

# Rampage

## Fresno City College

Volume LXXIX Edition 1

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September 8, 2004



Rams start season 4-0  
- page 7

# Train kills student



Photo by Joseph Maldonado

Fresno City College student Deondrae Mullin was struck by an Amtrak train the morning of Sept. 2. The train was delayed for more than two hours while police investigated the scene.

## Students question safety on campus

By Kirk Givan  
Rampage reporter

The Fresno City Police Department responded to a call that a train had hit a Fresno city college student the morning of Sept. 2.

This has been the second life of a student that was taken by a train on campus in three years.

According to police re-

ports, 18-year-old Deondrae Mullin may have been wearing earphones while crossing the tracks and ignored the warning lights and arms at the railroad crossing. The northbound Amtrak train dragged Mullin more than 80 yards after impact.

Professor Kehinde Solwazi, Mullin's African American Culture

professor, was informed by students of his class that the incident had occurred.

"Students looked absolutely in shock and could process the sight of the scene," Solwazi said.

Distress was evident on the faces of many students as they passed the scene of the incident and noticed the police markers that

covered area. Among those passing the scene, several students relied on the support of friends to make it across the railroad crossing to their cars.

Solwazi urges students to take full advantage of all the counseling services FCC has to offer for their "mental well-being."

For Mullin's fellow classmates,  
**See Train, page 4**

## Trustee election

**Nov. 3**  
*Four of seven seats are up for grabs*

By Rebekah Miranda  
Editor-in-Chief

Registered voters in more than 20 valley cities will decide who is elected to the State Center Community College District Board of Trustees Nov. 3. Four of the seven seats on the board are up for election and each one is being contested.

Former Fresno City Council member Chris Mathys is seeking the seat of lawyer William J. Smith, president of the SCCC board.

Since 1983 Smith has served on the college board and responded to Mathys campaign by saying it seemed more of a "political career move" than a "serious attempt at serving the community."

In a written statement presented to the board Mathys said, "It is appalling to me when students are shut out of classes like English 1A and Math 101 but in the same school year Mr. Smith finds funds for La Raza studies and beginning Swahili. This double standard is unacceptable to me and most taxpayers."

Smith answered by saying, "Mathys has no idea how the process works. The community college's curriculum committee decides what classes are and what classes aren't available."

"I don't serve on the board for the money. As president I only make about \$400 a month. I'm a public servant and I absolutely agree that we need those classes. If we had the funding it wouldn't be an issue," Smith said.

Mathys acknowledged Smith's opinion by saying, "There are some big differences in our respective platforms."

Mathys also compared this election to the last by stating that 165,000 people voted, making it as big as a congressional seat.

Both Smith and Mathys have attended community colleges.

Phil Maher is also running for president as the current seat of Pat Patterson, Vice President, and Trustees Ron Feaver and Phillip Forhan are being contested.



William J. Smith



Chris Mathys

## WWE stars: 'Vote' Wrestlers stop at FCC on US tour

By Jorge Mendoza  
Rampage reporter

World Wrestling Entertainment wrestlers Charlie Haas and Spike Dudley visited the Fresno City College campus as part of WWE's "Smackdown Your Vote!" campaign Aug. 26.

The Smackdown Your Vote campaign started as a way for WWE to encourage young people all across America to vote. It is a non-partisan campaign that has recently gained nationwide notoriety for its actions. So much in fact,

that President George W. Bush and Sen. John Kerry, gave WWE their seal of approval for their actions. Recently, the 'Smackdown Your Vote' campaign was invited to the Democratic National Convention.

"We here at WWE are going across the country trying to get the message across to young voters that their voice does make a difference," Haas said.

The WWE has a reputation for encouraging the youth of America to vote.

"Voting is a big cornerstone of our country," said Dudley. He also stated that if you don't vote, then you really don't have anything to complain about.

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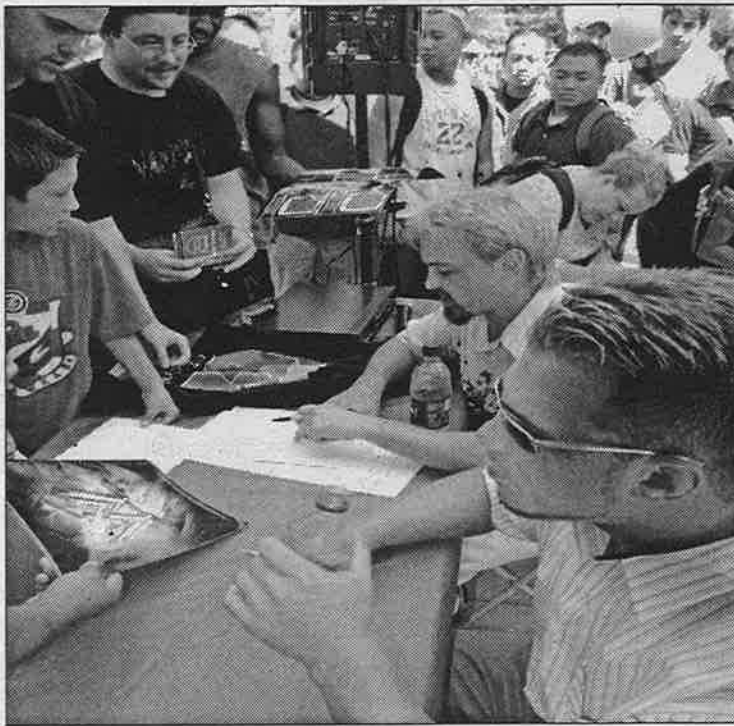


Photo by Bryan Borrer

Spike Dudley signs an autograph for a fan at Fresno City College Aug. 26. Charlie Haas and Dudley are part of WWE's 'Smack Down Your Vote' campaign which encourages young people to vote.



# ASG plans all-day events celebrating Mexico's independence

*Ethic food and fun in the Free Speech Area Sept 16.*

By Will Tranquilli  
Rampage reporter

Fresno City College Associated Student Government has plans for a festive celebration of Mexican Independence Day.

"The event is planned for Sept. 16 in the campus Free Speech Area from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.," said Edgar Castillo, president pro tem of the Student Senate.

"Campus clubs will sell Mexican foods and vendors selling Mexican goods are invited," Castillo said.

Either a 'Grito' (traditional shout) contest or a Latino music dance competition are planned, possibly both. The mariachi band Mariachi de la Tierra is scheduled.

September 16<sup>th</sup> will mark 193 years since Father Hidalgo, in the village of Dolores delivered a sermon that inspired the bloody revolution that resulted in Mexico's independence from Spain.

Throughout Mexico, celebrants gather at 11 o'clock the night of Sept. 15 to cry, "Mexicanos, Viva Mexico", (Mexicans, long live Mexico) believed to be Father Hidalgo's 'Grito' or revolution inspiring cry.

It is unlikely Father Hidalgo shouted "Long Live Mexico," many historians believe. At that time Mexico meant Mexico City.

Likely he shouted "Death to bad government" or more likely, "Viva La Virgin de Guadalupe," since she was the patron saint of the struggle and revolutionaries carried her likeness into battle.

Today, the celebration still begins on Sept. 15 and continues through the next day.

## Mexican Independence Day Events Scheduled:

**Place:** Free Speech Area  
**Date:** Thursday, September 16<sup>th</sup>  
**Time:** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
**10:00 a.m.** Venders and clubs begin selling Mexican goods and foods.  
**11:00 a.m.** Mariachi band, Mariachi de la Tierra" performs  
**12:30 p.m.** FCC Folkloric Dancers or FCC Ballet Folklorico will perform  
**1:00 p.m.** Latin Music Dancing compition and/or "Grito" (cry of the Mexican Revolution) contest.

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FCC Rams grind out a win against Feather River.

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Student hit by Amtrak Sept. 2.

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• Two Rampage writers debate whether FCC should be a non-smoking campus.

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## Sports

• The FCC womens soccer team starts the 2004 season 4-0.

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## 'Real Women Have Curves'



Photo by Jenny Boothe

'Real Women Have Curves' brought a snappy thought-provoking story of a young woman in a Latino community to FCC's theater Aug. 27. Directed by Manuel Pickett of California State University Sacramento and written by Josephine Lopez.

## Rampage

RAMPAGE

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

### Editors

Editor in chief: Rebekah Miranda  
News editor: Rebekah Miranda  
Views editor: Rebekah Miranda  
Photo editor: Bryan Borrer  
Sports editor: David Witte  
Reviews editor: David Witte  
Advertising manager: Teresa Dawson  
Business manager: Teresa Dawson  
Adviser: Jeremy Martin  
Operations manager: Samuel Yuk

Letters and submissions to the calendar will be accepted via e-mail or in person noon-1 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday, at The Rampage, Room SC-211, above the bookstore.

### Editorial:

(559) 442-8263

### Advertising:

(559) 442-8262

### Fax:

(559) 265-5783

### E-mail:

rampage@scccd.com

### Reporters

Ryan McHenry, Elliott Torres, Jorge Mendota, Felix Sanchez, Ali Sadoian, El Cid Rojas, Will Tranquilli, Jared Leas, Anthony Castillo, Joanne Lui, Quinn Robinson, Dyann Cerrado

### Photography

Byran Borrer, Elias Vega, Jenny Boothe, Daisy Rosas, Vivienne Henry, Keith Little

### Graphics/Cartoonist

Elias Vega, Jesse Garcia, David Witte, Jared Leas

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## Submit your letters to the editor

The Rampage welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be no more than 500 words, and writers should include their affiliation with Fresno City College or State Center Community College District along with a return mailing address or phone number.

The Rampage reserves the right to edit letters for length or clarity. Letters can be sent by e-mail to rampage@scccd.com, by fax to 265-5783 or by mail to the following address:

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Fresno City College 1101 E. University Ave.  
Fresno, CA 93741



# Budget low, fees high

*Fee increases go into effect late due to state gridlock*

By David Witte  
Rampage reporter

The State Center Community College District will be sending statements asking students to pay the \$8 difference due to the increase in fees. District Dean of Admissions and Records John Cummings said the letters will be sent home starting Sept. 13, and will cover the jump from \$18 to \$26 per unit.

That adds up to \$96 for a student taking 12 units.

"We will be sending out notices to those students that owe the fee," said Doug Brinkley, Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance. "We will not drop any student who's already paid the \$18 per unit."

The district will place a hold on the record of students who don't pay by Oct. 8. Cummings said that anyone on a Board of Governors waiver shouldn't worry, they will not be affected.

Brinkley said that any student who wasn't eligible for financial aid under the \$18 per unit should check in with them to see if they're eligible under the \$26 per unit.

"Financial Aid will inform anybody [already on financial aid] of any changes in their payments," said Brinkley.

Cummings advised all students to drop any classes they need to before Sept. 10 to avoid complications.

This effort is coordinated district-wide, so any students taking classes at more than one location will receive only one bill.

"We anticipate most people will pay the fees," Brinkley said. "They did last year."

This comes as part of Gov. Schwarzenegger's state budget, which calls for increased revenues from tribal gaming, bonds, and propositions, as well as cuts on education and local government spending.

The state's spending on community colleges has increased by 7.4%, according to the Community College League of California. The jump from \$18 to \$26 per unit represents a 34% increase.

The state is not obligated to increase funding on account of higher fees, according to Brinkley. In fact, it's the opposite.

"If the state was going to give \$100, \$18 would be from student fees," Brinkley said. "Now, \$26 comes from student fees. We collect those fees, we report what we collect, and they reduce the amount of money they

give us by that dollar amount."

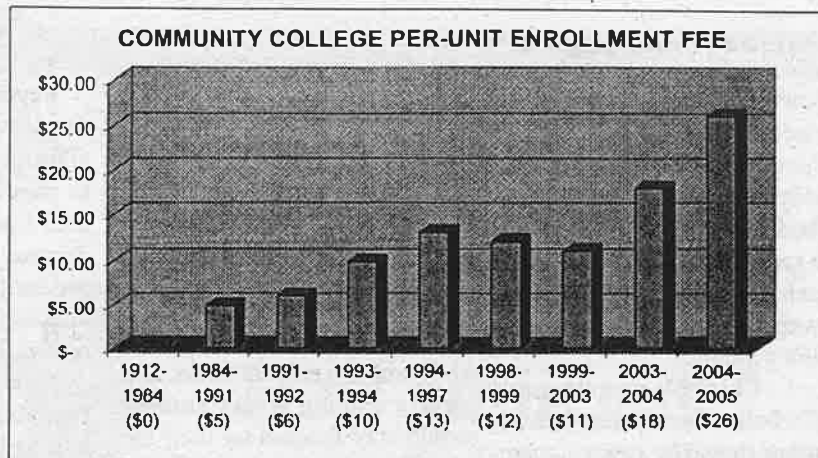
That said, funding per student is on the rise. After funding per full-time-equivalent student dropped \$252 in the 2003-04 fiscal year, it will rise \$212 this year. Also provided are a 2.41% (\$2.1 billion) cost of living adjustment for faculty, equalization money (\$80 million), and .65% (\$121 million) increase for student growth.

The SCCC budget's outlook for the 2004-05 fiscal year commends Gov. Schwarzenegger's efforts to increase spending on community colleges, but laments the fact that "community colleges still receive a disproportionately low per-student funding allocation when

compared to other California higher education systems and experience a continued shortfall in funding when compared to postsecondary education systems in other states."

California's community college system ranks 41 on the Education Commission of the States' list of average expenditures per full-time-equivalent student. Maine's community colleges ranks first, spending \$13,292 per full-time-equivalent student in 2000, which is more than the California State University system.

SCCCD ranks 61 out of 72 community college districts in California for revenue per full-time-equivalent student, which is where the equalization money comes in. The state adjusts those districts that fall below the state average so that they equal it.



Graphic contributed by Administration and Finance Department

## VOTE: Students register to vote for upcoming election with help from the WWE

Continued from page 1

Gurdeep Sihota, Director of College Activities, organized the event and couldn't be happier with the outcome. 112 students registered to vote within 45 minutes.

"We were shooting for 100 people to register," Sihota said. "Last time the Smackdown Your Vote campaign swung through here we only had about 90 people register. So this exceeded expectations, and for it to happen in only 45 minutes is really amazing."

This being an election year and with all of the issues surrounding the election, it didn't take too much to convince the undecided.

"I never registered before because I never

really thought the issues mattered to me," said Jordan Stokes, 23. "This year though, I'm only registering so I can do my part in getting Bush out of office."

With the 112 that registered, there are still hundreds more that haven't begun to think of registering, or the issues surrounding the election.

"A lot of young people still don't think any of the issues don't matter to them," Sihota said. "I think if they just took a look at the issues for a while, I think they would realize that a lot of it effects them. We want the young people here, and throughout America,

to realize that their vote, does make a difference."

This was the third time the Smackdown Your Vote! campaign visited the Fresno City College campus.

More visits to FCC seem inevitable. "We have a really great relationship with the WWE," Sihota said. "Students can expect to see them here again soon, and they love coming here and getting their message across."



Photo by Bryan Bonnor  
Fresno City College student Lisa Cunningham registers to vote Aug. 26.

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## happens

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# Train: Memorial is made for FCC student

Continued from page 1

Solwazi is holding a discussion and counseling session to be led by Dr. Richards of FCC's psychological services department. Solwazi described Mullins as a young man who sought education who wanted to transform into a professional. Solwazi sends great condolences to Mullin's family.

Chief Marvin Reyes of FCC's Police Department said pedestrians should be aware of warning signals and stand 15ft. away from the tracks. This is essential in protecting oneself from flying debris from trains passing through campus. Pedestrians and drivers should also not try to beat on coming trains.

It is best to yield and give the train the right away at all times. Even though arms do not cover sidewalk paths pedestrians should pay attention to signal lights and warning bells.

The Fresno Police Department advises that students should also turn off headsets and cell phones while crossing railroad tracks. During the coming weeks students should stay focused on their surroundings even though their mindsets may be on tests and finals.

Brian Speece, FCC's Associate Vice Chancellor of Business and Operations, said Measure E funds and a CalTrans grant of \$1 million has been acquired to ensure the safety of student crossing.

Reyes said that by 2005 an underpass will be constructed that will allow both pedestrians and drivers to pass under Weldon's intersection. Upon completion of the underpass, the current paths for both pedestrians and drivers will be re-directed with barriers in place to protect pedestrians.

Counseling services are available, and crisis debriefings will be held on campus for those students who feel affected by the incident. For more information contact FCC's Psychological Services at (559) 442-4600 Ext. 8055 or 8056. Walk-ins are also welcome in the office located above the bookstore in the northwest office.

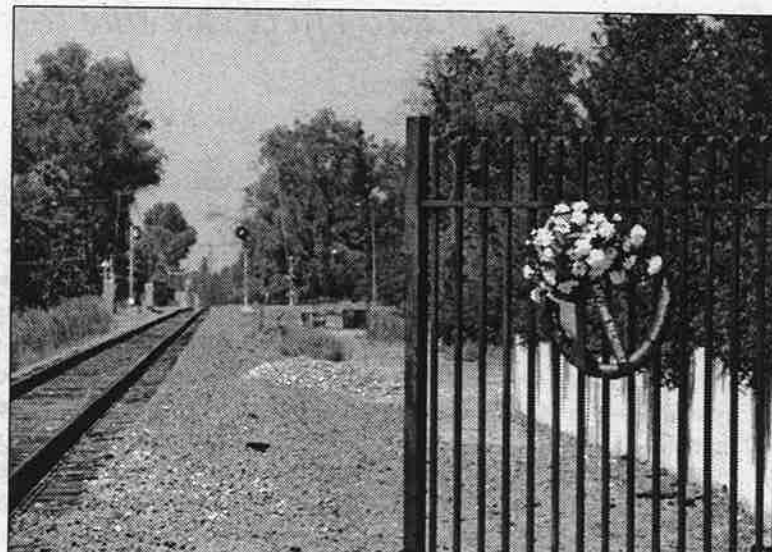


Photo by Daisy Rosas

A memorial is made for Deondrae Mullin the afternoon of the accident. Mullin was hit by a train walking to class Sept. 2.

## Underpass in works to ensure safety

By Joanne Lui

Rampage reporter

Every day, as many as 40 trains roll over the railroad tracks that cut straight through Fresno City College, going as fast as 70 mph past cars and students rushing to get to class on time.

More than a few injuries and even deaths have occurred at the railroad crossing on Weldon Street over the years, and people have been lobbying for a long time for a solution to this dangerous problem. Finally, something is being done about it.

A project has been undertaken by Fresno City College, in conjunction with the railroad company, to construct an underpass for both pedestrians and vehicles below a portion of the tracks that currently runs between the student parking lots.

Once the project is complete, students will be able to cross directly underneath the railroad tracks and get straight to campus. The crossing at Weldon will be permanently fenced off.

Plans for an underpass took on a new urgency when, three years ago, on Sept. 14, 2001, an Amtrak train struck and killed Fresno City football player Junior Puletapui

as he crossed the tracks in an attempt to beat the locomotive.

"You can see people start to run when horns start blaring. They run and beat the trains, even though they only have to wait a few minutes," said Brian Speece, Associate Vice Chancellor for Business and Operations, who is in charge of the project. "One of the problems is that...those Amtrak trains

are going 60-70 miles an hour through [the school]. You just don't realize that you don't have that much time. All you gotta do is stumble [or] trip and you're in big trouble."

In all, the project will cost \$2.2 million dollars, with \$1 million of that coming from a CalTrans grant, and the rest coming from state education bonds. Construction began

this summer, as the railroad company built the support structure underneath the track. The rest of the underpass will be constructed in the summer of 2005.

"We knew we didn't have time to finish [the underpass] before school started. We always figured that it'd be a two-phase project," said Speece. "Starting in May we will excavate underneath

the tracks and then build the roadways."

The new underpass will cut through the existing parking lot and as many as 100 parking stalls will be lost, but plans are already underway to put more stalls in the area where students once crossed Weldon, and additional parking lots may be built on the other side of campus.



Photo contributed by Brian Speece

Construction has begun for an underpass for both pedestrians and vehicles.



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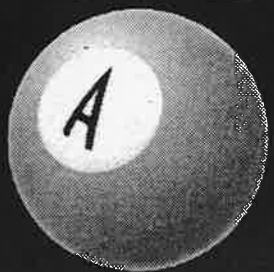
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Photo by Rebekah Miranda

Students sign petition to clean up the San Joaquin Valley's air.

## Annual Job Fair around corner

**Will Tranquilli**  
Rampage reporter

Get off the sofa, ya lazy bum, and get a job.

If you've heard that lately, you'll be glad to know you don't have to go far. The Application Job Fair is being presented, just for you.

The fair will be held at the main fountain area, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., on Wednesday, Sept. 15 and Thursday, Sept. 16, from 10am to 2pm.

Students will be able to fill out job applications for companies such as Comcast, Target, Pizza Hut, Burlington Coat Factory, and The Pines Resort.

"There will be trained staff available to help students fill out the forms," said Sean Henderson, Coordinator of the Employment Recourse Center.

"[At] last year's Application Job Fair, [students] submitted over 1200 completed applications," said office secretary Phyllis Greenwood. "Twenty-three participating employers were very enthusiastic about the results."

The ERC is also presenting a Job Fair on Sept. 22, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the campus cafeteria. Thirty to sixty employers are expected to be there to conduct interviews.

Students can present their resumes and be interviewed by employers. Students who do not have resumes can use the computers at the ERC. Trained ERC staff members are also available to assist students in preparing good resumes.

The Government and Career Expo is scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 13, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., in the open air of the Free Speech Area. Many government agencies as well as non-government employers will present and explain career opportunities and application information.

For any further information, contact ERC Administrative Assistant Joan Williams-Barber at 442-8294 or visit the ERC web site at [www.jobs.fresnocitycollege.edu](http://www.jobs.fresnocitycollege.edu).

# FCC as a non-smoking campus

## ASG wants student input

**Anthony Castillo**  
Rampage reporter

Fresno City College students may soon be at campus polls voting on whether the State Center Community College District Board of Trustees should ban smoking on campus. Board members and the Associated Student Governments of the SCCCDC campuses are expected to come together at the Board of Trustees meeting on Oct. 5 to decide how to handle the voting for the newly proposed smoking policy, which would make all SCCCDC schools non-smoking campuses.

Currently, Fresno City College has its own policy on smoking cigarettes on school grounds. FCC rules state that you, as a smoker, are allowed to smoke on campus at anytime as long as you are 15 feet away from all college building.

There is pressure, however, on the district and the school, to adopt new policies that are similar to those enforced at other state schools.

California has developed a reputation as one of the most anti-smoking states in the country, and has come to a juncture where the student body must decide on where the students stand on the matter.

"The ASG is very involved in equally representing the student body as a whole," said ASG President Daniel Lorente.

There are two proposals as to how stu-

dent voting should be handled. The first is a cross-section sample done at all district campuses. A cross-section sample is a survey of a limited number of students who represent the whole student population. In this case, about 1500 students from each SCCCDC campus would be surveyed. The district board of trustees will have the final say in the matter, using the information gathered to make a reasonable decision.

The second option, which is supported by most of the student body and the ASG, is a democratic vote taken by secret ballot. If this process were chosen, the ASG would make a list of all students enrolled in both day and night classes on campus and attempt to get all of their votes. Voting dates will be posted around campus, and polls will be set up at the center of the school campus by ASG.

There is also a possibility that the district will send a mass mailing of all voting dates to FCC students. The ASG hopes for a good voter turn out so that students will have a strong say in the matter of the smoking ban.

As for the final decision, students will have to wait until October, when the board of trustees and all the representatives of the student body meet and bring the students feelings and opinions regarding smoking on campus to the table.

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## Area college student dating self

THINGS ARE REALLY STARTING TO HEAT UP



Eric Peterson, top, has one of many romantic dinners with himself at their favorite restaurant.

By LISA CHENEY

Local college student Eric Peterson recently announced that he's entered a committed relationship—with himself. Peterson vehemently denied rumors that the two were dating other people. "We're totally committed to each other. We've never been happier." When asked what prompted the campus heartthrob to take himself

cost-effective decision on my part, but it's been really nice for us to spend more time together." Peterson was apparently unaware of Free Checking from Washington Mutual. It's an account with no monthly

**"We've never been happier."**

off the market, he chalked it up in large part to his current financial situation, claiming that monthly fees from his checking account were making it too expensive for him to date around. "It was partly a

fees and the option to add Deluxe services like free online bill pay. And he could have gotten Free Checking just by visiting a Washington Mutual

Financial Center, then signed up for online bill pay at [wamu.com](http://wamu.com). "Dang," said Peterson, "if I had known about Free Checking Deluxe, my current dating situation would be different. I probably wouldn't have settled down with someone so soon."

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## Schedules & Info

### Football:

Record: 1-0

- Sept. 11, 7 p.m.  
@ Chabot
- Sept. 18, 11 p.m.  
vs. San Francisco

### Player to watch

Nate Wright: the 5' 10" sophomore ran for 1400 yds his freshman year.

### Women's Golf:

- Sept. 14, 12 p.m.  
Tournament  
Fig Garden
- Sept. 21, 12 p.m.  
Tournament  
Los Altos Hills

### Volleyball:

Record: 1-0

- Sept. 11, 12 p.m.  
@ Foothill College Classic
- Sept. 15, 7 p.m.  
vs. Taft
- Sept. 17, 5 p.m.  
vs. C.O.S.
- Sept. 18, all day  
San Joaquin Delta  
Tournament
- Sept. 22, 7 p.m.  
@ Modesto

### Wrestling:

- Sept. 11, 5 p.m.  
Palomar Dual
- Sept. 14, 5 p.m.  
Palomar Dual

# Rams wreak havoc

*Rams ranked no. 2 in Street & Smith national poll*

By David Witte  
sports editor

The locals saw it as a David vs. Goliath matchup. No, I'm not talking about the Fresno City College vs. defending state champions City College of San Francisco game. That's Sept. 18.

I'm talking about the three-year-old Feather River College football program taking on no. 4 FCC. But this time, Goliath won.

Fresno City College defeated Feather River College 23-13 in Quincy, Calif. Sept. 4, despite trouble with quarterback accuracy, missed tackles and kicks, and a collapsing offensive line due to training camp injuries.

"Our offensive line was banged up, but the guys stepped up, they did a nice job," FCC head coach Tony Caviglia said. "We had to ask some guys to do some things they weren't maybe ready for, and they did a good job."

This first win of the season came against a program that went 15-5 with two bowl appearances in its first two seasons in existence. Conference realignment and an increasing tation has given the Golden Eagles a grueling schedule this season.

"We feel like the last couple of years we've at least made a mark, I think we've established ourselves," said Rob Cushman, Feather River head coach. "If we're going to play at the high level, then we've got to play these kinds of games, and eventually we've got to win these games."

Feather River is the smallest community college in the state, with only about 450 full-time students, according to Athletic Director Paul Thein. The football team is recruited mostly from Nevada, whose community colleges don't have football programs. Cushman took this loss with a grain of salt.

"You're always disappointed when you lose, I mean, that's what it's all about," Cushman said. "But I'm proud of how we played. I think we snuck up on them a little bit. We made just enough mistakes for a good team like that, a well-coached team, a very talented team, to capitalize, and they did."

With Feather River behind them, the Rams looks forward to their own grueling schedule. After traveling to Chabot College in Hayward Sept. 11, FCC takes on state champions City College of San Francisco at home Sept. 18.

"We, as a group, need to get better," Caviglia

said. "We had a lot of little mistakes, and we just have to keep working to get better. The first game, good, we came out and won. We're not really happy with how we played, but we're just going to keep getting better."

Conference realignment has shifted the power of the Central Valley Conference. Modesto (2-8 in 2003) is out, and San Joaquin Delta (9-2 in '03) is in. This means the CVC now includes both teams that defeated FCC in 2003.

Reedley has defeated FCC three times in the last two seasons, but its star quarterback those two years, Rob Johnson, is now at Texas Tech. Reedley lost its first game of the season 20-17 to Antelope Valley, who didn't even break the top 25 in California.

After going 8-2 in 2003, FCC is looking to top the CVC and the state, although Caviglia says the stuff all coaches say about taking it one week at a time. With a heated preseason quarterback battle (maybe still ongoing), and overly capable backups across the chart, FCC looks to have a good chance. Here's a look at the team.

O-line: As usual, most of the Fresno starting offensive line is from Hawaii. Three of Caviglia's linemen hail from perennial Hawaii power Kahuku High School: Kalavi Blanchard (6-5, 310 pounds), Paluani Ma Sun, Jr. (6-6, 335 pounds), and Steve Lightsey (6-4, 340 pounds).

"We've got good experience in the offensive line right now," Caviglia said. "Steve Lightsey and Palauni Ma Sun have some medial collateral ligament damages, but we still feel good about the group."

Ma Sun expects to be back in action for the Chabot game.

Quarterback: FCC's training camp saw a spirited competition for the starting quarterback position between Cory Brown, and Jeff Schott.

"Corey Brown is a sophomore, played a little bit for us last year, really had a good off-season and got stronger," Caviglia said. "And the freshman is Jeff Schott. Jeff has all the tools needed to play quarterback, he just needs to get a little more experience in the system."

Brown played almost three quarters in the Feather River game throwing one touchdown pass, before Schott came in to throw another in the fourth quarter.

Running Backs: Nate Wright ran for 1,400 yards last year, and is the established starter. He missed a week of training camp

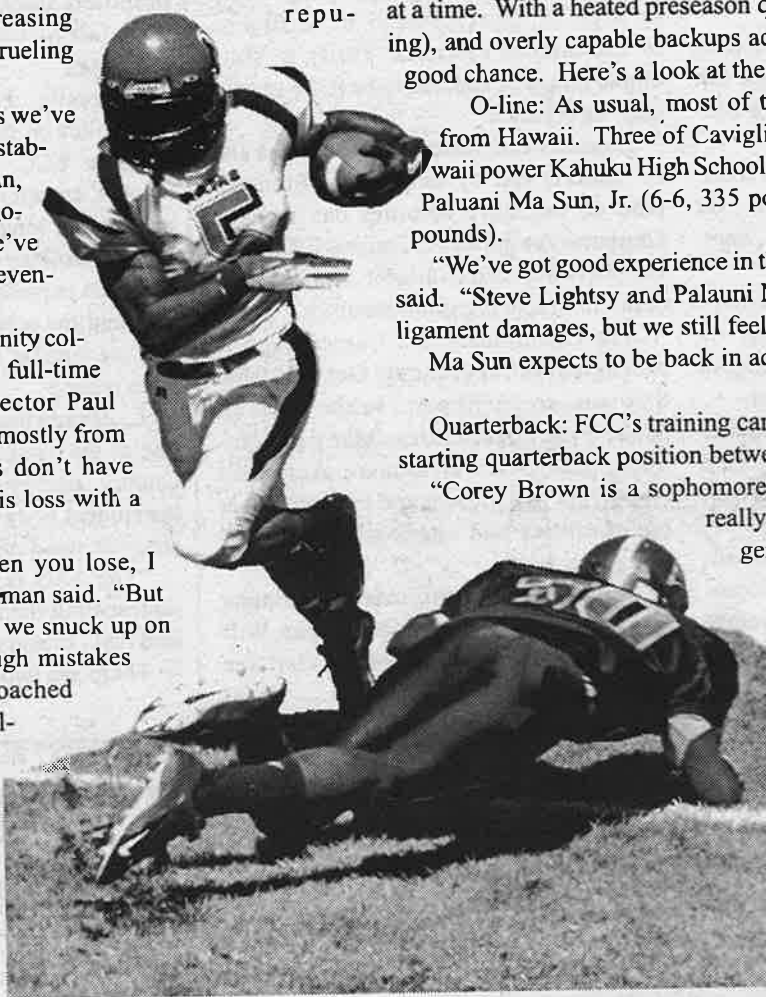


Photo by Bryan Borrer

Tailback Nate Wright runs past Feather River's Omar Moore for a touchdown Sept. 4

See Football, page 7

## Volleyball team takes out first opponent

*Rams defeat American River in three games, giving a positive spin on the season*

By Ryan McHenry  
rampage reporter

The Rams played host in the season opener against American River college of Sacramento at Fresno City College, Saturday night on Sept. 3.

The Rams, led by "the two towers", 5 foot 11 Sophomore outside hitter Nikki Ciapponi and 6 foot 1 Freshman Katie Franz as the Lady Rams made quick work of the visiting Beavers in 3 straight games.

American River came out focused, and appeared to be ready to play as they jumped all over the Rams 7-0 in the first game forcing Head Coach Sherri Hess to call a time out.

"I told the girls that they were going to be a little bit nervous playing in their first home

game. Just relax, serve the ball in, and make good passes and you'll get settled in."

That's just what they did. The lady Rams settled in as they took over the tempo of the game on a 13-3 run to take the lead. The Lady Beavers couldn't quite recover from the run as the Rams held on to take the first game 31-29.

In the second game freshman Franz dominated the net blistering the ball past the Beavers and blocking would-be kills. She led the charge in the second game as the Lady Rams cruised to a 30-22 win.

Nothing changed in game three as the FCC continued their dominance. Coach Sherri Hess displayed the teams' great depth playing 12 of the team's 13 players.

"What's great about this team is the balance

and depth," coach Hess said. "We have 6 Freshman and 7 Sophomores which gives the team great balance. Nikki Ciapponi is really coming along as an outside hitter and Kaira Kachadurian is coming in this year as a Freshman setter with hard work and is doing a great job."

Ciapponi displayed her floor leadership in the third game as the Lady Rams finished off the Lady Beavers in game three by a score of 30-24.

Franz led the Rams with 11 kills, followed closely by Ciapponi with 10. Both Ciapponi and Alex Cogdill had 12 digs each.



# Rams allow 0 goals in 4 games

Women's soccer team begins season with 4 blowouts

By Quinn Robinson  
Rampage

The fall semester is already through its first month as the Fresno City College Women's soccer team takes to the field for another exciting season.

Coming off a 2003 season in which the Lady Rams went 12-8, Fresno City College has kicked off the 2004 campaign with a record of 4-0. During those four games, the Lady Rams have scored an unbelievable twenty-three goals while only allowing five shots on goal. Fresno City took part in the Oxnard Tournament over the weekend and scored a combined twelve goals in the two game tournament in which Heather Mathos, Tonya Allen, Michelle Mancebo and Brittany Hasbrouck led the assault for Fresno City.

The Lady Rams were in a unique position as they started off their pre-season conditioning. With seventeen of their twenty-three roster spots held by freshmen, Coach Germond recalled the summer school class when he had to decide who would be on the team in the fall.

"This was the biggest turnout I've seen for our summer program," Germond said. "We had over

forty girls out there competing for spots on the team. Reporter was very helpful because that made practices very competitive, but it also made it very tough to come down with the final team. Our criteria going into the summer session was to pick players who would make a difference on the team and so far each of the freshmen that was picked to be on the team has made a difference in their own way."

The main reason for such a productive start by the Lady Rams, is the way the returning and incoming players were able to get on the same page so quickly. Coach Germond explained what he did during the off-season to break the ice between the freshmen and sophomores.

"During the off-season I spent a lot of time with the returning players to talk about leadership," Germond said. "They've really stepped up and made the incoming players feel comfortable. [They] set examples of the importance of being on time to meetings and practices and hard work."

The Lady Rams arguably have one of the deepest rosters in recent memory. Even though

See Soccer, page 8

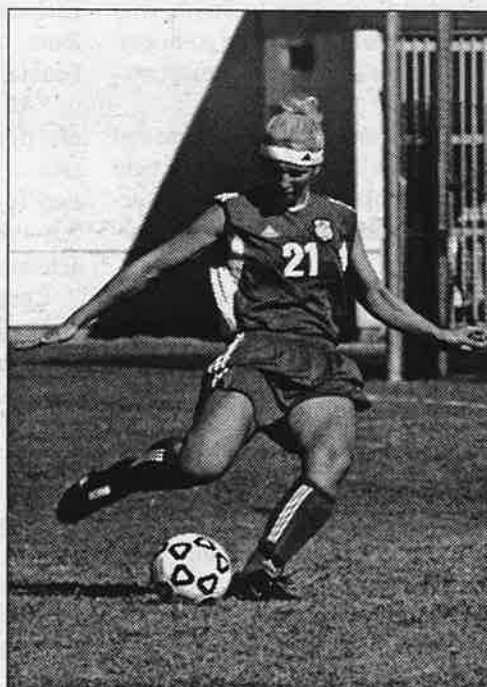


Photo by Daisy Rosas  
Brittany Hasbrouck boots the ball upfield during FCC's game against Consumnes River Sept. 1. FCC won 6-0.

## Schedules & Info

### Cross-country:

- Sept. 11, 8 a.m. Fresno Invitational Woodward Park
- Sept. 17, 3 p.m. Mustang Stampede, Stockton

### Men's Soccer:

- Sept. 8, 7 p.m. @ College of the Canyons
- Sept. 10, 2 p.m. vs. Consumnes River
- Sept. 21, 3:30 p.m. vs. West Hills

### Women's Soccer:

- Sept. 8, 5 p.m. @ College of the Canyons
- Sept. 10, 4 p.m. vs. Solano Community College
- Sept. 14, 4 p.m. vs. Las Positas
- Sept. 16, 4 p.m. @ Chabot
- Sept. 21, 4 p.m. vs. Cabrillo

## Wall of Fame Inducts Six

Nevada governor Kenny Guinn in town for FCC Wall of Fame dinner.



Photo by Bryan Borrer  
Wall of Fame inductees Phil Borjas, David Sloan, Keshon Johnson, Kenny Guinn, John Velasco, and Mike der Manouel Sr.

By Ryan McHenry  
Rampage

Pardini's, the site of this year's Wall of Fame awards presentation displayed a talented group of inductees. Among the list were five former Fresno City College Football greats and a Cornerstone member to commemorate its 100th inductee milestone.

Coach Tony Caviglia assembled a group of this year's players to pay tribute, and to hear the inspiring words from the Wall of Fame inductees. The FCC Wall of Fame was created to honor former players and people in the community that provide contributions to the FCC Football program.

Nevada Governor Kenny Guinn, was the first of this year's inductees, played halfback for FCC in 1956. He led the '56 Rams, scoring 40 points by way of five touchdowns and 10 point-after-touchdown kicks.

Keshon Johnson played defensive back for FCC in 1989-90. As

a sophomore, he anchored the Rams' defense, leading the Rams to their first Producers Dairy Bowl. Johnson played 3 years with the Chicago Bears and 1 year with the Green Bay Packers

John. J. Velasco also played defensive back for the Rams in 1987-88. Velasco was named Second-Team JC-Grid Wire All-American in 1988.

David Sloan came to FCC in 1990 with the idea of playing basketball, but after a great year in 1992 on the football field (13 receptions for 254 yards and one touchdown) Sloan was given a full scholarship to the University of New Mexico. He was then drafted in the 3rd round by the Detroit Lions in 1995. In 1999 Sloan became a NFL All-Pro with 47 receptions for 591 yards and 4 touchdowns.

This year's cornerstone member Mike Der Manouel Sr., was inducted for his contributions to FCC football both financially and physi-

See Wall, page 8

## Life after FCC

Players pursue their dreams at 4-year colleges and the pros

By David Witte

Sports Editor

•The Fresno City College baseball team went to the state final four in 2004 before collapsing 5-2 against Saddleback College.

This success was partly due to Leonard Davis' shutdown defense and quick bat. Davis reached first base nearly half the times he stepped to the plate, earning first-team all conference honors.

But his ultimate reward for helping the Rams to the state final four was an 8th-round draft pick by the Montreal Expos. The team signed him June 11.

Davis now plays for the organization's rookie team, the Gulf Coast Expos. The competition is stiffer, and Davis' batting average has fallen below .200.

•In 2001 and '02, Earl Charles led the charge for the FCC football team. The tailback ran for more than 1,000 yards each season.

Charles now leads the charge for Marshall University's football team. The Thundering Herd went 8-4 in 2003, and Charles rushed for 1,039 yards and 12 touchdowns on

205 attempts. That adds up to just over 5 yards per carry.

His other accolades include 26 receptions for 204 yards, and 13 kick returns for 302 yards.

•Also on the Rams football squad in 2001 and '02 was defensive back Rodney Woods. Woods transferred to Oregon State after a successful stint at FCC. Oregon's fans gave him a cold reception when they discovered that he spent time in an L.A. jail before going to FCC.

Those fans warmed up during the 2003 season, when Woods amassed 26 tackles (19 solo), 3 broken passes, and a fumble recovery, helping the Ducks to an 8-4 season.

•Young receiver Willie Johnson amassed 1,470 receiving yards and 25 touchdowns the same two years Woods and Charles were on the squad, after which he transferred to the University of Nevada in Reno. There, he added 22 receptions

See Careers, page 8

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## Football: Rams start season with road win

Continued from page 6

with a torn hamstring, which gave Caviglia a good look at Wright's backups, Jose Rojas and Terry Johnson. The fullbacks are Marquise Trevathan, recruited out of Youngstown, Ohio, and Marcus Gray.

"Rojas and Johnson really did great this fall camp while Nate was nursing his hamstring, and we feel really good about the tailback position," Caviglia said. "Travathan is a prototypical blocking back, and Gray is a really formidable guy in there at the fullback position."

Wide Receivers: Kick return duties fall on sophomores Steve Claxton and DeAngelo Ramsey, and also in the mix are Antwuan Smith and Angelo Richardson.

"The receiver corps is going to be young, but we think very talented," Caviglia said. "Claxton and Ramsey are providing good leadership, and we have good freshmen in Richardson and Smith, who's a

transfer from UCLA.

Both touchdown passes at Feather River were to Smith, who seems to be the emerging go-to guy. He has the speed to beat most secondaries.

Tight Ends: Kenan Williams and Eli Maxwell are FCC's starting tight ends. Backup Nate Wilson saw action last season as a backup quarterback.

D-line: Two starters on the defensive line came out of Hawaii: Nose guard Ma'aele Uele and guard Tolifili Liufau. These two, along with Levi Ehnisz from Tulare, will be a force to fear on the inside.

"Liufau is one of the most highly-rated defensive linemen in the country," Caviglia said. "He's going to anchor a young but explosive defensive line. Those three guys will be solid inside."

There are three beasts competing for two defensive end positions. John Orman is set for one side, Ahmad Denson and Brandon

Walton split time on the other side.

Linebackers: FCC has four linebackers of starter quality: Adam Ruiz, Bryan Iriye, Selevasio Fauolo, and Zach Diles.

"All four of them are potential division one recruits," Caviglia said. "They're not real big, but they're very fast. They're in the 6-2, 6-1 range, but speed sideline-to-sideline is their strength."

Cornerback: The secondary is deep and quick. Caviglia has six cornerbacks he likes, and there were no breakaways through the secondary in the Feather River game. The six corners are Aaron Miller, a transfer from University of Oklahoma, from Edison High School, Andre Jones, Roc Green, Mike Ware, Ronal Washington, and Cyril Cummings.

Safety: The two safeties that were in the mix the most at Feather River were James Brown and Aris Borjas. The safeties were also key in preventing breakaways.

## Wall: Father of current player inducted

Continued from page 7

cally as Mike has helped public address announcer Brent DeMonte with statistician and spotter duties. Mike Der Manouel Sr. was one of the few people responsible for the creation of the FCC Wall of Fame.

Phil Borjas played cornerback for the Rams in 1969-70. In 1969 Borjas contributed to the success of FCC's second straight state championship with a win over Fullerton College 28-9. Borjas went on to play two years in the

World Football League as a safety and punt returner. Borjas was forced to retire from professional football early due to a back injury.

Phil Borjas, attention will be on FCC football once again this season as his son Aris will be starting at safety this year. Phil is looking forward to watching Aris on the football field.

"There is a huge difference in the

size and speed of the game when I played compared to today's players," Borjas said. "The average lineman was 5 foot 6, 170 pounds when I played and most offensive linemen today weigh around 300 pounds. I ran a 4.6 second forty-yard dash and my son runs a 4.4, so the speed of the game is a lot faster."

The Wall of Fame inductees present today's F.C.C. football players with a blueprint for success. Hard work, practice, and instruction from coaches are some of the key elements to that blueprint.

Fresno City College Football is ranked no. 2 in the nation by Street and Smith Magazine behind #1 City College of San Francisco. It

just so happens that these two powerhouse teams square off on September 18th at 11:00 a. m. at Ratcliffe Stadium.

## Careers: Former FCC players play with the big boys

Continued from page 7

and 2 touchdowns to his resume. Johnson then gave up his senior year of eligibility to try his shot at the NFL.

The Miami Dolphins signed Johnson as an undrafted free agent May 18, 2004 after he impressed the staff at a mini-camp as a non-roster invitee. He is buried deep in Miami's depth chart as a 3rd-team receiver.

•Safety Cameron Worrell spent his freshman season on the bench at Fresno State, then transferred to FCC. After a spectacular sophomore season in 2000, he was re-

recruited by Fresno State.

During the 2001 and '02 seasons, Worrell recorded 140 tackles and 7 interceptions, helping the team to 8<sup>th</sup> in the nation in 2001 before a loss to Boise State. The Chicago Bears took notice and signed Worrell in 2003 as an undrafted free agent.

Worrell was relegated to special teams duties with the Bears and saw little action in 2003.

•Tailback Maurice Morris led the Rams in the 1998-99 seasons, setting FCC records for rushing yards in a season and career rushing yards. He also set the career touchdowns record with 45.

On these accomplishments, Morris transferred to Oregon to become its first two-season thousand-yard rusher.

The Seattle Seahawks selected Morris in the second round of the 2002 draft. He carried the ball 32 times for 153 yards his rookie season.

In 2003, Morris held down the team's kick return duties, amassing 1,007 yards on 47 returns.

Morris currently holds the Seahawks record for the most kick-off return yards in a game, with 231. He is listed as Seattle's no. 2 running back behind Shaun Alexander.

## Soccer: Combined score of 23-0

Continued from page 7

some of the players won't get to start regularly like they have been used to in the past, coach Germond credits the ladies to understanding the situation and making the necessary changes to compile a successful season.

"One of the biggest things this year is that everyone is making a sacrifice," Germond said. "We have twenty-three very good play-

ers and all of them can start at any time. These were girls that started for their high school teams who now come in here and compete for only a very few starting spots, but then again if they aren't starting I'm able to rotate the girls into the game in shifts. That way we are able to stay fresh and keep the intensity up all game."

Off to a quick start, the Rams hope for a promising season.

## Game of the Week



FCC Rams



City College of San Francisco Rams

Sport: Football  
When: Sept. 18  
Where: Ratcliffe Stadium  
Time: 11:00 a.m.

Notes: No. 2 San Francisco comes to no. 4 Fresno in defense of its state title.

## Fresno State Admission Application Deadline for Spring 2005

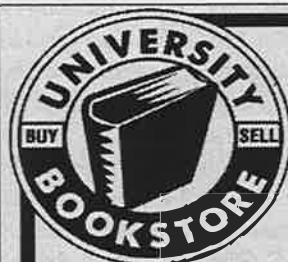
Thursday, September 30 for  
Upper-Division Transfer,  
Returning &  
Post-Baccalaureate/Graduate  
students

Applicants: All applications must be completed and submitted by midnight on Thursday, September 30, 2004. Students will receive a confirmation number from CSUMentor when the application is submitted successfully.

The university is not accepting applications from freshmen, lower division transfers, or post-baccalaureate unclassified students.

Please visit the CSUMentor website for more information.

Students who have questions about the deadline may call Admissions at (559) 278-2261 or visit the Admissions & Records window in the Joyal Administration Building, 5150 N. Maple Ave.



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## There's smoke there's fire

**"No one likes to see butts on the ground."**



**Dyann L. Cerrado**

Let's face it, we

are all adults, so this isn't a matter of attempting to get you to quit your bad habits. It will be an attempt on letting you keep them to yourselves. So what is the big deal? What is at stake you might ask, well, we did ask.

Student Larry Sigera said "It's taking away from peoples personal freedoms. We should be able to choose. Grown adults should be able to decide what they want to do." Student Zoraida Aguino feels quit different. She feels a ban on or at least restricting where smoking is permitted "would be good. I don't want to get sick and second hand smoke is more dangerous than smoking."

These are two very different opinions and come down to the heart of the debated situation. Student Kevin Shepherd feels designated smoking areas may help bridge the gap, "those who choose to smoke can and those who feel at risk can be sure they are getting their fair share of clean air."

There is the question of the environment, cigarette butts lying around. No one likes to see cigarette butts lying around. Even in the Armed Service, if you smoke um, you strip it and put it in your pocket. It hasn't come to that on campus yet, but what if it does? What if a fine were to be imposed for littering, or smoking in non-smoking areas for that matter. It is happening across the states. Just this week, a ban on Beach smoking fell short of 2 votes for the majority it needed to pass the bill. The bill, which will be given another chance later in the week, authorizes a \$100.00 fine for smoking, and a \$50.00 fine for littering caused by smokers. It makes sense that if you are going to do something so controversial, it comes with consequences.

There is the question of improved health and quality of life. Athletes appreciate the importance of a healthy, drug free body, as do pregnant women and simply put, many health conscious individuals that have made the choice not to smoke. They certainly don't

want to inhale second hand smoke (SHS). People with asthma are at a high risk from coming in contact with SHS. How about those young, tender lungs just out of High School? They need not be exposed to the risk and dangers of smoke either. In May of this year the U.S. Surgeon General Richard H. Carmona put out a report that conclusively links many more diseases to smoking than the first report written forty years ago acknowledged. The report sites nearly every organ in the body is effected, and conclusively links Leukemia, cataracts, pneumonia, and cancers of the cervix, kidney, pancreas and stomach to smoking, and conclusively include SHS.

I haven't seen her this semester, but there was a young lady in one of my classes in the Spring who was wearing a mask over her mouth and nose. I asked her one day what is was for, she replied, smoke, cigarette smoke. Her body can't tolerate it, it will make her very ill. Imagine how many more like her there are, not wanting to have to wear that mask.

**"Many health conscious individuals have made the choice not to smoke."**

It only seems logical to put a restriction on where a person can perform the act of smoking. Restrictions are already in place in the working environment, bars, restaurants, and many other campus.

Perhaps one of the most convincing arguments is this, a study done by the University of California, San Francisco. In a six month ban of smoking in the town of Helena, Montana, heart attacks were cut nearly in half.

Knowing this, I feel Fresno City College officials have a compelling reason to make there choice a healthy choice.



**Will Tranquilli**

**"What the hell? He's addicted."**

May of 1994, Mississippi sued the American Tobacco Company. Three months later, Minnesota went after Philip Morris and the following month West Virginia took on American. In 1995, Florida sued American and Massachusetts, Philip Morris.

By the end of 1996, 16 states were in court after tobacco companies. By 1997, three fourths of these united states were going at it with law suits.

With the federal government also suing the tobacco companies, the settlement in fines, penalties and restitution amounted to more than 200 billion dollars (that's right, with a 'b').

If the estimate of 71 million U.S. smokers is correct, that's \$298,507.46 each. Don't worry, you'll pay your share with every pack you buy. The price of cigarettes has skyrocketed.

That'll teach 'em! Yes, it

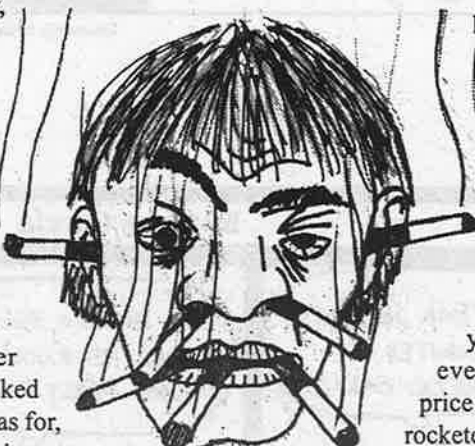


Illustration by David Witte

taught 'em all right. It taught us smoking Americans that the government goes after the victims.

Now, in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, when any hard pressed governing entity wants to raise money what do they tax first? You got it, the smoker.

What the hell, he's addicted, he has no choice but to fork over the money. Here we go again. Another frontal attack on smokers.

I wondered how non-smokers felt about the proposed campus regulations confining smoking to specific areas on campus.

Rodrigo Tovar told me, "Smoking hasn't

been a problem as long as it's not near me."

Troy Hudson said, "My dad's a smoker, it doesn't bother me."

A young woman who refused to give her name said, "It's filthy. Smokers should all be cremated." I asked her for a light.

Juan Ruiz made a good point. He didn't like the casual way smokers disposed of their butts, "Butts in the bushes are a fire hazard."

We really are careless with the leftovers of our self-fumigation. Yes, campus butt cans are few and far between. Yet I have seen smokers leaning against ash cans and flicking their butts on the sidewalk.

Such behavior is not only offensive, it's disrespectful to where we come to learn. What's worse, it provides ammunition for those crusaders who are pushing for a campus smoking ban. Smokers, you better watch your butts.

This ban could exile us to a very few 'smoking places'. Don't expect them to be plentiful, convenient or even protected from the elements. You will be shown no mercy.

You could be standing in the middle of a parking lot, no one within 50 yards. If you light up, they'll get you. Count on it.

Somebody is always deciding what's best for everybody else. O.K., O.K., on a bus, in a restaurant, in a classroom we all share the same air — I agree, no smoking.

Outside we all can have our own air. I chose to fill mine with toxins personally generated. Fill yours with

**A young woman who refused to give me her name said, "It's filthy. Smokers should all be cremated." I asked her for a light.**

what you will.

And while we're on the subject, if we really want cleaner air on campus, why not ban those gigantic polluters, the SUVs?

Let's go one step farther. Any internal combustion automobile pollutes the air at it's worst when it idles. You want cleaner air? Stomp out morning gridlock on campus.

Take care of those problems and maybe I won't have to coat my lungs with a protective layer of tar.

## Campus Voices

BY Kirk Givan

How do you feel about having a campus free of smoke?



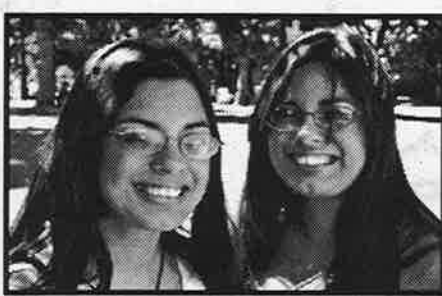
**Niall Keogh**  
Drafting

"It might as well be high school again. A non-smoking campus would be taking away our rights as young adults."



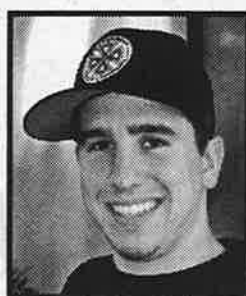
**Genet Testfai**  
Psychology

"Second-hand smoke kills."



**Left: Lucinda G. Right: Jennifer G.**  
Theater Arts

"It's a healthier enviroment."



**Chris Jackely**  
Business Management

"I don't smoke and the smell is irritating."



**Carmen Daniels**  
Criminology

"If they are allowed to take that right away what would be next."



# New telephone add-drop system saves time, sweat, and tears

By Eliot Torres  
Rampage reporter

A slight moan ambles out of the disheveled crowd as the stench of unwashed bodies fill the memories of my nose.

It is one year ago, behind a dank corner of one of the administration buildings. The line moves on, the line moves on, the line moves on.

The line begins to take a will unto itself.

I had attempted to drop a class, and get my money back. I was so foolish, so young and naive, thinking it would be easy. In before noon, out in time for lunch.

Learning. That is what collage is for, right? As my phone shot back at me total silence, suggesting I would have to do this the old way, I tried my hardest not to think of last year. Forgetting, they say, is the hard part. I took a deep breath and remembered Doris.

I sat down with Doris Griffin, manager of Admissions and Records, wanting to learn more about this new Blue Card system in place. She told me that they did not in fact "Invent the wheel" but just borrowed it from Riverside Community College.

Doris, along with the district dean of Admissions and Records, John Cummings, and Jerry Neff, carried the system here not unlike the Olympic torch to our campus, and after testing it on a few private courses, and working out most of the kinks, it made it's debut here on our campus.

"Calm down, Eliot, you came prepared." I reassured myself.

Silently uttering a small prayer of thanks to the god's of technology, I dug in my pocket and produced my handy dandy cell phone. Victory seemed a few breaths away.

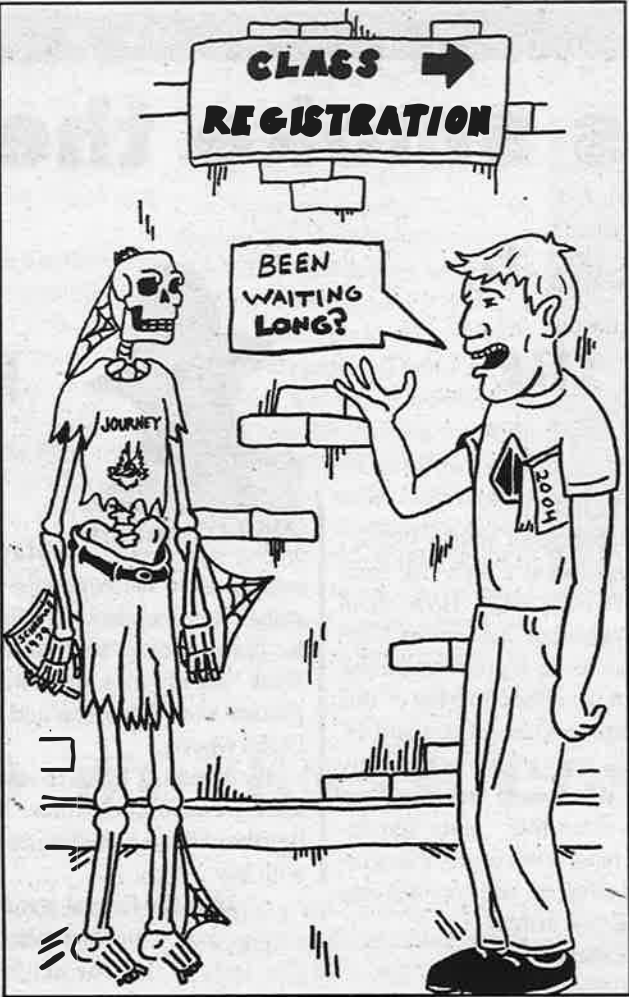


Illustration by Jared Leas

I used my most suave robot-talking voice, "Yes, I'd like to sign up for classes." I wagged my eyebrows, indicating my eligibility.

"Oh, I really wish they would take down this number already." Miss Femfatal-Bot replied. "I'm sorry, you called the wrong number."

Devastation.

She was gone, just like that, the robot lady of my dreams.

At that moment, all seemed lost, my educational goals were now meaningless, and a successful life was now impossible.

A ray of light shined on my dark future, and it lay there on the blue card, right next to the first number.

"Welcome." Boomed a voice from my cell phone after I fended off a nervous breakdown and dialed the second number.

It was not a robot, but a recording. Tricky.

"Please, enter your student ID." I was ready for this one. I said my number clearly into the receiver, not forgetting a single digit. Seconds tick by.

"Please enter your student ID." It repeats. Ah ha! I see the game it's trying to play on me. I quickly dial in the numbers. What happened next remains a hazy journey of different voiced recordings and touch-tone phone number read outs.

I do remember, quite clearly, the feeling of enlightenment I had at the end of the conversation.

This simple automated system had just turned one of the more horrifying freshman experience's I've undergone into an almost painless Friday evening.

I could only imagine this being applied to the DMV or the dentist.

I leave you to decide on further implications on this miraculous gift we have been given.

# City Life

By Jesse Garcia



# HOROSCOPES

By David Witte

No astrologers were harmed in the making of this column.

<p><b>ARIES</b> (March 21- April 19)</p> <p>You will be impaled in a bizarre bowling accident.</p>	<p><b>TAURUS</b> (April 20 - May -20)</p> <p>Your wife will file for divorce. CPS will take your children away. Your dog will run away. On the brighter side, you will win \$10 on Green Bay/Chicago game Sunday.</p>	<p><b>GEMINI</b> (May 21 - June 20)</p> <p>You know that idea you had about scamming old people? It will totally work.</p>	<p><b>CANCER</b> (June 21 - July 22)</p> <p>You will do stuff. Things will happen.</p>	<p><b>LEO</b> (July 23 - Aug. 22)</p> <p>Your incredible string of good luck will come to an abrupt end when the winning Lotto ticket gives you a fatal paper cut.</p>	<p><b>VIRGO</b> (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)</p> <p>You will be pleasantly surprised to find out that the guy bleeding on your windshield is none other than Richard Simmons.</p>
<p><b>LIBRA</b> (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)</p> <p>You will be hit with something completely out of left field, but it's okay, it's just a baseball.</p>	<p><b>SCORPIO</b> (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)</p> <p>Strang voices will tell you to do things you really don't want to do, but then you will turn off the presidential debates and go on with life.</p>	<p><b>SAGITTAARIUS</b> (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)</p> <p>The stars think you'll be excited to know that one day, your teeth will be part of a cannibal's necklace.</p>	<p><b>CAPRICORN</b> (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)</p> <p>Eerie music will begin to play when your car breaks down in the middle of the woods.</p>	<p><b>AQUARIUS</b> (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)</p> <p>You will win the Kentucky Derby, then be put out to stud.</p>	<p><b>PIECES</b> (Feb. 19 - March 20)</p> <p>Don't pay attention to those fortune cookies. They're fake.</p>



September 8, 2004

## Napoleon is Dynamite

By Jared Leas  
Rampage Reporter

It has been said that truth can be stranger than fiction. In the case of director Jared Hess' comedy *Napoleon Dynamite*, fiction comes close to rivaling the strangeness of truth.

In this world where everyday occurrences and everyday practices can seem so bizarre and illogical, it is the very ordinary that appears out of place. That's probably why the oddball characters and oddball situations in *Napoleon Dynamite* seem so strikingly real.

The main character, Napoleon (played by actor and BYU student Jon Heder) is incredibly strange. He almost always wears moon boots, and his facial expression appears comatose. He draws half lion-half tigers and calls them, *ligers* (these extraordinary creatures, he claims, have *magical powers*.) Napoleon may be odd, but the character is not unbelievable.

Remember the kid at school who claimed to be a robot from outer space, or the guy who power walked backwards during gym class? *Napoleon Dynamite* essentially places an outlandish kid like that in the role of the hero.

The comedy from the movie doesn't come from witty dialogue or gag type humor. The things that make this movie so funny are the characters' personalities. Their mannerisms and ac-

tions alone are more than enough to make you chuckle continuously throughout the film, without having to *get* any punch lines or laugh at standard gross-out antics.

The plot isn't complex and doesn't need to be. The film just takes us along with Napoleon and shows us his quiet, mundane existence, which turns out to be surprisingly interesting.

*Napoleon Dynamite* is a movie that lets you look at a strange kid and just laugh at how... well... strange he is.

He's funny, but he doesn't mean to be. Should that be a bad thing? Napoleon is going to do what he feels like doing, no matter how you perceive him. He's a complete and utter dork, but what's wrong with that? He's *awesome*.

Director Jared Hess and his wife Jerusha collaborated on writing the film's script and shot the movie entirely in Preston, Idaho. The film was popular at the 2004 Sundance Film Festival and won recognition as *Best Feature Film* at the 2004 U.S. Comedy Arts Festival. The movie marks Jared Hess' directorial debut.

If you haven't seen it yet, *Napoleon Dynamite* is good for a laugh. (Probably quite a few laughs) and if you miss it in theaters than it will make a great weekend rental.

Don't laugh at him, but laugh at his strangeness. Napoleon, keep on doing whatever the heck it is that you're trying to do.

## Hero a quality film

By Joanne Liu  
Rampage Reporter

In the grand tradition of Chinese martial arts films, *Hero* is not particularly exciting or innovative. For years, Chinese filmmakers have incorporated tree-top flying, skimming of water, and carefully choreographed sword-fighting into their so-called "kung-fu" movies. When *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* became a hit in 2001, the way was paved for Chinese martial arts movies in mainstream American cinema.

*Hero* was a blockbuster success in 2002, but American distributor Miramax Films held off on bringing the film into theaters on our shores in order to distance the movie from inevitable comparisons to its predecessor, the aforementioned *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*. Miramax finally opened the film on over 2000 screens this weekend, a big gamble for a subtitled indie movie.

Studio executives were likely banking on star Jet Li to be the main draw for audiences; while Li was probably the reason for the movie's \$17.8 million debut, the world renowned Chinese action star will not be what draws the attention of the audiences in the end. What makes *Hero* impressive is the enthralling and artistic cinematography. Director Zhang Yimou takes everything

about *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* that was fresh and awe-inspiring to American moviegoers and makes it better. Fight scenes are played out in our hero's mind, and a beautifully filmed shot of a single drop of water has the ability to take one's breath away.

Unfortunately, it seems that so much attention was paid to ensuring that the cinematography would captivate audiences that the storyline was cast aside and weakened. Characters are underdeveloped and the story becomes hard to follow as constant flashbacks and plot twists emerge. Li's character is given little background; in fact, he remains unnamed. A touching romance between assassins Flying Snow (Maggie Cheung) and Broken Sword (Tony Leung) becomes disappointing, as their passion and chemistry remains unexplored and unexplained. The character Moon, played by *Crouching Tiger* actress Zhang Ziyi, seems a bit superfluous, as her only purpose seems to be jumping in to defend her master, Broken Sword, and showing off Ziyi's impressive combat skills.

Ultimately, *Hero* is a well-shot movie worthy of exploration; you are guaranteed to leave the theater enchanted by its beauty.

## On a scale of 1-10, Open Water scores an Ate

By Ryan McHenry  
Rampage Reporter

Make a list of the five worst ways you can imagine dying. Where did you rate being eaten alive? If it wasn't in your top five, erase your number five and add being eaten alive by sharks. I think most people have the same feelings when it comes to sharks, we would prefer not to be on their dinner plans; and those feelings are what director Chris Kentis is banking on.

The movie opens with Susan (played by Blanchard Ryan) and Daniel (played by Daniel Travis) at home showing signs of the drudgery of everyday living. Daniel plans a diving expedition for the couple to go away on.

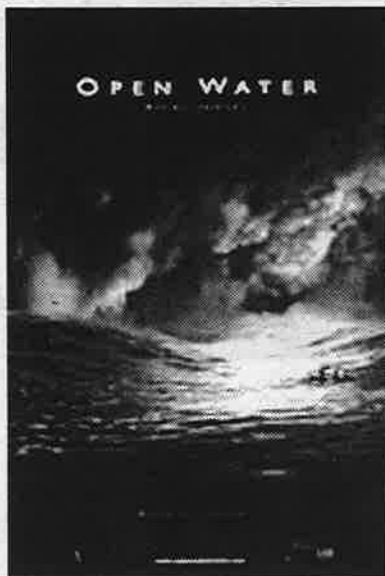
Little did they know that the crew would make an incorrect headcount and leave them

stranded in the middle of the ocean. Kentis does an excellent job creating dislike of the diving crew, by showing cuts of the crew having drinks on a tropical island while Daniel and Susan are fighting for survival. The two frantically try to draw attention to themselves as passing boats cross their path. Sharks begin to close in around them.

Kentis and his wife, producer Laura Lau (who lived in Fresno) did an excellent job working with a low budget. The film is based on actual events.

Another aspect of the film is the use of real sharks instead of computer seen in such movies as "Jaws" or "Deep Blue Sea". To create realism Kentis shot divers in actual shark infested waters wearing chain mail under their wetsuits.

The only drawback of the film is its length. With a running time of roughly 1 hour and 20 minutes some might get the feeling they've been hustled. Kentis could have spent a little more time tying up loose ends at the close of the movie instead of leaving you asking questions.



## Jazz trio cool and calm in performance



Photo by Jenny Boothe

The Nate Ketner Trio, from left: Nate Ketner, Dustin Peterson, and Kevin Hill.

By Anthony Castillo  
Rampage Reporter

Jazz man what can be said? Fresno City College alumni, The Nate Ketner Trio, are cool, calm, and then down right righteous. So nice to the soul and dope to the atmosphere. It was pure jazz ambiance and soul in the Sequoia Brewing House in the tower district right across from Starbucks. The setting was cozy, in the late afternoon, and the beats were blazing. The Nate Ketner Trio were truly providing the tunes with Nate Ketner on the saxophone playing the notes you want to hear and Dustin Peterson on the Guitar Keeping it Chipper. And Kevin Hill on the supreme Stand-up Bass. The night was full of smooth notes that kept the evening going and great bars of music that filled the bar.

The three men have been playing together for about four years and according to Nate they are the exclusive property of the Sequoia Brewing House. They play every Wednesday at 8:00, although you can find them around town in different sets playing different tunes. When they are the Nate Ketner Trio

you can tell instantly that it's all about the jazz music.

When asked why they play jazz music Nate Ketner said "I picked up the sax, and jazz came naturally". Kevin Hill also said when asked the same question "It's what I was born to do". It was easy to tell they were immersed totally in jazz the way they stepped up and laid down there very jazzy set. The Nate Ketner Trio really has a jazz soul and when asked who they cited for inspiring it they said the great saxophone player Charlie Parker and the very cool rock band from the 70's Steely Dan. All this really is what contributes to the Nate Ketner Trio.

The surrounding where good and the music was the same that was the words of the patrons at the Sequoia Brewing House when asked if they enjoyed the show. So if you ever feel like having a nice time and hearing some good quality notes from a jazz band go catch some FCC alumni The Nate Ketner Trio at the Sequoia Brewing House.





# 16 De Septiembre

**11:00 am to 1:00 pm**  
**Free Speech Area**  
**Mariachi, Dancing & Contests**  
**Mexican Independence Day**

*Celebration*

**Hope**  
The independence movement.

**Purity**  
Purity of the Catholic faith.

**Union**  
The Spaniards that joined in the quest for Independence.



## **Intramural 5 on 5 Flag Football**

Friday, September 10th

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

West Lawn (near Maroa Ave)

## **1ST HOME FOOTBALL GAME**

Saturday, September 18th

F.C.C. Rams vs San Francisco C.C. Rams

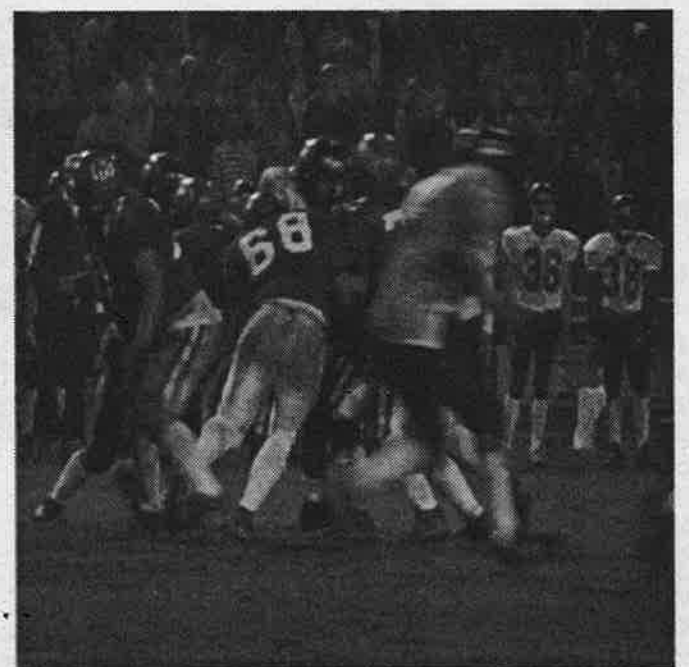
#2 in the Nation

#1 in the Nation

11 a.m. Ratcliffe Stadium

Pancake Breakfast 8:30 a.m.

At the Practice Field



## **EXTREME DODGEBALL**

Friday, September 24th

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Free Speech Area



For more information call 265-5711