education |
| Adults with Disabilities | Family Literacy |
| English as a Second Language | Income Tax Preparation |
| Vocational Education | Cosmetology |

Driver Education/Court Referrals

Who may enroll?
Adults 18 and over may enroll in any classes offered by the school.
High school students, 9-12 grades, with the permission of their counselor and

Lacy Alexander, Principal **Cost? Free or minimal**

R B D 20th Anniversary



Winners of the Positive Side Awards:

Pastor L. Craig Hays, Crenshaw Christian Center-Joan N. Kerr Dir. of Supplier Diversity AT&T - Rev. Eric P. Lee, So. Christian Leadership Conference of L.A.- Chis & Katrina Schauble - Keith David, Emmy Award Winning Actor - ACT- 1 Group CEO, Janice Howroyd, The Queen of Business, spoke about the Late Muhammad A. Nassardeen. -Tanya Walters of GodParents Youth Org. unnamed man, - Jeanette Davis-Brown, J'nette's Quality Cleaners - Elbert T. Hudson Chairman Emeritus Broadway Federal - Earl "Skip" Cooper, II, Black Business Assn. of L.A. - Dr. Paul Goss, New Body, Inc. The Hon. Mervyn Dymally received the First Political Award; he however was in Washington D.C. attending the funeral of Augustus Hawkins. www.rbdmedia.net join today

Photo by P.A. Edmead Jr.

We will not forget Muhammad's birthday. Last November 15th Recycling Black Dollars had its Positive Side Awards and Dinner remembrance. The theme is Honoring our Past for a Better Future. Willie J. Fann is talking the helm as Interim Director of R.B.D. Communications, Inc. he also offers spe-

cial thanks to Leon and Mattie Garr Foundation and family for offering his hall for the awards and dinner.

The facility is available for the public which can hold 400 persons located at 51st and Western. R.B.D. wants to break the cycle of only 1 out of 67 blacks has a business. These are the awardees,

Spirit of Excellence Award



Dr. Frederick K.C. Price and Dr. Betty Price stand next to Pat wife of Pastor L. Craig Hays, who was honored with the Dr. Frederick K.C. Price "Spirit of Excellence Award"
He is currently Sr. V.P. and Administrative Pastor of Crenshaw Christian Center.
Photo by P.A. Edmead Jr.

Rosa Parks Villas

On Friday November 30, Ward Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) will break and bless the ground for the Rosa Parks Villas; a 60 unit apartment complex for low and very low income seniors, age 62+ who can live independently. "What is historic about this ground blessing," explained Jacquelyn Dupont-Walker, President of the WEDC, "is that it will take place one day before the 52nd anniversary that Mother Rosa Parks decided she would no longer suffer the indignity of segregation and refused to give up her seat on a public bus in Birmingham, Alabama." December 1, 1955 is forever marked as the start of the modern civil rights movement in America and a pivotal point for human rights in world history.

At 9:30 am on November 30th, WEDC plans to make history, again,

see ROSA on page 10



Rep. Watson Honors Veterans And Iraq Troops



Congresswoman Diane E. Watson (D-LA) honored fallen heroes of the 33rd District, Monday, November 12, 2007 at Holman United Methodist Church. Congresswoman Watson emphasized how government can prevent veterans from being left behind. The Congresswoman spoke of the transition from the battle field to the working world.

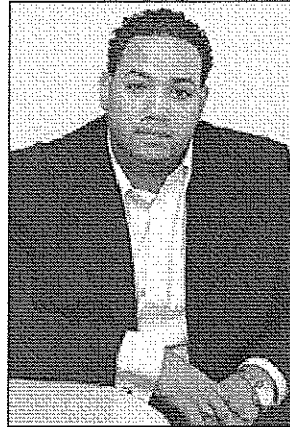
"For it is the true patriot that does not forget our brave men and women who have fought to defend our nation once they take off their uniforms and re-enter the civilian world," said Rep. Watson.

Keynote speaker James Maddox, President, Vietnam Veterans of America, put a title on many of the mental health conditions that veterans suffer after seeing the aftermath of bombs, destruction, and death unfold before their eyes. Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Director of

the Veterans Administration, Leslie Marin confirmed the longer a Veteran awaits diagnosis the longer the treatment.

The Congresswoman reassured veterans, media, and onlookers in attendance that the needs of veterans are recognized. The House of Representatives and Senate passed the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Spending Bill. Under this bill an additional \$600 million dollars will be allotted for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Brain Injury. In addition, Congresswoman Watson introduced the Jose Medina Veterans Affairs Act. This bill will provide training for veteran affairs police officers who deal with the mentally ill on veteran's grounds. "We must assure that every Veteran is treated with dignity and respect", said Watson. ■

MeMedia(TM) Announces Launch of MeMedia Latino



New Premium Ad Network Targeting Hispanic Internet Users

MeMedia Latino will enable advertisers to reach the Hispanic community across a wide network of software, website and mobile publishers. Utilizing MeMedia's contextual and behavioral targeting capabilities, MeMedia Latino will deliver premium inventory to advertisers and enable publishers to maximize revenue opportunities across a wide variety of digital media.

MeMedia Latino is lead by Eric Frias, who has extensive experience in traditional and new media. Prior to MeMedia Latino, Eric founded Truth Media Interactive, a large multicultural video advertising network, which catered to the Hispanic, African American, Asian, Gay/Lesbian and other niche markets.

"Up until now, the Hispanic market has been underserved in terms of technology and advertising representation. MeMedia Latino is addressing this gap by providing best-in-class technology for the Hispanic focused publisher base and providing advertisers with highly targeted advertising solutions to reach the growing Hispanic population," says Eric Frias, VP MeMedia Latino.

"MeMedia Latino offers advertisers an unprecedented opportunity to target powerful brand messages and direct marketing campaigns to Hispanic consumers," says Chirag Patel, President and CEO of MeMedia. "We are extremely excited about this emerging market opportunity and to position MeMedia as a recognized leader in the Latino vertical." ■

Morongo Indians



Members of the Morongo Band of Mission Indians deliver 600 turkeys to the Los Angeles Mission Monday as part of a larger donation to charities in the Southland. The organization donated nearly 8000 turkeys to charities this year. The Los Angeles Mission will use the turkeys for holiday dinners for the homeless.

Christmas Boutique/Business Fair

On Saturday, December 8, 2007 the St. Brigid Catholic Church Business Association, 5214 So. Western Avenue, will hold its annual Christmas Boutique/Business Fair. The event will begin at 12 Noon and close at 5:00 p.m. Many wonderful vendors will be available, as well as food, music and information. For further information contact Annette Lockett (323) 294-2183 or Gladys Harris (310) 898-2015. ■

Rebuilding Together Greater Los Angeles, Sears and Kmart Partner to Improve the Lives of Military Families at Home

Local WWII Military Veteran Benefits from the Heroes at Homesm Program

On Saturday, December 1, 2007, more than 50 volunteers from the Los Angeles Area Sears and Kmart stores and Rebuilding Together groups will help renovate the home of Alphonso Johnson, a 78-year old retired Army veteran. The project is part of Heroes at Homesm a partnership between Rebuilding Together and Sears Holdings Corporation. Heroes at Home strives to improve the lives of active and retired military families in need across America by making necessary repairs, improvements or modifications to their homes.

Rebuilding Together and the Sears and Kmart volunteers will wrap up a month-long project led by skilled labor provided by the SARES Regis Group to repair and modify the home of World War II veteran, Alphonso Johnson, so he can continue to live there independently for many years to come. The bathroom will be ADA compliant. A new forced air heating/cooling system is being installed. There'll be new flooring throughout, a new roof and a completely new kitchen with improved

accessibility. This project, on 111th Street in South Los Angeles, is also is the first for the new Rebuilding Together affiliate formed to meet the home repair and modification needs of low-income homeowners in the Greater Los Angeles area.

For more information, visit Sears Holdings' website at www.searsholdings.com. ■

Need A Job?

Attention High School Seniors and College Students Living in Inglewood, Hawthorne, Lawndale, or El Segundo

West Basin Municipal Water District Internship:

(Hawthorne.Lawndale.and

ElSegundo.Residents.Only)

- Do you have strong public speaking & presentation skills?
- Would you like to educate students on water conservation?
- If **WIA eligible**, Make \$8.00/hour as an intern conducting tours and public information presentations.

Call Ms. Lopez or Ms. Golden

THE ROVING



SPOTLIGHT ON EYE

'Quit Digging your Grave with a Knife and Fork'



Dr. Soraly Servera, medical scientific director at Novo Nordisk, agrees that this book is the first step to making permanent changes to start living a healthy life.

After his personal success at shedding 100-plus pounds, he has found a platform to share his secrets to creating better health habits in his book, *Quit Digging Your Grave with a Knife and Fork*.

Novo Nordisk, a world leader in diabetes care, has translated 35,000 copies of this best-selling book into Spanish and is giving it away for free on their newly launched diabetes educational website, Cambiar-

LaDiabetes.com. The highly motivational and witty book has won bi-partisan praise from former President Bill Clinton and Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger who called Huckabee's lifestyle change, "a model for our nation as we fight an obesity epidemic."

"Diabetes is an incurable disease and urgent health problem that disproportionately affects Hispanics, but with the proper knowledge and care, people can learn to manage their diabetes and lead a full and active life," said Dr. Soraly Servera, medical scientific director at Novo Nordisk. "This book will take the first step, by providing readers with an easy-to-follow approach that is not focused on losing weight, but on making permanent changes to start living a healthy life."

Novo Nordisk is a healthcare company with an 84-year history of innovation and achievement in diabetes care. The company has the broadest diabetes

product portfolio in the industry, including the most advanced products within the area of insulin delivery systems. In addition to diabetes care, Novo Nordisk has a leading position within areas such as hemostasis management, growth hormone therapy, and hormone therapy for women. Novo Nordisk's business is driven by the Triple Bottom Line: a commitment to economic success, environmental soundness, and social responsibility to employees and customers. With headquarters in Denmark, Novo Nordisk employs more than 23,600 employees in 79 countries, and markets its products in 179 countries. Novo Nordisk's B shares are listed on the stock exchanges in Copenhagen and London. Its ADRs are listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol 'NVO'. For global information, visit <http://www.novonordisk.com>; for United States information, visit <http://www.novonordisk-us.com>. ■

SPORTS

Latino Achievement in Baseball



Representatives of Diageo, Latino Baseball.com and SFJ Distributors (representing CITGO) presented the Player of the Year Award to Alex Rodriguez of the New York Yankees

"We're so proud to honor these incredible athletes who have not only changed the sport, but inspired millions of fans across the globe."

The first ceremony took place at the Florida Marlins' Pro-Player Stadium, followed by events at Texas Rangers Stadium in Arlington, Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles, Houston Astros' Minute Maid Park, and New York Yankee Stadium. The final award ceremony was held in Chicago at the White Sox's U.S. Cellular Field.

During each ceremony, Latino baseball legends of the past were honored through a special video presentation displayed on the scoreboard. Many of the stadiums also featured live musical performances throughout the presentation. ■

Governor, Mayors, Baseball Dignitaries Celebrate Groundbreaking For Spring Training Facility



In the attached photo, Dodger broadcaster Charley Steiner, Dodger Owner and Chairman Frank McCourt, Dodger President and Vice Chairman Jamie McCourt, Hall of Fame broadcasters Vin Scully and Jaime Jarrin and Dodger Vice President of Spring Training and Minor League Facilities Craig Callan at the groundbreaking of the team's new Spring Training home, to be built in Glendale, AZ. Photo credit: Jon SooHoo/Dodgers

With the words "play ball" announced by Dodger Hall of Fame broadcaster Vin Scully, the cities of Glendale and Phoenix broke ground on the Cactus League's newest Spring Training facility. In addition to Mr. Scully, dignitaries on hand for the much anticipated event included Governor Janet Napolitano, Mayor

Scruggs and Mayor Gordon, Dodger Owners and Chairman Frank McCourt, Dodger Vice Chairman and President Jamie McCourt, Chicago White Sox Owner Jerry Reinsdorf, Dodger Hall of Fame broadcaster Jaime Jarrin, Dodger broadcaster Charley Steiner and White Sox General Manager Ken Williams. ■

BWLA of L.A. Hosted by KJLH



The Black Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles had their annual Thanksgiving Eve Cocktail Sip at The Millennium Biltmore Hotel on Grand Avenue last week. There was a good time for every one. Live jazz music, vendors, silent auction, casino games with money going to charity and dance contest. The crowd of a thousand plus participated in the superman dance contest. The winners are from left to right, standing next to KJLH radio personality Guy Black 3rd place winner Sabrina Porhía of Monrovia, 1st place Mr. Day Ivey of Torrance, Ms. Tamara Binns of Norwalk captured the number 3 spot, and Kee Johnson of Lakewood took home 4th in a very long run off co judged by KJLH with the finalist determined by the Apollo way. Andre Russer another radio personality rounds off the contestants

Photo by P.A. Edmead Jr

Back By Popular Demand Black College Expo Returns For 9th Year



The highly anticipated 9th Annual Black College Expo (BCE) returns by popular demand to Los Angeles Saturday December 15, 2007 at the Los Angeles Convention Center, 1201 S. Figueroa Street from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. An after show, hosted by MTV's "My Super Sweet 16" star Darnell, will follow from 4 to 6 p.m. Thousands of students and parents from within the greater Los Angeles area are expected to take part in this comprehensive college "Infotainment" fair. The day provides ample opportunities for aspiring students to meet with historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) and other institutions to interact

with exhibitors and attend workshops.

Attendees will acquire pertinent information about the college admission process, college preparation, SAT and/or ACT scores, could be accepted on the spot and receive immediate notification on scholarships valued as high as \$100,000. There is also a Career Center with information about careers and internships. "We're always excited to return home to Los Angeles, site of our inaugural Expo in 2000. We really appreciate the strong support we receive from the area's educators and community leaders. Providing these pathways is just the first step as we try to make college a reality for more of our youth," says BCE Founder, Theresa Price.

Black College Expo, through its non-profit foundation Black College Resources, has awarded close to \$300,000 in scholarships to date. As the activities in the exhibit area and the scholarship presentations draw to a close, the late afternoon entertainment portion will

begin, featuring step-show competitions and prominent performers.

The Black College Expo visits seven cities annually including Los Angeles, Oakland, Atlanta, Chicago, Houston, Washington, D.C. and New York. National sponsors for the 2007-2008 Black College Expo include: Wells Fargo, Nix Check Cashing, California State School System, Fed Ex, Washington Mutual, Union Bank, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Dept., US Army, Universal Music, Capitol/EMI Records, Black Enterprise, Aerospace Corporation, Upscale Magazine, Internal Revenue Service, KFC/Yum! Brands, Union Bank, CVS/Pharmacy, Student Funding Group, Safeway, Sallie Mae Fund, Soft & Beautiful Botanicals, Motions and Boost Mobile.

For additional information about the BCE, ticket sales, scholarship program, or exhibitor and sponsorship opportunities, please contact the Black College Expo at: (877) 427-4100 or please visit our website at: www.blackcollegeexpo.com. ■

Yvonne B. Burke And Department Of Parks And Recreation Sponsor Youth Tennis Clinic For 750 Youth At Home Depot Center



The event was developed in 2005 by Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke with a goal to introduce tennis as a healthy team sport for youth in the Second Supervisorial District. Since 2005 more than 35 County of Los Angeles Parks have initiated youth tennis programs, including outdoor tennis, indoor tennis and modified tennis for those with physical disabilities. ■

27th Annual Business and Industry Job Shadow Day

On Thursday, February 21, 2008, the Inglewood/Airport Area Chamber of Commerce will host our 27th Annual Business and Industry Job Shadow Day for area high school students.

Job Shadow Day gives our young people the ability to "test drive" a career of their choice for a day, to determine whether or not to pursue that career after graduating from high school. This has proven to be an invaluable resource for students in our community.

For more info: 310-677-1121 ■

Kim L. Hunter Donates African American Art Collection



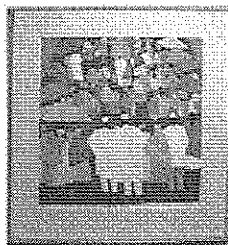
Kim L. Hunter

LOS ANGELES –Business and community leader, Kim L. Hunter, has donated a portion of his African American art collection to the California African American Museum Art and Library Collections. A total of 11 items are part of the gift including: an illustrated book by Jacob Lawrence titled "Genesis: The First Book of Moses, called Genesis... The King James Version," "Benin Man" by Doris Dawn, "Mask" by Leonard Stecker, and eight prints by Syn-

thia Saint James, "Legacy," "Seaside Market," "Nigerian Market Place" and a series of five drawings titled "Young People & Children Playing."

"It is a privilege to be able to share with the African American community some of the pieces that have influenced my appreciation for the arts," said Kim L. Hunter, president/CEO of LAGRANTCOMMUNICATIONS. "Also, I am proud to have the opportunity to expose more African Americans to the great works created by these talented and celebrated artists."

Perhaps the most celebrated of the artists included in Mr. Hunter's donation is Jacob Lawrence. A student of several notable Harlem Renaissance artists, Lawrence is considered one of the best-known African American painters of the twentieth century. Whether in print or in



a painting, his work depicted the history and struggle of African Americans and invoked in blacks a sense of pride, accomplishment, and hope for their future. His painting, "The Builders," was purchased by The White House Historical Association for \$2.5 million and is currently showing in The White House Green Room. Only 400 original copies of Lawrence's book "Genesis..." were printed and the copy donated by Mr. Hunter is number 21 in that series.

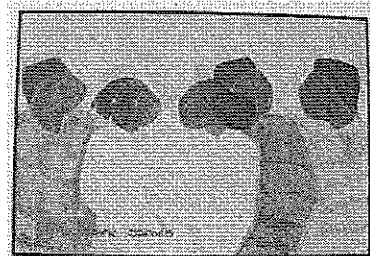
"We are delighted to add



these wonderful contributions to our permanent and library collections," said Charmaine Jefferson, executive director of CAAM. "The works in our museum tell many stories about black history so it is truly a joy to feature artists like Jacob

Lawrence in our collection. We appreciate Mr. Hunter and look forward to sharing his gifts with our visitors."

Mr. Hunter's donation will be displayed in two sections of CAAM, the Visual Arts Collection and as part of the Library Collection. The California African American Museum is located in Exposition Park at 600 State Drive, Los Angeles, California 90037 and is open Tuesday – Saturday from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., and Sundays 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. For more information, visit www.caamuseum.org or call (213) 744-2050. ■



Calendar

CONCERT & MUSIC



DISNEY ON ICE PRINCESS WISHES
 Tuesday, December 25 Through Sunday, December 30
 At Honda Center, Anaheim CA
 For more info 714-704-2500



ANDREA BOCELLI
 December 15 2007 8:00 pm
 Honda Center Anaheim CA
 For more info 714-704-2500



Ying Yang Twins Holiday Show
 December 21st Key Club West Hollywood 310-786-1712



TWISTA
 January 17th Key Club West Hollywood 310-786-1712



KOTTONMOUTH
 January 18 th Key Club West Hollywood 310-786-1712

COMMUNITY

INTRODUCTION TO HUNA, ANCIENT QUANTUM PHYSICS FOR OUR MODERN WORLD
 Dr. Matthew B. James Teaches the Ancient Hawaiian Wisdom of Huna November 30 to December 2, 2007
WHO: President of American Pacific University, Dr. Matthew B. James has direct lineage to Hawaiian Huna masters. Known world-wide as a "trainer of trainers," he teaches thought leaders and people seeking change to make more money, improve relationships and nourish health through the art of Huna, Hawaiian quantum physics, considered the most ancient science in the world.

WHAT: Dr. James is leading a three-day introductory seminar. There is no cost.

WHEN: Friday, November 30, 2007 through Sunday, December 2, 2007

Time: 10am - 6pm Friday, Saturday, and Sunday
WHERE: Hilton Los Angeles Airport 5711 West Century Blvd Los Angeles, CA 90045 310-410-4000 (for directions only)

TOWN HALL LUNCHEON

featuring Los Angeles City Council member Jan Perry The Council member will address GLAAACC members and associates regarding the new Downtown Los Angeles developments, as well as small business opportunities surrounding the development. \$40 for non-members | \$25 for members
 Please RSVP by Friday November 30, 2007 to the GLAAACC office at 323.292.1297 or by emailing to info@glaaacc.org
VALET PARKEING ONLY - \$9.00



Performances take place in venues across Los Angeles Nov. 29 Through dec. 30 2007. At the mailbu performing arts center : Los angeles ballet coartistic directors colleen neary and thordal christensen audition young hopefuls from all over los angeles vying for a minor role in los angeles ballet's second annual production of the nutcracker. Performances take place in venues across los angeles nov. 29 Through dec. 30 2007. For tickets and more information, please visit losangeles-ballet.Org. Reed Hutchinson

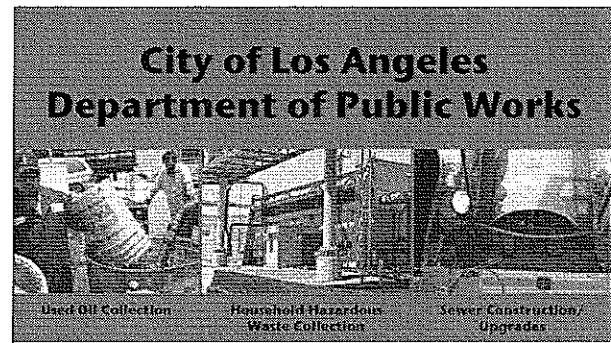
CENTER FOR HEALTHY AGING TRANSITIONS GROUP

CHA Thursdays 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.
 Ongoing Newly formed weekly support group for people

50 to 65 who are struggling with decisions brought on by divorce, empty nest, retirement, and career change. Getting feedback can help untangle dilemmas and create new possibilities. Join with others to share feelings and ideas to create new paths. Sliding scale fee. Not a drop-in group. Free parking. Call Sheila Segal: 310 / 576- 2550, ext. 373 Center for Healthy Aging 2125 Arizona Avenue Santa Monica

THE CATALINA JAZZ CLUB PRESENTS GREG WALKER.....

DEC 6 @ 8:30 PM
TICKETS: \$20
 Doors open at 7 PM for dinner Call 323.466.2210 today to make your reservations the club requires dinner or a 2 drink minimum, but everyone needs to make a reservation. The price of the ticket



City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works

We're not just a service. We're a promise kept!

At Public Works, we value clean communities, and we know you do too. Help us help you!



Call 3-1-1

City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works

Call Here And Save Me!

Call 3-1-1 for services

Used Oil Collection

Recycle and reuse used oil! Call 3-1-1 or visit www.factly.org/san/solid_resources/special/hhw/usa_oil.htm for more information.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

A free, safe and legal way to dispose of unwanted household chemicals is just a phone call away! Call 3-1-1 or visit www.factly.org/san/solid_resources/special/hhw/collection_schedule.htm for more information.

Sewer Construction/Upgrades

Notice sewer odors? Call 3-1-1 right away! By doing so, you help maintain a healthy environment for our growing city. Log onto www.lasewer.org for more information.

Helping to Beautifully L.A. one community at a time!



will be added to your food & drink check. Reservations are required and space is limited. This show will sell out quickly! Catalina Jazz Club 6725 Sunset Boulevard Hollywood California 90028

TOWN HALL LUNCHEON FEATURING

Los Angeles City Councilmember Jan Perry The Councilmember will address GLAAACC members and associates regarding the new Downtown Los Angeles developments, as well as small business opportunities surrounding the development. \$40 for non-members | \$25 for members
 Please RSVP by Friday November 30, 2007 to the GLAAACC office at 323.292.1297 or by emailing to info@glaaacc.org
VALET PARKEING ONLY - \$9.00

Introduction to Huna, Ancient Quantum Physics for our Modern World

Dr. Matthew B. James Teaches the Ancient Hawaiian Wisdom of Huna November 30 to December 2, 2007
WHO: President of American Pacific University, Dr. Matthew B. James has direct lineage to Hawaiian Huna masters. Known world-wide as a "trainer of trainers," he teaches thought leaders and people seeking change to make more money, improve relationships and

nourish health through theart of Huna, Hawaiian quantum physics, considered the most ancient science in the world.

WHAT: Dr. James is leading a three-day introductory seminar. There is no cost.

WHEN: Friday, November 30, 2007 through Sunday, December 2, 2007

Time: 10am - 6pm Friday, Saturday, and Sunday
WHERE: Hilton Los Angeles Airport 5711 West Century Blvd Los Angeles, CA 90045 310-410-4000 (for directions only)

HOPE IN ACTION FOOD PANTRY

Mondays, 6:30-8:00 p.m., Wednesdays & Fridays, 9:00 a.m.-12 noon and 1:00-4:00 p.m. Located at Hope Chapel, 2420 Pacific Coast Hwy, Hermosa Beach. For more information call Hope in Action at 310-374-4673.

JR. HIGH YOUTH GROUP (Cornerstone)

Thursdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Hope Chapel, 2420 Pacific Coast Hwy, Hermosa Beach. Free admission. For more information call 310-374-4673.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP (Fusion)

Tuesdays, 7:00-9:00 p.m. at Hope Chapel, 2420 Pacific Coast Hwy, Hermosa Beach. Free admission. For more information call 310-374-4673.

Writers Strike still On



Once again, they've stopped talking. After two nights of marathon negotiating sessions, the League of American Theatres and Producers and Local One stagehands' union have walked away from the table without reaching an agreement. A third round of negotiations has been scheduled for 10 a.m. Wednesday (Nov. 28), but for now, Broadway stagehands have returned to the

picket lines, and 26 plays and musicals will remain shut down. Now in its 18th day, the strike has cost New York City an estimated \$100 million in lost income.


Neither side will elaborate on the specific sticking points, but insiders say the issue of "load-in" — i.e. how many stagehands are required to physically bring a show into a theater — has been solved. ■

Shari, Jermaine And Crystal Move Closer To The Title, But Only One Will Become 'Sunday Best'



On last night's episode of BET's SUNDAY BEST, the 'final four' became three as Emily Gomez of American Falls, Idaho learned that her journey had come to an end. Now only three finalists remain as Crystal Aikin (Tacoma, Washington), Jermaine Sellers (Joliet, Illinois) and Shari Addison (Chicago, Illinois) strive for the title SUNDAY BEST. In addition, Pastor Shirley

Ceasar gave her rousing brand of anointed praise, as she mentored the final three hopefuls, each vying for the top spot on the hottest competition on television. At stake is a national recording contract, a 2008 Toyota Camry, a Tide prize package worth more than \$300,000 to support the winner's community, and of course, the title...SUNDAY BEST. ■



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HOLIDAYS from page 1

Each deserving family will receive a full bag of groceries and a \$75 Gift Certificate

As it has done now for 34 years, Nix Check Cashing, through its non-profit Community Outreach Foundation collaborated with long-time corporate sponsors to brighten the holidays for some 1,200 deserving local families.

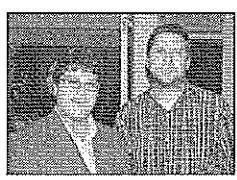
WHO: Watts Community Activist "Sweet" Alice Harris will join over 1,200 families, local elected officials, staffs representing 35 community-based non-profit organizations, over 100 volunteers from corporate sponsors, including Nix Check Cashing, Kinecta Federal Credit Union, MoneyGram, the L.A. County Dept. of Parks & Recreation and special guests. (Note: Recipient families and participants will be available for interviews) corporate sponsors and volunteers)

As the company has done every year, Mahatma Rice will donate one-pound bags of rice and Mrs. Cubbison's Food, Inc. will donate boxes of stuffin' mix. Each family will receive a full bag of groceries and a \$75

Gift Certificate redeemable at Ralphs/Food 4 Less.

Nix Check Cashing operates one of the largest and most successful check cashing facilities in California, with a loyal customer base of 600,000. For over 41 years, Nix has quietly given back to the community with support of local community-based organizations and programs, and through its ongoing policy of hiring from within the community. ■

VALLARTA from page 1



tion, Riviera Nayarit and Puer to Vallarta .

The Film Festival's founders, Robert Roessel and Maria Jose Zorrilla presented news on the event to members of the media. Celebrities who attended the event included Alicia Bachleda-Cunús who stars in Trade a film produced by Roland Emmerich and Rosilyn Heller, directed by Marco Kreuzpaintner and starring Kevin Kline. Trade is one of the feature films that will be screened at the Vallarta Film Festival alongside the Helen Hunt directorial debut, Then She Found Me. Director David Ayer whose film credits include Harsh Times with Christian Bale and Freddy Rodriguez and the upcoming The Night

Watchman with Keanu Reeves was also among the star-studded cast of attendees.

The Vallarta Film Festival takes place this year from December 5th - 9th with various screenings and parties taking place in Riviera Nayarit and Puerto Vallarta . One of Mexico 's most acclaimed film festivals, the Film Festival was founded by Robert James Roessel and Maria Jose Zorrilla with co-founders, the Academy Award winning actress, Anjelica Huston and Danny Huston (The Constant Gardener, The Aviator).

For more information please visit: <http://www.vallartafilmfestival.com> ■

MEG ROI from page 1

Please fax or mail a letter regarding yourself or someone who needs help during this holiday season.Fax: 310.679.3228Attn: Keyshia CCN Address: 11633 Hawthorne Blvd. Suite 211 Hawthorne ,California 90250. ■

D.E.Y. from page 2

"The D.E.Y is perfect for our 'Descubre & Download' platform, which is designed to help MTV Tr3s viewers discover new artists that embody the experience of young Latinos. The D.E.Y.'s bilingual mix of Hip Hop/R&B and Pop all woven together with a Latin feel makes them a unique artist, like none in the marketplace today. They have it all - great songs, great voices and great looks. ■

HEART from page 4

the CHF Clinic at South Bay Family Healthcare Center in Inglewood, please call 310-802 6170 for an appointment. The CHF Clinic is available Mondays and Wednesdays. Taxi vouchers are available upon request for those without transportation. Please feel free to visit our official website at WWW.SBHFC.ORG.

In addition, South Bay Family Healthcare Center provides health education outreach to community based organizations. For more information please call Ehren Thompson at 310-257-3563 or email at ehren.thompson@providence.org. ■

ROSA from page 4

by continuing their legacy of being a solution to LA's problem of affordable housing. Rosa Parks Villas was first envisioned by celebrated litigator, entertainment and civil rights attorney Leo Branton, Jr., and will be the third development project undertaken by the non-profit organization. The idea is certainly not too soon in arriving. According to a March 2005 survey taken by the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) transportation and housing were the top two issues of concern in Los Angeles, with 64 percent of respondents ranking housing affordability as a "big problem."

LA City Councilman Herb Wesson of the 10th District, in whose district the construction will begin, enthusiastically supports the Rosa Parks Villas project. ■

28th Blue Jay Parade



Join us in celebrating the 28th Annual Blue Jay Christmas Parade, December 1, 2007. The parade will step off at 2:00 p.m. Over 30 entries will present "Winter Wonderland", and pay tribute to our Mountain Heroes. Every type of entry from our award winning Rim of the World Fighting Scots Marching band, to Jensen's' who has won an award for 5 years straight, will thrill our audience. Entertainment provided by the Blue Jay DJ and Christmas Stew. Come early for the best parking and seating, the road from Hwy 189 and Daley Canyon to North Bay will close at 1:00 PM, Sharp!

Children will follow Santa to Coldwell Banker Sky Ridge Realty for the traditional treats and talks with Santa.

At 5:00 p.m., the Blue Jay Tree Lighting Ceremony will take place. For more information on the tree lighting, please call 909-337-8463. ■

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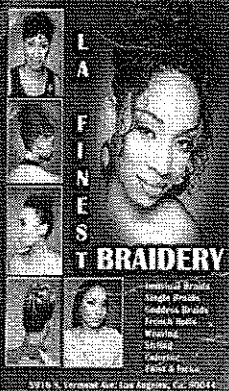
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