FOR THE WEEKS OF JUNE 13—26, 2007

In Progress
Kristen Habbestad is working with designer Margo Winners to update all print ads to advertise the fall 2007 semester.

Coverage


*Whittier Daily News*—May 28, 2007—Short article on the appointment of a new member to the Cerritos College Foundation Board (from press release).

*Bellflower Bulletin*—June 2007—Front-page mention of summer session classes at Cerritos College (from press release).

*Bellflower Bulletin*—June 2007—Info box in calendar regarding “Play’s Anatomy” performances at Cerritos College (from press release).

*Whittier Daily News*—June 2, 2007—Article about an art program for local elementary school children, mentioning that a mother of one of the students plans to enroll her child in a summer art class at Cerritos College

*Whittier Daily News*—June 2, 2007—Brief about “Play’s Anatomy” performances at Cerritos College

*Norwalk Community News*—June 8, 2007—Short article on upcoming “Concert on the Grass” to be held in Falcon Square

Related News
Los Angeles Times—June 14, 2007—Short article regarding Cypress College’s naming of a new president

Los Angeles Times—June 16, 2007—Article about firebombs found on the campus of UC Riverside

Los Angeles Times—June 17, 2007—Article about an arrest of a former UC Riverside student in connection with the bombs found on the campus

Los Angeles Times—June 17, 2007—Article about an online high school created by Stanford University specifically for gifted students

Long Beach Press-Telegram—June 21, 2007—Article about a cut in funding for the Long Beach Unified School District, caused by a drop in enrollment

Long Beach Press-Telegram—June 21, 2007—Article about the large monetary amount of scholarships won by graduating seniors in the Long Beach Unified School District this year

Long Beach Press-Telegram—June 21, 2007—Article about ABC Unified School District receiving a grant totaling almost $300,000 from the federal government to teach students languages deemed critical to national security (Arabic, Chinese, Farsi, etc.)

Long Beach Press-Telegram—June 23, 2007—Article on the diverse views on various topics held by candidates vying for 37th congressional district seat in the June 26 special election.

Los Angeles Times—June 24, 2007—Article on Gene Block, University of Virginia provost who is about to become chancellor of UCLA
Cerritos College Auto Program Receives Chrysler Award

Program is Praised for Outreach to Students and Performance in Certified Training

NORWALK, CA -- June 18, 2007 -- Richard Aragon, Cerritos College auto technology instructor and co-ordinator for the campus' DaimlerChrysler College Automotive Program (CAP), recently accepted DaimlerChrysler's "Outstanding Achievement and Superior Outreach" award on behalf of the college. DaimlerChrysler presented the award during a conference June 5-7 at the DaimlerChrysler Academy headquarters near Detroit in Auburn Hills, Michigan.

The award recognizes Cerritos College's establishment and management of the Automotive Career Institute (ACI), which has enrolled and trained automotive students from area high schools through the Southeast Regional Occupation Program since 2005.

"We appreciate everything that Cerritos College does to help our dealers develop their next generation of employees," said Michael Collins, national manager for Career and Technical Education at DaimlerChrysler Academy, as he presented the award.

Cerritos College's ACI program allows students at Cerritos College to gain experience servicing Chrysler, Dodge and Jeep vehicles through DaimlerChrysler's College Automotive Program (CAP). During the two-year program, students take part in classroom learning and gain hands-on internship experience at local dealerships--something that has become increasingly necessary as automobiles become more complex each year. Training for auto technicians now encompasses not only the technical skills needed to repair vehicles, but also computer knowledge and math and engineering skills. Students who receive training from DaimlerChrysler's CAP program are well-poised to fill the many waiting positions in a wide-open career field, as there are currently not enough skilled auto technicians to meet demand.

"ACI provides an opportunity for high school students to be on a college and campus and to get exposure to the auto technology corporate programs, such as the DaimlerChrysler program," explained Aragon.

Cerritos College also offers specialized corporate training for General Motors, Ford and import vehicles.

Aragon has taught in the Cerritos College Automotive Technology Program since 1994. He recently
completed his master’s degree in industrial and technical studies at California State University, Los Angeles.

"Cerritos College’s automotive program has made enormous strides in recent years in attracting both students and community partners, such as the Southeast ROP and the Southland Motor Car Dealers Association," said Eli Jaramillo, director of the Advanced Transportation Technology and Energy Initiative for the Southland/Cerritos Center for Transportation Technology (SCCTT) at Cerritos College.

"We are proud to accept this prestigious award, and we look forward to continuing our training efforts with DaimlerChrysler."

Cerritos College has offered an automotive training technology program since the college began in 1955. The offerings consist of certificates, degrees and special programs in the disciplines of automotive repair, advanced transportation technology, auto collision repair, intelligent transportation systems and alternative fuel and hybrids, making it one of the most comprehensive programs in the U.S. Students can also earn a bachelor’s degree in automotive management at Cerritos College through an agreement the college has with Northwood University. Cerritos College is currently working toward a new facility, the Southland/Cerritos Center for Transportation Technology (SCCTT), a world-class automotive training center on the college’s campus that will help provide a unique career ladder for automotive students and dealer employees from across the Southern California region.

Cerritos College serves as a comprehensive community college for southeastern Los Angeles County. Communities within the college’s district include Artesia, Bellflower, Cerritos, Downey, Hawaiian Gardens, La Mirada, Norwalk, and portions of Bell Gardens, Lakewood, Long Beach, Santa Fe Springs and South Gate. Cerritos College offers degrees and certificates in more than 180 areas of study in nine divisions. Annually, more than 1,200 students successfully complete their course of studies, and enrollment currently surpasses 20,000 students. Visit Cerritos College online at www.cerritos.edu.

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Cerritos College Bond Committee Gains New Member
Downey Adult School Principal Roger Brossmer Appointed to Oversight Committee

For Immediate Release: June 18, 2007

Media Contact: Kristen Habbestad, Public Affairs; (562) 860-2451, ext. 2287

NORWALK, CA -- June 18, 2007 -- During its June 6 meeting, the Cerritos College Board of Trustees appointed Downey Adult School Principal Roger Brossmer to the Cerritos College Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee as an at-large member. Brossmer joins several other committee members who reflect a broad cross-section of the community, including long-time district residents, tax-payers association members, Cerritos College students and retirees, and local civic leaders. The Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee was established in 2004 and is responsible for overseeing the college's use of bond funds and for serving as a "check-and-balance" to ensure that the bond proceeds are only used for the projects included in the bond measure project list. Each committee member serves a term of two years.

"Cerritos College is an asset to the community, and I wish to see it continue to thrive," said Brossmer about his desire to join the committee.

Brossmer brings a wealth of experience to the oversight committee. Annually, he oversees a $7 million annual budget at Downey Adult School, which serves more than 14,000 students each year. Since 2000, Brossmer has actively served on the City of Downey Planning Commission. He also serves as the chairperson for the American Cancer Society's annual 24-hour relay in Downey and is a youth director for Rotary International.

"We're so pleased to have Roger join the committee," said Donna Jones, chairperson for the Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee.

"His familiarity with our community and students, along with his experience in educational administration, are incredibly valuable to the committee in ensuring the success of Cerritos College's bond management process."

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College offering English classes
CERRITOS — Cerritos College is offering six-week English as a Second Language (ESL) classes during the summer with both day and evening schedules available beginning Monday, May 21, 11110 Alondra Blvd.

For more information, contact Joann Sugihara-Cheetham at (562) 860-2451.

— From staff reports

Whittier Daily News
May 15, 2007

Cerritos College to begin registration
CERRITOS — Registration begins May 21 for Cerritos College’s summer session. Class schedules and applications are available online at www.cerritos.edu/admissions.

Returning students can register by using the automated Falcon Phone registration system, (562) 865-3276. For more information, call (562) 860-2452, Ext. 2211.
Cerritos College film student gets two summer internships

NORWALK — Angel Ramirez, a film major at Cerritos College, will intern this summer at Fox 11 TV News and with the California Film Commission, according to Kristen Habbestad, the college’s public information officer.

At Channel 11, Ramirez will be inside the studio helping the director of Fox’s “Good Day L.A.” and shadowing the news directing process.

“I’m into staying behind the camera telling the story. I like to film it the way I see it,” said Ramirez, a Norwalk resident.

Denise Luna, Fox’s internship coordinator, said she receives more than 100 resumes a day. She told Ramirez she took notice of him because she also received a recommendation from Ramirez’s Cerritos College professor, Steven Hirohama, Habbestad said.

Ramirez came to Cerritos College in fall 2005, after he graduated from Norwalk High School. The 19-year-old plans to finish an associate’s degree and has interest in film directing school.

At the California Film Commission, Ramirez will assist in issuing permits to filmmakers. He will offer assistance in scanning through categories of locations using a Web site called CinemaScout that helps production scouts plan a shoot.

One of the major reasons Ramirez pursued the film-related internships at the California Film Commission and at Fox 11 was to meet people, make contacts and perhaps land a job after graduation.

“It’s like a ladder you have to climb,” he said.

Both internships are unpaid, and so Ramirez also works at a local CVS pharmacy to help support himself.

Ramirez said he dreamed of being an actor as a child, using his vivid imagination for everything. But a high school teacher interested him in making films.

After receiving his first video camera, Ramirez began using it to create short films, which he scripted and directed, using his sisters and friends as actors.

Ramirez says his favorite film director is Tim Burton, who has directed “Batman” and “Edward Scissorhands,” among other

Angel Ramirez films.

“I love his style. He’s creative, and he likes to use originality,” Ramirez said.

Ramirez sees himself directing an independent film in the future. From his perspective, it would be easier to shoot and produce an independent film, while retaining creative freedom.

He has a script or two of his own sitting in his desk drawer at home. He said he is inspired to create film scripting through people he meets, stories he hears, even video games.

“It’s hard to cast when all my friends are busy and in school, and I can’t pay them of course. But one day, I’ll do it. I’m just waiting for the right time.”
College foundation appoints director

NORWALK — The Cerritos College Foundation Board of Directors has appointed George Gordon, part-time faculty member and co-owner of Century 21 Home and Investment in Downey, as a board director.

Gordon joins other community members and business leaders on the board in lending direction and oversight to the foundation’s fund-raising and scholarship distribution efforts.

Gordon currently teaches a class in real estate principles for the Cerritos College business division.

Gordon also serves as chairman of the board of deacons for Downey First Baptist Church and is the church moderator. He and his wife, Brenda, reside in Downey.
Cerritos College Summer
Intrasessions Begin
June 18th and July 2nd

NORWALK — Registration for Cerritos College’s summer session classes is now underway. Students may access a schedule of classes, complete an application and register online for a variety of classes by visiting www.cerritos.edu/admissions.

Cerritos College Theatre
presents
Play’s Anatomy
Student Festival
of One-Act Plays

Friday  June 15  @ 8 pm
Saturday  June 16  @ 8 pm
Thursday  June 21  @ 8 pm
Friday  June 22  @ 8 pm
Saturday  June 23  @ 8 pm
Sunday  June 24  @ 2 pm

Cerritos College’s
Second 8-Week Session
Register for classes online at www.cerritos.edu.
Monday, June 18, 2007 - Friday, August 10, 2007

Cerritos College
11110 Alondra Blvd
Norwalk, CA 90650-6298
(562) 860-2440
Mimicking masters

Students re-imagine works of art

BY TRACY GARCIA
STAFF WRITER

WEST WHITTLER

From Georges Seurat to Georgia O’Keeffe, a room at Phelan Elementary School was filled Friday with the works of the most famed artists in history — as seen through the eyes of its young students.

It was all a part of the fifth annual Phelan Art Festival, a student showcase of artwork that transformed the school’s multipurpose room into an art gallery, featuring likenesses of works from Diego Rivera and Vincent Van Gogh and others.

“I got so excited when I found out we were going to do this,” said second-grader Marta Garibay, 8. “It was so much fun to draw. For some girls it was difficult, but not for me, and I learned a lot, too.”

Each student had at least two pieces of artwork on display, said teacher Ray Mendez — and that’s an important part of the school’s art program.

“Whether they aspire to be an artist or not when they’re older, they’re able to experience this,” said Mendez, a local artist who is in his first year as an art teacher.

“See how happy they are?” Mendez asked as children proudly pointed out their creations to parents and teachers.

“They’re proud of their work. And this also shows the community how important art is. They can actually see how important it is for the students’ self-esteem, education, learning and creativity.”

The school’s art program, which involves weekly art lessons for every grade level, is funded in part by the Whittier Cultural Arts Foundation, which aims to bring art back into the schools.

The foundation gave Phelan $1,700 for the art program, but also helps fund art, music and drama programs for the Rio Hondo Symphony, Whittier High School and Mill Elementary.

A GOOD POINT: First-grader Dylan Bell reaches to show his mother one of his drawings on display in the annual Art Festival at Phelan Elementary School in West Whittier on Friday.

“I think these are gorgeous,” said Gwen Woirihaye, the foundation’s vice president of philanthropy, as she surveyed the artwork at Phelan. “I love the way they’re displayed, and I think it was a wonderful experience for the children.”

Parent Monica Piedra, of West Whittier, agreed, saying she now plans to enroll her son in a summer art class at Cerritos College.

“As far as I know, I don’t know of any schools that do this,” said Piedra, whose son Daniel is in first grade. “And it makes such a difference because it brings out all of the kids’ creativity.”

tracy.garcia@twins.com
(562) 695-9005 Ext. 3051
Cerritos College sets play dates

NORWALK — Cerritos College’s department of theater will perform “Play’s Anatomy,” a student festival of one-act plays, beginning June 15 on campus, 11110 Alondra Blvd.

The performances will take place at 8 p.m. June 15, 16, 21, 22, and 23 and at 2 p.m. June 24 at the college’s Burnight Studio Theatre.

Cost is $12 per person, or $10 for students, staff and seniors with ID.

Tickets are available for all performance dates and can be purchased online at www.cerritos.edu/theatre or at the theater box office, which is open from noon to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

For more information, call (562) 860-2451, Ext. 2638, or visit www.cerritos.edu/theatre.
Cerritos College Band and Orchestra to Present 'Concert On the Grass'

A Concert on the Grass
The Cerritos College Community Band and Orchestra present "Concert On the Grass," a free event offered by the Cerritos College Music Department. Director David Betancourt and Cerritos College musicians will share a selection of music in Cerritos College's Amphitheater in Falcon Square. Snacks, hot dogs and drinks will be sold, with proceeds supporting the Cerritos College Music Club. The concert is sponsored by the Associated Students of Cerritos College and the Cerritos College Foundation. The concert will be on Wednesday, July 11, at 6:30 p.m. This event is free. Parking is $1 per day. For more information, contact the Cerritos College Music Department at ext. 2629.

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Cypress College names president

From a Times Staff Writer

June 14, 2007

Michael Kasler, Cypress College’s executive vice president for educational programs and student services, has been named the school’s new president.

Kasler was approved by the North Orange County Community College Board of Trustees, which governs Cypress and Fullerton colleges, Tuesday night to replace Margie Lewis, who is retiring after eight years as president. Kasler takes over July 1.

Kasler came to the 14,000-student college as dean of business and computer information systems in 1992. He later became interim vice president of instruction, then dean of instructional services and has been in his current position since 1999.
Firebombs found at UC Riverside; ceremony canceled
Authorities find two homemade incendiary devices. Final exams in one building are halted and one graduation will be rescheduled.

By Ashraf Khalil
Times Staff Writer
June 16, 2007

UC Riverside officials Friday canceled a commencement and some final exams after finding two home-made firebombs on campus and receiving threatening letters.

The series of events began about 6 a.m. Friday with a tree fire outside the Life Sciences building, near the outdoor Carillon Mall where the graduation ceremony for the A. Gary Anderson School of Management was to take place.

Firefighters responding to the call found one of the firebombs, said Bettye Miller, a university spokeswoman.

Police and fire officials searched the area and discovered a second firebomb hidden in a planter outside the same building. Students taking finals in the Life Sciences building were evacuated and both devices were removed without incident, campus Police Chief Mike Lane said.

Miller described the devices as "plastic bottles that possibly contained an accelerant."

Just after noon, a threatening letter was found next to the campus bookstore, Miller said. Officials responded by canceling all remaining final exams.

A second handwritten letter was received about 3:45 p.m., this one delivered to a university administrator, Miller said.

Both threats specifically targeted Friday night's commencement, which will be rescheduled. As of Friday afternoon, University Provost Ellen Wartella said the Saturday, Sunday and Monday commencements would continue as planned, but under heightened security. But she said law enforcement officials would have the final say.

Friday's events come amid a string of fires, some clearly arson, on the UC Riverside campus in the last month. A May 17 fire in a kitchen forced the evacuation of more than 800 students from the Aberdeen-Inverness dormitory. The cause of that fire was later determined to be an electrical malfunction. But within a week the same dorm suffered two minor fires judged to be deliberately set. University officials said it was too early to tell if there was any connection between those incidents and Friday's.

UC Riverside has set up a hotline for updates on the status of the weekend's commencement ceremo-
nies: (951) 827-8479. Updates will also run on the university radio station, KUCR, 88.3 FM.

Officials said those planning to attend should arrive early to allow time for extra security procedures, which will include searches of purses and camera bags. No backpacks, bottles or liquids will be allowed, and anyone without a ticket won't be admitted.
Los Angeles Times
June 17, 2007

Ex-UC Riverside student held in firebomb incidents
Police believe he is behind the homemade firebombs that postponed graduation.

By Cara Mia DiMassa
Times Staff Writer
June 17, 2007

A former UC Riverside student was arrested Saturday in connection with a series of on-campus incidents — including the discovery of two homemade firebombs — that led to the cancellation of Friday evening’s graduation ceremony, authorities said.

University police arrested Audley Yung, 22, originally from Richmond, Calif., at his off-campus apartment. They said they believed he was responsible for the firebombs, sending officials threatening letters and setting a palm tree on fire.

Yung was booked at the Robert Presley Detention Center on suspicion of possessing a destructive device, and of committing arson and making terrorist threats. Bail was set at $25,000.

Officials said they were still investigating, but that they believed Yung acted alone. They said their arrest was based on physical evidence and statements by Yung.

Yung, who entered the university as a biological sciences major and later switched his major to undeclared in the College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences, attended UC Riverside in 2002 and 2003, authorities said, and took summer session courses there in 2004, 2005 and 2006. He is not enrolled for the upcoming summer session.

The university resumed its commencement ceremonies Saturday under heightened security. Officials said Friday night’s commencement on the campus has been rescheduled for Monday at 9 a.m., with tickets for the Friday event being accepted then.
A high school with more clicks than cliques

A Stanford University program offers gifted students an online education. They log on to class from all over the world.

By Mitchell Landsberg
Times Staff Writer

June 17, 2007

As an alpha nerd, Harper Robertson naturally thinks her high school is kickwump — a word her class coined. She wouldn’t be prouder if it had the top-ranked football team on planet Earth, which it most decidedly doesn’t and never will.

"I knew I was going to a nerdy high school when I realized that the only elective was Java programming," she said.

If you could set foot on Harper’s campus — you can’t — you’d see what she loves about it. It’s a school for teens who never fit into the traditional classroom because they were too high-achieving, too driven, too intellectually curious or all of the above; youths who were lumped under the general heading of "gifted," although the gift didn’t always come with instructions for assembly.

Now students say they have a school where they belong: the EPGY Online High School, part of what may be the oldest online learning program in the world, Stanford University’s Education Program for Gifted Youth.

The Stanford program intertwines two uneven threads in modern education: online learning and differentiated instruction for the gifted. As it turns out, it’s a natural marriage, and one that underscores the potential for computers to help break down the one-size-fits-all paradigm of many U.S. schools.

Ray Ravaglia, a co-founder of Online High, calls traditional pedagogy the "Panama Canal theory of education," which holds that all students must rise with their class until it reaches the top of the lock, at which point they float forward in unison. There, those on top stay high and dry — and bored. Those at the bottom drown, educationally speaking.

"We feel that all kids need to learn at their own rate," said Janet Keating, the head of Online High. With the technology now available, "I finally understand that we can do this."

Online High began last September with 30 students, and officials hope to expand it to around 100 in the fall. Admission is based on a variety of factors, including grades, test scores, samples of student work and interviews. Next year’s tuition for full-time students is $12,000.

Harper logs on from her home in Half Moon Bay, just south of San Francisco. Jake Scheps goes to class in his bedroom in Van Nuys, emerging periodically for food, exercise and music. Matthew Bunday taps in from Minnetonka, Minn. Their classmates, with whom they gather by video conference most days,
live in such cities as London, Hong Kong and Seoul.

"As long as I have an Internet connection, I'm good," said Harper, who dropped out of a traditional high school after one semester, feeling that it had almost nothing to teach her. Her family is moving from California to England next year, but there will be no need to change schools.

Although online schools are not unique, Stanford's tries hard to reproduce many of the trappings of a traditional high school. There is a student government, a student newspaper, a yearbook and clubs.

These include the Google Earth Society, the Philosophy Club and the Culinary Club, in which students try out recipes and discuss them online. There's also talk about starting a garage band. Of course, the garage would be virtual.

The online education program has its origins in the early 1960s. Before there was an Internet, before there were PCs, Stanford scientists set out to determine whether computers, which at the time were building-size behemoths, could be used to train budding mathematicians.

At one point, according to Ravaglia, this involved a convoluted melding of computers, film strips and teletype technology to deliver curriculum in images and print.

By the late '60s, this proto-techno-tutoring had evolved into a program for the deaf, linking a central server at Stanford to teletype machines in schools for deaf students across the country.

"I like to say that five years before the beginning of the Internet, we were doing a nationally distributed, computer-based education system," said Ravaglia, who arrived at Stanford as an undergrad in 1983 and never left.

The prototype for today's online school began when Stanford received a grant from the National Science Foundation to continue its work by creating an online Advanced Placement course in calculus for gifted middle and high school students. At the end of the course, 12 of the 13 students received scores of 4 or 5 — the highest scores possible — on the AP test.

"It wasn't that these kids had abilities that put them over the moon," said Ravaglia. Rather, he said, their success demonstrated that "structured, systematic presentation of the material, regular milestones and expectations, and somebody to talk to when you had questions — that's all that was really needed."

The distance learning program gradually expanded and today offers nearly 40 courses, most in math and science as a supplement to high school, but also in expository writing and music theory. The math courses take students from elementary school classes through university-level courses such as Real Analysis, Point-Set Topology and Axiomatic Set Theory.

But the typical course makes no effort to replicate the classroom. Students work on their own time and at their own pace on prepared online lessons, which can include "canned" lectures but rarely feature live interaction.
The Online High School uses similar formats in some math and science classes but tends to make greater use of video conferencing to create virtual classrooms, in which students interact with one another and with the teacher.

In fact, "interactive" barely begins to describe an Online High class.

Take Jeff Scarborough's class, a rigorous social science course called "Democracy, Freedom and the Rule of Law," which is required for all students.

As class begins, students log on and see a list, running down the left side of their screens, of everyone present. As Scarborough starts the class, his face pops up on a small video screen in the upper left-hand corner. The bulk of the screen is a virtual whiteboard, on which Scarborough presents the points of the lesson, changing them to reflect the discussion as the class unfolds.

And the discussion — today, it's about John Dewey's "Liberalism and Social Action" and F.A. Hayek's "The Constitution of Liberty" — is lively. As Scarborough speaks, little hand icons pop up next to student's names, meaning they have their hands raised to talk. As he calls on students, their video images replace his. The talk is quick and sharp, ranging over the meaning of liberty, the ancillary meaning of freedom and the question of whether political liberty is naturally occurring.

It is heady stuff, a lot to absorb. But that's not all that's going on. On top of reading Scarborough's notes on the screen and listening to him and their classmates speaking, the students maintain a running conversation of instant messages, which pop up near the bottom of the screen. It's like students passing notes in class, except that this is sanctioned — mostly. Occasionally, when the messages spin off into nonstop puns or other forms of nonacademic amusement, Scarborough has to issue a warning to focus on the class material.

Mostly, though, these are 21st century students who seem capable of doing five things at once.

Their teachers are not convinced that intelligence alone explains why the students are thriving, as most seem to do.

"They don't possess any genetic type of smarts that other kids don't have," said Marc Sanders, head of the school's math department, who teaches university-level math in some classes, even though some of the students are barely out of middle school.

What they have, he said, is a love of learning.

For many parents, the school is a dream come true. Some had been home-schooling their children but were reaching the limits of what they could offer them. Others had their children in traditional schools.

Online High has its limitations. It does not offer art, drama, dance or musical performance classes or, obviously, physical education. It didn't offer a foreign language this year, although there are plans for
that in the future.

Students are left to their own devices on those fronts. Some have turned to their neighborhood schools. Aaron Kahn, who lives in San Jose, said the principal of a nearby school seemed happy to accommodate him. He takes AP French, AP statistics and wind ensemble. Others haven’t been so lucky; some school districts have been reluctant to allow students to enroll for one or two classes.

Some parents worried initially that their children wouldn’t have satisfying social lives in an online high school.

So far, that has not been the case. Some students have made close bonds with their online classmates — in some cases, they say, among the closest relationships they’ve ever had in school. There is much instant messaging and e-mailing throughout the day, in and out of class, and some students have traveled to get together.

Oddly enough, it has come to feel like a school — right down to its own traditions and goofy slang. Kickwump, for instance.

Harper says that students were studying the Gilded Age in American History and were reading about the Mugwump Party. Translating it into modern slang, they came up with kickwump. “So, if something is really cool, we now say, ‘That is so kickwump,’ except we abbreviate it to kw, because we’re speaking online.”

LOL.
Drop in students cuts into funding

Education: LBUSD approves budget for next year, projecting $45 million decline in revenue.

By Kevin Butler
Staff writer

LONG BEACH — The Long Beach Board of Education on Tuesday approved a budget for next fiscal year that projects lower revenue due in large part to a continued decline in student enrollment.

The Long Beach Unified School District estimates it will receive about $45 million less in revenue in 2007-08 than it did this year because of an expected drop in enrollment and the absence of some one-time state funding it received in 2006-07, said Kim Stallings, LBUSD chief business and financial officer.

“ Obviously it’s not one of the worst years in the history of school finance, but it’s certainly

LBUSD: Loss of one-time funds

CONTINUED FROM A1 not one of the better years,” he said.

The board voted 4-0 to approve the budget for next fiscal year, which starts July 1. Board member Michael Ellis was absent.

The district expects enrollment to drop by about 3 percent, or about 2,650 students, next school year. Much of school district’s funding is provided on a per-student basis.

The enrollment drop is expected to result in a loss of about $16.5 million in revenue relative to this year’s budget, Stallings said.

Enrollment has declined every year since 2002-03, when the district had 95,348 students.

“ That is the major issue that impacts our budget,” he said.

Although certain district costs decline along with enrollment, many overhead costs remain steady, resulting in a net negative effect on the district’s bottom line, he said.

The state’s last fiscal year gave LBUSD about $25 million in one-time revenue, mainly for grants to school sites and special funding for physical education, arts and music programs, Stallings said.

The district is not getting that money again next fiscal year, contributing to the revenue decline, he said.

The LBUSD will receive little new revenue next fiscal year, apart from a cost-of-living adjust-

Kevin Butler can be reached at kevin.butler@presstelegram.com or (562) 499-1308.
Class of ’07 leaves impressive legacy

LBUSD: Graduates garner $18.3M in scholarships, head to prestigious schools.

By Kevin Butler
Staff writer

LONG BEACH — Graduating seniors in the Long Beach Unified School District this year earned $18.3 million in scholarships, including full rides to many institutions, according to LBUSD officials.

“There are some extraordinarily gifted students and athletes in the Class of 2007,” said LBUSD spokesman Chris Eftychiou.

“Three students were admitted to (the Massachusetts Institute of Technology) and four were accepted at Stanford University ... from just one school” — Poly High School, he added.

“To have so many students admitted to these big-name schools is impressive.”

Students at Cabrillo High School earned full-ride scholarships to Cal State Long Beach and UC Irvine and gained acceptance to several other UC campuses.

Jordan High School students were accepted to 13 campuses of the Cal State University system and most campuses of the UC system, as well Notre Dame University and University of Nevada Las Vegas.

Forty-four students at Lakewood High School earned grade-point averages of 4.0 or above. Seniors were admitted to USC, Pepperdine and several UC schools.

Millikan High School students received acceptance and scholarships to all CSU and UC campuses, as well as West Point, Howard University and other institutions.

In addition to MIT and Stanford, Harvard University and Boston College will also enroll Poly students. The school’s scholarships included a Swarthmore Merit Scholarship of $45,000 per year.

At Renaissance High School, students earned scholarships to CSULB and USC.

Wilson High School students set a new school record this year by earning more than $4.4 million in scholarships. Students were accepted to Stanford, Yale, Harvard and Georgetown universities.

Students at the California Academy of Mathematics and Science, located on the campus of Cal State Dominguez Hills, were accepted to Harvard, Duke, Cornell, MIT, New York University, Stanford, USC and UCLA.

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Grants go to local schools

By Kevin Butler
Staff writer

The ABC Unified School District has been awarded nearly $300,000 from the U.S. Department of Education to support the teaching of foreign languages deemed critical to national security and commerce.

President Bush’s National Security Language Initiative this year has provided $8.7 million in grants to school districts in 20 states to address what the department considers a shortage of critical foreign language speakers in Arabic, Chinese, Russian, Hindi, Farsi and other languages.

The funds are to be used to develop teachers in such languages and encourage students to enroll in the courses.

Less than one percent of American high school students study Arabic, Chinese, Farsi, Japanese, Korean, Russian or Urdu, according to department statistics.

ABC Unified, one of 12 California recipients, is slated to get $299,786. The cities served by ABC Unified include Artesia, Cerritos, Hawaiian Gardens, as well as portions of Lakewood, Long Beach and Norwalk.

The Los Angeles Unified School District is scheduled to receive $174,698.

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Lesser-known hopefuls are a colorful lot

By Gene Maddaus, Staff writer
Article Launched: 06/23/2007 09:57:19 PM PDT

Who says democracy is dead?
Sure, Tuesday’s special congressional election may lure only 10 percent of the voters to the polls. But the race for the 37th District has drawn no shortage of candidates - 18 in all - each ready and willing to serve.

This has not always been convenient - at candidate forums, it could take up to 45 minutes to answer a single question. Only a small fraction of that time went to the front-runners, state Sen. Jenny Oropeza and Assemblywoman Laura Richardson, making it hard to draw contrasts between the two.

Still, the format had its advantages. On occasion, a few of the lesser-knowns came off as more cogent and clear-eyed than the top contenders. And when they weren’t, they were at least entertaining.

Freed from the burden of electability, candidates such as Mervin Evans were able to cut loose and call for illegal immigrants to be deported so that “good Americans” could have higher-paying jobs. To prove he wasn’t targeting Latinos, he argued repeatedly that white immigrants from Canada, Europe, Israel and “Aussieland” would also have to go.

The other closed-border candidate in the race was Republican L.J. Guillory, a self-styled bishop and "political prisoner"

who served eight years for kidnapping, burglary and assault with a firearm.
At a forum in Compton, Guillory was almost booed out of the room when he appealed to gender bias: "I’m going to Congress to fight for you. We keep sending women to do a man’s job."

Upset with the coverage of his campaign, Guillory launched his own newspaper. Also unhappy with the lack of coverage were perennial candidates Lee Davis, who also has her own paper, and Peter Mathews, who teaches political science at Cerritos College. (His students made up for it by covering his campaign in their school paper.)

Mathews struggled to separate himself in a wide-open field. Said one observer at the Compton forum: "He’s a nice guy, but that’s about it."

Unfortunately for him, there were several nice guys in the field, including Jeff Price, a workers’ compensation attorney; Signal Hill Councilman Ed Wilson; and write-in candidate Albert Robles, who was the only one bold enough to call for the closure of King-Harbor Medical Center and to criticize the late Rep. Juanita Millender- McDonald.

Among all of them, the one you’d most like to have a beer with - to borrow the pundits’ favorite test of
likability - was George Parmer, a truck driver making his first bid for public office. Parmer was a plain-spoken and thoughtful communicator, as when rebutting the argument that terrorists will "follow us home" after a withdrawal from Iraq:

"I think they know where we live, and if there's any question they can look it up on a MapQuest," he said at one forum. "What we need to do is use that $500 billion to find them where they live."

He also uttered easily the five funniest remarks of the campaign, including this one on medical marijuana: "My stepdaughter went through cancer, then came back out of it and went into remission. And if it were not for medical marijuana, I don't know how I would have made it."

Rounding out the lesser-knowns on the Democratic side were Bill Grisolia, the self-professed "unity candidate"; and Felicia Ford, whose most memorable line was, "You do not have to be qualified to go to Congress."

In addition to the Democratic nominee, three more candidates will likely survive the primary: Libertarian Herb Peters, Daniel Abraham Brezenoff of the Green Party, and, in all likelihood, John Kanaley, an Iraq War veteran and a L.B. police officer. He was the only candidate to argue for patience in Iraq, and carried that message into the lion's den that is an overwhelmingly Democratic district.
Yes, Virginia, he’s coming to lead UCLA

Gene Block is leaving horse country for freeway central. ‘It’s time,’ the biological clock researcher says.

BY LARRY GORDON
Times Staff Writer

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA. — Both the University of Virginia and its provost, Gene D. Block, exude stability. The 182-year-old campus founded and designed by Thomas Jefferson is a glory of Early Americana in brick, white columns and flowering dogwoods. Administrators sometimes speak of “Mr. Jefferson” as if he might inspect the library tomorrow, and the restored 1820s dorm room of Edgar Allan Poe is on display.

The school has been Block’s only employer since he took his first job here as an assistant professor of biology 29 years ago. He has been married to the same woman, Carol, for 37 years, and for decades he has researched the same general topic: biological clocks.

But now, the alarm clock is ringing for change in Block’s life. At 58, he is moving across three time zones for a new, very big job. On Aug. 1 he is scheduled to become chancellor of UCLA, which is about a century younger and has about twice as many students as the University of Virginia’s 19,000.

“It’s time. It’s time to move,” said Block, a white-haired man who, despite his time in the South, retains a slight New York accent from his childhood as the son of a dairy products distributor in the Catskills region.

Block has been second-in-command for six years at Virginia, where he pushed for improving sciences on a campus known for humanities and worked for greater ethnic and gender diversity among the faculty and students. He always thought that if he left Charlottesville, he would head a smaller institution, “a fixer-upper.”

But at UCLA, a plan collapsed last year to hire a Syracuse University administrator to succeed Chancellor Albert Carnesale, the highly successful [See Block, Page A28]

Los Angeles Times
June 24, 2007
Moving across the country

Despite their differences, UCLA and Virginia have similarities. Both are state institutions with high admissions standards, fiercely proud alumni, vaunted athletic programs and important hospitals and law schools. They hold nearly identical spots in U.S. News & World Report’s ranking of national universities. (Virginia tied for 24th with the University of Michigan, and UCLA came next.)

Block also stressed that his West Coast credentials began with childhood visits to relatives in Santa Monica and continued into his college days.

The grandson of Eastern European immigrants, Block grew up in Monticello, a race-track town about 70 miles north-west of New York that catered mainly to Jewish families on Borscht Belt vacations. As a teenager, he worked for his father during summers, delivering milk and yogurt to hotels and bungalow colonies. His mother was a nurse.

Block describes himself as a science nerd but not a top high school student. In an admission that will hearten many teens, he said he was unfocused and had a rocky start in college.

He was headed to a campus of the State University of New York. Then, despite their parents’ opposition, his older brother, Michael, a Stanford University graduate student at the time, persuaded him to come to California. Block enrolled at Foothill Community College near Stanford and then transferred to UC Berkeley. He left after a semester, feeling Berkeley “was too big for someone who wasn’t mature enough.”

Again at the urging of his brother—who later became an economics professor at the University of Arizona—Block switched to Stanford, where he fit in better and met friends headed to careers in academia.

“It was amazing,” he recalled. “I just thought being around a university was a gift. My brother was absolutely right... These are great institutions to be around, where people spend time thinking deeply about things and where evidence and data are important. I was impressed; I was converted.”

Block earned his bachelor’s degree at Stanford and doctorate in psychology at the University of Oregon. He did postdoctoral neurobiology research at Stanford before landing the first professorship he applied for: the one in Virginia.

It clearly is not easy to leave after all this time—even for a UC salary of $416,000, free housing on campus and other perks. The Blocks, who have two grown children, are selling their off-campus modernist country house, and he is parting with the 1974 red Porsche 911 he has tinkered with—often in failure, he says. They are, however, taking the 40 antique radios he bought mainly on eBay as a distraction from writing research papers.

At Virginia, most people say they are saddened at Block’s departure and describe him, despite a few painful controversies, as a fair, hardworking administrator who especially impressed them by keeping his hand in research.

“He is just one of those people who can keep a thousand balls in... [See Block, Page A29]