



Mendez under review

Coach's credibility on the line

By Anthony Witrado
Rampage reporter

Fresno City College officials are investigating men's basketball coach Mark Mendez for apparent dissimilarities regarding his coaching record as stated on his resume while interviewing for the position.

Mendez says he collected more than 500 victories before coming to FCC and that he led South Mountain (Ariz.) Community College to a 21-6 record during his first year, earning two conference titles. Because

of the allegations brought to the school's attention by The Fresno Bee two weeks ago, an investigation is under way.

"The Bee called with five allegations about (Mendez)," interim president Art Ellis said. "They told us we had so long to disprove them, and in four hours we were able to discredit four of the five. When we told The Bee we would need a couple of more days to check the other. They said it was not good enough, and that they were going to press with what they had."

"What (The Bee) had was information



"Man, I don't know what my win-loss record is, I've been involved in so many games it is too hard to keep track."

— Mark Mendez, FCC men's basketball coach

from (South Mountain). What we had was a record from a half a dozen places he has coached. It led us to launch an investigation immediately."

Ellish said he expected the investigation

to be completed by the end of last week, but it was not. Ellish, State Center Community College District chancellor Judith

See Mendez, page 14

Loving memories



Students, faculty and others joined in a candlelight vigil Sept. 19 in the Fresno City College fountain area for a special tribute to firefighters, policemen, medical staff and volunteers who have played key roles since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the East Coast. Several hundred people turned out for the vigil, which also offered condolences to the family of football player Junior Puletapuai, who was killed by a train on the FCC campus Sept. 13.

Photos by Brandon Castro



Railroad discussion rekindled

Moving tracks, though, would cost \$400 million

By Terry Azamber
Rampage reporter

The death of Junior Puletapuai, a Fresno City College football player, has renewed interest in moving the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad tracks, which run through the campus, to the Highway 99 corridor alongside the Union Pacific tracks.

The cost of track consolidation is estimated to be about \$400 million according to information from the office of State Assemblyman Mike Briggs of the 29th Assembly District. Fresno County and the City of Fresno have allotted \$25,000 each to a report on the feasibility of moving the tracks. Each of the rail lines have contributed \$12,500 to the report.

BNSF has pledged its cooperation and participation in the report, but the railroad is not required to move its tracks. In 1959, Santa Fe paid the city of Fresno \$800,000 in exchange for franchise rights to run its trains on the tracks for 50 years. Then in 1998, the Fresno City Council granted the railroad indefinite track rights.

Lena Kent, director of corporate relations for BNSF, indicated that the railroad is still undecided about consolidation. "We haven't seen the study yet," she said.

Kent said the city would be expected to build a complete set of tracks for BNSF alongside Union Pacific's. "It would be difficult for us to operate if we were expected to use the same tracks. Building tracks is very expensive. There would have to be a

See Tracks, page 16

School president search delayed

By Bill J. Perry
News editor

Just days after starting nationwide effort to find a new Fresno City College president, district officials abruptly called off the search.

State Center Community College District Chancellor Judith Redwine said a new search will begin by spring 2002.

One reason Redwine gave for suspend-

ing the search was timing. With the new school year just beginning, there would be fewer candidates available to consider the FCC position.

"The ideal time to do a search of this level is in the spring," Redwine said. "Already we started in an off time by beginning in the fall."

Redwine also cited the faltering economy as a factor for prospective applicants not wanting to uproot their families

to make such a major move. She also said the situation was made worse by the recent terrorist attacks on the East Coast, with potential candidates becoming wary about the declining economy.

After the attacks, the district's consulting firm, Association of Community College Trustees, based in Washington, D.C., recommended the postponement of the

See President, page 3

Editorial

Enough is enough.

Someone has to speak up. Someone has to take action.

Yes, something has to be done about the railroad tracks that cut across the Fresno City College campus.

After the death of 20-year-old Junior Puletapui on Sept. 13, who was struck down by an Amtrak train speeding along the Burlington Northern-Santa Fe line at 70 mph, reaction from many students and college officials seemed so subdued that it almost sounded like an apathetic "oh well."

The fact that a young man could have his life abruptly cut short by a passenger train barreling across a college campus is an outrage. And yet the matter was treated by many much like the weather: everyone talked about it, but few expressed hope that anything really could be done. Granted, the recent attacks of Sept. 11 may have drowned out some of the local outcries for change, but this was not the first accident – or even death – involving the tracks.

Police Chief Marvin Reyes told The Fresno Bee that students are struck by trains at the crossing far too often and that "there have been probably three pedestrian versus train accidents here in the past three years."

Despite those unacceptable statistics, some have expressed the view that the tracks are just something students have to live with, as if surviving them for two years were part of the school's curriculum. At the same time they argue – in whispered undertones so as not to show disrespect the fallen victims – that those who have been hit by trains were reckless and should have been more careful before crossing.

To a certain extent that may be true. People that are reckless should not go near tracks that are traveled by nearly 40 trains a day. But with the Health Sciences building, the Police Department,

the district offices, the sports stadium and several parking lots inconveniently located on the other side of the tracks, some "reckless" students have no choice but to cross them, perhaps two or more times a day. But even students who are not considered reckless risk their lives while crossing the tracks.

Immediately following Puletapui's death, a blind student was held back from crossing the tracks by a police official as the crossing guards were being tested. How many visually or hearing impaired students forgo the use of the tram for the disabled and cross those tracks each day?

It is also quite common to see students who are so involved in intense cell phone conversation that they tightly cover their ears so as not to be distracted by the sound of an oncoming train as they cross the tracks. Then there are those who plug their Walkmans firmly into their ears and then lose themselves in a rock concert reverie as they mindlessly make their way to class. How safe are they?

And what about individuals who may be suffering from severe depression or that may be emotionally or mentally distraught and are in no condition to be crossing dangerous railroad tracks? Add to this list students who may be on medications and therefore not functioning at full alertness. All of these situations could be the makings of another tragedy on campus.

Let's face it, people are imperfect and sometimes do careless things. Many students are distracted and under tremendous pressures that sometimes affect their good judgment. But it still would be easier to deal with the tracks than to change these basic facts of life.

What could possibly be done?

Some people have tossed around the idea of constructing an overpass to use in walking over

the rail line. However, this suggestion may have limited benefits since it's unlikely that students in a hurry would take the time to use it.

Another idea that's been circulating is to build a pedestrian walkway underneath the tracks. This might be appealing to those who wouldn't or couldn't climb an overpass, but it might not get the full support of the surrounding community since it does not address the problem of other streets where the BNSF line intersects.

One of the boldest ideas to be proposed is to move the rail line completely off campus.

Assemblyman Mike Briggs, R-Clovis, came to FCC on Sept. 25 to lend his support to the local group Fresno Area Residents for Rail Consolidation to take the BNSF line and place it alongside the Union Pacific line that runs parallel to Freeway 99.

Briggs presented FARRC with a \$100,000 check to educate the public on the need for track consolidation. Since a consolidation of lines could cost nearly \$400 million, no one is celebrating just yet.

But it is heartening to see that outsiders have taken an active interest in the welfare of FCC students. Now what about those who are not outsiders? College officials, the student government and even students themselves need to take a more vocal and active role in demanding something be done. Students must resist complacency by telling district, city, state and even federal officials that change isn't an option, it's a must.

This problem is over 80 years old, so change will not happen overnight. But only with the united efforts of everyone will change be possible.

Too many people have already died on the campus tracks. Just one life lost is too many. It cannot, it must not happen again.

Enough is enough.

Police log

From the files of the SCCCD Police Department

Sept. 14

- Officer took report regarding check fraud.
- Officer dispatched to Math/Science regarding intoxicated student. Student sent home. Report taken.
- Officer observed juveniles on bicycles in area of Health Science. Officer made contact, upon records check found juvenile reported missing. Officer contacted subject's mother, juvenile released to mother, FPD advised. Report taken.
- Officer observed juvenile walking suspiciously along campus drive. Upon contact juvenile removed something from his front pocket and dropped it to the ground. Officer retrieved the property, which was marijuana and a smoking pipe. Subject cited, turned over to parents. Report taken.

Sept. 17

- Officer assisted Fresno police in investigating shots fired in area of Cambridge.

Sept. 18

- Officer took report regarding verbal disturbance on mall.
- Officer, Nurse, EMS, dispatched to cafeteria regarding injured student. Student turned over to EMS. Report taken.
- Officer took report regarding theft of hubcaps from Lot S.

Sept. 19

- Officer took report regarding non-injury hit and run in Lot E.
- Sergeant observed vehicle with loud stereo at Weldon and Blackstone, initiated traffic stop. Driver cited.
- Officer, EMS, dispatched to Mental Health regarding disturbed student. Turned over to EMS. Report taken.
- Officer took report regarding vehicle vandalism.

Sept. 20

- Officer dispatched to Ratcliffe Stadium regarding suspicious activities. Two transients detained, turned over to FPD. Report taken.
- Officer took report regarding stolen vehicle.

Sept. 21

- Officer took report regarding theft of computer items from faculty office in the Library.
- Sergeant took report regarding theft of wallet from faculty office in Social Science.

Campus calendar

Art

•**Art Faculty Biennial** – 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Wednesday-Thursday, and 9 a.m.-noon Friday, exhibit continues through Oct. 12. Art Space Gallery. For information, call 442-4600, ext. 8909.

•**Beauties and Beasts: Delightful Dichotomies in Japanese Painting** – 1-5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday through Nov. 3. Selected masterworks of Japanese painting at the Ruth and Sherman Lee Institute for Japanese Art, 15770 10th Ave., Hanford. For information, call 582-4925. Free.

Events

•**Dead Book Sale** – Out-of-date books are 50 cents at the book store through October.

•**Club Rush** – 10 a.m. Oct. 3, campus clubs will set up booths around the fountain area.

•**National Depression Day** – Oct. 18, includes

video shows, refreshments and free depression screenings at a location to be determined. Sponsored by Associated Student Government Health Services. For information, call Psychological Services at ext. 8050.

•**Fall Military Showcase** – 9 a.m. Oct. 24, military equipment is on display around the fountain area.

Fairs

•**Vendor Faire** – 9 a.m. Oct. 9-11, on and around the campus mall and free speech area.

Stage

•**"Painting Landscapes"** – 7:30 p.m. Oct. 11-13 and 18-20; 2 p.m. Oct. 13 and 20, Theatre Arts building. A new production by FCC Theatre Arts instructor Chuck Erven and directed by C. Tim Quinn. The play contains mature themes.

•**City Singers Jazz Concert** – 7:30 p.m. Oct. 17, at the Theatre.



RAMPAGE

FRESNO CITY COLLEGE
1101 E. UNIVERSITY AVE.
FRESNO, CA 93741

Editors

Editor-in-Chief: Sean Durham
Business manager: Aaron Keller
Photo editor: Louis Castro
News editor: Bill J. Perry
Entertainment editor: J. Riley
Sports editor: Anthony Galaviz
Production manager: Sean Durham
Adviser: Dan Edwards
Operations manager: Samuel Yuk

Reporters

Terry Azamber, Nick Bergstrom, Jennifer Burke, Bonner Creager, Josh Harding, L. Gary IV, Kwanza Nelum, Brianna Quilici, Katharine Strauss, Anthony Witrado

Photographers

Cathy Alexander, Wendy Alexander, Jenny Langworthy, Cheyne Phillips

Graphics/Illustrators

Brandon Castro, J.E. Duron, Jacob Franks, Jesse Garcia, Carl Geissert, Josh Harding, George Winn

Business

Vong Lee

Letters and submissions to the calendar will be accepted between noon-1 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday, at the Rampage office, Room SC 211, above the bookstore.

Editorial office/
news tips:

(559) 442-8263

Advertising office:

(559) 442-8262

Fax number:

(559) 265-5783

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Selective service, draft key issues

Talk of military action sparks registration questions

By Terry Azamber
Rampage reporter

The terrorist attacks in the United States on Sept. 11 and the preparations for a possible war have prompted questions about registration for selective service and the military draft.

Men are required by federal law to register for selective service if they were born after 1959. Those who must register include American citizens and alien residents living in the United States. Women and non-immigrant aliens

are exempt. Handicapped men are required to register if they are able to function in public.

Men are exempt from military service if they are the only son in their family or if they have physical ailments such as diabetes. Obesity is not considered an excuse to avoid military service: the military will require the draftee to lose the excess weight. College students can obtain a deferment, but they are required to maintain passing grades to avoid being drafted.

During the Vietnam War there

were 1.9 million men drafted from 1964 through 1972, but experts doubt there will be a need for extra manpower in any future military action.

"Less men are needed because of technology and the way battles are fought," said Corporal Charles Justice, a recruiter for the U.S. Marine Corps in Fresno.

Sergeant George Lewis, a recruiter for the U.S. Army office in Clovis expressed a similar view. "We won't have a draft at any time in the near future. When the Gulf War happened, only a certain

number of troops were called up," Lewis said.

Justice said there had been a sharp increase in people seeking to enlist in the Marine Corps since the recent terrorist attacks. "We're having a lot of people come in between the ages of 45 to 16."

On the other hand, Lewis said the Army office had only seen a slight increase in the number of people applying for enlistment. Some of those were former servicemen seeking to reenlist. The military will only accept men and women who are under the age of

29 if they have had no prior military service. Former military servicemen can reenlist up to age 32.

In World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War, many men enlisted who had not completed high school, but today's military is seeking a better educated soldier. Servicemen are required to have a high school diploma or a G.E.D. Applicants for Officer Candidate School must have a college education.

For more information on the Selective Service System, call (847) 688-6888 or visit their Web site at www.sss.gov.

Pipe fitting

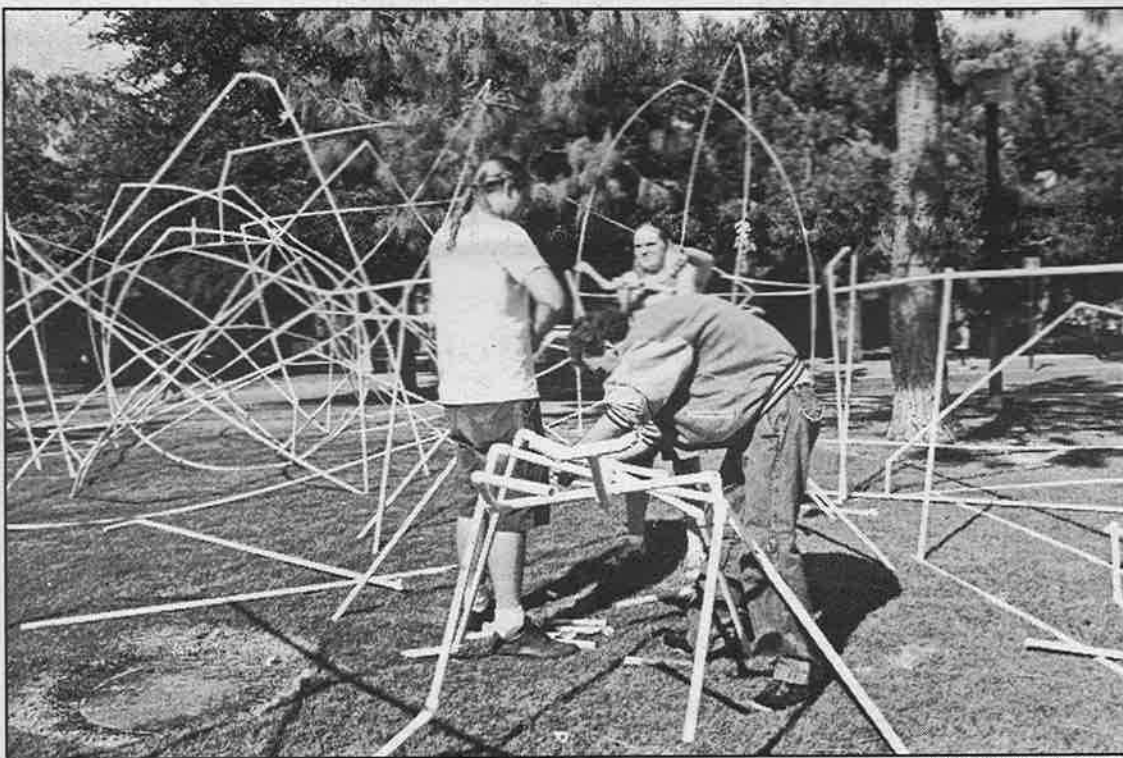


Photo by Wendy Alexander

Students show off creative skills with PVC piping from Patrick Snowden's Art Appreciation class show. The unusual artwork was on display last week on the lawn in front of the Technical/Industrial buildings.

No harassment incidents at FCC

By Anthony Witrado
Rampage reporter

Unlike the rest of the country, Fresno City College has been free of distractions concerning people of Middle Eastern descent after the Sept. 11 attacks in New York and Washington.

There have been no reports of violent behavior against Muslim students on campus. Many feel the treatment of Muslim students is a non-issue because there has been no such backlash the way there has been around the rest of the United States.

Muslim people around Fresno and the rest of the country reported a genuine fear for their safety and well-being because of a different American attitude about them born after the terrorist attacks. A man in Dallas murdered a store clerk of Muslim

background and more than a few people have reported seeing a car in Fresno driving with "kill all Muslims now!" written on the windows.

Despite acts like those, campus police have yet to receive any complaints of discrimination or harassment against Middle Eastern students. American students do not feel a need to hassle them.

"I don't think there's a problem with (Muslim students)," FCC student Gabriel Moreno said. "You can't blame all of them for something they had nothing to do with."

Muslim students echo the statement with an overall feeling of not having to worry about backlash on campus. Many have carried on their daily routines as usual without any problems and figure they will continue to do so.

President

Continued from page 1

search until later in the school year.

"We had a small number of applicants, and they just dried up after Sept. 11," Redwine said. "The search is too important to not be able to select from a full-fledged successful search."

Randy Rowe, associate vice chancellor of Human Resources, agreed that economics played a major role in the postponement of the presidential search. He mentioned some of the concerns potential candidates might have at this time.

"What are you going to be able to sell your house for? What will you be buying here? And how much will the move itself cost? If

you have a family, what are the job prospects for your husband or wife?" Rowe asked.

Rowe said the chances of finding a qualified candidate will be improved by waiting until spring.

Just weeks earlier, town meetings were held to help identify leadership qualities in a potential candidate in order to carry out goals that students and staff members envision for the campus.

"We are really pleased with the participation in the town meetings and the level of thinking the people had about the future of the college and the type of leader to take us down that road," Redwine said. "Those meetings went very well. We got a lot of good information."

That information could be put to use in just two to three months.

According to Rowe, advertising for the presidential position may begin in December with applications being accepted as early as January. He said the interview process will start in February with the selection process continuing through spring. A school president could be selected by late spring.

"This will enable the [new president] to move over the summer and begin in the fall," Redwine said.

In the meantime, Art Ellish, who came out of retirement to serve as interim president, will stay on until a permanent president is named.

Despite the setback in finding a new president, Redwine is determined to begin the search again. "We have every intention to go back at it," she said.

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That rundown feeling could be depression

By Brianna Quilici
Rampage reporter

How much do you know about depression? Can you tell when someone needs help with depression? Are you struggling with your own form of depression?

Help is available Oct. 18 when Fresno City College will hold a depression clinic, free of charge, a week later than the usual screening, according to psychological intern Kay Chang.

"This year, FCC is doing its screening a week later because of the limited staff," she said. "The free clinic will have fliers and brochures for the students to read."

National depression screening occurs countrywide next week to promote the general awareness of depression.

"A significant number of people experience a form of depression," said Thomas Lee, psychological intern at FCC. "It is perfectly normal."

"Many adolescents and adults fail to recognize that they are depressed and why they are depressed. The big step is looking yourself in the face and admitting that you have a problem and that you need help."

The free screening is available to anyone, but on-campus therapy is only for registered FCC students. For the non-students, referrals to therapists can be issued.

"If results from the screening reveal that the person has a form of depression, it would be advised by the therapist to seek treatment whether the person feels he needs help or not."

Throughout the day, participants will receive informational fliers, watch videos concerning depression and be given a series of questions to determine if they are depressed. By the end of the event, an assessment of the screening will either yield expected results or be on the other side of the spectrum. Rounding off the day will be a chat with a psychologist who puts the diagnosis into perspective.

"Everything we do is confidential," Lee said. "Whatever is said during the session remains between client and therapist."

Sponsors for the event include the Health Services department and the student Senate.

If someone can't attend the depression screening, help is still available. The Psychological Services department on campus, located on the second floor of the Student Center in room 216, has four psychological interns available.

"They have completed all required course work for a doctorate of psychology degree," Lee said. "One of the interns is always on call to respond to crisis on cam-

The warning signs of depression

- Persistently sad, anxious or empty mood
- Feelings of hopelessness, pessimism
- Feelings of guilt, worthlessness, helplessness
- Loss of interest or pleasure in hobbies and activities that were once enjoyable
- Decreased energy, fatigue, being slowed down
- Difficulty concentrating, remembering, making decisions
- Insomnia, early-morning awakening or oversleeping
- Appetite and/or weight loss or overeating and weight gain
- Thoughts of death or suicide; suicide attempts
- Restlessness, irritability
- Persistent physical symptoms that do not respond to treatment, such as headaches, digestive disorders and chronic pain

For more information please contact:

- National Mental Health Association
www.nmha.org
800-SUICIDE

To be connected to a crisis center in your area:

- Suicide Prevention Advocacy Network
(888)649-1366 or <http://www.spanuse.org>

pus.

"If the results of the consultation reveal a form of depression, it would be to the best interest of the client's benefit to seek help before the condition worsens."

Depression and suicide affect a vast majority of people each year. Left untreated, depression can lead someone to take his or her own life.

"There is a definite relationship between depression and suicide. If someone is depressed and doesn't seek help, the answer is usually suicide," said Chang. Suicide is the third-leading cause of death among teens aged 12-24. Attempted suicides are even more common. Four out of five teens that attempt suicide give clear warning signs, but family or

friends fail to notice.

More than one in five Americans can expect to get some form of depression in their lifetime. Almost two-thirds of all cases are not treated. Almost 80 percent of those people experience some disability from a diagnosable mental illness. Depression can affect anyone, regardless of background, though major depression strikes women twice as often as men.

In any given one-year period, 9.5 percent of about 18.8 million American adults suffer from a depressive illness. Most people with a depressive illness do not seek treatment, even though a great majority can be helped because they do not recognize that depression is a treatable illness.

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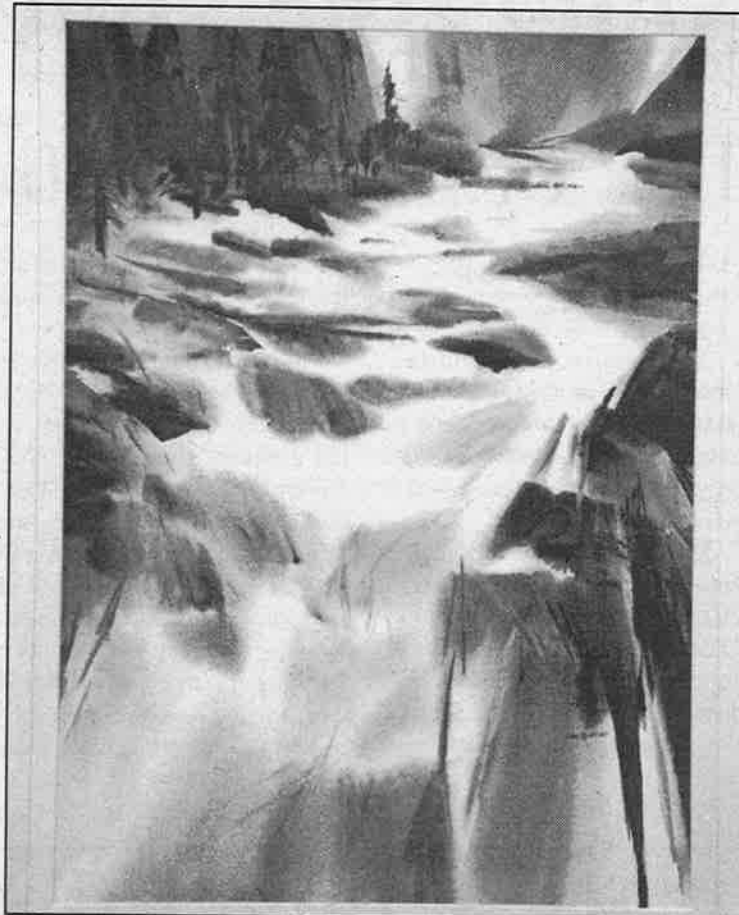


Photo by Louis Castro

An original watercolor by artist Robin G. McCline is being raffled to benefit Juvenile Diabetes Foundation. The watercolor, framed and matted, is on display in the Humanities Division Office. Tickets for the raffle are available for a \$5 donation at the office or by calling Pearl Supersad at 442-8281. The drawing will be held at 2:30 p.m. Oct. 18 in the Library Conference Room.

F. C. C.



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This one Ken's gonna love

Every so often you come across a book that triggers your interest, so you buy it since it was cheap enough to invest in without really knowing what you'll find inside.



Katharine Strauss

Rampage reporter
Book review

Once you get it home, you crack open the cover and begin to read, only to be absorbed — not able to put it down until you get to the last page you realize you've spent the past seven hours immersed in the words and phrases.

This is what I went through a few days ago when I was perusing the clearance shelves at a local bookstore.

I purchased many books that day but one caught my eye with an interesting cover and a comforting pink color I had grown up with.

This book was "Mondo Barbie: An Anthology of Fiction and Poetry," pieced together by Richard Peabody and Lucinda Ebersole.

I picked it up, finding it silly that with a stack of vampire novels in my hand I was drawn to a Barbie book, but what triggered me to buy it was what was said on the back cover: "Weird, funny, and surprisingly provoking." (from Blanche Boyd "Revolution of Little Girls"), "Peels away all the phony plastic and gets to the real plastic underneath... Barbie has warped many lives; but she will always be among us, so we might as well learn to deal with her." (from the New York Times Book Review).

"Members of the Barbie Generation are coming of age and they are taking no prisoners." (from



Illustration by Josh Harding

Publishers Weekly). Those and many other shining reviews encourage me to purchase this treasure to see what all the hype was about, not to mention I wanted to see, as a fellow Barbie coinsure (when I was younger, mind you),

how this Amazon beauty warped myself and others.

What I discovered in the pages were delightful stories and poems of the "Barbie World." It's a collection of various writers such as A. M. Homes, Sandra Cisneros, David Trinidad, Rebecca Brown, Philip Levine and more. Stories such as a boy's first encounters with his sister's Barbie, a Sci-Fi short on a world where Barbies are alive and are part of a religious group wrapped up in murder and fetichisms, a Barbie coming "out," and others of the racy idealism that she too has human needs and emotions, and how young girls (and boys) coped with the Fashion Doll.

Poems of all sorts range from women wanting to look like Barbie to Barbie's Pettiness, to a mix of reality and the childhood dream world we are enveloped in.

This by chance finding leaves me reeling. The oddity and humor this book contains is something that is not found every day.

Not since I read Steve Martin's book, "Pure Drivel," have I been kept so enamored in the pages of thought provoking silliness. I recommend this book to people looking for a bit of oddness and fantasy in their day.

I do give this warning, though: Within the 185 pages are a lot of strong words and sexual content, and it does dabble on touchy subjects.

So I don't think those narrow in mind will appreciate the true art written on bright pink pages within the covers.

Horoscopes

By Josh Harding



Aries (March 21 - April 20)

Make music an important part of your life this month. One song you hear in particular will have a strong influence over decisions you make in your love life. You will also have a strong magnetism when it comes to financial opportunities. Take your time. You will have plenty to choose from.



Taurus (April 21-May 20)

If you burn your hand while cooking do not use water to cool it. Administer a soft lotion or better yet aloe vera ... heh, heh, heh ugh, I got nothing.



Gemini (May 21- June 21)

Remember that show "Gilligan's Island"? Remember how every week Gilligan would end up somehow being cracked in the head by a coconut. Well, this month life is going to treat you to a few coconuts. It may hurt for a while but remember, coconuts never killed Gilligan.



Cancer (June 22-July 22)

You will confuse the word horoscopes with the word horse-scoopes. Upon arriving at a local stable to check your horse-scoopes, you will be kicked in the head by a horse! Mwaah ha! Ha!



Leo (July 23- Aug 22)

You wonder where your dog goes on those late nights, and where he learns those amazing tricks such as producing an Emmy-award winning television drama on-command. Well, the truth is he is cheating on you with another family, one that feeds him the "good" dog food.



Virgo (Aug 23- Sept 22)

How far will you go for love? You have been asking yourself this question for sometime; however, this month you will have the chance to test your own limits. Disregard what other advice is given to you; you know this moment has been overdue, and only you can make the right choice.



Libra (Sept 23- Oct 23)

In an unexpected encounter, you bump into the entire cast of the old favorite "The Goonies." The aging actors strike a chord of disillusionment into your fond childhood memories of their adventures...this is only fueled upon learning of an ironic tragedy in which the lovable character "Sloth" was struck and killed three weeks prior by a speeding Baby Ruth truck.



Scorpio (Oct 24- Nov 22)

You scoff at the notion that video games cause strange behavior in kids. Why if we all copied Pac-Man you'd see people dancing around in darkened rooms, gobbling magical pills and listening to repetitive electronic music. Ha, now that's ludicrous.



Sagittarius (Nov 23- Dec 21)

Improve your relationship with that special someone. Don't allow outside forces to affect your personal time together. Forces such as the Playstation 2, or the Bill Murray movie- marathon... no, resist, resist!



Capricorn (Dec 22- Jan 20)

Once again you will find yourself in a rut and procrastinating on an important decision. This time rather than look toward trusted advice, seek advice from an anonymous source.



Aquarius (Jan 21- Feb 18)

You must take responsibility into your own hands this month. You will lose an influential person in your life at this time and be forced into a more important role among your peers. Allow this to reveal a strong character you never knew you had.



Pisces (Feb 19- March 20)

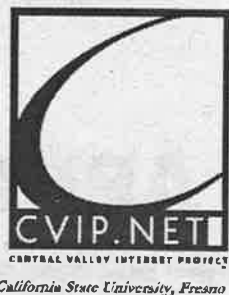
You will have a chance at a long-distance relationship this month. Despite what you've heard give it a chance, because it's not where you go ... it's how you feel that's important. Don't let small matters bring you down, stay positive ... try dancing for no reason. Heh, heh, maybe people will catch on and start throwing quarters at you.

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Hollywood edited for content

By Jennifer Burke

Rampage reporter

In the wake of the events of Sept. 11, it seems that the unstoppable force known as Hollywood had been brought to its knees.

In days past, movie studios, writers and producers alike have seldom been willing to draw a line between acceptable tinsel town hyperbole and horrifying representations of what they feel is real life.

The planes that crashed into the World Trade Center towers and the Pentagon changed all of that overnight.

In the following hours and days of the East Coast tragedy, Hollywood stopped, took a deep breath and immediately started canceling or postponing filming, movies, and television shows.

So many of the things that had been acceptable a week before were suddenly tragic and painful reminders of the our nation's greatest tragedy. Hollywood re-

sponded swiftly, wanting to assure the American people.

Warner Brothers postponed the movie "Collateral Damage" indefinitely because of scenes of a skyscraper being blown up. They pulled posters, lobby cards, press kits and trailers sent out for the movie.

Touchstone delayed Dave Barry's "Big Trouble" due to the scene of a bomb on an airplane. On network television, the week of the attack, weekend movies were switched.

ABC replaced "The Peacemaker" with "Hope Floats." Fox changed their Friday showing of "X-Files Fight the Future" with "Nine Months" and Saturday's "Independence Day" with "Mrs. Doubtfire."

Sony pictures recalled trailers for the new "Spider-Man" movie that featured scenes of bank robbers being caught in a web strung between the two towers of the World Trade Center.

Movie posters for the same

movie were also pulled because they depicted the towers reflected in Spider-Man's eyes.

Television was affected also. "The West Wing" had the season premiere postponed a week for an episode that deals with the subject of terrorism.

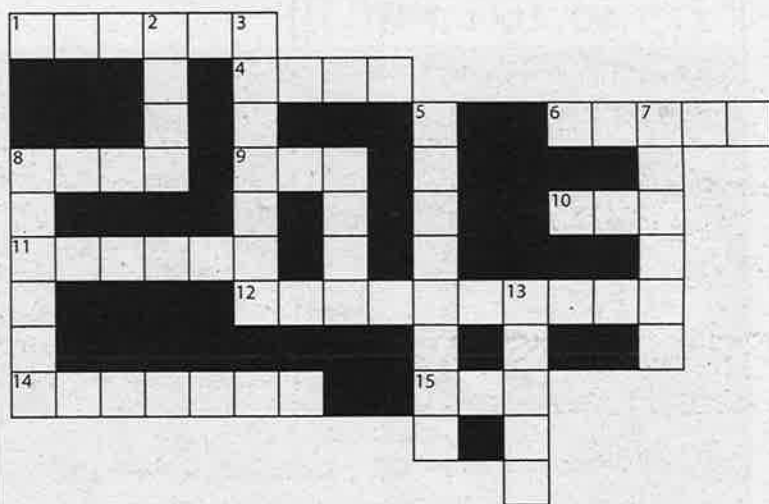
The CBS drama "The Agency" had its series premiere edited and the new Fox drama "24," which deals with terrorism on an airplane, had been pushed back into October.

Even "Friends," the ever-perky sitcom, decided to rewrite an episode with Monica and Chandler at an airport due to the way many people are having to deal with the new security restrictions.

In the years to come, it seems that the entertainment industry will be more careful with what it portrays.

America and her people are a nation changed, and the future of the television and film industry is sure to reflect this.

Crossword



ACROSS:

1. U.S. Representative asked by the local media to resign
4. The part of the tree that absorbs nutrients
6. Something expected that FCC won't get
8. The last word in the title of the new Pennywise album
9. Another name for a bar
10. What the man was called in the cartoon that went with the dress code article
11. To infer specific information about something
12. Show recommended by the Rampage staff which aired on UPN on Sept. 26
14. A classic Shakespearean play, remade into a movie
15. What some freshmen are when they first come onto FCC's campus

DOWN:

2. Drummer from Primer 55 was originally from this band
 3. The last name of a person who spoke at the College Transfer Night
 5. What is happening on Oct. 3
 7. Made from processed parts of a bird found on the farm
 8. The town that Michael Yada was quoted saying was an "All-American City!"
 13. FCC Police Chief
- (Some of the answers to this issue's crossword can be found in the last issue of the Rampage)

Answers to last issue's puzzle

ACROSS:

1. Orwell
4. lye
5. wired
7. thirteen
10. impounded
13. Jazziz
14. Net
15. clubs

DOWN:

1. organ
2. Elish
3. Gurdeep
6. Systematic
8. idol
9. London
10. Invictus
11. opium
12. MAPA

'Silent Bob' noisy with inside jokes

Long ago in front of a convenience store far far away came a "Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back" movie review.

Kevin Smith has become somewhat of a filmmaking legend over the past few years. His unique brand of toilet humor and distinctive screenwriting technique have earned him a loyal following among teen-agers and other immature people such as myself, as well as numerous awards and distinctions.

Some would say that Smith owes his success in no small part to Jay and Silent Bob, a foul



Carl Geissert

Rampage reporter

Movie review

mouthed stoner and his "hetero life mate," who have made appearances in all of Smith's movies, had their own MTV special, and are the main characters of Smith's comic book, Bluntman and Chronic. It's therefore not surprising that they are the main focus of his latest movie.

The movie starts when Jay and Bob (played by Jason Mewes and Kevin Smith) learn that Miramax is making a movie out of "Bluntman and Chronic," a comic book that uses them as a character basis.

When they go on the Internet to find out more, they discover thousands of people bad mouthing not only the movie, but the main characters as well, who are also named Jay and Silent Bob. They decide that the only way to salvage their good names is to go

to Hollywood and stop production of the movie.

The movie has an all-star cast, with appearances by Ben Affleck, Chris Rock, Shannon Elizabeth, Will Farrell, Mark Hamill (of Luke Skywalker fame) as well as many others. Many characters from Smith's other movies make appearances as well.

My only major complaint is the movie felt like one big commercial for Smith's other movies. It seemed like they spent more time fitting in references to "Mallrats" than developing the plot.

Despite its weaknesses, this is a very funny movie. If you are a Kevin Smith fan, you will probably get a good laugh from it, but many of the jokes would be lost on someone who hasn't seen "Clerks," "Mallrats," or "Chasing Amy."

High drama in high school: The Bard's tragic tale revamped

When I first heard that William Shakespeare's tragedy "Othello" was going to be adapted for a younger audience, setting the action in a high school, my first impulse was shock and amazement.

The insult seemed obvious. But the more I thought about it, and the context of the play, I then realized that there really is no better place to set the story.

Directed by Tim Blake Nelson,



J.E. Duron

Rampage reporter

Movie review

from a script by Brad Kaaya, "O" is something more than another novelty spin on The Bard.

It's a teen movie that dispenses with all the cutesy shallowness and the campy irony and allows us to really understand the characters and how likely they are to clash.

Mekhi Phifer is Odin, a charismatic basketball star whose star is rising far faster than his teammate Hugo (Josh Hartnett) would like. Odin's ardent girl friend is Desi, played by Julia Stiles.

This central triangle is the heart of the film, the three actors play their parts with a fluidity that allows the story to progress easily

to its tragic conclusion (for those who don't know what I'm talking about, I recommend reading the original version of the story).

The film uses racial and sexual tension wonderfully to illustrate Odin and Desi's relationship, but also never lets it take too much of the foreground.

We're not color-blind about their relationship, and neither are they. (The couple even share a witty erotic joke)

They see each other's race, but look right past it. That same tension though is used to give Hugo the tools necessary to fulfill his fiendish plan.

Kaaya places Hugo on the bas-

ketball team with Odin, and in a masterful move makes his father the head basketball coach (Martin Sheen), thus creating an easy basis for the intense jealousy he harbors for his teammate.

Hartnett plays Hugo, not as a seething well of bitterness and malice as other actors playing Iago have (see the performances by Christopher Plummer or Kenneth Branagh), but rather as a shy and moody young man who acts out of envy and self-hatred.

"O" could quite easily have been another campy teen movie that merely conveniently used plot lines from classic works to move the story along ("She's All That"

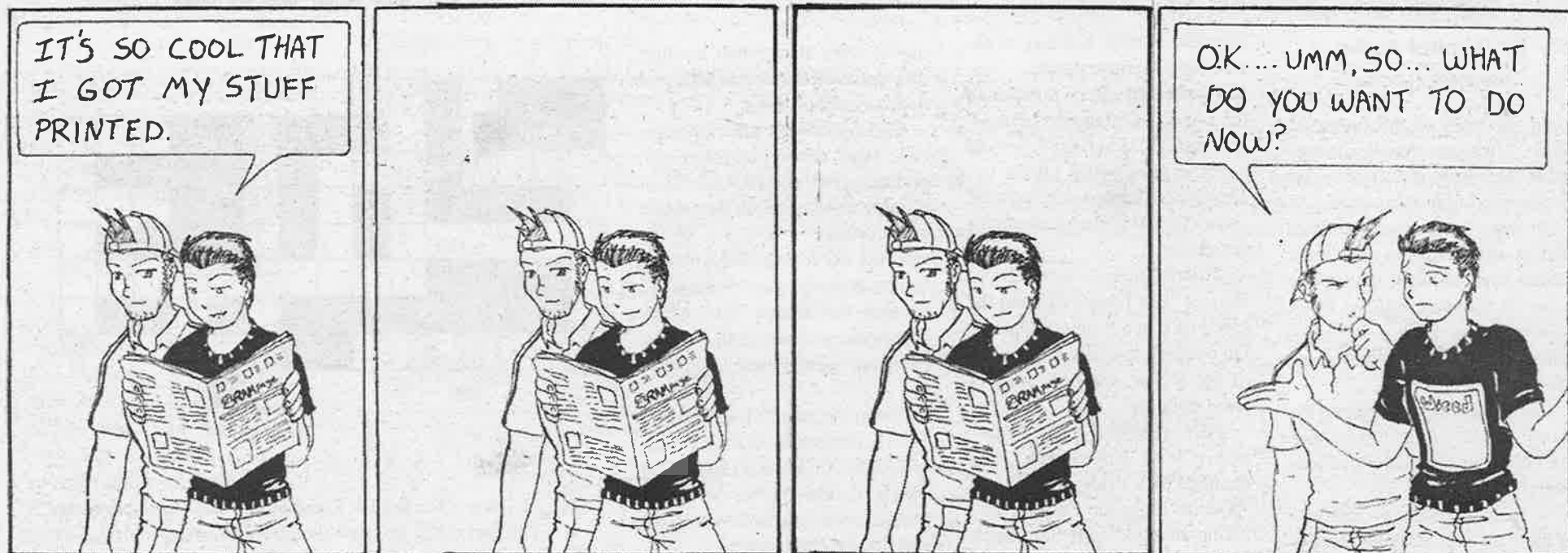
and "10 Things I Hate About You"). Instead, what we have here is a creative and thoughtful way of retelling a carefully crafted story.

True, without the eloquence of Shakespeare's language many of the story's key elements fall flat. For instance the business of the stolen handkerchief seems like a clumsy plot device without the treacherous undertones of Iambic Pentameter.

But as a whole, the film works, and it is nice to see a wonderful play not get butchered and actually make a decent translation to the big screen.

City Life

by Jesse Garcia



10 Recommendations

Just a few humble suggestions from the editorial staff

Movie to see: Zoolander

Sure it looks silly, stupid and indulgent, but isn't that really why we go to the movies anyway?

Video to rent: They Live

A B-Movie classic starring Keith David and Rowdy Roddy Piper versus a whole slew of conspiring aliens.

CD to burn: Back in Black

Considered by many to be AC/DC's definitive album, it includes hard rocking tracks like "You Shook Me (All Night Long)" and "Hell's Bells."

Book to read: The Shipping News

Soon to be released on the big screen, this Pulitzer Prize winning novel by Anne Prollux tracks one man's journey of self-discovery.

Website to view: www.Maxim.com

Fans of the magazine will find lots to look at the official site, pics from past issues and all sorts of useless and funny information.

Place to go: Fuzio's Universal Pasta

A delightful melding of styles creates a refreshing and zesty dining experience ... plus it's right across from Edwards Stadium 21.

Game to play: Star Trek Invasion

A Star Trek space-combat simulator game for the Playstation.

Television show to watch: Band of Brothers

The television version of "Saving Private Ryan," only three times as long (10 one-hour episodes total).

Poem to recite: Resume

A classic from the sardonic poet Dorothy Parker. Share it with someone you love.

Life's a Bitch, and she's in heat

The New York City-based band Bitch and Animal's new CD "Eternally Hard" is exactly that:

Eternally hard to listen to. They had the talented Ani Defranco producing this album. They lived in completely different cities, Bitch lived in Detroit, and



Nick Bergstrom
Rampage reporter
Music review

Animal is from Queens. They are the newest band to release an album for the Righteous Babe records label.

Although I would never go out and buy an album like this, I just thought, let's listen to something new. Now I know the error of my ways, even though they are both excellent musicians. I just wouldn't spend the money. Touring around with one of the best female folk artists, Defranco has helped them get a huge fan base on the East Coast.



Bitch and Animal display an array of musical talents in their CD.

However, I think the album was nothing but hormonal music singing about sex and drugs along with other stuff. For example, they have a song called "Boy Girl Wonder." Well, I wonder what this song is about.

They also have a song called "Ganja," which is about none other than smoking the Ganga. They have all sorts of different musical styles from rock to country. They pretty much do all of it.

I would have rather seen them stick to one or two styles, but what are you going to do?

I am sure there are a lot of you out there who would enjoy listening to their music.

If for one would not, but if you want to know more about this band you can go to www.bitchandanimal.com for info, biographies and pictures, so check them out.

Say What?



"In the card game of life, women are the rake."

With this feature, we are testing your cinematic intellect. For those able to guess this week's film quote - you are among the elite.

Last edition's answer: John Hannah, "Sliding Doors"

String Cheese stretches musical style

String Cheese Incident is one of the most talented bands I have ever heard.

The band met one night in 1993 after a day of skiing the slopes in Crested Butte, Colo.

After that they just started playing music together. Their new album, "Outside Inside," is an awesome mixture of rock, bluegrass, funk, and even Latino style.

Or if you prefer Funka-Latino or Afro-Jazzadelic bluegrass, either way you gain the same thing

with a great group of guys.

SCI is made up of five brilliant musicians: Keith Mosley, bassist; Kyle Hollingsworth, pianist; Michael Travis, drummer and percussionist; Bill Nershi, guitarist; and Michael Kang, mandolinist. And they all sing.

They have collaborated for five albums in the last eight years.

They are very popular throughout the United States, and what is so funny is that they don't get played on the radio yet they sell out every concert.

"Outside Inside" is a fantastic album with 11 different tracks.

Track one on "Outside and Inside" is one of my favorite tracks on this CD.

It's one of the traditional rock style songs, when you mix the

guitar with the bass and the vocals by Nershi you end up with a very cool song. "Close Your Eyes" is a really cool blue-grass style song.

Sung by Hollingsworth and with the extraordinary guitar and mandolin, it just fits so well.

Another thing about this band that is pretty cool is the fact they all have completely different musical backgrounds.

In their songs each of the members bring out their musical styles and blend them all together.

If you are interested and want to know more about this band just log on to www.stringcheeseincident.com and tell your friends.

Opera orchestra good, but after that ...

On Sunday, the California Opera Association held an opera at the Tower Theater titled "Bizet's Carmen in Concert."



J. Riley

Entertainment editor
Opinion

"Bizet's Carmen in Concert" is a confusing love story about a corporal named Don Jose, who falls in love with a woman named Carmen. At first, Don Jose is not interested in Carmen, but after she works her charms (and the witches' flower didn't hurt), he can't help but help her escape after she has been arrested by his jealous superior, Zuniga. Carmen, waiting to meet with Don Jose, entertains smugglers, soldiers, and gypsies at a tavern with a song about gypsy life. There she meets a bullfighter, Escamillo, who is taken by her. Don Jose eventually arrives, jealous of the attention Carmen has been giving to others.

As Carmen tries to persuade Don Jose into her way of life with the gypsies, they are interrupted by Zuniga. Zuniga and Don Jose draw their swords after Zuniga accuses Carmen of taking a common soldier over a superior officer. During the sword fight, the gypsies come out and lead Zuniga away. Don Jose, realizing he can't go back, joins the gypsies.

After Carmen pulls bad fortune from a deck of cards, Don Jose is left to himself by the troupe of gypsies. While alone, Don Jose encounters Escamillo who is looking for the woman he loves, Carmen. A fight ensues between the two men, only to be broken up by Carmen. Unfortunately for Don Jose, Carmen is there to rescue Escamillo, and they leave for his next bullfight.

Outside of the bullring, Escamillo and Carmen profess their love for each other. Then she is warned that Don Jose is in the crowd. After she runs into him, she tells him she no longer loves him, and she throws the ring that he once gave her at him, stating, "Stab me, or let me go." When she attempts to leave, Don Jose stabs her in a jealous rage. Then in shock of what he had done, he cries, "I killed her... ah, Carmen, Carmen, my adored!"

The opera cast had people from all over California. Some were from Fresno City College, including FCC's director of opera Melissa Wolfman as Micaela.

FCC's Larry Honda plays the clarinet in the Chamber Opera Ensemble, which was superb.

If I were rating a concert of just the instrumental performance, I'd probably give this show a much higher rating.

The opera has some lovely songs. Bizet has a unique style



Photos by Cathy Alexander

Escamillo, played by Gennadi Badasov, and Carmen (Lyutsina Kazachenko) profess their love for each other in "Bizet's Carmen in Concert."

bringing all of the emotions to the surface, without pushing it to far. Unfortunately, to my disappointment, Fresno's performance did not live up to the standards that Bizet would have set originally.

The costumes were unique, unfortunately not period... unless of course they had plastic hats with metallic pieces on them back when this was written.

Another problem was with the choice of weapons. Even in the program it talks about swords being drawn, yet what do the actors draw? Hardly noticeable knives, with a blade the size of that on a butter knife.

Tower Theater seems a little small for an opera doesn't it? It was proven with this performance. The Chamber Opera Ensemble was placed in the center of the



stage, with the set around them. That wouldn't be so bad, if they were played in as townspeople witnessing everything that was going on. Unfortunately they weren't. The set was less creative than the things that even the high schools around Fresno come up with. With the set and the band on such a small stage, that left the actors struggling for a place to

stand.

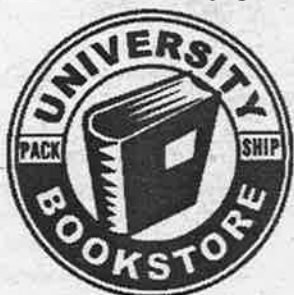
If that was all the problems, I wouldn't be so hard. But the next few are far worse. When there is a narrator, even if the script is one of his props, he must have the script memorized. Reading the script to us is not an effective tool in interesting the audience. In an opera, not only must you sing and dance, you must be able to act as

well. That is why an actor who can sing moderately can get a standing ovation, while a singer who is a moderate actor won't have as huge as a reaction from a crowd that has actually seen an opera. Throughout most of the first two acts, I could barely stand to stay awake, due to the lack of emotion in the voices of the actors.

The final knife in the back of this opera was not done by the actors onstage; nay, it was done by the ones backstage. Every two to three minutes, an actor/actress would walk in or out of the exits behind the stage, showering light into the theater.

I will rate the Chamber Opera Ensemble separately by giving them 4 1/2 stars, while I give the opera as a whole 1 star.

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Rude can be crude

After having nearly been knocked over by a guy twice your size, have you ever asked yourself, "Geez, what the heck is wrong with him?!" There is an answer to that question; it's a condition known as **Ruderus Inconsiterus**.



J. Riley

Entertainment editor

Opinion

Ruderus Inconsiterus is a condition that these people seem to have been born with. Even when there is no crowd in the walkway, some of these people will push through you without a second thought. As if being late to your class wasn't bad enough, now you have to brush yourself off and pick your homework (that was in your hands when they pushed through you) up out of the mud.

There are many attractive women on campus. Yet, we don't need to be informed every five seconds by some guy with **Ruderus Inconsiterus**. "Hey, baby, shake it!" is not something I want to hear when I am walking with one of my female friends to the cafeteria to get something to eat. Aside from that, I've also heard comments from the peanut gallery relating to the clothes on someone that don't conform to the norm.

To these people with **Ruderus Inconsiterus**, I ask, do you get some sort of thrill stealing food from someone's tray? I understand if your friend offers you some fries, but if you don't know the person, hands off! (this goes for the women walking down the

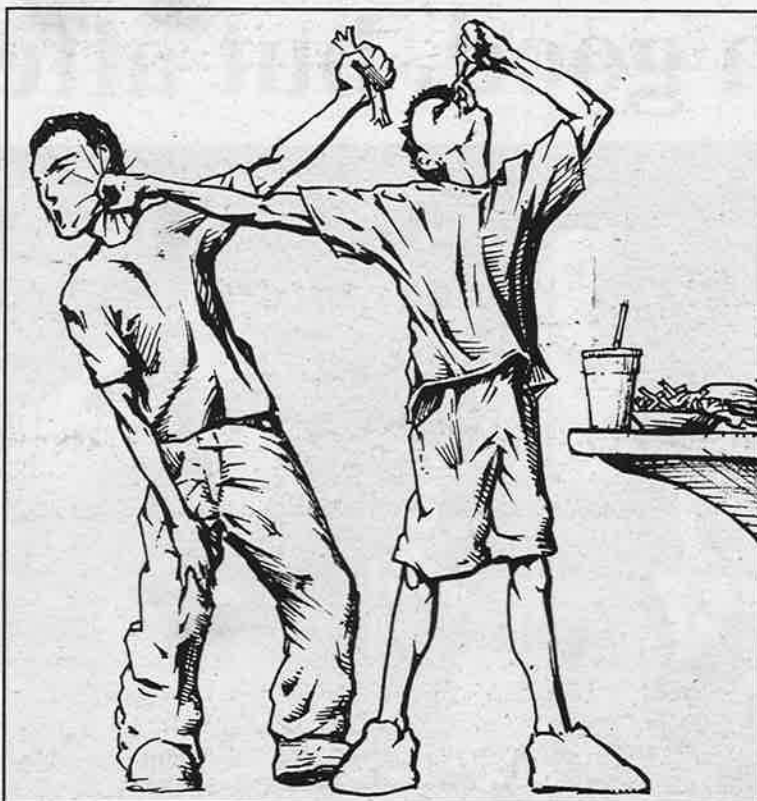


Illustration by Jacob Franks

walkways, too). But fries aren't the only things taken.

I've witnessed drinks being taken and on one occasion, the only burger I had ever bought at the cafeteria was "yoinked" from my tray when I was talking to someone next to me.

While taking a test in class, you usually want to focus all your attention on the test. Yet, there are those people who decided to eat a bag of chips, concealed in their backpacks. When you have to sit right next to them, it becomes the biggest distraction from your goal of passing the test.

You whisper politely, asking them to stop yet they don't listen. And for half a second, you consider raising your hand and telling the teacher like you did in elementary school.

Of course if you did that, your friends in class would never let you forget it. So you do your best to ignore it, possibly getting a few questions wrong due to the distraction.

Now those things might be annoying, but what is disgusting about people with **Ruderus**

Inconsiterus, is that some of them will spit on the walkways right in front of you, and from time to time, on the outside and inside stairs.

You may not look down seeing the spit, but there is no way to miss the guys hanging over the second floor, spitting over the edge. I don't know what the competition is (target, volume, distance?), but one thing is for certain: It's completely disgusting!

Now I ask you people with **Ruderus Inconsiterus** to stop yourselves from making fools of yourselves. You are not impressing anyone worth impressing; all you are doing is proving that you are a big idiots. And remember, your environment may have ruined you, but don't ruin our environment.

Take a sip of soup – it might do some good

Nostalgia settles over the states like a fine layer of ash. Laughter and fun moments have stopped, replaced by moments of silence. Even the simplest of things are being examined with a fine tooth comb. Everyone is a suspect. Rampage reporter Americans have to hide because of their racial background.



Katharine Strauss

Rampage reporter

Opinion

Our generation, our peers, cannot understand what the thoughts of going to war means. We weren't there when the draft for World War II started. We have no idea what went on in the minds of thousands of people in their late teens as they marched off to war, not knowing if they were to return to their families, their friends...their old life. Yet, in this time of loss, we are creating our own history. Perhaps we too someday will tell our grandchildren of the hard times we had going through a war, I only hope that, unlike my grandfather's stories, they will be true.

In our last issue of the Rampage we covered the tragedy in

Washington, D.C., New York, and Pennsylvania, and as I look through it my opinion article on social dress codes seemed so trivial. Guilt consumed me that while we mourn I find nothing better to say than "put some clothes on." Times like this, no matter what you write seems trivial and not worth the print space, but it's my job. Every two weeks I must come up with another oddity to rant about.

We are told to move on with our lives, to keep working and keep busy. This is hard when the media keeps shoving the stories and pictures down our throats.

No one can escape unless they turn the TV, the radio and the Internet off as well as let the newspapers stack up in the driveway. Only by shutting yourself in your room with no communication with the outside world can you escape.

I think we all should make ourselves a bowl of soup. It helps us feel better when we are ill. Why not now, when our stomachs turn at the stories and the thoughts running through our heads? Open a can, heat it up, add a few crackers and enjoy. It's the simple things in life that will bring the joy we are seeking, the joy we need to move on.

Trash: It's yours, too

Trash is an overwhelming concern in our city. Every day we devise new ways to clean up our streets, yet we neglect our college campus. Campus litter is like a plague.

Trash cans are left moderately empty, while litter is discarded into our halls, recreational areas and cafeterias. Classrooms are also used as personal trash cans.

Staff members can only do so much. It is time to take a stand. We pride ourselves on the excellent education offered to us; let's now pride ourselves in our campus.



Dianne Page

Rampage reporter

Opinion

When asked student and staff concerns, they are overwhelming. What can we do? Sandra Aburto, a cafeteria cashier said, "students using the cafeteria, would be a big help if they could just clean up after themselves."

Debra McClury, a student, "Students on academic probation should be required to serve so many ours cleaning up the campus."

Kim Ford, student, "Campus trash is an embarrassment, if highways have littering fines, so should we."

What does it come down too? We are adults, not children. Do we start monitoring everyone like we were in high school, or do we take responsibility for our mess?

Don't make our campus an institution of educational garbage, make it an institution of education.



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4. And one or more of the following must apply to you. Either:
 - You are from a low income family or
 - Your parents did not graduate from a four year college or
 - You have a physical or learning disability

Stand united



Small crowd, but plenty of strong feelings at gathering

By Josh Harding
Rampage reporter

Selland Arena played host to a small but enthusiastic group of citizens Sept. 27, who had rallied together to support various leaders of the community as they reflected on the recent terrorist attacks on the East Coast.

They spoke of the common lesson we should carry away from it. The event conveyed a dual-meaning to its audience. Valley religious leaders and speakers from the Jewish, Muslim, Sikh, Southeast Asian and American-Indian communities were on hand to share their sentiments on the tragedy, as well as the need for unity among all who call themselves an American. The evening was hosted by State Center Community College District chancellor Judith Redwine, who introduced many city officials that were present to speak as well. Police chief Jerry Dyer addressed the crowd, as well as fire chief Mike E. Smith. Mayor Alan Autry made a powerful statement of the city's stance on religious and ethnic intolerance, and the event closed on an speech by state lieutenant governor Cruz Bustamante.

"As different as their personalities and faiths, they all had the same message: stand together," said Fresno fireman Carl Delap in reflecting on the speakers.

Delap and other members of the Fresno Fire Department local union 753 attended the rally in uniform and on their own time to honor the memories of the fallen. Two antique fire trucks parked outside the arena seem to help instill a sense of idealism and nostalgia into the crowd. The strong police presence at the event was due only to the fact that a much larger turnout had been anticipated. Approximately 10,000 people were expected to attend the rally, yet it drew a total of only 650 people. This, however, did not weaken the resolve of the event's participants or the importance of its message.

"We have a responsibility to the rest of the nation to show how a diverse community such as ours can get through something like this," Autry said.

In addition to the speakers, local girl scout troop 109 kicked off the rally by leading in The Pledge of Allegiance, and a choir ensemble of local churches performed songs such as "Amazing Grace" and "God Bless America."

Other volunteers for the event included Fresno State freshmen, members of the Smittcamp Family Honors College. Working on behalf of the Red Cross, they accepted donations and passed out red, white and blue pompoms as well as white ribbons. Among the student volunteers, one in particular had a special connection. Raj Singh Badhesha was part of the group that came out from Fresno State to participate. He is a Sikh, which is one of the Middle Eastern ethnic groups that have experienced the most backlash nationwide due to the terrorist attacks. He explained that 99 percent of Muslims (the ethnic group to which the hijackers belonged) do not wear turbans or other headdress, while 99 percent of all Sikhs do. This, combined with anger and ignorance by some has led to various hate crimes and harassment toward Sikhs nationwide.

"Personally I have not felt the tension, but I know it exists, therefore it's always in the back of my mind," Badhesha said.

Rallies such as this one have sprung up across the nation to ease this invisible tension. The lack of attendance at the Selland Arena event may signify people of the Central Valley have begun to move past the feelings of uneasiness and vulnerability brought out in the wake of the tragedy, but as Bustamante put it, time will never lessen our need for unity as a nation.

"The strength of America is not in its buildings, military or financial institutions ... the strength of America is in its people" Bustamante said.



Photos by Cathy Alexander and Wendy Alexander



Rams roll past Foothill and San Jose

By Anthony Galaviz

Sports editor

Fresno City College football coach Tony Caviglia didn't expect his team to dominate Foothill.

All week, Caviglia felt his team was going to be tested against Foothill Saturday.

The Owls, ranked No. 10 in the state, had a come-from-behind victory over then-No. 3 Sacramento City the previous week, led by quarterback Terry Waye.

"This one won't be easy," he said earlier in the week.

As it turns out, it was easy.

Result: Fresno City 52, Foothill 0.

"Foothill is a big and physical team," he said. "No way can you predict that."

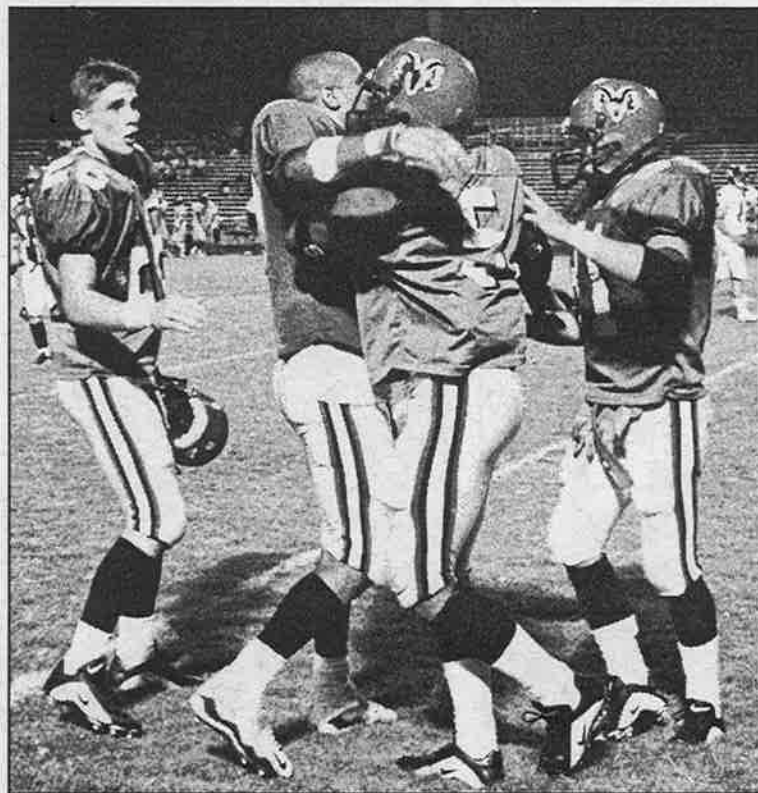
Thanks to the Rams strong defense, No. 3 Fresno City is making big statements early in the season.

Foothill took notice.

Fernando Yanez, a 6-foot-5 sophomore from Memorial, deflected Waye's pass as he released the ball. Linebacker Max Stewart snatched the ball and ran 39 yards for a 17-0 second-quarter lead. Defensive back Jonathan Holland also intercepted a pass for the Rams.

The Rams' defense also made two goal-line stands. Fresno City stopped the Owls twice on fourth-down plays from the 1-yard line.

"We're just playing hard," Rams defensive back Ray Hightower said. "Speed kills



LaMonte Jones, 5, is congratulated by teammates after scoring on a 47-yard touchdown. Fresno City beat Foothill 52-0.

... the whole defensive team is real close. I think we can match-up with anybody in the state."

Truth is, can any other team in state match-up with FCC potent offense and defense?

FCC offense had 527 total yards and

rushed for 272 yards.

Quarterback Mark Hetherington had three of his four touchdown passes in the second half. Hetherington completed 13 of 21 passes for 255 yards.

Hetherington's touchdown passes went to Aaron Austin for 7 yards, Willie Johnson for 13, Maurice Washington for 32 and LaMonte Jones for 47 yards.

Rodney Davis, who missed two games because of a shoulder in-

jury he suffered against Laney College, rushed 12 times for 152 yards including a 65-yard run.

Rams 77, San Jose City 6

Records are made to be broken and the Fresno City College football team did just that Sept. 22

Hetherington completed 14 of 24 passes for 273 yards in leading the Rams to record-breaking night.

"It was a great game," Caviglia said. "We were able to play a high-level game. Hetherington has done a really good job and made good decisions."

The Rams 77 points are the most in school history, as is the margin of victory. Fresno City also compiled a record 67 yards, breaking the previous week's mark of 672. The Rams had 31 first downs to San Jose City's five.

Hetherington threw six touchdown passes against the Jaguars; breaking Doug Gaynor's five on two occasions in 1981.

Hetherington broke the record with 1 minutes and 14 seconds remaining in the third quarter connecting on a 12-yard pass to Johnson.

Five of his touchdown passes came in the first half. His scoring passes went to Jones of 20 and 50 yards; Washington 1 and 15; 22 to Austin.

San Jose City also couldn't stop the run. The Rams piled up 394 yards rushing.

Earl Charles, who was named the most valuable player in the New York City all-star game, had three touchdown runs of 14, 7 and 29 yards.

Charles carried the ball 14 times for 17 yards.

"The offensive line did a great job (in helping me getting to the end zones)," Charles said.

Butte's home win streak on the line

By Anthony Galaviz

Sports editor

Butte College has been on a roll at home.

The Roadrunners haven't lost a regular season game at home in four years, but Fresno City College hopes to snap that streak.

"Butte is a top-five team," Rams coach Tony Caviglia said. "They were good last year, but we think we can beat them."

By no means are the Rams overlooking Butte.

"We can't afford to overlook them," Caviglia said. "Our kids will be competitive."

Butte defeated Merced College 17-13 Sept. 29, and Rams defensive end Fernando Yanez is looking forward to Butte's run.

"Butte is a good running team," he said. "But our rush defense is pretty good, too. So we got to stay positive."

Fresno City closes in

Foothill had its way with Fresno City — until last season.

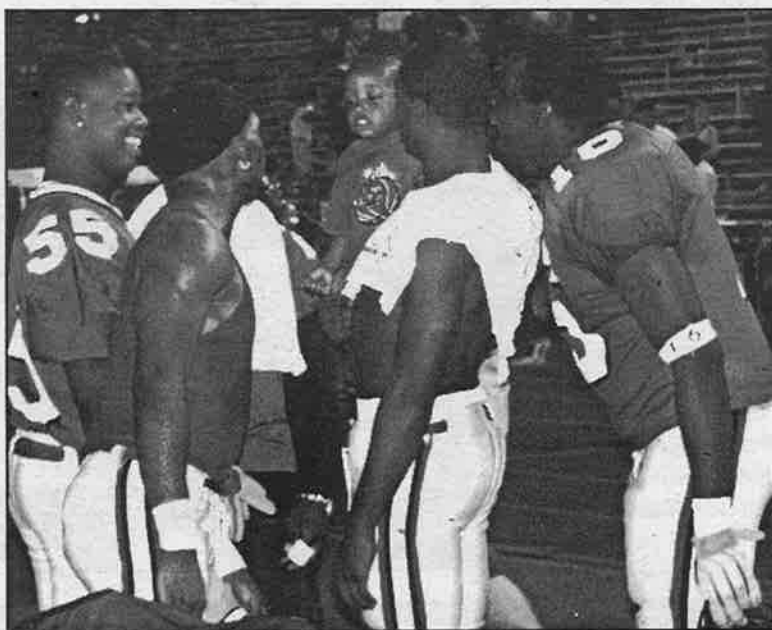
The Rams outlasted the Owls 30-19 in Los Altos Hills.

When Foothill visited Ratcliffe Stadium in 1998, Foothill came out on top 34-27 in overtime.

"Foothill is good team," Caviglia said. "They manhandled Sacramento City."

The Owls beat the Panthers 54-42 Sept. 22.

Foothill leads the series against City College, 3-2.



A group of Rams players joke around with a boy after Fresno City's 77-6 victory over San Jose City Sept. 22.

Not this week

Trailing 24-0 at halftime, the Owls are known for big comebacks. Case in point: The Sept. 22 game against Sacramento City.

Trailing 21-0 after the first quarter and 28-21 at halftime, Waye Terry led the Owls to 33 second-half points en route to a victory. Terry threw second half touchdown passes of 25, 35, 25 and nine yards.

Injury report

No injuries were reported against San Jose City College and Foothill, according to Caviglia.

Welcome back, Rodney

Rodney Davis, a sophomore from Dos Palos High, returned to action against Foothill.

Davis, the brother of Fresno State standout Marque Davis, had a 65-yard touchdown run.

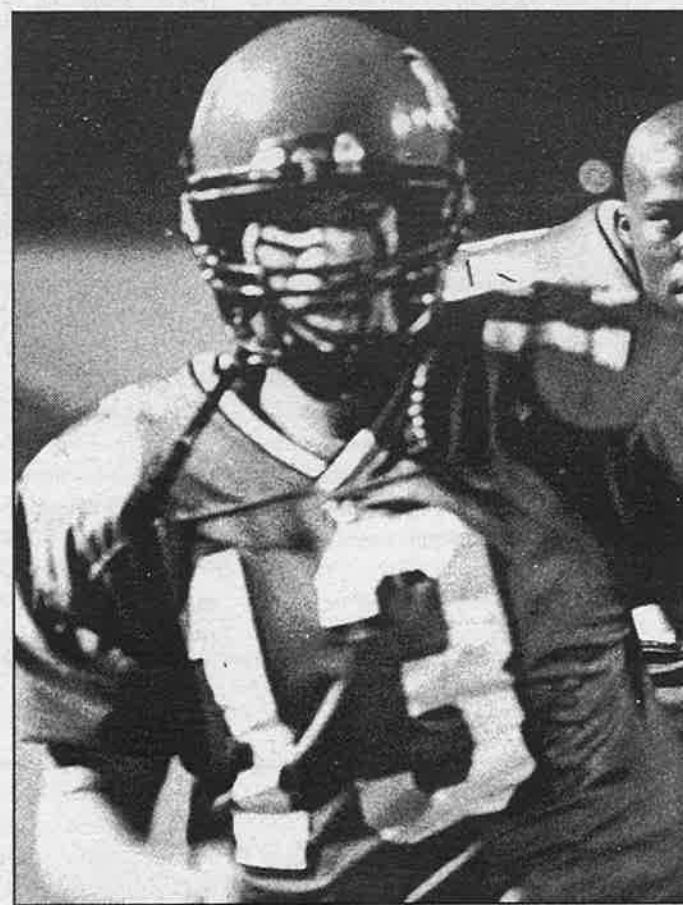
He's happy to back on the field.

"I wanted to get back in the mix," he said. "I want to give credit to the offensive line. I think we have the best offense in the state."

Opponents sees zero's

For the second time this season, the Rams have shutout an opponent.

College of the Siskiyous was blanked 51-0 Sept. 15 and Foot-



Quarterback Mark Hetherington, above, had six touchdown passes against San Jose City, breaking the old mark of five.

hill 52-0 Sept. 29.

"Those zeros look pretty nice," Yanez said

The defense hasn't allowed a touchdown in 13 quarters.

Also...

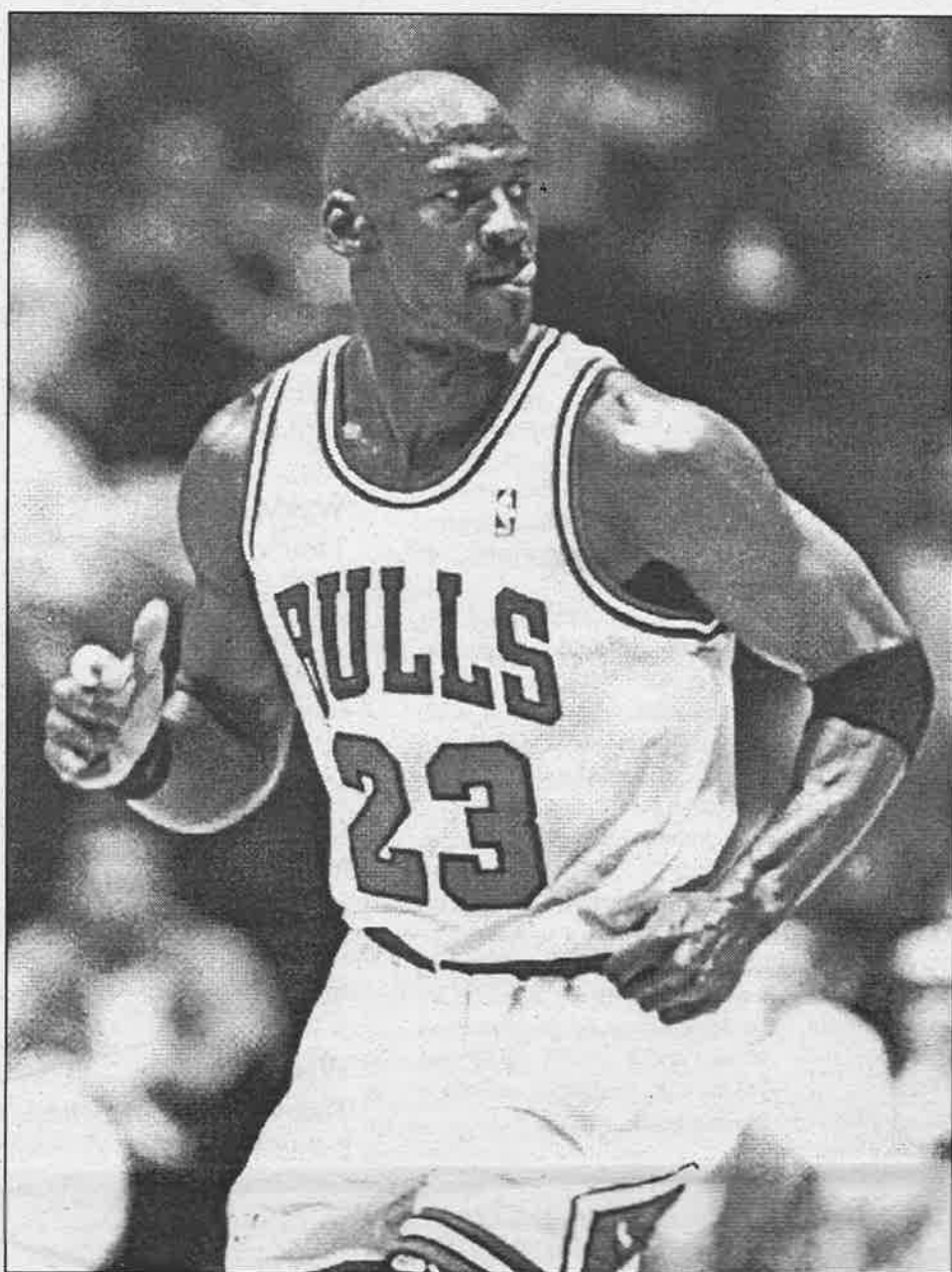
• In four games, the Rams have outscored opponents 207-26.

• As of Sept. 23, the Rams were ranked No. 2 in team defense with

283 yards rushing yards and 83 yards passing. In team defense Fresno City was ranked No.

(135 yards rushing, 346 passing) • Earl Charles, who rushed 1 times for 178 yards against San Jose City College, was named co-state player of the week for Week 3.

The Wizard's back but does NBA need him?



After guiding the Chicago Bulls to their last NBA title in 1998, Michael Jordan returns this season with the Washington Wizards.

Michael Jordan is back, but he is not a savior.

Jordan's first and second runs in the NBA were perfect because his timing was right, as if the timing could be wrong for the greatest basketball player to walk the planet. But anyone looking for the same impact he had earlier in his career should look elsewhere.

They should look to Kobe Bryant, the closest thing to Jordan the league has ever seen. They should look to Allen Iverson, the only guy ever to posterize His Airness. They should look to Vince Carter. Tracy McGrady. Ray Allen. Kevin Garnett. Lamar Odom. This is the next generation now.

Jordan will still be one of the top-10 guards in the game and anyone not excited about seeing him again should check for a pulse. Those who question his ability, even at the ripe old age of 38, are the same people who probably think there was a chance of him losing the dunk contest to Dominique Wilkins in Chicago. His return is also great for the league that lost fans that tuned in just to watch Jordan. But is the comeback necessary as some are making it out to be?

There are those reporter, columnists and fans that felt the league was suffering and needed a shot in the arm.

But that shot in the arm came with the maturation of Bryant, Carter, Iverson and McGrady. All guys who are capable of lighting up Jordan for 40 points on any night.



Anthony Witrado

Rampage reporter
Column

Last year's NBA Finals brought the average fan back. The jawing session between Kobe and Iverson at the end of Game 2 was exactly what the series needed. It made the fan that hates Iverson's cornrows, tattoos and platinum chain watch. Before that it was the epic battle between Iverson and Carter both topping 50 points in the conference semifinals.

Those match-ups proved to America the league is thriving. It does not need a life-saver. It does not need Jordan.

He says the comeback is for the love of the game, and we should not question that. What the NBA fan, the one who watched before and after Jordan, should be concerned about is the other fan. The fan that refused to watch a game full of money-hungry, selfish, unlikable players.

But it is more than unlikable players. It is about a generation gap. A huge one. Grand Canyon style. Players today do not relate well with people outside their age group. They are what is wrong not only with the NBA, but with the country and its youth, according to critics. But have they forgotten the time Jordan himself was what was wrong with the league? When he was called selfish and a showboat? All because he dropped 63 on Larry Bird, America's ideal player, and the legendary Celtics. Did they forget the gold chains, yes more than one, he wore during all-star weekends? Did those fans blank out the years Jordan loudly trashed-talked their favorite players (he did it up until he retired, it was just quieter)?

Michael Jordan is back, but he is not a savior. He is not Jesus. But it will be great to see him run guys half his age into the ground the same way he did when they were twice his age.

Rams get revenge on defending state champions

By Bonner Creager
Rampage reporter

Fresno City College's wrestlers pulled through double traumas of the tragic attack on the World Trade Center and their upset loss to Palomar to pull off an amazing win on two-time returning state champions Moorpark College 27-18 on Sept. 19.

The Rams were defeated by Moorpark last season in the state championship.

The wrestlers, however, were heavily affected by the attack on the World Trade Center.

"The practices were real quiet, flat performances, their minds were elsewhere," said coach Anthony Camacho. "We also didn't know if we were going to compete or not. The guys couldn't maintain intensity."

Despite these setbacks the wrestlers were able to regroup and worked hard to earn the victory sparked by Sergio Breceda.

The 125-pound Breceda tried to jump off the mat and smashed his head on the hard wood floor. After a minute, Breceda took the pain and was back on his feet to pin Ricky Aguirre.

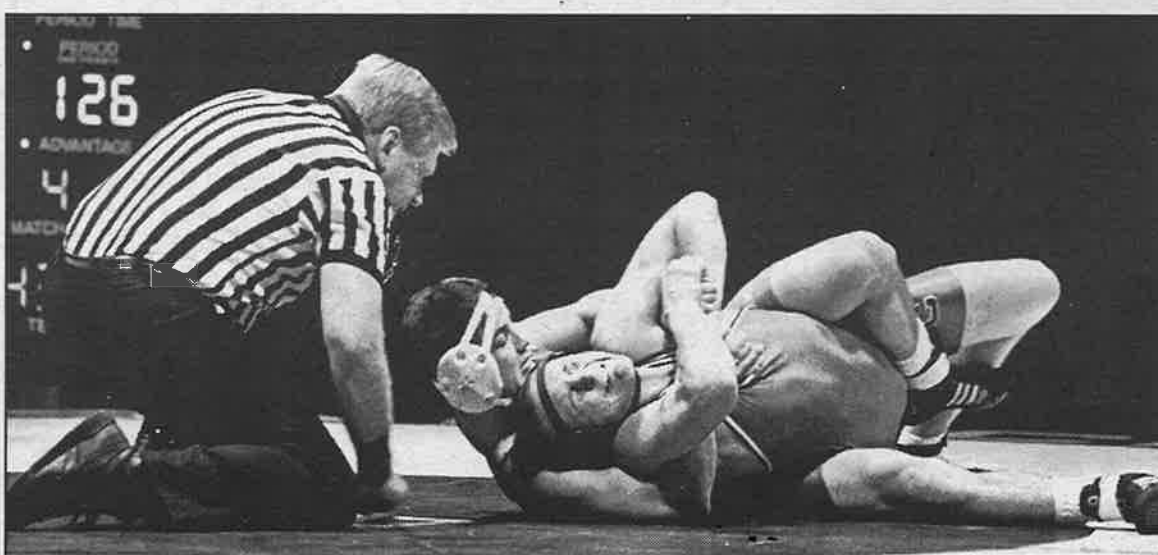


Photo by Wendy Alexander

Scott Beck, middle, puts a hold on Skyline's Michael Gobert. Beck pinned Gobert.

"Sergio's a warrior, he's definitely not going to let the team down," Camacho said. "He started the momentum for the rest of the team. That's one of the reasons why he's the team captain."

And the momentum did start going for FCC. The Rams dominated the next three matches, with a notable technical pin by Russell Muira and a fast pin by Scott Beck.

In the match of the night, state qualifier Rudy Lopez wrestled Eddy Lucatero, who is considered

by many to be the best pound for pound wrestler in the state.

Despite by a pinched neck, Lopez put up a hard fight, but Lucatero was just too strong in his low stance.

The Rams got revenge when team captain Telly Sanders ripped through Jeremiah Pederson for the pin. Jose Tirado finished off Shannon Sams.

Despite the strong push midway through the matches, the night started out rough for Fresno City College.

The first two matches were lost after some hard wrestling. Heavyweight Jason Smoyer was tossing state placer Ben Flores around like he was a rag doll until Flores popped up holding Smoyer's leg and then did a Judo leg sweep that lifted Smoyer into the air and then slammed him down. Smoyer suffered a small concussion but appeared to be all right after seeing a doctor the next day. Smoyer was pinned by Flores.

"We need to work on a couple

of his fundamentals, like he should have dropped flat when Flores took his leg," Camacho said. "But Jason definitely has an opportunity to be a placer. After all, he was right there with the guy who took second in the state last year."

Meanwhile, the Rams hope to continue its success through the state finals.

"Barring any injuries, there's definitely a good chance," Camacho said. "We're definitely in the running."

Also...

• Beck (149) was the individual champion at the Sacramento City College Tournament on Sept. 22.

• The Rams won the 10-team Cerritos Tournament beating out host Cerritos with a point total of 106 1/2.

Cerritos had 80 1/2. Miura 145, Ian Shaw 149, Sanders 165, Brian Scheesly 197 were individual champions.

"It was a really good win for us," Camacho said. "We did a really good ... the team wrestled hard and got good results out of it."

Miura, ranked No. 3 in the state, beat No. 1 Josh Johnson of Cerritos, 3-2. Sanders beat James Paige of Delta 7-6.

Rams remain unbeaten in CVC

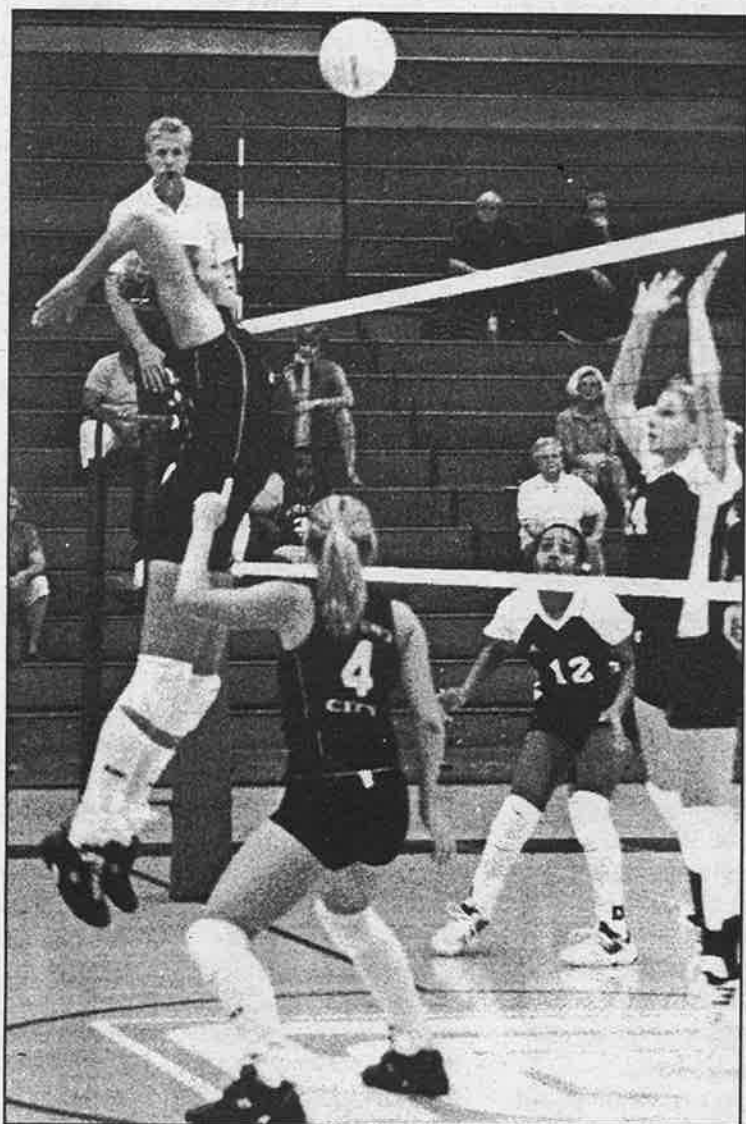


Photo by Wendy Alexander
Kristine Norris, above, looks on as Cami Rouse gets ready to slap the ball past a Reedley player. The Rams won in four games.

By Anthony Galaviz

Sports editor

Fresno City College volleyball coach Sheri Ostrand-Hess didn't know what to expect from her team this season.

After going 14-0 in the Central Valley Conference last season, the Rams haven't lost a step.

The Rams dropped games 2 and 4 but defeated Reedley 30-23, 24-30, 30-28, 25-30, 15-13 to remain undefeated in the CVC.

"I didn't expect this to happen," Ostrand-Hess said of the Rams' 4-0 early season record in the CVC. "I really feel good about this year's team."

She should.

After a 30-24 Game 2 loss, the Rams couldn't shake off a talented Reedley team in Game 3. The Tigers stayed close to Fresno City but the Rams edged past the Tigers 30-28.

"They were playing really hard," Ostrand-Hess said of Reedley. "They're a good service team, but the girls never gave up and that's encouraging."

Cami Rouse, who's being looked at by San Jose State, led the Rams with 25 kills.

Former Sierra High player Kelly McLemore had 13 kills and 11 digs. Stacy Goodman, a fresh-

man from Roosevelt, had 22 blocks for Fresno City.

On Sept. 26, the Rams outlasted Columbia College 30-26, 30-16, 30-25.

Rouse led the charge with 13 kills. Kristine Norris had 18 assists and 14 digs for the Rams.

Also...

• The Rams, for the second consecutive season, won the San Jose City College Tournament Sept. 29 beating Merced in the championship match.

• The Rams will have another showdown in a battle of the unbeaten when it travels to play Taft on Oct. 10.

• As of Sept. 25, Rouse is second in the CVC in kills and attacks. Rouse has 103 kills and 232 attacks with an average of 4.12. Lynette Flores of West Hills has 83 kills, 203 attacks with an average of 4.15

Goodman leads the conference in digs (3.12). Teammate Stephanie Hazelton is third with 1.64.

The Rams are ranked No. 2 in team kills with an average of 12.28. College of the Sequoias leads the CVC with 12.38, but Fresno City leads the conference in team blocks (7.32).

This week's schedule

FOOTBALL

Saturday: at Butte College, 7 p.m.

Oct. 13: Bye

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Today: Bye

Friday: Merced College, 7 p.m.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Thursday: at College of the Sequoias, 3:30 p.m.

MEN'S SOCCER

Thursday: at Modesto Junior College, 3:30 p.m.

WOMEN'S GOLF

Thursday: at Foothill College

MEN'S & WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

Friday: at Lou Vasquez Invitational, San Francisco, 3:30 p.m.

WRESTLING

Today: at Chabot College Dual, 7 p.m.

Rams roundup

By Anthony Galaviz

During the course of the week, Fresno City College women's soccer coach Oliver Germond was concerned about his team conditioning.

Against Cuesta College Sept. 29, Germond shouted to his team midway through the second half.

"We gotta stay active," he said.

His team listened.

Cortnie Johnson took a pass from Leesa Fries and kicked the ball to the right side of the net at the 76th minute, earning themselves a 1-1 tie.

"The girls never gave up," Germond said. "I'm pleased that they played a hard game. Our conditioning will be better as the season rolls along, but we did picked it up in the second half."

The Rams could have taken a 2-1 lead, but Melissa Carr's breakaway try at the 89th minute was kicked to left side of the post.

"We had great chances," Germond said. "Overall, I was pleased with the opportunities we had."

So did the Cougars in the first half.

Cuesta had eight shots on goal, including a goal by Angie Mouwa at the 12th minute giving the Cougars a 1-0 lead.

Men's soccer

The Rams moved up from No. 5 to No. 2 in the Northern California state rankings Sept. 26, but the Rams might fall back a few spots after a 1-0 Central Valley Conference loss to Porterville Sept. 27.

The Pirates, ranked No. 14, got a goal from Hector Rodriguez.

On Sept. 24, the Rams (7-3-3) suffered a 2-1 loss to Hancock and tied Cosumnes River 1-1 on Sept. 21.

The last time the Rams were victorious was against Hancock 3-1 on Sept. 18

Women's golf

Much to the surprise of Fresno City College coach Rhonda Williams, the Rams are tied in first place with Foothill College with a showdown set for Thursday.

The Rams are coming off a victory over Sacramento City Sept. 25.

Asked if she was surprised with her team success early in the season.

"Not really," Williams said. "That's where we should be. The team is excited, and they're working hard to improve."

Ann Olson led the charge for Fresno City, shooting a 76 with Stellina Beato behind at 83.

"She's firing it up," Williams said of Olson. "I don't see anybody beating her at Fig Garden."

Cross country

The Fresno City College women's and men's team didn't compete in the Graegale Invitational because the team needed more practice, according to Rams coach Gary Bluth.

The team did compete in the Crystal Springs Invitational Sept. 28.

The men's team finished 11th with a time of 2:03.59.

Antonio Estrada was the highest Rams finisher at 27th with a time of 22 minutes and 38 seconds.

The women's team didn't field a scoring team because of an illness to one of the players, but four Rams runners did compete with Amanda Murphy finishing at 15th with a time of 20 minutes and four seconds.

Mendez

Continued from page 1

Redwine and executive vice chancellor Jon Sharpe met Monday to discuss the findings of the investigation. A recommendation of what action should be taken will follow shortly.

If school officials find Mendez lied about his record, it could lead to his termination and leave the team without a coach as it prepares to begin workouts.

"The judgment is not based on what his win-loss record is," Elish said. "I do care that he's a winning coach because City College is big enough that we should hire a winning coach. The question is, did he lie to us? Is he a losing coach pretending to be a winning coach? A lot of phone calls have to be made and several people have to be questioned. If the allegations prove to be true, then I don't know what alternatives we would have at that point. That is when I'd have to sit down and say, 'What do we do?'"

As the investigation continues, Mendez's job hangs in the balance. As he prepares to move his family from Phoenix to Fresno, the 42-year-old coach remains optimistic.

"Man, I don't know what my win-loss record is," he said. "I've been involved in so many games, it is too hard to keep track. I stopped counting after 30 (wins). I know (the investigation) will verify everything I said is true."

"The thing about this business is, it is a constant questions of 'What have you done for me lately?' I could have went undefeated (at South Mountain), but if I don't produce here they'll say, 'Why did you hire this guy?'"

According to the athletics department at South Mountain, Mendez was never as suc-

cessful as he said. Their records show Mendez's record fell well below .500 (meaning he had more losses than victories), including no conference titles.

All of this comes in the wake of last season's scandal that brought the once successful program down. The school fired then-coach Denny Aye just before the season began after an investigation by the Junior College Commission on athletics and the SCCC found that FCC and two other Central Valley Conference schools had provided illegal subsidies to players. The investigation led to the Rams' disqualification from any postseason play that year.

Peter Sharkey took over for Aye as interim coach and led FCC to a 15-12 overall record and a disappointment 6-8 CVC record.

This season started out shaky when the team found out that Carl Lee, the Rams' leading scorer last season, would be ineligible because of grades. But things quickly looked up again when the school hired Mendez, who promised to turn things around with a community-based program.

Mendez immediately bagged the services of former Washington Union standout DeShawn Anderson, a local player. But Anderson's character came into question when he and DeShawn Stevenson — a former teammate of Anderson's at Washington and current guard with the National Basketball Association's Utah Jazz — were accused of felony statutory rape.

The charges were recently reduced to a misdemeanor offense.

Along with Mendez, the FCC administration maintains a positive view — but only to a point.

"I feel confident things will work out OK," Elish said. "But I have been wrong before."

Rams results

WRESTLING

SEPT. 19

FRESNO CITY 27,
MOORPARK 19

184: Chris Rueckert, M, d. Anthony Moreno, 7-5; 197: Ralph Garcia, M, d. Brian Scheesley 13-9; **Hwt:** Ben Flores, M, p. Jason Smoyer; 125: Sergio Braceda, F, p. Ricky Aguirre; 133: Josue Hernandez, F, d. Josiah Gonzales, 10-0; 141: Russell Miura, F, d. Bob Fleichmann, 19-4; 149: Scott Beck, F, d. Cesar Cortez; 157: Eddie Lucatero, M, d. Rudy Lopez, 8-2; 165: Telly Sanders d. Jeremiah Pederson; 174: Shannon Sams, M, d. Josue Tirado, 7-3

SEPT. 26

FRESNO CITY 49,
SKYLINE 3

157: Rudy Lopez, F, d. Kevin Nishikawa, 16-6; 165: Sanders, F, p. John Stewart; 174: Tirado, F, p. Rey Gastelum; 184: Moreno, F, p. Spiro Tannous; 197: Scheesley, F, p. Kris Schwartz; **Hwt:** Deniz Akmesse, S, d. Cruz Vasquez, 3-1; 125: Braceda, F, d. Darren Uyeonyama, 6-2; 133: Hernandez, F, p. Josh Sha; 141: Miura, F, p. Joseph Sarsour; 149: Beck, F, p. Michael Gobert

FOOTBALL

SEPT. 29

Fresno City 52, Foothill 0

Foothill 0 0 0 0 - 0

Fresno City 7 17 21 7 - 52

F: Providence Hingano 2 run (Ron Anderson kick)

F: 43 FG Ron Anderson

F: Mac Steward 39 interception return (Anderson kick)

F: Aaron Austin 7 pass from Mark Hetherington (Anderson kick)

F: Rodney Davis 65 run (Anderson kick)

F: Willie Johnson 13 pass from Hetherington (Anderson kick)

F: Maurice Washington 32 pass from Hetherington (Anderson kick)

F: Jones 47 pass from Hetherington (Anderson kick)

	Foo	FCC
First downs	20	22
Rushes	32-96	34-272
Passing	169	255
Total yards	265	527
Fumble-lost	2-1	0-0
Penalties	7-52	10-87

INDIVIDUALS

RUSHING: Foothill, Steven Holloway 1-(-6), Peter Shields 24-101, Terry Waye 7-1. **Fresno City**, Earl Charles 1-67, Hingano 6-19, Arthur Isa 1-14, Hetherington 1-(-10), Davis 12-152, Washington 2-20, Mike Van Worth 1-0

PASSING: Foothill, Terry Waye 19-39-0-139, Justin Despotakis 4-5-1-30. **Fresno**

City, Hetherington 13-21-0-255, Van Worth 0-1-0-0.

RECEIVING:

Foothill, Nate Ramezane 10-72, Kenny Coleman 2-18, Lee McLaughlin 4-24, Matt Kenny 5-34, Steven Holloway 1-8, Frank Pardi 1-13. **Fresno City**, Jones 4-112, Washington 3-56, Aaron Austin 3-46, Johnson 2-30, Davis 1-11.

SEPT. 22

Fresno City 77,
San Jose City 6

San Jose City 0 6 0 0 - 6

Fresno City 21 21 14 21 - 77

F: Maurice Washington 18 pass from Mark Hetherington (Ron Anderson kick)

F: LaMonte Jones 2 pass from Hetherington (Anderson kick)

F: Earl Charles 14 run (Anderson kick)

F: Jones 50 pass from Hetherington (Anderson kick)

S: Reymon Murphy 93 kickoff return (kick blocked)

F: Washington 15 pass from Hetherington (Anderson kick)

F: Aaron Austin 22 pass from Hetherington (Anderson kick)

F: Willie Johnson 12 pass from Hetherington (Anderson kick)

F: Charles 7 run (Anderson kick)

F: Charles 29 run (Anderson kick)

F: Josh Parker 3 run (Anderson kick)

F: Vincent Oglesby 7 run (Anderson kick)

SJ

FCC

First downs	5	31
Rushes-yards	32-42	49-394
Passing	42	279
Total yards	84	673
Fumbles-lost	3-2	0-0
Penalties-yds	7-50	10-87

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING: San Jose City, Murphy 8-48, Nick Okert 2-(-5), Erick Wright 5-(-32), Travis Booker 4-14, James Lewis 4-(-11), Minter 2-8, Burde 2-6, Flippen 1-6, Rios 4-8. **Fresno City**, Providence Hingano 11-80, Charles 14-178, Hetherington 2-(-19), Joe Tomasello 3-21, Oglesby 3-43, Arthur Isa 9-54, Parker 5-20, Mike VanWorth 1-0, Washington 1-7

PASSING: San Jose City, Okert 1-4-0-1, Wright 2-6-1-7, Lewis 4-1-0-34. **Fresno City**, Hetherington 14-24-1-272, Van Worth 1-2-0-7.

RECEIVING: San Jose City, Leiws 2-7, Murphy 1-1, Johnson 3-28, Steve Smith 1-8. **Fresno City**, Austin 2-32, Washington 4-85, Jones 4-107, Brandon Holland 1-7, Johnson 3-39, Charles 1-9

CROSS

COUNTRY

Sept. 28

CRYSTAL SPRINGS
INVITATIONAL
In San Mateo
MEN

Team: Sequoias 1:48.11; 2.

Orange Coast 1:49.27; 3. San Jose 1:53.17; 4. Modesto 1:53.11; 5. Moorpark 1:56.03; 6. West Valley 1:56.37; 7. Diablo Valley 1:56.23; 8. American River 1:57.28; 9. Hartnell 1:57.35; 10. Sierra 2:02.23; 11. **Fresno City** 2:03.59; 12. Delta 2:02.26; 13. Cabrillo 2:03.26; 14. San Francisco 2:04.20; 15. Chabot 2:04.35; 16. Shasta 2:06.38; 17. Santa Rosa 2:06.51; 18. Yuba 2:09.08; 19. Skyline 2:28.48

Individual: 1. Ryan

Bousquet, Orange Coast, 21:05.

Fresno City finishers: 27.

Antonio Estrada 22:38; 49. Evan Carroll 23:20; 50. Ricardo Mendoza 23:20; 109. Trini Rodriguez 26:12; 140. Geovanny Vasquez 28:28; 151. Angel Soto 29:46

WOMEN

Team: 1. Orange Coast 1:36.22; 2. Cabrillo 1:43.29; 3. West Valley 1:45.05; 4. Moorpark 1:46.20; 5. American River 1:48.36; 6. Santa Rosa 1:49.24; 7. Hartnell 1:49.46; 8. Modesto 1:51.37; 9. Sierra 2:01.28; 10. Chabot 2:10.51

Individual: 1. Trina

Cox, Santa Rosa, 18:39.

Fresno City finishers:

15. Amanda Murphy 20:04; 67. Paola Mayo 23:10; 70. Cassandra Rosales 23:18; 97. Maria Espinoza 25:59

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the long halls of academia,
but there's something
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Tracks: Accident spurs fight to move tracks

complete grade separation," Kent said.

BNSF owns the land where its tracks are located. The railroad would have to be compensated for the land in the event it agreed to rail consolidation. If the BNSF relinquished the tracks, suggestions for its use have included putting in a light rail system or a parkway.

Briggs donated \$100,000 to Fresno Area Residents for Rail Consolidation (FARRC) at a press conference Sept. 25 that was held at the railroad crossing on Weldon Avenue, the location where Puletapuai was killed by a speeding Amtrak train on Sept. 13. Briggs said that BNSF tracks run throughout the state and yet most of the accidents are in Fresno. A 1996 Public Utilities Commission report indicated that Fresno County had an average of 15 rail-crossing accidents each year.

"Most grade crossing accidents happen because of people's inattentiveness," Kent said.

The railroad is not liable for accidents that happen on its tracks provided the train has blown its whistle one block away from the crossing and the lights are flashing. People who cross the tracks when the train is coming can be fined \$103 for trespassing. Drivers who cross the tracks after the gates are down can receive a \$271 fine.

John Ferdinandi, chairman of FARRC, said the \$100,000 donation will be used to educate the public on the need for track consolidation. Briggs' \$100,000 donation to FARRC came from state funds.

Briggs cited the donation as evidence the state supports efforts to consolidate the tracks. "The legislature is seeing that this isn't just a Fresno problem, it is a state problem. I'm working hard at the state level for legislation to get this done."

Briggs said there is also support for track consolidation at the federal, city and county levels. Congressman George Radanovich (R-Mariposa) has requested \$200

Key dates involving railroad tracks

1896 - On October 5, Engine 50 of the new San Francisco and San Joaquin Valley Railroad, later known as Burlington Northern Santa Fe, pulled into Fresno.

1918 - The City of Fresno creates its first city plan, which includes a suggestion that the railroad tracks be consolidated on the western edge of the city.

1959 - The City of Fresno grants Santa Fe franchise rights to the tracks through the city for 50 years for a fee of \$800,000.

1980 - Santa Fe and Southern Pacific propose a merger.

1984 - The railroads propose to build an S curve track to merge their lines. The proposed track would run through land controlled by developer Edward Kashian. Kashian persuades Fresno officials to change the zoning on the land, sharply raising the cost of the proposed track. The rail roads back away from the proposal and the

merger falls through.

1997 - An Amtrak train kills a man crossing the tracks at Weldon Avenue.

1998 - The County of Fresno supports consolidating BNSF with Union Pacific lines along the Freeway 99 corridor. Fresno City Council votes to build an underpass at Shaw and Marks, dimming hopes of track consolidation.

2000 - April 3, Construction is started on the Shaw-Marks underpass.

2001 - Feb. 2, Jamie Davis breaks her arm in five places when a train hits her backpack and knocks her to the ground.

2001 - Sept. 13, Junior Puletapuai, 20, is killed as he ran in front of an Amtrak train at the Weldon Avenue crossing.

2002 - In June the Shaw-Marks underpass is expected to be completed.

million to be used for railroad consolidation in the Transportation Appropriations bill. The bill has already passed the House and the Senate, but it will not be earmarked in committee until the middle of October. Proponents of track consolidation point to the overpasses and underpasses located at Ashlan, Belmont and Clinton avenues as evidence that the infrastructure is already in place to accommodate train traffic. FARRC says track consolidation would improve traffic flow and reduce air-pollution emissions in Fresno.

There is strong debate about who will pay the \$400 million to implement the plan.

On the negative side, there are no overpasses at Olive, McKinley and Shaw avenues, and most of the rail crossings in the downtown area. Furthermore, consolidating the tracks will lead to traffic congestion in the downtown area and

on the main streets in lower income areas such as southwest Fresno, the Roeding Park area and Highway City. Track consolidation is seen as an attempt to shuffle a city problem onto the county.

Katia Kazazian, a Fresno City College student who witnessed the accident in which Puletapuai was killed, has started the Petition for Rail Consolidation to have the tracks moved. The petition has gathered nearly 1,000 signatures. Her voice quivered as she described watching the 6-foot-3 feet, 330-pound football player as he was struck by the train. "Junior was hurled 40 feet into the sky like a rag doll. No one should have to die this way. No one should have to witness what I saw."

Kazazian did not know Puletapuai before the accident. The event has left her traumatized but determined to have the tracks moved. "I'm not going to give up that easily. I've been having night-

mares about this whole thing. Why should the citizens of Fresno have to suffer like this?"

The State Community College District Police Departed reports there have been three accidents between pedestrians and trains on campus in the last four years. There are forty trains that pass through the campus on a daily basis. Some have suggested that a walkway over or under the rail road tracks at the Weldon crossing would increase student safety.

Ferdinandi rejected the idea of a walkway. "Students are in a hurry. They are kids. They won't use it. It will cost as much to put an underpass at all the intersections as it will to move the tracks."

Fresno City College had 23,000 students last year with 31% of students between the ages of 20 through 24 and 47% of the students at least 25 or older.

Dr. Judith Redwine, Chancellor of the State Community College District, said she supports a walkway over the rail road tracks. "I think some type of walkway is needed. An underpass would be better than an overpass. Students would be more likely to use it if they didn't have to climb stairs."

"I've always believed something needed to be done," said Dr. Robert Fox, Dean of Students at Fresno City College. "I was at a meeting where we were talking about top safety issues and the rail road was brought up." Fox had worked at a college in the Bay area where a nearby train derailed, spilling chlorine gas throughout the area. "You realize how unprepared a college is for that kind of situation."

Although the subject of a walkway at the rail road crossing had been raised in previous years, it had not been discussed recently. Redwine indicated that the city had not been approached yet about installing a walkway nor was there any information on how much a walkway would cost.

Fresno has wrestled with the issue of track consolidation for 83

years. The San Francisco and San Joaquin Valley Rail Road - now known as BNSF - came into Fresno in 1896. The city drew up its first city plan for future growth in 1918. Among the proposals was a suggestion that the rail road tracks should be consolidated along the western edge of the city.

Santa Fe and Southern Pacific contemplated a merger during the early 1980's, raising the possibility the Santa Fe tracks would be eliminated. The rail roads proposed building a new S curve track in a section of undeveloped land north of Fresno to merge the two lines.

The new track was to run through property controlled by Edward M. Kashian, a developer who was president of Bombay Corp. The property was 265 acres located south of Herndon Avenue between Cornelia, Polk, Bullard and Palo Alto avenues. The land was owned by Fig Garden New Town, a limited partnership in which Bombay Corp. was the general and controlling partner.

Kashian wanted to develop the land into medium and high-density residences, professional and commercial complexes. He filed to have the land rezoned after he met with the rail road and city officials. Fresno officials granted his request for rezoning, raising the value of Kashian's property. The rail road dropped the proposal of the S curve track after the zoning change sharply raised the cost of the proposed route. The issue of rail consolidation got derailed in 2000 when the city started construction on the \$16.5 million underpass at Shaw and Marks Avenues, a pet project of Fresno City Council Member Chris Mathys. The project is expected to be completed in June 2002.

For more information on Fresno Area Residents for Rail Consolidation call (559) 243-0710 or visit the Web site at www.movethetracks.org. For more information on the Petition for Rail Consolidation call Katia Kazazian at (559) 498-4968.

Taking it to the streets

What should be done about the railroad tracks at Weldon Avenue?

Compiled by Jenny Langworthy

"I think we should put a catwalk above the tracks for people to walk over."

--Cathy Ahaitani



"Maybe we could get the trains to slow down when they go through town."

--Iris Flores

"We should probably put in an overpass so the students don't have to cross the path of the train."

--Socorro Estalilla



"Close the railroad tracks and use the ones on the west end of town."

--Kenley Nuefeld

"We have the barriers for the cars, but we need something to stop students from going beyond a certain point."

--Reggie Chima

