

Students Support Reform

by Brittany Neilsen
Rampage Reporter

Janet Brown (not her real name) is struggling to cope with her ailing health. Each day, she must balance her fears with her need to protect her children. Brown, a second year student at Fresno City College is literally caught in the middle of the healthcare debate. She has no health insurance and must decide between the surgery she needs now and food for her family.

“I get sick a lot, and it’s hard for me to go to the doctors because I don’t have health insurance. There is a chance that I might have breast cancer, and I would have to finance the bill and my medications,” Brown said.

The on going health care debate has become hard to avoid, even on the FCC campus. Every time you turn on the television or read a newspaper whether via your iPhone, Blackberry, or a hard copy, health care finds its way to the front page. And here it is again.

An informal survey by the
See Health Care on page 3

Dr. Azari Addresses Budget Cuts, Parking and Safety

by Brittany Neilsen
Rampage Reporter



Photo by Jeremiah

During her meeting with the Rampage staff, Dr. Azari explained some of the factors that affected this years budget.

Fresno City College President Cynthia Azari answered a variety of questions posed by the Rampage staff in the Rampage newsroom on Sept. 2, 2009.

Topics included the latest budget cuts, issues with parking, diminishing transfer opportunities for students, and campus safety. The reporters were also curious about the reconstruction of the Old Administration Building (OAB), Azari’s previous experience with community colleges, and her plans for FCC in the future. The group spent a few weeks fielding questions from FCC students and concocting questions for the leader of the campus.

The group started the afternoon off with an introduction of the class, and Sarah Whitman jumpstarted the session with a question on the budget cuts and its implications for FCC students. Azari explained that the government is in complete control of the cuts and that each campus has to deal with the shortfalls in its own way. She added that FCC had a 2.5 percent reduction in its funding and
See Azari on page 4

Where Do We Go From Here?

The CSU system closes its doors to transfer students

by Jeremiah Henry
Rampage Reporter

By now, everyone has heard of the difficulties in trying to get classes at California State University, Fresno, let alone get admitted.

Like most other California-based institution, budgeting shortfalls have put the gates to higher education under lock and chain. For students looking to transfer to Fresno State after completing their lower-division G.E. and major requirements at Fresno City College, this poses a major problem—how can FCC transfer students complete their undergraduate degree without having to relocate?

Lynn Jaschke, an out-

reach counselor from CSUF, explained that the heart of the problem lies in the state’s multi-million dollar budget cuts to the CSU system. Students are not the only ones who are suffering from the state’s budget crisis either. Staff and faculty, across the board, are being forced to take a 10 percent pay cut through two furlough days each month. “This has never

“This has never happened before—it’s a historic event.”

Lynn Jaschke

happened before—it’s a historic event,” says Jaschke.

The lock and chain upon CSU’s new enrollment policies are a part of an overall strategy to

address their multi-million dollar budget cut by cutting down on enrollment numbers. Jeri Echeverria, executive vice chancellor and chief academic officer for CSU Fresno, said that no applications will be accepted for undergraduate, transfer, or graduate students for spring terms of 2010.

Jaschke added that this policy extends into the 2011 spring

term, but will not affect continuing students; moreover, students registered for the fall of 2009 and 2010 semesters may attend classes in their respective spring semesters.

Fortunately, however, transfer students are not completely out of luck in terms of application and enrollment—the key, according to Jaschke, is timeliness. Some proactive students were able to apply, register, and attend CSUF even this fall. Dalia Haitayan, a Fresno City College transfer student, was one of them. “I took the advice of my counselor and applied as soon as possible,” said Haitayan.

Typically, priority registration for CSU’s fall term is from Oct. 1 through Nov. 30. Now, however, is the only time that students may apply for the following year’s fall term. The catch is that no lower-division transfers -- students who do not have at least 60 transferable units—these being at least 30 semester units of

G.E. and all lower-division major requirements—completed will be accepted-.

Students may apply for CSUF online at www.csumentor.edu and are also encouraged to apply for the university’s scholarships at www.csufresno.edu/scholarships. The filing period for Fresno State scholarships is Oct. 1 through Feb. 28 for the following fall term. Additionally, students should submit their FAFSA to Fresno State no later than March 2 in order to be considered for financial aid.

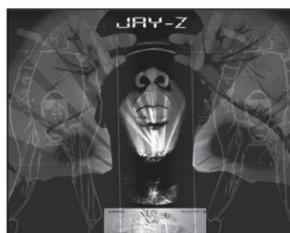
For more information regarding transfer opportunities, students may make appointments with a CSUF representative through FCC’s transfer center, which is located in the student services building in the counseling department.

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Jay-Z’s Blueprint

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The Happiest Places on Campus

by Kyle Calvert

Rampage Reporter

Are you new to Fresno City College and still do not have any real place to go between classes to relax or meet some new friends?

With the campus accommodating more students this semester than ever, it can take a while for things to slow down, and for a new student, finding one's niche is even more difficult. If you are still looking for that special place, don't worry or start planning your transfer just yet. Here is a list of places on campus where you can find some time to yourself, get comfortable, and relax or study.

First on the list is the Student Lounge, found north of the fountains in the Cafeteria building. It is the place you go to get your ID card, and it has plenty of comfortable seating and computers. There is room to stretch and lay down in the room, and it is pleasant enough to relax.

The building is air conditioned, but not to the point where one freezes if they stay there too long. It's calm enough to study, spacious enough to play some cards, and quiet enough to take a quick nap between classes. Overall, it's a nice place to be, with no real drawbacks aside from that the

computers are just about always in use.

Next up is the Pacific Café, endearingly referred to by some as Yoshinos. It is across from the Cafeteria, in the same building as the on-campus bookstore. The seating is comfortable enough, and the tables are just large enough to allow two people to do their home-



Photos by Jeremiah Henry

may be vulnerable to the elements out there, but it is a peaceful, comfortable place.

Last but not least is the Library and Media Center, which borders the fountains and the south quad. The place is huge, and it seems to hover at 75 degrees no matter what time it is. There's always plenty of seating and reading material, and it is definitely peaceful enough to get some much-needed rest.

The chairs are a little uncomfortable, but no more so than those in

most classrooms. What makes the library stand out is the incredible silence. It is nice, but quiet in that eerie, awkward, restricted kind of way. Regardless, it is a great place to unwind, and there is no lack of things to do there.

There are many other hidden comfortable nooks and places around campus; all you need to do is be creative and find your own little corner. One of these days, take the time to explore the FCC campus a little and get around to some of the off-the-beaten-path areas that allow some freedom. You might be pleasantly surprised by what you find.





Rampage

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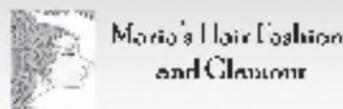
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work or study. Air conditioning is always on, and extended stays might warrant a second layer of clothing because of how cool it gets. The heater turns on in the winter, which is rather comfortable. In the first couple of months, it's a bit loud because it is always busy, but that is to be expected; it is a restaurant, and students usually go there to eat. It is a nice place with a decent enough menu if the seating is available, but don't expect to fall asleep there anytime soon.

A bit of a hidden favorite is the Theatre Quad, located outside the Music/Theatre Arts building. Although it is still a bit warm to be outdoors, almost the entire quad is blanketed in shade from nearby trees. The firm stone seating around the theatre building is surprisingly comfortable. Remarkably, it is quieter than the student lounge, because there are fewer people at the theatre quad at any given time, and there is more space around. You

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FCC Scholarships

Not only for the academic elite

by Jeremiah Henry
Rampage Reporter

There is a misconception among many students that scholarships are only for gifted athletes and academic stars. While it is true that there are specific scholarships tailored for those individuals, a large number of scholarships are geared toward students who carry a modest GPA. When it comes to free money for pursuing one's educational goals, every student should investigate. Here's the best part—there are free resources on campus to help students apply for and obtain free money.

Lorraine Rivas, second-year a social working major and one among scores of students, was honored on Aug. 21, 2009, at Fresno City College's scholarship awards banquet. She received not one, but three scholarships that evening, a "single parent" scholarship and the "Fresno Hispanic Scholarship Foundation" scholarship among them. Rivas said that applying was not difficult, only having to write a personal statement essay and to submit it online. In her third semester at FCC after a two year break from high school, Rivas shows that not only freshmen are eligible for scholarships.

"Anyone can apply for FCC scholarships, from incoming freshmen to second-year students—if you will be attending FCC in the coming fall or spring terms," says Cathie Johnson, Scholarship Coordinator at Fresno City College. Scholarships range in criteria, depending on the donating foundation, and GPA requirements range from 2.5 to 3.8. Johnson added that students applying for scholarships in Jan. should expect their fall GPA to count. "We evaluate students' cumulative GPA as of the end of the last fall term," she said.

In terms of what students are typically allowed to spend their scholarship awards on, John-

son says that these awards are for educational expenses such as tuition and fees, books, supplies, transportation, and living expenses—although some donors may have more restrictive limits. "I will be using my scholarship money to help pay for housing costs, books, supplies, and food," Rivas said.

There are several steps required in applying for FCC scholarships, not the least of which is the personal statement essay portion. Tabitha Villalba, coordinator for the Tutorial Center's Writing and Reading Center, stated that, while tutors do not line-edit any papers, "writing tutors are available for help with brainstorming, organizing, and can even help with proofreading." Villalba also holds workshops on how to write a winning scholarship essay. "Students are encouraged to have a second pair of eyes—our tutors—help them revise a paper that can be difficult to do alone," she said. She added that these free services are typically not taken advantage of.

The other requirements for scholarship application are slightly less daunting. For high school seniors, a GPA verification form must be submitted to the FCC scholarship office. For college students, all transcripts from all attended colleges must be on file with and evaluated by the FCC records department. Additionally, two electronic recommendations must be submitted online by individual references.

While it may seem like a lot of work, there are additional resources available to help point students in the right direction, many of which can be found under "current students > scholarship opportunities" at www.fresnocitycollege.edu. The application period for the 2010 academic year is Jan. 1 through March 2, 2010.

"Anyone can apply for FCC scholarships, from incoming freshmen to second-year student."

- Cathie Johnson

Healthcare reform brought to forefront

cont from page 1

Rampage on Aug. 31, 2009 of 189 students who attend evening classes at Fresno City College showed a general concern about the present health care system. While 68 percent reported they have health insurance, a vast majority of them agreed with the statement, "Everyone needs insurance" and "Everyone deserves health care, regardless of whether they can afford it or not."

Participants of this survey are older than the students who attend classes during the day and are therefore more likely to be employed full-time and in jobs that provide health insurance.

54 percent of the students surveyed are between the ages of 17 and 24 are enrolled in seven to 12 units this fall. Of the respondents who have health insurance, 63 percent stated that they receive their coverage either through their parents or spouse. 34 percent obtain coverage through work.

40 percent of those surveyed work full-time; 26 percent work part-time, and 26 percent are unemployed. Rising costs, lack of funding for coverage and the fact that millions of people get turned away every day are by far the biggest issues at hand. These problems affect not just people across the country but also those who reside in the Central California communities.

According to a 2003 research on Fresno County's un-

insured funded by grants from the California Wellness Foundation and the California Endowment, 17 percent are uninsured; 31 percent are covered by Medi-Cal; 2.6 percent are covered by Healthy Families, and 2.6 percent use County health programs. In other words, a whopping 53.2 percent are either uninsured or dependent on government programs.

President Barack

Obama has realized the need for reform in the health care industry by making it the centerpiece of his 2008 presidential campaign. The current nationwide debate on the subject pits proponents of a government-run insurance against those who prefer no government involvement. In hopes of getting United States citizens on board with his plan for solving the insurance issues, Obama is taking his plea straight to the U.S. citizens in a speech before the Joint Sessions of the United States Congress on Wednesday.

The president's goal, according to information on his website, includes finding a "cure for the 'sick' health insurance industry, reforming the health care system, promoting scientific and technological advancements, and improving preventative care."

The Obama administration has centralized its ideas on comprehensive health care and argues that it should, among other things, "protect families from bankruptcy or debt because of health care costs", "guarantee choice of doctors and health plans", "maintain coverage when you change or lose your job", and above all "assure affordable, quality health coverage for all Americans." (http://www.whitehouse.gov/issues/health_care)

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the national unemployment rate is at 9.7 percent, a 13-year high, and a mas-

concerned that the cost of their own health care would eventu-

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"30.5 million people without a job and who knows how many more without health insurance."

ively go up if the government DID NOT create a system of providing health care for all Americans. But in another finding, 77 percent said they were concerned that the cost of health care would go up if the government DID create such a system."

Similar concerns were expressed by FCC students surveyed, but the prevailing reaction is that even though 68 percent of them do have insurance, the idea of living with status quo is unacceptable.

"Everybody must have health coverage. We are not a third world country," one student said about the need for health care reform. The frustration over health care is obvious and most students understand that people are in need of help.

For Janet Brown, the reform cannot come soon enough. She is counting the days and holding her breath and praying for a miracle. She said, "I might be so sick to where I can't go to school if I can't pay my bills."

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the national unemployment rate is at 9.7 percent, a 13-year high, and a mas-

sive five percent increase over the last 10 years. That leaves almost 30.5 million people without a job and who knows how many more without health insurance.

An NPR program "All Things Considered" captures America's ambivalence about healthcare reform. According to information obtained from the program's website, "75 percent of respondents [New York Times/CBS News poll] said they were



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Budgeting Tips

by Laura Solis

Rampage Reporter

With all the budget cuts, and slumping economy, many students are struggling to meet their basic financial needs. In addition to affording rent and commuting costs, many Fresno City College students say that textbooks are out of reach this semester.

"Now that school started, I've been struggling to buy books and to manage my money," said Maiblia Vang, second year pharmacy student. Vang is not alone, but experts say that students who are resourceful with their money can stretch it to meet their needs.

Here are some tips that will help you learn how to manage your money better and help your wallet in the process.

1. HOW MUCH DO YOU OWE?

To save money, you must know what your debts are. For example, if you owe \$2,000 on your car, you can start by eliminating that debt. If you are giving the minimum amount of money required on your payments, try to accelerate the process and pay more than the minimum requires. Be careful, any agencies will take that extra money and use it towards interest. You have to send a separate check specifically stating that it is toward your principal. This can work for any kind of loans or credit cards.

2. HOW MUCH ARE YOU SPENDING EACH DAY?

Keep a daily list of how much money you are spending. How many times have you asked yourself "What did I spend my money on?" If you keep a record on paper, other than on your mind, it will help you keep track of how much you are spending and what you are spending it on. This will help you become aware of how much money you are spending on unnecessary things. You will then see that buying a brownie at the cafeteria everyday is not such a great idea if you are spending \$10.50 on it weekly. Add all your expenses and calculate how much money you are spending weekly, or monthly. This takes us to our next step:

3. CAN YOU REDUCE YOUR EXPENSES?

Figure out how you can reduce your expenses. You can stop buying brownies everyday, or maybe even bring your own home made brownies and save yourself money. See what your long term expenses are and which of those you can live without. Buying school supplies, like books, is very expensive and is a necessity. One way to save money on text

books is to buy them used, they contain the same material and they are way cheaper than new ones. You can also buy books online, and have some extra money that you can use for gas. If you can cut down on little things, like these it will make a big financial difference in the long run.

4. DO YOU HAVE A BUDGET?

Budget your money. Once you have figured out on what things you can cut down on, try to make a budget for each week, or even monthly. You can make a list of the essential things you need in order to survive and how much you are going to spend on them. If your budget is less than your income, you have some money left over that you can save by putting it into a long term bank account, which you can only take out once a month, or simply start by opening any bank account. If you follow these steps, you will be on the road to saving a great deal of money. Soon, you will realize that you are able to afford what is really important like textbooks. After a couple of years of saving money, you can even start investing on greater things, and maybe make a big profit from it. You can become very wealthy if you learn how to manage your money now, before it is too late.



6 Ways to Have Fun and Look Good Without Going Broke!

by Laura Solis

Rampage Reporter

Do you feel like you have been working hard recently, yet still find yourself short on cash? Have you been unable to treat yourself with the luxuries of life or unable to start dating because of the recent recession? What about having fun with your friends? Help is here. Below are ways to look and feel like a million dollars on a tight budget.

1-Hair Cuts

Studio 201 is offering Happy Hour Hair Cuts and cutting prices in half from Tuesdays to Fridays, from 10:00a.m. to 12:00 noon. For men, a combination of services, including shampoo, cut, and style which is regularly priced at \$18.00 costs only \$9.00. Women's cuts (includes shampoo, cut and blow dry) regularly

priced at \$30.00 is just \$15.00. You can set up your Happy Hour Hair Cut appointment by calling Jenn at (559) 999-4233.

2-Massage

Are you looking for a stress reliever without paying the price? At AAA Relaxing Station, you can get a 40 minute foot massage or body massage for just \$19.00. Call AAA at (559) 437-9413 to schedule an appointment today.

3-Nails

Make your nails and toes look great with these back-to school nail deals! Head 2 Toe salon in Hanford has a great offer for the popular Rock Star Toes and Pink and White nails. The three options for your toes include any one glitter out of the 200+ glitter colors for just \$20, any of the pre-mixed colors for \$15, and the Rock Star gel and for only \$10!

If you don't want to travel to Hanford to get your nails done, just gather up five or more friends and host your own Rock Star Toe Party with all of your girlfriends, and Sylvia, the manicurist will come to you. Rock Star Toes are perfect for any age and for any occasion

A full set of Pink and White nails are only \$20 for students during the back-to-school special. For more details about hosting a party or setting up an appointment, call Sylvia at (559) 259-5401.

4-Clubs

Bliss Night Club is holding Beach Party on Thursdays and anyone with a current college ID gets in FREE. The club has a very relaxed dress code and allows flip-flops, tank tops and shorts. Also, there are weekly drawings to win a free VIP room with bottle service, as well as weekly prizes and giveaways.

Q97 is teaming up with Aldo's to say "Aloha to Summer" to party it up once more before summer ends. Students with college ID will get in free before 10:30pm or they can log onto Q97.

com to sign up to become part of the Q97 VIP, and you will receive a text on Tuesday which gets you in FREE. Try to win the hula contest and get a couple of Island Water Park Passes.

5-Sports

Looking to go on a unique date but don't know where to go? The Fresno Grizzlies baseball team has tons of great offers and promotions! Even if you aren't a baseball fan, the promotions make the game worthwhile. They have great offers such as FREE all-you-

can-eat ice cream night, \$.25 hot dog nights, as well as all-you-can-eat-and-drink-packages for as low as \$15 per person. Plus, if you are planning on a second date with that special someone, you can buy a packaged deal which includes "2 Field Level Reserve tickets, 2 hot dogs, 2 sodas, 2 Wild Water Adventure Park passes, and 2 Blackbeard's mini golf passes, all for just \$22." Check out FresnoGrizzlies.com in the "Promotions" section for see all the promotions going on now.

6-Food

Mimi's Café offers a great variety of classy and elegant food selections, including fish, chicken, and fresh salads and the meal sizes are not "just-the-right-size," they are huge! For the low price that you will pay, this deal cannot be beat when you find yourself taking a doggy bag with you when you leave. Check out Mimi'sCafe.com in the "Promotions" section to print out a free dessert ticket which is good until August 14.

Applebee's offers a great meal deal for any pair. With Applebee's two for \$20, this value is hard to beat. The deal includes one appetizer for two to share and two entrée plates. The entrée plates offer a variety of choices including a 7oz House Sirloin, Fire Pit Bacon Burger, and a Three-Cheese Chicken Penne pasta. If you still have room after dinner, finish the meal with one of Applebee's Dessert Shooters.

Senate Notes

by Mark Smith
Rampage Reporter

On August 26, the Fresno City College Academic Senate met for the first of its biweekly meetings. Here are a few of the key issues that were discussed:

-Fresno City College's Centennial Preparations are underway. Among the list of currently planned activities are a Centennial Ball, and an auction. The auction is currently looking for items to put up for bid. Please contact

-Swine flu (H1N1) concerns were raised. Students and staff were encouraged to participate in regular hand washing, covering mouths when coughing or sneezing, and other flu prevention measures. A special memo will be sent out regarding the issue.

-The tutorial Center has cut a lot of their staff due to a large budget cut, and will now be closed on Fridays and Saturdays. It will also be closed at 3 on Thursdays. Students are told to expect longer wait times when at the tutorial center.

-There will be no four week summer classes offered this summer. Please prepare for the change.

-A partnership was proposed between Fresno City College and the African American Museum to offer classes at the museum and other services. The partnership would cost \$96,000. Subsequently, the academic senate voted down the proposal due to a lack of funds during the current economic recession.

The Academic Senate meets every other Wednesday in the staff dining hall inside the cafeteria. The Senate offers a time for open forum where all comers are welcome to bring proposals and concerns. If you have a serious concern or idea, feel free to join the Senate and let your voice be heard.

Continued from page 1 Dr. Azari

needed to cut or reduce its budget. However, Fresno City College is at 101.2 percent capacity which causes issues when it comes to cut backs.

Azari said that the budget reduction has affected many programs on campus, including the services provided by the tutorial center and the library. Food has also been cut out of a lot of social events. Every program took a hit from the cuts, Azari explained. About how the determination was made, the president said it was easiest for the administration to reduce a bit from each program instead of just dropping a particular program.

Both the tutorial center and the library cut back on hours on Fridays due to the lack of student utilization. Azari also mentioned that if the tutorial center shows a higher demand by students, there is a possibility that more funds can be added to the program. But that means another program will lose some money, Azari said.

Azari also touched on the H1N1 controversy, explaining that faculty and staff have all been taught how to recognize the signs and have been told to tell students showing symptoms to stay away from class. There will be vaccines available in the health center in due time. Notices will be posted on when they will be offered.

On why students should choose FCC out of all their choices, Azari explained that the college's greatest draw is accessibility and affordability. Online classes and multiple campuses allow for students to accommodate to their needs without any hesitation. Community colleges let students take advantage of the opportunity to "explore and experiment" with different classes and extracur-

ricular activities. The president's advice to students include learning as much as possible, keeping up on attendance, studying hard, seeking help the second it is needed, and taking responsibility for their education.

To a reporter's question about transfer students who, with the recent budget cuts, are finding it harder to be able to get into Fresno State, Azari recommends that students who are ready to transfer should speak to counselors and look at other four-year colleges.

Campus safety is an issue on many campuses and raises concerns at FCC as well. Azari recommends that all students be "aware of their surroundings" at all times, using the buddy system, especially during night classes. She cautions students to watch out for their valuables and to contact campus police, if needed.

On parking, Azari pointed out some incredible stats regarding student enrollment. There are only 3,000 parking spots for over 24,000 students. From 10 am to 11 am, there are nearly 13,000 students on campus at once. Parking is going to continue being a problem, and Azari offered some solutions for the dilemma, including carpooling, public transportation, and park and rides.

Azari said she has a great deal of pride for the FCC campus and its great involvement with the community. She said that the college is well respected in the local area and mostly because of student accomplishments.

FCC is the second largest community college campus in the nation and Azari said she wants the school to receive the national recognition it deserves. And with the college's centennial on the horizon, there is much to be celebrated at FCC. A New Year's Eve celebration is already in the works as well as many other events throughout the 2010 year.

Ask Dr. Azari

by Ramiro Gudino
Rampage Reporter

How has the economy affected enrollment?

We are at 101.5 percent capacity. The economy has resulted in lots of layoffs; Fresno's unemployment rate is about 15 percent. People that have been laid off are coming back to school to gain additional skills and to find other opportunities and avenues for employment. Also, the CSUs have cut back significantly. They are not accepting transfer students in January and are limiting class sizes for next year, so we are getting more and more students. Even with our budget cuts, we have more students than we did last year.

How are budget cuts determined? What programs will be affected the most?

We had a \$72 million budget and when we had to make the cuts, we started looking at auxiliary functions. You will see that when we have events, we do not offer food anymore. We cut back on library hours. That was hard, but through a utilization study, we saw that many students did not come on Fridays, so we are closing early Friday afternoon. We cut back a little bit everywhere.

We had to cut 2.5 percent from our general fund. The programs that really were cut were the categorical programs: DSP&S, EOPS, and C.A.R.E., matriculation. Those programs were cut anywhere from 32 percent to 62 percent. For example, the matriculation program, which is our outreach program, was cut 32 percent. Legislative action really dictated the cuts.

What is the college doing in regards to the N1H1 virus?

We sent out notification through the health center telling people, "Here's what you need to know." You can get it from coughing, sneezing, even from singing, which I thought was interesting. We are encouraging people to continue to wash their hands. I got a report saying that we are using more paper towels, which is depleting that budget, but it should be because we are encouraging people to wash their hands more often. We will have vaccines available in the health center.

[Ask Azari is regular feature in the Rampage. While our staff had many questions for Azari, we want to know your questions for her. Send your questions to RAMPAGE-EDITOR@FRESNOCITYCOLLEGE.EDU]

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Be the 1st 2 Know

by Krystal Diaz

Rampage Reporter

Do you want to get a simple text message notifying you, when not to come to school? Well, all you have to do is join Fresno City College's 1st 2 know program and you will receive information of emergencies on the FCC campus.

It is easy to join 1st 2 know. All you have to do is go online to the web advisor and click on 1st 2 know. Then, just type in your first and last name, your phone company and your cell phone number. From there on, first to know is authorized to send you a text message providing you information on a variety of emergencies including someone bringing a weapon on campus, a blackout, an accident, and other important news for your own safety. The goal of the program is to ensure your safety and save you an unnecessary trip to the campus.

Safety is the word that FCC is concerned about, to guarantee the safety of all on campus. The 1st 2 know emergency alert response program will hopefully save a lives.

But not many students are aware of this feature. Julissa Ozuna, a second year student said, "I don't even know what that is." A third year student, Veronica Barrera had said, "I never joined, but I have seen posters around campus."

For the safety of this campus and having the opportunity on having such a great program

to send students useful information for their safety there should be no reason why so many should not know about 1st 2 know.

The administration should encourage students to sign up and let them know that this is serious. If there was to be a dramatic incident to happen at Fresno City and a student who was never informed about this program, that can increase his or her safety privileges, there can be a chance were his or her life could be in danger.

To make students be more motivated the administration should reach out to the students by putting up flyers and teachers talking about it in classrooms and informing them that they should think twice on just passing it up and thinking nothing would happen to them anyways. Like student Omar Cazares third year student had said, "Yes I had signed up for 1st 2 know, because one of my teachers were explaining it in class and he said they can tell you if school is canceled for the day, as soon as I heard school could be canceled I signed up right away!"

It really doesn't matter which way you explain it to someone, but as long you are reaching out and trying to get their attention and letting them know that it can happen to you or anyone else. To prevent that from happening you should actually try buy just going online and filling out three easy steps on continuing on living, maybe another day.

Tattoos gain wider acceptance

by Ivory Hall and Reonna Zakar

Rampage Reporters

If you want to spice up your life, get a tattoo or body piercing. Easily America's favorite accessories, tattoos and piercings can be done at almost at any tattoo shop.

Not always respected, in the last decade, tattoos and piercings have worked their way into mainstream America. Life magazine estimated that in 1936 only 10 million Americans, approximately 6% of the population, had one or more tattoos. A 2003 Harris Poll, nearly triples those numbers and estimates that 16% of Americans now have at least one tattoo.

A 2003 Harris poll estimated that 36 percent of Americans between the ages of 25 to 29 have one or more tattoos. Another study found that 24% of 18 to 50-year olds are tattooed and 36% of those aged 18 to 29 are tattooed.

According to information on vanishingtattoo.com, "16% of all adults have at least one tattoo. The highest incidence of tattoos was found among the gay, lesbian and bisexual population (31%) and among Americans ages 25 to 29 years, (36%) and 30 to 39 years (28%). Regionally, people living in the West (20%) are more likely to have tattoos."

Why would anyone get tattoos?

A large percentage of peo-

ple with tattoos say it makes them feel sexy. Others say it makes them feel rebellious. A number of Fresno City College students interviewed say their tattoos mean something to them. Some people said they got tattoos because they were bored; others say they got

tattoos and piercings to show they are not scared of what other think of them. Some get tattoos or piercings because it is a part of their culture.

Tattoos and piercings are affordable and easily within most budgets.



Asphalt Aggravation

Parking problems continue to plague FCC

by Sarah Whitman

Rampage Reporter

Fresno City College's parking story is about long lines, frustration, and frenzy every year. This fall is no different, according

handicapped spaces without the proper tag, will receive a fine and their cars will be towed.

If you are a student, parking in staff-designated lots before 5:00 pm will earn you a fine. Be careful when parking in restaurant parking

far as allowed. The call to build a parking structure by many on the FCC campus will not be on the budget anytime soon. Instead, the college leaders are proposing closing the main roadway around the FCC campus and providing entrance to the parking lots from the main street. The roadway would be open only to maintenance crews and others as needed.

Also, residential parking permits are available through the City of Fresno; similarly, any tickets received for parking in residential areas must be paid to the City.

Gaines said that money from the tickets goes to improving lots and roadways. The campus police department employs students who then issue citations as necessary. The budget cuts have affected the campus police department in general; they are not able to employ as many students to issue citations, resulting in a drop in the number of citations given.

Ticket prices are set by the district police who pride themselves for having the lowest ticket fees around. Ticket prices are not expected to go up anytime soon, Gaines said. Disabled placards are obtained through the DMV not the school; however the disabled student services does issue placards to students with valid medical condition (for campus use only.)



Photos of FCC parking by Jeremiah

People who have received a citation in error should contact the campus police department to request a citation protest form

Reasons for voiding a citation may include: if the citation was made because of an administration error. The office made an error; a new vendor did not receive accurate facts, your permit was stolen and a report was filed. A refund may also result if parking was relaxed at the time; the driver

is a guest of the college and was given the wrong information.

Gaines said that anyone found with a stolen permit is subject to arrest and their vehicle impounded. The speed limit is 10mph in parking lots and 15mph on college streets. Failure to adhere to the parking guidelines can result in being barred from the campus at the discretion of college administration.



to a spokesperson for State Center Community College police. Unable to find parking, FCC students and staff are parking their cars illegally No Parking, handicapped zones and even in neighborhoods around the college.

If you are such a driver, be prepared to pay hefty fines in costly parking tickets to the State Center Community College District police department.

The problem, all readily admit, is the limited parking space on the FCC campus. Dr. Cynthia Azari, president of FCC, said in a recent interview with the Rampage staff that there are only 3,000 parking spots on the FCC campus compared to more than 24,000 students presently enrolled, plus faculty and staff.

Still, Lieutenant Richard Gaines of the campus police department said that anyone who parks in the No-Parking zone or even leaves a car unattended will receive a ticket. Likewise, those parking in front of the library, in the turn-off points in front of some FCC buildings or in the

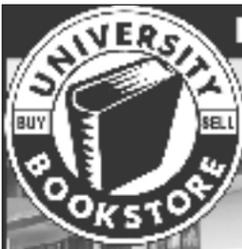
lots; you might find your car has been towed. For the first couple of weeks, staff is able to park on the grass lots on the corner of College and Weldon.

Vehicle parking permits can be obtained through the business office during normal hours at a fee of \$17 per semester and a fee of \$8 in the summer. These prices are reasonable compared to the cost of parking at other local colleges.

Most ticket prices for parking violations are \$16 with the exception of a few, including an altered or unauthorized parking permit which costs \$25, parking in spaces for handicapped (blue signs) costs \$250, and distributing handbills without authorization costs \$50. An average of 200 to 300 tickets is given out on the FCC campus each day. All fines must be paid at the campus police department.

Lieutenant Gaines also said that every year, Fresno City College evaluates the parking situation, repaves the lots and adds extra parking spots, if necessary. Parking lots are expanded as

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Inexpensive ways to enjoy Fresno's finest



Photo Illustration by Rampage staff

From entertainment to education Fresno offers a variety of different attractions

by Marissa Villanueva
Rampage Reporter

Attention! Calling all college students who wish to still have fun while being enrolled in school! There is still hope for everyone who is being affected by the economic downturn to experience entertainment that is enjoyable, educational but most of all affordable.

Many people are finding their fun in Fresno's Downtown Art shows, Tower District, and the River Park scene but the newest hit thing to do is go to the \$3 movies in Clovis. No matter what it is Fresno City students can still make time to ease the stress of school and be part of and enjoy Fresno entertainment.

It doesn't matter who you are, your economic status, gender or ethnicity there is something just for you. Downtown has various different venues that are for those who love art, history, vintage and crafts. The Fresno Metropolitan Museum reopened their doors after a renovation to the public.

Families are coming together to experience the historical artifacts and crafts for the whole family. Many parents like the fact that they get to spend time with each other and their children while learning but most of all having fun and creating memories.

But, it's not just the families that are experiencing the wonders and appreciation of history, culture and art in downtown Fresno. There are people who are taking a look at the heritage and crafts that are on display at Fresno's Arte Americas, a Mexican Art gallery on Calaveras and Van Ness just catty corner from the Met.

They have months where they display art from local schools, it is a wonderful way for people to come into contact with works from local artist and it gives them a

chance to get support from their very own community.

Not many people realize that by just choosing to visit a local Museum that they too are being part of history in the making. Like the first Thursday of every month Art Hop is in the works, all throughout downtown Fresno and Tower District you will see signs directing you to tons of Art galleries and the admission is Free!

There is so much to learn all throughout downtown Fresno and it's in reaching distance from school. Art and culture may not be your forte and first choice of how you spend your weekend. You may be the one who likes to party and experience a good time having drinks with friends, dancing and listening to local bands.

The Tower District is just at the breach of downtown. Just within a few blocks you see clubs, vintage shops, diners, clothing stores and even some uncommon shops. It's very much more alive at night and on the weekends.

During those times there is a place in Tower District that is called Starline. An all age club spot that have different themes throughout the week that give everyone a chance to experience new things.

The range of themes fluctuate from salsa night, comedy night, open mic and gay night. You can also dance and enjoy some live music from local bands and get to know new people with an estimated price of \$4-\$8.

It is a unique thing to do on the weekends with friends. Just to give a chance to new things and open yourself up for interest in other things causes you to expand yourself as an individual.

If you're the type of person who likes theatre, film and watching live performances then the most distinctive symbol of the Tower District is the Tower Theatre a true historic theatre in California will be just the place for you. A real treat is in store for this

season's line up of performances.

Rap artists, comedy and parody shows, an Elvis impersonator, Showings of films from the Fresno film works organization and the Moscow's ballet performing *The Nutcracker* are just a few of the many upcoming events happening at the Tower Theatre.

But the new thing on the block is the \$3 dollar movies in our neighbor city Clovis. A smaller theatre with fewer attractions than Edwards and Signature but it is a smaller theatre that plays the same movies as the main theatres but for \$3!

They can't keep their good deals

a secret; the lines are growing more and more because people are hearing about a way they can view the newest movies for much cheaper.

So grab \$3 dollars maybe even a little extra for popcorn and kick back and enjoy the show. It doesn't matter where you go, you can always find something new to do for a good price if you are just willing to take a little time to venture out and find one.

When you do, the discovery of new interests and wisdom will help develop you into a person that is full of knowledge and appreciation of Fresno's fun while saving money and attending College.

Top 5 hot spots to visit in Fresno

- The Metropolitan Museum

\$7 students (with valid Id)

\$7 seniors

\$5 Children (ages 3-12)

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Phone (559) 441-1444

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- Tower Theatre



All photos courtesy of Eidos Games

Batman: Arkham Asylum scores a perfect 10.

by Kyle Calvert
Rampage Reporter

For years, fans of the caped crusader have been waiting for a great Batman game to come out. Tremendous failures like *Batman: Vengeance* and *Rise of Sin Tzu* have kept their expectations low, but hope has remained that one day, some developer would create something worthy of Bat-fan devotion.

That day has come, and the game is *Batman: Arkham Asylum*, courtesy of publisher Eidos Interactive and developer Rocksteady Studios. It's an incredible title whether you're a Batman fan or not. Here are several reasons why.

The setup. The key feature to *Arkham* is the mixture of combat and stealth. The game's "Freeflow" fighting style allows Batman to jump seamlessly from one enemy to another, and the variations of "Takedowns" you can perform make full use of the environment, knocking out an enemy with a single, targeted strike.

Keeping your combo is critical while using the freeflow fighting, and remaining hidden while systematically knocking out targets is crucial to the stealth gameplay. The variations in the combat and upgradeable skills and gadgets keep the combat refreshing throughout.

Plot points. Whereas in the past, Batman games were based on cartoons or

movies, *Arkham Asylum* is based off of the comic's continuity, and was written by longtime comic author Paul Dini.

Dini was also a writer for many episodes of animated series featuring comic book characters, especially Batman, and his writing is almost always spectacular.

Arkham's plot centers on Joker's plan to create a super-powered army to destroy Batman and Gotham City, which has Batman trapped within the confines of the asylum he's been supplying with psychos for years.

Stellar voice acting. Christian Bale's raspy 'desperately-needs-a-cough-drop' voice doesn't represent Batman so well. It's just not clear, concise, or intimidating enough.

To me, there's only one man who can voice the Dark Knight the way he's represented in comics, and that man is Kevin Conroy (the voice actor of Batman/Bruce Wayne in the 90's animated series.) Conroy's return to the voice of Batman in *Arkham* is almost a selling point on its own.

To go with it, Mark Hamill reprises his role as Joker (yes, Luke Skywalker has been Joker this whole time.) The rest of the voice acting is great, and fits the characters better than I thought it would, especially in the cases of Bane and The Riddler.

Graphics and audio don't make a game, but they definitely help, and while a lot of the game is spent in vibrant shades of blue with Detective Mode, the attention to detail is spectacular.

Even on my crappy TV, the game showed up gorgeously. Every punch, kick, gadget, blueprint and every last nook and cranny in the environment shows up in glorious vivid, gritty detail and the game's soundtrack is better than that of most movies. It seems that no expense was spared in making this game great.

Atmosphere. Stealth and horror games struggle to get this part right, but *Arkham* hit it right on the nose, which is good because there's plenty of elements of both the aforementioned genres mixed in with all the action – and it works.

Especially in the cases of Killer Croc and Scarecrow (oh lord, Scarecrow was done well) the atmosphere of the game is set up perfectly. On that note...

Scarecrow. A game has never freaked me out as much as *Arkham Asylum* did with Scarecrow. That's no small feat, either. There are a number of spine-chilling moments to it.

Get creative with the beatings. In *Batman Begins* and *The Dark Knight*, Batman has a definite flair to his fighting – he can take out an entire room of people before they ever know he's there, or work his way through a crowd.

Arkham Asylum allows you the same courtesy. The player can use stealth and gadgets to take out a room of thugs with guns, or take on an entire group of henchmen just as proficiently as one-on-one combat.

There are also a number of achievements that deal with being innovative with

your ass-kicking, and it's definitely refreshing to beat up a thug and then hang him upside down from a gargoyle.

Overall play value. I beat this game in a weekend, and my eyes are paying the price for it, but it was time well spent. With a slew of truly difficult Challenge Maps to unlock and hundreds (yes, hundreds) of Riddler secrets littering the huge island, this will get added to many a gamer's list of must-buy titles.

The story is compelling, the gameplay is rewarding, the enemies are sometimes just begging for you to hurt them (there's a room where about 20 henchmen are standing in line wearing silly hats; it's so fun to place plastic explosive on the floor to knock them all down at once) and the feeling of hunting criminals from the shadows is far too great to describe accurately.

The game is one of the best of the year, and easily the best Batman game to date. In the same way that Christopher Nolan's movies were a revolution for Batman in film, *Arkham Asylum* is the revolution for Batman in gaming.

It was made for fans, by people who know exactly what the fans wanted, and even if you're not all that into Batman you can still find something you love about gaming in *Arkham*. This game is just that great. It's not the next Messiah of video games, but it's definitely close to it.

Batman: Arkham Asylum is \$60 for the Xbox 360 and PS3, with the PC version due for release in mid-September.



Jay-Z's "blueprint" for new album

by David Malagon
Rampage Reporter

Shawn Carter better known by his stage name Jay-Z; returns with his eleventh studio album, "The Blueprint 3." Due to be released in the United States on Sept. 11, 2009.

The Blueprint 3 is the third installment in a collection that got started on Sept. 11, 2001. From snares, experimental drum patterns, flow arrangement and manipulation of various sounds and instruments, Jay-Z along with his producers offer only the best in The Blueprint collection.

"The Blueprint 3" CD consists of 15 tracks and is produced by Jay-Z himself, with additional production efforts from Kanye West, No I.D., Al Shux, The Inkredibles, Timbaland, Swizz Beats and The Neptunes.

Features include Kanye West, Rihanna, Alicia Keys, Young Jeezy, Drake, J. Cole, Kid Cudi, Pharrell, Mr. Hudson and Luke Steele. The album's running time is approximately 60 minutes.

Jay-Z's Blueprint collection continues to make a statement and serves as a reminder of what 9/11 represents to most Americans -- one of the most horrific and traumatic tragedies to have ever occurred on American soil.

Jay-Z along with New York State Governor David A. Patterson and Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta announced that a benefit concert will take place at Madison Square Garden on Sept. 11 to honor the victims and raise awareness of the heroic efforts of those who lost their lives to save others on that day eight years ago.

It is only a matter of days before one of the most anticipated hip hop albums of 2009 hits stores nationwide; Jay-Z has very high

expectations to live up to. Since his first studio album "Reasonable Doubt" which was released in 1996, the artist has had 10 consecutive number one albums.

Jay-Z very proudly recognizes his musical accomplishments in the song "Thank You" from the Blueprint 3. "How am I a legend? I just got 10 number ones albums, maybe now eleven," he said.

The official first single from "The Blueprint 3" is a song entitled "D.O.A. (Death of Auto-Tune)" which was released June 5, 2009. The single caught such a big buzz in the hip hop community; it was more than a song; it was a campaign.

Auto-tune has become so common in hip hop and R&B music, many mainstream hip hop artists including fellow rapper and producer Kanye West used the phase "vocoder" for a majority of his most recent album "808's & Heartbreak".

Much more than a number, "D.O.A." made a statement that would in return result in many rappers and R&B artists to stop using auto-tune.

The second official single from the album is a collaboration with rapper Kanye West and R&B singer Rihanna, a song entitled "Run This Town" which was released July 24, 2009. The song along with "D.O.A." was also produced by Kanye West.

The single is also Jay-Z's first top five songs on Billboard Hot 100 since "Show Me What You Got" was released in 2006.

Though "D.O.A." appealed to true hip hop fans and made its mark in hip hop history, "Run This Town" Reclaimed Jay-Z's spot as a commercial icon who never fails to make music that captures. "D.O.A." is more for the streets; on the contrary, "Run This Town" was a radio success that prepared



Photo illustration by David Malagon

and made the way for "The Blueprint 3".

Jay-Z's Blueprint 3 will most definitely stand out from the rest of his work with its genius production and signature style sound that captures Jay-Z in a whole new way.

Many fans may expect Jay-Z's Blueprint 3 to sound like the other two albums, but to truly understand this album, one needs to first understand the meaning of the word blueprint.

Aside from his other albums, Jay-Z takes a chance to

experiment and create something fresh and timeless.

Reviews will be mixed because the album is so different from anything he has ever done before. In this album, just like the preceding Blueprint albums, Jay-Z lays out the direction in which he thinks music will go.

From track one to track fifteen I could honestly say that I was blown away by Jay-Z's creativity on each of the songs, more than ever I honestly feel that Jay-Z has grown as a musician in terms of wordplay, lyrical content

and overall style in this newest installment.

If you are a fan of hip hop music and enjoy experimental sounds and rugged street lingo mixed with undeniable passion then this album is for you.

According to Amazon.com, The Blueprint 3 can be preordered for \$9.99 and will be shipped on Sept. 8, 2009. If you are internet savy that would be the perfect way to go, if not make sure you go out and purchase a copy of "The Blueprint 3" on Sept. 11 at your local retail store.

Eurydice Reaches New Depths

by Ramiro Gudino
Rampage Reporter

While most classes ease into their expectations for the semester, Fresno City College Theatre Arts students are diving in, preparing for the Oct.

9 opening of *Eurydice*. Directed by Chuck Erven and featuring set designs by Matt Scarpino, this adaptation of the Greek mythology of *Orpheus and Eurydice* will be the first of three FCC productions this semester.

"The play we are doing is a contemporary take. It uses the original myth as a jumping off point for the story," says Erven. Written by Sarah Ruhl in 2003, *Eurydice* tells the story primarily from her perspective.

The original mythology tells the story of Orpheus, a gifted Greek musician, and his bride Eurydice. The tragedy begins when shortly after the two marry and Eurydice is bitten by a snake while crossing a meadow and dies.

Distraught, Orpheus travels into the underworld and performs a song filled with grief for the

ruler of the underworld, in hopes that Eurydice will come back to life. Moved by Orpheus's grief, the ruler of the underworld grants Orpheus' wish to return with Eurydice to the world of the living on the condition that he does not look upon Eurydice during the return trip.

Overcome with temptation, Orpheus looks back only to see Eurydice vanish back into the underworld. While some elements of the play follow the original mythology, Ruhl's interpretation introduces Eurydice's father to the story.

Reuniting the young woman with her dead father, the story takes on a slightly different feel as this additional element evolves as the original storyline continues in the background.

"It becomes a story about fathers and daughters; about the bond between fathers and daughters," explains Erven. "At the same time, while Orpheus was trying to get into the underworld, a developing relationship between a Eurydice and her father poses a problem.

Where are her loyalties? Where is her love? It becomes a coming of age struggle -- the love of a parent versus the love of a husband."

Ruhl enhances this coming of age story through contemporary updates of the original storyline. In Ruhl's version, Orpheus trades in his Greek lyre for an electric guitar, and Eurydice's snake-bite becomes a fall from an apartment balcony.

"It has elements of the Greek myth, the world of rock, contemporary fashion, and when you get to the under world, it has elements of Alice in wonderland," says Erven. "Do not be intimidated by the story's Greek Tragedy roots," said Erven.



Photo by Ramiro Gudino

Director Chuck Erven works with students to develop their characters.

Eurydice: Melissa Boeey
Father: Mike Harrison
Lord of the Underworld: Magnus Chan
Big Stone: Marcos Hammer
Little Stone: Bridget Manders
Loud Stone: Jochebed Smith

Orpheus: Jarod caitlin
Nasty Interesting Man: Jon Hillis
Undersudy for Little Stone: Rachel Hurudo
Understudy for Big Stone: Philip Voyles

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Are we being ruined by convenience?



Kimberly Hodges
Rampage Reporter

Communication in our society has become instantaneous. Information exchange happens with almost no time spent at all. The most personal way to communicate so quickly has been through text messages.

Texting is a breakthrough communication that only continues to grow. The U.S. Mobile Content Market estimated there are 68.7 million text message users who send over 75 billion text messages every month, according to www.cellsigns.com.

What brings on the desire for people in the U.S. to contact other mobile users billions of times per month, with no actual face-to-face communication occurring? One reason for people texting so much may simply be for entertainment purposes. Sending pictures and videos, receive ring tones, replying to a TV ad, or hey, voting for our next American Idol could fit into that category as well. Most people, though, send text messages for social interaction. One may want or need to contact coworkers, friends, family, or even teachers. Texting allows anybody anywhere to quickly contact someone else wherever they may be.

Although text messaging has proved to be an amazing communication tool, it definitely has its controversial issues. Most teachers in all schools

have enforced strict rules on classroom cell phone usage for students who can't seem to keep their thumbs on their books and not their phones.

As of January 1, 2009, drivers are not allowed to text message while behind the wheel of a car. One of the biggest issues that lead to this decision happened on September 12, 2008 near Los Angeles, CA. Metrolink train engineer Robert Sanchez was too busy typing a text message to stop his train at a signal. As a result, the train plowed into a Union Pacific freight train, killing 25 people, including Sanchez. This, along with other vehicle collision stories, made it obvious that texting was a serious distraction.

Text messaging is not only a problem while operating a vehicle or machinery. It can be distracting while you're simply just walking. "I've run into everything you can think of," says Davina Juarez, a student here at FCC. Other students as well admitted to running into poles, other people, planters, or even tripping over a crack in the sidewalk because they are too involved with what they are texting. ER doctors across the U.S. have treated text message users for injuries spanning from cuts and bruises to broken bones and sprains.

In terms of dating or making new friends, however, texting is said to be more of an icebreaker than a bone-breaker. "If you don't know the person, it's easier to text them first,"

says FCC student Dustin Anderton when asked if he was more likely to call or text someone new after receiving their phone number. Anderton also noted that after becoming involved with texting, he gained a noticeable amount of more friends.

But does a full list of contacts equal having a large amount of friends? It's possible, but more than likely, the majority of the list is merely "texting buddies". Some students admitted that if not for text messages, they probably wouldn't communicate at all with the majority of people they know or have listed in their phonebook.

Other students on campus said text messaging allows them to be more confident and comfortable with a conversation or subject than they would if they were to speak over the phone or in person. Most also agreed that no matter what the circumstances of needing to communicate, they would most always prefer to text over calling somebody. These answers were not surprising. According to Neilson Mobile, a typical mobile user sends and receives more text mes-

sages a month than they do phone calls.

FCC student Robert Stevenson says he is able to be bolder through a text as opposed to face-to-face. However, Stevenson also stated that his excessive texting has actually made him shyer. This was the case for other students as well.

Instances like this prove that people are missing out on many factors such as eye contact, body language, and tone of voice, that go into effectively communicating with another person. People break up with boyfriends or girlfriends, become intimate, talk about sex, have deep and lengthy conversations, and even verbally abuse or harass other people, all over text messages.

When you text someone, not only can you not undo what you have already written, but you overlook the nonverbal communication that can prove, in some instances, to say much more than what is actually being verbalized or typed. Sending an emoticon smiley or sad face to someone via text, for instance, is nothing compared to actually seeing someone smile or frown.

Not only are people missing out on these non-verbal communications, but also it's becoming apparent that the ability to perform them is diminishing.

Some students agree that texting has in fact begun to ruin the manner in which people in our society are communicating. "It's ruined it for sure," says Jared Johns, "I don't have to rely on texting to talk to somebody."

It's obvious that we all need to take a step back and realize how little real communication we are actually allowing ourselves, and how vastly we are detaching and distracting ourselves from the

real world. Of course, it's always fun to get a chain message, such as a joke or funny story that can make you LOL or exclaim OMG. Or maybe it's necessary to shoot a quick message to a parent or coworker. Under certain circumstances, text messaging has proved to be a great tool for communicating quickly and effectively.

However, if we don't realize the real life communication skills we're neglecting ourselves of, and allow text messaging to become our sole means of communication, we may end up in a society where subjects as immense as marriage proposals or deaths in the family will be communicated with simple, impersonal text message.

And that's just terrible.

"Text messaging is not only a problem while operating a vehicle..it can be distracting while you're simply just walking."

-Davina Juarez

What the Healthcare?!?

Pro: We Need Reform Now

Mark Smith

Rampage Reporter

When talking about health care reform, it becomes all too easy to speak in clichés. “It’s our moral obligation to cover everyone!” “The government wants to take over your life!” “Look at Canada, people are perfectly happy with their coverage!” “Look at Canada, everyone hates it there!”

It’s unfortunate that these hot-headed talking-point arguments are widespread at the highest levels of our government, where rational discourse is supposed to take place. While people spend years spreading misinformation and irrationalities, the simple truth is that America’s health care system is broken.

It’s obvious that the biggest problem with health care is not having it because it’s unaffordable. Without insurance, a person bears the risk of facing any one of the many potentially life-altering health conditions without the ability to pay. Instead of going into the ridiculous nature of how astronomically high some of these costs can be, we should think about the options these uninsured people (46 million as of now) have. There aren’t many. People can either pay the debt themselves over many years, or they can go on government assistance to help pay the costs.

The problem with both of these options is that even in a privately-run health system where people are meant to fend for themselves, the American public ends up shouldering their costs. Think about it; a person with a humongous debt and who attempts to pay it off themselves faces the risks of loans, quitting school, working overtime or multiple jobs, bankruptcy, and financial destitution for most of their lives. If they miss a payment,



Photo Illustration by Rampage Staff

get sick again, or some other financial problem comes up, their debt increases and eventually becomes a burden on the state. The same goes for government assistance, which all Americans pay into through taxation.

“What would be wrong with a little government competition? The capitalist system has been proven to do better when competition is present in the market.”

Let’s not forget about preventive care. Many of these burdens can be avoided if all citizens could see a doctor for regular checkups. Think about all the diseases, operations, appointments, x-rays, and medications that could be avoided if people could afford going to their doctor. Breast cancer, enlarged prostates, melanoma, diabetes, high blood pressure and cardiovascular disease, the list goes

on and on for things that can be helped if caught early and often. Not only would preventive care help save lives, it has the potential to cut costs on a widespread level as something that could have cost hundreds of thousands of dollars was found and treated in a few doctor’s appointments. But with our current system, millions of Americans never go to the doctor. They never even go to the dentist.

Beyond all of this lies a simple question. What would be wrong with a little government competition? The capitalist system has been proven to do better when competition is present in the marketplace. Health care premiums are at an all time high and many private companies preclude those with prior conditions. If a government option were introduced, it’s feasible that costs would lower and acceptance rates would raise, as private companies

would be forced to compete with a system that provides cheap, quality coverage for everyone. Perhaps we wouldn’t have any more of these incredibly cruel situations such as brain-damaged patients without health care being dumped outside homeless shelters, or pregnant mothers without coverage being denied necessary treatment, and when told to go to the local free clinic, die along the way.

I’ll leave you with this. The United States is the only industrialized nation in the world to not offer universal health coverage. We place lower than 25 on the World Health Organization’s country rankings of health care on a consistent basis. We have an obesity level over 30 percent for both sexes. We have an infant mortality rate higher than 26 other nations. Since it’s obvious our health care system is broken, why are we so afraid of trying new ways to fix it?

No, We Don’t Need Reform; We don’t need that change

Jacob Espinoza

Rampage Reporter

Interestingly, if we looked back some fifty or forty years, the overwhelm consensus on the subject of public health care would be a resounding “No.” It would be decried as a communist plot. But now that modern fears have set in and replaced the old ones, socialized health care is, apparently, not something to be afraid of. In fact, it is now quite the opposite.

For many years now, many notable politicians such as Hilary Clinton and the late Ted Kennedy have pushed a government-sponsored public option. The popular argument has been that a free option is necessary to provide health competition in the market and coverage to all. But if roughly a thousand health insurance companies exist in the market and 84% of Americans have health care coverage already, is it really necessary? Maybe, but not right now, and not like this.

President Obama has taken a clear stance on the issue: health reform cannot wait, and cannot come in any other form but government intervention. The proposed bill that is being pushed aggressively

through congress right now promises just that, like it or not.

Recently, Obama has been fervently assuring on-the-fence citizens that “if you like your private health insurance plan, you can keep it,” and most people blithely believe this. However, if Obama had read the bill and considered the potential end-results on a strictly logical (not ideological) basis, he would understand that you would actually not be able to keep your coverage.

Although there is nothing in the bill that explicitly says “mandatory government coverage for all”, it does have the next best thing: mandatory purchase of health insurance, government or not. But if you already have health insurance, you’re set, right?

Wrong. The bill would also set new standard as to what qualifies as “basic” health coverage; and insurance companies would be given a “grace period” five years to comply to these new standards.

Now, of the 84% of Americans currently insured, 70% of them get their insurance from their employers; that translates into roughly 120 million people. The companies who provide insurance plans for these people would then be forced to either

Then, of course, there is the eternal question: How will we pay for this? One option the bill proposes is to tax “individuals without acceptable health care coverage”, or any company that refuses to comply to with the government’s new standards. Other than this, the bill does not disclose any other proposed source of revenue. In other words, it’s wide open as to who the government plans to tax, which will probably be everyone.

But no matter how the federal government tries to pay for it, there is no avoiding the growth of the national debt this bill would cause. Even the Obama administration estimates that, if the bill goes through, the cost of health reform could reach as much as \$1.5 trillion over the next ten years.

On top of being a mass system-clog and financial drain, there is also the underlying ethical issue. Is the government truly responsible for the health and financial

well-being of every American citizen? Barack Obama has brazenly decided, yes. Since his inauguration, Obama’s new administration has sufficiently ushered in a new era of “nanny” government. If your bank fails, the government will bail it out. If your automobile corporation fails, the government will keep it afloat. Fifty

years ago, this kind of government involvement in the market would be unfathomable. In fact, even ten years ago it would be equally unfathomable. Now President Obama wants to take it yet another step further; if you’re sick, the government will take care of you.

There’s a saying that says “the road to Hell is paved with good intentions.” Perhaps in perfect world, government would be able to provide quality public health care. But the world is not perfect, and neither is free-market health care. The cost of coverage and the number of people uninsured have risen both significantly and conjunctionally. But the solution will not come from government take-over and will not come as soon as it is wished for.

“No matter how the federal government tries to pay for it, there is no avoiding the growth of the national debt this bill would cause.”

Campus Voices

Is there a need for healthcare reform in the United States?



“Low income families should also get a chance for healthcare as well.”

Rebecca Ashjian
Political Science



“I think it’s a good idea. It works in Europe and Canada so why not here?”

Michael Arechiga
Political Science



“It’s not going to work. There’s always going to be problems with the system.”

Kevin Harper
Mechanical Engineering



“It’s good for people without medical insurance, and overall, it would be a great idea.”

Shane Thompson
Computer Science



“Yes, because there are so many people without health insurance that can’t see a doctor that don’t know if something is wrong.”
Verbie Swanigan
Psychology

SCCCD
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Champions

Continued from Page 16

Men's Soccer

Coming into his eleventh season, Head Coach Eric Solberg and his Rams are ready to hit the field. "A few ways to define men's soccer would be fast, physical, and experienced," he said.

The conference champs have a number of returning starters and a few new players. Some of those new faces are freshmen Garrett Aragon (Hoover High), Victor Amarillas (Sunny Side), and Tyler Crough (Clovis West).

Coach Solberg says the new guys are working hard and are expected see some play time. Expectations are high for returning sophomores Rory Agu, Boris Beta, Trae Garton, and Fabian Rangel.

Solberg expects his star players to not only carry the load, but most importantly, show leadership. "The Prize Is Always worth the Fight," said Solberg and

Lucero and Tasha Greer.

Women's Soccer

To kick things off, did you know that for the last three years in a row, FCC's Lady Rams have won and defended their conference title? Well it is true.

In his ninth season, head coach Oliver Germond has been preparing his team for this season since late June. Even with the valley's hot temperatures, the team was still able to train, condition, weight lift, and get a head start.

With star player Maghan Wright the only returning player, Coach Germond said he is ready to see who will step up to the plate and show leadership.

After making it to the final four in last year's playoffs, but coming up short, Germond says that he hopes that Wright and other players will lead the way to yet



'Sam the Ram' photos by Jeremiah Henry

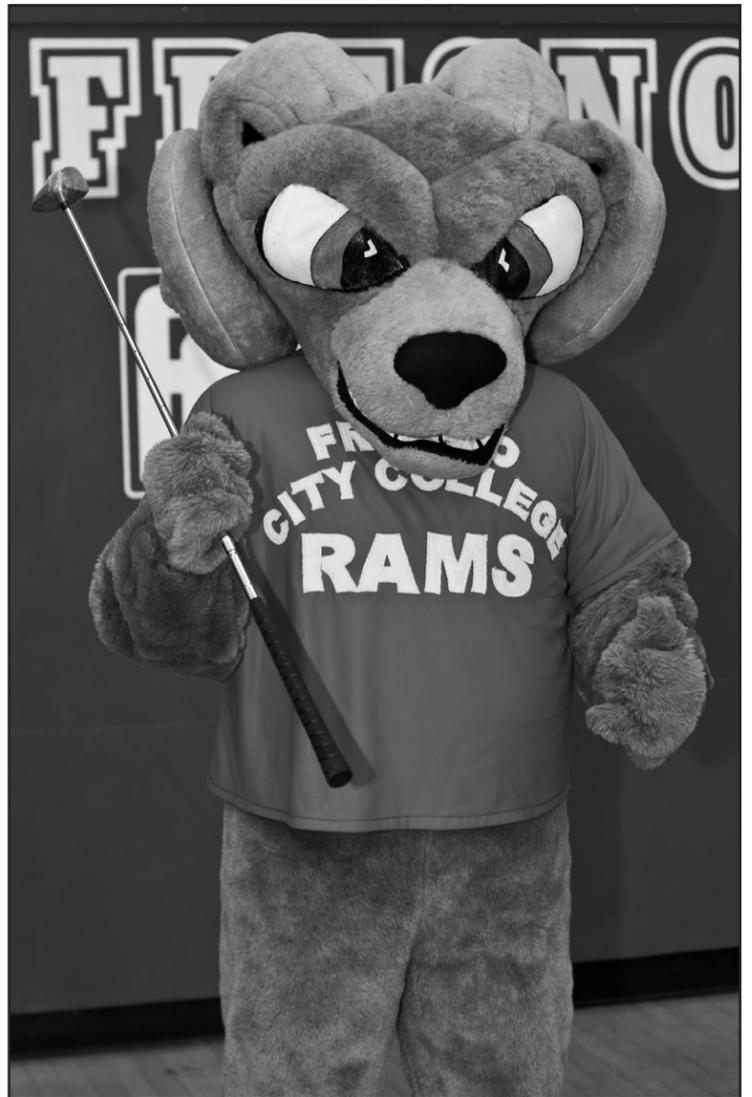
another conference title and hopefully a state championship. With the support of the "Ram family", it should be an easy goal to achieve.

Cross Country

In many sports, you have your teammates supporting you from the bench or sidelines, but for cross-country runners, there is no bench, and there are no sidelines. Head Coach Gary Bluth said about his team's preparation, "the training never stops."

During the summer, cross-country runners are given things to work on because long distance runners are the only ones that can motivate themselves. Cross-country is indeed a team sport and though the athletes work hard together, they have to work harder individually to get as far as their bodies can take them.

Even with a fresh roster, Coach Bluth says there are a few runners that are quite impressive. For instance, Eder Torreblanca who finished in the fifth place in the NCC hopes to have another successful year along with new teammates



his team is ready to put up a fight this season.

Volleyball

For head coach Tracey Schulte and her Lady Rams, third place is not always a bad thing. Last year, the team won a conference title and finished third in the state championships, the best finish in FCC history.

Schulte says she has enjoyed a successful season and prepared throughout the summer for this season. With one of the biggest rosters she has ever had, Schulte said she hopes her team will be ready to "spike down" the competition and seek revenge over Santa Rosa College who defeated them twice last year. She is counting on some new players as well as returning starters Taylor



Javier Sanchez and Isai Orea who transferred from Fresno Pacific College. Looking to make an impact this fall is 31 yr. old Beth Tadem; she will be the number two runner for the Lady Rams.

Women's Golf

From one season to the next, Head Coach Rhonda Williams is ready to get back in the

"Swing" of things. With star Toyahni Beihn on the team, Coach Williams is looking forward to another "nail biting" season. Beihn tied in last year's state championship, but came up shy after losing the tie breaking round and finished second.

The new Lady Rams have a great leader, so with Beihn as a strong motivation, this season should be a "hole in one."

Running against the grain

Tademy shows, "It's never too late to do what you want."

by Steven Diaz
Rampage Reporter

There is something different about the Fresno City College girls cross country team this year.

Beth Tademy, a 31-year-old first year runner who has made herself the number two runner on the team is playing a big role in making that difference.

"It is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," said Coach Gary Bluth who believes having Tademy on his team can mean an extremely competitive team.

With a degree from Fresno

State in speech pathology, Tademy couldn't imagine she would be where she is now. She said she noticed a flyer posted by Coach Bluth at the local Sierra Running Company inviting girls to come out and participate on the cross country team. With her husband Greg by her side, Tademy decided to go for it.

"This wouldn't be possible without him [her husband]. He really encouraged me to go out and be a part of the team," said Tademy of her husband, a former Fresno State runner, who is now a local firefighter.

Thanks to his willingness to take care of the couple's two

daughters, Tademy is able to be a student athlete at an age most hang up their cleats.

Showing up the first day was nerve racking for this mother of two. "I was nervous, not knowing what to expect. I wasn't sure if I was going to fit in with the other girls," she said.

One could imagine the anxiety of trying out for a team;

but Tademy was pleasantly surprised when she met her teammates. "We get along so well; the girls on the team have been amazing. A lot of them have helped me learn what to expect coming up to our first meet; I have never ran competitively, so their help has been great."

Ultimately, she plans on leaving Fresno City College with a nursing degree. She desires the same passion her husband has for his job. Tademy said taking on these

challenges makes her a better role model for her children and peers, "I want them to know that it's never too late to do what you want. If you work hard, anything is possible."

Though she admits missing her children at times, she said everything she does today is as much for them as it for her.

Coach Bluth knows he has a good one, and so do sports enthusiasts at FCC. "Beth has no limitations and is truly a role model for all students especially females," said Bluth, "She will succeed at whatever she does. Any coach would be lucky to have her on their team."

Fresno City College September 28, 1984

Help Wanted

Behavior problems at FCC lead to new policies

"We need to look at all expenditures and see where we can cut back." - Azari

Rampage

Budget Cuts Drain FCC

by Ivette Lopez
Rampage Reporter

Stopping Budget Cuts

Contact Dymphna Ugwu-Oju @ 442-4600 Ext. 8190

or Rampage office @ 442-8262 to set up an interview



FRESNO CITY COLLEGE SPORTS: “New Year, Same Expectations”



Fall sports lay out their expectations for the season.

Photos by Jeremiah Henry

Here we go again. New season, same expectations at Fresno City College. The 2009 fall sports are already in full force, and coaches are full of expectations. You want to get in on it and be one of the first to know who among FCC's athletes are expected to stand out? Here is what the coaches are saying about what you should expect this season. “Ram or get rammed over!”

by Ray Juarez

Rampage Reporter

Football

Where would Ram sports be without football?

Working hard from one season to the next, Head Coach Tony Caviglia aka Coach “c” said his team is ready to tackle to field.

With the home opener just a few weeks away, coach “c” says his team’s goal this season is to “FCC Finish”, another way of saying finish the season strong, win a conference title, and even a state title.

Coach “c” also says that his expectations are that his team will continue to work hard all season, build chemistry, unity, and continue to work just as hard in their classes as they do on the field.

The Rams have an impressive winning streak of only 18

losses in 10 seasons. With a powerful roster, they hope to continue their success.

Cheerleading

“Hey Rams! Let’s go!” Believe it or not, cheerleading is a sport too. With a team full of spirit ready to show

Its “Ram pride”, Head Coach Hope Villines and assistant Kathye Estes are excited about this season and about rebuilding the team of very talented girls and guys. Even though, the Lady Rams are not labeled as a competition team, they have been working hard since early June. Coach Villines says that with the hard work her team has been putting in, she hopes to take them to the next level later this year.

Wrestling

“The Champs Are Here!” Not only is Fresno City College’s wrestling team the team to beat this season, its the only College team in town to watch. About the new season, Head Coach Paul Keysaw said, “Wrestling is the oldest and greatest sport around.... last season is old news; its time to focus on this season.”

The defending cham-

pions are ready to hit the mat and “ram” their way back to another state championship. The competition may be tough once again, but with All-American Heavyweight Austin Garza returning and High

School State Champ, Chris Orkeyzo, becoming a part of the most successful team on campus, winning the school’s eleventh title should be an easy pin.

See Champions on Page 14

