

Photo by Mike Hoffman

Orpheus Descending in the FCC Theater
March 9-11 & 16-18 at 8:15 p. m.

Speaker Hernandez 3rd; Reedley now debating

Until a week ago, City College was the only representative of the State Center Community College District to attend any intercollegiate forensics tournament.

At the Santa Rosa Junior College Invitational Tournament March 3 and 4, FCC and Reedley College attended the same tournament together for the first time in 14 years.

Representing FCC were Wilma Stark, Mark Hernandez, and two new squad members, Rick Sharp and Paula Grigsby.

Hernandez went to a final round in Impromptu Speaking. The event consists of the contestant choosing one of three topics, using two minutes to

prepare his speech, which is limited to five minutes.

Hernandez took third overall in the junior division, with first and second going to speakers from UC Berkeley and Humboldt.

Reedley, represented by Mark Givens, Chris Hasegawa and Lori Ericksen, tied for eighth place in overall school sweepstakes, and the debate team of Givens and Hasegawa took first place in the novice Oxford (two-man) division.

The next tournament on the FCC schedule is the State Championships on March 16-18. If you are interested in competing, contact James O'Banion, forensics coach, in SM-212.

Small crowd, but PASU fashion show impressive

The date was March 3. The setting, the Fresno Hilton Hotel. The event was the FCC Pan Afrikan Student Union (PASU) first annual Fashion Show.

Although the turnout for the fashion show was not as large as expected, everyone there seemed to be having a good time.

Two FCC students who attended, Althea Barnett and Joyce Love, had only the best of thoughts about the event. Love said, "I thought it nice. They could have had a better turnout if not for the rain." Barnett said, "I thought it was great. Very professional. I especially liked Keith Hodge."

The show consisted of eight men and nine women displaying fashions ranging from casual wear to the very formal.

The entrance of Albert Cowings, a social science major, on stage was followed by oohs and aahs as he modeled a light blue three-piece suit with a knee-length jacket that tied in back with buttons in front.

Lana Strong, a nursing major,

modeled a very together three-piece black outfit from the Howard Wolf collection. The blouse could be worn outside or inside, sleeveless with a cowl neck. The pants were matching chiffon with snaps on the sides and pleats in the front.

A newcomer to the modeling field, Vernon Jones, an agricultural engineer major, modeled a dark blue tux with a light blue shirt from Ferdinandi Formal. Jones stated, "The whole fashion show was an experience for me because it was my first time."

Who helped him prepare himself for this night?

"Everyone helped, but I believe Tiwilili (CQ) helped me the most."

The two emcees, Bryan Session and Debora Hill, kept the models flowing with the motion of the ocean. Session could not be reached for comment; however Hill said, "I thought the models did a terrific job. They did everything very professionally, despite the small turnout."

By Roger Lucio

Students wishing to attain ASB emergency loans without an ASB card, for whatever the reason, are out of luck.

As of Jan. 18, ASB officers concerned with the level of funding and the reassessment of the spring budget called for a halt to the issuing of loans to non-ASB members, even if they purchased an ASB card as part of the package.

This triggered a rash of complaints from students towards the financial aids office, stemming from the fact that qualifying students were told by Financial Aids that they would receive funding, yet were turned down at the business office because they lacked an ASB card, according to Donald Watson, financial aid director.

Watson explained, "The ASB gave us guidelines depicting the way they wanted things operated. We operate according to the guidelines."

Watson said the Financial Aids Office operates on the most recent document, as long as it is

formal, to insure that everyone is treated fairly.

The last document received (according to Watson) came Sept. 14, 1976. Sent by Mark R. Hernandez, ASB executive vice president at that time, the document contained specific rules regarding non-ASB member loans which instructed that all ASB loans be processed as normal, providing the guidelines are adhered to.

According to guidelines, students were to be informed at the financial aids office that they do one of the following to attain a loan: (1) Remove from their loan the applicable amount for ASB fees, or (2) pay the applicable ASB fee, which is \$5. An example, if a student wished to receive a loan for \$75, (the maximum allowed) he would have to buy an ASB card to receive \$70.

The Financial Aids Office went along with these guidelines until January, when they received a letter from Douglas Peterson, ASB adviser.

It claimed the ASB officers

wanted only ASB card holders to be provided services from ASB funds and Financial Aids to issue no more loans to anyone not already holding ASB membership. It also said ASB officers no longer are willing to continue past practices of loaning to non-ASB members.

Watson feels the ASB is "changing horses in the middle of the stream." He said, "This group of students came along and decided they didn't want to do it that way in the middle of the process. We just try to do what's right. You can't win them all."

Watson said the Financial Aids Office will do anything that ASB wants, as long as it is in writing. He said Financial Aids had very little for the emergency loan program because no money has been added as in previous semesters.

Watson and his staff believe that students are turned off to ASB because of such situations as this.

(Next week, more on this situation.)

Senate checks proposals on fountain name, English test

The small campus fountain will be named for Douglas A. Peterson, student government adviser, if the ASB Senate gets their way.

Peterson blushed while ASB Recording Secretary Richard Mata read the proposal during the March 7 Senate meeting. For six years Peterson has advised the Senate. He has received numerous compliments, according to Mata.

A plaque bearing Peterson's name would be placed at the fountain, according to the proposal.

The ASB might lack the authority to dedicate the fountain, said Peterson. Mata asked the student services committee to investigate the proposal for a report to the Senate.

A possible qualifying examination for English 1A was reported to the Senate by ASB President Sue Martin. Martin presented a

proposal sent to her by Arthur D. Elish, dean of instruction. The proposal would require students to pass a writing skills test before being admitted to the class.

Students write worse today than they did 10 years ago, according to the proposal. Between 10 and 40 percent of the students who enroll in English 1A lack basic writing skills, it said.

"Over the last 10 years we have noticed a lessening in the ability of our students to express themselves clearly in writing," the report said. "Our students themselves increasingly bemoan their inability to write."

Continuing students would take an examination in the spring to qualify them for English 1A in the fall, according to the proposal. To administer and score the test would cost \$15,000.

Dean Elish sent the test

proposal to the Senate asking for its opinion. The Senate took no action on the matter.

The Senate unanimously approved a spring semester budget of \$22,743. The budget had been reduced from \$46,737 due to lack of funds. Financial aids, assemblies, and Senate committees were affected by the cuts.

In other business, the Senate appointed Refugio Montoya as a senator for the spring semester.

A committee to improve the ASB constitution was formed. The constitution, revised three years ago, has caused problems with finding a quorum for Senate meetings during the last three semesters, according to Peterson.

Senators absent without excuses from Tuesday's meeting were Vicki Hadley, Kevin Jones and Tom O'Rourke.

Jarvis-Gann initiative

Prop. 13 could cost FCC

By Peter Perez

How will Proposition 13 affect Fresno City College?

"Substantially," replied Dr. Clyde C. McCully, college president. "That's if nothing is done on the state level to recover the funds lost."

Proposition 13 (Jarvis-Gann property tax initiative) is a hot issue on the June 6 primary ballot and Gov. Brown promises to campaign against it. Prop. 13, offers a 55 percent tax cut for property owners in California.

Robert Arroyo, political science instructor, commented that "it's unfortunate that Prop. 13 proposes something much more destructive," and predicted that if it passes it will be tried up in court for several years. "It's a poor way of trying to do a necessary job."

Arroyo said that corporations and businesses would benefit from it, but local agencies and particularly the schools would suffer, "which I am most worried about." Arroyo is a candidate for county superintendent of schools.

Fresno school officials are considering sending lay-off notices to about 2,000 employees as a precautionary measure in the event the Jarvis-Gann initiative passes in June.

Howard Jarvis, the Los Angeles businessman, and Paul Gann, authors of the initiative who gathered 1.2 million signatures for qualification of the initiative, in an interview with The Fresno Bee on March 6, said Prop. 13 means "thousands of extra dollars for you and your

family each and every year." They say the measure will do little to change local government budgets or reduce local services.

Now Gov. Brown has an alternative for Prop. 13. On Friday he signed a \$1.4 billion property tax cut law that offers a 30 per cent property tax cut to each of California's 4.3 million homeowners and a doubling of the tax credit for 3.6 million renting households, opposed to the 17 billion by Prop. 13.

The bill, SB-1, was introduced by Sen. Peter Behr, R-Tiburon. Dr. Charles R. Chapman, chancellor of the SCCC, added "that if Prop. 13 passes it will cut the operating cost of FCC by \$5½ million, which means it will hurt some programs and cause a reduction of staff."

Board grants Fries leave for Italy trip, moves ahead with pay negotiation procedure

By Mike Hoffman

Track coach Bobby Fries was granted five days leave with pay to attend the European Indoor Championship Meet in Milan, Italy, by the State Center Community College District Board of Trustees at its meeting March 7.

The National Amateur Athletic Association (NAAA) invited Fries to be an assistant coach for the U.S. Track and Field Team. The meet will be on March 14.

"It's a real honor to Mr. Fries and to the district," said Chancellor Charles E. Chapman.

The district cost will be Fries' pay and pay for a substitute, since the NAAA will pay traveling and housing expenses, according to Chapman.

A substitute teacher has been arranged for, explained Fries.

In another matter, Chapman explained to the board a letter he received from the Department of

Parks and Recreation regarding the old administration building. The state proposed to buy the building and convert it to an agricultural museum.

The department asked the board for a 90-day extension on the transfer of the building's title to create a management plan for the museum. A management agreement between the state, the city and the county must exist before the state will buy the building.

Voting 3-3, the board failed to approve the extension. The board's next step on the matter is unclear, according to Chapman.

A public hearing on the collective bargaining agreement between the State Center Federation of teachers and the college district was held at the meeting. No members of the public spoke. Several Federation representatives were present.

The district's initial proposals

to the Federation will be presented at the next regular board meeting on April 4 at 6 p.m.

A public hearing on the salary and benefits proposal for 1978-79 of the California School Employees Association also will take place at the April meeting.

The association, representing classified employees, presented the board with their proposal at Tuesday's meeting. The public may view the proposal at the offices of the Chancellor and the Director of Classified Personnel. They want a pay increase of about 11 per cent.

In other business, the board awarded bids for farm equipment and trucks for Reedley College. The board bought two tractors, two field cultivators, a land leveler, a loader hoe, a one ton truck and a three quarter ton truck. The total cost will be \$60,838 plus tax.

The board approved a 12-month training program for 24 vocational nursing students at FCC. The students must qualify under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act. Students will attend classes 34 hours per week with 24 of those hours scheduled at local hospitals. The program will require temporary employment of two fulltime instructors.

The Fresno Equipment and Training Commission will pay for the program, according to the proposal.

The board accepted a donation to the FCC automotive program of equipment valued at \$25,000 from the J.C. Penney Co. The equipment includes an engine diagnostic tester and a wheel alignment machine.

The board also approved an agreement with the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company to incorporate an

additional 25 foot strip of land into a new parking lot at the northwest corner of Weldon and Glenn Avenues.

The board awarded a contract for construction of parking improvements on the site at their Jan. 25 meeting. The work is now underway.

A \$12,000 contract with the ComPath Co. for maintenance to the telephone system at FCC was also approved. The system was installed last March. The new system saves the district \$26,760 a year compared to the old system, according to district administrators.

The board also authorized the architectural firm of Simpson and Associates to develop plans for concession stands at Ratcliffe Stadium. Cost for the stands plus concession equipment is estimated at \$213,000.



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 March 12 (Sun.) . . . Jazz
 March 14 (Tues.) . . . Appaloosa Sky
 March 15 (Wed.) . . . Folly's Pool
 March 16, 17, 18 (Thurs., Fri., Sat.) . . . Wild Blue Yonder

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Pilot pre-natal program offered Raim

Fresno County is the site for a \$6 million pilot program to provide special maternity care to women determined to be at a high risk of delivering a defective, handicapped or still-born infant.

With State Department of Health funding, four major health care providers in Fresno County have cooperated to form the San Joaquin Perinatal Project.

A partial list of some of the high risk conditions needing special care includes age (under 15 or over 35), diabetes, history of repeated miscarriages, previous stillbirth, history of pre-

mature delivery, Rh factor, high blood pressure, alcoholism.

This special care will include treatment services from a physician, nutrition counseling, individualized prenatal education, nursing services, social services, specialized delivery services, transportation and specialized infant care.

The SJPP is a state-funded program involving the Fresno County Department of Health, Valley Medical Center, United Health Center of the San Joaquin Valley, and Valley Children's Hospital.

All eligible women may participate in the SJPP regardless of

income, including MediCal recipients. Financial assistance is provided on a sliding scale, and in many cases there is no charge to the patient.

Expectant mothers who think they have a high risk condition should contact their usual source of medical care or call the Fresno City College Health Services Office for information and referral.

The Health Services Office is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Monday through Thursday, 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., and Saturday 9 a.m. to noon. The Health Services Office is SS-112.

NEWS BRIEFS

Police need student aide

A student aide II position is open in the college police department. The salary is \$2.75 per hour, 19 hours per week, from 1 to 5 p.m. four days a week and 1 to 4 p.m. one day a week. Must type 40-45 words per minute and carry 12 college units.

Real estate scholarships

Real Estate Scholarship Program offers scholarships of up to \$1,500 based on need for this year. Forms will be available for students majoring in Real Estate in the Financial Aid Office, SS-201.

CCSCC Car Rally March Hare

STARTING POINT: Sunnyside Bowl at Kings Canyon & Clovis
STARTING TIME: 10 a.m. Sunday March 12, 1978

SIGN UP: Begins at 9 a.m.

COST: CCSCC Members \$4 per car
Non members \$6 per car

This is an all-day rally, so please bring a picnic lunch.

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

Special events

"Orpheus Descending," a play, Mar. 9-18, FCC Theatre Arts Building

Values & Humor in Human Relations, James Clator, M.A., Local Minister, Mar. 14, SS-202, Counseling Center, 12 noon to 2 p.m.

War & Tower of Power, Mar. 12, Outdoor Amphitheatre, 1:30 p.m.

Autorama, 21st Annual Fresno Autorama, Mar. 9, Fresno District Fair Grounds

Christian Fellowship, Tuesday, Senate Quarters, 12 noon

Christian Fellowship, Thursday, Senate Quarters, 12 noon

Debate Team, Mar. 10-11, FCC

MECHA, Thursday, Comm. Rms. A & B, 12 noon to 2 p.m.

Mini Career Sessions, Teaching Social Welfare, Child Development, Teacher Aide, Dietetic Services & Bilingual/Bicultural, 12 noon

Ross Scott, Sanitarian of Fresno County Health Department, Mar. 16, Econ. 20, Rm. 120, 7 p.m.

Beverly Owen, Mar. 10, 8 p.m., FCC Gallery, Ah-101, Movement Workshops, 1 to 4 p.m. & Mar. 11, G-101, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Johnny Cash, Mar. 14, Selland Arena, 8 p.m.

"Blazing Saddles," a film, Mar. 10, Industrial Arts, Rm. 101 & College Union 7, 8:50 & 10:45 p.m.

"The Visit," Fresno State University Drama, John Wright Theatre, Monday through Saturday, 8:15 p.m.

"The Mirrorman," Fresno State University Drama Center, Mar. 11, "On Trial", Saturday, FSU Lab School Rm. 101, 9:30 & 11 a.m. and 1:30 & 3 p.m.

"The Taming of The Shrew," Visalia Community Theatre, Mar. 9-18, Ice House Theatre, Race St. & Santa Fe Ave., Saturday & Sunday, 8:15 p.m.

Brigadoon, Theatre 3 Production, Mar. 9-25, Fridays & Saturdays, 1544 Fulton St.

"Brer Rabbit," Fresno Community Theatre, Mar. 9-19, Saturday, 10:30 a.m., 1 & 3:30 p.m. & Sunday, 1 & 3 p.m.

"Bible Lands," a film, Mar. 13, Fresno Convention Center Theatre, 8:20 p.m.

"Half-Hour of Happy Health Habits," Children's Health Play, Mar. 14, Fresno Convention Center Theatre, 9:30 & 10:30 a.m.

"Improving Television for a Healthier Tomorrow," Nicholas Johnson, San Joaquin Valley Town Hall, Mar. 15, Fresno Convention Center Theatre, 10:30 a.m.

Sports

Golf, FCC vs. Merced College, Mar. 10, Riverside G.C., 1 p.m.

Golf, FCC vs. San Joaquin Delta College, Mar. 14, Dry Creek G.C., 12 noon

Women's Basketball, FCC vs. San Joaquin Delta College, Mar. 9, There, 4 p.m.

Women's Basketball, FCC vs. American River College, Mar. 10, FCC Gym, 6 p.m.

Women's Basketball, FCC vs. Modesto Jr. College, Mar. 14, Modesto, 5 p.m.

Baseball, FCC vs. Modesto CC, Mar. 11, FCC Fields 12 noon

Baseball, FCC vs. Reedley College, Mar. 14, FCC Fields, 2 p.m.

Co-ed Swimming, FCC vs. American River College, Mar. 10, Sacramento, 3 p.m.

Co-ed Swimming, FCC vs. Bakersfield College, Mar. 14, Bakersfield, 3 p.m.

Men's Track & Field, FCC vs. Sacramento CC, Mar. 10, Sacramento, 2:15 p.m.

Women's Tennis, FCC vs. American River College, Mar. 9, Sacramento, 2 p.m.

Women's Tennis, FCC vs. Sacramento CC, Mar. 10, Sacramento, 2 p.m.

Women's Tennis, FCC vs. COS, Mar. 17, Visalia, 2 p.m.

Men's Tennis, FCC vs. American River College, Mar. 9, FCC Courts, 2 p.m.

Men's Tennis, FCC vs. Sacramento CC, Mar. 10, FCC Courts, 12 noon

Men's Tennis, FCC vs. Reedley College, Mar. 14, FCC Courts, 2 p.m.

The Magnet

A crowd had gathered at the river bank. A radical young man named John was calling people to turn from everything to God. His words had impact. Simon and Andrew responded enthusiastically. It was there that they first met Jesus. John introduced Him as the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world."

They believed. Something happened but they didn't know what.

Going home to Galilee, they resumed their role in the family commercial fishing operation. Back to work, business as usual. Their fresh experience, like that of so many Christians today faded into the fog of daily routine. They returned to the darkness to make their living.

Then one day unexpectedly, His voice called to them from the shore, "Andrew? Simon? What are you doing there?" He was seeking them out. As a magnet, He drew them to Himself. As a brilliant light, He shined over their mundane circumstances and pierced to illuminate the center of their beings.

They began to see Christ as He really is. What they saw in Him ultimately saturated their own humanity. When Jesus said, "Follow me," they did. They became foundation stones in the Kingdom of God.

Herein we offer our own experience. Christ has come into today's dark situation and found us! We have seen Him and are presently enjoying Him permeating every aspect of our daily living. He is the full Reality of our life. It is wonderful to be truly following Him.

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Hubert Laws: classic/jazz flutist extraordinary

By Fonda Kubota

"Jazz" means a kind of music, originally improvised, but also arranged, characterized by syncopated, rubato, heavily accented 4/4 time. There are dissonances, melodic variations and unusual effects on saxo-

phone, clarinet, trumpet, and trombone. It originated among New Orleans black musicians.

A renowned classical/jazz flutist, Hubert Laws, greeted us backstage, with a friendly smile, a warm welcome, and handshakes. Wearing a white shirt and black pants, he sat comfort-

ably by the mirrors of the dressing room. He talked about jazz, his musical experiences, and inspiration in music.

Laws defined jazz from his own experiences. "It's a form of personal music expression, where one expresses himself after having a music foundation layed by chord aggressions or rhythms," he said.

"In my instances, after the melody has been stated, then the soloist will take the liberty to improve over the melody line, chord changes or the rhythms. It's really 95 percent improvisation on the spot composition."

Laws, best known for jazz improvisation, also has mastered divergent musical styles ranging from classical music to gospel and pop.

Originally from Houston, Texas, he got interested in jazz while he studied saxophone in junior high school. He broke into free-flowing jazz when he attended Texas Southern University and Los Angeles State College.

A graduate of the Juilliard School of Music, he has been a member of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, the New York Philharmonic, and a soloist with the Houston Symphony Orchestra.

"I had no dream of being a star or a solo performer. My dream was to play in a symphony orchestra ... that was my goal when I was younger. After I got older, and had the experience of playing with the New York Philharmonic Opera, then I realized my goals should be changed."

"I felt I could express myself in the jazz idioms and still play a variety of musical idioms."

Laws did express himself very effectively with special guest artist and classical/jazz violinist Noel Pointer at their recent appearance at the Warnors Theatre, produced by Spirit Productions. Laws came to Fresno in 1974-75 for the CTI Jazz Festival with George Benson, Chuck Corea, Hank Crawford, Grover Washington, and many other artists.

Thousands of jazz fans came to see the two performers perform and listen to their ability and to express themselves musically. Cheering, standing ovations, encores, whistles, clapping filled the theatre.

"I was very surprised! The response was very very good," Laws said. "I was given a choice of places to play and I said Fresno would be a nice place to go ... I like to explore new places and areas." With a large smile, Laws said he would like to come back to Fresno in the future.

"Jazz ... is a very difficult market, because I understand that there isn't that much jazz radio here. It's like a challenge. I was really happy to come here and carry out the cruise."

He did that by playing his flute with backup band of songs from his present album, "Say It With Silence" and other 12 albums to his credit. He played, "Undecided," "Romeo and Juliet (Tryin' To Get The Feeling)," "The Baron," and others.

Laws worked with such other artists as the Jazz Crusaders, Mongo Santamaria, Lena Horne, J. J. Johnson, James Cleveland, Clark Terry, Arthur Prysock, Sergio Mendez and George Benson.

His inspiration to put the classical/jazz music together, Laws said, "comes from all sources. We are a product of our environment. Whether something we learn or we have innate, it's still something that is given to us." He gets his inspiration from putting a piece of music together, listening to the radio, and the record collection.

"It happens different ways, there is no one systematic way of doing it." At times he has recorded the works of Bach, Mozart, Ravel, Stravinsky and Tchaikovsky. He has recorded numerous albums for Atlantic, CTI, and presently Columbia Records, and also is an author of a book called "Flute Improvisations."

Laws won more major jazz polls than any other flutist ... Down Beat Readers Poll, 1971-

76; Playboy Magazine Poll, 1974; Ebony Magazine Black Music Poll, 1974; and Swing Journal Japan Magazine, 1971 to present.

Before Laws played the flute, he used such other instruments as the saxophone and clarinet. "I didn't pick the flute, but it picked me," he laughed. "I was playing in the high school band and actually we didn't know too much about that instrument. There was a piece we had to play called, 'William Tell Overture' and they gave it to me."

Laws added, "I sing, but not professionally. I sing in ensembles and groups. Elouise, Ronnie Laws and my youngest sister Debra all sing. I used to sing, but my voice changed when I was 17. I couldn't handle it any longer."

Writing music can be complicated or simple which depends on the writer's ability to express his values towards reality.

"It depends on how long the song is. How complex it is or simple ... it would take all in one minute or its complex, it would take all in one year."

"I wrote a piece in my new album, 'Say It With Silence'. The piece is very difficult. I would probably never play it in public, because it is so complex. When you hear it, then you'll know the way it was done."

Laws was influenced in jazz by his parents. His mother was pianist in a local church and his father also sang. "I lived in an environment that was their way of life to improvise or sing without having music. My parents took me to church for gospel singing."

He just finished a six-day tour in California. Sunday he will perform in Europe. Gold and platinum albums, recording sessions, rehearsals, sound checks, guest appearances, and many events keep him going to spread his musical talents that attract audiences all over the world.

Laws says, "I don't want labels attached to my music. I try to stay away from being categorized. I've prepared myself to be a musician, whether it be in folk, rhythm and blues, rock, classical or jazz."



Hubert Laws expresses his flute techniques during the song, "Romeo and Juliet."

Photo by Tamis Glunz

Wanted: Brothers, Sisters; reward: satisfaction

By Moria Riley

Remember that look your father had when you hit that homer? Nothing could dim that glow of pride on his face, or that warm feeling you had inside. Remember your mother's words of confidence when you swore you'd never manage to ride a bike, but with her help (was it only words?), you really did it?

Maybe you didn't have the opportunity to play catch, or bake a cake with your mother or father. Remember wanting to? You, of all people, know what it's like to be alone. Can you relate to a young boy or girl growing up in a complex world? Don't you want a youngster to have some of the same pleasures that you had, or maybe didn't have when you grew up?

Think how much a child misses without an adult around to give him or her a good feeling about himself. Obviously, growing up is a pain in itself, but those years can also be a wonderful learning time and some of the most active years in a child's life.

Don't you spend a few hours, usually on the weekend, bored, or just as bad, propped in front of the television?

"All we ask of volunteers is that they have three to four hours a week to give to that child," explained Diane Thomas,

one of four of Big Brothers/Big Sisters' social workers, and a former employee of Fresno Juvenile Hall. Thomas, herself, is a Big Sister, and has been for over four years. Her little brother is now 17, but the relationship is still a strong one.

Men are not always paired with boys, as are women with girls, but a match between a man and a girl is a rare event. A child involved in the program does not necessarily have to come from a single-parent family either, just the situation where the father or mother cannot possibly give enough time and attention to their child.

You can get just as much out of the adult/child relationship as the child, sometimes more. Nothing can compare to that special moment when a child's eyes light up with joy, or a few loving words spoken in the innocence only a child can have.

Even more special is the feeling you experience when you know that you were part of that smile and that child's happiness. Life somehow seems worth that dreary Monday you had last week, or the messy house you have to go home to and clean.

To become a Big Brother or Big Sister is about a 2-4 week process, but well worth the effort, according to Bruce Morris, advertising and public relations manager.

Either visit or phone the business office. They will ask you a little information for their files. Further details and interviewing will come later, after submitting an application. Everything is kept on file and confidential.

Three references are needed, such as your personal doctor, pastor, or close friend. After recommendations have been confirmed, you are asked to attend an orientation meeting (not attending such a meeting slows the process). Your files are again reviewed, then you, the child, and the child's parent are each individually interviewed.

Said Thomas, "Our whole purpose is to serve the people and make sure that our little brother or sister doesn't get hurt in the process."

If you are considering entering your child in the program, contact the main business office for more information.

There are more than 6,000 single-parent female-headed families in Fresno County. The Big Brother/Little Brother ratio is a rather large one. According to Thomas, there is approximately one Big Brother for every 25 Little Brothers involved in the program. Boys are referred to the program by teachers, courts, mental health centers, mothers, etc. At present, there seems to be no problem finding enough Big Sisters to go around.

According to Morris, the

reason for less girls involved in the organization is because a girl from a motherless family is more likely to have some female figure around, be it an aunt, grandmother, or girlfriend, than a boy is to have a man present.

Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Fresno, incorporated in 1968, is chartered by the Big Brothers of America to operate as a non-sectarian, interracial agency throughout Fresno County. Big Brothers of America is one of the largest non-sectarian organizations in North America.

If you are unable to devote part of your time and attention to the program, you can still help a boy or girl by donating whatever you can. It costs approximately \$250 per year for a man/boy, woman/girl relationship. The major cost supports social worker staff, facilities, and administration.

Under the Big Brother Sponsorship Program, local service clubs and other organizations may invest \$250 in the future of a fatherless boy by providing him with a Big Brother through sponsorship. Without your help, these boys may face lives of serious emotional frustration, frustration that often creates costly problems for society. Compare \$250 invested now, to \$7,000 per year to institutionalize one boy.

To protect the Big Brother/Sister, the Little Brother/Sister,

the mother and the father, ground rules are devised.

The volunteer is not to spend time in the child's home.

"The Big Sister has no part in the home," said Thomas. "We tell the mother that the Big Sister/Brother's going to take the child out, but it's the Big Sister/Brother's duty to let the mother know at all times where that child is."

The volunteer does not become involved in discipline problems within the child's home.

"It is stressed to the mother of the child, that the volunteer and the child aren't to be around the child's home and homelife," Thomas explained. "We're concerned with a Big Brother who may become a threat to the family by spending too much money on gifts. If they wish to spend money, more than usual, it is to be only for special occasions."

The volunteer is not to include other members of the child's family in their activities unless there are special circumstances and they are approved by the social worker. The relationship is between the volunteer and the child, not the child's family.

"The mother or the guardian (of a child in the program) has the last say-so. If they say, 'I don't like so and so, find me another Big Sister for my child,' we have to go about it," said Thomas.



Local disc jockeys, Rita Moreno, and Barry Williams answer phone calls and pledges.

Last local UCP telethon reaches goal in final minutes

It's five minutes to 7 p.m. There's silence throughout the Fresno Convention Center Exhibit Hall, as the tension mounts.

Cerebral Palsy patients, adults and children alike, United Cerebral Palsy committees, Hollywood stars, and onlookers anxiously await the new total.

It takes what seems forever, for the woman to attach the numbers to the tote board. She starts off putting the smallest figures first, as the count becomes larger.

She slowly puts down... 4... 0... 3... 5... 2... 2... (\$225,304)

The atmosphere changed, the victims of Cerebral Palsy cheered, as the final total surpassed this year's goal.

They made the goal thanks to a contribution by Rev. Al Wyrick of the United Faith Foundation. Wyrick generously pledged \$48,000 in the last minutes of the successful telethon.

The telethon will be televised nationally next year, so this was the last local telethon that UCP

held. Beginning next December, the national UCP organization will broadcast a national telethon, replacing the many local productions done across the country.

One of the reasons that the telethon is going national is because of collection problems. Of all the money pledged last year, \$208,903, only about \$168,000 was actually collected.

The Hollywood stars were on hand to help entertain during the 22 hours of the telethon, as was some local talent.

Some of the stars present were Gary Collins, the emcee; his wife, Mary Ann Mobley; Rita Moreno, singer and performer; Barry Williams, of "The Brady Bunch," and Phillip McKeon, of the series "Alice."

Local talent included Larry Keyes and the West Coast Edition, Jim Lyons, Good Company Players, The Bud Noble Trio, Mexican Dancers, Gospel Singers, Lawless and Company, Times Creation plus many more.

The telethon was produced

live and aired over KFSN, Channel 30, yet many people came to watch it.

Former FCC student Conrad Jimenez stated "This is one of those annual events that you just have to take part in. I think this telethon is a credit to the community and if people support ventures like this telethon maybe well even make a mark in California."

"I think it's sad that all the money doesn't come back to Fresno. If we raise the money here in Fresno then the money should go to Cerebral Palsy victims here in Fresno and the Valley," said former FCC student Bruce Batti. "But the national telethon will be bigger and probably more successful."

The telethon was started back in 1954 and has been an annual event ever since. This year, through the hard work and cooperation of all who were involved behind the scenes and on stage, the telethon was the most successful to date.

People help people in telethon effort

On Saturday and Sunday, March 4 and 5 the Cerebral Palsy Telethon was aired. Most people who viewed it were not aware of the work in back of the cameras.

Ham radio operators helped out by saving the telethon hundreds of dollars on phone bills. CB radio operators put on a car-smashing show to raise money for CP.

At the telethon several groups helped out by answering the phones, sorting mail, fixing food and working the cameras.

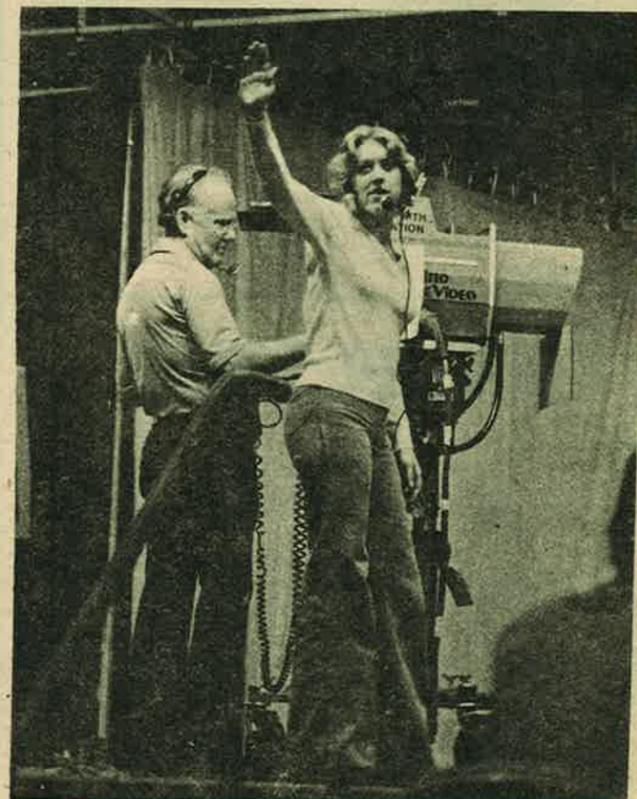
One phone operator named Julie said "Working on the telethon is very important and it

makes me feel important."

Genett Stewart, food worker, said "After working out here you just aren't satisfied to sit in the audience and watch because all the excitement is backstage."

One gentleman who wouldn't give his name stated "The telethon means a lot to me and I hate to see it end because people who wouldn't usually give you the time of day pitch in to help. It's like an old barn-raising; people pitch in to help in a common goal."

All of the action was not on stage. Just go backstage at any telethon and you will see more fervor in working together than you could imagine.



Stories by:

Doug Hamilton
Laura Batti
Fonda Kubota

Photos by:

Ken Enloe

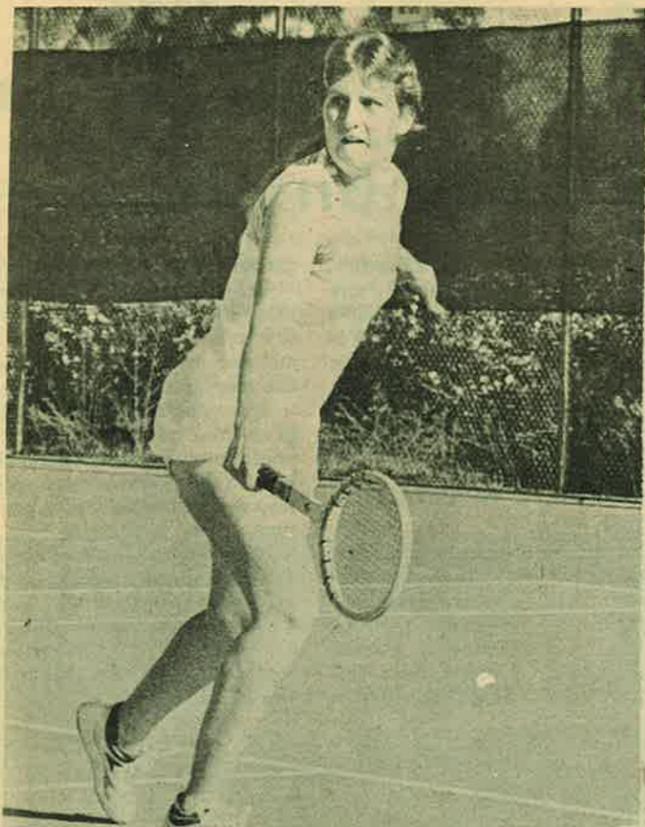


Paul Fansler speaks to a UCP child and his mother on the air.



Gary Collins as this year's UCP Telethon emcee talks with his wife, Maryanne Mobley.

(Above) With the help of the KFSN Channel 30 camera crew, the telethon was a success.



Sandy Smith strokes a backhand against Delta

Photo by Ken Enloe

Rigall loses tennis eligibility

By Dave Coulson

Jennifer Rigall, the top player on the women's tennis team, has been declared ineligible. "We found out it was official last Wednesday (March 1)," stated coach Shirley Stilwell.

She added "It was a big disappointment to all of us." Rigall had completed only 21 units during the last two semesters, and needed 24 during that period to be eligible to play this spring.

FCC's athletic director, Hans Wiedenhofer, said "all the athlete has to do is complete 12 units a semester. We (the coaches and the athletic director) don't have time to check everything out."

He added, "Every player is made aware of the rules. It's their responsibility to meet them." Stilwell remarked, "The

team was shocked by the ruling at first but now they are all working harder to pick up the slack."

Rigall was unavailable for comment. Pat Cruse, who played with Rigall last season, said "It all seems so unfair. I understand the rules but I don't think everyone does."

Pam Cruse, another ex-teammate of Rigall, added "I think they could put the rules into laymen's terms so everyone could understand them."

Both players and Stilwell confirmed that the rules had been covered. Wiedenhofer says that despite the fact that FCC runs into a situation like almost every semester, that all schools have the same problem.

"The paperwork alone is unbelievable, that's why we run into problems like this," he

added. The school has 19 teams to keep track of, according to Wiedenhofer.

Jan Diel, in the admissions office, has the responsibility of checking out the student-athletes' records to see if they are eligible. "It may take three weeks sometimes to go through all of the transcripts for a team," she said.

Diel added, "I have other jobs to do but if a coach has a deadline I try to meet it." Eligibility rosters must be sent to the conference office in Modesto before the start of conference play in each sport.

"Everything is complex," summed up Wiedenhofer, "but it's still up to the athlete to keep the rules."

Ram Report

Rain, go away

By Dave Coulson

Rain, rain, go away. That would have to rate as the FCC athletic nursery rhyme after the campus was hit by a weekend deluge.

It was so wet that the baseball team couldn't play Saturday because John Euleuss Ballpark had become John Euleuss Lake.

The flood waters were still being felt Tuesday. The Rams couldn't open Valley Conference play because their opponent, Modesto, had a field that was partially submerged.

At least Jennifer Rigall won't have to play in the rain. She was declared ineligible last week. Talk about getting rained on. When it rains it pours.

You would have to be half-water buffalo to play their schedule anyway. They will play three matches in a 24-hour period this week. Rain, rain, come again on Thursday and Friday.

The track teams would have had to have rain boots instead of track spikes to compete.

Women's basketball got along with out any weather difficulties. At least the gym roof didn't leak.

And then there were the swim teams. They didn't mind the rain. What's wrong with a little more water?

Rain idles track teams; Sac, DeAnza up next

Both the men and women's track teams were rained out over the weekend. But both coaches, Bunny Bartels and Bobby Fries, are optimistic about their upcoming meets.

The men will be at Sacramento to meet Sac City on Friday. Fries is not too worried about Sac City. "They are not very tough. They are not very large of a team."

Although he is not worried about Sac, he is anxious for some competition. "We're going crazy because of lack of competition."

Fries also said, "What we really need here at FCC is an all-weather track. You can still work out and hold meets even if it does rain."

The Ram women will host a dual meet against Reedley and DeAnza. The Rams will be tested in the field events by Reedley and in the long distances by DeAnza. DeAnza has the best cross-country team in Nor-Cal. Bartels says, "It should be an exciting meet."

Ram swimmers dunked by Delta

The Rams suffered a double loss this last weekend in Stockton as both the women's and men's swimming teams lost to San Joaquin Delta in Valley Conference swim action.

The Rams bowed to the Mustangs 59-49 in the men's competition and 67-42 in the women's. Both Fresno teams dropped to 1-2 in VC action.

Powered by Eric Gordon's triple victory, the Ram men won five events and led up to the final four races before they were

overtaken by the powerful Mustangs. Gordon scored wins in the 200 (1:56.4) and 100 (50.9) freestyles and the 200 medley (2:12.7). The 200 freestyle mark was just one second off the school record and the 100 free was 0.9 second off another Ram record.

Linda Berry scored a double win while also swimming a leg of the relay. Berry won the 500 (6:08.3) and 200 (2:14.4) freestyles.

The Rams visit strong American River tomorrow in Valley Conference Play.

Women netters edge Delta

Surviving an important roster shakeup, the Ram women's tennis team squeaked out a 5-4 win over Delta Tuesday at home in their Valley Conference opener.

The Rams originally were scheduled to face Delta last Thursday but it had to be made up Tuesday due to the rain. The rain will also have an effect on tomorrow's schedule. The Rams will make up a match in Sacramento with Cosumnes River Friday morning and will play Sacramento City in a previously scheduled match that

afternoon.

FCC plays American River today in Sacramento. "We just squeezed past them," coach Shirley Stilwell said of the win.

She added "We're still adjusting to losing Jennifer Rigall (see related story). Anne Duarte, for example, was playing her first doubles match of the season."

Duarte took both of her matches, breezing to a 6-4, 6-1 singles win and teaming with Pat Cruse to take a 7-5, 6-3 doubles decision.

Other winners included Pam

Cruse and Robbie Chivara. Cruse won 4-6, 7-5, 6-1 in a singles match that ended up as the turning point of the match.

Chivara got credit for a singles victory and with Sandy Smith a doubles win. These matches had to be forfeited by Delta when one of their players didn't show up.

In other matches Smith lost 6-2, 7-6 in an entertaining singles match while Soccoro Bolanos lost 6-4, 6-0 in singles and dropped a 6-2, 6-4 decision in doubles with teammate Pam Cruse. In the other singles match Pat Cruse lost 7-5, 6-1.



Debbie Green attempts to tip a ball in during practice. The Rams will host American River in the gym at 6 p. m. tomorrow.

Photo by Michael Prieto



Connie Gooch

Rams trounce Chiefs in windblown tennis

Playing in winds up to 30 miles per hour, the Ram tennis team trounced Cosumnes River 8-1 Friday.

The Rams had wrapped up after the singles matches. Winning for the Rams were Joey Heffington, John Haug, Joe Pombo, Jim Deaton and Tony Escalera.

Heffington won over Dave Coll 7-6, 7-6, Haug outlasted Martin Harbor 6-4, 7-5, and Pombo won his match handily over Mitch Whitehurst.

Jim Deaton crushed Gene Shohoo 6-0, 6-2 and Escalera dumped Greg Smith 6-2, 6-2.

The Rams then won all three doubles matches. Heffington and McFeeters squeezed by Coll and Johnson 6-3, 3-6, 6-3. Haug and Pombo defeated Harbor and Whitehurst 6-2, 5-7, 7-6. Deaton and Escalera breezed by Smith and Shohoo 6-2, 6-2.

The Rams are home to face American River today and Sac City tomorrow.

Gooch sparks women's team to outstanding first season

By Mark Belman

With the FCC girl's basketball in its first year, the Rams have been lucky enough to have an established, experienced star in Connie Gooch.

Gooch first received recognition for her basketball ability at Hoover High. In high school she led Hoover to the Valley Championship. That same year she also led the City All-Stars to victory over the County in the first City-County women's basketball game.

After graduating from Hoover, Gooch received a college scholarship to Nevada Las-Vegas. But after a year in basketball there and after having a baby she decided to come back and play for the Rams.

One thing Gooch likes about Fresno is, "I'm playing ball with people I used to go to school with and with people that I used to play against. Knowing people makes it easier to adjust. At UNLV it was harder to adjust because I didn't know many people."

So far Gooch has played impressive basketball for the

Rams. In the COS tournament she was named MVP for the tourney as well as being named to the all tourney team. She also set three records in the tourney. She scored the most points in one game (30), most rebounds in one game (18), and most points in the whole tourney (81).

Gooch also was named JC athlete of the week by the Valley Sportswriters and Sportscaster.

But even though she won all these awards and set numerous records, she was still unhappy. "I was upset that the team didn't take first. I was more interested in the team winning and doing its possible best."

One thing coach Chuck Stark points out is that "She wants to help the team. She doesn't care if she scores points. She is more of a team-oriented player. She is a leader, but it is teamwork that is winning games for us. On other teams a lot of gals might be jealous, but not on this team."

Debra Green also says that Connie is more interested in winning than in her own personal efforts. "She wants the team to

get together and do things right," said Green.

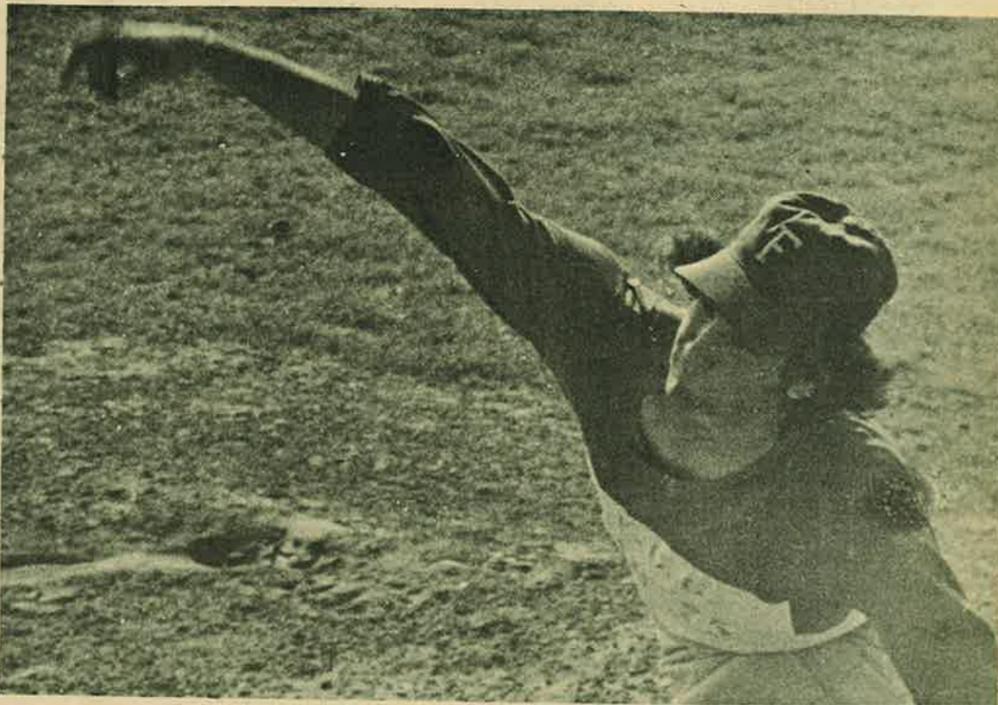
Connie credits her success to her teammates. "Teamwork is very important on this team. The guards, Linda Harvey, Becky Royce, and JoAnn Ganduglia are good at getting the ball into me. Ninety-five per cent of the shots I take are off of set plays."

According to coach Stark and teammates Pension, Green and Ganduglia, Connie is the leader on the team. They say she also is a very hard worker. Connie agrees, "I feel I have to be a hard worker. Others look up to me for leadership. I have this drive that if I do something that I do it right. I give it my all and try to do it right. And when it hurts, that's when it counts the most."

Connie's goal is to go on to a four-year college and to come out of college with some top honors so it will be easier to get a job in coaching somewhere.

But right now her goal is to help the team make the playoffs. Connie thinks, "Good teamwork, excellent speed, height and superior coaching will help the team make the playoffs."

Photo by Michael Prieto



Bob Thomason delivers a pitch in practice

Ram women to entertain in American River tomorrow

FCC's first intercollegiate women's basketball team has an 8-2 non-league record and a 1-0 league record.

Today at 4 p.m. they go up against San Joaquin Delta in Stockton. On Friday it's back to Fresno, with a matchup with American River at 6 p.m.

Coach Charles Stark said he feels the northern schools will be their toughest opponents. This he attributes to the northern campuses having prior teams. However, he concluded, "Give us a couple of years and we'll be tough too!"

Two of the reasons why the team is doing so well are Connie Gooch, a physical education major, and Sarah Pinson, a nursing major.

Both expressed their love for sport. Pinson, a native of Fresno and former Edison student, said, "I love basketball. I've been playing since high school."

What you think of the team? "The team has a lot of talent.

We play to complement each other."

Do you have plans for basketball after college?

"No, not at this point in my life," replied Pinson.

Gooch, on the other hand, has definite plans for basketball after college. "I would like to try to play European basketball. They have women's teams there. After that I would like to coach a women's team one day on the university level."

How did you feel when you learned you won the Valley Sportscaster and Sportswriters Athlete of the Week Award?

"Very surprised. I didn't expect to win. The idea of being chosen made me very happy and honored that they thought of me."

Has the pressure changed any? "No," Gooch replied, "It's the same."

Who knows, maybe the female Dr. J. will come from FCC.

Ram nine opens

league play today

Due to bad field conditions, the Ram baseball team conference opener against Modesto scheduled for Tuesday there has been rescheduled for today.

Mickey Wright should start at pitcher for the Rams. FCC will host the Pirates on Saturday and Reedley on Tuesday in John Eules Ballpark.

Eye Health News

By Dr. Harold C. Sivas O.D.

DEAR DR. SIVAS:

For the past year I have been wearing (B&L) soft contact lenses dispensed from a local optician. I have experienced nothing but problems with the lens. My vision is not stable and sometimes the lens in my right eye slides off the cornea. I want to wear the lenses "all day" but I am experiencing too many complications. Do you have any suggestions?—Mr. K.

COMMENT:

Your problems sounds like you do not have the "proper" soft contact lenses on your eyes. These are varies "brands" of soft contact lenses for use today. In my experience, I have found that some patients need to be "diagnostically" fit with several types of soft lenses before achieving an "optimum fit". A properly fitted lens should supply 1) good vision 2) sufficient

movement (noted with a bio-microscope) 3) No metabolic changes associated with the eye 4) good centration on the cornea. 5) proper comfort 6) ample wearing time.

I advise you discontinue wearing your contact lens and go to an eye practitioner who will be able to fit you with a "new" pair of soft contact lens.

Dr. David R. Sivas
Dr. Harold C. Sivas
optometrists

Corner of Kings Canyon & Chestnut

Phone for appointment- 251-8272
Eye Examinations- Contact Lenses

Dr. Sivas cannot answer all personal letters. Letters of general interest will be answered in his column. Address questions and comments to Dr. Harold C. Sivas, 634 S. Chestnut, Fresno 93702



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Carter rates 'B'

President Jimmy Carter has been in office over a year now. It's time for a review and a report card on his term in office.

On his involvement in the Middle East, I give him a B. On his arms sales to Egypt and Israel, however, I give him an F. Trying to make peace in the Middle East and then selling arms is, to say the least, ridiculous.

On his invoking the Taft-Hartley act to send the coal miners back to work, I give him a B. The miners should have been or should be allowed to work out the strike among themselves. However, I can see his point in interrupting the three-month strike.

On Carter's acceptance of Bert Lance's retirement I give him a C. It should have come sooner.

And on Carter's term so far I give him a B. The reason? Carter is new in Washington and has never served as a congressman or senator so he does not have the experience, but he is making a valiant effort.

I polled 250 faculty and students about Carter by asking them this question "Do you think Mr. Carter is doing a good job?" Yes 82, no 75 and don't know 93. How do you feel about him?

—Doug Hamilton

Pros, cons in space gadgetry

The recent falling satellite in Canada stirred up quite a controversy: First over the use of nuclear-powered orbiting devices; and secondly, the amount of space junk there is in orbit about our planet. But an even more intriguing point to consider is something which we can only guess as to the existence of.

"Death satellites," "hunter-seekers," "killer sputniks"... all describe a form of satellite that is currently being studied as to whether or not they exist. Some hypothesize that the Russian satellite that landed in Canada was a test subject for one of these weapons.

But just what is a "hunter-seeker?" Primarily, it is a satellite which merely sits in orbit until it is necessary to use. Once activated, it follows programmed instructions or remote control to destroy spy satellites, or aims itself at a missile launching area and shoots down any attempted flights. The satellite itself is armed with either missiles or an electronic laser designed to disrupt warhead and broadcasting circuits.

It is assumed that this device is used only in wartime, but we must also consider that if the Soviet Union wished to shoot down our satellites, we really would have no way of proving it was deliberate actions that put our satellites out. Further, the use of this device could disrupt communications and weather satellites as well, which we unfortunately depend on for almost all communications.

But the use of these "hunter-seekers" has had some circumstantial evidence supporting it, in that old Russian satellites have been slowly disappearing from orbit for the last two years, and long before normal orbital decay should bring them to Earth.

Simply put, our satellite-equipped early warning system is in serious danger of absolute destruction, and we currently have no way to prevent it. But we are not without some type of defense.

The USS Enterprise, America's space shuttle, can be used to stop the "hunter-seeker," should it be aloft at the time or capable of take-off in case of war. By using its mechanical arm, the shuttle can literally shred a satellite or push it out of orbit. In short, we can fight back.

But this is only a temporary measure. A more permanent solution would be an entity capable of either permanent or sustained orbital capability, and equipped with small craft or waldoes. A space station fits the bill nicely, and could also provide a number of benefits beyond defense, such as medical, geological, meteorological, and agricultural. These are in addition to the natural courses of scientific study which would follow the station into orbit.

But the need to establish a base is one which could be outweighed by a burgeoning cost. The one thing each of us fails to recall is that we already have a space station... Skylab.

Orbital decay shows it will re-enter the atmosphere a few years from now, yet we have also determined, through NASA, that the space shuttle will be operative in space in time to not only move it to a different orbit, but bring materials up from Earth to expand on the existing facilities.

Through the efforts of enough dedicated individuals, we can save many billions of dollars and also add to the saving of billions of lives today and to come.

Consider the technology of medicine, electronics, and engineering that space flights have brought us, then multiply it by a reasonably self-sustaining orbital laboratory, and the benefits, added to those of defense, make the space station an extremely good investment with guaranteed return.

It is only prudent that we should consider our future. The "hunter-seeker" satellite threatens us in several ways: defensively, physically through weather, and economically through the potential of endangered communications satellites. Yet we can acknowledge no dangers, only benefits should we go ahead with the building of our first space station.

—Mark Hernandez

Letter policy

The Rampage welcomes comments from its readers. Letters should be typewritten and double spaced. Letters must be signed by the author, although pen names may be used at the editor's discretion. All letters will be corrected to Rampage style.

Submit material to SC-211 no later than the Monday before intended publication.



Album review

Kansas too commercial in 'Know Return' album

KANSAS
POINT OF KNOW RETURN
Kirshner 34929

By Jim Smurr

Yes, here it is folks! An elegant effecuation of vinyl versatility, purified of all abrasive eccentricities, styled, conformed, packaged, and polished to a see-yourself shine. Get 'em while they're hot, or at least lukewarm.

But wait: Do I detect a hint of sarcasm in the above paragraph? You bet your sweet stylus!

It's amazing how so much potential talent can be refined into such a void commodity.

It seems that Kansas has fallen, or more accurately, dived head-first into the money-filled rut so many before them have excavated.

After finally gaining large-scale recognition with their last album, "Leftoverture," they've decided to stick with what attracts the largest consumer audience.

While maintaining a flaccid pretense of grandeur bordering on megalomania, sadly, "Point of Know Return" doesn't amount to much more than deftly orchestrated pop music.

And on that pleasant note... Side 1. The title cut, which I'm sure you've all heard and cherished, typifies what to expect throughout the LP. Straight off the assembly line. Verse one, verse two, chorus verse three, repeat chorus and fade... fantastic. (yawn)

Track two, "Paradox," flashes by like so much 78 rpm cosmic debris, followed by "The Spider," a triplet-oriented instrumental traveling to some unforeseen destination. "Portrait" and "Closet Chronicles" round off the side, the latter of which contains some fine musicianship, most notably from violinist Robbie Steinhardt and percussionist Phil Ehart.

Side 2 erupts into "Lightning's Hand." It was at this point that I suddenly got the curious urge to munch some bubble-gum... but on to better things, hopefully. "Dust in the Wind" is a nice little acoustic single currently being aired.

"Sparks of the Tempest" sounds like something John Travolta would get off and disco to, if the keyboards didn't throw him.

"Nobody's Home" tells of a traveler who came from "across the galaxy to spread the word"

but it seems everyone has split by the time he arrives... ah shucks.

The final cut, "Hopelessly Human," shines with the organ, synthesizer, and piano work of Steve Walsh and Kerri Livegren (who also ravages various guitars when not occupied with his keyboard ensemble).

To be sure, there is no denying the abundant talents possessed by the group. Besides the aforementioned, guitarist Rich Williams and bassist Dave Hope complete the line-up. All members are extremely versatile, each with more than one instrument in his repertoire.

It isn't so much the quality of their finished music that I criticize, but more the direction they have taken.

It would seem their vitality and undaunted spirit for experimentation—delving into diverse syncopation and harmony—quite evident on earlier albums, ("Kansas" and "Song for America") has been replaced by a one-sided consciousness of what sound will reap the greatest financial compensation.

The music of Kansas has in the past been dubbed "art rock." If so, all obstinance aside, I'd say their latest effort ranks along the lines of a Rembrandt-Xerox.

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