

# Budget Cuts at Cabrillo College

Cabrillo College - 2000

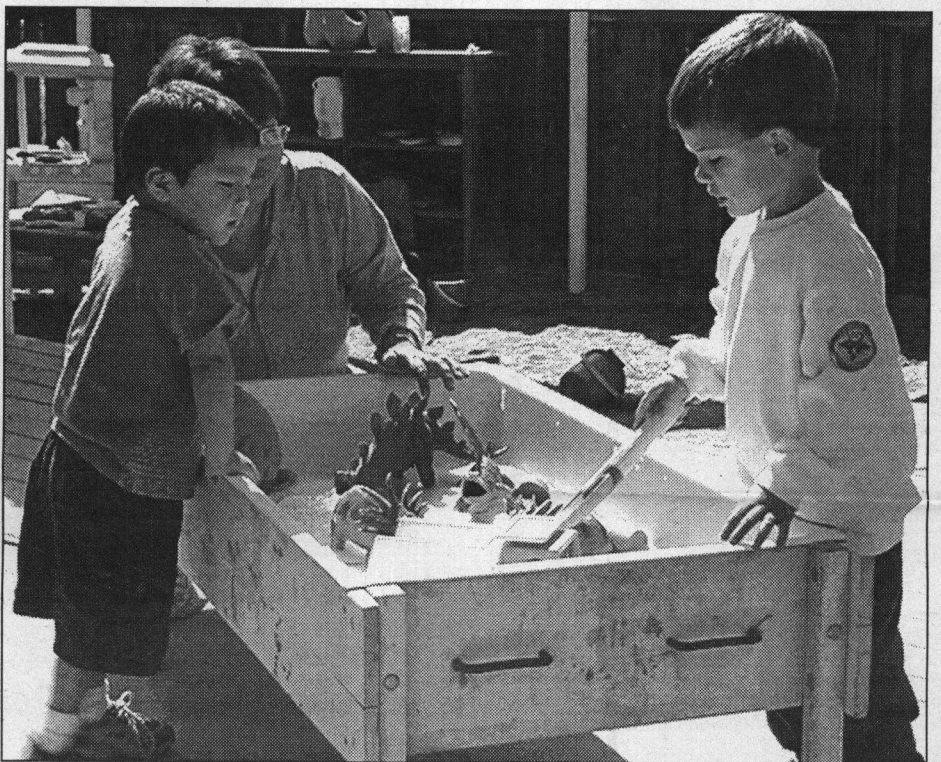
4-1-03

## Tuition Doubles While Course Offerings Shrink

C.J. Cannino

He may have started out as the Golden State's education Governor, but his reputation is quickly becoming tarnished as Governor Davis swings his budget ax, taking aim at community colleges. Faced with a possible \$530 million funding reduction this year, community colleges are bracing for the worst, and Cabrillo College is no exception. In comparison, according to Cabrillo President John Hurd, the University of California and California State University systems were not asked to cut nearly as much as the community colleges. "It's a mystery to me," said Hurd. "It's not that I want the other segments to receive less," he said. But the 12-year veteran said it would have been fair to distribute the funding reductions more evenly. Hurd was planning on retirement in the next couple of years, but like a good soldier he's prepared to fight. "I'm not leaving in the middle of the battlefield," said Hurd.

This fall, students will return to find anywhere from 100 to 150 fewer courses to choose from and tuition will most likely double from \$11 to \$24 a unit. To add insult to injury, the additional revenue collected from the tuition increase will go into the state's general fund and not into Cabrillo coffers. It's not a pretty picture, and the Cabrillo community is struggling to deal with the



**For 32 years, the Children's Center at Cabrillo has served as a training ground for future teachers, as well as a day care center for the children of Cabrillo students**

unfortunate situation of charging students more and giving them less.

Lenore Kenny is outraged and devastated, while Terre Thomas seems to be taking the bad news in stride. Both women work at Cabrillo College and

they represent the wide range of emotions among the faculty, staff and students since Davis dropped his budget bomb.

Just seven months after she was hired to work part-time at the brand new 11 acre Cabrillo College Horticulture Center, Thomas was recently laid off. "I didn't feel that bad about losing my piece of the pie since there are so many people who need it more than I do," said Thomas. The day the Horticulture Learning Center celebrated its grand opening in early February, word came down that Cabrillo President John Hurd would be cutting over \$4 million. "We got this great new facility, but we don't have anymore money," said Thomas.

Thomas opted to continue working at Cabrillo by donating her time as a volunteer. Donations and fund-raisers will be a large part of operations in the financial future of the community

**Rural Aptos Community Association would like to say:**

**Thank You**

To all the artists who donated and displayed their artwork in the Historic Carriage Barn of Sand Rock Farm in Aptos on *Sunday, March 16, 2003.*

There are far too many of you to name individually, your efforts made RACA's event a tremendous success.

We would also like to thank the following merchants for their generous donations:

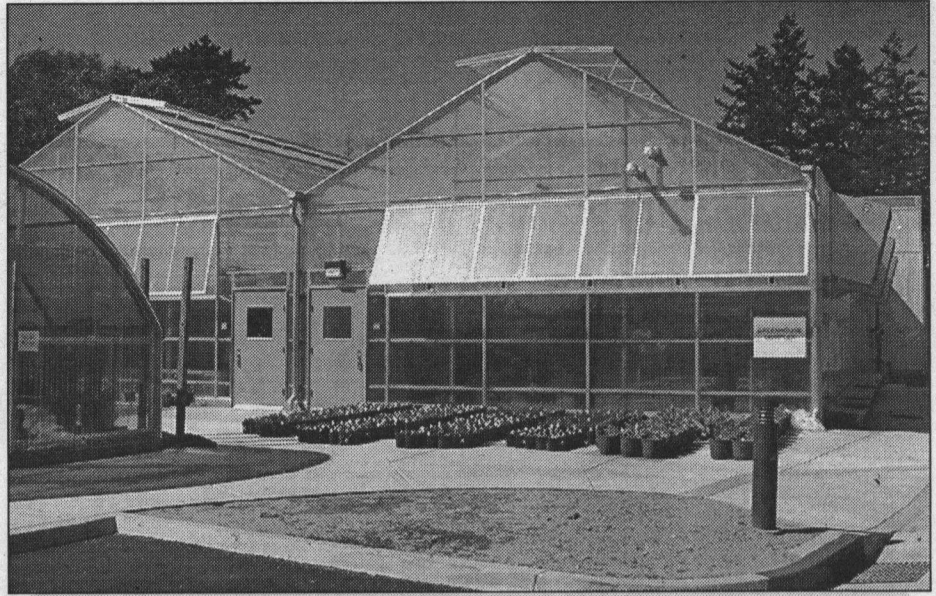
**Zayante Vineyards, Santa Cruz Mountains**

Red Roof Inn, Watsonville  
Bayview Hotel, Aptos  
Ristorante Barolo, Aptos  
Aptos Natural Foods, Aptos  
Betsy's Flowers by Peter Barr, Aptos

Fleur, Aptos  
Monet's Garden, Soquel  
Curves for Women, Aptos  
Al Boccacino Ristorante, Aptos  
Hidden Garden Nursery, Aptos

Sand Rock Farm and Art of the Good Life, Aptos

**THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR GENEROSITY IN AIDING  
RACA IN IT'S EFFORTS TO PRESERVE RURAL APTOS!!**



**The new Horticulture Center is an impressive facility, but it's not immune to the budget crunch. Staff has been laid off, and volunteers will be holding fund-raisers to finance landscaping and maintenance**

We teach kids to be proud of their heritage," said the director. The center advocates forming strong partnerships with families and providing support for single parent families.

Ariba Williams is proud of the center's reputation. She started in the program at 19 years-old with her son Aaron, who is now seven. "My son is remarkably happy with who he is. I owe a lot of that to the program," said Williams. She said Aaron was well prepared when he entered kindergarten.

"It's great being a parent here, you get a lot of support at the center," said Williams. She said the monthly parental support group was an extremely valuable resource for her. Her other son, Abram, is two and he's now in the 2 year-old class. Williams graduated from the accounting program and now works as the receptionist at the Children's Center. "I'm really heartbroken. Not just because this is my job, but Santa Cruz is a remarkable place and I can say that

*Continued on p.12*

college. The horticulture staff is hoping their Mother's Day plant sale will help offset the cost of materials to finish landscaping around the site and pay for staff to take care of plants during the summer months. It's a cruel twist of fate that while there were enough public funds to build the \$5 million dollar Horticulture Center, Hurd is now struggling to make ends meet for the fall schedule.

Members of the Cabrillo College Stroke Center are not taking the

had to try and fix lousy proposals," said Lenore Kenny, director of the Children's Center at Cabrillo College. Kenny has more at stake in the budget pie than Thomas because much of the funding for the Children's Center is categorical and comes from the state and not the college itself. The Stroke Center, disabled student services and the Children's Center will be among the programs most affected by the state budget deficit.

For 32 years the Children's Center

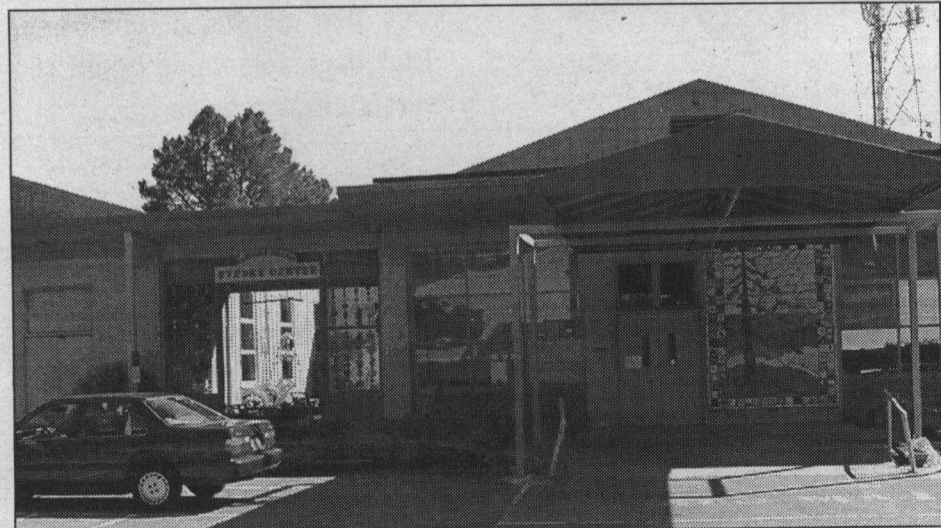
**'The day the Horticulture Learning Center celebrated its grand opening in early February, word came down that Cabrillo President John Hurd would be cutting over \$4 million. "We got this great new facility, but we don't have anymore money," said Thomas.'**

prospect of losing 43% of their funding lightly. On Wednesday, March 26, 96 disabled bowlers headed for Surf Bowl in Santa Cruz where they bowled "strikes for strokes." This is the third annual bowling event, but Caroline Bliss-Isberg said a good turn-out this year was more important than ever to increase community awareness about the financial plight of the Stroke Center, which has served over 4,000 disabled residents in the last 27-years.

"I love my job. But instead of spending time with my teachers, I've

has served as an early childhood education training ground for future teachers. The Center's purpose is twofold, as staff members also provide quality day care for more than 70 children, whose parents attend Cabrillo. More than 100 families depend on the program, which cares for children five months to five years, with a class for each age group and at least one bilingual teacher in each class.

"We are known nationally as one of the best models of care," said Kenny. "We are an anti-biased based program.



**The Stroke Center traditionally gets much of its funding from the state, a source that may soon go dry**

*'Cabrillo Cuts,' continued from p.5*

Cabrillo supplies those remarkable people who teach our children," said Williams.

Her co-worker, Arlae Gomez, a bilingual teacher in the one-year-old program, will most likely be one of the first to lose her job since she was recently hired. "When I first came to Cabrillo from Mexico, I was really self-conscious about my accent. People at the

**'The picture for community colleges is getting rosier when you compare \$141 million to the \$530 million colleges were forced to cut this academic year.'**

Children's Center really supported me," said Gomez. "We're like a good vibe for the whole community!" she added.

Countless students will attest to the good vibes from many departments at Cabrillo. In the last decade, the community college has ranked in the top ten percentile of students continuing their education at four-year universities. "If you look at the fabric of the whole Cabrillo community and how our students are woven into occupations in Santa Cruz County, it really is a testament of our success," said Cathy Summa, Director of Marketing and Communications at the school. According to Summa, Cabrillo

College is recognized throughout the state. "We recently got notice that Cabrillo has been awarded the statewide John W. Rice diversity award," said Summa. The Rice award provides a scholarship fund for under-represented populations.

Meanwhile, Hurd looks on the bright side of the budget bleakness. About a week ago, the President received word the state legislature recommended and Governor Davis approved \$141 million in reductions for community colleges next year. The picture for community colleges is getting rosier when you compare \$141 million to the \$530 million colleges were forced to cut this academic year. "We were anticipating a little more," said Hunt.

Kenny said she's heard from many former students of the Children's Center who are asking how they can help. "We've decided to take action and write letters to our legislators. We're also going to begin fund-raising on a large scale," said Kenny.

*On April 4, the Children's Center will hold a children's concert featuring Bob Reed, Dub Wise and entertainment for the adults. Organizers hope to raise \$84,000 to fill the budget gap. For more information on the first annual children's concert and festival call 479-6352.*