

## Remembering the unimaginable: FCC pays tribute to the victims of Sep. 11



Photo by Robin Vallentyne

by Ife-Chudeni Oputa  
Rampage Reporter

Monday marked the fifth anniversary of the attacks on the World Trade Center. Around the nation, ceremonies were held to honor the lives that were lost on September 11, 2001. Fresno City College was no exception.

At noon on Monday, FCC students gathered in front of the Library near the fountain where a commemorative wreath was displayed. After the Fresno City College City Singers performed a selection, the wreath was carried to the Veterans' Peace Memorial by members of the Police and Fire Academies.

"This is really meant more to be more of a reflection time for 9/11," said

Gurdeep Sihota, FCC College Activities Director, at the ceremony. "We just wanted to be able to have something that was subtle, but also a time of reflection."

FCC instructor Dale Engstrom concluded the ceremony with a performance of "Taps," as faculty, staff, and students watched in respective silence.

In the months after the 9/11 attacks, the nation united to mourn the loss of loved ones and the loss of their security. Amidst the heightened feelings of patriotism, the nation was tense with fear.

A mere 45 days after the attack, the USA Patriot Act was signed into law. President Bush assured that the Patriot Act was necessary to fight the threat of terrorism, and an overwhelming majority of Congress agreed. However, this security came at a cost; citizens would have to give up certain civil liberties. The benefits of this sacrifice have yet to be seen.

Based on a poll of Fresno City College students, 64% believe that the nation is no safer from terrorist attacks now than it was five years ago. "I felt initially, I felt like they really tightened things up. Now I feel like their getting a little more complacent," said Viola Harshman, a student at FCC. "I think they need to pay more atten-

tion. It's scary."

In a CBS News/ New York Times poll the nation agreed, with 39% saying they felt less safe since 9/11 and 46% saying they felt the same. "I don't think security wise it's gotten that much better, to where they would be able to stop terrorists all the way," said FCC student Catherine Inouye.



Photo by Robin Vallentyne

## FCC confident in accreditation progress report

by Buen Moua  
Rampage Reporter

The draft of the college's progress report on recommendations by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges acknowledges and fully addresses the issues that needed to be corrected.

The final report will be sent to Board of Trustees, and then mailed to the commission by October 4, according to a statement by Fresno City College President, Ned Doffney.

"I think our school really came together to get going with the Accreditation process by creating committees," said ASG Senator Kate Blanco. "We focus on our strategic planning...to figure out what kind of stuff we need to address in the school that obviously we were not able to address before."

The accreditation process does not end with the submission of the progress report this year.

"Every year we'll be working on accreditations and making sure that we're on track," said FCC Vice President of Instructions, Tony Cantu.

According to the draft, FCC responded to the visiting team's

recommendations in these areas:

### Participatory Governance

The college acknowledged the need to implement a participatory governance process in which all constituent groups, being the Academic Senate for the faculty, Classified for the staffs, the Administration for the president and his cabinets, and the ASG for the students, would have an integral role in the planning and decision making in its October 2005 self study. They have been researching successful governance structures at other colleges, specifically City College of San Francisco.

### Program Review

Significant progress has been made in refining and implementing a workable program review process. In result, the recommendation is being fully addressed, and all 58 program reviews that were behind have completed a draft and are currently being reviewed and in revision, 10 which are in final form.

### Planning

All FCC constituent groups approved the creation of the Strategic Planning Council and the new Strategic Plan, which includes integration of human resources, a systematic evaluation of its entire

staff, and technology and distance education plan.

Members include seven representatives from Academic Senate, five from the Classified Senate, four representatives from administration, and two from Associated Student Government. The college president assigned Strategic Planning Support Team to assist SPC in the development of the new strategic planning process.

### Library Resources

In addressing to this recommendation, FCC will increase its library holdings by about 12,000 titles over the next three years. In addition, the library will be adding approximately 12,000 Netlibrary e-books to its collection.

Said Blanco, "The college has hired a new Dean of Libraries, also expanding the number of staff, who do not only know about books but technology as well to adapt to the changing needs of the students."

### Districtwide

In February 2006, Chancellor Tom Crow formed a District Office Accreditation Planning and Facilities Committee to meet to develop, implement, and evaluate a collegewide strategic plan, and the strategic development of SCCCDC as it expands in the area.

"Accreditation is never really over," said V.P. of Instruc-

tions, Tony Cantu. "Through program reviews, the kind of committees we'll have, through assessment, through evaluating programs and curriculums...all of those kinds of things are things that we do on a regular basis of operating the college. A lot of those things are aligned with several of the accreditation standards."

*"We have gotten better as an institution. There has been more dialogue, more communication."*  
-Tony Cantu,  
Vice President of Instructions

### Also Inside: Pluto takes a step down, gets 'Dwarfed'



An artist's rendition of Pluto, first from the front, then the back

See Pluto page 2

## Extend your learning

*FCC's Extended Learning Center improves students' success*



Photo by Robin Vallentyne

by Buen Moua  
Rampage Reporter

Can't understand a math problem? Looking to improve your reading and writing skills and get good grades? Want to get a personal tutor but can't afford it?

Here at FCC, the Extended Learning Center, to help students in understanding their class materials in reading, writing, and math, and to improve in their grades, is offering tutoring services. And it's free.

Coordinators of the ELC said their goal is to assist students. Located in the Library in Rm. LI-134, the ELC has two divisions for assisting students. One is for reading and writing upstairs of LI-134, and the other is the math ELC below the writing ELC.

"Students, when they begin their college year, they're encountering difficulties with the language," said Writing ELC coordinator Mary Arechiga. "We can give them help with brainstorming, finding a good thesis, revising rough drafts...with a tutor."

According to Arechiga, it's the writing ELC's third semester, currently with 11 writing tutors, and about 25-35 students come for help per day. Some are regulars coming for help.

Said Math ELC coordinator Soheil Partovi, that the math ELC was established last semester that aid students in any math course from the basics to second semester calculus. Math ELC also offers students web-based math software ALEKS, where students can go online to improve their math skills.

Tutors are made up of mainly upper-division or graduate students from Fresno State, who have taken special training courses in tutoring, math tutors passing second semester calculus with a B or better, according to Partovi. "There are also three math instructors available."

Arechiga added that some tutors in the writing department are English majors.

"Not only does the ELC help students, we have formed relationships with many instructors on campus, so that they are referring ELC to the students," said Partovi.

Mary Arechiga said that it would have cost students 15-50 dollars per hour for a private tutor.

She continued that a lot of times students think that this is a remedial thing...and it's not. "Last semester there was a student that already had a full scholarship to Berkeley. So you know she's a good student. She was up here every single day working with a tutor..." said Arechiga.

## Pluto's new title: 'Dwarf Planet'

by Ana Zavala  
Rampage Reporter

Waves of articles pour as the events of last month reach the press.

Yes, it is true Pluto has a new title.

Even since the day of its first appearance in 1930, it has been viewed with a question mark. Little is known of the icy 1400-mile wide ex-planet Pluto.

Its slanted orbit and sloppy travel, together with the fact that it's even smaller than earth's moon, have kept it from blending in with its ex-siblings.

Not only did Pluto not behave as a planet "should" but astronomers also found other Pluto like forms, which brought forth the question: Is Pluto a planet? And if so, are all those things planets

too?

As some astronomers cheered with delight at the thought of adding more planets to the solar system, others were disturbed. The belief is, if all the newly discovered are to be granted planet hood, the number of planets would be in the hundreds.

The controversy was finally solved last month when the International Astronomical Union held a meeting consisting of only 2500 astronomers. After rigorous debate, the IAU announced that the word "Planet" has a new definition. Pluto did not fit the criteria, followed by a couple others was renamed Dwarf Planet.

Today the definition of a Planet will have created a disruption within the world of Astronomy and that of the average sentimental human who wishes the planets system still included

Pluto.

Ronnie Weil, executive director at The Discovery Center and Amateur Astronomer in Fresno, believes otherwise. When asked how the changes in the solar system would affect the Discovery Center's star lab, she simply said there would be no great change in the way they educate the public.

"We don't think of Pluto as being demoted, we just think of it as being reclassified." Weil adds, "It just opens doors to great questions. It shows that science is always modifying and changing."

This account might affect more than just the regular information seeker. Earlier this year, NASA set out for an expensive 9 1/2 year robotic mission to learn more of "planet" Pluto. Nothing has been said on how this will affect the time consuming mission.

## Rampage

Fresno City College

### RAMPAGE

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Letters to the editor and submissions to the calendar will be accepted via e-mail or in person 12 noon - 1 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday, at *The Rampage*, Room SC-211, above the bookstore. Please keep all letters to a maximum of 500 words along with contact information.

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## See the world, earn credits



by Maylin Tu  
Rampage Reporter

It's about seeing the world. It's about broadening your horizons. It's about becoming a global citizen.

You've heard all the clichés about study abroad. Guess what—they're all true.

And students from the SCCD district can see for themselves in one of five different study abroad programs planned for Spring and Summer 2007.

Whether they choose to experience European culture first hand while gaining valuable transferable college credit in London, Paris and Spain, or decide to try out the newly minted Thailand/Vietnam program, one thing's for sure—they won't come back the same.

The sole semester length program, which takes place in London, offers courses in English and Music taught by FCC instructor Rosemarie Guglielmino and Reedley College instructor Colleen Snyder. For the sake of cultural acclimation, students also live with a British family and co-mingle with native students at the University of London.

Currently quoted at \$7,245 (round-trip airfare included), the semester in England program has its own club, the aptly named London or Bust, where students devote time and energy to running fundraisers.

For their first fundraiser this semester, the London or Bust club sold donated used books at Club Rush.

President Melissa Sarno sees her semester abroad as an opportunity for "Getting away from everything familiar and finding out who I am as a person. I know it sounds cliché, but that's really a big part of what I'm looking forward to."

For those unwilling to leave mom and dad for such an extended period of time but still eager to experience England in all of its bangers and mash glory, the London summer program offers a three-week program

that should satisfy even the most home-sick prone of students.

Dr. Mark Harmon, psychology instructor at Clovis Center and Amie Mazzoni, instructor in the forestry and natural resources program at Reedley will be teaching Human Sexuality and Conservation of Natural Resources respectively.

Both plan to incorporate the location heavily into the academic part of the program, taking almost daily field trips to places like the Tower of London, Westminster Abbey, the Sigmund Freud Museum, Epping Forest, and the London Aquarium.

Dr. Harmon will even be leading a select group of mature students on a tour of the infamous red light district of Amsterdam.

And if an English speaking country isn't your, ahem, cup of tea, Paris, Spain, and Thailand await.

Chuck Erven, co-leader of the brand new Thailand/Vietnam program says that students who choose the program, which focuses on the performing arts, shouldn't expect a sedentary series of lectures about theatre.

"Everyday we're doing something new, we're going someplace, we're seeing something interesting, and then talking about it and writing some response papers for it."

Some of those interesting things include tours of temples, puppet shows, guest lectures, and a cooking class. Although the program focuses on the performing arts, Erven insists it's not just for theatre or dance students.

"If you're into architecture, if you're into anthropology, if you're into religion—you're going to find something of value in [it]."

FCC Chicano/Latino studies instructor Art Amaro has been teaching at FCC for 30 years. This will be, however, his first time in Spain, as co-leader of the summer in Spain program.

Amaro believes students stand a lot to gain from going.

"I think that it's an experience that they're going to remember—not only for their college career—but for the rest of their life."

His course, Intro to the History, Heritage and Culture of Spain, represents an attempt to "reconcile the differences and combine the best of two worlds together—the Spanish and the Indian indigenous."

And just how can students hope to pay the roughly \$3,000 to \$7,000 it takes to go abroad? Luckily financial aid, scholarships and grants can all help foot the bill.

And if that's not enough?

Amaro tells his students to "beg, borrow or steal the money." On a less larcenous note, he is also putting together a club to fundraise for the trip.

Erven advises the slightly more drastic route of giving up what most students use to get to school: "Look—you have a car—a used car—sell it. You'll always have crappy cars your [whole] life, so why not use that money to really invest in yourself. . . Call in

your gambling debts, do whatever you can to get there. . . it really is life-changing. You may not get a chance like this again."



## Study in London during Spring 2007!

There is still time to sign up for the Spring 2007 Semester in England Program!

Exciting opportunities await you as you visit historic landmarks in England, while you study and earn transferable college credits. Optional travel to other European cities is easy and convenient. Come to the information session and learn how you can be a part of this fantastic program.



### Information Session

September 28 at 5:30 p.m.  
at the District Office Board Room

Questions? Call Kim Quesada at 244-5906.

Registration Deadline: October 23, 2006



# Club Rush looks to guide students

*FCC Clubs showcase goals, aim to recruit new members*

Christian Beltran  
Rampage Reporter

Members of the Latin American Student Organization invited students to visit UC campuses. While the Diversity Club displayed pride and respect with a rainbow flag, and members of Alpha Omega, wore doctor-like suits and jackets, answered questions and distributed information about their health club.

Welcome to Club Rush, an event that gives students an opportunity to learn about campus groups and allows clubs to recruit new members. The first Club Rush, which took place this past Tuesday Sept. 5, at Fresno City College.

Whether it's a passion for art or culture, an interest in the medical field, or a concern for religious doubts or sexual orientation, students can find a club that caters to their individual needs.

Clubs are as varied and diverse as the students themselves. FCC looks to create more positive connections with students, and students seek ways to get involved, make friends and get a competitive edge on the college process.

Rabiah Rahman, Associ-

ated Student Government member at FCC, invited students to sign up for the intramural sports-volleyball, soccer, flag football, etc.

Club Rush today and we will have three more during the semester."

Diversity Club is a club that promotes respect and acceptance



photo by Leah Edwards

"There's a sense of involvement. It's a great way to meet people and express individual interests in a variety of different activities," Rahman said. "We are doing the

for all, regardless of their race or sexual orientation; they want to make a positive impact to change FCC campus. Katrina Rios, president of the club, said they fight

for people's rights. They grant scholarships and give donations to organizations that need it. The Diversity Club table featured colorful signs showing pride. "You can be different in any way, you can be gay, you can be lesbian, you can be black or you can be white and you should be offered the same opportunities as everyone else," Rios said.

Erika Gutierrez is president of L.A.S.O. Club and was among the students participating in the college's Club Rush this week. She said her club was recruiting new members and will do fundraising starting at the next Club Rush. They plan to visit UC campuses and experience a different environment. "This year we are trying to get more involved with the community, giving donations and not just focus on campus activities," said Gutierrez.

Maria Delgado, president of Alpha Omega, was very excited about Club Rush. Her club was promoting people to join the club to help with their community work, charity service and also get medical experience. "Come and join us! We meet every Tuesday in Room 280 in the Health Science building at 12:45 p.m.," Delgado said.

Amber Dowling and Felice Nichilo enjoy being part of Teachers of Tomorrow. They are inviting students who like to interact with

children, say to join the club and also volunteer for community service. "We are helping students get new skills and strategies, and also get them involved with other people who are interested in teaching," said Dowling; "It's still the beginning, and we are looking forward for new members to come," Nichilo added.

Vang Yang, president of the Hmong Club, said they were very excited about promoting their club and also fundraising to give \$250 scholarship to incoming freshmen students at FCC, which is granted every year. "We want to let Hmong students at FCC know that there is a club here to help and support them in whatever they may need," Yang said.

Many FCC students work full time and only go to school part-time. Students don't always spend much of their free time on campus. However, there are many opportunities for all students to develop friendships and one way is by joining one of the many clubs and organizations at FCC.

If students missed Club Rush they can contact the advisor for the club or call the College Activities Office at (559) 265-5711. Students who are interested in creating a new club can find information at the Student Lounge/College Center or at [www.fresnocitycollege.edu](http://www.fresnocitycollege.edu), under the "College Activities" tab, then click on "Clubs & Organizations."

## Salute to On-Scene Heroes

### *Emergency Responders Honored*

by lfe-Chudeni Oputa  
Rampage Reporter

The Fresno County, Madera, and Mountain Chapters of Trauma Intervention Program, Inc. (TIP) will hold "Salute to On-Scene Heroes", an awards ceremony to honor emergency responders.

TIP provides support for trauma survivors around the nation. "We have about 30 chapters over the United States," said TIP Crisis Team Manager Sharon Biswell. "We respond immediately to the scene of a traumatic event and we're there to offer emotional support to family members, witnesses, victims of the event."

The ceremony will honor individuals dedicated to emergency assistance. "This year we are honoring people that have been very supportive of TIP, within the emergency response system," said Biswell. In addition to an awards ceremony, the event is also a TIP

fundraiser. The community is encouraged to support the honorees as well as TIP. "Just getting the word out about our program is one of our main goals," said Biswell, "If they want to attend to honor the honorees, but also to financially support us with either donations, or live or silent auction purchases."

TIP will be holding a training academy in November, and is in need of new volunteers. "It's perfect timing with this fundraiser to get more people aware, and perhaps interested in volunteering also," Biswell said, "There are no qualifications as far as your career or your education or anything...so, other than just having a big heart and wishing to help people out in that type of situation, that's it."

"Salute to On-Scene Heroes" will be held on Friday, September 29, from 6:30 to 10 p.m. at the Copper River Country Club in Fresno. Tickets are available for \$45 or \$450 for a table of ten. For information, call Trauma Interventions Program, Inc. at (559) 265-8730.

## Say Goodbye your Old Library Card

### *All that is needed is an ASB card or a photo ID*

by Buen Moua  
Rampage Reporter

Beginning this fall semester, FCC Library will no longer be issuing library cards. In place of the library cards will be students' ASB card or any photo ID for all library users, including faculty and staffs.

The procedure for checking out materials will still be the same, as well as updating users' account every semester.

Said Head of Library Services James Tucker. "It makes the process simpler...we don't have to

buy all the library cards or the big process of issuing them..."

"The little cardboard cards just were not working for us. It wasn't cost-effective...they were constantly being replaced, people were always leaving them at home," said Norma Handy of the Library Services. "We would always use a photo ID in absence of a library card any ways."

According to Handy, the library had kept the card in the way that it was because for years the people in the computer labs or the tutorial center all required students to show the library card to prove that they were a current student.

The library staffs would stamp the back of the cards for indication.

"Now the tutorial center, the computer labs, etc., have a new tracking system and no longer needed our cards," said Handy.

It is not sure whether this new procedure would be permanent, according to FCC Library services. "This is sort of a trial basis. We're soon to meet with other libraries in the district to discuss all this...hopefully coming up with a standardized method, maybe a district-wide library card," said Norma Handy. "We no longer honor our cardboard cards, but we do honor all district cards."



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# Q & A With FCC's VP of Instructions Tony Cantu

Buen Moua

Rampage Reporter

**Q: What has the college done in response to the Accreditation team's recommendations?**

**A:** We've done quite a bit. We were addressing each one of the recommendations. There is a Strategic Planning Council which the Associated Student Government is very much involved, as well as the Classified Senate and the faculty. A draft of the progress report is already written, that has gone to the board, came back to the campus and is currently being updated on a regular basis.

**Q: From the time of accrediting commission's visitation until now, how strongly do you feel the college has become, pertaining to the different constituents coming together on this matter?**

**A:** We have gotten better as an institution. There's been more dialogue, more communication. I think the process that we used in forming the Strategic Planning Council was very positive. I think it has worked well.

**Q: Do you feel confident in the college's progress report, in meeting the recommendations?**

**A:** Yes. We've made significant progress. The fact that in a little less than nine weeks we developed a strategic plan and that was pretty quick. Once we got the recommendations, we did what we needed to do. We started working and continued working well into the semester. And during the summer we've got together a couple of times; We worked bringing the support team to get the presentation ready for the opening school and that report was very well received.

**Q: How can the college prevent from getting another**

**warning from the accrediting commission?**

**A:** By addressing the requirements of the Accreditation standards.

**Q: How can the college gain the confidence that it may have lost?**

**A:** I think by implementing the strategic plan and going through the implementation process is going to make the school stronger, because the mechanisms are in place to insure that all the groups are talking to each other to ensure that there is participation.

**Q: Many FCC students don't really know what's going on about the Accreditation. How can students get involved and become more aware of any matter, not just the Accreditation?**

**A:** Through the Associated Student Government because that's primarily the student voice. When we want students

on committees and are looking for student representation that is who we go to. It is just like when we want the faculty, we go to the Faculty Senate; when we want classified representation, we go to the Classified Senate.

**Q: How does the Accreditation affect FCC students?**

**A:** It affects students; if the school is not accredited, then the students' credits are not transferable and accepted... none of the programs are accredited...no financial aid...it pretty much accounts for all the courses offered.

**Q: Is the Accrediting process over after the progress report is turned in, in October?**

**A:** After the progress report is turned in we have a midterm report. So again we'll need to address the accreditation recommendations in two and a half years...it is ongoing. We will start getting ready for the next accreditation process.

**Q: What's in store for FCC's future?**

**A:** We are making sure that our planning processes work, to make sure that our processes are aligned, so that the decisions are not made in a vacuum, that there is a process in place for decision-making and everybody understands what their process is, and that it's a process that is well presented.

**Q: What would you say to students about FCC's future and its Accreditation?**

**A:** It's positive. There's no doubt in my mind.

*"Once we got the recommendations, we did what we needed to do... working well into the semester."*

*-Tony Cantu*

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# Fighting the 'Freshman Fifteen'

by Ife-Chudeni Oputa  
Rampage Reporter

Late nights, caffeine binges, partying, and fast food are characteristic of college life. With all that is required of students, there is little time to worry about fitness. As a result, many students suffer from the dreaded "freshman fifteen".

The theory that most freshmen gain about fifteen pounds in their first year, though commonly true, is not a necessary aspect of the college experience. Unfortunately, many students battle the bulge from freshman on through senior year. With a little bit of time and conscious effort, students can reverse this trend towards portliness.

First things first, to start the day off right students should eat breakfast. Even if there's no time for scrambled eggs, bacon, French toast, and a glass of OJ, grab a piece of fruit or some whole wheat toast to chow down on the way out. Avoid eating

breakfasts that are high in sugar, such as Coco Puffs, and Pop Tarts. The simple act of eating breakfast can result in more energy, better mental focus, and easier weight maintenance.

Finding time to eat during the day can be tough. For busy students nothing is easier than stopping at a near by burger or burrito joint to grab a ready-made meal, doubled and super-sized, but fast food is fitness's worst enemy. Fast food is a ravenous wolf in sheep's clothing; it lures students in with its convenience, then cleans out their wallets and devours any healthy eating habits they once had.

To avoid being trapped in a cycle of unhealthy eating, students should take a moment to plan each meal of the day. "I plan ahead and bring fruit and things with me," said Fresno City College student Kaitlyn Wilson, "then when I'm hungry, I just pull an apple out of my bag."

"I bring a lot of vegetables, like carrots and celery, and whatnot," added Silva Yaacoubian, also an FCC student.

The grocery store, not Carl's Jr., should be a students' one-stop shop for healthy eating. Grocery shopping takes time, but it gives students complete control over what they eat, and is significantly cheaper than eating out. With a full refrigerator, students can make wise meal decisions ahead of time, instead of buying fatty meals in the interest of time.

As helpful as it is to plan ahead, it's not always possible. Students will inevitably find themselves in a situation where time overrules the desire to eat well. In these cases, it is the small decisions that make the difference. All restaurants, fast food or otherwise, offer healthy meal alternatives.

Fresno City College's Campus Café is no exception. Instead of going for a slice of pizza or a cheeseburger, head to the

refrigerated section and pick up a salad or a bowl of fruit, or even simpler, grab a turkey sandwich on wheat bread, and go easy on the mayo. Making the decision for grilled over fried, or whole wheat over white can make all the difference in the world.

In addition to eating right, students need to exercise to stay fit. Exercise is not limited to hour-long training sessions at gyms that cost \$300 a year, there are many time and money conscious ways to stay active. Legs are the best exercise tools a student can use, and luckily, they're portable. Students should look at free time as a chance to workout. "When I have a break I walk, or I hang out, or I find a friend to walk with me, so I can be hanging out and walking at the same time," said Wilson.

Instead of standing around and talking between classes, take the conversation on the move and power walk around campus. It's free, easy,

and works with any schedule. Exercise will not only help maintain students' figures, it can also help FCC's atrocious parking problem.

There are a number of simple ways to fit in exercise while avoiding the hassle of parking. First, students can walk or bike to school. Second, if you drive to school, walk to lunch. The heart of the Tower District is only a few blocks from the Fresno City College campus, and offers a number of restaurants that will accommodate a healthy eater. This way, students can stay fit without giving up their parking spots.

Staying healthy has so many benefits over and above the physical. It saves money, reduces stress, and increases the overall quality of life. If students make a conscious effort to change their diet and exercise habits, they can change that "freshman fifteen" into a "sophomore six-pack".

## New man on campus

by Christian Beltran  
Rampage Reporter

Helping students, finding answers, understanding what we need to know. Jim Tucker joins FCC as a Dean of Instruction, managing Library and Student Learning Support Services, and he is certainly on the cutting edge. What else could someone ask for with 22 years of experience?

Tucker was the Director of Learning Resources and Instructional Technology at College of the Sequoias and now joins Fresno City College to make sure the library and the tutorial center are working well.

Even though Mr.

Tucker has been working at FCC for only two weeks, he said, "I am very happy to be here; I'm still getting involved and acquainted with people, things are going very well." He also mentioned that on his previous position at the College of the Sequoias he had a lot of tasks to complete; "Here at FCC, my focus is narrower, I was a librarian by training and this is what I like to have my main focus on." He added.

"I was fortunate enough to get the job" said Tucker about

his position.

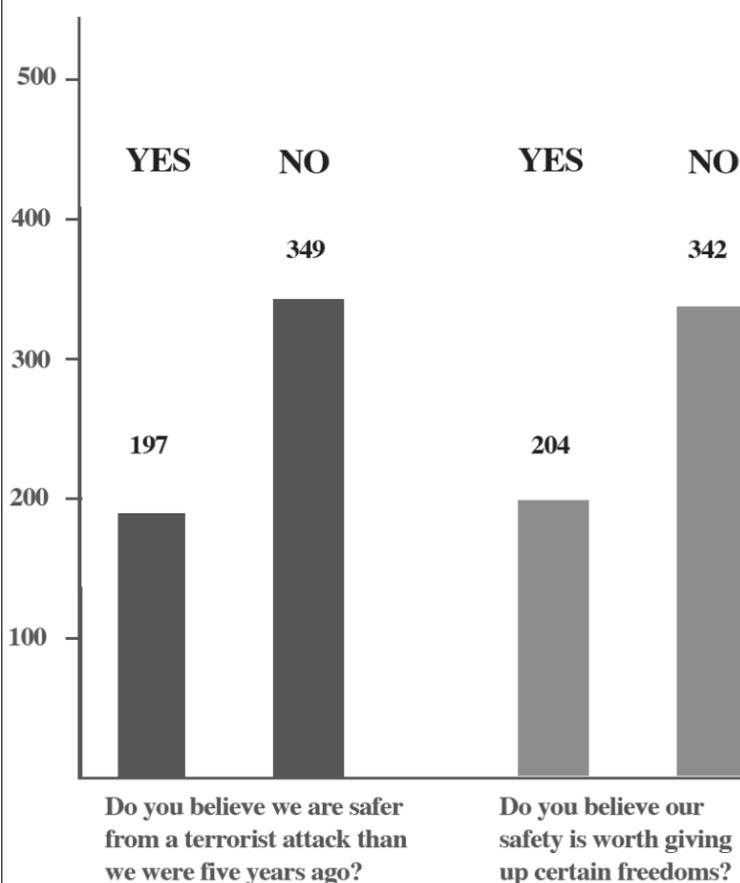
He declared he is willing and able to help the students in any issue they may have; any suggestions or just help them on expanding their education. "We have very diverse student body here at FCC, all different ages, experiences, backgrounds, and that's a good mix," he declared.

He previously served as the supervising librarian at the Visions Adult School at California State Prison in Corcoran; he helped the inmates with their legal research, and worked in the education department developing vocational programs

for the inmates, which completes part of his more than two decades of experience.

"My goal is to make this the best possible Library and Tutorial Center that we possibly can to help the student." Tucker stated.

He also expressed his thoughts about FCC staff, "I find this to be just a great Institution since I have been here; there are a lot of people dedicated to educating students furthering their education."



## 9/11: remembering the dead

Cont. from page 1

Nevertheless, in March of this year a revised version of the Patriot Act was signed into law, allowing national security to continue to take precedence over certain civil liberties. FCC students disagree with this action. When asked if they believed their safety was worth giving up certain freedoms, only 37% said yes, with 63% saying no. "They're listening to your phone calls, and stuff like that, but if you're not a terrorist then what's the problem with it," said Inouye. "I'm willing to give up civil liberties like that, just as long as it doesn't go too far to where they're doing too much and not actually stopping terrorism."

Even five years after the attack the effects of 9/11 are being felt. In the minds of FCC students, the nation has a long way to go before it's safe to feel safe again.



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# TRANSFER DAY

Wednesday, September 13, 2006

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HOSTED BY THE FCC TRANSFER/COUNSELING CENTER



## Hanging with the best

*Star player sits out with injury but Rams show no sign of slowing down.*



Photo by Robyn Vallentyne

*The Rams are looking to continue playing the same style of soccer that has them out to a quick start in '06.*

By Mike Williams  
Rampage Reporter

The Fresno City Rams soccer team is right where it wants to be, with a record of 4-1-1. With their captain on defense, Nick Casagrande out with a thigh muscle injury, coach Eric Solberg is hoping that players will step up until Casagrande returns back to the lineup.

The Rams won two out of three games in the Hartnell College Tournament, beating Cerritos City College 2-0, San Francisco City College 6-1 and tying Irvine Valley 2-2.

Next the Rams took a trip to Fremont to play Ohlone College. This game ended up being a walk in the park, with the Rams winning 5-0. The defense stepped up this game even though Casagrande was watching from the sidelines.

Everybody put in a helping hand in this cupcake game,

five different players scored and four different players had assists.

Rams' Jon Lomeli led the onslaught against Ohlone College. Jesus Pinto, Mark Bennett, Andrew Feld and Brandon Oswalt followed Lomeli's lead with a goal each.

Pradeep Naina, Andrew Feld, and Victor Regalado each contributed with one assist while Eli Oregon rounded up two.

The Rams really played like a team this game and looked fantastic while doing it.

Last Friday, FCC faced what can arguably be called the toughest opponent the Rams will play all season.

Mt. San Antonio College (ranked #1 in the state) beat the Rams 2-1.

Mt. San Antonio is one of the best teams in the country and the Rams played them toe-to-toe.

Solberg is pretty sure that they will meet up again in

the playoffs. The only player that scored for the Rams was Oregon, who did so on an assist from Regalado.

The next day the Rams played College of the Canyons. It seemed like another walk in the park for the Rams, winning this game 3-0.

Victor Regalado, Devon Grousis and David Diaz scored the goals in this game. Assisting the goals were Pinto, Oregon and Juan Gomez.

The top three leaders in goals so far are Regalado (10), Feld (10) and Pinto (5). These three guys are just getting started.

Feld, a freshman is not a surprise to anybody, especially Solberg who knew that Feld would have an outstanding year. Many of the other freshmen are playing well too.

"We're breaking freshmen in and getting ready for our stretch," said Solberg.

Nick Casagrande is day-to-day with a thigh muscle

injury.

Solberg hopes he can make a speedy recovery from the injury but is content with playing without Casagrande while he lets the injury heal completely.

Some players are playing out of position because of Casagrande's injury, but Solberg knows that his team is talented enough to get the job done with or without him.

The Rams already finished the hardest part of their schedule, playing five games away from the turf they're used to dominating on.

FCC will return to that turf and look to pick up where they left off on Sept. 15 in front of the home crowd. Their first opponent will be the team from West Valley and then the next day, the Rams will face Evergreen College.

"Our team is performing well we are about right were I thought we would be," said Solberg. "But for us to be really good and make a run to the final four, we have to be more disciplined."

### Upcoming Schedule

|                                |
|--------------------------------|
| Sept. 15 vs. West Valley       |
| Sept. 16 vs Evergreen          |
| Sept. 19 @ Allan Hancock       |
| Sept. 22 @ Contra Costa        |
| Sept. 26 vs Hartnell           |
| Sept. 30 vs. Las Positas       |
| Oct. 6 vs. West Hills          |
| Oct. 10 vs. Cosumnes River     |
| Oct. 13 @ Modesto              |
| Oct. 17 @ American River       |
| Oct. 20 vs. Taft               |
| Oct 27 @ West Hills            |
| Octt. 31 vs. San Joaquin Delta |

# New bag of tricks

*Production from new players key to Rams season success*

By Quinn Robinson  
Rampage Reporter

Five games played. Four wins.

The rest? Oh, just the usual.

That's not the way coach Oliver Germond sees the quick start out of the gates for the Fresno City College women's soccer team. The Rams have started the 2006 campaign much like they did the previous two seasons—by winning.

"We're a little inconsistent right now and that kind of concerns me," said Germond. "It's still early in the season and even though we struggled at times, we've still managed to win games and that's nice."

The Rams first three victories of the young season came over Diablo Valley, College of the Canyons and Spokane (WA) by a combined score of 9-3.

Everything looked well for the Rams but a tough task lied ahead in soccer powerhouse Cypress.

The Chargers from the Orange Empire Conference lived up to their nickname and put a charge into the Rams as they beat FCC 5-0

for their first loss of the season

"It hurt us very badly," said freshman forward Meaghan Cochran. "We weren't used to losing and definitely not by that much. We took that loss and know what to expect in our upcoming games and never want to experience that again."

Germond expressed the same lessons learned that his players did.

"We learned a lot from that game," said Germond. "We talked about [the loss] after the game and made sure we put it behind us. Cypress is a good team. They're one of the top teams every year. I was upset that we lost like that but last year we tied them, so I think this time they wanted to come out and exact some revenge on us."

Even with the loss that Cypress handed to them, Germond and his team found a little consolation when the new NSCAA rankings came out.

"We started out the season ranked 9<sup>th</sup> in the nation and we came out of that Cypress game ranked 6<sup>th</sup>," said Germond with a laugh.

On the offensive side of the ball, the Rams are led by freshmen Lena Tovar, Meaghan Cochran and sophomore Tiffani Moore while the defense is headed by Katy Harris, Veronika Aldape and Kristal Llamas. All six of these players are responsible for the success the Rams have seen early on, but if

FCC wants to keep the success up, Germond explains that others will need to step up as well.

"If we're going to be successful this year, everybody needs to have a role," said Germond. "I think a few of them right now are a little timid and they just need to step up and make sure they contribute to our game and help us out."

This week the Rams have two games. First they play at Cuesta College on Sept. 12 and then host West Valley on Sept. 15.

"I look at every week we have and until the end of the season every week is tough," explained Germond. "We purposely made our schedule strong to prepare us and make sure we play the best teams we possibly can."

Germond also expects the chase for the Central Valley Conference title to be a tough one with Modesto, College of the Sequoias and upcoming programs such as West Hills and Taft rounding out the league.



Photo by Robyn Vallentyne

*Kristal Llamas retrieves a ball in the Aug. 29 match against College of the Canyons at the Fresno City College soccer field. The Rams won the game 2-1.*

"We have a tough conference this year," said Germond. "We have Modesto, Sequoias is currently undefeated. West Hills is going to be tougher this year and Taft will also be a challenge even though they're a fairly new program."

With a long battle ahead of them, the Rams are more than looking forward to competing in

another exciting season of FCC soccer.

"Having wonderful coaches make us want to work so much harder," said Cochran as freshman midfielder Katy Harris shook her head in agreement. "

We know each other like the back of our hands and now we just need to work together [on the field]."

## The Heart Behind the Game



Photo by Leah Edwards

*Left, Jacob Kahawaii, Redshirt football player plays the ukulele*

Dedication is this team's strength



Photo by Robin Vallentyne

*Right, Fresno City College football players practice through the heat*

# Catch her if you can

## *FCC runner continues her race against time*

By Joseph Rios  
Rampage Reporter

Randy Huntington's Olympians called her "Stud Woman" and "The Bionic Woman" while they trained with her just before they went to Barcelona for the '92 Olympics.

When they worked out, they picked animal names for each other—she was the cheetah.

She was also 53 years old.

That was over 14 years ago. The now 66-year-old Kemi Solwazi is less than a month away from her 67<sup>th</sup> birthday and she shows no signs of slowing down.

I first learned about her when I enrolled in a running PE class at Fresno City College.

Coach Gary Bluth rounded up our class for our first 400 meter trial. He pointed out to Solwazi who was busy gliding around the track and told all of us, "See that woman out there? She's 66 years old and she's the fastest woman in the world in her age bracket."

After my eyes widened and my mouth dropped, I thought to myself, "Wow. The world?" and then, "What is she doing here?"

"When you guys come back I'll give you your time and then I'll tell you how fast she can run it," he said.

As it turns out she can run it in about a minute-fourteen. She broke an American Record in the 400 with the time she etched on April 8, 1995. Her time of 65.29 is still collecting dust – it hasn't been touched.

In 2005 she ran the two fastest times in the 200 and the 400-meter races for women between 60-65. In the 400 she clocked in at 74.35. In the 200 she skid by the finish at 31.72.

For the last 14 years, Solwazi has been chasing world records at World Masters Track meets all over the globe. From Puerto Rico to Australia, from England and to the ends of the known world, Solwazi has faced Olympians and World-Class athletes from every conceivable country.

After meeting Solwazi, though, I realized she is much more than 66 year-old phenomenon, more than all the records she's broken, and more than all the medals she's won.

And to think, her track career almost didn't happen.

After getting married, leaving St. Louis, living in Chicago, a stint in San Diego, then Los Angeles, her and her husband Kehinde finally sank their roots in Fresno where she enrolled at Fresno State and her hus-

band later began teaching at Fresno City College.

By 1984 Kemi had earned her BA in Art, her Masters Degree in Art Education and was busy working for the West Fresno School District. There were no thoughts of

her special. Whether she's mingling with other athletes around the world, Olympians here, or a reporter from the college newspaper, she meets them with a smile and a warm, child-like joy that radiates from her. It's magnetic.

seen him and the rest of his team walk into the gym where she spent her evenings and nights working out in aerobics class, running, and lifting weights. She was right in the middle of an "aerob-athon."

From 5p.m. – 9 p.m. they

full medical team that included a chiropractor and a masseuse.

"When they told me that, I had no idea what a chiropractor did, but I knew what a masseuse was," Solwazi said as her eyes widened.

Once she started training with this group of elite athletes it was apparent that Solwazi needed a lot of work. The talent was there, but she had never run track or cross-country. They told her, as far as knowledge of the sport went, she was at an eighth grade level.

"I didn't know what any of the lines on the track meant, I didn't even know how to come out of the blocks," Solwazi said laughing at herself.

But Huntington saw something special. For Huntington it was an opportunity to train an athlete with the potential to excel at the world level and a chance to prove his theory that an athlete can get to the podium without the aid of performance enhancing drugs.

Unlike some athletes at the top level, Solwazi doesn't win with the help of drugs. She is a blank slate.

Solwazi stayed with Huntington for almost two years before she was handed over to Bluth who is the head coach of Fresno City's track team.

He has been at her side on this road to the many podiums. Mostly he's there to keep her focused.

"I like to be silly," Solwazi said (still laughing), "But I gotta tone it down when coach is around."

"[But,] he's more than a coach; he's my friend. We've been around the world together I couldn't have asked for someone better."

Solwazi will probably continue running until her legs fall off. Besides the numerous accolades and travel opportunities the sport has brought her, being in the shape has been one of the greatest benefits.

"I don't have diabetes, heart problems, and I don't have to take any prescription drugs," Solwazi said. "People say, 'you could be in perfect shape and still get hit by a car.' You don't have any control over that. But you can take care of your body. As I get older, the health benefits [get even more] excellent."

I asked Solwazi where she would be if Huntington and his team hadn't picked her up and trained her back in '92.

She said, "I'd probably still be at that gym taking aerobics, running at any park I could find, and beating my head against the wall with all this energy I have."



Photo by Robyn Vallentyne

*Kemi Solwazi runs around the track at Ratcliffe Stadium. Solwazi holds the American record in the 400 meter race with a time of 65.29 seconds in 1995. Solwazi still holds that record today.*

running or breaking records, well, *running* through her mind.

In fact, up to that point she hadn't been apart of any organized athletics, let alone track or cross-country.

"My father always told me 'Athletics don't bring you nothing, but a degree does,'" said Solwazi. "So that put an end to that."

Outside of her avid obsession with playing marbles as a kid, she shied away from the sports arena. She would play with boys and take their marbles in countless sidewalk matches.

"I was good," said Solwazi as she bent over laughing, showing off her bright smile.

Really, that's what makes

The same carefree, uh, silliness (I guess that's the best word) I saw when the two of us spoke was probably the same silliness she showed Huntington when he took her over to Fresno State to run intervals for him back in '92.

"He told me to run around the track. They had to show me where to line up and everything," said Solwazi. "I didn't have a clue."

After she cleared the technical hurdles and finished, the coach who has coached many an Olympian to the top of the podium asked her, "Do you have any idea how fast you ran?"

"I told him, 'Nope,'" said Solwazi.

Only weeks before, she had

could not stop moving.

"At the end of it," said Solwazi (while actually jumping in place), "I was still bouncing around."

During the aerob-athon Solwazi noticed the group come in. They started working out there, but they didn't approach her for another few weeks.

It wasn't until later that one of the athletes came up to Solwazi and asked her to train with the Kaiser Olympians.

"She had no idea how old I was," said Solwazi, who was 53 at the time.

After the intervals with Huntington, it was a done deal. He'd seen all he needed to see and offered to train her and provide access to a

# Sports schedules

## Wrestling

**Wed 13-Sep**  
West Hills College  
Lemoore 07:00 PM

**Sat 23-Sep**  
Sacramento City  
College Sacramento  
9:00 AM

**Sat 27-Sep**  
Chabot College  
Fresno 07:00 PM

**Sat 4-Oct**  
Skyline College San Bruno  
07:00 PM

**Sat 7-Oct**  
Santa Ana College  
Tournament Santa Ana  
9:00 AM

**Wed 11-Oct**  
Moorpark College  
Moorpark 07:00 PM

**Sat 14-Oct**  
West Valley  
Tournament Saratoga  
07:00 PM

**Wed 18-Oct**  
West Valley College  
Fresno 07:00 PM

**Sat 21-Oct**  
North Dual  
Tournament Santa Rosa  
TBA

**Sat 28-Oct** All  
Star Dual San Luis  
Obispo TBA

**Sat 4-Nov**  
Cuesta  
Tournament San Luis Obispo  
9:00 AM

**Sat 11-Nov** San  
Francisco  
Tournament San Francisco

**9:00 AM**  
Fri 17-Nov  
State Dual  
Championship TBA

**TBA**  
Sat 18-Nov Fullerton  
Open Tournament Fullerton

**9:00 AM**  
Sat 2-Dec  
North Regional  
Stockton TBA

**Fri 8-Dec**  
State  
Championships Fresno  
TBA

**Sat 9-Dec**

## Women's Golf

**9/14** Conference  
Match Visalia  
Valley Oaks 12

**9/19** Conference  
Match Fresno  
Fig Garden  
Golf Course 12

**9/21** Sierra  
College & Sacramento  
City College

Fresno Fig  
Garden Golf Course 12

**9/26** Conference  
Match Lemoore  
Lemoore Golf  
Course 11

**9/28** Conference  
Match TBA  
TBA 12

**10/3** CVC/BVC  
Midseason  
Tourney Sacramento  
Bing Maloney Golf  
Course 12

**10/5** Conference  
Match Hanford  
Kings Country Club  
12

**10/10** Conference  
Match Modesto  
Spring Creek  
Country Club 12

**10/12** Conference  
Match Visalia  
Valley Oaks 12

**10/16 -10/18**  
Lady Otter  
Invitational Monterey

Black Horse  
Golf Course TBA

**10/23** Conference  
Match Reedwood  
City Menlo  
Country 12

**10/26** Conference  
Match Fresno  
Fig Garden  
Golf Course 12

**10/31** Conference  
Championship  
TBA TBA TBA

**11/6-11/7** Norcals  
Fresno Riverside  
Golf Course

TBA  
**11/12-11/14**  
State  
Tournament

Fresno Belmont  
Country Club  
TBA

## Football Schedule

**Sat Sep-06**  
City College of San  
Francisco Fresno  
07:00 PM

**Sat Sep-06**  
Merced College  
Merced 06:00 PM

**Sat Sep-06**  
Sacramento City  
College Fresno  
07:00 PM

**Sat Oct-06**  
BYE

**Sat Oct-06**  
West Hills College  
West Hills 07:00 PM

**Sat Oct-06** Col-  
lege of the Sequoi-  
as **HOME**COMING  
Fresno 07:00 PM

**Sat Oct-06** Sierra  
College Rocklin  
02:00 PM

**Sat Nov-06**  
San Joaquin Delta  
College Stockton  
01:00 PM

**Sat Nov-06**  
Reedley Fresno  
07:00 PM

## Men's Cross Country

**9/15** Shasta  
Invitational Cotton-  
wood 03:00 PM

**9/23** Fresno  
Invitational Fresno  
8:30 AM

**9/28** Lou Vasquez  
Invitation-  
al San Francis-  
co 03:00 PM

**10/7** Crystal  
Springs  
Invitational Belmont  
04:00 PM

**10/13** Toro  
Park  
Invitational Salinas  
03:30 PM

**10/14** Santa  
Barbara  
Sana Barbara  
Noon

**10/20** Pat  
Ryan  
Invitational Santa  
Rosa

**10/25** CVC  
Confer-  
ence  
Champion-  
ships-  
Woodward  
Park Fresno  
03:00 PM

**11/4** Nor-  
Cal  
Champion-  
ship Belmont  
10:30 AM

**11/18** State  
Champi-  
onships Fresno  
10:00 AM

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## Safety or privacy?

*They can listen all they want. I don't have anything to hide.*

by Quinn Robinson  
Rampage Reporter

I remember where I was that day. Hell, everyone does.

I was just waking up in my bed at 6:45 in the morning. What was unusual was I immediately shook awake and looked outside my window to see if something was wrong, because I just had that gut feeling deep down inside that for some reason, something was. Yes, I wasn't off to a good start on getting to school on time that day; I was then a sophomore at Hoover High.

As I leapt out of bed toward my sock drawer to grab some fresh clothes and head to the shower, I turned on the TV to see what the weather was going to be like that day.

That's when it hit me.

It hit me like a ton of bricks. On the screen before me, I finally realized why I'd waken up thinking something was wrong. I found myself frozen in front of the screen, staring at the World Trade Center towers on fire with clouds of smoke emerging from the top floors.

That day has been dubbed the "Pearl Harbor" of our generation and can arguably be considered worse than that even though both were tragic days in American history.

The day I'm referring to is Sept. 11, 2001. Our country once again experienced terror the likes of which it hasn't seen in a few decades.

Five years and two wars later, the overall population is struggling to see the point behind what it is we're doing. Within the past couple of months, a federal judge in Detroit blocked President Bush from conducting secret wiretaps in order to possibly gather information that could help American authorities stop the next attack before it happens.

Many of you are skeptical about his reasoning for allowing the NSA to take such a drastic step in security, but I'm sure if you were to switch places with people trapped on the top floors of the WTC that decided it would be a less painful death to leap from over a thousand feet up in the air than suffocate, then maybe you

would start to understand.

Personally, I don't care if I'm listened to while having private phone conversations. If someone out in the middle of nowhere on the east coast wants to get excited from listening to me and my girl have an intimate conversation then more power to him, because I have nothing to hide and in the long run I realize it's for the best.

Many of you may not understand where exactly I'm coming from, so let me go a little deeper and give you an idea of where it is I am coming from.

I'm a newly recruited soldier of the United States Military. I enlisted for the California National Guard in August of 2006. Many of my friends couldn't believe that I made such a life-changing situation when I first broke it to them. I was bombarded with questions like, "Are you scared if you get deployed to the hot zone [Iraq]?"

It didn't even take me a second to say no. The reason I'm not is the fact that I would rather go over there and take care of the problem than let the problem come to us again. I would give my life a million times over before I would even contemplate the idea of sitting back and giving them another opportunity.

What the general public also doesn't realize is the fact that there are many more people in this country that think just like me and we all have one thing in common: we're in the military.

We appreciate the concern we get and how you want us home as soon as possible, but we're all doing this for a reason. We knew what kind of stuff we could be facing when we signed on the dotted line, but it didn't stop us from doing so.

When you look at all the controversy the wiretapping caused in the media, it was ridiculous. Yes, I'm part of the journalism community also, but seeing the way the "pros" handle things, I'm glad to say that I won't be part of this community much longer. I believe that the media is responsible for most of the controversy the American government is facing today.

Journalists and lawyers were the ones in the first place to bring up this action that

**see Pro, Page 13**

*So long, Bill of Rights. It was nice knowin' ya. Bye.*

by Carly Hubbell  
Rampage Reporter

We've all been to history class at some point in our educational career so everyone must be well aware of a certain document called the Bill of Rights.

It's not too long and has a pretty easy theme to catch on to: We live in a free country. We have certain civil liberties and rights granted to us that we were promised would never be taken away. But now, in the midst of terrorist scares and the constant shifty eyed politicians telling us live in fear, we are starting to give up the one thing that is guaranteed to us, the one thing that we can hold on to; our freedom. So long, Bill of Rights. It was nice knowin' ya'.

The Due Process Clause in our constitution assures us that a person cannot be treated in any unfair way under the law. We kicked that clause in the butt when the Patriot Act came into use. Not only does this act make it okay to deport people who may give us a bit of a fright for belonging to a lawful organization, but it also gives the go-ahead to keep foreigners inside the country with just a simple piece of paper. Note that I'm not even talking about American citizens right now. We are using these fascist rules against all people we find scary, mainly those of the middle-eastern descent. Surprise, surprise.

Surveillance, wiretapping and

harassment also go along with the Patriot Act to monitor people who are citizens and who may be simply involved in a common political association. Apparently we can't have views that differ from those of the government and if we do they have to be eavesdropped on, just in case.

Giving our liberty to the government could seem like a good idea in a nutshell. I mean, come on, they're only trying to protect us right? But once anyone gets

*"Our country is turning its back on what it was founded on, and the outcome will be nothing but chaos and constant fear."*

a hold of a power as great as freedom, they are prone to abuse it. Imagine the world fifty years from now if we still allow this to go on. The one thing that made us the envy of every other country in the world will disappear and we will live lives of trepidation about saying anything controversial, or anything with a

strong opinion for that matter, in fear that the government would hear us. Privacy will be a thing of the past and the complete control of American citizens will be the future.

I know what September 11<sup>th</sup> did to us and I don't think we're blind to the threat that it could happen again, but I think the strategies that are being used aren't benefiting us but are changing us. No longer can we trust the political administration because they have no trust in it's citizens

Our country is turning its back on what it was founded on and the outcome will be nothing but chaos and constant fear. We as citizens need to take a stand against these laws that are being undertaken and be handed back our freedom because that is what we fought for and that is what we deserve.

## Campus Voices

*Do you believe our safety is worth giving up certain freedoms?*

by DC Leavy and Robin Vallentyne

William Doyle



*"No, not at all. It's a one-sided argument, people see safety and think it's the right thing to do."*

Joseph Connelly



*"It's been going on for 30 years, so it's a little late to think about it now."*

Kathryn Inouye



*"Yes, if you're not a terrorist, you shouldn't have anything to hide."*

Luke Kruper



*"Yeah, if you're doing something wrong, you should get caught. It's a little annoying, but that's a small price to pay."*

Howard Hurtt



*"I'd be willing to have some liberties taken away if I knew it was only temporary, but it doesn't look like it will be."*

# College parties - a haven for bad decisions

by Chelsea Bieker  
Rampage Reporter

It's Friday night, and if you are like most college age people, you are probably getting ready for a fun night out.

Why wouldn't you be? With school and work dragging the weekdays down, it's nice to let loose and have a little fun.

I'm not speaking for everyone here, but for some people fun means drinking and partying. Or getting "crunk." Isn't that what people are calling it these days? I

have no problem with having fun, but recently I have been noticing other things that come along with these Friday and Saturday night excursions.

I don't run with a crazy crowd. OK, maybe we're a little crazy, but I have observed some off color decision making during these times.

The music is loud, the room is full of people, and everyone is here primarily for the same reason. Drinks in hand, you mingle around, maybe participate in an innocent game of Beirut (or five) and have fun with your friends. Nothing is wrong with this, but where do we draw the line? Perhaps it's in the air, but

lately it seems that people have been going a little overboard.

During the party you are having tons of fun, you love everyone, and everyone loves you. You couldn't be happier. But what about when you wake up with the worst headache of your life, and mind full of questions, such as, "What did I do last night?"

This can't be healthy behavior, but yet it just doesn't stop. I was recently at lunch with a close friend, and we were marveling at the wounds she had collected from the night before including a bruise skewed across her knee followed by a scrape. But did she know where they came from? No. Another friend of mine awoke with an imprint of

a hand on the back of her leg. "Hahaha" we all laugh. In my mind I'm thinking, "Wow, this is ok right?... Right?"

Another issue with college partying is the hookups. We all know about that guy or girl that increasingly becomes cuter and cuter with every sip. Would you touch them with a ten foot pole when you're sober?

Probably not, but hey they're lookin' reeeeeaaal good at the time. Another friend of mine recently ruined a long time relationship with her boyfriend after having way too much to drink. To make a long story short, she cheated on him, and was caught in a very compromising position,

I mean situation. On a more serious note, these practices are not only dangerous, but completely unnecessary. But yet, I observe them every weekend.

The most serious issue with partying has to do with driving. Props to all of you out there who have a D.D, but we all know about those who get in the car after a night of drinking with no qualms. Come on guys, haven't you seen the M.A.D.D commercials? The point is there is nothing wrong with loosening up a little and having a good time. All I'm saying is try to stay coherent enough to remember what you did the night before. On that note, party at my place this weekend. B.Y.O.B.

## The language of love, hate, and boring stuff

### *I'm a talker, and sometimes what I say is profane*

by Matthew T. Mendez  
Rampage Reporter

Fresno City College has always been one of the most diverse junior colleges in the state of California, and for what it's worth, the school often reaches out to different ethnicities through social clubs, scholarship opportunities, and celebratory events held on campus.

The majority of FCC students either came from lower-income families, support families of their own, or work full-time in order to support themselves. There are a few students who come from affluent environments, but they do

not represent the typical FCC student: a grounded underachiever who never received a head start in life.

We have real problems. We are single mothers struggling to raise two teenage boys.

We are former Marines attempting to jumpstart a new era of our lives.

We're not always admirable either. We are gang members, illegal immigrants, meth addicts, and convicted felons.

All of us are enrolled in school hoping that it may someday lead to a more attractive lifestyle than the one we're currently rotting away in.

And we are all adults.

When (and if) we decide

to read something, we're not likely to be offended when we come across certain vernacular most of us have been using since we were foul-mouthed preteens. We are not living in the 1950s, and in this day in age, some of us have already been desensitized to the point of complete apathy anyway.

On the other hand, some teachers and faculty members have long since lost touch with the uneducated world, and they believe everybody should speak in the same manner as they do when they're getting together to talk about the same boring garbage everyday.

I'm talking about some pretty tedious stuff too. Stuff like uneventful family vacations to Disneyland, or how their family

doesn't communicate well enough at the dinner table anymore. Stuff so somniferous it could bore a brain-dead monkey back to normalcy.

Yeah that's right, I've overheard some of your conversations, and it's simply amazing how much some of you fail to understand a younger generation; a generation clearly raised on greed, technology and hedonism.

We want what we want when we want it, and if we don't get it, then the world must be against us.

It's that simple; we're that simple-minded. Well, most of us are anyways, just like most of you are that myopic. You can't seem to accept anything outside of your

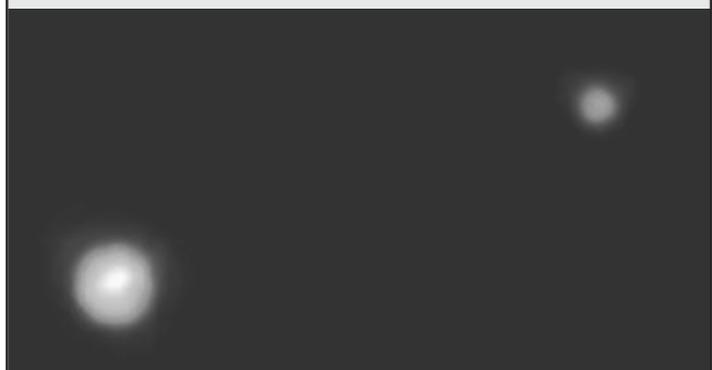
soporific comfort zone.

There's no need to panic when you read the words "ass" and "crap" in a junior college newspaper. If you want Children's Literature, go to the library and check out "Green Eggs & Ham." Not everybody is used to speaking with their church voices--or church--for that matter.

I'm not gonna tuck my sack back and neuter my style just to adhere to the prudish demands of a few self-righteous control freaks. I'll tone it down a notch, but maybe you should try to open your minds and think outside the area surrounding your little house on the prairie for once. Stop being afraid of change; change is a necessary portion of progression.

#### A random Rampage opinion

by David Witte



A photo of Pluto and its moon Charon, taken by the Hubble Telescope.

Pluto's not a planet? Pluto's not a PLANET?!! When are they going to stop messing with our heads? What the hell is a dwarf planet? And what's with this Ceres crap?

#### Catch the next issue of the Rampage for such riveting stories as:

- The Legend of the Norris

*Controversial "facts" about the star of "Walker, Texas Ranger", such as the fact that he invented all 32 letters of the alphabet.*

- OK, that's all we have planned so far

# Media that kills

*Television was hailed as a savior. Now it's just the boob tube.*

by Christian Beltran  
Rampage Reporter

Before, the mother was the antidote against the anguish and the sadness... now it's television.

During these summer vacations I made an attempt, like a challenge, to control the minutes in which my eyes would settle on the small screen. With pain I see that every day more "TV addicts" exist, and I fight so that I do not become part of a statistic.

I am not trying to put television as an evil influence, I am sure it can be an effective instrument for a positive formation if it's used suitably. But in a world with low appreciation of values, I consider it an aberration to think that if a 4 year-old can turn on a TV, then the child must have the right to perceive the same image that an adolescent or an adult of 55.

Television has transformed the meaning of childhood; collapsing the walls that protected TV itself of the hard adult reality. Recent University studies demonstrate that children who watch a lot of TV are more pessimistic and more hostile than those that see less. Simply because more they are exposed to domestic violence, sex, insults and scenes that exceed their emotional capacity.

Madeline Levine, author of the Spanish issue *La violencia en los medios de comunicación* published that, "when leaving middle school, children have spent 50 percent more of their lifetime in front of the television set than in front of a teacher".

Before, the mother was the refuge, now it's television that children attend when they feel anguish, sadness, or fear. The television set is on more than seven hours daily in an average American home, and a boy spends between three and four hours a day in front of it. Thus, little by little, television replaces the parents. TV becomes a new window that displays models to imitate, inserts the child into society and it shows a reality to him; which is

nothing more than a fantasy created behind lights and cameras.

Of subtle and persuasive way, the television molds the attitudes and takes the little ones to imitate false models.

The minors get to be believed "heroes" of television or try to acquire qualities of the characters on TV; and then noticing that it is impossible, they feel a frustration, as if it was a personal defeat. The result is an image devalued of themselves, their family and a social misalignment.

The worse thing is that in the daily schedule of TV the main position of the films, novels and even cartoons represent a threat to morals and the familiar values.

The famous series *The Simpsons* represents the worst one of the examples: the father is gross, vulgar and drunk. His boss does not call him by his name; instead, he calls him stupid idiot. The mother only communicates by shouting to her husband. The older son is usually punished to write on the board 50 times: "I do not have to call my teacher a \*\*\*\*\*". This pseudo hero is a TV-addicted cheater, and champion of videogames. The eight year-old daughter is the representation of the Freud theory: she falls in love with her school teacher. The message is well defined: the school is martyrdom; the parents only give useless advice. The Simpson family questions the filial love, the marriage, and brotherly love...

Not long ago we thought that families would be benefited by television, they would find healthy entertainment, and they would have easy access to education and information. The opposite happened.

The comfort to sit down on a sofa, press the button and see without limits the unimaginable; TV supplanted the sports, the conversations in family, the narration of a good story and even the time dinner is served.

Families have fewer conflicts every time, because every one is isolated in its own film, in its solitude.

## Pro: We can't defend ourselves from the grave

continued from Page 11

was taken to stop the wiretapping. [Chuckle] there's a room full of ethical people if I've ever seen one.

To quote my favorite movie, "The Rock", John Spencer's character FBI Director James Womack explained to William Forsythe's character, Special Agent Ernest Paxton after he was inquiring about what was going on at Alcatraz by saying

"You're on a need to know basis and you don't need to know."

In certain situations, that should be the case for the media and the citizens of this country. They don't need to know certain things and if they knew a little less, I think we'd be better off. Maybe we would've found Osama by now, who knows.

A few friends that I'm close to and see this situation like I do made

this great point: We can't defend ourselves from the grave.

Instead of making the government's life a little harder by taking them to court on every little issue of national security, how about you stick to driving your fancy cars, turning the volume up on your iPods a little louder and enjoy all the "necessities" we have in this country and let us do the dirty work.

### EARTH TALK

From the Editors of E/The Environmental Magazine



**Dear EarthTalk:** I heard that Coca Cola is depleting ground water around bottling plants in India so surrounding villages have no safe water supply? Is this true?

-- Dan Ehl, Centerville, IA

An ongoing drought has threatened groundwater supplies across India, and many villagers in rural areas are blaming Coca-Cola for aggravating the problem.

Coke operates 52 water-intensive bottling plants in India. In the southern Indian village of Plachimada in Kerala state, for example, persistent droughts have dried up local wells, forcing many residents to rely on water supplies trucked in daily by the government.

Some there link the dry wells to the arrival of a Coca-Cola bottling plant in the area three years ago. Following several large protests, the local government revoked Coca-Cola's license to operate last year, and ordered the company to shut down its \$25 million plant.

Similar problems have plagued the company in the rural Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, where farming is the primary industry. Several thousand residents took part in a 10-day march in 2004 between two Coca-Cola bot-

tlings plants thought to be depleting groundwater.

"Drinking Coke is like drinking farmer's blood in India," said protest organizer Nandlal Master. "Coca-Cola is creating thirst in India, and is directly responsible for the loss of livelihood and even hunger for thousands of people across India," added Master, who represents the India Resource Center in the campaign against Coca-Cola.

Indeed, one report, in the daily newspaper *Mathrubhumi*, described local women having to travel five kilometers (three miles) to obtain drinkable water, during which time soft drinks would come out of the Coca-Cola plant by the truckload.

Water isn't the only issue. The Central Pollution Control Board of India found in 2003 that sludge from the Uttar Pradesh factory was contaminated with high levels of cadmium, lead and chromium.

To make matters worse, Coke was offloading cadmium-laden waste sludge as "free fertilizer" to tribal farmers who live near the plant, prompting questions as to why they would do that but not provide clean water to local residents whose underground supplies were being "stolen."

Another Indian nonprofit

group, the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), says it tested 57 carbonated beverages made by Coca-Cola and Pepsi at 25 bottling plants and found a "cocktail of between three to five different pesticides in all samples." CSE Director Sunita Narain, winner of the 2005 Stockholm Water Prize, described the group's findings as "a grave public health scandal."

For its part, Coca-Cola says that "a small number of politically motivated groups" are going after the company "for the furtherance of their own anti-multinational agenda." It denies that its actions in India have contributed to depleting local aquifers, and calls allegations "without any scientific basis."

**CONTACTS:** India Resource Center, [www.indiare-source.org](http://www.indiare-source.org); Coca-Cola India, [www.coca-colaindia.com](http://www.coca-colaindia.com).

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## 'Covenant' a waste of time and money

*It may have topped the box office, but it topped the weakest box office in three years*

by Brian Noonan  
Rampage Reporter

To put it quite simply, *The Covenant* is one of the three worst movies I have ever seen.

It ranks right up there with all-time greats like Brendan Fraser's *Dudley-Do-Right* and the martial arts spoof, *Kung Pow: Enter the Fist*. Delivering a winning combination of near-naked, orientation-questionable jocks and powerful one-liners like "Hey boys, ready to party?" or "I'll make you my wiotch," *The Covenant* represents everything that is wrong with the modern film industry. Considering this is a movie coming from the producers of a much heralded *Underworld*, it is a huge disappointment to any hopeful anti-Lycan enthusiasts that have already seen the trailer.

The story picks up with best friends Caleb, Pogue, Reid and Tyler, who are descendants of a sacred warlock ancestry that first settled the Ipswich Colonies in Massachusetts. Thanks to their supernatural bloodlines, they all have

special powers that include the ability to conveniently maneuver an H2 Hummer over a cliff, into the sky, and back onto the original cliff behind their police pursuers. At age 13, they first get a "taste" of their magic until they "ascend" at age 18 and acquire power beyond their imagination. Because they are all in high school, they have yet to ascend, but have become the popular clique at the disturbingly pompous Spencer Academy. Everything seems to be going great for them until pretty boy Chase Collins transfers in and stirs up the competition. A few of the friends seem to get along well with him, until a swim meet accident leads to suspicion about his background. The friends soon discover Chase is the missing member from the ancient covenant that has come to exact revenge and steal their powers. I'll go ahead and spoil the ending only because I know my review will convince you not to go see this movie. After discovering their friend's true identity, a battle royale ensues leaving no one left but Caleb and Chase for the final showdown. Caleb ascends mid-

fight and is suddenly able to defeat Chase, although the writers leave room for a second, and likely more homoerotic-inspired sequel.

Although it's only 97 minutes long, the hour and a half feels like a full-length exploitation of Abercrombie models trying to act. Thankfully, the script only calls for less than witty remarks and strategically placed one-liners. Otherwise, the quartet of friends might have stumbled over any words longer than five letters and the film might never have been finished. With nude locker room towel fights, swim meets, and topless late night "bro to bro" phone calls, *The Covenant* takes advantage of every opportunity to show off the bodies its brawny protagonists. It becomes evident from the opening lines that their superior muscle structure is perhaps their only "talent" when it comes to acting. A more appropriate title would have been *The OC Meets Buffy the Vampire Slayer in a Real World Showdown*. The action sequences, which are definitely the highlights of the film, consist of basically everything shown

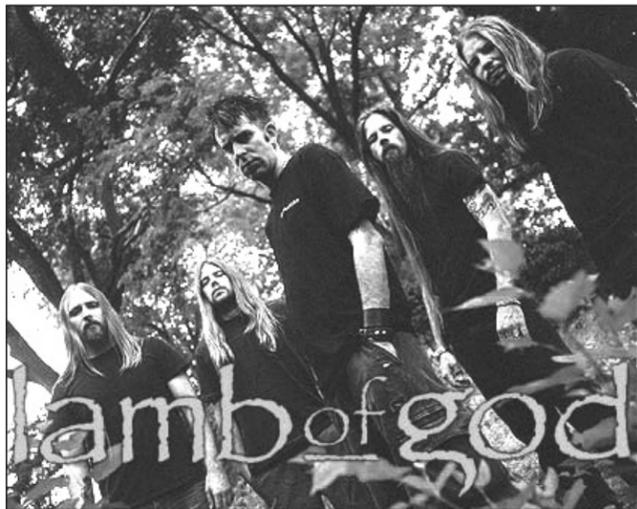


Steven Strait stars as Caleb Danvers in "The Covenant". The movie topped the box office its first week, but is the lowest-grossing movie to top the list since "Dickie Roberts, Former Child Star".

in the trailer, and nothing more. Too many male bonding moments, soap-opera quality acting and a heinous screenplay are the downfalls of this overly-ambitious

action flick. Your 10 bucks would be better spent renting a classic like *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* than wasting time and money on this sad piece of cinema.

## Lamb of God leads new wave of metal



by Efren Marquez  
Rampage Reporter

Lamb of God is not a Christian rock band and they are not in anyway religious. These two things are important to know considering the band's name. In fact, they are the farthest thing from religious-inspired music as you can get.

Lamb of God is one of the most popular acts in a new wave of American metal bands that have been making names for themselves despite other, better selling styles of music. Their latest release, "Sacrament", available on Epic records, will definitely reinforce that growing popularity.

The second release after their major label debut, "Ashes of the Wake", this new album is a furiously solid step forward in

expanding their sound while keeping things fresh enough to keep long-time fans satisfied. The arrangements on every song are tight and surgically precise, and the musicians themselves simultaneously deliver a razor sharp and brutally heavy attack.

Never ones to limit themselves to any standard of heavy metal formula, the band lays down a wholly new style of heavy that few bands can emulate. One of Lamb of God's hallmarks is to bridge more traditional metal styles while delivering an almost unbelievable playing ability, and the new batch of songs shows no signs of disappointment. The album instantly proves its mettle with the opener "Walk with me in Hell," a joyful number that speaks of hopelessness so deep, you could drown in it.

"Sacrament" also has several tracks that will certainly send mosh pits into a teeth gnashing frenzy and become instant live show classics. The punchy first single "Redneck" and the molten thrash of "More Time to Kill" hit like an angry gorilla running at full speed, and the tracks "Again We Rise" and "Forgotten (Lost Angels)" remind us why modern thrash metal was originally called speed metal.

The album's heaviness doesn't just end with the guitars. Lyrically, this album runs through the full array of heavy metal song subjects. Death and despair are definitely touched upon but other songs have a deeper grasp of subjects such as the difficulties and criticisms of living in the spotlight, "Redneck" and the bleak situation and future of humanity itself "Forgotten (Lost Angels)"

One criticism of "Sacrament", while satisfyingly heavy, is that it needs some amount of variations or character between each song. At first listen, the tracks seem to run together but that phenomena easily disappears after hearing the album in it's entirety a few times. Overall, it's a ripping release that will help to push Lamb of God to the next level of metal rock-stardom. The band moved up from playing theaters to tearing up arenas in the last two years and "Sacrament" is solid justification for that move.

## Irwin will be missed

by David Witte  
Rampage Reporter

You probably don't remember the first time you heard about Steve Irwin, but it probably went something like this:

"Yeah, there's this crazy little Australian guy called the Crocodile Hunter, and he runs around looking for the most dangerous animals, saying, 'Crikey, that's a big one!'"

What you might not know about the guy is that he was a lifelong activist for the protection of wild animals. He dedicated his time for free to further the cause of conservationists.

In 2002, Irwin and his wife, Oregon-born Terri Irwin, founded *Wildlife Warriors Worldwide*, a group whose objectives include the protection of wildlife, as well as researching to find better ways to educate the public about wildlife.

Irwin's death by stingray Sept. 4 came as a shock to not just his native Australia and the U.S., where his nature shows gave him a larger-than-life image, but to the entire world. On Sept. 5, the web page with the most hits was the CNN story about his death. After the initial shock wore off, however, the general sentiment rose that it was bound to happen sometime.

After years of playing with the most dangerous animals in the world like they were G.I. Joes, Irwin's lifestyle finally caught up with him. But even in death, he was unique. Irwin's death is only the seventeenth by a stingray. Ever. In the world.

Stingray venom is painful, but rarely fatal. It is there to drive predators away. What killed Irwin was the barb that delivers the venom, which is serrated like a hunting knife. The barb penetrated Irwin's heart, which the experts agree was the cause of death.

So who's going to take his spot as the reigning crazy guy on *Animal Planet* and *Discovery*? Jeff Corwin? I don't think so. Corwin's show is informative, but he lacks the charisma of Irwin, who would juggle snakes like they were no more dangerous than bowling pins, then show off his wounds when he was injured, all the while explaining details about the subject.

The specter of a world without Irwin is a bleak one. There will never be anyone else like him.



# 'Crank' will crank up your adrenaline

by Chelsea Bieker  
Rampage Reporter

As soon as I saw Jason Statham get on all fours and furiously sniff coke off the floor of a dingy bar bathroom in the first five minutes of the movie, I knew Crank was going to be good. You may know this actor from other hard-core action movies such as *The Transporter* and *Snatch* and here is just another pulse-pumping movie to add to his resume. With his serious British accent and the balding shaved head, you can't help but be drawn into any of the characters he plays, and in this movie filled with everything you could positively need in a film, you will absolutely worship him.

This movie will fittingly raise your adrenaline in the movie theater, almost like being on an eighty-seven minute roller coaster...while on drugs.

Statham plays Chev Chelios, a hitman of Los Angeles who has landed himself into a bit of trouble. The movie starts out with him stumbling out of bed and getting a nice little wake-up call from a video labeled "F\*\*\* You". Apparently he has been poisoned by a deadly Chinese toxin that will kill him in the next hour. This does not make him happy. The first thing he wants is revenge and for this he will not stop at any cost. The only way to live a little bit longer is to keep his adrenaline up through anything he can manage to come across, and believe me, he comes across many a thing in his chase such as chugging Red Bull's in a liquor store and stuffing nasal spray up his nostrils. You'll see him raid a hospital for epinephrine and kick huge gangster ass. Watch out for the scene with Chev and his ditzzy blonde girlfriend, played by Amy Smart, in Chinatown. Positively hilarious.

This is the film that all action-lovers have been waiting for. It's edgy and outrageous with enough humor to have you cracking up one minute and flinching in another. There's not only car chases that will keep you on the edge of your seat but heaps of drugs, sex, violence, foul language and a Brit's naked bum; all of which you will enjoy, trust me. Call it a guilty pleasure, if you will.

Some would say that Crank is too over the top and stupid, but in my opinion it is so stupid it's brilliant. It was made with just the right ingredients to intensify any human emotion one possesses, such as the thirst for revenge, passionate love, the need to be good as well as the innate primal need to be bad.

If you're looking for a vacation from romantic comedies and thrillers that make you think too much, Crank is right up your alley. Go see it!



www.movies.yahoo.com

Jason Statham, a veteran of "Snatch" and "The Transporter", stars in "Crank".

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# Wicker Man **burns** it up

*Nicholas Cage departs from his action star roles of the past*

by DC Leavy  
Rampage Reporter

The Wickerman, starring Nicholas Cage, is one of this year's best-kept Hollywood secrets. With fewer previews and less media coverage than most other Nicholas Cage films, it was anxiously awaited by his fans.

Unlike his other action-packed roles like "Gone in 60 Seconds" and "Lord of War," the Wickerman is a suspenseful mystery that keeps the audience guessing. A mix between M. Night Shyamalan's "The Village" and John Singleton's "Shaft," the Wickerman will satisfy the appetite of any drama lover, or Nicholas Cage fanatic.

In his latest role, Nicholas Cage plays a police officer named Edward Malus. While out patrolling California's highways, Edward pulls over a station wagon to return a little girl's doll. Seconds later a runaway diesel crashes into the car, setting it ablaze and trapping the mother and daughter inside. Racing against the clock, Edward fails to save them before the car explodes. He then spends the next few months trying to get the images of their burning faces out of his head.

After a brief dance between schizophrenia and sanity, he gets a letter from his former fiancée Willow (Kate Beahan).

Willow came into his life years ago and left just as quick. Now it seems that her daughter Rowan has gone missing and Edward is the only person she trusts to find her. She asks him to come to her home on a private island called Summersisle.

Edward, the knight in shining armor, jumps at the chance to rescue his damsel in distress, hoping that it will help make up for the family that he couldn't save before. So he hops on a seaplane and heads for the islands of the pacific Midwest.

But on Summersisle nothing is as it seems, it's a place that time forgot and women are the dominating gender. It's an island of beekeepers, traditions and secrecy.

Summersisle helps answer the question, "What would the world

be like if women ruled?" A land where feminism runs rampant and men are merely second-class citizens.

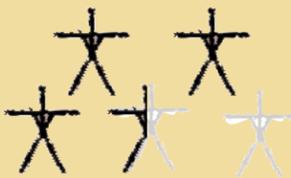
From plot twist to plot twist, the search for Rowan is anything but easy. It seems everyone in this town is convinced that the girl never existed...and if she did, she was no longer alive.

But what Edward's blind sense of bravado never realizes is that by answering Willows plea for help, he's invited much more into his life than he knows.

While unraveling Summersisle's deepest and most sacred secrets, Edward is drawn into a world of ancient rituals and rumors of murderous deceit. Each step he takes seems to take him further away from the answer but closer to the Wickerman.

It's a great film to add to the box office smashes that Nicholas Cage is well known for. The only disappointing moment of this film is that the most dramatic line Nicholas Cage says in the film is "...Step away from the f@#\*ing bicycle." But no matter how hard you movie buffs try you'll never guess the ending, so enjoy.

## DC gives Wicker Man



3.5 out of 5  
stick men

# Young Dro on the rise

by Mike Williams  
Rampage Reporter

T.I.'s artist Young Dro, has been the "Best Thang Smokin" in the club all summer, with his hit single "Shoulder Lean". The Atlanta, GA native hopes to keep the wheels turning for the Dirty South movement with his first LP "Best Thang Smokin".

You couldn't have a better intro than "They Don't Really Know About Dro".

The first song on the album is perfect for a rookie to the rap game. Young Dro re-introduces himself to everyone who thinks they know about him. He lets people know that his wallet is thick as well as best friend T.I. "Man In The Trunk" is another banger with an 8-ball and MJG Memphis kind of sound. When he says there's a man in the trunk, Young Dro is referring to a loud system. It's a decent song that will probably hit the clubs in the South.

In "U Don't See Me", Dro is talking to the people acting like they don't see that he's getting money. Young Dro, who is joined by Slim Thug on this track, attacks all of the haters on this one. Jazzy Pha produced this mellow piano-sounding beat, as well as "Fresh". Dro is getting fresh on this track. Speaking about what he has over, over, over, and over again.

There are a few songs on this album that Dro should have kept at home, if you know what I mean. "Hear Me Cry" is a sentimental record that should have been put together a lot better than it was. Another bad song is "High Five". The beat is all right, but come on Dro. The hook is horrible, "When you in the club and you see me HIGH FIVE".

It doesn't get any worse than that. Those two songs are the only songs that were horrible. Some other mediocre songs are "100 Yard Dash", "It Ain't Over", and "Presidential".

Young Dro is gangsta but he also has some songs for the ladies as well. In "We Lied", Young Dro talks about trouble in his relationship with his girl.

Young Dro says on this song arguing with his girl makes him want to cheat sometimes. He gets kind of soft, but when T.I. joins him on "My Girl", they team up and get conceited about how fresh they are and how groupies will do anything for them. T.I. does a nice job on the hook.

T.I. also collaborates with Dro on "What It Is". Again T.I. delivers a great hook. The sound is a real Dirty South grimy kind of sound. Young Dro again lets people know that he's not going anywhere and rappers in the South can actually rap. "You know my rhymes propa / you're whole click's floppas / I got chicks singin' in the phantom like an opera."

"Shoulder Lean", which was on every radio station and TV channel all summer, is of course one of the best songs on the album, but the song on that will be his next single is "Gangsta". Dro gets personal on this song, speaking about where he grew up and what he grew up around. "Gangsta" has a sound that you can bounce to, and Young Dro lets people know that white people love him too. "Ride wit me shorty while I let this shoulder lean play / white people love me, I'm on MTV with Green Day."

There are fifteen tracks on this album, and most of them you can shoulder lean to. Young Dro seems to talk about what he has too often. On almost every song, he talks about what he has or what he's going to get.

This is an album that you can blast while riding around town because most of the beats are nice. But it's not an album that you would want to sit down and really listen to. Young Dro has a lot of room for improvement, and he's only going to get better with the king of the South, T.I. by his side.

## Mike gives "Best Thang Smokin"



2.5 out of 5  
blingz

