



Rampage

FRESNO CITY COLLEGE

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November 15, 2000

FCC fires then hires as basketball begins amid scandal

By Anthony Witrado
Contributing Writer

The Fresno City men's basketball team was bounced from the playoffs last week.

Not by foe, but by school administration and the Central Valley Conference.

CVC school presidents, CVC

Commissioner Logan McKechnie and the commissioner of athletics for California community colleges met and concluded that Fresno City College, along with College of the Sequoias and Porterville College, violated rules regarding subsidizing athletes, which may include housing players and buying their plane tickets to California.

School president Daniel Larios reported the infractions to McKechnie about a month ago, and all CVC schools were forced to investigate and give detailed reports of their programs two weeks ago. Punishments were handed down last week.

"The housing thing is still under investigation," Fresno City athletic director Ron Scott said.

"As far as (plane tickets) go, I'm not sure what's going on. There is no proof."

Larios felt there was enough proof, and reason, to fire head coach Denny Aye on Nov. 7.

Larios said the violations weren't intentional, but they were

violations, and they needed to be dealt with.

Terminating Aye was how he dealt with them

"(Firing Aye) was the right thing to do for the program," Larios said.

Aye was unavailable for comment.

Please See **Scandal**, Page 13

UNDEFEATED!



Assistant Coach Fred Biletnikoff Jr. celebrates with wide receiver Brandon Holland after the Rams' final TD.

Photo by Louis Castro

Rams football team off to its best record in school history

By Brandon Castro
Sports Editor

On Homecoming Saturday, the King on the football field was FCC wide receiver Maurice Washington, whose three touchdown receptions and 139 yards receiving helped the Rams go on to a 49-7 blowout of the West Hills Falcons.

The win boosted the Rams, ranked No. 3 in the state and No. 2 Northern California, to 9-0 overall and 4-0 in the Central Valley Conference, the team's best start in school history. FCC hosts College of the Sequoias at 1 p.m. Saturday at Ratcliffe Stadium in the

last regular-season game.

A win over COS would give the Rams the CVC title and probably a bowl game against City College of San Francisco, which is ranked first in Northern California.

The Rams worked their game plan to perfection against West Hills. On the first play from scrimmage from the FCC 30-yard line, Washington caught a pass from quarterback Kyle Biggs then took the ball into the end zone for a 70-yard touchdown.

"We game-planned that. We came to the game knowing that was going to be our first play,"

Please See **Football**, Page 5



FCC's Cameron Worrell #31 and Jared Ramirez #99 stop Rayvon Johnson in his tracks.

Photo by Louis Castro

Extra-help phased out

By Nam Dang
News Editor

The near-capacity crowd came to hear SCCC administrators address the issue that was brought forth by an Oct. 23 decision district personnel commission to rescind a commission rule known as the "Extra Help" Worker Provision. This provision was "not legal" based on findings by the CSEA from the Education Code and the Personnel Commission Rules and Regulations.

"We felt that it was important for us to create an opportunity for us to have a group or corporate conversation," said SCCC Chancellor Judith Redwine, in an opening address to the audience. "We are entering a transition time, a time that could be difficult for everybody involved, and that is not our intent. But it has a potential to be difficult."

In a document obtained by the Rampage, the decision to rescind the "extra-help" worker provision means the following:

- Current "extra-help" workers will complete their current employment terms (in this case, they are in the form of 90-day contracts). They will, then, be allowed the chance to become certified and included on a classification "eligibility" lists for positions within the SCCC, provided that they meet minimum qualifications set forth by the district's personnel department.

- The SCCC will be required to create the work necessary to accomplish its mission, which is similar to its legal requirement to maintain a 75 percent full-time instructor to 25 percent part-time instructor ratio.

- Current classified workers or former "extra-help" workers will, most likely, be hired to newly created classified positions or, minimally, appointed to limited-term positions.

- Current classified workers, or former "extra-help" workers, may be appointed to provisional assignments when there is not eligibility list for classification or when no one on the eligibility list accepts a limited-term assignment.

- Former "extra-help" workers will begin to receive limited term or provisional compensation rates instead of the lower "extra help" salary rates.

Students must now be full time to be eligible.

• See **Extra-help**, page 13

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Book prices unfair to students

This is in response to Jeff Swisher's Oct. 4 story, "Students question overpriced textbooks: Bookstore responds."

The bookstore's '91 pamphlet about students overreacting to prices is just plain absurd. In fact, the price tags on undergrad texts have risen dramatically during the last 20 years.

According to the American Association of Higher Education, during the period 1980-92 textbook prices increased 250 percent, compared to a 70 percent increase in the Consumer Price Index. This means that, while the prices of other products increased 70 percent, texts skyrocketed over two and one-half times.

The same number of people were required to design, edit and publish a text in 1980 as in 1992, so increased labor costs cannot account for the huge increase in text prices.

Some of this price increase is due to the increased cost of paper in recent decades, but the lion's share went to publishers' profits.

The fact is that college textbooks are a niche industry, and we students are captive consumers. In the course of getting an education, we have to purchase these items, in which prices are overinflated by publishers who are not real educators but are in it for themselves.

And don't think that the

increased profits are applied to reinvestment. In 1989-94, when inflation averaged 3.9 percent, college text publishers' investments increased by only 3.4 percent.

Although this annual rate has increased to about 3.5 percent in the six years since, that percentage is far lower than that for adult trade publishing (10 percent), and for book publishing generally (6 percent).

It's time for students to organize through their statewide lobbying organization, the California Student Association of Community Colleges (CalSACC) to address this highway robbery.

Paul Jackson

FCC special athletes bring home medals

By Joe Chacon
Managing Editor

The Adult Transition Program at Fresno City College returned from the Northern California Special Olympics Championships.

The Special Olympics took place at the California Expo in Sacramento. The events were ice skating, roller skating and bowling.

Christopher Alipaz took the silver medal in roller skating. Mia Vang won the gold and silver in bowling.

FCC's Ryan Stewart will be representing the United States in the International Special Olympics in the speed skating event.

Stewart is the only person from the Central Valley to be picked, and only one of two from

California. "I'm doing push-ups, sit-ups, crunches and going to the Iceoplex to train," Stewart said. "I'm really excited."

The International Olympics in

Alaska will take place the first week in March.

The Adult Transition Program at FCC is coordinated by Dolly Trout and Tammy Hurley.



Photo by Joe Chacon

Christopher Alipaz, left, Ryan Stewart and Mia Vang excelled at the Special Olympics.

Take your next class ... in London

By Anthony Witrado
Contributing Writer

Picking up your bag and walking out of class has always been an option for students who don't want to be at FCC.

For those people, there's another alternative: a semester in London.

"We basically move Fresno City College to London for a semester," English instructor Charles Lynes said. "The classes are taught by community college teachers, and we offer community college courses."

Lynes, along with sociology instructor Joan Newcomb, will be traveling with the students.

English literature, art appreciation and theater appreciation are some of the classes offered on the trip.

"We try to offer courses that

exploit the area," Lynes said.

Another experience students may find interesting is living with a local family for 14 weeks. Every host family is screened and selected carefully by the Centers for Academic Programs Abroad. Students have their own room, a desk and a key to the home, along with daily meals.

"[The students] live within the culture," Lynes said. "It's a completely new experience for them. [Students] are going to do something they're unfamiliar with. A different country, a different culture."

Part of the cultural experience will be traveling. Students can see sights like Big Ben, Houses of Parliament and St. James Park. They're also encouraged to travel on the weekends and during spring break, when students can go and do whatever they want.

The trip costs approximately

\$6,000. It includes round-trip airfare, room and board, meals, a theater performance, and medical and travel insurance. However, the students still have to pay FCC tuition fees, passport and visa fees and any personal expenses they have. Financial aid is available as it is at Fresno City.

People interested in the program can contact Lynes or sociology instructor Joan Newcomb on the FCC campus, or go to www.capaprograms.com.

"We're overbooked for the next semester," Lynes says. "But we do it every spring semester."

"I'd say [to students] it would open their minds. They can get a different experience... get out of the valley. I tell them to do it now, because when they get real jobs, have kids, they can't do it when they're older."

POLICE LOG

From the Files of the State Center
Community College District Police Department

October 25 - 3:05 p.m.

Officer dispatched to Yoshino's patio regarding disturbance. Suspect arrested and booked into Fresno County Jail. Report taken.

October 26 - 11:26 p.m.

Officer, nurse dispatched to Administration patio regarding person injured in disturbance. EMS requested. Turned over to EMS. Report taken.

October 30 - 6:13 p.m.

Officer took report regarding injured student (trip and fall at Science building). Student refused treatment.

November 2 - 8:23 p.m.

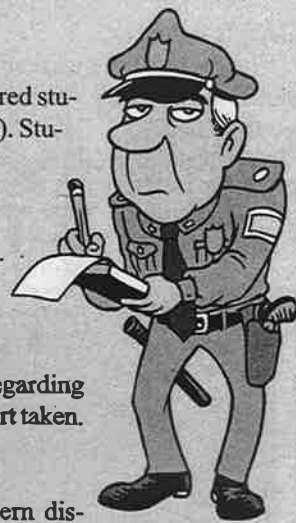
DSO took report regarding telephone harassment of library staff.

November 3 - 7:19 p.m.

DSO dispatched to gymnasium regarding door being accidentally broken. Report taken.

November 6 - 1:53 p.m.

Officer, nurse, mental health intern dispatched to Student Services regarding ill student. EMS requested. Turned over to EMS. Report taken.



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Andrew Xiong trick-or-treats Oct. 31 during FCC's Safe 'N' Sane Halloween at Ratcliffe Stadium.

Photo by Cecilia Ramirez

Computer mixup causes incorrect deficiency notices

By Jeff Swisher

Contributing Writer

The Admissions and Records office of Fresno City College erred Oct. 9 when the office failed to send deficiency notices to students with F or D grades while some students with passing grades received the unwarranted notices in the mail.

The deficiency notice, which informs failing students of their grades, gives students a chance to drop before the Oct. 13 deadline. It is sent during the ninth week of every semester.

John Cummings, the district dean of Admissions and Records, blamed the mistake on a simple glitch in the school's computer system.

"Basically, it was a computer problem," said Cummings, an administrator for four years. "Somewhere along the line, when the information was scanned, a glitch occurred. We don't know what caused it."

While deficiency notices are a useful tool with which instructors can notify failing students of their grades, Cummings believes that it is the instructor's responsibility to notify students in person rather than to rely on an impersonal piece of mail.

"I don't understand why we need to send these letters," Cummings said. "The faculty should be responsible for letting the student know where he or she stands in the class."

Cummings expressed concern for failing students who didn't receive the notice. "I'm sorry that students with good grades got the letter, but what I'm really worried about are the students that didn't."

The Admissions and Records office is willing to help students effected by the mistake "one student at a time," according to Cummings. He also pointed efforts made by FCC that will make it easier for teachers to notify students of their grades.

"We'll have a new web adviser that will make it easy for the student to access his or her grades on the Internet as the teacher records them," Cummings said.

While failing students remain uninformed of their low grade, Cummings doesn't sweat it.

"It's not a giant problem," said Cummings, who chuckled at the notion of the mistake developing into a widespread crisis. "Giant problems are occurring in other areas. It's not as big of a deal as you might think."

Rampage's Joe Chacon contributed.

Counselor's gift stolen from EOPS

By Joe Chacon

Managing Editor

A burglary in the Extended Opportunity Programs and Services lab occurred during the EOPS State Conference Oct. 17-20. A painting hanging on the wall was reported missing by EOPS Counselor Pauline Fuller.

The painting, a gift to Fuller from retired Art Instructor Leon Osborne was on display in the

EOPS lab. It was a token of appreciation for service by Fuller.

"We just could not believe that someone would take the picture off the wall from the lab area," Fuller said. "As much as we try to serve our students, we're just devastated."

The lab is a workshop area, where meetings for the community are held, a place to tutor students, and GS-50 classes are con-

ducted daily. The door is open most of the time. "There's not always someone there, unfortunately someone took advantage of it," Fuller said.

The painting is in a 13-by-17 inch picture frame, with gold trim and glass. A \$25 reward is posted for any information.

Anyone with information, can contact Fuller at the EOPS office at 442-4600, ext. 8231.

Planting seeds for success

By Maranda Brandt

Rampage Reporter

Fresno City College offers an Adaptive Horticulture Program for disabled students interested in the care and maintenance of plants as a hobby or a career.

The program, which is offered through Disabled Students Programs and Services, teaches disabled and handicap students skills such as starting out plants by seed and propagation and growing and care of a large variety of plants in and outside the FCC greenhouse. In addition, students involved in the program plant flowers in various locations throughout the FCC campus and stadium.

Most students enter the program because they are interested in areas of employment that have to do with horticulture, such as floral shops, nurseries, park and grounds maintenance, and working in a greenhouse. The program provides students with a chance to learn many skills they need to make it into the work force, such as interior plantscaping, floral design and basic business skills.

Jerry Hentzler is the head of the Adaptive Horticulture Program and teaches the program's Greenhouse Workforce Prep classes. His afternoon class is motivated and ready to learn new things, despite

challenges. Special adjustments are made for disabled students, such as raised platforms in the garden where the students plant their own vegetables. This makes it easier for students in wheelchairs to get around.

Hentzler fits basic social and business skills into the curriculum. This will help the students when they are ready to go out and find a job after they finish the program.

"We cover many issues that may come up in a job, like how to deal with conflicts on the job, how to dress, grooming and hygiene," Hentzler said.

Student David Grayson feels the experience he is getting working with plants will get him a good job as a groundskeeper for FCC.

"When I first started out in the class it was hard for me, but Mr. Hentzler is a good teacher," Grayson said. "Now I am getting good grades on most of the tests, and I won't miss a class."

Student Charles Benner said the class will help him to get a job in the horticulture field. He hopes to someday work in a greenhouse for a store such as Albertson's or Wal-Mart.

"The class is a little challenging but has become easier for me because I like to help out my mom in the garden," said student Shelby

Aaron.

Hentzler feels the students are enjoying themselves in the class because of the therapeutic environment the plants give around the greenhouse. He said that working with plants has a calming, relaxing effect and the students enjoy themselves.

"Working with plants is inherently therapeutic because it is working with something natural," he said.

One activity the students consider special is when they get to decorate the campus with plants and flowers. In addition, the program also does decorations for school activities.

"We have done flower arrangements for many events this year," Hentzler said. "We have done the scholarship reception, mayoral debate and veterans' ceremony."

The students will also be doing the decorations for the FCC retirement luncheon coming up.

Small plant sales are held by the class every other Wednesday at the flower cart in the fountain area. Sales benefit the Adaptive Horticulture Program.

Students who finish the adaptive horticulture program are assisted in finding employment by DSP&S and also can qualify for FCC's W.A.V.E. program.

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Holiday Project for the Marjaree Mason Center

The Bookstore staff is donating Christmas Cheer to the Marjaree Mason Center. We would like to Ask for your help in making their holiday Season much brighter. We have a variety of ways in which you may contribute

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In appreciation for your generosity, you will receive an entry form for each donation making you eligible for the "Great Stocking Raffle"

All contributions should be made by Friday, December 15th.

The drawing will be held at noon.

Happy Holidays!



Student displays an array of skills with his art work

By Josh Harding

Staff Writer

Fresno City College student David Rodriguez is using his talent. The 26-year-old artist has watched his skills develop and branch into different spectrums, changing from a childhood hobby into a viable career goal for himself. Realistically pursuing art in its different forms, David is gaining a growing knowledge of computer design as well as staying true to his love for fantasy, imagination and tattoos.

David is working on his apprenticeship in tattooing. He actually did his first work on a friend, at age 13! When his uncle, a tattoo artist, discovered this, instead of getting angry he showed David the right

way to do it. Since then, David has purchased his own equipment and spends about eight hours a week performing and learning more about the art.

It was also around age 12 or 13 that David began doing graffiti, inspired by his friend, a street artist named "NIST". Graffiti is what first drew David into art. After being caught doing it, he realized he still wanted to continue creating art but without the constant "looking over your shoulder" and risk of being busted. David moved into other mediums of art such as oil, acrylic and pastels. His favorite work is airbrush and tattoo art.

David has had a good experience with the art department at

FCC. He had been to an art school before coming here and notices the difference.

"The teachers spend a lot more time with you here; you have the chance to learn new styles," said Rodriguez.

Taking classes in Adobe Illustrator, drawing and now photo, David wants to cover all the bases as he continues on. As a hobby David is learning to design websites, he received different software and design programs from a friend and hopes one day he can take this further than a mere hobby. To be a successful artist in the future, David realizes he will need not just natural ability, but technological know-how.

Currently working as graphic

designer in the college activities office, David is getting all the experience he wants using the computer to design fliers, posters and memos for the group. This is definitely something David would like to do in the future, a time he has focused on more and more. When his daughter was born, it changed his life, both as an artist and as a man. It drove him to learn how to better use his talents, make them practical, as a way to "put food on the table."

Other influences on his art are the people that introduced him to it, the street artists. He supports graffiti as a valid form of art. Though it is a popular target for authorities and a generally frowned on by the public, most

people don't realize the dedication and determination of the artists labeled "vandals." David recalls the alley murals of downtown San Francisco with admiration. In his drawing, David is greatly inspired by artists such as Salvador Dali and his surrealist, fantasy images. Music plays a powerful role in his creation of art as well.

"They go hand in hand," Rodriguez said.

David now has a greater sense of realism in what he wants to accomplish, which is an important thing for an artist. Artistically, he has kept his options open and surely has the skill to take them in any direction he wants. So keep an eye out for David's work on a website or person near you.

They're ready for takeoff

Photo By Julian Torres



Sergeant first-class Havens demonstrates the U.S. Army simulation to Matt Tarlon and Josh Nance, November 15, 2000.

Hispanic scholarship fund honors students

By Lisa Silguero

Contributing Writer

The Fresno Hispanic Scholarship Fund (FHSF) held its 12th annual Black and White ball on Nov. 3 at the Radisson Hotel. The evening consisted of dinner, entertainment provided by Marachi Mujer, dancing, and congratulations to the Hispanic scholarship recipients.

In order to qualify for the Hispanic scholarship, entrants had to have a 2.75 or 3.0 GPA, and/or be involved with the community. Among those in attendance were Channel 30's Graciela Moreno, Channel 21's anchorwomen Lupita Lomeli, state Assembly Rep. Sarah Reyes, and U.S. Representative Cal Dooley.

Among the scholarship recipi-

ents was Elsa Ruiz, a sophomore and business administration major, who received a \$500 dollar scholarship. This is Ruiz's second scholarship award. She also plans to attend California State University, Fresno, in the fall 2001 semester.

The organization was founded in 1988 and incorporated in 1989, the purpose of this fund is to provide financial opportunity to highly motivated students. Reyes, who supported the foundation since its first year, said on the event, "It was great."

Among the 2000 sponsors were Gottschalks, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Pacific Bell, Pepsi Cola, Save Mart Supermarket, St. Agnes Hospital, Genesis Inc., Allstate Insurance Inc., California State University Fresno, and Fresno City College.

Sharing time as a mom and student a difficult juggling act

By Anna Cavillo

Contributing Writer

Students who are mothers face many obstacles with their children in order to successfully complete each school day.

Denise Rios, full-time student, 26, is one example of a strongly motivated mother. "Tuesdays and Thursdays are the hardest days for me," said Rios. Her day begins at 6 a.m., when she has the opportunity to take a quick shower. Then she wakes up her two sons, Nathaniel Sosa, 3, and Arthur Torres, 1, for their baths.

During the twenty minutes the children have to take their baths, Rios has the chance to get ready for school. Then she gets the children dressed and feeds them, which is usually when Arthur de-

cides to throw cereal at everyone.

Last, Rios turns on the television set for the children for a few minutes while she gets together the children's diapers, baby food, and sweaters.

Rios walks five blocks with her children to their day care center. After the good-byes and tears, Rios leaves on the bus for Fresno City College (FCC), arriving just in time for her 9 a.m. class. At 1:50 p.m. Rios's last class ends, and she takes the bus to the day care center to pick up the children. Together they walk home. "Some days I don't want to come to school, but I have to," Rios said.

It is Rios's second semester at FCC, returning from her first semester in 1996.

Rios's first child, Danielle Sosa, 1, died of a very rare dis-

ease, a few years before Nathaniel was born, according to Rios.

Rios decided to take a break from school during her first semester, when she found out she was pregnant with her second child Nathaniel. "I was afraid of losing Nathaniel too." So she sacrificed semesters at FCC to be with her son.

This semester Rios is back and ready to succeed. "I'm 26 and I want to do something with my life," explains Rios, "I want to accomplish something."

Suth Young, a part-time student, is also a mother. "Tuesdays are the most hectic for me," explains Young. "Every day is a fight with my children to wake up." After the whole routine of getting ready, Young and her children arrive at Fresno City College's day

care facility. The hardest part for Young is when she leaves her children.

Young's son Dylan, 5, has a tough time leaving his mother. "I feel so bad leaving him because he always cries," Young said.

It is Young's third semester at FCC. She hopes to finish in the Spring and transfer to Fresno State. Dylan and her daughter Kayla, 4, motivate "mom" to finish school. "It's hard being a student," says Young. "It may take a long time to finish."

Full-time student, Jennesa Galindo, 21, thinks that even with help from Robert Rios, the father of her two children, it is still hard work being a student-mother.

Galindo's time to do homework is usually between classes, which she does in the library for

about one hour.

"It takes me twice the time to do my homework in front of my children than it originally would," said Galindo.

Galindo believes her children need a little more attention, which makes being a student slightly more difficult. "My children are special little cases," says Galindo. Her son Joseph, 3, does not have a right hand and her daughter Ariana, 1, has deformed heart valves. But both children are doing fine, said Galindo.

"I feel good about myself, that I am attending college," explains Galindo. "Other mothers should try and finish school for their children. There is so much help out there to make it happen."

Football

Cont. from Page 1

said pass-game coordinator Fred Biletnikoff Jr.

The Falcons answered back on their first possession, going 63-yards in five plays, capped by a 43-yard TD pass.

After that, it was all Rams. Washington caught a 30-yard pass from Biggs for FCC's second touchdown to give the Rams a 14-7 lead just three minutes into the game.

The Rams' defense shut out the Falcons the rest of the game, holding West Hills to 91 yards passing and 221 total yards.

Rayvon Johnson of West Hill's, the CVC's leading rusher, was held to 74 yards on 19 carries.

The Rams boasted several highlights on defense, too.

FCC defensive back Chummy Green intercepted a Falcons pass that led to a TD. DB Tyus Trotter blocked a punt that was picked up by Torion Stabler in the end zone for the Rams fifth TD.

"We hit them hard, they were cautious. We played hard," said linebacker Juel Eason.

Four minutes into the second quarter, FCC's Rodney Davis ran 41 yards to set up Washington's third TD reception from the Falcons' 2-yard line.

Then, before the half, Washington caught his fourth and final pass of the game to set up a 3-yard TD run by



Left; Defensive back Chummy Green No. 19 follows teammate Cameron Worrell No. 31 after his second interception in the last two games. Worrell earlier recovered a blocked punt in the endzone. The Rams defense also held the West Hills offense to 91-yards passing.

Below; Head Coach Tony Caviglia (right) says a few words to West Hills coach, after Caviglia's team won their ninth game in a row.

Photos by Louis Castro

Davis.

"We've got the top two receivers in the conference, Layton [Johnson] and Frank [Jordon]," Biletnikoff said. "They all focused on them, and we utilized Washington. We knew what we were gonna do."

"We got the bragging rights, Fresno's going to be undefeated," Eason said.

The Rams displayed a solid running game with 148 yards in 33 attempts.

Fullback Pete Hingano topped the pack with 86-yards on 11 tries.

Biggs threw for 282 yards with four TD passes.

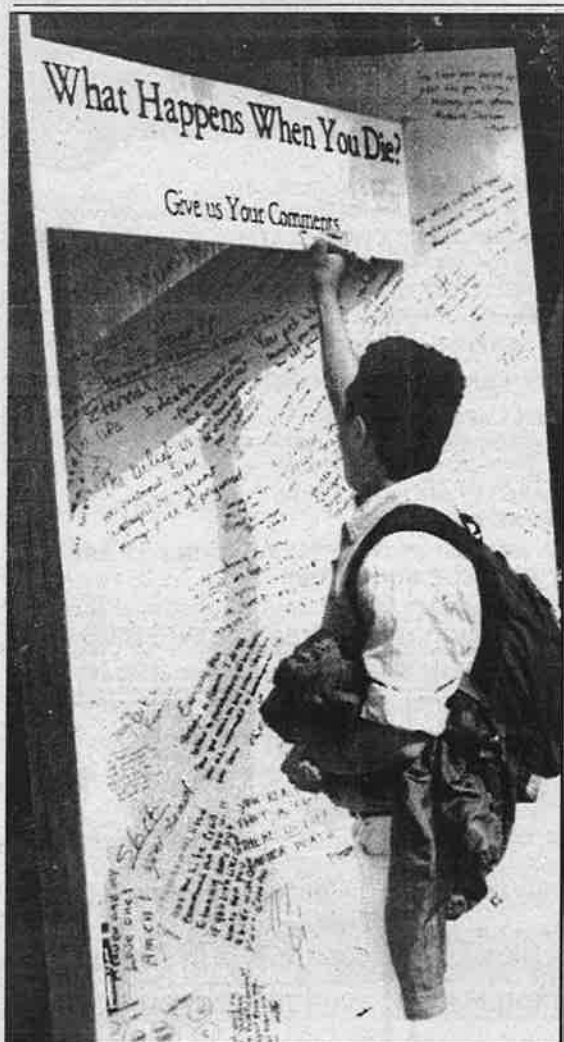


Photo by Julian Torres

What Happens When you die?

By Julian Torres

Photo Editor

Death is a subject, which arises different emotions in different people. On a campus as diverse as FCC, one could expect a variety of responses from its student body if asked, "What happens when you die?"

On Wednesday, November 8, FCC's Campus Crusade for Christ displayed an 8 foot tall piece of orange plywood in the fountain area, asking that very question. Black pens were attached to the board, allowing students to write their responses.

"This is a chance for others to share their points of view on death," said CCfC's Matt Brown.

The display attracted great attention as many responded. One student wrote, "Whatever you do here on earth is reflective on where you go. Choose wisely, live well, and live life to the fullest, you only get one."

Another response was, "That's why you clone yourself."

Each person expressed their views in their own words, even though different, each reply was original and exemplified how others feel toward death.

"The board helps bring an awareness to the subject and as you can see, some people take it more serious than others," said Brown.

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Little Nicky is cute... in that spawn of Satan sort of way

By Chris Castro

Entertainment Editor

What do critics have against Adam Sandler? Honestly, every time one of his films is released, movie reviewers find a thesaurus and use every synonym for "bad" they can possibly find.

Are they jealous of his success? Does it truly disturb them that so many people flock to his films despite the fact they are so critically ripped apart? Well, Adam Sandler is certainly making it easier for the critics this time around. In his new film, *Little Nicky*, Sandler plays the son of the devil, incidentally echoing many critics view of him and his films.

Little Nicky, like many of

Sandler's other films, is nothing more than a movie designed to make people laugh. It isn't as offensive or crude as movies like *Scary Movie* or *American Pie*, but it isn't as witty or high-minded as *Election* or *High Fidelity*. It is a dark comedy (it deals with Hell, after all) and it is occasionally mean-spirited, but Sandler's character isn't the one dishing out the meanness, as he did in his "classics" *Billy Madison* and *Happy Gilmore*. Sandler just wants to give people a mindless romp to make people feel better and, for the most part, *Little Nicky* succeeds on that level and even offers quite a bit of special effects magic.

Nicky is Satan's more kindly offspring; he is constantly teased

by his meaner, older brothers, one of whom hit Nicky in the face with a shovel causing Nicky's soft-spoken speech impediment. In fact, Satan is portrayed as an OK guy (Harvey Keitel, played against type, is quite fatherly and sweet to Nicky). Satan is thrown for a loop when his quite evil pair of sons (played by *Friday*'s Tiny Lister and *Notting Hill*'s Rhys Ifans) escape from Hell and wreck havoc on Earth (most predictably, in New York City), leaving Satan in a deteriorating condition. Satan's, and (sadly enough), Earth's only hope, is Nicky, who must trudge up to New York to help restore the balance of power between good and evil and bring his siblings back to Hell before Satan is reduced to nothing.



Photo courtesy of New Line Cinema

Beefy (left) and Adam Sandler star in New Line Cinema's comedy, *Little Nicky*.

Of course the plot is merely a catalyst, and sometimes a hurdle, for comedic mayhem. Nicky's brothers can possess anyone they please, leading Nicky to run up to random pedestrians telling them to come back with him to Hell. Nicky comes across to heavy metal fans who satirically worship the devil. Along with a talking dog, a demon (an unrecognizable Kevin Nealon) with breasts on his head (don't ask, I won't tell), the requisite love interest (Patricia Arquette, current queen of dark comedy, having also starred in *Stigmata*) and a few angels (including one who turns out to be Nicky's mother), Nicky battles his brothers and saves the Earth, with plenty of laughs along the way.

One of the film's best devices

is its use of stars in cameo roles. Quentin Tarantino, Jon Lovitz, Dana Carvey, Micheal McKean, Rodney Dangerfield, Carl Weathers, Rob Schneider and Ozzy Osborne(!) are just a few of the many surprise guest stars. Most impressive, however, is Reese Witherspoon, who proves that while she is a quite wonderful dramatic star, she absolutely shines when it comes to comedy. Her role is an unexpected delight and takes the film to the level of humor that might appease those nay-saying critics out there. The movie is definitely servicable, but occasionally it reaches comic highs to make one laugh without any guilt.

Though it is regrettable to write this, *Little Nicky* is one hell of a good time.

Playstation2... where are you?

By Chris Castro

Entertainment Editor

When it comes to making one shiver with anticipation, not much could take the place of waiting in line the morning of Oct. 26. At around 6:30, I entered the back of the line, which, from the looks of it, formed a long time before I had arrived. There was as much "brrrrr"-ing going around as there was talk of there not being enough systems to accommodate everyone in line.

While this could've been written off to some people just making sure that they got their system, it was probably more accurate than most of us would care to believe. If ever a sign was more called for, the arrival of a rainbow just before the store was letting customers in to be the first to purchase, and the last for a long while, a Playstation 2 gaming system, enthused the crowd who had been waiting for something positive. Of course, just before everyone's hope were lifted too high, rain began drizzling down. While the wait was nearly over, the outcome of all the effort was certainly hazy.

For myself, it began sometime last year. There was talk of the release in Japan of something called "the Playstation 2." Rumor had that the mythical system would set the next standard in home-video gaming. Word also spread that it would be capable of playing DVD movies. It all sounded too good to be true.

As the system was released in Japan, there were complaints of various system errors in the high-tech gaming system (e.g. it couldn't play "Region One" DVDs, which are the only type of DVDs produced in the United States). Another concern was whether or not the amount of systems supplied to the U.S. would be able to match the demand here.

Many buyers reserved their PS2 systems nearly a year in advance of the predicted release date of Oct. 26 of this year. Those

gamers hoping to reserve systems this summer were turned away from stores that had no idea how many systems would be shipped to each store.

A source of many people's uncertainty was the announcement that a relatively small amount of systems would be released on Oct. 26 (approximately 50, or so, systems to each large retail store, such as Target and Best Buy). Retailers were afraid of "over-selling" the amount of PS2 systems their store would receive (one doesn't want to upset a hardcore video-gamer brought up on first-person shooters, such as *Doom* and *Goldeneye*). The more industrious players, with quite a bit of disposable wealth, purchased Japanese PS2s over the internet on Ebay. Others purchased PS2s in advance at nationwide retail stores' websites, most commonly at the Toys 'R' Us online store (their PS2s would be sent to the customer's address the same date stores would receive their shipments). When Toys 'R' Us announced they would be taking advance orders on PS2s at their "land" stores. As soon as advance "tickets" were put out at each store, however, they were snatched up within minutes of the store's opening. Once again, those looking to pick up a PS2 were left holding their bulging wallets.

Why would Sony limit the amount of PS2 systems available in the U.S.? It has been rumored the entertainment bohemoth would not send a second shipment to stores until February 2001. Incidentally, this is the projected release date of Nintendo's new gaming system, titled "The Dolphin." Obviously, Sony hopes to take any wind out of Nintendo's sails, or sales (a longtime rival of the Sony, the once reigning king of gaming systems, Nintendo also tried a similar tactic by releasing the latest "Zelda" installment, "Majora's Mask," was also released on October 26).

As the release date came closer and closer, it became clear the only way to get a PS2, for many

people, would be to line up outside the stores that didn't reserve advance copies for their customers and would sell PS2 systems on a first-come, first-served basis. A funny thing was how fast word spread as to which stores had how many systems available for sale. One Walmart store only had 17 systems to sell and 17 chairs were set outside their doors, supposedly, 24 hours before they could sell the systems. Other stores were rumored to not be selling any of their PS2 systems to customers, instead selling the systems to their employees who wanted to buy the system. In a scene reminiscent of the first day Edwards Cinema began selling advance tickets for "Star Wars: Episode I..." the earliest customers hoping to purchase a PS2 system to show up at the Riverpark shopping center were turned away by security.

Much like those who waited in line for those first tickets to "Episode I," those who waited in line for their PS2s were united with a sense of camaraderie. They were among their own: pale, thin or overweight, teens or twenty-something year olds who, like vampires, shun the outside world in dark rooms twiddling their thumbs on control pads. Save for the random parent forced to wait in the place of their spoiled child, those in line were a part of a certain demographic. We were a group of people who wanted the fastest and the best gaming system available. Many went home happy, the Target store in Riverpark let people in half an hour early to purchase their systems and received 60 systems, and some went home empty-handed. Some people didn't go home at all; the Best Buy store, also in Riverpark, still had people lined up outside their store 3 hours after they opened their doors. If nothing else, the experience, the hype and the waiting, was something to remember and should be a touchstone for a generation of consumers who don't have many other defining moments to call their own.

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Horoscopes

By Cecilia Ramirez
Rampage Staff



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Others run to you for your opinion. Stay focused on that long discussion with that someone. Sort out your options. Believe it or not in the near future, there will be certain points in time where you will take a hard dose of reality when dealing with matters.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Questions everything this month. Try to get answers first before making decisions. Do what needs to get clarification. A lot of people will count on you for them, so please stay away because you have your life to deal with.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Use your good sense and nail down agreements. Speak your mind. It's not good to hold in those bad emotions. Never mind what others think, keep on track. You're known for having a way positive attitude. Teach others how to do the same.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

Evaluate changes and keep your mind clear. Try not to let others fog up your dreams. You have a good heart, but at times you take advantage of that too much and others try to take advantage and count on you too much. Take care of yourself first.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Aim for what you really want. Distractions will happen, believe it or not. Your creativity will allow you to show off this month. Bring people together. Now's the time for you to be the peacemaker.



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Do not stress over the non-important, especially with that silly situation with a friend that'll occur sometime in the near future. Unexpected ideas will occur. This is your warning to watch out. Maintain your high profile and enjoy your results.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

This is the perfect time for you to take advantage to kick back and relax for awhile. Someone may try to drive away your security this month. Bring out the alarm and prevent that from happening. Stay alert for ideas.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Now is the time to come face to face with your annoyance, deal with it. Sort out your plans and think about what you want from that someone. Show off your sense of humor to others.



Cancer (June 21-August 22)

Try to understand someone. It will help yourself and not only them. Take this time to understand more of what you want from a partnership and brainstorm together. You will end up coming up with similar solutions.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Do not overwork yourself, you may end up having some personal important matter to deal with. Try to gain feedback from the old stubborn one and always try not to forget to plan ahead.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Your main concern this month is your health. Do not overstress yourself because you have a tendency to do that all the time. Who cares what those annoying people have to say, just remember what you want in life because this is definitely your month to have fun and just be you.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Use care with what others have to say. Remember that mistakes can be easily made. Confusion will try to take over this month. Prevent it and try to keep a clear mind. Perspectives will change. That's a promise.

New album *Kid A* 'head of its time

By Chris Castro

Entertainment Editor

Music for the mind. It is not something one expects from an album debuting at number one on the Billboard sales chart, at least not in this day and age. At a time when slightly thoughtful (though certainly not thought-provoking) bubble-gum pop music, dirty limricks masquerading as rap, and equally squalid, but occasionally well-intentioned R&B clutter the upper reaches of the chart of the top ten album sales, the appearance of a band the magazine *New Music Express* called "the last great sincere rock band" is surprising, to say the least. Although, Radiohead, also once called "a pitiful, lily-livered excuse for a rock 'n' group" by the same publication, have always been a band most likely to surprise.

Radiohead is a group that should have, by the rules of the music industry, burnt out a long time ago. Widely known for their grungy, early '90s hit single, "Creep," Radiohead certainly did seem like a band that would leave a lasting mark in the annals of music history. Their first record, *Pablo Honey*, was a trifle of a record; the band was intentionally trying to sound like their favorite performers, such as U2 and REM. Apart from the minor thrill of hearing the quintet employ their one gimmick, their three electric guitarists grinding all at once, Radiohead's freshman album gave off no hints of what was to come.

With their next album, *The Bends*, Radiohead forced the music critics everywhere to take them off of their "one hit wonder" lists. The group showed accomplished writing and musical prowess that took the music industry by storm. The album ended up on countless end-of-the-year top ten lists and stands as an indisputable rock classic. Next, the band showed they were a band to expect the unexpected from with the release of *OK Computer*, the highly praised, progressive rock album many hailed as a masterpiece. With expectations high, and the weight of seemingly the whole world (or, at least, the fate of rock 'n' roll) resting upon their attention-shunning shoulders, Radiohead have released an album which sounds even more outside the mainstream than the platinum-selling *OK Computer*.

Radiohead might have self-destructed (or disbanded) in an effort to try to top their wildly heralded last album. To say the least, the band might have gone insane and it isn't much of a stretch to call *Kid A* the sound of a band gone mad.

Kid A is another musical step into the future from Radiohead. Though the band has always taken the stance that they produce pop music, they'd be hard-pressed to make the same claim today. *Kid A* is a throwback to the days of Pink

Floyd and other concept record pioneers, when an album was taken in by an audience listening closely to their record-players to grasp the message behind the music. *OK Computer* was a record which was more affecting when taken as a whole instead of listening to songs on their own ("Karma Police" was a great single, but it is much more effective when preceded by "Let Down" and the creepy "Fitter Happier"). *Kid A* continues the trend by melding tracks together so they flow even more fluid than in *OK Computer*. *Kid A* takes its listeners on a musical journey that has been much less traveled of late.

Radiohead's affinity for being obscure and more than a little off-center is in full bloom within *Kid A*. Thom Yorke's voice is barely audible on most tracks and when he does sing, he competes with his own computer-manipulated voice (especially on the opening track, "Everything In Its Right Place"). If *OK Computer* was a concept record depicting a person's reluctance to exist in a world dominated by machines, then *Kid A* is the musical battle of the humans against the machines. Of course, the album is more *Dark Side of the Moon* than *T2: Judgment Day* in its presentation.

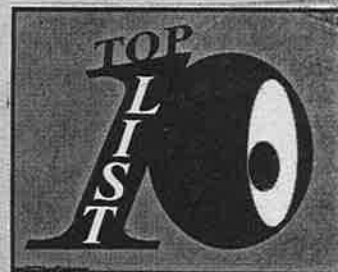
Just like Nirvana was trying to sound like the Pixies and made their own distinctive sound in the process, Radiohead's attempt to sound like techno-based artists, such as Kraftwerk and DJ Shadow, yields a remarkable outcome. Employing not only computer- and keyboard-generated sounds, Radiohead uses a symphony orchestra as well as their own guitars and drums to provide a lush musical landscape. Most impressive, and uncomfortably moving, is the use of a horn section for "The National Anthem," which, alongside Colin Greenwood's driving bass, gives the song a maddeningly haunting quality. The music is further intensified by the voice of Yorke, whose voice gleams as if he's been

turned into an android. A string section is used, and emulated by Johnny Greenwood's and Ed O'Brien's guitars on the equally eerie "How To Disappear Completely."

The most electronica-heavy track on the album, "Idoteque," is punctuated by an icy, crisp drum smash from drummer Phil Selway. What set this track apart from the usual techno fare is its surprising human essence: Yorke's voice struggling to be heard over a cacophony of electronic whirs and beeps and the band's "natural" instruments also trying to gain ground give the song an emotional pull commonly absent from most techno songs. "Optimistic" is the only track without a techno feel and stands out like a transcendent sour thumb. Rather than take away from the album, nor does it draw attention from it, "Optimistic" fits right in, especially as it follows the instrumental piece, "Treefingers." Like a warm blanket, "Optimistic" welcomes the listener into familiar Radiohead ground; while it is anything but lighthearted (much like "Fake Plastic Trees," it sound beautifully tragic in a hopeless romantic kind of way), its sing-song chorus ("you can try the best you can, the best you can is good enough") is positively soothing. Further warm-and-fuzziness is heard on the last track, "Motion Picture Soundtrack." In said track, Yorke tells his lover, "I think you're crazy, maybe... I will see you in the next life." While these aren't the nicest things to say, they sound downright sweet coming from Yorke, whose voice is surrounded by choral voices. It ends the album on a positive note, which is fitting since the album begins with Yorke singing, "I'm not here, this isn't happening," like someone trying to shut out the catastrophes surrounding them. As the album closes, Yorke states, "This is really happening." As for the band that takes the extra step that most bands hesitate to take, Radiohead is still happening.

Top Ten Things To Do When You're Sick

By Chris Castro
Entertainment Editor



10. Drink Nyquil.

9. Watch funny movies (top of the list:

Ghostbusters, anything with Monty Python, and *Airplane!*).

8. Count bed sores.

7. Figure out if it's "feed a cold, starve a flu" or vice versa.

6. Wonder what you do to a sinus infection.

5. Find out the symptoms of Ebola and, hopefully, cancel them out.

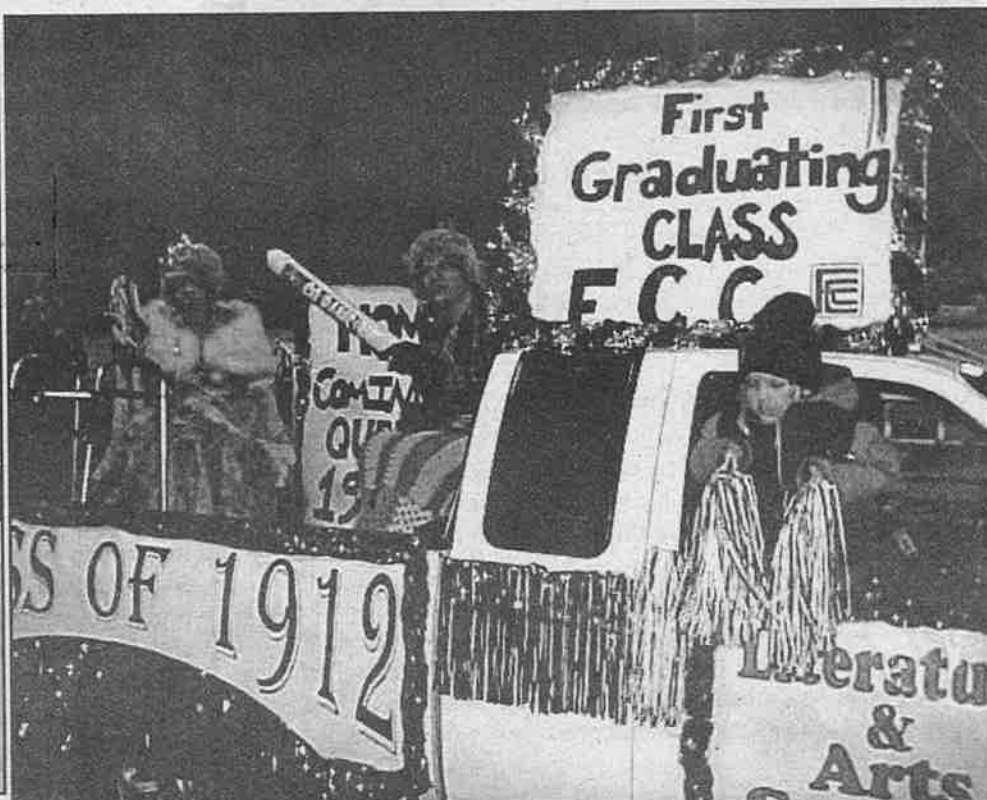
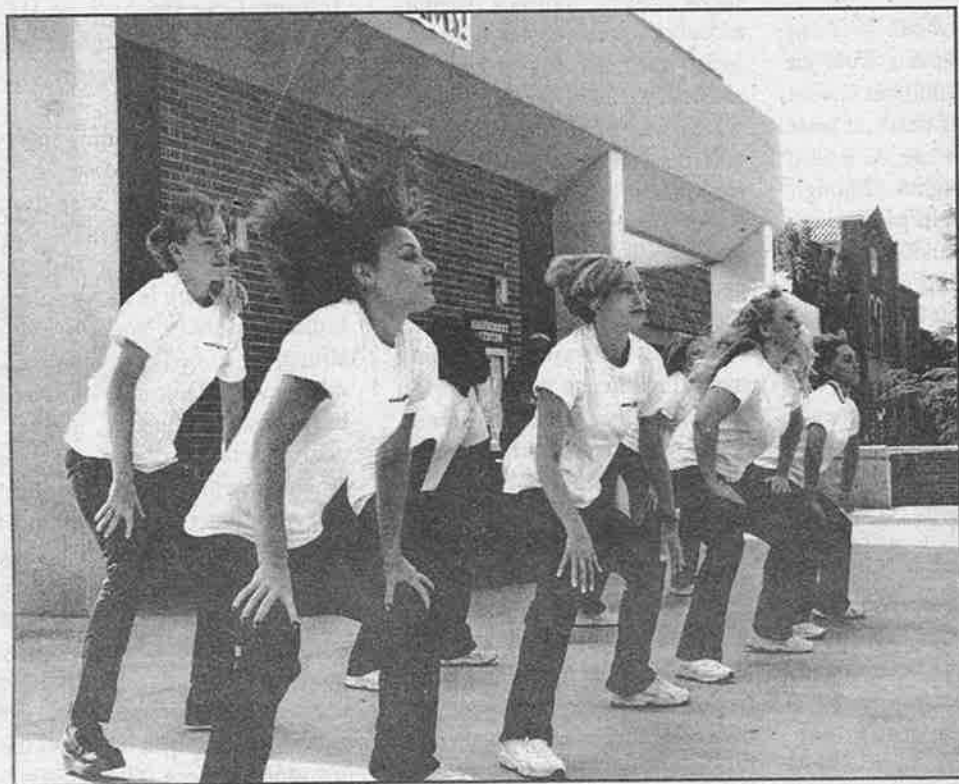
4. Imagine the world outside your bedroom has been taken over by zombies which you must fight once you get better.

3. Sleep

2. Eat chicken soup.

1. Throw up chicken soup.

Homecoming Week



By Nam Dang
News Editor

Ernie Garcia, of the Associated Student Government, and Marie Vasquez of the Students in Free Enterprise club were named FCC's Homecoming King and Queen on Nov. 11, which was the culmination of a week full of activities during Homecoming 2000.

The week kicked off on Nov. 6, in front of the Student Services building, with the unveiling of a "ram" topiary by FCC President Dr. Daniel Larios and student body Dale Risenhoover. The topiary was a gift to the school from the Associated Student Government on behalf of the students.

"The topiary idea was something that metamorphosed from an original idea of having something to give to the campus that would have long life and something that had a theme with regards to flowers and improving the landscaping," said Associated Student Government senator Doug Crutchfield. "By talking to various members of the faculty and student body, we (the ASG) came upon the idea of a topiary."

Following the unveiling of the topiary, the 12 candidates vying for Homecoming King and Queen were introduced by FCC's Col-

lege Activities director Gurdeep Sihota.

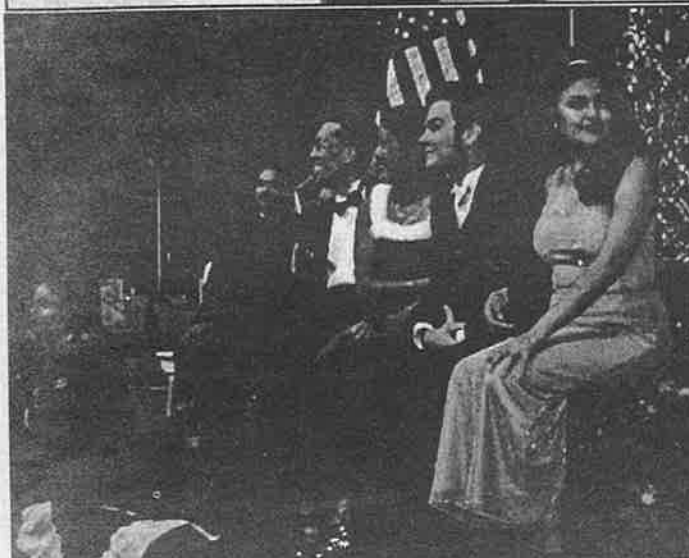
The elections for the 2000 Homecoming Court were on Nov. 7-9. These elections gave students a chance to choose who they would like to see be crowned as Homecoming King and Queen.

"I was glad to see that quite a few people were able to get out and vote," said Students in Free Enterprise member Robert Austin, who was named the runner-up to Garcia.

A pep rally, on Nov. 8 in the fountain area, gave the FCC football team a chance get the students enthused about the Homecoming football game.

The rally also included dance performances by the FCC Pep and Cheer squad and some games for students to participate. These games included a "cherry bobbing" contest (where contestants had to find a maraschino cherry from inside a whipped cream pie without using their hands) and a donut eating contest (where contestants had to eat a donut off a piece of string with their hands held behind their back) among others.

The Homecoming festivities continued with a tailgate party, on the night of Nov. 11, where war veterans were honored (in commemoration of Veteran's Day) as



Homecoming Week



Photos by Cathy Alexander, Louis Castro,
Joseph M. Moffitt, and Julian Torres

well as past FCC football players. A parade of soldiers representing the different branches of the military preceded the kickoff of FCC's football game versus the West Hills College Falcons.

At halftime, with the Rams leading the Falcons by a big 35-7 margin, the much-anticipated moment finally came as Austin and FCC Pep and Cheer member Tanice Petrelli were named the Homecoming Prince and Princess as the runners-up to the King and Queen. Then the announcement of the King and Queen was made as Garcia and Vasquez were crowned by the reigning Homecoming King and Queen, Adrian Rodriguez and Paula Stewart, who are former FCC students.

The crowning of the Homecoming King, coincidentally, marked the second consecutive year that a person from the same organization won that particular crown. Rodriguez was the student body president for the 1999-2000 school year and is now a mass communications major at CSU, Fresno.

Another parade followed, which featured floats from four different organizations: the ASG, the Latter-Day Saints Student Association, the Learning Resources center, and the Literary Arts Society.

"I was very pleased that Adrian won last year and I'm glad that he's here again to crown me," said Garcia.

Rodriguez, meanwhile, uttered these sentiments about his former ASG colleague, "There was probably nobody else that I would want to have passed my crown onto other than Ernie. He's a really good friend, I really like him and I'm glad that he's the king."

When asked how the King and Queen felt about winning their respective crowns, Garcia and Vasquez were both pleased with the outcome; especially Vasquez.

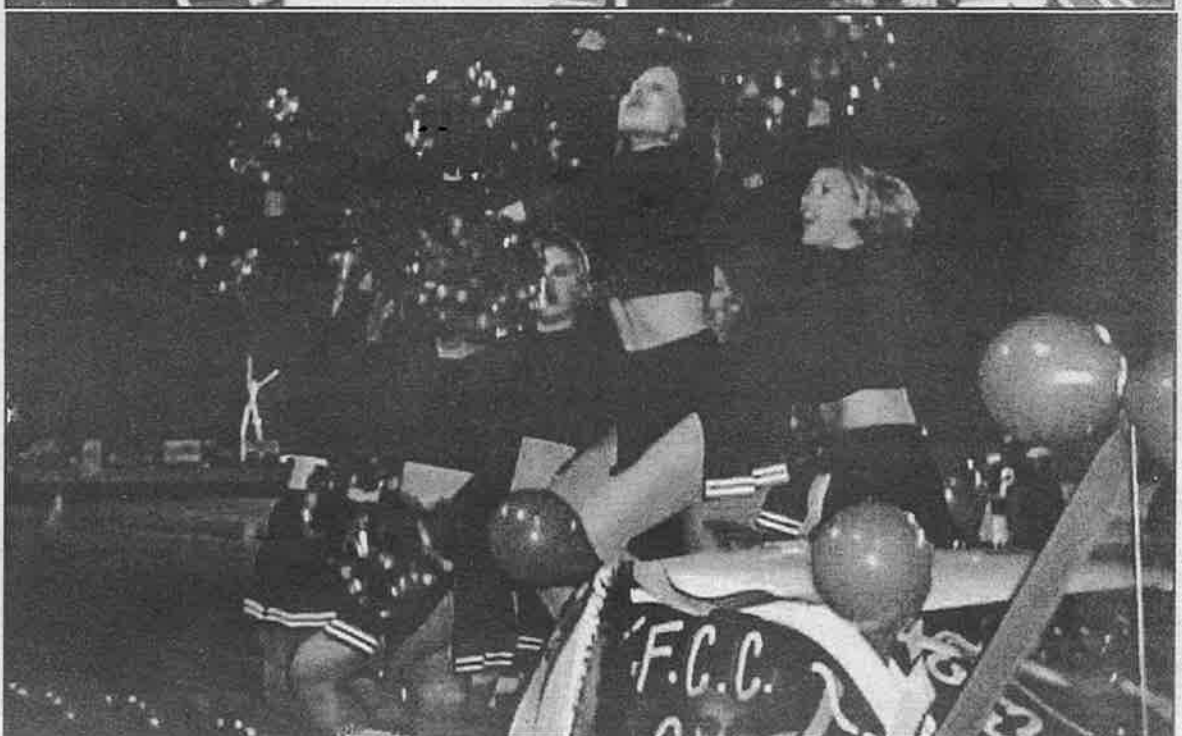
"I'm so excited because my whole family came from out of town and they were able to come see me," Vasquez said. Her family came down to Fresno from San Ramon (which is 2 1/2 hours north of Fresno) to see her.

Both candidates also felt their campaigns are what put them over the top.

"I think an optimistic attitude and a catchy slogan was what put me over the top," said Garcia.

Added Vasquez, "Candy always works. Pass out candy to students and you win a crown."

A very eventful evening concluded with the Rams football team shellacking the West Hills Falcons by a score of 49-7.



FCC student fulfills dream as coach of high school team

By Jeff Swisher

Contributing Writer

This winter, Fresno City College student Douglas Cheney will not only be studying textbooks for upcoming exams, he'll be studying playbooks for upcoming basketball games.

Since childhood, Cheney has aspired to be the head coach of a basketball team. After graduating high school merely two years ago, Cheney's dream will come true as he takes the helm of Buchanan High School's freshman boys basketball team for the 2000-01 season.

"I know I'm young, and many people may underestimate my coaching ability because of that," said Cheney, who turned 19 years old this past October. "But I feel like I have some experience under my belt, and I know enough about basketball to teach it."

So does Buchanan High's varsity boys basketball head coach Tony Peterson, who coached Cheney throughout high school and hired him as head coach of the freshman team.

"Cheney is mature for his age," said Peterson. "He was the kind of player that would sit back and watch the game and learn from it. He knows the game."

Former teammate and current assistant coach James Bush agrees.

"I have always felt that Doug sees the game differently," said Bush, who was a guard on Buchanan High's 1998-99 varsity basketball team. "He's always understood the fundamentals of basketball."

Cheney took a liking to basketball as a child. Basketball legends such as Earvin "Magic" Johnson, Larry Bird and Michael Jordan caught the attention of Cheney as he watched with in tense curios-

ity and interest.

"Jordan, Bird, and 'Magic' were the main reasons I fell in love with basketball," said Cheney with nostalgia. "I loved their professionalism, intelligence, and the way they carried themselves on the basketball court and with the media."

It wasn't long until Cheney began to view basketball with a different perspective. If a spectacular play was made in a game, Cheney would often wonder how and why the play occurred. He viewed basketball not as a casual spectator, but as a student of the game.

"When Jordan would slam dunk the basketball, my friends would be cheering for him while I'd be cheering for the guy who grabbed the rebound and passed the ball to Jordan," said Cheney. "It's those little things in basketball I enjoy most. I like the guy who works hard, dives for the ball, and gives 100% effort."

Cheney began playing organized basketball in the fifth grade at Fresno Christian Elementary School in Fresno. He continued playing at Alta Sierra Intermediate School in Clovis. It was at Alta Sierra that Cheney realized hard work was the key to success.

"I realized that I wasn't the

fastest guy, that I couldn't shoot the ball well, and that I wasn't the tallest on the team," said Cheney. "By working hard for rebounds and playing solid defense, I excelled. I learned that hard work will suffice for lack of talent."

After his junior high school years ended, Cheney moved on to Buchanan High, where he played one season on the freshman team, one season on the junior varsity team, and two seasons on the varsity team. He started at the small forward position on the varsity team.

With his ruffian attitude and consistent work ethic, Cheney earned the respect of his coaches and teammates at Buchanan.

"Everyone on our team liked Cheney," said Bush. "We respected him because he came to practice everyday, showed discipline, and showed a strong commitment to our basketball team."

Cheney preaches discipline and hard work as a coach. As his sweat saturated players sprint back and forth across the basketball court at practice, one thing was apparent - Cheney works his players hard.

"We run a lot," said Mike Ogden, who plays for Cheney on Buchanan's freshman boys basketball team. "Coach Cheney be-

lieves in conditioning and being in shape."

Despite Cheney's youth, his players value his knowledge and experience in basketball.

"I know he's young but he's still an authoritative figure," said Ogden. "I respect him because he's older and he's played before. He seems to know what he's talking about."

If there was one aspect of coaching Cheney needs to improve, it is his lack of patience. While Cheney communicates well with his players, he often finds himself frustrated with their inability to perform at the level which he expects them.

"He needs more patience," said Peterson. "Freshman don't always have the basic fundamentals to play good basketball and Doug gets frustrated with that. With time, he'll learn to adapt to the abilities of his players."

Peterson thinks Cheney's coaching will only get better. He assures Cheney will succeed this season, and in many seasons to come.

"He brings a lot of character and loyalty to this program," said Peterson. "He definitely has a future as a head coach. Kids like him are hard to come by."

Men's soccer gets crowned

By Brandon Castro

Sports Editor

The FCC men's soccer team won the Central Valley Conference crown and finished the season undefeated at 15-0-6.

FCC is seeded fourth in the Northern California playoff race. The Rams will take on the winner

of the No. 12 Porterville (10-7-3) vs. No. 5 Foothill (14-3-3) game that took place Tuesday. The Rams will play the winner Saturday in Fresno at Ratcliffe Stadium with the time to be announced.

FCC is ranked behind No. 1 San Francisco (18-3-1), No. 2 DeAnza (10-2-4) and also No. 2 Santa Rosa (17-0).

Women's soccer matches goal

By Brandon Castro

Sports Editor

The FCC women's soccer team, which had already clinched the Central Valley Conference title, opened the Northern California playoffs by beating Merced 2-0 Tuesday. The Rams are 16-3-3.


The Rams met the goal set by coach Bill Neal earlier in the season. Neal said, "Our goal is to win conference. That's our final goal."

Marina Lopez had both goals for the Rams. Merced finished 11-6-4.

"We hope that we play well. I don't care who you're playing," Neal said. "You've got to be up and going."

The Rams will face Santa Rosa in the second round Saturday.

Neal said, "We'll do the best we can. If we win we win, but if we lose we'll lose graciously."



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Rams benefit from son of Hall of Fame Raider

By Joe Chacon

Managing Editor

Between his graduate classes at Fresno State University and coaching at Fresno City College, Fred Biletnikoff Jr. has little free time.

In fact, the only time he has to reminisce about his experiences with the Oakland Raiders and how he started coaching is while he's driving off the field house parking lot.

The name Biletnikoff to the true fan goes hand in hand with the Raiders. Biletnikoff Jr., FCC's passgame coordinator, is the son of Hall of Fame wide receiver Fred Biletnikoff, who starred for the Raiders in the 1970s.

The elder Biletnikoff's pass receiving and ability to get open for quarterback Kenny Stabler produced some of the greatest catches in Raiders' history.

Biletnikoff Jr. grew up in Pleasanton 30 miles east of San Francisco. He grew up on the sidelines and in the locker room of the Raider organization and went to every game as a child. Despite his father's celebrity status, Biletnikoff Jr.'s coaching career wasn't influenced much by his famous father but it did help with football knowledge.

"I had always been around football socially," Biletnikoff Jr. said. "With my dad, he got me around football socially."

Biletnikoff Jr. was brought to Fresno by Rams coach Tony Caviglia.

"I coached for Caviglia for five years at Chabot College, three

while he was the head coach," FCC new passgame coach said.

After graduating from Foothill High School in Pleasanton, Biletnikoff Jr. went to the University of Central Florida in Orlando on a scholarship. He redshirted his first semester.

"I just wasn't ready academically to go to school," Coach said. "I had a hard enough time going to class in high school," Biletnikoff Jr. said. He decided after spring break that he would leave school and return home.

Biletnikoff Jr. got a job in Oak-

"I was limited to get into another direction of employment," he said. "You got to get a break. If you get your education, your degree, you open up a lot of doors and that's what we try to get the kids to see."

"I had a passion for coaching. It wasn't anything that I was looking at as a profession. It was just a fun thing to do."

His first coaching job was at Alameda High School in the Bay Area. He spent two years there and moved to the junior college level.

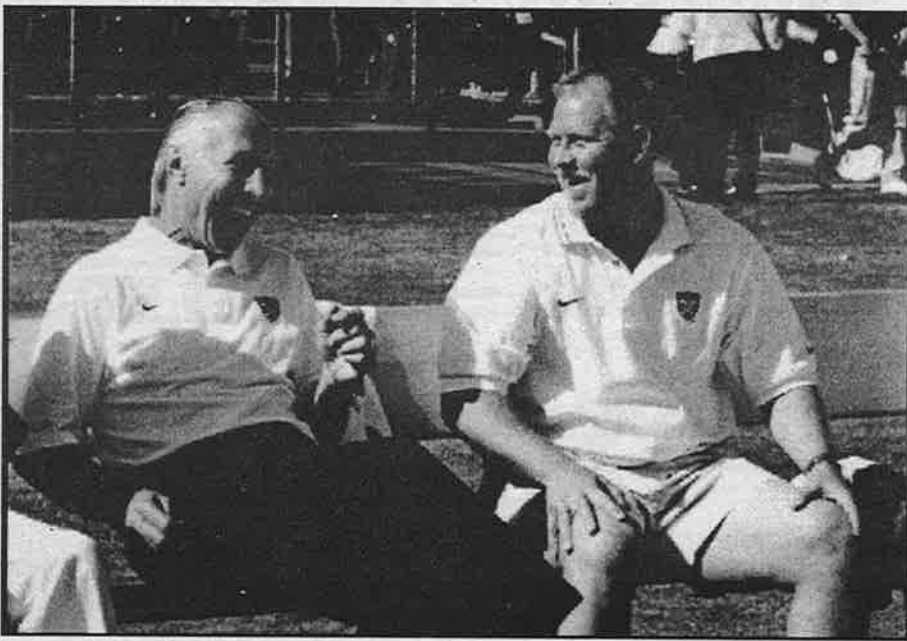
"The more I got into coaching, the more I wanted to do that as a profession. The more I started seeing that one of the tools to get into the profession is an education and a degree," Biletnikoff Jr. said.

A job-related injury allowed him to go back to school through the State Disability Vocational Rehabilitation Program.

Biletnikoff Jr. graduated with his associate arts degree at Chabot College and finished his bachelor's degree at Cal State, Hayward in June 2000. He had a lot of support from his family and friends.

"My biggest crutch is my wife Caroline," he said, making a point to spell her name. "She's awesome."

The couple has no children. "I got 60," he said, laughing. "They



Fred Biletnikoff Sr. jokes around with son, Fred Jr. on the Oakland Raider sideline.

are all back at the locker room."

Biletnikoff Jr. grew up with the Raiders as a child. "It was a neat experience, as it would be for any kid," he said. "The experience I had with the Raiders is really no different than Coach Caviglia's kids have or Coach Bob DeMichillie's kids have. The only difference is one is professional and the other is at the junior college level."

"I was in a fortunate position to be around those people (players and coaches). I've kept in touch with a lot of the players like George Atkinson, Jack Tatum, Cliff Branch, Mr. Otto, Kenny Stabler, all those guys my father played with." Coaches John Madden and Tom Flores were an inspiration for the son of Fred Biletnikoff. "It never hits you when you're a kid. These are normal guys. They're friends. I would take a soccer ball to practice and kick the ball around with Clarence Davis, when I was six years old."

Biletnikoff Jr. said that after growing up in the Raiders organization he had no desire to coach at the professional level. "The hours are long," he said. "I don't want to get into a situation where I'm going to work at 6 a.m., com-

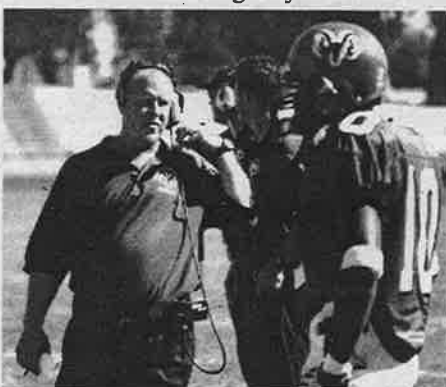
ing home at 10 p.m. I really don't want to coach at the four-year level."

"At the junior college level, the competition is awesome and when I graduate at Fresno State I would like to get hired full time and coach at City."

Biletnikoff Jr. showed his emotion and intensity about his coaching philosophy, saying, "I want make sure I'm having as much fun as those kids are. Down on the sideline it's an emotional roller coaster. You're hitting peaks and valleys. There's so many emotions, kids are crying, kids are upset, kids are mad and happy during the game. As a coach you got to keep your head and guide them."

"Those kids aren't going to battle for you, they're going to battle with you, and those kids have to see that you're going to be there for them on the field and off the field."

"I've been around big-time people, celebrities and professional athletes. I've been to Super Bowls, but there is no other place on earth I'd rather be than with that football team, in the locker room, 10 minutes before kickoff. No way I would trade that for anything. I love those kids."



Biletnikoff Jr. offers advice to a player.

land delivering beer for Miller Brewing Co. "At that time, it was good for me. It was great money and an excellent job," he said.

"I got tired of fighting in the streets," Coach said. From living in the neighborhood? "No, delivering beer. Pull up in front of a liquor store on East 14th Street in downtown Oakland, on a Friday at 3 p.m., in the middle of summer to deliver beer, you find out about yourself."

It was then that Biletnikoff Jr. started to realize he had no options without an education.

Volleyball wins first title

By Brandon Castro

Sports Editor

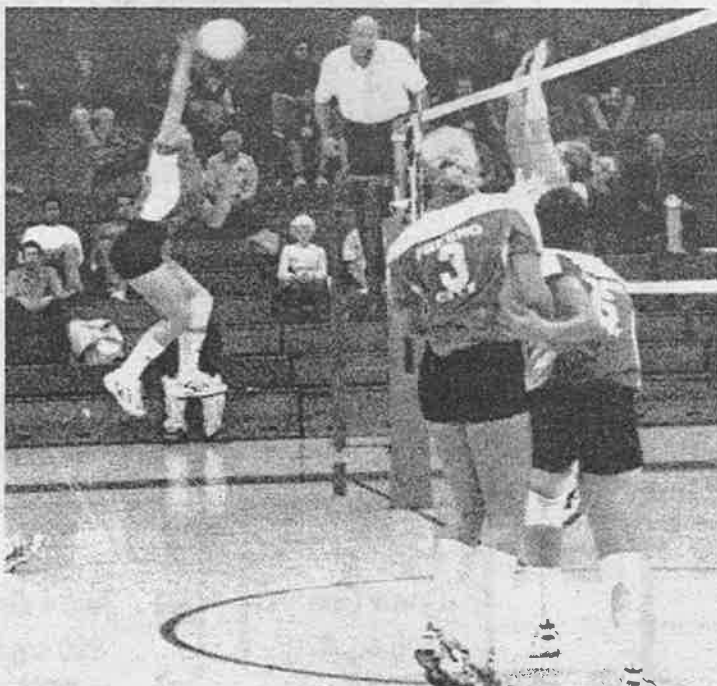
The FCC women's volleyball team won the Central Valley Conference title for the first time in school history with a win over West Hills. The Rams remained undefeated in conference at 12-0.

Two days later (last Friday), the Rams faced Taft College and beat them in four sets to remain perfect in the CVC at 13-0.

"It's wonderful," said Coach Sheri Ostrand-Hess about winning conference. "The girls deserve to be able to have this. They work hard, they're excited. We can do very well."

The Rams played their last game of the regular season Wednesday night again Merced. A win would give the Rams a perfect 14-0 record in conference.

The first round of the Northern California playoffs begin Tuesday and the second round is on Saturday, Nov. 25. If the Rams succeed they will go on to the NorCal Finals are Tuesday, Nov. 28. Then if all is well for Coach Hess and the Rams, they will play for state championships Friday



Staci Gorubec kills the ball down through the Falcons defense as teammates Marissa Braness and Rochelle Ortega look on.

and Saturday on Dec. 3 & 5 in Stockton at San Joaquin Delta College.

Also in women's sports...

Hess was complimentary of 6-foot-2 freshman Rochelle Ortega, who plays volleyball and basketball.

"She does both. It works out very well," Hess said.

The seasons overlap during the volleyball playoffs and the start of the women's basketball season, which doesn't seem to effect Ortega during either volleyball or basketball seasons.

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Rams get the Reedley Tigers by the claws



Photos by Julian Torres

By T. J. Levoamana

Sports Writer

Fresno City College's football team came close Nov. 4 to adding a blemish to its clean record of 8-0. Reedley came in pumped up in search of the momentum FCC has held this season.

This was no ordinary game, either.

The Rams and Tigers have had many battles over a trophy that resembles a water pump.

Just last year, the Rams barely pulled it off, as they triumphed over the Tigers in overtime.

As this game went on, many players had mixed feelings. Some players felt all along that the Rams

would bounce back each time, and they did end up winning 26-22.

Then again, others trembled at the thought of defeat, let alone, losing the pump. But the pump wasn't the only thing at stake.

First place in the Central Valley Conference was also at hand for the two teams.

"This was a must win game. We lose this, we lose a lot more other stuff," the Rams Randy McDonald said. He was confident FCC would bring this one home.

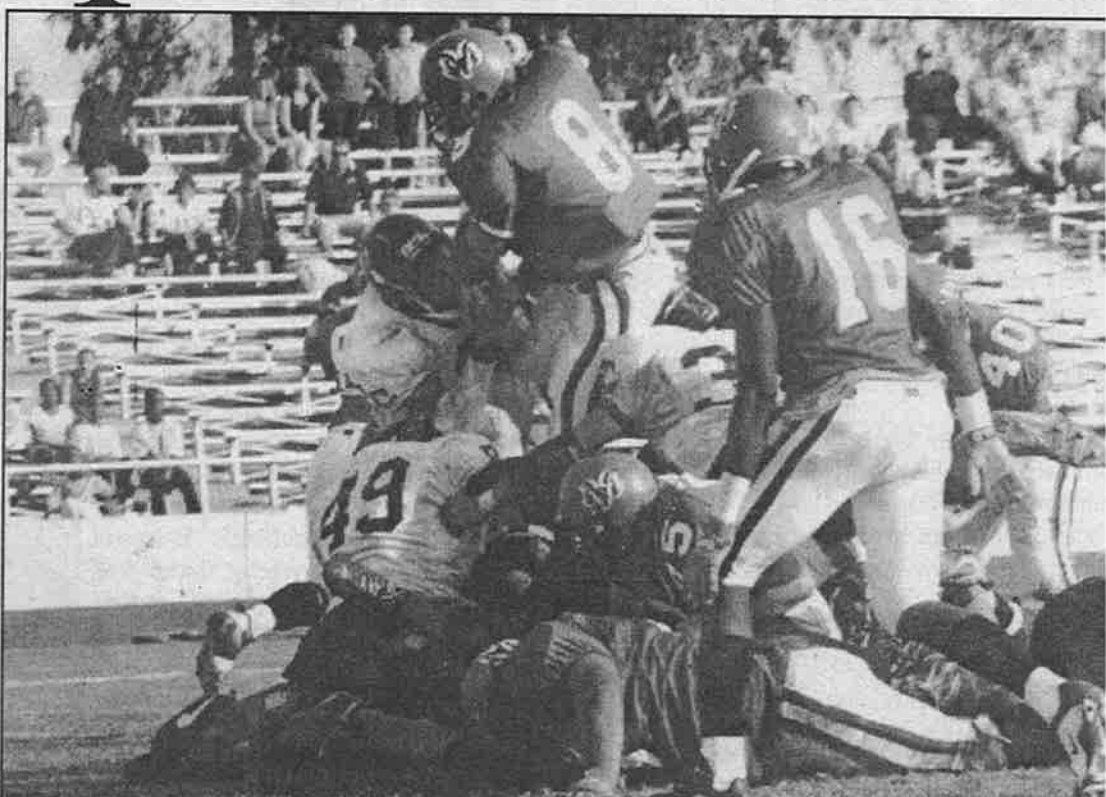
It seemed like every pass the Rams threw, Reedley was always there to break it up, or sometimes, pick it off.

The Tigers made four interceptions and managed to chase FCC

quarterback Kyle Biggs out of the pocket with a stacked defense.

"They had eight guys coming in each time. Our linemen had trouble picking up the extra guys," FCC's Frank Jordan said. Jordan caught one pass and barely managed to get anywhere.

"This is my first time ever being undefeated. Most guys on the team have never been this far," Jordan said. "I had to tell 'em to step up. Keep your heads up, this game ain't over yet. But at the same time, I was a little scared myself."



Above; Soares b... through... Tiger defense... one of his... touchdown... Left; Da... Taufi... Reedley... quarterback... for a loss... yardage.

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Extra-help

Cont. from Page 1

gible for classification on the eligibility lists. But this still puts them in a bind as well as different campus departments for which they work.

"This decision affects people all across the board," said Henry Padden, SCCC vice chancellor of personnel.

According to SCCC Police Lieutenant Ron Watson, this decision hits the campus police department hard.

"The only full-time positions in the police department are the police officer positions, which has 13 sworn police officers; one department secretary, and two full-time dispatchers," he said. "Part-time staff members such as district

service officers (DSOs) and other dispatchers and office staff can be put in student aide positions, provided they are students. Anybody that's not a student, when his or her 90 days are up, will not be allowed to work any more."

One student who attended the town hall meeting had plenty to say.

"As a student employee, it

helps that we are exempt from the ("extra-help" provision)," said Charles Rasch, who is a student employee in the Learning Resources Center.

"But what I am really worried about is other people who are employed as full-time staff or part-time staff who are temporary and on 90-day contracts. Those are the people that we have to worry about. When

their positions, what will happen to them? How is it going to affect the school?"

Rasch said he felt the decision on "extra help" was made too abruptly. "The administrators said that the employees were supposed to be informed of the decision way beforehand. If they were, then trust me, it would have gotten around a lot quicker."

Scandal

Cont. from Page 1

ment, but days before his removal, the Rampage attempted to get his side of the story.

Rampage: "Are you at all concerned about your job?"

Aye: "No comment."

Rampage: "Are you concerned about players leaving the program?"

Aye: "No comment."

Rampage: "Do you have anything to say about it at all?"

Aye: "No comment."

FCC, meanwhile, hired a coach Monday, Peter Sharkey, to replace Aye.

Sharkey, a Hoover High math teacher, met with the team Monday and conducted practice.

Sharkey has had coaching stints as an assistant at Fresno City and Fresno State, and he was the Rams' interim women's coach for one year. He coached the Hoover High girls' team for 11 years.

The school is concerned about athletes possibly defecting from the program.

"We met with them and gave them their options (about leaving school)," Scott said. "We would like them to stay. I would hope most of our kids are here not just for the chance to be a champion, but for the education, but we're not trying to talk kids into staying by any means. If they want to leave, we'll give them the help they need."

The players seem to have mixed feelings about the situation. Rumors have begun about certain players leaving Fresno City, but most seem willing to stick with the team and have the best season possible.

Players would not comment to the Rampage, but some told the Fresno Bee they expect to get through the situation as a team.

One thing that was certain was the disappointment the players felt after hearing of Aye's firing. Many were obviously shaken, some struggling to hold back tears.

"They're in shock," Scott said of the players. "They feel like the rug has been pulled out from under them."

Assistant coaches Don Slade and Tim Butler will take over the team for now, but Scott is looking to hire a permanent coach as soon as possible.

The school has canceled the Tip-Off Classic that was to take place last weekend.

Scott is still optimistic about the season, though.

"Athletes are self-motivated," he said. "It's disappointing, but it doesn't matter that we can't go to the playoffs. We will still play hard and hope for the best."

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BY T.J.



TIP ONE: COMPLIMENT HER



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So, we still don't have a president? So far, so good

By Maggie Garza
Editor-in-chief

Now that elections are over ... oh, wait a minute...elections aren't over yet. Let's see now, we got our senators, we got our mayors, and now all we are missing is our...president?

After endless campaign commercials, tons of media coverage and enough banners and posters to tempt us Americans to drive with our eyes closed, Tuesday arrived with a promise to put the elections in the past and prepare us to deal with what we got and move on.

The media covered the presidential elections as if it were a Monday night football game. The only difference being that on Monday night, we actually get a football winner. Millions of Americans tuned in to TVs, ra-

dios, or Internet sites to find out the Bush-Gore scores.

So they're recounting the votes in Florida, and here we are still waiting to see which president we'll unfortunately end up with. It's a lose-lose situation (although I think I could bear four years with Gore). Let's face it there are tons of job opportunities for ex-alcoholics, like Bush, I just don't think President of the United States is one of them. Of course when the going gets tough he could always run to daddy. Since "daddy" was such a *good* president (sarcastically speaking).

Fresno folks have a lot to complain about. Not only did our absentee ballots not count but also we got left with Alan Autry as mayor. Now he does have a lot of passion, don't get me wrong. He just doesn't have a clue about politics. After elections whither away

and Autry's Bubba persona fades, I think everyone will realize exactly what we got ourselves into. (That's OK, we can all drown ourselves in that big lake in the middle of downtown that Autry promised us.)

Now, we did get some good out of the elections. Rich Rodriguez didn't win, so all of us could slowly take a deep breath.

Prop. 38 didn't pass, which is a good sign that people actually do care about our public school system. Prop. 38, that gave \$4,000 vouchers to private schools, would have taken that away from our public school system. I feel it's safe to say that Prop. 38 was a coward's way in giving students a better education. Instead of focusing on the public system and finding the root of the problem so that all students could get a better education, 38 only promised a se-

lect few vouchers so that they could go to private schools and escape the public system. (Not to mention that the private schools did the selecting.)

Now with Prop. 36, first and second drug offenders will get the help they need. Instead of locking them up so that they could learn more tricks of the trade with their buddies, the offenders will go through rehab that will help them cure their addictions rather than to enter back to society just as they left. Of course, this is no guarantee that it will work on everyone, but at least we are starting to realize that judging someone and marking him or her a

criminal before we sit with them and help deal with their addiction will only hurt our society in the end.

It looks like New York is ready to embrace the Clinton administration once again. Hillary Clinton is now senator of the mighty Big Apple. They need not fear, her experience as president proves senator will be a piece of cake for her.

Speaking of president, once again I'm reminded we are left without a president. At least for the meantime with Hillary but with getting ready to become senator, who will run the White House now? Bill?

Taking It To The Streets

Compiled by
Veronica Huaracha

Do you think it's important to have a Homecoming queen and king in college?



Ray Gamino

"Yes, because it goes with the whole Homecoming theme. Without a queen and king, what else would there be?"



Carla Salgado

"It's not important, but it's a Homecoming tradition."



Anthony Skaggs

"No, because it's a thing of the past. It's time to grow up. We're not in high school anymore."



Nick Ramirez

"It's not important, but it's cool. They have the opportunity to be recognized."



Rasny Vangnakhone

"They are not important, but they are fun to have."

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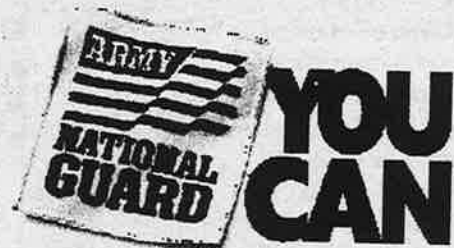
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