

THE FRESNO CITY COLLEGE

# RAMPAGE

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Volume 53, Issue 7



## FOUNTAIN OF POPULARITY



**"Money for  
College"  
Mail Scam  
Page 2**

**More  
OAB  
Info  
Page 2**

**Karate  
Profile  
Page 2**

**Movie  
Reviews  
Page 3**

**Next  
Issue  
Dec. 9**

**Frank  
Ramon  
Page 2**

**Spoof  
Issue  
Coming  
Soon!**

## OAB; District's Viewpoint

By Andrew Burton  
Rampage Reporter

The State Center Community College District Board of Trustees has their own concerns about the OAB. They have their own point of view, but also want what is best for students at FCC. Since their job is to promote learning, the SCCC board has decided to leave the OAB alone for now and move forward on funding for the new proposed, much-needed, Allied Health and Public Services Building.

SCCCD's move to leave the OAB alone and not invest any money into it was made by the board of trustees of the SCCC to make sure the funding for the new Allied Health and Human Services (AHHS) Building was not lost. The reason the state funding may be lost is the deadline for proposals is Jan. 15, 1993. The proposals were looked at by the board, then the board decided to save part of the OAB to try to complete their jobs, and preserve part of the OAB. Due to time constraints and feasibility, and not being able to fill all the needs of the SCCC and outside lobbies in the proper way to reconstruct parts of the OAB, the board changed their mind.

From the board's point of view, the move to leave the OAB alone and find a new location for the new AHHS building is the right choice. Because the new location saves the OAB from completely being lost as one of Fresno's greatest landmarks.

The change in plans allows SCCC to receive money for a needed building. The new building will cost an estimated 7 million dollars and it will run up to 15 million dollars for the partial refurbishment and attachment of a new building to the OAB. The money for the new AHHS building would possibly be lost if the environmental impact study

was not completed before the Jan. 15 deadline. In order not to lose SCCC's place on the waiting list to receive money from the state and possibly lose funding totally, the board decided it was in the best interest of the students and FCC, to insure funding for the new building. By doing this they have secured further funding for a totally new, state-of-the-art building that will have plenty of parking and plenty of room for students.

The SCCC board concerned about the OAB, but they feel it is their job to make this campus a learning center for the community, and not to be a champion of preservation by restoring old buildings. SCCC Public Information Officer Sarah Reyes, said, "The main function of SCCC is to provide a quality and affordable education to anybody in the area." Reyes added, "Our job is not to preserve old buildings. Our business is education."

Chancellor Dr. Bill Stewart of SCCC is only concerned with the students and FCC. He likes the OAB. "There are some nice parts of that building, I don't mind the OAB." But the Chancellor also wants to make it clear that it is not the job of the SCCC to save this old building. They must do what is best for the students with the money they can find for new buildings. "We need 15 million dollars. The state isn't going to give us 15 million dollars" to bring the OAB back to life, because the state can not afford it, like the SCCC can not afford it, because of shrinking budgets and the need to put education a step above preservation. They will settle for an entirely new building, which they can receive funding for and, also to leave the OAB alone for the time being.

"I don't think that students would be crazy about us saying next

**See OAB, Page 4**

## College Money Scams

By John Roberts  
Rampage Reporter

Many students are struggling financially when they come to Fresno City College. The fact that the government has decided that they aren't paying enough and hikes up their fee has not helped. So in a desperate search for cash to pay for schooling, students will look anywhere and do anything to get it.

This is where the scam comes in. With fancy eye-grabbers such as "Over \$6.6 billion in student financial aid goes unclaimed each year," or "Money for college," they pull in the desperate student. They then charge the student fees ranging anywhere from \$30 to \$150 to send them a list of loans they are eligible for.

Some companies cover themselves by promising at least seven loans or grants. Even with this there is a scam. Generally, they will send the student the seven names promised, but these were seven names the student could have obtained free through the financial aid office at their school. There is one story of a student who sent in \$150 to one of these companies, and that company

sent him back a reply telling him to go to his school's financial aid office.

Frank Ramon of the financial aid department tries to discourage students from using these "Money for College" companies. He said, "There is no sense in students wasting their money when the financial aid department gives the same information free of charge."

In a newsletter from the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators recently published was a list of over 20 scholarships matching firms that received an unsatisfactory rating from the New York Better Business Bureau, who had issued an alert on these bogus scholarship companies.

There are companies cropping up all over the US, that are nothing more than fly by night, mail fraud companies.

If students must use one of these services, they are advised to check them out, either through the financial aid office or the local Better Business Bureau office before sending them any money.

## Martial Arts here at FCC

By John Roberts  
Rampage Reporter

Martial arts have been here since man could walk. It's more than a good Bruce Lee movie. There are over 1000 different official styles, from over a 100 different countries. If a student becomes good at it, he learns to focus his mind, body, and spirit to its maximum extent. Here at FCC, Albert J. Smith III, is in charge of both the basic and intermediate martial art classes.

In his course Smith teaches three different styles that combine in a basic self defense package. The first one is Shotokan, which is more like standard karate. The second one is called Kali. It is a streetfighting technique with some emphasis on

stick fighting, but he concentrates mainly on the empty handed knife technique. Also offered is kickboxing.

In the basic class, he concentrates on basic martial art moves and stances. In addition, he tries to teach the students a sense of history of the styles they are learning.

In the intermediate classes, he refines their basic moves, adds to them, and further refines them until the students have workable knowledge of self defense martial arts.

When asked about the ultimate goal he tries to teach his students, Smith replied, "I try to instill self discipline in people by providing outward discipline. Through that example they learn to control their own life." All he asks of his students

is to be prepared to work hard, and to develop themselves.

A good example of the kind of dedication that martial arts can bring out in a person is Ronnie Toor, who took second place recently at a martial arts challenge. Before he took up martial arts his life was hard, and it would have led him into trouble. But martial arts saved him from himself. Toor stated that martial arts gave him direction and a focus with his life and allowed him to achieve greater goals.

The basic martial arts class meets on Mondays and Wednesdays at 8 am and Fridays at 9 am and Tuesday evenings at 7pm. and the intermediate class meets Mondays and Wednesdays at 10 am.

## Guest Speaker Sheds Light on AIDS

By Whitney Brown  
Managing Editor

"No one need ever die from AIDS again," said Beth Coleman of the Sacramento AIDS Foundation Nov. 14 to a room full of student journalists, "precautions can be taken and infection can be avoided."

Coleman gave a speech on her career in the media arena and its path to her present position of director of development, media relations and government relations for Sacramento AIDS Foundation (SAF) to more than 100 reporters at a journalism convention at American River

College.

Topics discussed involved AIDS and effects the media has on the public's understanding (or misunderstanding) of the deadly virus.

"SAF, and the media are in a constant struggle to gain the upper hand in how information involving AIDS should be presented," stated Coleman. "We want to send the right message to people, that is to educate themselves and to practice safe sex...several studies reveal only 17 percent of sexually active Americans use condoms although they're aware of the decreased risk of AIDS infection through the use of

condoms. This is scary."

Coleman coordinates SAF's public relations and knows the importance of cautious coverage by the media first hand, as she has reported for television and newspapers in California and Florida for the last four years. She is aware of the media's power to attract the public's attention and inform them in ways which will influence behavior.

Coleman made her point clear throughout her monologue; "We want to connect society's knowledge with their actions."

## Discrimination Complaint filed against FCC

By John Roberts  
Rampage Reporter

There is a conflict here on the FCC campus. It is between administration and Frank Ramon, coordinator of the financial aid department. The actual title Ramon holds is what is at issue.

Frank Ramon has been working at FCC for almost four years. He has been in charge of all facets of the financial aid department. His complaint is that even though he runs one of the largest programs in California, he only has the title of coordinator. He claims that even Scott Thomason of the Kings River Community College financial aid department, which is half the size of FCC is affiliated with us, has the title of director.

The difference between director and coordinator is more than just the spelling. There is a difference of pay scales and respect.

As of the time of this writing, FCC has refused to change Frank Ramon's title. Therefore he continues his race discrimination complaint against the community college district.

The administration here on campus says they don't change his title because Joaquin Jimenez, associate dean of admissions and records, is actually in charge of the day to day operations of financial aid, and assigns to Frank Ramon the exact extent of his authority. FCC President, Dr. Bruce Harris, state the administration's side saying, "We have organized Student Services according to the need. That includes the Associate Dean, who is the chief

financial officer, and the coordinator, who reports to that dean."

But Ramon has some supporters. So far the American Federation of Teacher (AFT) as well as MASS, MECHA, and several other clubs here on campus have cited their support. AFT has even started a fund to help pay the lawyers fees.

Tom Tyner of AFT said that no matter what this situation should be corrected and that they think Ramon deserves the title of director.

It is now in the district's hands and whether Frank Ramon will receive his reclassification and compensation is up to them.

### THE RAMPAGE

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## Thomas Ian Griffith not a standard action movie actor

By Steven Sauer  
Rampage Reporter

Thomas Ian Griffith, in Fresno two weeks ago on a promotional trip for his new movie *Excessive Force*, talked congenially about his work, presenting an image vastly different from that of his character in the movie.

Griffith, who wrote, starred in and co-produced the film, set out to do things a bit differently than the way action movies are normally produced.

"What I want to do is elevate the quality of the work, get a great look to it, have good scenes, quality actors," said Griffith. "When you hear the dialog it makes sense. It's not just waiting for the next fight scene."

Overall, Griffith succeeded, adding a definite air of authenticity by filming on location in Chicago. Even the jazz club owned by James Earl Jones' character is authentic, right down to the sign above the door. The sequences in the jazz club were filmed at the De Ja Vu, and the name was retained for the film.

He succeeded with the supporting cast as well, getting such actors as James Earl Jones, Lance Henriksen, Burt Young, Tony Todd and Charlotte Lewis for his support-

ing cast.

Griffith was very pleased with their quality and experience, and was especially happy to be working with James Earl Jones, whom he has long admired.

Jones is an award-winning veteran actor who has appeared in such movies as *Patriot Games*, *The Hunt for Red October*, *Field of Dreams*, and *The Great White Hope*, for which he received an Academy Award nomination for Best Actor in 1971, and numerous television and stage productions, where he has won both Tony and Emmy awards.

"When I met [James Earl Jones] in Chicago, he said, 'Thank you for writing this,' and I said, 'Thank you for writing this? My god, hey you are my idol, you know, thank you for being here!'" said Griffith. "But once he's on the set he's just another actor, keeping up the quality and going for what we both want."

Griffith said that Lance Henriksen and Burt Young were professionals on the set as well.

"[Lance Henriksen] is a real intense guy on the set, too, you know, he's always way out there.... He's such a gentle guy, too. He plays all these psychos and he's really a sweet guy," said Griffith.

As writer and co-producer of the film, Griffith has had to deal

with questions about the level of violence in movies today. When asked about it, he said, "I'm sensitive to [criticisms about excessive violence in films]. Is it art? This is entertainment, you know, and that's what it's about. There's an audience, but I think there's a place for it."

Griffith is looking at moving into other genres, expanding his range as an actor and a writer.

"I'm writing my own stuff, and then we're looking for the next [script]. I don't think it's good to... I don't want to write the next action movie. I don't think it's good for an actor to do just his own stuff."

"I think everyone, you know, they see a big guy who can do martial arts, can do it well, and they think, 'Oh, he's the next [martial arts star].' I mean, it's a label."

Interestingly enough, when he was cast as the villain in *Karate Kid 3*, they were unaware of his abilities as a black belt in the Korean martial art of Tae Kwon Do. When it came up during the filming, they started asking him to do extra stuff, to show off his talents a bit.

After *Karate Kid 3*, he was given a large number of martial arts scripts to look at, but turned them down, attempting to avoid typecasting.



Griffith, a trained dancer and skilled piano player, got his start on the stage, with projects that included lead soloist in the Broadway hit *Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*.

His other credits include the feature film *Uterior Motives* (also written by him), and television roles, including playing Rock Hudson in his TV biography.

## Bram Stoker's Dracula does not live up to the book

By Richard Snyder  
Rampage Reporter

One of the most anticipated films of 1992 was director Francis Ford Coppola's version of *Dracula*, which promised to be faithful to the original novel and perhaps be the

best version of this story made. If this sounded too good to be true, it was.

This film uses the outline of the novel and some elements but goes no further. The film starts off great, explaining Dracula's history and why he became a vampire. This is

very well done and holds attention until the sequence where Jonathan Harker (blandly played by Keanu Reeves, who is usually much better than this) goes to Dracula's castle.

These scenes are the best thing in the film. Gary Oldman plays the

see *Dracula* page 4

## Excessive Force a cut above most action films

By Steven Sauer  
Rampage Reporter

Every so often an action film comes out that has more than just action. *Excessive Force* is one such film.

*Excessive Force* stars Thomas Ian Griffith as Terry Connor, a Chicago cop.

Connor has been trying to put mob boss Sal Di Marco (Burt Young, of *Rocky* fame) behind bars. Di Marco keeps getting off on technicalities, the latest of which is the fact that Connor used excessive force when he got one of Di Marco's goons to confess.

When \$3 million disappears during a drug bust involving Di Marco's men, Di Marco becomes convinced that a cop took the money, and begins a series of attacks against the officers involved in the bust. When Connor's partner is killed, he goes to the restaurant where Di Marco hangs out, intending to kill Di Marco. He is unable to pull the trigger, but when Di Marco turns up dead, Connor is blamed.

Connor must now evade the cops, led by Police Captain (and soon-to-be Chief of Police) Raymond Devlin (Lance Henriksen), and the mob, led by Di Marco's son, Vinnie (W. Earl Brown), while he tries to clear his name.

He is aided by his friend Jake (James Earl Jones), who owns the jazz club that Connor lives above, and his ex-girlfriend Anna Gilmour (Charlotte Lewis), a high-fashion model, who left him when it appeared that he cared more about his job than her.

This would be a fairly routine action movie if it weren't for two factors: there are a few interesting plot twists, and there is good charac-

terization, much more so than you would expect from a martial-arts action movie with ads that read, "Finally... the punishment fits the crime."

Connor is not the one-sided, muscle-bound fighting machine that most action characters these days turn out to be. Instead, he is portrayed as a good man who has been pushed to the edge by the fact that, while the city around him gets worse and worse, the people responsible are getting off on technicalities. He copes by playing the piano in his friend Jake's jazz club, the De Ja Vu.

Griffith plays his role with more feeling than one normally sees in an action movie, possibly because, in addition to acting in the film, he wrote and co-produced it.

He is joined by a superb supporting cast. Charlotte Lewis, and Burt Young, and James Earl Jones are all good in their roles, and Tony Todd, last seen in *Candyman*, is excellent in his role as Connor's friend and partner, Frankie Hawkins, but the person who really threatens to steal the film is Lance Henriksen.

Henriksen, who has had major roles in *Aliens*, *Stone Cold*, and *The Pit and the Pendulum*, among a host of other films, plays his role in *Excessive Force* with an ease few other actors achieve. His performance stands out in a group of strong performances.

Overall, *Excessive Force* is a good, solid action movie, with enough action to please fans of the genre, and characterization and plot that put it a cut above most action films.

Rating: 7★s out of 10  
Rated R (Language, Violence, Nudity)



## Dracula from page 3.

older, slightly mad Dracula very well, and the atmosphere and effects combine to give a truly Gothic feeling of horror. Oldman's performance enhances this feeling.

The only problem here, from reading the novel, is that Dracula did not age quite as much as is shown. In the novel, when he has not fed he looks about 60, not 90. However, it does not detract from the power of the first half hour of the movie.

As soon as Dracula reaches London the film crashes with a resounding thud. The terror is gone and what is left is all gloss and no substance.

The London scenes have no sense of terror and Gary Oldman seems to lose his presence as Dracula becomes younger, he almost seems like a ghost there but not there, which is sad because Oldman deserves better.

The other actors fare no better. The supporting cast, headed by Winona Ryder, Cary Elwes, Richard Grant, Bill Campbell, Tom Waits and Anthony Hopkins, give good performances but are overshadowed by the shallowness and gloss of the film.

Hopkins is the sad case. He is an excellent actor, so one would expect the best portrayal of Van Helsing ever, but all he does is say how to kill a vampire over and over. After about the 5th time it's tiring. Again, this is sad because Hopkins is a magnificent actor who deserves better, as does the rest of the cast.

Bram Stoker's Dracula? Not quite. A colossal disappointment? Most definitely!

## OAB from page 3.

"I don't think that students would be crazy about us saying next fall that there would be 3,000 less of you (students) and the money for those 3,000 students is going to remodel this old building," said Stewart to get his point across about whether the education at this school suffers or we have a building saved.

The OAB is not going to be repaired, restored, reconstructed, or refurbished as of now by SCCCD. SCCCD can not afford to educate and preserve. As SCCCD puts it, it is not their job to preserve. This is a job for the community. If they want the OAB saved they must rally and form a long term plan for funds. For the past 20 years the building has sat there rotting and the community has done nothing.

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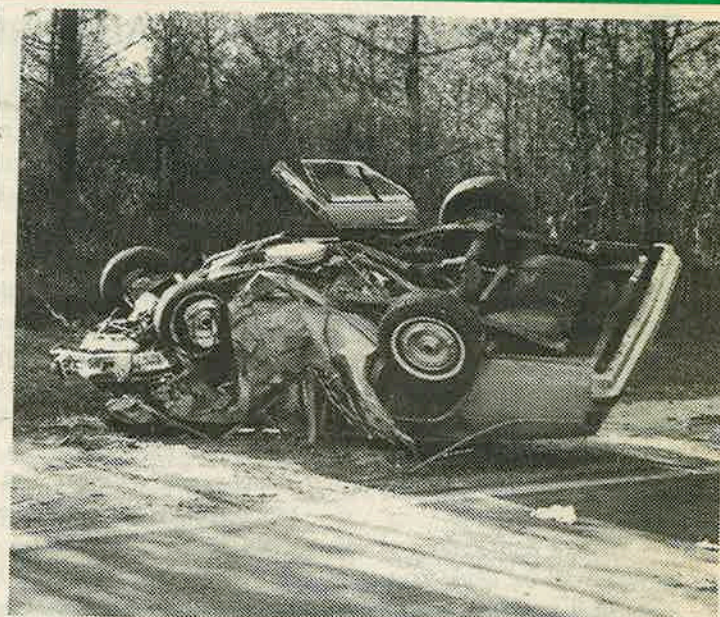


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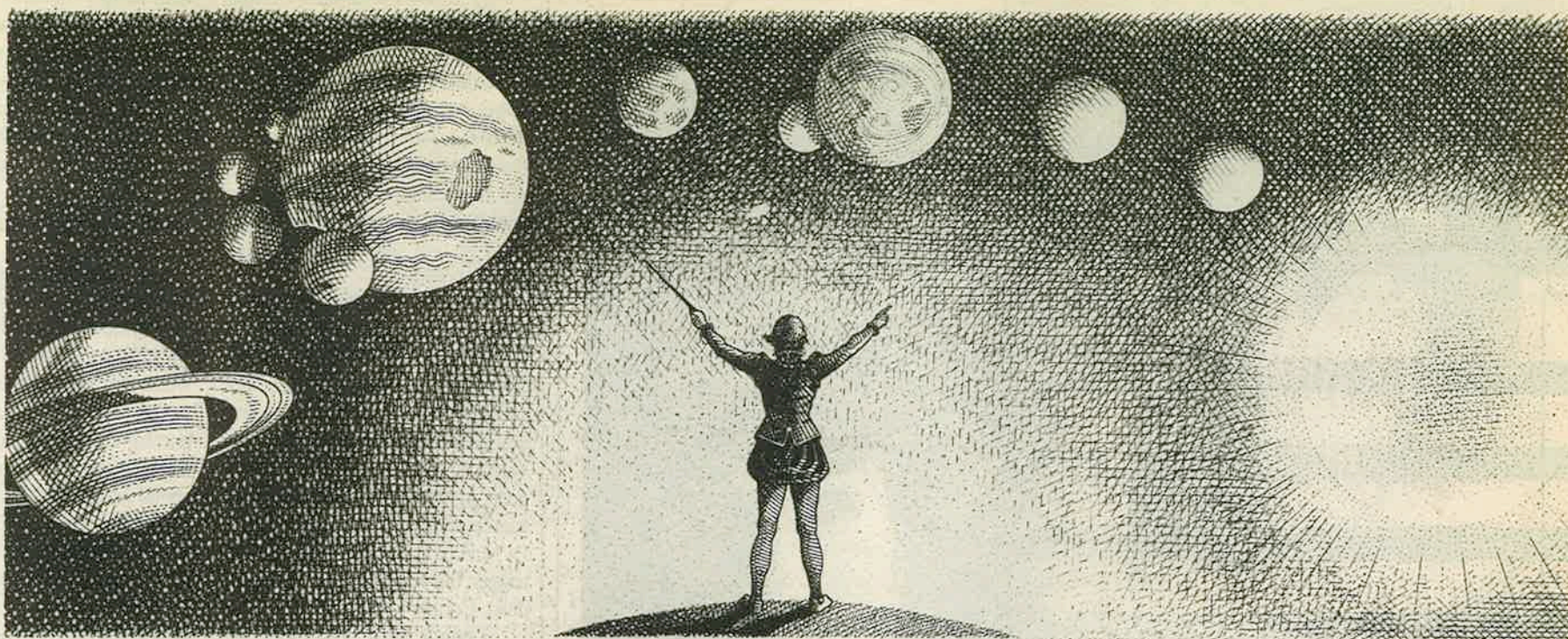
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