



Celebrate History

FCC remembers those who changed the face of a nation



Photo by Matt Herron

"I'm walking for my freedom" The Selma to Montgomery March for Voting Rights, March 21-26, 1965.

Farewell Mrs. King

by Quinn Robinson

Rampage Reporter

One of the most inspirational faces to the Civil Rights movement, Coretta Scott King, passed away on Jan. 30 at the age of 78.

King was recovering in an alternative medicine clinic in Mexico from a stroke and heart attack she suffered late last year.

"I thought it was the end of an era," said African American studies professor Kehinde Solwazi. "An era of civil rights movements and an effort to try to make America work for everyone."

On Feb. 6, thousands of people lined up outside Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta to pay final respects to King. The church was the same one that King's husband, Martin Luther King Jr. shared his dream of racial equality some forty years earlier.

The debate of whether the civil rights movement is a dying cause is the case for many peoples' topic of discussion these days. Although most would agree that the world has changed since the racially-charged era of the fifties and sixties, some still point out that there is more that could be done by the younger generations.

"All Americans are misin-

see King p. 4

Grant increases FCC's nursing program and lottery

by Jessyca Dewey

Rampage Reporter

The Fresno City College Nursing Program received a grant of \$714,062 which will create room for 84 additional students each semester, starting on March 6.

Approved in December of 2005, the grant will go towards expanding the number of nursing students to be accepted through the program's lottery system.

36 nursing students will start the program in March rather than at the beginning of the semester. These students will be taking classes on the FCC campus. However, the majority of the additional students will be going through the program using distance education via videoconferencing.

The nursing program is the largest of its kind in California and only the second largest in the country. Still, the applicant pool for the last semester

was 610 students vying for only 50 slots.

The new grant was written by Shelly Connor and the budget proposal was written by Nancy Hoff. It will provide the State Center Community College District with new technology and additional teaching staff members. The accelerated program will promote a staff to student ratio of one teaching staff member to 12 students.

see Grant p. 2



Photo by Jennifer Schmidt

Nursing students learn at FCC.

System for cancelled classes up at BC

by **Quinn Robinson**
Rampage Reporter

7 a.m.: An alarm suddenly goes off, catching the occupant of the room by surprise as they reach over with a fist and pound on the irritating clock only to notice a second later that they have over slept.

Thus realizing the mere consequence of their blunder, they rush to get dressed and replace the five minute shower they would have taken with a couple extra applications of degree and take a quick swish of mouthwash before heading out the door to school.

Frantic the entire way to school about being able to find parking, the student's defensive driving takes over as they weave in and out of traffic toward Fresno City College. Never in their lifetime did they think they would appreciate the construction of the underpass. That is until they are now able to drive under that freight train which seems to stretch for miles on end and still have a sliver of hope to make class on time.

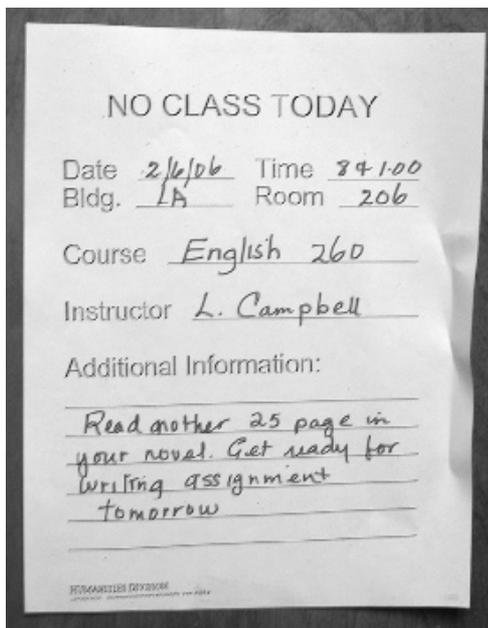
Parking spot found. Check. Notes for class. Check. The final leg of the race through the fountain area to the forum hall is on. Bobbing and weaving through the crowd of students that are already on campus, this student resembles the sudden athleticism of a Randy Moss or Terrell Owens as they incorporate a couple of hurdles to clear obstacles along the way.

A sigh of relief is felt as they approach the steps of the forum hall with a couple minutes to spare. Realizing they have some time, a quick breath is caught at the foot of the stairs, as

they happily jog up the steps and approach the door.

Reaching for the handle on the door, the student's heart suddenly drops. A look of horror washes over the now pale-stricken face of the person as they read a little white piece of paper left posted on the door.

"Class cancelled" is what the paper reads. Now feeling the agony of defeat, the student turns



back around and slumps his shoulders as the few feet toward the steps feel like walking a gauntlet.

Many students have been in a position just like this, but one South Valley campus is preparing to unveil a new service that would make days like these a thing of the past.

Bakersfield College is almost complete with a website that will allow its students to check and see if their classes are still going to be held that day before getting in their car and making the commute to campus.

"We're looking at about two weeks or so to iron out the procedures (of the program) before it will be available to students," said David Barnett, Internet Services Administrator at Bakersfield College.

The whole idea of a website started when a student at BC went in to Barnett's office and in-
see Website p.3

Grant: new lottery opportunities

continued from p. 1

The instruction for the spring and summer semesters will be done on the FCC campus and beginning in the fall, the instruction will be broadcast to different SCCC campuses.

"It's new and people would prefer face-to-face," said Carolyn Drake, Director of Nursing, "but the fact of reality is that we have a nursing front, and we need to deliver these nurses into the community, so we need them to have the instruction from us in order to do it."



Students in nursing program at FCC sit hard at work photo by Jennifer Schmidt

More opportunities

Beginning in the fall semester, the additional 24 students will be attending classes in Madera and will also be taught by instructors at FCC.

According to Drake, the acceptance rate is so low that there are hopeful students who have been attempting to get into the program for up to five years.

Acceptance into the

program is based on the lottery system and this grant will greatly increase student's chances of getting in.

"We're a community college. We're supposed to be out there giving equal opportunity," said Drake, "They say 'I

want to be a nurse. I should be a nurse.' Well, we'll give you the equal opportunity to get into the lottery," said Drake.

If equal opportunity is the goal, this grant will enable the program to grant more opportunity to each applicant.

Rampage



RAMPAGE

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Feb. 7, 3 p.m.

Feb. 21, 3 p.m.

Feb. 22, 1 p.m.

IGETC

Feb. 9, 2 p.m., ST-202

Feb. 15, 1 p.m., LI-146

Feb. 22, 2 p.m., LI-146

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Computer glitch affects 400 students

by Clare Godinho

Rampage reporter

There was a glitch in the Fresno City College phone registration system this semester. A little more than 400 students discovered that the class they had registered for, had put them on a waiting list instead.

The administrators aren't exactly sure why it happened, but they speculate some sort of bug occurred in the coding system of the program.

Help is on its way

Jerry Neff, is a programmer/analyst for the State Center Community College District. He is one of six programmers who writes and modifies code for the district.

"Admissions and Records saw a couple of errors that would just not let them use the code," said Neff, "it would say, 'the course is full.'"

No indicators in the code were able to pin point the exact source of the problem,

and no patterns of system corruption surfaced either.

The problem also wasn't specific to any student or course section.

"Getting documentation to validate and trace back to see what the problem is, is very difficult," said Neff.

It's important to report the problem to the counter at the admissions and records, which will provide him with important information he needs to trace the source of the glitch.

If a student tries to add the class online with the regular datatel application, Nuff has no way of tracing the glitch.

Neff then takes the information gathered from the student who had the problem, and tries to replicate the same outcome with the phone system.

"We try to replicate the problem again on our test box," said Neff, "if we can replicate it, then we can search for the problem, and hopefully fix it."

5000 students did,

however, manage to register successfully with the same system.

The search begins

"It's very interesting, it's not easy, and it's like searching for a needle in a haystack," said Neff.

The telephone registration system has two computers that speak back and forth to each other. The phone lines enter into one computer, and the data is then collected in the other computer.

The code has been modified to automatically enter a student into the class roster if they enter an authorization code. The student will be entered into the class regardless of a waitlist or not, because of the authorization code.

Two systems

"It works extremely well for the most part."

The Datatel system is the system where all student



Photo by David Witte

Servers at the SCCC Office hold information on every student registered for classes around the district.

information is stored.

The phone registration that FCC uses is called E-post.

When you make a phone call, it goes through the E-post system, and then logs into Datatel.

Nuff is able to view all 24 lines that go through the T-1, at one time, which comes in through Pacific Bell.

"We strive to do the best we can to minimize the frustration level," said Nuff.

Website: Wasted trips no more

continued from p. 2

quired if such a website existed.

"He came in one day just asking if it would be a possibility," said Barnett. "We thought it was a great idea and went with it. We've actually got the page ready and we're in the process of testing it, training our users, and incorporating it into our cancellation process."

BC would be the first college in the Valley to implement such a program. The cost of running a website like this is virtually none with the exception of the work put in by Barnett and the department secretaries who are on the payroll of BC.

"This is something we put together without any outside help," said Barnett. "There are technical staff on hand to oversee the technical problems with the web site in general, but that isn't specific to this page. Entering the data falls on the shoulders of department secretaries who are here during normal office hours."

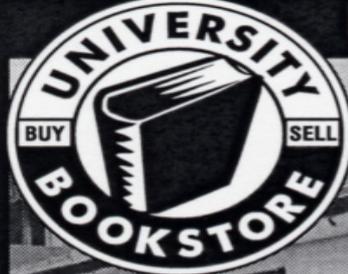
The website is capable of working with the satellite campuses that are affiliated with BC, but Barnett explained that issue hasn't been worked out yet, citing that there are some procedures that need to get in place in order to put the information from surrounding campuses into the system as well.

considerable idea

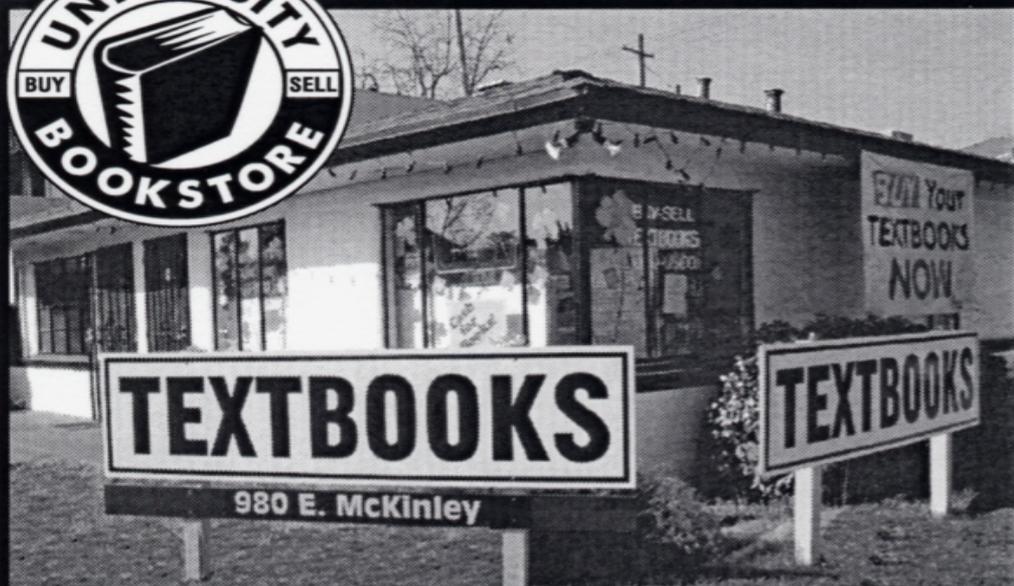
In response to BC's formation of an online source to inform students on class cancellations, Dean of Instruction Tony Cantu thought what BC was doing was a good idea.

"I think it's a good idea (to have such a program)," said Cantu. "It's certainly a program (FCC) should consider, but it's also one we would have to get more information about."

With wasted trips to campus becoming a thing of the past in the South Valley, expect other campuses to follow suit.



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Dance Theatre performs

by Macrina Aivazian

Rampage Reporter

The Dallas Black Dance Theatre performed at the Tower Theatre on Feb. 7.

This is the third time the fourteen-member company has come to Fresno.

They have been invited by Fresno City College each time.

The ensemble consists of a combination of modern, jazz, ethnic and spiritual works. They have been arranged by both nationally, and internationally recognized choreographers.

The Dallas Black Dance Theatre is the oldest, and longest running dance company in Dallas, celebrating 29 years.

In 1976, Ann Williams created the Dallas Black Dance Theatre with a desire to create contemporary modern dance at its peak of artistic excellence. Through performance

and educational programs, they hope to bridge cultural gaps.

The dance group reflects Williams' goal of diversity, with performers coming from many different cultures. With such a diverse group, they present a show that is breathtaking and exquisite in style.

In addition to stage performances, the Dallas Black Dance Theatre has an Educational Outreach Program.

The goal of the program is to build critical thinking skills, connect the youth to each other, and make them more familiar with their own culture.

Each year 20,000 students are enrolled in the various aspects of the program.

If you would like more information about the show feel free to call (559) 485-9050. Tickets are \$10 to \$15 at the Tower Theatre Box Office.

Discounts are available to students.

Black History Month activities at FCC

Feb. 1-28

The Selma March Photo Exhibit: by Photo Journalist Matt Herron
Mon.-Thurs. 8:00 am-6:00 pm and Fri. 8:00 am-3:00 pm
Located in the College Center

Feb. 8

AAHM Lecture Series "Our Legacy of Literature"
Dr. James Walton
11:00 am
Student Lounge

Feb. 9

Langston Hughes Project Jazz Master Classes
Recital Hall
4:00 pm

Feb. 10

Langston Hughes Project Lecture/Demonstration
10:00 am
FCC Theatre

Langston Hughes Project "12 Moods for Jazz" Concert
FCC Theatre
7:30 pm
Tickets: \$15 general, \$10

students

Tickets available at the Theatre Box Office

Feb. 14

AAHM Lecture Series "Health Disparities in the African-American Community"
11:00 am
Student Lounge

Feb. 15

Rites of Passage
9:00 am-2:00 pm
Staff Dining Room and Student Lounge

Feb. 16

"Am I Ready To Be My Brother's Keeper?" - Alonzo Jones & Lasana Hotep, Arizona State University
12:00 pm
FCC Theatre

Feb. 18

Fresno State Step Show
12:00 pm
Veterans Memorial Auditorium
Tickets: \$20

Feb. 19

Gospel Celebration
Join FCC, Fresno State, and Fresno Pacific for an evening of Live Gospel music and praise
6:00-8:00 pm
Northwest Church (West & Barstow)

Feb. 22

Club Rush
10:00 am-2:00 pm
Main Fountain

Feb. 23

Panel Discussion: "Black Gangs"
11:00 am
Student Lounge

Film: "Redemption"
2:00 pm
Student Lounge

Feb. 28

Soul Food BBQ
10:00 am-2:00 pm
Main Fountain Area

SCCCD Wall of Honor
African American Historical & Cultural Museum
6:00 pm

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King: movement far from over

Continued from Page 1

formed about their history," said Solwazi. "Young African Americans are no different than European Americans. One of the worst disasters of high school is that our young people have not been given a sufficient education in history."

"I've run into young people who don't know anything about Vietnam or the assassination of JFK. Young Americans overall are very ignorant of their history and what is going on in their country. African Americans as well—they don't know as much about their history and cultural background as early generations did."

"They think it's about them having a day off and they hear that little piece of 'I have a dream' and think it's about King. That's the views they have of what my generation went through. But my generation went through so much more than that. We had segregation, lynching,

Jim Crowe. We couldn't get jobs because we were black. People who are fifty and sixty and even seventy have much appreciation for Dr. King and the transformation we have gone through."

Solwazi encourages students to take classes such as Chicano Latino and Native American studies to become more informed.

"The world is an integrated place," said Solwazi. "I think the younger generation should know the history of everyone, not just African Americans."

Students echo the views of Solwazi throughout the campus as well.

"I've liked to say we've come a long way, but unfortunately that's not the case," said Fresno City College student Kalisha Scott. "There are still people in this world who have the views of those from the fifties and sixties and try to repress black people. We still have a long way to go."

February 8, 2006

FCC Botanical Garden constructs vernal pool

by Sonya Henson
Rampage Reporter

Fresno City College's Botanical Garden provides students with the opportunity to enjoy and learn about the natural world, specifically plants.

Today, there is a dried patch of mud and weeds in a small plot. A nearby sun-

The size of the pool will be approximately 10 feet long and 7 feet wide.

The Science Club hopes to obtain donations such as a pond liner and other supplies and start construction on the pool in March.

During the late 1970s, the first attempt to create a vernal pool essentially failed,

"The vernal pool will bring the lecture into your own hands."

-Danielle MaDickian
FCC Science Club

bleached sign claims this is actually a seasonally-vibrant ecosystem called a vernal pool.

The Science Club plans to renovate this into a place where students can appreciate and learn.

Ecosystem of puddles

Vernal Pools are puddles formed over areas of hardpan, where the rainwater cannot soak into the soil. These oversized puddles become a haven for various plants, amphibians, insects, and more.

The Science Club plans to re-create a vernal pool that is more true-to-nature than the current display. The students have been researching the type of plants and animals that live in this kind of ecosystem.

They have found that the vernal pool will have to develop in stages.

In the beginning

For example, once the plants have been established, insects found at vernal pools will have a habitat in which to live.

likely because the water seeped down into the soil.

The Science Club students hope to solve this problem by using a pond liner as a substitute for hardpan soil conditions.

Why re-create a vernal pool at FCC? One reason is the delicacy and remoteness of this particular ecosystem makes it difficult for students to see vernal pools first-hand.

"The vernal pool will be bringing the lecture into your hands," says Danielle MaDickian, of the Science Club.

Peaceful feature

The vernal pool is only one feature of the Botanical Garden that should interest students.

Amid the sounds of traffic and a passing train, students can listen to the chirping of birds and a waterfall flowing into the fishpond.

Students may also sit in the shade of a California Buckeye tree or watch the Redbud bloom.

"Part of our focus is native plants," says Steve DaSilva of the Science Department.

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Sports

6

February 8, 2006

Rams chase fourth-straight league title

Fresno City is riding a seven-game winning streak going into tonight's game against Reedley College

By Joseph Rios
Rampage Reporter

The scent of a fourth Central Valley Conference title is in the air.

It would be Fresno City's fourth league title in the four years Coach Vance

Walberg has been at the helm. Fresno hopes to ride its now seven-game winning streak into the post-season.

With four games to go, including tonight's match-up with Reedley College, though, Walberg won't comment on anything past the upcoming game.

"I won't say anything past our game with Reedley," said Walberg. "We're just taking it one game at a time."

"We just wanna get the 'W' and move on to the next team."

After tonight's game against Reedley, the Rams

travel to Porterville then come home for two straight games Feb 15 and 18 to close out the season. The first round of the NorCal playoffs begin Feb 25.

FCC (26-5 9-1) had to recover from its loss in double overtime to Modesto 113-108 on Jan 11.

Like it has done time and time before, the Rams "work harder than the other team" game-plan wore down Modesto (19-10 5-5) as they mowed over the Pirates 106-76 on Feb 4.

In the first half, Modesto stuck with the Rams. But FCC never lost complete control of the tempo, forcing the Pirates to play at Ram speed.

"We're starting to play my hard, Fresno City hard,"

see B-Ball, Page 8



Photo by Jennifer Schmidt

Keena Payton drives on a defender from Modesto en route to the Rams' 106-76 revenge victory last Saturday.

California statewide coaches poll for the week of Jan. 29

Rank	Region	Record
1.	Fullerton (S)	27-0
2.	Siskiyous (N)	22-2
3.	West Valley (N)	23-3
4.	Fresno (N)	21-4
5.	Compton (S)	17-4
6.	Chaffey (S)	23-4
7.	San Francisco (N)	22-3
8.	Los Angeles (S)	25-2
9.	Diablo Valley (N)	18-7
10.	Moorpark (S)	18-5
11.	Orange Coast (S)	21-8
12.	San Joaquin (N)	23-6
13.	Ventura (S)	23-6
14.	San Jose City (N)	23-6
15.	Sequoias (N)	19-9
16.	Irvine Valley (S)	17-2
17.	Shasta (N)	17-10
18.	San Bernardino	19-10
19.	Mt. San Jacinto	19-10
20.	Ohlone (N)	19-9

Mora leads Rams over #1

Fresno City hosts Sacramento City College for a three-game series from Feb 9-11 at Eules Park



FCC standout outfielder Tyrese McDaniel takes a swing at Eules Park.

by Joseph Rios
Rampage Reporter

Ron Scott's boys are swinging for another Central Valley Conference title this season.

Last season's 19-2 league record was good enough to earn Fresno City its tenth title in 14 seasons.

FCC hosts Sacramento City in a three game stretch Feb 9-11. Sac-City (23-12 18-8) finished third in the Bay Valley East last season.

The Panthers fell 3-2 to Palomar, last-season's state-final runner-ups, on Feb 4.

The Rams started off-balance in their season opener against Cabrillo College. Fresno lost on the road 1-5.

Since then, FCC has been running on a three-game hot streak. Wins at home against Cosumnes River, Ohlone College, and Shasta College in three days have the Rams running on all cylinders.

Daniel Mora, right handed pitcher fresh out of Central High School, tacked up his first win from the mound against Cosumnes

River Feb 2. The Rams held off the Hawks 8-7.

Sean Halton from Fresno High, also a right-hander, secured the 1-0 win over Ohlone College Feb 3.

Lefty Ryan Hoffman from Clovis West High School (last year's Central Section Champions) threw for the smashing 10-2 win over Shasta College Feb 4.

Derek Achelpohl, from Madera High School earned his first loss of the season the 1-5 loss to Cabrillo College.

Upcoming Baseball games at FCC

- 2/9.....vs. Sac. City
- 2/10.....vs. Sac. City
- 2/11.....vs. Sac. City
- 2/16.....vs. Chabot College
- 2/17.....vs. Santa Rosa
- 2/18.....vs. Santa Rosa
- 2/18.....vs. Chabot College
- 2/23.....vs. Porterville*
- 3/2.....vs. West Hills*
- 3/4.....vs. Sequoias*
- 3/7.....vs. Reedley*
- 3/11.....vs. Modesto*
- 3/18.....vs. West Hills*
- 3/23.....vs. Reedley*
- 3/28.....vs. Porterville*
- 3/30.....vs. Taft*
- 4/6.....vs. Sequoias*
- 4/8.....vs. Merced*
- 4/20.....vs. Modesto*
- 4/29.....vs. Taft*
- 5/4.....vs. Merced*

* = Central Valley Conference Games



Joe Palomino makes the catch for an out at first base against Cosumnes River College in FCC's upset on Feb. 2

Photo by
Jennifer Schmidt

B-Ball: play-offs draw near

Continued from page 6

said Walberg.

Fresno led 50-43 at halftime.

FCC has grown into a team that is like a mighty ocean crashing on the rocky shore. Within time, all rocks eventually crumble into sand.

Midway through the second half, it was obvious the Pirates were struggling to stay above water.

Possession after possession the Rams sprinted up and down the court. The quick give and go to the hoop stretched their lead until Modesto was left chasing.

It became a battle for the Pirates to just get the ball across the half-court line.

Anthony Zuniga made key steals late in the game that sent the ball the other way for the Rams.

Jordan Farley led Fresno with 25 points on the night. Rick Cardoso followed behind with 16 points; Tyson Parker put up a solid 15. Michael Medeiros led the Pirates with 15 points.

Twelve players scored at least one point for FCC.

Better than good

In four seasons, the Rams have tacked up 126 W's – with only nine losses.

The hustling style that Walberg implements rarely changes – but you can not argue with its results.

“The game is simple,” said Walberg. “I gotta get the ball in the hole more time than you do. We go out and just play harder and smarter than the other team.”

FCC's style continues to baffle coaches, fans, and even this reporter. However, its simplicity and effectiveness are only possible with

a good crop of players and in many ways, with Walberg directing it all.

Although Fresno's up-tempo style leaves the opportunity for the other team to score a lot of points, it also allows for them to put up more points.

Lots of points

FCC put up a league high 3562 points in 34 games last season with a 104.8-point average. Chaffey was a far second with 2897 points in 31 games.

Rams basketball has become a pillar for the school's athletics, bringing in loads of fans to the games at home and on the road.

“I think they can appreciate how hard the kids work,” said Walberg. “They see how good they work together. It also helps that 13 of our players are local.”



Photo by Jennifer Schmidt

Tyson Parker goes for a lay-up against Modesto Feb. 4. FCC won 106-76.



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The Sports Corner

Top 5 Super Bowl Commercials

by lowercase P. Jenkins
Rampage Contributor

Unless you've been residing underneath the sewers inside a soundproof box, you probably heard that the Super Bowl was played over the weekend, and we all know what that means: unnecessarily over-the-top commercials.

If, for whatever reason, you were unable to catch every last second of every commercial, there's no need to fret, because lowercase is here to give you the skinny and to countdown the five funniest ads, most of which came in the first quarter of Sunday's big game. (Note: lowercase speaks in the third person AT ALL TIMES!)

Lowercase is a sucker for commercials with monkeys, but there will be no primitive Careerbuilder.com ads on his countdown this week, for he felt there were more deserving 30-second spots that put more effort and creativity into their product. Sorry monkeys.

5) Methuselah Fabio

Was anybody else as happy as lowercase was when Fabio accidentally head-butted an unsuspecting bird to smithereens while riding a roller coaster? Probably not, but Fabio is the one smiling now, after his hilarious commercial got some intentional laughs.

What the whole thing was for doesn't matter (lowercase can't remember anyway), but the commercial showed Fabio and a lady friend on a romantic boat ride in Italy. They went under a bridge, and when they reemerged from the shadows, the woman took a glance at Fabio only to find a prune-faced shell of his former self. Classic.

4) Dinosaur Fed Ex

This one wasn't all that funny, but the special effects were amazing as far as commercials go. The scene with the T-Rex eating the messenger Pterodactyl looked like it was

taken directly from "Jurassic Park," and when the Brachiosaur stepped on the frustrated caveman, an evil little smile crept onto the face of lowercase.

3) Doctor vs. Fly

An annoyed doctor kills a pesky fly by zapping it with a defibrillator while standing over an unconscious patient. Satisfied with his accomplishment, the doctor says, "That killed him," just as the patient's wife is walking into the room. A message appeared on screen that said, "Don't judge too soon," or something of that nature.

This was one of two commercials for this company (again, lowercase can't remember which company), but this was by far and away the funnier of the two ads.

2) Bear Trapped

Imagine being stalked by an alcoholic grizzly bear whom you have just outsmarted by placing a red herring in its path, in this case an ice cold Bud Light, only to have your best friend come out of nowhere and snatch the only thing saving you from certain death. "Did you see those moves? I still got it."

What a jerk.

1) The Magic Fridge

Once in a great while there comes a commercial that speaks to us all, this is one of them. Even if you don't drink, having a mysterious revolving wall that comes with a refrigerator that is completely stocked with beer bottles would turn anyone into a drunken fool. All hail the magic fridge indeed.

Lowercase understands that this column has very little to do with sports, but lowercase received a call from the sports editor of the Rampage who told him some space needed to be filled; lowercase simply answered that call...brilliantly.

(lowercase aka Matt)



Photo by Nate Tyree

FCC infielder Jennifer Coronado connects on a basehit in a game against San Joaquin Delta.

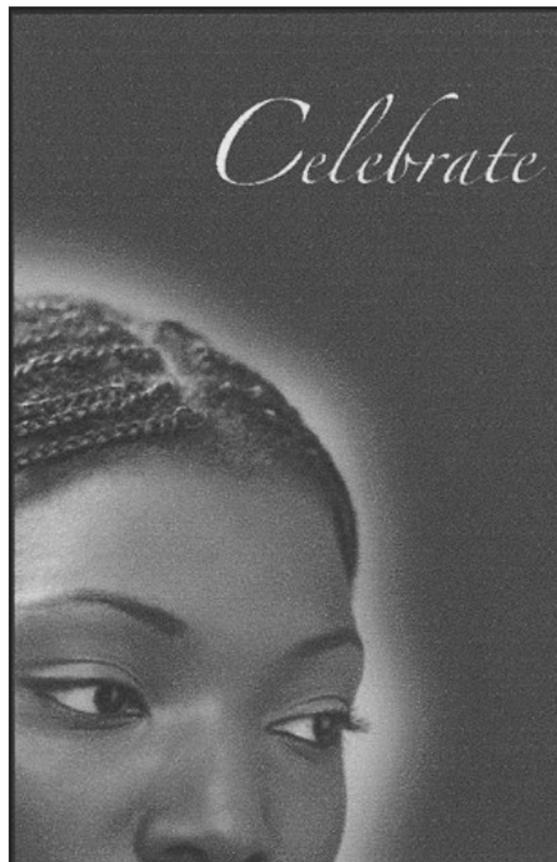
The FCC softball team gave a valiant effort against San Joaquin Delta, but ultimately fell short 5-1 in the second half of a double header

at home on Saturday, Feb. 3.

The first half of the double header went a lot smoother for the Rams, as they defeated Ohlone 6-3 three hours prior

to their game against Delta, which ended their three game winning streak.

Fresno's record now stands at 3-3.



February is

Celebrate African American History Month

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Views

February 8, 2006

10

Ticked off by tats?

Tattoos are not only art but give comfort to people who are grieving



Jeff Rodriguez
Rampage Reporter

Tattoos have gotten a bad reputation. People seem to think only menace in society get them. I want to set the record straight. Tattoos have meaning behind them. If you don't like tattoos, you could be in for a shock.

Tattoos are becoming more popular right before our eyes. Just look around, people don't hide them anymore. It is actually cool to get them.

"Miami Ink", a new popular show, gives us a taste of tattoos as art. Demonstrations of people getting tattoos give viewers good ideas for their own.

If you are one of those people who are against tattoos, quit being so judgmental. Everyone should have the right to do what they want to their body. This is America. The first amendment of our constitution gives us freedom of speech. For many people, tattoos are a way to express individuality.

I have heard many good reasons for people getting tattoos. Not all people who get tattoos are bad. Tattoos have sentimental value. Personal values behind tattoos cannot be measured.

"All my tattoos have sentimental value," said Robert Rodriguez, a Fresno City College student. His most cherished tattoo is located on his left arm, a red rose with his daughter's name written across it.

"My daughter means the world to me," Rodriguez said. "This tattoo gives me a reminder of her at all time."

Everyone has seen the tattoos of Bible verses. Getting your favorite Bible verse as a reminder is wonderful. It gives a comforting feeling. Your favorite verse is always there to guide you.

Remembering fallen friends and family members through tattoos helps people grieve. "Rest in Peace" with the date of death is a popular tattoo. You may even put it in a cross. Death is hard to deal with. Tattoos give people something to ease the pain.

Let's not forget about the famous tattoo of your significant other's name. Lovers get tattoos to help express their love. Maybe it is a chance to finally prove you are actually loyal, but you better make sure they are the one. Hate to make that mistake just to prove a point.

Professional basketball player Allen Iverson has "Only God Can Judge Me" tattooed on him. He got that to let people know he did not care if they judge him.

We are in the year 2006 now. Tattoos are everywhere. People are expressing their rights more freely than ever before. People who have a problem with tattoos better get over it. Tattoos are art, so try to appreciate it.

Tattoos can be intimidating and you are likely to regret them later



Nathan Tyree
Rampage Reporter

What do you hold under your skin? How can I deny the self-expression given to us through the First Amendment of the US Constitution? Is there not an identity we would like to express?

We express our independence and inner selves through our beliefs, values, and attitudes. A tattoo is one concrete way of expressing ourselves.

While the idea of inserting ink into the body goes back thousands of years and cultures, tattoos have several drawbacks that a person should consider before getting them.

It is not immoral to represent a culture or religious beliefs, but people run the risk of contracting hepatitis B and other viruses which can be passed from unsterilized needles.

Of course, one would think putting a needle in the skin would be very painful. Some people get tattoos for the pain, but I doubt many people will take the pain for pleasure.

But if you think a needle is painful, then what would a laser feel like as it pierces the skin? Having tattoos removed by laser surgery is an expensive process and agoniz-

ing at "one layer of skin at a time."

A friend told me that it feels worse than being shot by a bullet or stabbed by a knife.

Just like branding, tattoos can show the identity of gang members. Showing an identity is not a bad thing, but some tattoos show the language of violence and offensive words. These tattoos can be threatening and intimidating. For some males, tattoos are symbols of manhood, toughness, and pride.

Although tattoos are not necessarily sinful, you should ask yourself before getting a tattoo, "Do I want to put a mark on my pure body?" Some students, like Ivan Moralez, believe that "people should keep their bodies pure because it's God's temple."

Just as there are many people and cultures who embrace tattoos, some also believe that the body is a vessel they carry for a higher spiritual being. What could be more blissful than keeping our bodies pure for our Creator as He sees us?

Teenagers and young adults usually get tattoos through peer pressure. How can you resist a tattoo if your friends keep pushing you to get one? Also, when you become old and wise, you may regret taking risks with your body when you were young and naive. Getting tattoos at a young age is especially regrettable if the tattoo conflicts with your later social life and family.

There is a lesson to learn in everything we do. Tattoos are symbols of your past life choices and may lead to regrets that need to be forgotten. Remember, tattoos are permanent life decisions that belong only to you.

Campus Voices

by Russell Bourg, photos by Nathan Tyree

"What are your feelings about tattoos and other artistic forms of expression on the body?"



Daniel Hobbs

"People change and tattoos won't always be liked. It's like getting a bad haircut that lasts forever."



Angela Lopez

"I am not bothered by tattoos, except scary stuff. But too many piercings can be a bit much.."



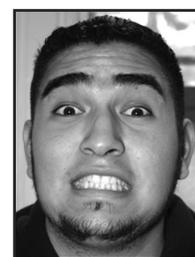
David Robley

"It really depends on the environment. In business it is probably not suitable, but on campus it's fine."



Carlos Lugo

"Not bothered, its a form of art. I have one of my own.."



Kiko Chavez

"For some people it is a symbol of pride and ethnicity."

An end to hypocrisy

Erasing prejudice from our world



Quinn Robinson
Rampage Reporter

As we are being groomed in colleges and universities across the nation to be the leaders of tomorrow, there are a few ideals that are so important to the growth of not only our country, but also that of the world. Yet we all go about our day as if it's not our problem and someone else will take care of it.

We do it almost blindly it seems like. Whether it's at school, work, or home, we tend to stick to environments that are comfortable to us. Environments of segregation.

I know we're a lot better off than we were when Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat and started the Civil Rights movement which was lead by one of the greatest visionaries of our time. Lately it seems that society has taken a slight step back.

Today we still see white people hanging out with whites, black people hanging out with blacks, etc. The only time do you see a mixed group of people hanging out is if you're part of a sports team. Other than that we just stick to our comfort zone and don't even dare to venture out and discover the rest of the world that is so patiently waiting for us to come find it.

There's been one question on my mind for the longest time. Long before I ever put pen to paper and started thinking about the contents of this article you are now reading.

Why is there a Black History month?

I was left pondering that question for the longest time. I started thinking of everything that has been contributed to this world by the African-American race.

Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King, Malcolm X, Muhammad Ali, Harriet Tubman, Langston Hughes; the list goes on and on. But after thinking of that handful of names alone, I was sure that devoting one month to Black history was wrong. Then came another question.

Would there be a need for Black History month if our school system went into a little more depth than, let's say, the Civil Rights movement?

Don't get me wrong the Civil Rights movement was one of the greatest events that have happened in civilization. It began to break the barriers in the world to prove that everyone is created equal, something that should have been recognized at the beginning of time.

Now before some of the readers of The Rampage try to exhale and comprehend what they're actually reading and looking at when they see the mug shot of the "white boy" that wrote this article, hear me out.

Wouldn't it be nice to see a world one day where everyone is honestly considered "equal"? I put equal in the context like that because everyone is considered "equal" now, but seriously people, we know what's really going on. Minorities are still struggling in a land of equal opportunity and having to go tooth-and-nail to make it through life while the white man is doing just fine.

What's wrong with that picture?

Everything.

All across the country and world, we still experience signs of hate, prejudice and racism. Whether it be whites discriminating blacks, or however one wants to spin it. One thing is clear.

Racism needs to stop.

Here at Fresno City College, we come from all sorts of religious and ethnic backgrounds, but at the same time we find ourselves at this place in time for the same reason.

To make a difference.

The only way we can start making a difference in this world is by showing those before us that we won't put up with the racist tendencies that we see as we go about our everyday life. By getting out of our "comfort zones" and getting involved in activities around our campus, community or nation.

It's hard to believe that I have written this much so far; because I know with this topic I'm walking gingerly on a ground strewn with eggshells. One wrong word here and I offend one person. One phrase here and I raise comments from another asking "Why are you talking about this topic? It's never going to change."

That's where you're wrong.

We have the power to do anything we put our mind to, especially when it comes to racism. Only question that remains now is: Who's with me?

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Information Sessions

February 16 6:00 pm

District Office Board Room

March 17 3:30 pm

District Office Board Room

Questions? Call Kim Quesada at 244-5906.



Watch out. You might need your kidney later

The recent death of a former Fresno State student due to drinking has changed California universities' attitude toward drinking at athletic events



Matthew T. Mendez
Rampage Reporter

At the risk of being far more unpopular than I already am, I find the nearly universal acceptance of alcohol amongst students in school life to be extremely irritating.

I probably wouldn't be far off if I were to guess that about 80% of the FCC student body drinks alcohol, and let me assure you, far too many of us here wrongfully view getting drunk as some sort of societal panacea.

Before I get started, let me begin by admitting that I do drink infrequently – in fact, very, very rarely. I am almost 23, and since I have been of legal age, I can easily count the amount of times I drank alcohol on one hand.

In contrast, when I was underage, I drank so much it would be impossible to determine the number of times I got drunk using a scientific calculator. At this point in my life, liquor simply is not my thing.

I fully understand that students engaging in periodical drinking binges during college is nothing new, and I sure as hell know nothing I write in this column is going to change certain people's minds. But if the small percentage of us who abuse this right by irresponsible overindulgence continue to do so, serious change may be forced upon us all.

Earlier this year, a 19-year-old former student at Fresno State died inside a frat house from acute alcohol poisoning; his blood-alcohol level was .34, causing him to leave this world several decades before his time.

I do not wish to denigrate the victim in any way, nor do I have any intentions of selfishly exploiting this terribly unfortunate incident. My

deepest thoughts and best wishes go out to the victim's friends and family members, but I had to mention his death because it seems to have initiated a positive shift in school policy all across the state.

Almost immediately following the untimely death of Danny Daniels, Jr., the California State University system banned the sale of alcohol on each of its 23 campuses while university owned or operated facilities are holding athletic events. So, in about two years, when the mandate finally takes effect, there will be no more boozing it up while watching a Fresno State football game live.

Aw, that's a shame.

In case you failed to catch the blistering sarcasm, I couldn't be happier. Finally, winos will see what it is like not to be able to

enjoy the intoxicant of their choice during a popular public event. I would like to welcome you all to my world.

There are some people who are quick to call any marijuana smoker a loser, which is perfectly fine by me, but ask those same people if they drink and they are likely to hoot and holler their way down to the liquor store for some booze just because somebody mentioned alcohol.

Yes, marijuana is a gateway drug, but no more so than alcohol is the key which opens the floodgates for unplanned pregnancy and domestic abuse.

I am not an advocate for the decriminalization of marijuana--such an act could cause both alcohol and cigarette sales to plummet, quite possibly leading to the total destruction of the world's economy--but those who frequently drink need to look beyond its legality and realize alcohol's detrimental effects.

The fact that alcohol is legal does little to make it OK, but it does happen to work wonders in making

even the most obvious of drunkards acceptable to society as a whole.

For example, a person could drink themselves shriveled and feeble-minded without any fear of losing a job based on the results of a drug test, but if even a scintilla of certain other substances is found within their system, that person is thereby recognized as incompetent and subsequently let go. No questions asked, no second chance given.

The message is, "This method of destroying brain cells and other vital organs is perfectly acceptable,

*"I like to drink a lot."
Sit back down, nincompoop.
Your insight will no longer be needed in this class.*

At the very beginning of this past fall semester, I had four classes in which each student was required to stand up and introduce him or herself. We were instructed to give our name as well as a little information about ourselves. At least five students stood up and said, "I like to drink a lot." (huh?) Sit back down, nincompoop. Your insight will no longer be needed in this class.

By no means am I saying Americans shouldn't be allowed to drink, but it is a little unnerving to see so many people my age and even younger submissively worshipping such poison.

I used to hold alcohol up on an imaginary pedestal too--when I was 15 years old. As I got older, and as the frequency of my drinking began to increase, it was easy for me to see how decadent this uncontrolled substance can be. I'll admit, alcohol can be a great way to socialize, but it is a horrible way to live one's life.

If you are an older student with a chronic drinking problem, I am terribly sorry, but it is probably too late for you anyway. Just be glad life won't be bothering you too much longer. (get the hint)

If you are a younger student with a full-time drinking habit, I urge you to pick up a new part-time hobby. May I suggest purchasing a pop-up book, or maybe even reading sometime...why not? Hey, you don't wanna end up loosing a kidney or ruining your liver, do you?

DO YOU!?

but use any other method and you'll have to find some other way to feed your despicable habit, you junky."

That underlying message is accepted not only by the naïve and gullible, but by the wealthy, the poor, the scholarly and the uneducated. Worst of all, however, the message is received and wholeheartedly embraced by today's young adults.

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Reviews

February 8, 2006

13

Another epic battle in the war of the sexes

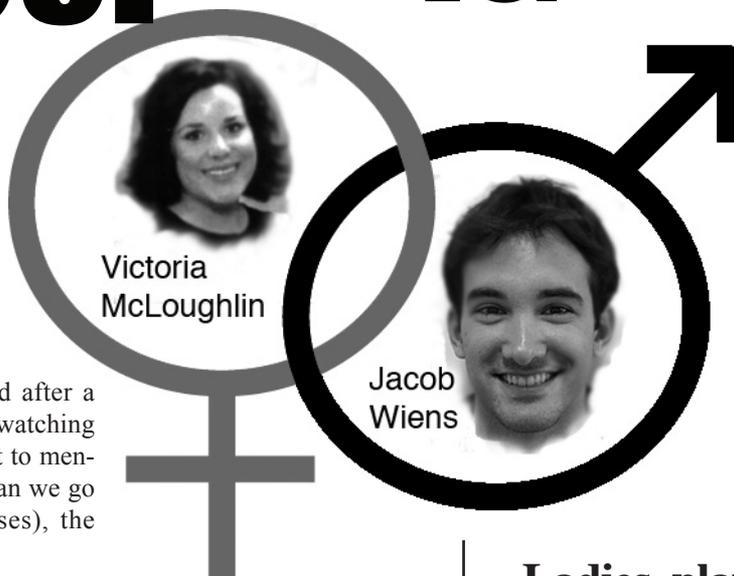
Guys, put down the Slurpee.

Sometimes it's not easy being a girlfriend. Juggling work, school, family and friends as well as being an effervescent, fun-loving significant other can border on the impossible. Which is why it's helpful to merge activities from time to time: take a friend to a family member's birthday, help a friend make an impending deadline, bring your brother to the movie your girlfriend just has to see. This is more than killing two birds with one stone, it's making time for the people you love wherever possible, enriching an experience by beefing up its role sheet, "spreading the love".

Friends and family don't mind mixing. Bosses rarely complain when a friend uses a lunch hour to say "hi". So why, why oh why, do so many guys have trouble sharing their ladies?

As a girlfriend and girlfriend's friend, I've seen Antisocial Guy one too many times. In the company of her family, he nods and smiles, occasionally utilizing 8-10 percent of his vocabulary. Around her friends, his social skills decline yet further as he gravitates toward a TV, game console or the local 7-11. He'll visit the bathroom, smoke a cigarette, pretend to sleep.... just about anything to avoid interacting with the people

Vicci vs. Jake



she cares about. And after a few hours of clock-watching and foot tapping (not to mention the desperate "can we go now?" eyebrow raises), the girlfriend submits.

It seems men are uncomfortable around "girl talk", family dramas and extensive study sessions. They prefer one-on-one time, sleeping in and movies higher than G rated (sorry, Little Bro). In fact, overdo the mixing, and boyfriends can feel neglected at best and unfaithful at worst. Even if you work 10 hours a day, go to school full-time and live many miles from your beloveds. The message seems to be "it's you and me, or it's you alone". These aren't ideal options, particularly when contrasted with Guys' Night, wherein a female's presence is not only disliked, but prohibited altogether. When guys enjoy guy-time, they like to be girlfriend-less. When girlfriends get together, everybody's welcome. But

it seems that for Antisocial Guy, twosomes are the only alternative to a an evening with the guys. Lest we endure tuts, sighs and silences all the livelong night.

Why doesn't "love me, love my (extended) family" apply to these men? Why is blending your favorite people so abhorrent a principle?

On behalf of woman-kind, I'd like to retract the invitation entirely. Guys: until you're ready to be the other half that walks and talks and at least *feigns interest* in the things important to your girlfriend, save your grumbling for Guys' Night. But be warned: they won't snuggle with you either.

Ladies, play it cool...

So you think guys have commitment-phobia, eh?

This might be a fact. But, have you stopped to wonder why? Maybe it's because girls are obsessed with the idea of commitment!

Girls. Obsession. Commitment. Those three words together can send shivers down the spines of young men all over the world.

So what exactly makes the minds of women desire commitment as a real chemical need of survival? It seems like one simple kiss can send a perfectly stable girl into a psychotic frenzy.

Now ladies, next time you are at a party and you hook

up with Steve or Joe or Berney, don't expect a wedding proposal. Actually, don't expect anything at all. Probably not even a phone call. Odds are, he gave you a fake number anyway. Jerk, right? Maybe. But what do you expect?

Girls bring such high expectations to the table, or the bedroom. We can't possibly keep up with everything you could possible want, so we pretty much avoid the whole thing- all the hopes, dreams, desires...we avoid them all.

Damn, boys are selfish. I know, I know. But maybe if women just let things go. Relax. Enjoy the company of your new friend without all the pressure of a serious relationship. This relaxing demeanor will radiate off of you, and everyone knows radiation can be toxic! And I'm using the term "toxic" as a good thing! Just relaxing with your self confidence can be very sexy. What guy doesn't like it when a girl plays it cool?

He will be eating out of your pretty little hands.

So, stop the crazy phone calls, driving past his apartment to see if he is home, pretty much all the craziness! Play it cool.

Brosnan lays it on thick in 'Matador'

by Jessyca Dewey
Rampage Reporter

When it comes to movies, I'm fairly easy to please.

From *Gone with the Wind* to *Wedding Crashers* to *Spy Game*, as long as there is some kind of storyline with some kind of plot, I'm a happy camper.

Now this is not to say

that I'm easily impressed. I don't just love everything that comes out of the theaters but I do find some amount of enjoyment. This cannot be said for my latest movie-viewing experience.

"Matador" was, quite possibly, the worst movie I've seen in years. Well, I guess I have to say that "Harry Potter" was not exactly peachy but

that was more in part because I was on a wretched excuse for a date.

Let me begin by saying that Pierce Brosnan is generally a ridiculously good-looking specimen. In the majority of movies he's been in, he was, well, studly to say the least. However, in the movie "Matador" if his greasy, car-salesman style didn't have the audience

turning the other way, then most likely his lack of humor, not to mention his lack of propriety did.

There are many movies in which sex scenes can be excusable. For instance, would "Titanic" have been half as good without Rose and Jack hooking up in the car? I think not. Or what about the scene in "American Pie" with

Shipwreck and Stifler's mom? Now, let me specify- I'm not necessarily agreeing with the inclusion of such scenes. I'm simply making the point that, for one reason or another, the scenes were justifiable.

With "Matador", that was not the case. The movie was definitely not sensual and

see Matador, Page 16

Breaking tradition

Miss Hmong Fresno 2003 lands record deal



**Matthew T.
Mendez**

Fresno has one of the highest populations of Hmong residents in America, and naturally, some recognizable talent has found its way into the public eyesight.

Pa Thao, a second-year student at FCC who says she is interested in pursuing a career in journalism, released an R&B album in January called "Behind the Mic." The album, which Thao began working on in 2004 and completed late last year, has a very contemporary sound that is about as smooth and professional as anything else that can be heard on B95 or 97.1 today.

Produced by Jack Kirkorian and distributed through Paradise Mosphere Entertainment (PME), the album features three songs written and performed in Hmong, but the majority of the record is sung in English. Thao's most obvious goal is to reach a core group of Hmong who can relate to her music, but, as any other entertainer would, she hopes of someday building a more universal fan base.

With such a hypnotically melodic voice and made-for-television good looks, those high hopes don't seem very far-fetched.

Born in Thailand, Thao's family moved to Merced when she was two years old and came to Fresno by the time she was four. She didn't begin singing until she reached the age of 12, but ever since, she has viewed a career onstage as an attainable dream.

She sang in the high school choir for two years while attending Edison, and



Photo by Robin Vallentyne

Pa Thao, a native of Thailand, has released an album that includes three songs in Hmong. In 2003, Thao was crowned "Miss Hmong Fresno", an international pageant for Hmong women.

she would eventually polish her voice even further by recreationally singing alongside a group of several friends.

In 2003, at the age of seventeen, Thao was named

"Miss Hmong Fresno."

Held annually, the pageant is an international competition that garners many contestants.

"Fresno has the biggest Hmong community in the United States, so [the

pageant] has people from all over the country coming to Fresno to compete.

Thao also works for the non-profit radio station KQEQ (1210 AM), and she can be heard every Thursday afternoon from 4:00 p.m. to

5:00 p.m.

During her time as a dj, she interviewed local band Paradise, who was looking for new artists.

"I told them that I sing," Thao said. "I was singing with another group from the Hmong community when they told me to come in and make my own CD."

Thao tries to appeal to a young audience on her show, so she regularly discusses music and what's new in the Hmong community.

Her favorite songs on the album? Track 1 and 2, which both, perhaps not coincidentally, feature her boyfriend Kobeze, as a guest rapper.

PME is an independent Fresno-based record label. It was founded by owners of the label's seminal band, Paradise, in 2002. Since then, the company has signed seven different solo artists or groups, from various musical genres.

Primarily focused on discovering talent within the Asian-American community, PME consists of a staff of seven people committed to bringing out the best in their artists and helping them reach their full potential.

For now, Thao hopes that her music will encourage members of the Hmong and Asian community to "believe you actually can do anything you want," and "always keep on trying no matter how desperate your situation may be."

That positive outlook will help her tremendously, regardless of what career path she decides to take.

We at the Rampage would like to wish her the best of luck, and look forward to seeing her on stage or on MTV sometime in the near future.

When commercials kill...

Has your favorite song fallen prey to the greed of corporate America?



Victoria McLoughlin
Rampage Reporter

Let's talk about commercials. Specifically, commercials featuring songs you know, or at least.....used to know. Because I submit that when a popular song is used to advertise something oddly unrelated, a little part of it dies. It loses the soul that once compelled you..... no longer does it remind you of a special person, sacred place or memory. In some ways, it ceases to be.....

Let's take Iggy Pop's "Lust for Life", a 70's anthem that bewitched a second generation when Trainspotting was released in the mid 90's. Memorable lines include "here comes Johnny.....with the liquor and drugs and a flesh machine.....yeah, something called love, well, that's like hypnotizing chickens." Even with no prior knowledge of the song, if these lyrics were put to music, how many people might exclaim "my, this would be a great track to sell a few cruises"? Sadly, at least one advertising agent did. "Lust for Life" promotes Carnival Cruises, and the cult hit will never be the same.

Rewind a couple of years, and the story's the same. Jaguar allegedly paid \$50,000 to use The Clash's "London Calling" in one of their commercials. As did Hewlett Packard, when they touted The Cure's "Pictures of You" to promote digital photography.

It may be that I harbor an uncommon protectiveness towards British punk anthems. Even so, the use of Aerosmith's "Dream On" in recent Buick commercials cannot have passed by even the least sensitive of

music fans. Upon hearing said commercial, didn't most respond with "Aerosmith and Buicks? Really?" As if a waiter had offered the Oxyclean scallops as Catch of the Day?

Honestly, when the band wrote the lyrics "sing with me, sing for the year sing with me, if it's just for today. Maybe tomorrow good Lord will take you away," did they really envision your ride to the Pearly Gates to be such an unappealing old fogey wagon? I say no.

Which raises the question, "do bands forfeit their credibility when they sell their music to advertisers?" Possibly not. After all, it should take more than a dodgy commercial to strip a triple-platinum band of their signature cool. When your sales hit numbers like 100 million (in Aerosmith's case) you're entitled to a few questionable trades, surely.

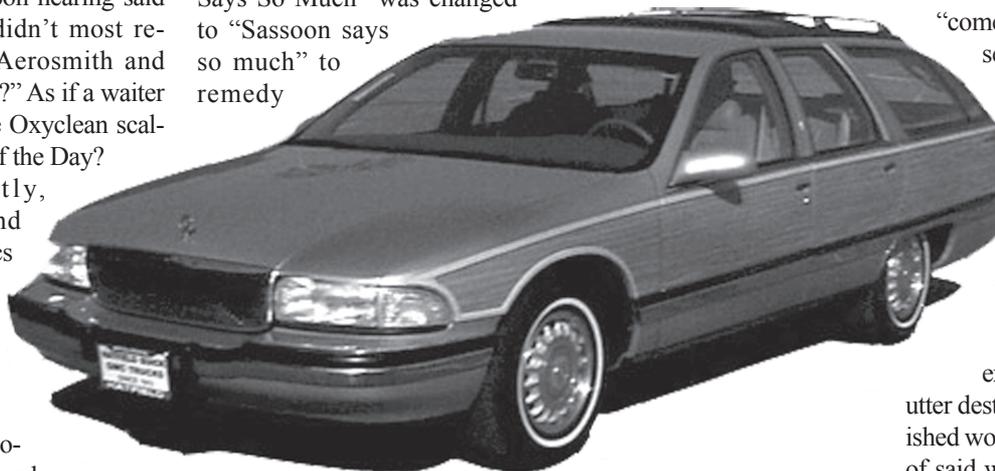
It's for this reason, we allow U2 to sell us ipods (Mac), Blondie to promote department stores (Macy's), and bands like Madness to endorse a ho-hum car or two (Saturn). In fact, such is our respect for the chart toppers of yesteryear, we'll even excuse the Rolling Stones' desperately uncomfortable proposition "start me up" in reference to Windows 95. Now that's love.

So when does a band cross the border into Cheese Town, with no hope of redemption for so shamelessly "selling out"? Perhaps when they agree to the "reinterpretation" of their work for commercial purposes. When their song's sentiment is ruthlessly cast aside and their lyrics, the beating heart of their creation, altered to sell something painfully unrelated.

Like Jeans, meals or home appliances.

Cast your mind back to when Elton John's "Sad Song

Says So Much" was changed to "Sassoon says so much" to remedy



Everybody knows that Aerosmith loves Buicks.

poor sales of Sassoon jeans. Or when Applebees offered the new catchphrase "Simply Irresistabowl" as a new spin on Robert Palmer's 80's classic. And per-

haps most unforgivable of all, the Rentway jingle currently polluting a commercial break near you. Excruciatingly, the creation follows Sister Sledge's

line "We Are Family" with "come on into Rentway and see." This should be a lesson to musicians past, present and future: when it comes to making a quick buck, fans may overlook a trade every decade or two, if you've earned your stripes. But when said exchange results in 1: the utter destruction of a once cherished work and 2: the morphing of said work into a sappy, saccharine or otherwise repulsive 15 second sappy sound byte, the artist in question deserves.... something worse than the revocation of his title, or stoning in the street. A slow, agonizing death: in a padded cell with the commercial in question playing over, and over, and over.....

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P.O.D. sticks with their roots



Nathan Tyree

Rampage Reporter

"Testify", P.O.D.'s seventh album in 14 years may be the most diverse album to hit shelves in the last two weeks. The reggae and hard rock sounds that infused their hit albums "Satellite" and "The Fundamental Elements of Southtown", breathe life into their newest release, to great effect.

"We go from hip-hop, to reggae to rock, to metal.... [Testify] defines who we are musically more than any other album we've ever done," P.O.D.'s Traa Daniel said in a recent interview for MTV News.

The album also seems to assert the band's faith in Jesus Christ. Soulful lyrics such as "I can still see the light at the end of the tunnel shine... through the dark times even

when I lose my mind." clearly serves as a message of hope for listeners. Lyrics such as these may be particularly poignant for P.O.D.'s lead singer, Sonny Scandoval, whose mother died while he was in high school.

Member of the band were particularly outspoken about the message behind their work in a recent interview for MTV's "TRL": "We've been saying the same thing since we started: that there is a God out there that loves you," said Scandoval.

He described how the band's faith has influenced them on a personal level. "We've learned so much,

we've matured in so many ways," Scandoval said. "We're not the same gangsta kids who'll die and fight.....we don't need to battle anyone down if they don't believe in the things that we do."

After 14 years, the P.O.D.'s passion seems stronger than ever. The band has already completed a string of TV appearances to promote their new album, including "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno", "Last Call with Carson Daly", and assorted video plugs for MT2.

"Testify" is available for purchase now.



P.O.D. shows off awards received at the San Diego Music Awards.

Corolla at the top of his game



Jacob Wiens

Rampage Reporter

Once dubbed "the busiest lazy man in history," comedian Adam Corolla now seems to be at the top of his game.

His latest efforts draw upon his improv. training with the famous LA Groundlings and Acme Improv.: he's a dj once again, this time for K-ROQ's morning show.

Carolla's show replaces K-ROQ's "Kevin and Bean Show", weekday mornings from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. on Valley alternative station 104.1 FM.

Meanwhile, Carolla's

little-known carpentry experience has also earned him a new title: Reality TV Host.

TLC's "The Adam Corolla Project" centers around a simple idea: buying a house, renovating it with your dim-wit friends, then trying to sell it for a million dollars. Added footage revealing trials at work and home add drama and heart: making this project his most unlikely to date.

Corolla is a household name for many Americans, especially the relationship-obsessed younger crowd. He was the driving force behind the hugely successful Loveline, a show centered around real people calling in for relationship advice. Corolla's lovable persona won him a huge fan base around the globe, from inquisitive high-schoolers to senior citizens.

Now that Corolla is a bona fide carpenter, he deserves a new title- busiest funny carpenter in the world? I'll leave it up to you.

Matador: not even worth matinee prices

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sensual or humorous.

Trust me, I'm one of those people who will laugh at almost anything. I was not laughing. I was leaving-about an hour prematurely, in fact.

The movie, which opened nationwide on January 6, is about a salesman and a hit man. Interesting enough, right? Wrong. When a movie starts out with the main character waking up with the strange face of a prostitute lying next to him, you know it's only going downhill.

When hit man Julian Noble (Brosnan) arrives in Mexico to perform his "duties", he runs into desperate and amiable salesman Danny Wright, played by Greg Kinnear.

Julian is both offensive and crude right from the beginning, even having the audacity to insult Danny when he speaks

of his deceased son. From the disregard for human life to the gratuitous sex scenes, Brosnan successfully depicts his character as one of a despicable, walking S.T.D.

The two, for no particular reason, begin spending their time together. They develop this quasi-friendship in which Danny seems to feel like the abused girlfriend and Julian, the abusive figure who, most likely, was locked in a closet for the majority of his childhood. Danny repeatedly tries to discontinue his friendship with Julian, but the two continue to hang out.

The rest, of course, is lost to me because I couldn't stand the first hour. Why make myself endure the end?

If the first hour of this movie doesn't seem bad enough, please see the whole thing.

Just don't say I didn't warn you.

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