FOR THE MONTH OF JULY

In Progress

Aya Abelon is working on developing a series of student feature stories

Aya Abelon is also working with the Business Department on developing a story announcing the new retail management certificate FastTrack program and its partnership with Ralphs.

Abelon is working on developing the fall edition of In Sight.

Coverage

Bellflower Bulletin — July, 2009 — Article on the college’s accreditation warning being removed (from press release)

Long Beach Press-Telegram — July 8, 2009 — Article on the college’s accreditation warning being removed (from press release)

Herald American — July 9, 2009 — Article on counseling agency relocation quoting the Cerritos alumnus head counselor

Sentinel — July 16, 2009 — Article on A-MAN Inc. Recognition Dinner where Anthony Austin, the college’s associate professor received the Education Award

Herald American — July 30, 2009 — Article on the college’s accreditation warning being removed (from press release)

Herald American — July 30, 2009 — Article on the Sustainability Award the college received (from press release)

Wall Street Journal — July 31, 2009 — Article on community colleges citing the College’s partnership with US Air Force and Boeing
Cerritos College Receives Two Honorable Mentions at Sustainability Conference

College’s Energy-Efficient Infrastructure, Central Plant and Lighting Upgrade Recognized as Best Practices

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 2, 2009

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

NORWALK, Calif. - July 1, 2009 - Cerritos College was honored by the eighth annual Sustainability Conference held at the University of California, Santa Barbara June 21-24, 2009. Attended by nearly 800 individuals from the University of California, California State University, and California Community College systems, the conference honors and shares innovative and best practices in campus sustainability for all three public higher education systems statewide.

Cerritos College earned recognition for efforts in areas such as building retrofits and operations. The two honorable mentions specifically recognized the college’s infrastructure, Central Plant and lighting upgrades.

The college’s Central Plant, completed early this year, provides chilled water for building air conditioning systems on campus. Before the new plant was built, the college used individual out-of-date, non-energy efficient chillers in each building to keep the buildings cool.

Three central chillers work together energy efficiently by running only when needed and by allowing all of the water to be chilled in one location instead of numerous locations.

The campus-wide infrastructure project runs new chilled water piping, high voltage lines and communications lines to all of the building on campus.

The campus wide lighting retrofit touched many buildings on campus including classrooms, restrooms, mechanical rooms, storage and custodial rooms. Existing lighting was retrofitted with new state-of-the-art energy efficient electronic ballasts, T-8 light tubes, and compact florescent light bulbs/fixtures.

“These projects have been completed since last December, 2008,” said Robert Riffle, director of physical plant, who oversees the entire facility master plan at Cerritos College. “Over the past four months we are experiencing a savings of approximately $17,000.00 per month in electrical cost and approximately 194,000 per month in reduced kilowatt-hours usage.”
The UC/CSU/CCC Higher Education Energy Efficiency Partnership Program recognizes new buildings and major facility renovations that employ effective sustainable design techniques to achieve reduced use of natural resources during construction, as well as on-going energy conservation outcomes throughout the life-cycle of these facilities.

“These honors show our strong commitment to striving towards developing a campus that is energy efficient and sustainable in order to minimize our environmental impact, save operation and maintenance costs, and to ensure a safe and quality education for our students,” said Riffle.

These retrofits, along with other campus transformation projects, were made possible through community support for the 2004 CC bond measure.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 6, 2009

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

NORWALK, Calif. – July 6, 2009 - Cerritos College has been removed from warning status as a result of official action taken by the Accrediting Commission of Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) of the Western Association of Schools and College on June 11, 2009.

“This decision by the Commission reflects all of the progress we have made since last year,” said Acting President/Superintendent William C. Farmer. “This action confirms that we continue the good work of providing quality education and ensuring student success.”

Cerritos College administrators, managers, staff and the Board of Trustees worked very hard to address the recommendations of the Commission and submitted a progress report in March this year before a follow-up visit by Commission representatives in April.

The college addressed four accreditation recommendations by improving communication; completing program review for all non-instructional programs; improving the campus climate on issues of participation, empowerment, and entrepreneurship; and completing and evaluating its planning and budget allocation process.

A warning is the lightest sanction taken by the Commission to rectify areas of concern in community colleges. Cerritos College continues to be an accredited community college as well as one of the premier community colleges in the state.

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 26,000 students. Visit Cerritos College online at www.cerritos.edu.

###
Cerritos College Hosts Middle School Summer Math/Science Academy

College Teams Up with CSULB and Norwalk-La Mirada USD

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 13, 2009

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

NORWALK, Calif. - July 13, 2009 - Cerritos College hosted middle school students from the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District in a Summer Math/Science Academy from June 22 to July 2.

The college’s award-winning teacher training program Teacher TRAC partnered with California State University, Long Beach (CSULB) and Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District to offer the Academy to address both math/science preparation and increase the pipeline of qualified math and science teachers.

For two weeks, 60 middle school GATE students in the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District attended the math and science curricular enrichment program. The students participated in hand-on, interactive, inquiry based activities which aimed to strengthen their preparations and motivation to continue pursuing a background in math and/or science.

The Academy also offered an invaluable professional development opportunity for pre-service teachers, local teachers, and college professors. Twelve Cerritos College prospective participated as assistant professors in the Academy. Cerritos College prospective teachers worked alongside lead professors and facilitated small group explorations and labs. Professors for the Academy included six school district teachers and two Cerritos College faculty members.

Some of the lead professors were Teacher TRAC graduates. Tami Francis, lead chemistry professor, just finished teaching her sixth year in Downey Unified School District and she also teaches EDEL 100 course at Cerritos College.

“My experience was ‘The Resort of teaching!’” said Francis. “Every part of the Academy experience was beneficial and exciting from a teacher’s perspective. One of the important benefits to this camp was that the instructors were able to reflect and debrief daily about their teaching experiences.”
“It’s great to see our graduates in action,” said Sue Parsons, director of Teacher TRAC. “And it’s a great opportunity for the current Teacher TRAC students to be able to work with and learn from the experienced graduates. It showcases the excellence of the program which revolves around generations of our students!”

The summer enrichment program was funded by the Teacher TRAC National Science Foundation Grant and the CSULB Math Science Teacher Initiative. The initiative addresses the need to close the achievement gap in math and science by creating new credential pathways.

“The technical nature of today’s workplace and the global economy that drives it demand more mathematically and scientifically literate workers,” said Parsons. “Yet, California faces a critical shortage of fully credentialed and qualified mathematics and science teachers. With the Academy, we were able to address the essential role K-12 teachers play in improving their students’ math and science competency.”

At the end, students did a sweet exothermic reaction experiment of making ice cream with ice and rock salt. After almost freezing their hands shaking the freezer bags containing ice and ice cream mixture, the students enjoyed the delightful reward for completing the two-week program.

Cerritos College partner with CSULB to provide dedicated, talented individuals to the field of K-12 education. As a student in the integrated, standards-based Teacher TRAC / CSULB program, students can earn their bachelor’s degree and multiple subject teaching credentials and complete their student teaching within four years.

More information on Teacher TRAC is available at www.teachertrac.com or at 562.860.2451 ext.2212.

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Manufacturing Training Hosted by Cerritos College CACT Celebrates Ten Graduates

Program Provides Advanced Training to Displaced Workers

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 27, 2009

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

NORWALK, Calif. - July 27, 2009 - An Introduction to Advanced Manufacturing program for displaced manufacturing workers, hosted by the Cerritos College Center for Applied Competitive Technologies (CACT) graduated ten students on Thursday, July 23.

The program was a free 40-hour training designed to provide displaced manufacturing workers with an overview on the continuous improvement process and to develop an understanding of the advanced manufacturing workplace environment.

The program was developed in partner with the El Camino, San Bernardino and North Orange County Community College District CACTs.

“The program’s purpose was to provide additional skills to the students and increase their employability,” said Norma Alvarado, director of CACT at North Orange County Community College District.

The class was held three times a week for three weeks from 12:30 to 5:00 p.m. Funds and curriculum were provided by an Economic and Workforce Development grant.
The program has been offered at various company sites for their employees and this was the first time it specifically targeted unemployed manufacturing workers at a college campus.

Each student was presented with the certificate of completion by the instructor Servando Gereau, and celebrated their program completion with lunch featuring international cuisine.

For more information about the Cerritos College CACT program, please call Tom Molyneux at (562) 860-2451 ext. 2510 or visit the Cerritos College CACT website at www.cerritostrainsu.com.  

###
Once-troubled Kid, Now Family Man with Great Future

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 29, 2009

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

NORWALK, Calif. - July 29, 2009 - Steve Kim’s life has been a rollercoaster ride. It wasn’t the usual ups and downs that people often talk about. It was sky high ups and sub-zero downs.

When Kim was very young, his parents had a successful restaurant business. His father passed away when he was six years old, and his mother continued to operate the business by herself. Through some unfortunate hardship, Kim’s mother was left with nothing but bankruptcy and debt.

In the midst of hardship, Kim journeyed through five different high schools, public and private, local and out-of-state. “My mom sent me to different schools because I was a bit of a troublemaker,” said Kim. He was hanging around with not-so-reputable friends and got himself into trouble – including a few run-ins with law enforcement.

At school, Kim did not excel or do well. “It took me a while to realize this but looking back I have never been academically challenged,” said Kim. As a troublemaker, he was always put in the slowest class, which was not even challenging to him. He obviously did have the abilities to be in more advanced classes but he didn’t know any better than just sitting in the class he was assigned to and passing the tests with his eyes closed. He now believes that given different circumstances, if he received the appropriate attention and encouragement, he would have done much better.

“My mom, who was a single mom, was too busy to notice what was going on with me at school,” said Kim. Kim’s mother, who raised Kim by herself after Kim’s father had passed away, is a very successful real estate broker well-known in the Korea Town area of Los Angeles.

Soon after Kim graduated from high school, he started working hand in hand with his mother as a loan officer. At one point, he was making $9,000 a month. However, at a young age with no bills to pay, he did not care about money. He continued to make money and spend it “carelessly” while working with his mother for two years and then decided to pursue something he was passionate about – cars and technology.

A self-admitted performance car fanatic, Kim started working in the automotive aftermarket customizing high-end European sport cars. After three years, the business started slowing down and he finally realized that it was not where he wanted to be.
The recently married Kim is expecting two “babies” by the end of the year – a baby boy (according to his wife’s “woman’s intuition,” not medically confirmed at press time) and his own restaurant. He plans on making this the first of a restaurant chain with a unique concept. He envisions expanding the business and making it a successful family-owned corporation. Undeniably, the restaurant business runs through his veins.

Sit down with Kim and listen to him for half an hour and you will see that he has an unwavering vision and knows exactly what he wants to do with his life. He aims high and is in full control of everything that he has meticulously planned. He is definitely not a follower; he is a tenacious leader.

###
Cerritos College’s Accreditation Warning Lifted

NORWALK — Cerritos College has been removed from warning status as a result of official action taken by the Accrediting Commission of Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) of the Western Association of Schools and College on June 11, 2009.

“‘This decision by the Commission reflects all of the progress we have made since last year,” said Acting President/Superintendent William C. Farmer. “This action confirms that we continue the good work of providing quality education and ensuring student success.”

Cerritos College administrators, managers, staff and the Board of Trustees worked very hard to address the recommendations of the Commission and submitted a progress report in March this year before a follow-up visit by Commission representatives in April.

The college addressed four accreditation recommendations by improving communication; completing program review for all non-instructional programs; improving the campus climate on issues of participation, empowerment, and entrepreneurship; and completing and evaluating its planning and budget allocation process.

A warning is the lightest sanction taken by the Commission to rectify areas of concern in community colleges. Cerritos College continues to be an accredited community college as well as one of the premier community colleges in the state.
Commission lifts warning against Cerritos College

By Kevin Butler Staff Writer

NORWALK — An accrediting body has lifted a warning it issued to Cerritos College last year for failing to meet certain academic and operational standards.

The Accrediting Commission of Community and Junior Colleges issued a warning to Cerritos College in June 2008, ordering the Norwalk-based college by March 1 of this year to meet a series of recommendations, including improving communication among faculty, staff and students.

The commission had also ordered the college to ensure that employees and students were actively involved in college decision-making. The college also had to review the effectiveness of its operations unrelated to student instruction, the commission stated.

The college addressed the recommendations by improving communication, reviewing all noninstructional programs and improving the campus climate, according to Cerritos College officials.

The campus also completed and evaluated its planning and budget allocation process, officials said.

The commission had ordered the college to address certain concerns by March 1 and resolve all problems by June 2010 or risk further sanctions.

A warning is the lightest sanction the commission gives. Accreditation represents a widely recognized seal of approval.

Community colleges must be accredited to receive federal financial aid or to permit students to transfer course credits to four-year institutions. There was no interruption in Cerritos College’s accreditation during the recent review by the commission.

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Counseling agency relocates youth center

BY ARNOLD ADLER
STATE WRITER

NORWALK — The youth affiliate of an area anti-drug and alcohol counseling agency, has relocated to 11701 Firestone Blvd. here and is open free of charge to at-risk youngsters between 13 and 18.

“We moved from a 300-square-foot office in Santa Fe Springs to this 6,000-square-foot building,” said Robert Marquez, head counselor at the Life Center, part of Los Angeles Centers for Alcohol and Drug Abuse (LA CADA).

Based at 11015 Bloomfield Ave., LA CADA has offered the program for years, which continues for adults at the Santa Fe Springs address. Brenda Wiesel is executive director of the agency, headed by a board of area residents. Dr. Ethan Allen, a Whittier resident with a practice in Norwalk, is the board president.

“We have about 35 clients, mostly from Whittier, Santa Fe Springs and Norwalk, but the program is open to at-risk youth from the entire area,” said Marquez, who leads a team of three counselors and an administrator at the Norwalk site.

Clients are referred from juvenile court, schools, churches and parents.

“About half our group are self-referrals,” said Marquez, meaning they entered the program on their own with permission of their parents.

Raised in Norwalk, Marquez, 26, graduated from New Harvest Christian Fellowship School in Norwalk and attended Cerritos College. He has a counseling certificate from a college in Carson and has been with LA CADA for four years.

“There is a difference between the at-risk youths of his teenage years and those today, Marquez said.

“They are younger [today],” he said. “Kids are joining gangs and doing drugs as young as 9 and 11 years, but age 13 is not too late to try and divert them as they are still impressionable.”

Free services offered include group counseling, individual counseling, family counseling, and a 24-hour hotline.

Robert Marquez, head counselor at the Life Center, opens its doors to at-risk teens in the area at its new location, 11701 Firestone Blvd. in Norwalk. It is affiliated with Los Angeles Centers for Alcohol and Drug Abuse.
Counseling program relocates to Norwalk

"Counseling from page A1"  14

We have ordered four computers for career development. Instead of graffiti we will offer them art designing, graphic arts and Photo Shop training," Marquez said.

Also planned are music lessons for those interested.

"Our goal is youth empowerment. They can learn but need something to step into," he added.

The Life Center is open Monday through Friday at 4 p.m. and a Saturday session is planned. Clients attend three to four counseling sessions a week.

But it is not all counseling. There is a pool table for clients to use and a movie night and a dance contest are planned.

"You have to have something to draw them in," said Marquez of the fun aspects of the program.
AMAN Inc. Salutes Community Leaders

A-MAN INC. honored community leaders at the Tom Bradley 18th Anniversary Recognition Dinner. L-R: A-MAN, Inc. Co-founder Hildreth Walker; Mistress of Ceremonies and KNBC freelance reporter Toni E. Guinard; U.S. Department of Defense Executive Director and Keynote Speaker Patricia Kirk-McAlpine; Cerritos Community College Associate Professor and Dr. Bettye Walker Education Award Winner Anthony B. Austin, Lester Lee Associate President and Hildreth Walker, Jr., Science Award Winner Dr. Lester A. Lee; KTNA Prime News Meteorologist and Community Service Award Winner Ms. Maritza Brown; renowned artist and Community Service Award Winner Kenneth Gatewood; and A-MAN, Inc. Co-founder Dr. Bettye Walker.

Leaders in the field of science, education and community service were recently honored at A-MAN, Inc., International Science Discovery & Learning Center’s Eighteenth Annual Tom Bradley Recognition Dinner. In addition to commemorating Tom Bradley’s legacy of leadership, students and their Role Models were showcased. Local heroes and their contributions were acknowledged as well. Graduating high school seniors who attend the A-MAN Center were also honored. The ceremo-

ny was held before a capacity crowd at L.L. White Hall on the campus of Holman United Methodist Church.

Dr. Lester A. Lee, President of Lester A. Lee Associates and Adjunct Professor in the Department of Chemistry at Howard University, received The Hildreth Walker, Jr. Science Award. Mr. Lee is independently producing a documentary about the past, present and future efforts of people that are African born and of African ancestry in the fields of Mathematics, Photonics, Lasers, Electro-Optics and Telecommunications. Mr. Anthony

Gatewood, Emmy Award winning journalist and KNBC freelance reporter Toni E. Guinard was mistres of ceremonies. Marvin Brown-King, a graduate, demonstrated his virtuosity when playing a Beethoven Sonata.

A-MAN, Inc. was founded in 1991 by Hildreth “Hal” Walker and Dr. Bettye Walker to use science and technology as a motivational tool and as a means to build young leaders in the Los Angeles Community.

The Walkers each have strong involvement with the community through education, science and philanthropy. Dr. Bettye Walker is a former elementary and secondary principal. White as the principal of Bunche Elementary School in Carson, one of her many career accomplishments was the development of the Black Male Achievement Project (B-MAP), which led to the founding of A-MAN Inc. Hal Walker has had a long and successful career in science and technology. He is currently being honored in a new permanent National Smithsonian Museum of American History exhibition entitled, “Science in American Life.” They are also the co-chairs of the 25th Senatorial District STEM Initiative.

Located in the heart of Inglewood, A-MAN Inc. is devoted to exposing African-American, Latino and other minority elementary and secondary school girls and boys to potential careers in science and technology. The after-school, summer and weekend programs provide hands-on activities for students 5 - 18 years of age. It is a California state mentoring program with additional chapters in Washington, D.C., and South Africa.

A-MAN Inc., International Science Discovery & Learning Center is located at 101 South La Cienega Avenue in Inglewood. For more information call (310) 412-2680 or visit www.aman.org.
Warning lifted from college accreditation

Wave Staff Report

NORWALK—Cerritos College was removed from warning status as a result of official action taken by the Accrediting Commission of Community and Junior Colleges of the Western Association of Schools and College.

A warning is the lightest sanction taken by the commission to rectify areas of concern in community colleges. Cerritos College continues to be an accredited community college.

"This decision by the commission reflects all of the progress we have made since last year," Acting President/Superintendent William Farmer said. "This action confirms that we continue the good work of providing quality education and ensuring student success."

The college addressed four accreditation recommendations by improving communication, completing program review for all non-instructional programs, improving the campus climate on issues of participation, empowerment, and entrepreneurship; and completing and evaluating its planning and budget allocation process, said Aya Abelon, the college’s media relations coordinator.
College honored for conservation

NORWALK — Cerritos College was honored at the eighth annual Sustainability Conference held at UC Santa Barbara in June, for its energy conservation efforts. Attended by nearly 800 from the University of California, California State University and California Community College systems, the conference honored and shared innovative and best practices in campus sustainability for all three public higher education systems statewide.

Cerritos College earned recognition for efforts in areas such as building retrofits and operations. The two honorable mentions specifically recognized the college’s infrastructure, central plant and lighting upgrades, said Aya Abeler, the college’s coordinator of media relations.

The college’s central plant, completed early this year, provides chilled water for building air conditioning systems on campus. Before the new plant was built, the college used individual out-of-date, non-energy efficient chillers in each building to keep the buildings cool.

The campus-wide infrastructure project runs new chilled water pipes, high-voltage lines and communications lines to all of the building on campus.

The campus-wide lighting retrofit touched many buildings on campus, including classrooms, restrooms, mechanical rooms, storage and custodial rooms, she added.

“Over the past four months we are experiencing a savings of approximately $17,000 per month in electrical cost and approximately $94,000 per month in reduced kilowatt-hours usage,” said Robert Riffle, director of the physical plant, who oversees the entire facility master plan at Cerritos College.

The retrofits, along with other campus transformation projects, were made possible through community support for the 2004 CC bond measure, he added.
Like his predecessors, President Barack Obama has discovered community colleges, the too-often-denigrated institutions that offer a first chance to those who never mastered English or arithmetic and a second chance to those whose skills no longer command a decent wage.

More than his predecessors, Mr. Obama is offering money—$32 billion over 10 years, pushing private companies out of the student-loan business to raise the money.

Student-loan providers are shrinking. Community colleges are celebrating, though wary of a provision that requires quantitative benchmarks on their progress. But the headlines writers have moved on to health care and housing prices; the president has gone from speaking at Michigan’s Macomb Community College to sharing a beer at the White House with the Harvard professor and Cambridge, Mass., cog.

Yielding details of his American Graduation Initiative, he offered a window into the Obama approach to government, both its potential to produce the “change” on which he so loudly campaigned and the risks he is running by spending so much with so many promises.

Education is a great example: A big difference between Arne Duncan, the secretary of education, and would-be school reformers who came before him is that he has $100 billion to spend on K-12.

Mr. Obama offers lofty man-on-the-moon goals: The U.S. will once again have the highest proportion of college graduates in the world by 2020. But even he doesn’t have enough money to finance that.

So he proposes a competition, as he has for K-12 money. A bill likely to pass the House soon lays out a long list of criteria that the Education and Labor departments are to use in deciding which colleges get four-year grants.

The notion, a hallmark of Mr. Obama’s spending, is to use money to spur innovation and to devote taxpayer dollars to the most promising avenues, rather than financing old ways of doing things.

It sounds good. And no doubt community colleges could use the money. Their enrollments are rising; their budgets aren’t. They remain among the most important engines of social mobility. But a lot depends on how the colleges use the money. Taking federal money to do more of the same won’t do it.

“Doing training in the absence of jobs isn’t very practical,” says Macomb’s president, James Jacobs. “We need to play a role in job creation, which means new ways of working with the private sector.”

There are examples. Mr. Jacobs says his college in February launched a joint venture with Talscend LLC, a staffing firm, to teach 45 laid-off auto designers, experienced in design software, to design process piping for refineries and power plants in a six-week intensive course.

The key: Talscend saw unfinished jobs in the Southwest and “good experienced people sitting around in Detroit without work,” says Richard Spragg, a Talscend vice president. “There’s very little point in doing training for training’s sake.”

The good news: The first two of the initial 15 graduates just got jobs. The bad: Demand for piping designers has collapsed with the credit crunch and fall in oil prices, a reminder of the overriding importance of strong economic growth if skilled workers are to prosper.

In Southern California, the U.S. Air Force and Boeing Co. essentially hired Certros College to train workers for three local women- and minority-owned parts suppliers so they could continue to compete successfully and keep jobs in California.

Kathy D’Amato, who owns 12-year-old K&J Manufacturing in San Dimas, Calif., with her husband, signed up three years ago and is a happy customer: “They made sure we were not getting training just to put down on a piece of paper,” she says. “A small company like ours never could have understood what kind of training is out there without Certros.”

In the past three years, the machining company has gone from 13 employees to 80 and moved from a 6,000-square-foot building to a 22,000-square-foot facility.

So there’s hope in Mr. Obama’s initiative. The opportunity is for colleges to survive or succeed. But not all will use the money well, and there’s political risk.

Many Americans are skeptical of Mr. Obama’s promises. A poll conducted earlier this month for National Journal and Allstate Insurance Co. found that 49% of Americans believe Mr. Obama’s actions “will increase opportunity for people like you to get ahead,” but 28% say they won’t and 23% say they won’t make any difference. And when offered a choice between bigger government (investment in education and training and the like) and smaller government (tax cuts, less regulation), the poll respondents were evenly divided. With the hundreds of billions of dollars Mr. Obama is spending, some will be wasted. Secondly and easily ridiculed abuse of taxpayer money are inevitable. Conservatives point out that daily. The president has yet to figure out a way to prepare the public for tomorrow’s embarrassing headlines, which could discredit his ambitious initiatives.

It took the Pentagon a long time to recover from the 1985 3300-toilet-seat story.

Write to me at capital@wuj.com. Discuss at wsj.com/captest.