

# The Growl

The Monthly Newsletter of the Humphreys College Huskies, Stockton, California

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## *Who's Who At Humphreys College* *Meet Your Instructor:* Cynthia S. Becerra, Assistant Professor of English

Cynthia S. Becerra is one of the most popular professors at Humphreys College. She joined the school more than sixteen years ago.

***“Prior to it, I worked as a food analyst for H. J. Heinz; I trained and supervised quality assurance personnel in administering tests on tomato products and wrote reports for the plant manager, West Coast regional manager, and corporate managers.”***

Today, Professor Becerra specializes in writing, grammar, and literature. In addition, she teaches oral and interpersonal communications. In the past, she had also taught court reporting, study skills, and psychology. Her career, however, started in Tracy.

***“After graduating from Tracy High School, I went to U.O.P. on a football scholarship — just kidding! — on an academic scholarship. Two years later, after marrying, I transferred to Humboldt State University at Arcata, California, completing my bachelor’s in English with a minor in Psychology. Six years and two children later, I completed my master’s in English at CSU, Sacramento. Recently, I continued my education in the teaching of reading and ESL instruction at CSU, Sacramento, and UC, Davis.”***

When did you join the Humphreys faculty team?

***“Prior to completing my master’s, I wanted to begin teaching part-time, so I applied at Humphreys to teach in the Court Reporting and General Education departments. Fortunately, I was offered the position and began applying what I was learning in my coursework.”***

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As a teacher of English, how do you evaluate the language skills of today's students?

***“One of the major problems in teaching English is getting and keeping the student's attention. Because our students are bombarded by entertaining visual media, they expect to be entertained in the classroom. Therefore, instructors are competing with a number of outside sources for our students' time, including mass media, jobs, family, and other commitments. Moreover, teachers of English must foster an attitude that mastering English is not only a rewarding but also a marketable skill.”***

Yet, you clearly like to teach.

***“I don't like teaching... I love teaching. Teaching is the ultimate way of communicating. It's demanding, intensive, and — most of the time — rewarding. I enjoy being a part of the reciprocal process of learning. Watching students progress toward their potential is an extraordinary high!”***

In your classes, students have an opportunity to do a lot of reading. Who is **your** favorite author?

***“I don't have just one favorite author. However, one of the greatest writers of this century is Toni Morrison; she is in a league of her own. In addition, I love Amy Tan, Isabel Allende, and Edith Wharton. I also like to read works from popular novelists like John Grisham, just for fun. Further, I revere poets, including William Shakespeare, Adrienne Rich, and Anna Akhmatova.”***

After the years of teaching at Humphreys College, can you define an ideal student?

***“To me an ideal student is one who is passionate about learning. Even if she or he argues with me, I know that the student possesses a desire to learn, to master his or her environment.”***

Could you share with us your vision of a perfect vacation?

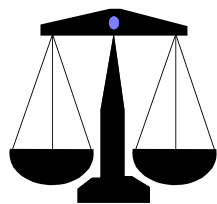
***“I enjoy spending time with my family, including picnicking and traveling. One of my passions is cooking, especially Mexican and Italian dishes. I love playing nickel keno in Lake Tahoe and other Nevada locations, so visiting Tahoe or Topaz Lake, which is located by Minden, Nevada, is always inviting. Just give me plenty of nickels... Also I have a love-hate relationship with writing poetry, fiction, and critical essays.”***

What is your favorite quote, something like a life credo?

***“It's a sentence from Shakespeare, although there is a similar line in Miguel de Cervantes' Don Quixote: ‘We know what we are, but know not what we may be.’”***

**Cynthia S. Becerra was interviewed for *The Growl* by Stanislav Perkner**

Look for interviews of other instructors in upcoming issues of *The Growl*!



## *Are The Wheels of Justice Working for You?*

*Cynthia Johnston, student*

At a time when our court systems are overburdened by the heavy demands cast upon them and when main thoroughfares for legal proceedings become glutted, it is time to look to secondary avenues. Resolve a great many legal disputes, know your rights, and save substantial sums in legal fees with membership into a pre-paid legal service that offers an extensive nationwide network of attorneys. The increasing acceptance across the nation of pre-paid legal services is proof of its splendid performance. Far more people should utilize pre-paid legal service programs and reap the advantages. They would, thus, lessen the burden that conventional litigation places on the taxpayer while clogging our courts.

Justice is one of the cardinal virtues. It should be the prime goal of an organized society even if costs a small membership fee of only a few dollars a week. America's obsession with the "Take 'em to court" mindset has created the increasing need for this new legal service concept.

Have you ever purchased a defective product, wanted advice on a credit matter, had questions about your civil or consumer rights? Have you ever paid a bill you knew was unfair or signed an agreement and wished you'd had legal advice first? Have you thought about writing or revising your WILL? If you answer "YES" to any to these questions, you can benefit from a membership legal service with access to an attorney at anytime for just pennies a day. It's as important as medical insurance because legal problems are no different than health problems when it comes down to your finances. If you faced a legal situation today, could you come up with enough money to pay an attorney for representation? Just like health insurance, legal coverage provides security and peace of mind for you and your family. With toll-free attorney access, personal and professional attention is given to the members of pre-paid legal services.

Keep your ears, eyes, and mind open to more information about pre-paid legal services. It may be the right choice for your legal protection.



## *The Morality Mini-Series Scramble*

*Athan Robinson, Jr., student*

The television series *Bill and Monica's Secret* continues and has shifted into high gear. We saw in the season finale a very sorry Bill, wife at his side, declaring his sins. The scene was reminiscent of the mini-series *Jim Baker and the PTL*. And Bill reminded us of Oral Roberts in *Homeward Bound* and Jimmy Swaggart in *He Who Is Without Sin, Cast The First Stone*. These series are soon to be release as a three-volume set called *Apologetic Moral Men*. Sorry, no CODs, please.

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The men are (were) shining examples of what we all should strive to be. However, they have succeeded only in conveying that we all are faced with certain circumstances, that we are weak to temptation, and that temptation respects no class or social status.

Now here's the new season line-up of shows. First, there is a sitcom called *Money in the Bank* starring Monica. It's about a young woman caught up in political and romantic situations. She's very tempted to tell all in a book so that she can have her money in the bank. Next, there's a Christmas special entitled *It's a Wonderful Life* with Monica as Mrs. Bailey, Ken Starr as Clarence the Angel, and a cameo by Clarence Thomas as Mr. Potter. Bill appears twice during the regular season, first in *Julius Caesar* with Ken Starr as Brutus and Newt Gingrich as Cassius. Later, Bill reprises Victor Mature's role as Demetrius in *Demetrius and the Gladiators* and with the members of Congress playing the citizens of Rome. Finally, there is an ambitious plan in the works to bring all these actors together in a made-for-television special called *The Dance of Salome*. This special is tentatively scheduled for the Easter season. If all goes well, Bill will play the role of John the Baptist, Monica will play the temptress Salome, and Linda Tripp will play her mother while Ken Starr will play Herod.

So, we have a great line-up for the fall season with all your favorite actors and actresses. A note to parents: These programs have been rated PG and have been approved by the National Education Association, The American Council of Churches, and the Moral Majority. Closed captioning for the hearing-impaired will be provided.

For more on these projects and other upcoming events, you can contact us on the web at <http://www.nothingelsetodo.com>.

Happy new viewing season!

## *Student Representation*

Prof. Chabot



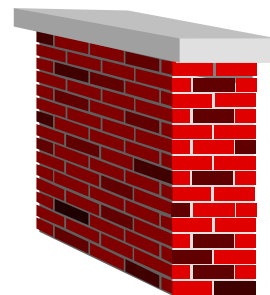
Ever wish you had a say at Humphreys College? Wish someone could speak out for or act on behalf of the overall student body here? Such representation is possible, but it requires students to do the work and take up the responsibilities that go with the power. How about you? Become a part of the Student Council at Humphreys College and you can be the one who makes a difference. Elections are to be held at the end of October, and the offices of president, vice president, treasurer, and any number of student representatives are open. See Prof. Chabot for more information.

## *Tutorial Center*



If you're having difficulties with your studies, STOP banging your head against a BRICK WALL and go to the Tutorial Center for help in English, math, accounting, whatever.

The Tutorial Center is located in Room A2 on the Asian-styled, red-tiled-roof West Campus.



Even Pretender prodigies like Jared have visited *The Center!*

