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Rampage

FRESNO CITY COLLEGE

Volume LXXIII Edition 2

A Publication since 1949

February 7, 2001

Black history month activities begin at FCC

By Marcos Bustamante

Rampage reporter

African-American History Month? What is that? Why is it needed?

One might be puzzled about what this is. Most people might think it probably has to do with remembering slavery. True, unfortunately slavery is a dark but very real part of American history. Why, our first president, George Washington, was a slave owner.

However this ceremony was not about self pity, but about pride in what African-Americans have brought to our culture.

Lucille Rash, an instructor in the business department, organized this event. Rash, who is from Baton Rouge, La., put it well when she said, "Black history month is to commemorate the past

Upcoming events

Tuesday: African-American Health Issues and Careers, noon, College Center

Wednesday, Feb. 21: African-Americans in the Media panel discussion

and the accomplishments of black people, and regardless of our past we have overcome in many ways and have contributed positively to the American culture, which has made a lasting impact on the way we view life in America today."

The festivities at Fresno City

See Month, page 11



Photos by Joe Chacon

FCC student Jamie Davis is carried to a nearby hospital after a train knocked her down and broke her arm.

Student sidetracks brush with train

By Julian Torres

Editor-in-chief

A Fresno City College student suffered a broken arm when she was struck by a train early Friday morning.

Jamie Davis was crossing the railroad tracks on Weldon Avenue with another student when an Amtrak train struck her backpack, spinning her around and knocking her to the ground.

The other student, who was not identified, crossed seconds before Davis and was successful.

Davis was rushed to a nearby hospital after suffering minor injuries, including cuts, bruises, and a possible broken arm, according to Fresno police officer Robert Perry, who was at the scene.

It was later determined that Davis had broken her left arm in five places and underwent reconstructive

See Train, page 11

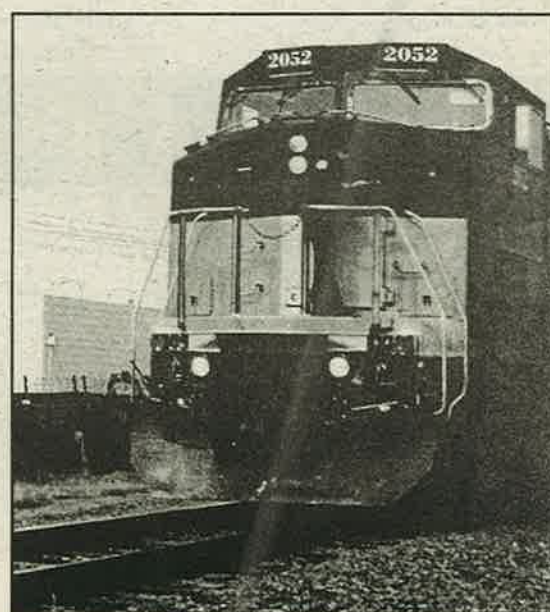


Photo by Julian Torres

Gospel night last Friday added to FCC's black history celebration.

Women set up a shot for playoffs

By Anthony Witrado

Rampage reporter

The taste was a bitter one.

The disappointment lingered.

How could they have come so far — only to fall so short.

This was the experience last year's Fresno City College women's basketball team had to deal with, bottle up and put behind it after it lost to Shasta College in the second round of the state play-

offs.

Down by 40 points at halftime, Donnie Johnson's team battled back to within a single point — a point that would haunt them all summer.

"It was definitely tough on us," Johnson said of his team's one point loss in that game. "That's a lot of motivation for our team this year — an awful lot of motivation."

The past is the past, though.

This year's squad uses the loss to fuel a fire that grows with every blowout win, every loss, every practice.

"Anything less than a [state] final four appearance is a disappointment," Johnson said. "Our goal is to win the state championship. This year we have a great opportunity to do that."

See Women, page 11



Photo by Dale Mommer

Moneshia Washington takes it hard to the hoop in Rams' win over Taft.

FCC group puts a face on history

By Anthony Witrado

Rampage reporter

There is a new way to learn about the history of the central San Joaquin Valley.

And it's not in a classroom.

Fresno City College has been selected by the national Faces of America Project to put on a display of the valley's rich history.

The project is being run by five FCC instructors but also needs help. Students and staff are being encouraged to submit photos, videos or any other element of history to be put on display on campus.

"The project is so that people can get a glimpse of the rich history here in the valley," FCC instructor Luis Contreras said. "It should be a great display because of the diversity we have here."

"It's a way to get a better understanding of ourselves through photos. We are expecting to put on a wonderful display."

The name will be personalized to Faces of the San Joaquin and is a two-year project. The display will be on campus for the first year and will expand into the community next year, even possibly into some local museums.

There will also be a competition for photos in different categories such as best photo of a uniform, people at work and any others that will come up after they receive more photos.

The display will start as soon as enough pictures are turned in. Applications can be picked up at the Fresno City Humanities Division Office. Contreras, Mary Arechiga and Kathie Crawford can be reached for any questions.

"It's a great way to learn," Contreras said. "We believe this will be a great experience for anyone who chooses to be involved."

Behind the high price of textbooks

By Jeff Swisher

Rampage reporter

On the road of life, four things are certain — birth, taxes, death and expensive textbooks.

The high cost of textbooks remains an inescapable, necessary evil for most college students.

"You can always expect your wallet to take a hit once the start of a semester rolls around," said Andy Steele, a Fresno City College student. "Textbooks cost a lot."

Fortunately, there are bookstores that sell used books, offering a bit of financial relief to the textbook spending spree. Used books typically cost considerably less than brand new copies, which saves money for thousands of FCC students every semester.

"I always look to buy the book used first," said Tanner Hodges, an FCC student.

But, as most students know, not every text is available in second-hand form.

Some instructors require stu-

dents to use the latest edition of a textbook. Once a new edition is required, the edition will usually only be available brand new. The previous editions — which can be found used in most bookstores — become obsolete and useless.

There are many variables that go into an instructor's choice of what textbooks to use, according to Anabel Rodriguez a Spanish instructor at Reedley College's Clovis Center.

"There are just so many things that go into it," said Rodriguez, who typically orders a new edition every three to four years. "With new editions the information is updated and the books offer different learning strategies that work better with students."

Some students contest such an explanation — refuting that information cannot possibly change in subjects such as Spanish and math enough to warrant an updated edition of a textbook.

But an updated edition goes beyond the actual information of the subject, Rodriguez said.

"We don't order an updated book just because the information is different," Rodriguez said. "The times also change. If the (Spanish) book is describing a movie star, the book needs to be current because students aren't going to know about movie stars in the 1950s. The book must be up to date."

The faculties of each division periodically conduct meetings to decide what books to purchase and use for the coming semester. If they feel that a lot of information has changed from the previous edition to the latest, the faculty will order the latest edition.

"The people teaching the course will get together and decide if enough information has changed in the new edition," said Shirley Porteous-Gafford, who's currently the interim Associate Dean of Instruction in mathematics, science and engineering. "Instructors don't get an edict that says you have to do it. They decide themselves."

Sometimes the publisher will

POLICE LOG

From the Files of the State Center Community College District Police Department

Jan 22

Vehicle towed, impounded for excessive unpaid citations. Report taken.

Jan 24

Officer took report regarding vehicle vandalism.

Jan 25

Report taken regarding a burglary.

Jan 27

Officer took report at the bookstore regarding unlocked doors.

Jan 30

Officer took report regarding graffiti.

Jan 30

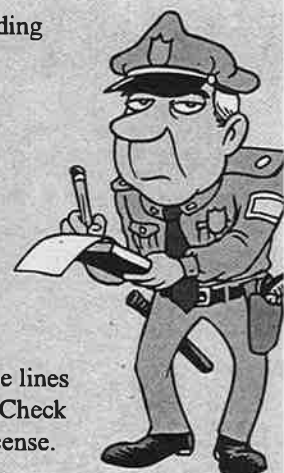
Officer took report regarding stolen vehicle.

Jan 30

Officer observed vehicle cross over double lines into incoming lane. Initiated traffic stop. Check showed service required for suspended license. Driver cited. Served.

Jan 31

Officer took report regarding disruptive student.



stop producing an older edition to sell newer copies, leaving instructors with no choice other than to use the latest edition — according to Philip Andreini, Associate Dean of Instruction in Humanities.

"The publishers cut off previous editions so sometimes the instructors are compelled to order new editions," Andreini said. "Sometimes it's a publisher's ploy

to make earlier editions obsolete. Porteous-Gafford, who taught biology in the Fall 2000 semester, empathizes with textbook spending students.

"Sometimes I would change a different book at lower price students could afford it," she said. "As a teacher, I keep in mind that students have to buy these books. I know they can be expensive."

Campus Calendar

Compiled by Rampage Staff

Feb. 7 - Mar. 18

• Ken & Sally Owens' Exhibit at Art Space Gallery

Feb. 7

• Soul food sale: Fountain area at 10 a.m.

Feb 9

• Ping Pong Tournament: Contact college activities at 265-5711.

Feb 12-14

• Bookstore Valentine's Day Promotion.

Feb. 14

• Club rush

Feb. 16 - 19

President's Holiday: Campus CLOSED.

Feb. 17

"Community Forum on Police Practices and Your Rights": Guest speaker Fred Persily. Fresno City Hall-Council Cham-

bers, 2600 Fresno Street. Registration at 9 a.m. Forums: 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Feb. 21

• "African Americans in the Media" Panel discussion: Student lounge at 12 p.m.

Feb. 23

• Chess tournament: Contact student activities at 265-5711.

Feb. 28

• Game Show, "Who wants to be rich.": Cafeteria at 12 p.m.

Do you have an item you wish to place in the Campus Calendar? If so, turn in complete information to the Rampage office, Room SC 211 (second floor, above the bookstore) between noon-1 p.m. Monday, Wednesday or Friday.

Fresno City College



Rampage

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Singer grasps second chance

By Julian Torres
Editor-in-chief

While many students are concerned with such things as getting their right classes and finding parking closer to campus, Fresno City College's Hubert Richardson has other things on his mind. The 45-year old student is redirecting his life and hopes to help others in the process.

Richardson was raised in the housing projects of Watts, amid much turmoil.

"I grew up hard in the '60s," Richardson said. "I didn't have a father around and by peer pressure being on, I felt that I had to do what others around me were doing to feel accepted."

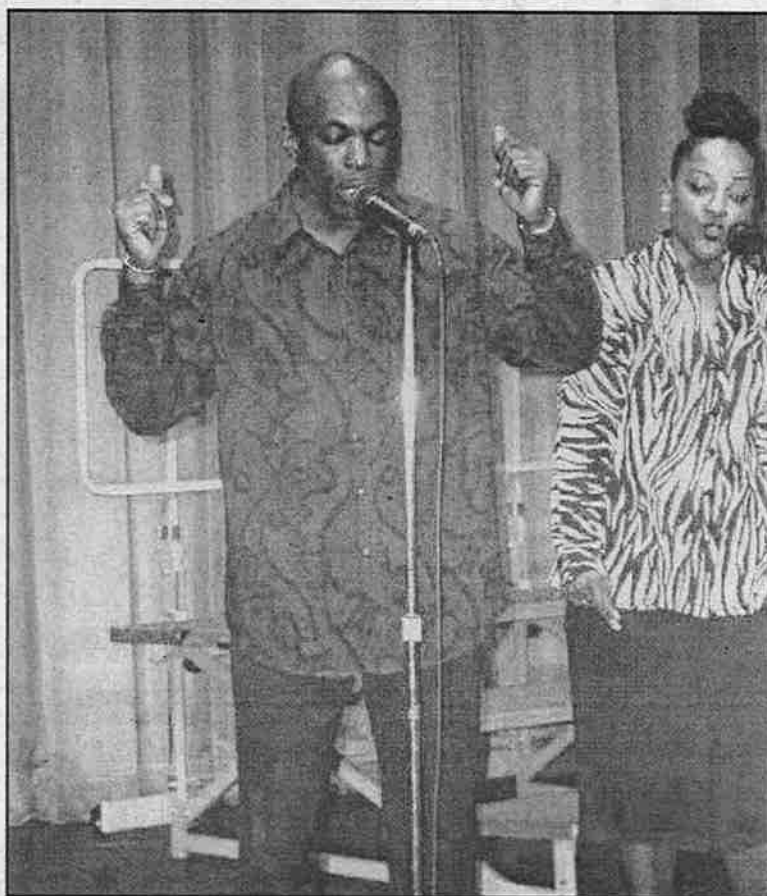


Photo by Julian Torres

Hubert Richardson belts out a song at Gospel Night, part of African-American History Month activities. Richardson spent 23 of his life behind bars and is now turning his life around as a student at Fresno

As a result, Richardson has spent nearly half his life in various institutions and prisons throughout the country. His 23-

year journey has seen him incarcerated in places such as Florida, Louisiana and finally ending up in Corcoran State Prison.

"A circle is 360 degrees, and that's what I have made in my life. I have made a 360-degree turnaround."

Hubert Richardson

Richardson said his stay in Corcoran helped him rethink the path that he was on.

"In Corcoran, they had a program called the Phoenix House program," he said. "When I got there I started discovering things about myself. My road to recovery began with anger management, self esteem (classes), and drug rehabilitation. I learned to stand up and be who I'm supposed to be."

During his stay in Corcoran, he began writing poetry and music. Friday night, during FCC's Gospel Night celebration, Richardson shared some of the gospel songs that he had written.

"God changed my life while I was in prison, the way I see the world and other people around me...I surrender everything that I have to God," Richardson said.

The crowd of onlookers was very hip to his message. Richardson performed a song

titled, "Your Gonna Need Him," in a way he feels is acknowledging God.

Richardson, currently a full-time student who hopes to get his social work certificate, shares his experiences with others, while touring different churches and juvenile facilities around the area preaching about his turnaround.

"I'm always willing to share," said Richardson. "I'm not ashamed of where I came from. If it wasn't for my experiences in the prison life, I wouldn't be here today. If I can help just one person, it makes it worth it."

Richardson is currently writing a book to help inform about the triumphs and tribulations of his life. The tentative title is "Family Circle."

"A circle is 360 degrees, and that's what I have made in my life. I have made a 360-degree turnaround," said Richardson.

Ideas abound for what to do with old admin building

By Joe Chacon
Rampage reporter

The coalition to restore the Old Administration Building met with the State Center Community District Board of Trustees to discuss ideas on steps to restore the OAB.

Representing the Board of Trustees were Ron Manfredi and Vice President Board of Trustees State Center District Dottie Smith.

Coalition members attending the meeting were instructor Wendell Stephenson who was unofficially named spokesman; music instructor Olga Quercia; Allen Beck, president Academic Center; and math instructor Paula Castagna, former President Academic Center.

"The essence of the meeting is to propose ideas," Smith said.

Ideas concerning the OAB have been brought to the Board of Trustees in the past. At one time, a proposal for a Senior Center for the aging was discussed, although parking would have been a problem. Another idea proposed was a museum and partial restoration where the front of the OAB would be saved allowing the back to be demolished and rebuilt.

Also another proposal to tear down the whole building and put in a parking lot was suggested. The OAB is on the Historical Register and cannot be demolished.

The OAB hasn't been used since 1970 because of safety precautions, earthquake regulations and new building codes. The cost of restoration will exceed into the millions.

Manfredi said, "Things start out small." Restoration of the OAB is no small task. The meeting is a starting point, and the Board of Trustees seemed enthusiastic about the coalition's new ideas. Manfredi said, "I would say if a non-backbreaking financial solution came up, the majority of the board would be supportive of a partial

restoration. This is not official this is my take on it."

Stephenson said, "The consensus of opinion is we would like to save the whole building. I don't know if we can, we don't know if we can, but that's where we are."

The Historical Society would not agree to partial restoration.

"Legislation would have to be resubmitted, and yes it could stay on the Historical register," Manfredi said.

According to Manfredi, some other issues such as the magnitude, long range safety use, circulation of the students, also infrastructure concerning parking, water and maintenance with the addition of students.

"Do we really want to add that many usable square feet to this campus, when we are also developing other campuses, or are we not maxed out? Do we want to have another 5,000 students to this campus? Is that fair to the campus? Is that fair to the environment and students?" Manfredi said.

The OAB consist of 180,000 square feet, and it has two courtyards with a rose garden. There are arches throughout the breezeways that give the building a distinct look. There's also theater with a balcony that seats 700 to 800.

"I could just never see the saving of the entire building on a personal situation," Manfredi said. "I'm not emotionally tied to the building. I have a historical interest. Do we really care if the back was knocked down to make room for better circulation?"

The issues brought forth into the meeting are not new. The proposals concerning historical interest was one of the main points.

Beck said, "I have a little bit of sentiment. I taught in it. I went to performances in the theater and enjoyed the rose garden. I was very disappointed when it was going to be torn down. Fresno does too much tearing down,"



Photo by Julian Torres

An unkempt hallway deep in the underbelly of the old administration building.

The issue of adding students, floor space to move freely and space to accommodate instructors was one of the main concerns.

"We do need floor space; we need a lot of it," Beck said. "Some of the circulatory problems -- if you mean getting here to there as circulatory problems -- come from the chain link fence and the doors being

locked."

The Board of Trustees and the coalition decided steps to restore the building need to be taken. Ideas to raise money and how to recruit volunteers were discussed. An agenda for a time lines and categories will be brought up at future meetings. The next meeting is scheduled at 4:45 next Tuesday.

Shuvel breaks new ground in world of heavy metal

Metal music has changed many times over the years from the glamour rock in the 1980s. Still in the '80s came the birth of heavy metal led by Metallica, Pantera, Slayer and many more. In the '90s, the metal genre have split into many groups starting with shock rock, heavy metal, alternative metal, and hip-rock.



Nick Bergstrom
Rampage Reporter
Music Review



sound, they are steadily making a name for themselves. With their mix of Korn, Slipknot, with some rap tossed in, their music turns into something new. This new sound is making their new CD a hit. Check out track one "Set It Off", track three "Hitlist" and track six "Freestyle" lead the way on this awesome CD.

Shuvel, from Los Angeles, is made up of vocalists Jeff Hollingers and Isaac Ayala, guitarist Ryan Stuber, bassist Carlos Sandoval and drummer Kyle

Hollinger. They recently played at the OZZfest show in Florida over the summer. On Dec. 22, they played in Fresno and after that show their CD became a wanted item. Shuvel's album is on shelves now in almost any music store.

I suggest that any metal fan check it out. They have a sound that should captivate any person's interest. Their fan base is growing as we speak. They have rap and rock fans listening to their music because of their unorthodox music style.

'Crouching Tiger' a top-notch film that goes beyond just action

The best film of last year, and the most exciting action movie in a long time, comes from the Far East and stars Chow Yun Fat. Though, instead of featuring the usual two-gun-fisted Hong Kong shootouts, the action relies on sword fights and hand-to-hand combat. Also, most of the fighting is done by women. Incidentally, the film is actually a romance.

Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon is set in a world far removed from the usual American action movie (no badly framed car chases, no random explosions).

Directed by Ang Lee (*Sense and Sensibility*, *The Ice Storm*), the film grounds itself early in setting the story, introducing the main characters and, most importantly, defining the time and place. The film plunges the viewer into a entirely different world, one where combatants bound up walls and skip along rooftops as if these were as common occurrences as walking up stairs or tying a shoe.

Chow Yun Fat plays Li Mu Bai, once a great warrior who finds himself regretting his lifetime of killing as he nears old age. As a symbol of his reluctance to fight, he turns over the Green Destiny, a sword as known throughout the land as Li's name and his use of it, to his longtime friend, and fellow warrior, Yu Shu Lien (Michelle Yeoh of *Supercop* and *Tomorrow Never Dies*). Li entrusts her to deliver the sword to



Chris Castro
Entertainment editor
Movie review



Sir Te, a respected leader and friend of Shu Lien's father. Shu Lien encounters Jen Yu (Zhang Ziyi), daughter of a governor who dreads her upcoming marriage and asks Shu Lien about her life as a warrior.

Soon thereafter, the Green Destiny is stolen and Jade Fox, the warrior who killed Li's brother whom Shu Lien was going to marry, makes an appearance. Li finds himself drawn into battle and discovers a new enemy.

The romance in the movie comes in two forms: The restrained emotions between Li and Shu Lien and Jen's forbidden rendezvous with a leader of bandits named Lo (Chang Chen). Jen runs away from her family and longs for a life of freedom and Lo is the catalyst for her escape (he takes a comb belonging to Jen and she gives chase; sometimes that's all it takes).

As for the subtitles, it's a small price to pay to be forced to (horrors!) read in order to see one of the greatest films of all time. The universal themes of duty and ro-

mance break down any language barriers as they did in 1999's speed-demon of a film, *Run Lola Run*. That film from Germany was also grounded by a romantic story-line in the midst of high-speed action.

The fighting scenes are the most talked about aspect of *Crouching Tiger*,... and it is certainly warranted: The face-off between Zhang Ziyi and Michelle Yeoh puts not only the girl-fighting in *Charlie's Angels* to shame but outdoes any of the fighting in *The Matrix* or *Romeo Must Die*. But all the action in the world doesn't a great movie make. *Titanic* would not have made as much money as it did if the Romeo and Juliet story-line was excised and *Saving Private Ryan* might not have won any awards if it had been a 45-minute movie of battle scenes. The epic romance that ties together the characters of *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* brings the movie to emotional highs equivalent to heights reached when Li and Jen soar above treetops in the climax.

Horoscopes

By Diego Herra
Rampage Reporter

Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

Your problems seem to settle at the moment. Beware of people trying to sway your opinions. If you have any extra money be sure to save it, but don't be too careful. Try not to go to the extreme in your endeavors.

Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Pisces is optimistic and fearless. You're looking at a world that is within reach of anyone who can imagine it. Your kind, hospitable ways attract a stream of followers in need of comfort.

Aries (March 18-April 19)

A simple suggestion meets with unexpected enthusiasm. When you set foot in the realm of traditional values, everyone is sure to have an opinion on your matters. Stay ready and consistent, then you will be rewarded for their performance.

Taurus (April 21-May 20)

There are no simple answers. Try to cautiously assemble the pieces while others rush ahead. By the time your turn comes, clarity may already have found you. Make sure to watch for surprises like pop quizzes.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Your hot streak screeches to a halt. Don't be disappointed with confusing advice from others. People tend to be more helpful when they think they can make a difference.

Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Do you believe all that you hear? Rumors and facts are slippery and easily confused by others. Be calm and subtle. Don't overreact. Watch how events play out before putting in your own two cents.

Leo (July 23-August 22)

It's too late in the week to start anything new. Your resources are depleted, and you crave simple amusement. Fulfill your minimum responsibilities, then go home and have fun and party.

Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Your sense of right and wrong, though opinionated, is respectable to others. Cooler heads prevail, even if they end up getting the cold shoulder from those who don't understand. A personal separation is only as temporary as you make it in a relationship you care about.

Libra (September 23-October 22)

Try not to close your eyes for the best big picture that you've seen might be right in front of you. As you move into the weekend, you have every reason to celebrate. Love is powerful, plentiful and helpful to help weak wounds.

Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

A long, trying process reaches its fruitful conclusion. This accomplishment is just another feather in your cap, although it's an experience that you're in no hurry to repeat. Cancer and Scorpio find little details highly seductive.

Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Pace your day to allow for small, frequent rewards. You have plenty of fun facts to consider, and no reason to hurry and rush. Pace your day to allow for small, frequent rewards you give yourself. You have plenty of fun facts to consider, and no reason to hurry. Opposites find each other and connect over an intimate encounter.

Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You'd better be ready for change because the cycle is accelerating. Your material goals may be frustrated. Opposites play a big role for the next few days. Change will happen if you like it or not.

Bands battle hard into the night

Three local bands display their talents

By Julian Torres
Editor-in-chief

Twilight was hustling about in the backstage area of the Tower Theater, minutes before he was to perform.

"Is it warm in here?" asked the front man, who along with Aaron Wall comprise the two-man team who lead vocals for local band, 40-Watt Hype. "I think it's getting warm in here," added Twilight, as he prepared to go on.

Although the weather outside was chilly, the moment that the local talent hit the stage Jan. 27 during Tower Theater's Battle of the Bands, things definitely began to heat up.

The Battle of the Bands is only the second event like it, which Fresno has seen. It began with the first battle Oct. 21. Over 20 bands competed on two stages, where the winner of one stage was set to face off against the winner of the other. At stake was a gold or platinum record plaque, complimentary time in a recording studio, and a chance to open for a touring band performing at the Tower Theater.

"We held the first battle of the bands in the back parking lot behind the theater, and within one week we had all of our bands," said Leslie Davis, artistic director of Tower Theater.

40-Watt Hype won the first stage, and the second stage saw a tie between Cacti Widder and The Sensations. To continue with the event's momentum, Davis decided to conduct a second battle, where the three bands could display their abilities. Rather than competing, the groups appeared to have a mutual respect for one another.

"Every band here is the same, we all have paid our dues and we all drive to Los Angeles and



Left to right: J.D., Ryan Hum and Tom Knox of Cacti Widder put on an charismatic performance.

get paid nothing," said J.D., lead singer of Visalia band Cacti Widder.

The band's blend of rockabilly and surf kicked off the evening with a bang, setting the tone for the rest of the night.

"We're just a bunch of crazy guys who like to rock and roll and have a good time," said bass player Ryan Hum, who along with Tom Knox on drums make up the three-man crew.

At first glance, Cacti Widder shares a striking resemblance to the '80s trio The Stray Cats, minus the tattoos. When asked about the lack of tattoos, J.D. responded, "Tom's the brave one, I don't have any yet."

Widders' energetic set got feet stomping and hands clapping, truly dominating the night's performance.

Following Cacti Widder, The Sensations, whose wide sound is as diverse as their band's makeup, exhibited their talent. The nine-piece group is made up of Allan Spencer on piano/organ, John Withrow on bass, Lenny Munoz on drums, Nick Betner on guitar, Matt Schmidt on saxophone, Scott Peat on trombone, and the threesome of Randy Stindt, Caitlin Doyle and Mica Morris on vocals. The Sensations got Tower Theater moving and those in attendance



Top: Allan Spencer and Randy Stindt show that they can get their groove on. Left: Mica Morris, Caitlin Doyle, and Randy Stindt lead The Sensations with their commanding vocals.

out of their seats and dancing.

"We feed off the crowd, we give out as much energy as we get from them," said Randy Stindt.

The band displayed great stage presence, working the entire stage, never demonstrating a dull mo-

ment. Stindt, along with Spencer, broke out with a dual dance step routine midway through the performance, which kept the crowd on its feet. Their fresh sound is reminiscent to that of Tower of Power, who bass player Withrow

marks as one of the band's musical influences.

"Our music is American soul," added Caitlin Doyle.

The three vocalists truly magnify The Sensations' talent. Along with Morris and Stindt, Doyle revealed her sexy voice in a dazzling solo performance. The evening concluded with the first Battle of the Bands' winner, 40-Watt Hype. By the time Hype took center stage, the crowd was primed and ready to go. The local band demonstrated a complex sound, which was greatly welcomed by the audience. Hype's sound displays cohesion of rap, soul and rock, with an overflowing heap of talent. Twilight, along with Aaron Wall, lead the band with their hip-hop style, although at times the lyrics were a little tough to make out.

It was Twilight's performance that should be singled out. He was all over the stage and really worked up a storm, even offering a bit of comedy to the set, with his rendition of professional wrestling superstar Hulk Hogan's trademark nod to the crowd, while singing his theme music.

"There is so much good local talent here," said artistic director Leslie Davis. "I was really impressed with the bands, even the ones we had for the first Battle of the Bands."

Although the event was dubbed battle of the bands, it was more of a showcase for local talent, who do not get much attention around the Central Valley.

"It's hard for local bands around here, the whole scene has changed. Everyone is more into D.J.s and cover bands," said Cacti Widders' vocalist J.D. "I wish there was more of a scene here and I didn't have to drive 20 miles to play."

Fresno has a long way to go to match the fast pace at which larger cities take to newer trends, more specifically fashion and music. Larger cities have more of an active music scene than does Fresno.

"In Fresno, to play a regular show, you have to play covers," said JD. "I can't tell you how many times I've been asked to play Lynrd Skynrd. They're a great band, but we are not a cover band."

Veteran Connery and youthful actor combine on winner

"Finding Forester" is another winner to add to the long list for Sean Connery. Connery plays an ex-writer named William Forester, who befriends a young African-American high



Nick Bergstrom
Rampage Reporter
Movie Review

school basketball player, Jamal Wallace, played by Robert Brown.

The whole cast was terrific. Clair Spence, played by young Anna Paquin, is cast as a high school student who helps Wallace get used to his surroundings in an exclusive prep school. Busta Rhymes plays a smart Yankee Stadium parking lot supervisor, and Wallace's older brother. One of my favorite actors in this movie was F. Murray Abraham, who

played the pretentious English professor, Robert Crawford.

This movie portrayed the importance of friendship. Connery and Brown were spectacular together on the big screen, not to mention Brown and Paquin. The relationship between Jamal and Professor Crawford made one of the best scenes in the movie. When Jamal transfers schools, his new English professor has a grudge against the young African-American writing

phenom.

This all begins during one of Jamal's class sessions, when Professor Crawford reveals his true character as a pretender. The professor teaches so that he can captivate his class, instead Jamal beats Crawford at his own game. Jamal embarrasses his professor in front of his class, and Professor Crawford accuses Jamal of plagiarism. All students at one time or another have had a pre-

tentious teacher. Connery portrays the kind of teacher every student would want to have. A teacher who is genuinely truthful toward students.

This was an all-around fantastic movie from start to finish. The entire cast worked well together. May I say for this being his first time acting, Robert Brown took my breath away with his acting style. I recommend this movie to everyone in a heartbeat.

Pickup tips for flirting impaired

By Diego Herra

Rampage Reporter

Women, what is the worst pickup line a guy has ever told you? Maybe something like "Hey, baby what's your sign?" or "Hey, baby I lost my number, can I have yours?"

Whatever it might have been, one thing's for sure: It embarrassed you more than it complimented you.

For those seeking to polish their methods, a flirting-convention was held last week in Fresno, featuring Rich Gosse as the keynote speaker. Gosse is the foremost authority in relationships and finding a romantic partner.

He has written several books on these subjects, and appears on some of the most popular television shows, such as "Oprah" and the "Opera," and "The Wall Street Journal." He has written eight books on this subject, such as "You Can Hurry Love," "An Action Guide for Singles," "Tired of Waiting" and "Singles Guide to America."

There was a big turnout for the event and about 350 people participated in the convention. The crowd consisted of people in their mid 20s through 50s. Gosse talked about the importance of communication and common mistakes people make on dates. For example, don't expect things to evolve on the first date, most people are looking for a long term relationship. Take a tip from the movie, "Taxi" with Robert DeNiro, and don't take your date to a porno. Make sure the environment fits the evening. He also discussed really bad and great opening lines. The number one opening line in recent polls was actually as simple as saying, "Hi".

Gosse mentioned that 50 percent of people are shy at heart, and if they think there is a one in a thousand chance of rejection, they won't say anything. Saying "Hi, I'm a jerk", is a better opening line than saying nothing. You must run the risk of striking out if you want to find a new partner. Everyone is shy, so don't worry about it. Don't make that your excuse to give up on love.

Here are some of the better pick up lines Gosse recommended: "How can I meet you?" "Can I buy you a drink or can I give you the cash?" Flirting is not copyrighted nor is it brain surgery, anyone can do it. Any opening line is always going to be dangerous — they're not always going to work. But there is one important thing, he said. You must always try to be sincere.

Other tips Gosse offered:

Smoking is a big turnoff. Unless he or she lights first, don't even think about lighting up a cigarette. Since 80 percent of people don't smoke, it eliminates your chances with a huge majority of people.



'Fantastic' show offers a normal approach

"The Fantastic Normal Gentlemen" was a fabulous show. It is refreshing to see modern

ideas along with modern dance. Yet, unlike the title of this performance, it was anything but normal. The performance took place



Corey Strauss

Rampage Reporter

Theater review

in front of full house Jan. 27 at the Fresno City College Theatre, a production by the Dr. Schaffer and Mr. Stern dance ensemble.

About the company they quote, "Their work has explored many different ideas through dance, from Shakespeare to the extinction of the dinosaurs, from basketball to science." One piece in particular caught my attention as Karl Schaffer performed an acapella satire to modern dance called "FAD", while reciting a full-length lecture of his own about the fads, styles and stereotypes of his movements.

Each of the pieces performed were equally unique in expressing a mathematical and humorously intellectual side to movement.

In a workshop / masterclass given by Gregg Lizenbury the morning of the performance, about 30 dance students from Fresno City and other local dance studios kicked off their shoes and rediscovered movement. Lizenbury focused on the fluidity of body kinetics and movement through space. While teaching the body to go against its natural reflexes, he asks the students, "How do you move through space?" The answer, "You push," he said using a Scottish accent for emphasis.



The flirting convention gave some participants a chance to practice what they learned.

Photos by Diego Herra

Recommended pickup lines

"How can I meet you?"

"Can I buy you a drink or can I give you the cash?"

"Hi, I'm a jerk"

Even with a great pickup line, you need a great follow through to have a chance with anyone.

Another step in flirting is small talk. Let the other person do most of the talking. This will make you both less nervous and bring his or her self-esteem way up. Give the gift of self-esteem by looking the other individual straight in the eyes, and avoid looking at other guys or girls. Be like Jay Leno, and ask them questions about their



Rich Gosse, author of several books on singles, offers advice during the convention in Fresno on Jan. 27.

favorite person, themselves. Ask questions that are unique about them and compliment them on something they secretly want to be complimented on.

Make sure to smile, not only is it good for you, it will also make you more desirable to the other individual. These are all tips that can and cannot work at any given time so don't be upset if someone

doesn't respond to you.

The evening was a blast for the majority of people that went to the flirting convention. People have even gotten married as a result of these conventions. So when you walking down the halls of Fresno City College and see someone you would like to talk to, don't just use your regular, "Hey, baby", but casually come up and say, "Hi."

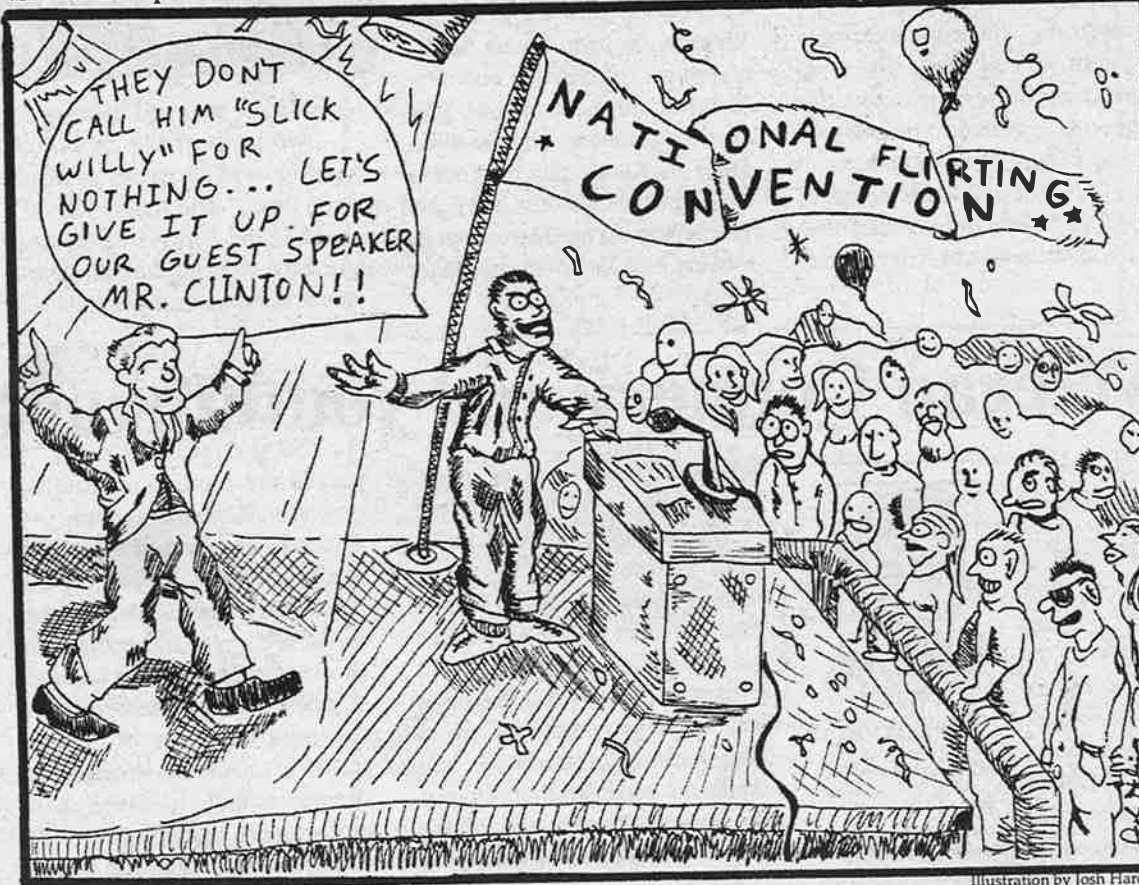


Illustration by Josh Hard

Software piracy: an industry feeling the burn

By Josh Harding

Rampage reporter

These days, it's almost fact that the Internet shares a strong love-hate relationship with just about every industry that values a valid copyright. Anyone with a little ".com" knowhow can amass a collection of free music, much to the woe of the music industry.

To many, these music communities are the greatest thing since sliced bread, but for some who know where to look, the "free lunch" doesn't necessarily have to stop at mp3 files.

Just as the communities such as Napster operate to allow downloads of music files, there are smaller more secretive communities that contain hundreds of titles of pirated video games, ready for anyone with the right knowledge and equipment to obtain them. For any CD-based game console out on the market right now, Playstation, Dreamcast, etc. most, if not all of their titles can be found somewhere amongst these illegal communities. The conflict here is one we have witnessed in the court battles of Napster and the music industry. The video game industry is fighting a just as fierce but less publicized battle to protect their copyrighted material.

"Piracy is one of the biggest business threats our industry faces, and Internet piracy is especially virulent," said the president of Interactive Digital Software, Doug Lowenstein, in a July 2000 press release. In 1997 the gaming industry lost an estimated 10-15 billion dollars worldwide to video game piracy. Around that time the

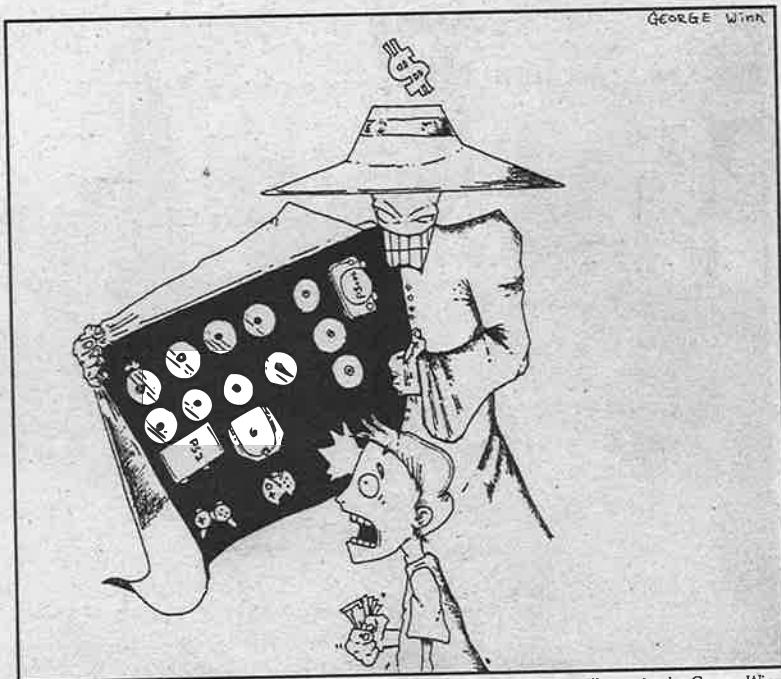


Illustration by George Winn

Sony Corporation filed suits against six large software counterfeiters. In July 2000, aided by the Digital Millennium copyright act, software giant Sega shut down 60 web sites and over 125 auction sites for trafficking pirated Dreamcast games. The piracy has been reduced to a few small groups of programmers who cautiously continue the process of uploading new games onto the Internet.

"It's still easy for the person who just wants to download the games, but for the person who has to rip (extract and upload) the game files it's gotten harder," said the self-proclaimed Game Baron, who donned this alias to protect his identity.

The Baron doesn't "rip" games himself. As he explained, it takes formidable programming skills to extract files from the real games.

There are a series of software blocks put there to prevent ripping the game that must be overcome before its files can be uploaded onto the net. In addition, some small features of the original game may have to be left out for space concerns. Still the game files are huge, 650+ megabytes total for most of the games out there. The Baron uses a cable modem rather than the less speedy 56k modem. Once the files are all downloaded, he says it's only a matter of recombining them and burning them onto a CD. He uses a Re-writable Cd-rom drive and several burning programs, that through trial and error, were found to be best suited for certain games. He admits though, that the hardest part of the process is locating the games in the first place.

"It's extremely hard (finding sources) unless you have connec-

tions. I do, I'm lucky," disclosed the Game Baron.

Aside from equipment costs, the price of a pirated video game is a couple of hours (cable modem) to a few days (56k modem) and of course the price of a blank Cd-rom, which are usually less than a buck each. Besides the advantage of getting any game he wants virtually for free, the Baron notes the wide selection of import game, not released in the United States. These games are available in the communities as well as titles yet to be released in America. The Baron enjoys the luxury of owning a game 3-4 months before it is scheduled to be released. Then in a serious moment he admits the consequences of his actions: criminal and civil lawsuits, fines, even incarceration await him if he is caught, but the Game Baron scoffs at these possibilities.

"There are so many people out there doing this. Besides, I'm careful. I don't advertise. In fact I laugh at Sega...Ha," taunted the Game Baron.

It's true there are many people all over the world reaping the benefits of these ill-gotten games, but primarily the video gaming industry is concerned with going after the hacker groups that "rip" their games and make them available to others. These elusive groups certainly personify the Robin Hood image to the many that benefit from their daring and illegal ventures. On the other side of the conflict, the industry sees them as frustrating parasites feeding off of the hard work of others.

"Third-party publishers — those who spend their company's

time, money and personal producing game software — deserve to be compensated from the legitimate sale of their game software. These people are artists and their efforts should be recognized. Finally, as the game console manufacturer, the integrity of our brand name is being maliciously damaged," said Sony vice president of business/ legal affairs Riley R. Russell in a Dec. 1997 press release.

Cd based game companies suffer most at the hands of piracy but console games such as Nintendo are not free of the problem. Programs called "emulators" bridge the gap between the game systems. They can come already equipped with a variety of games off the older console-based systems, games which are of much smaller memory size.

In this age of the Internet, it seems that few things are sacred. If it can be translated into bits or bytes, then it can become the property of the world. What you create can impact more people than you ever expected, maybe more than you intended. If these game companies consider themselves to be artists, then as artists wouldn't they want all people to admire their work? However, it is a very expensive and time-consuming art though, one that may not be possible if it were not also a business as well. Ultimately, law has sided with the industry to weed out video piracy, but unless some profound innovations are made on the Internet, this act like many others, may not be stopped on any real level.

Fairy tales are fine, but try this for a dose of the real world

We've all heard them, perhaps read them to others. More than likely our children will too. You know what I'm talking about... fairy tales. Haven't we



Katharine Strauss

Rampage reporter

Book review

all grown up believing that there was a prince or princess waiting for us? Or we carefully examined all the frogs we've run into? Have you recently wondered what it would be like if animals really could talk?

We grew up believing that life should be lived "happily ever after". Well, it's time to wake up from that wonderful dream and face the real world. That's where James Finn Garner comes in.

Garner's book, "Politically Correct: The Ultimate Storybook," is actually the combination of his three best-sellers in one volume. The book, published in 1998, contains "Politically Correct Bedtime Stories," "Once Upon a More Enlightened Time," and "Politically Correct Holiday Stories."

Garner rewrote such classics as "Repinzel," "Chicken Little," "The Little Mer-person," "Frosty

the Persun of Snow," and all time favorite, "'Twas the Night Before Solstice."

As you may have guessed these aren't the same old childhood stories. They've been revamped. Some of these stories have a completely different ending. In Repunzel, she ditches the prince, cuts her hair off, and embarks on a music career. We can't forget the badly misunderstood troll in the, "Three Codependent Goats

Gruff," he was just doing his job, right?

This book is certainly a must read, full of unusual twists to the 'traditional' tale. As Garner says, "Today, we have the opportunity and the obligation to rethink these classic stories so they reflect more enlightened times."

He's right, the world has changed since The Brothers Grimm and Hans Christian Andersen, so why not the stories?

If you are looking for an interesting book full of laughs and thought provoking tales for people of all ages, this is it. Don't be a "Sleeping Persun of Better-Than-Average Attractiveness", pick up a copy today and read.

Did you know?...

Java Central, located inside the FCC cafeteria, is now open for students and faculty. Serving gourmet coffees and espresso drinks, prices range between \$2.50 and \$3 (plus tax). Drinks vary from espressos, cappuccinos, cafe lattes, cafe mochas, caramel mochas, banana nut lattes, raspberry mochas, and more.

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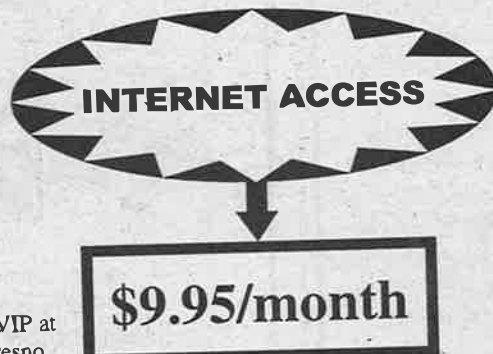
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Ringing ruins day at theater

It used to be a big deal to go to the theater. People would dress up and make a "night out" of it. There were unspoken rules that people followed. Don't talk during the performance, clap to show respect, and don't talk about the play until you leave the theater. They didn't have cell phones then, but if they did they would have known to turn them off. In the age of technology everyone has pagers, cell phones and other loud objects on them. And as we are all aware, they don't turn them off — for anything.

Every day in our classrooms, we are all reminded to turn off everything that will be disruptive. Signs are posted at movie theaters and performing art spaces to turn phones off, but how many people follow these directions? Not many it seems. Without fail, a class will have to pause while someone riffs through their belongings to silence the ringing menace. At the movies the other day, at least three phones rang during the film. One phone rang more than once, and it wasn't the normal buzzing and chiming, it was set to play a long drawn out version of "La Cucaracha." And if that wasn't bad enough, the people would answer the phones and talk!

The lady sitting behind me was the worst. Not only did she answer the phone after it rang, and rang, and rang, but she talked loudly, very loudly. And when she wasn't on the phone, she was talking to the person sitting next to her. Who, by the way, thought it was fun to constantly kick the back of my seat.

Last week, I went to see a play. The audience was mostly full of young adults, and you would think some of these kids would know how to sit in an audience and behave. Guess again. Somehow, I always end up sitting in front of the people who talk, and their conversation is not about things that should be discussed in a public setting. They shouldn't have to announce in the beginning of a performance or class to turn things off. That should be a given.

It would just be nice to consider the people around you, who don't want to listen to you on the phone. Remember that they also paid to see the show. So, the next time you are someplace in a large gathering, turn off the phone. It's the nice thing to do.



Katharine Strauss

Rampage reporter
Commentary

A lot of talk, but restoration's far from reality

It sits there...and sits there, with little purpose but tons of significance, the Old Administration Building stands quietly. Yet tons of people are now giving the once silent building a voice...but is the voice being heard?

It's hard to miss the Old Administration Building with its great walls covered in vines, broken windows bordered with wood, and its essence fenced in from the rest of the world. Its history is no secret, instead it has been the talk of many teachers, students, administrators and community members. They have formed a coalition, in an attempt to grab the community's attention.

The coalition has stirred up a lot of talk, but talking is all that's being done.

Can the coalition stand alone? Though the forming of the coalition itself is a big step in progress for the Old Administration Building, it needs power from the people who hold the power.

The Board of Trustees who seem to be holding more power than most, appear to be hearing the voices but hesitate to do much with what they hear.

The coalition keeps urging people to get involved and help save the building. It's amazing how many people have gotten in-



Maggie Garza

News Editor
Editorial

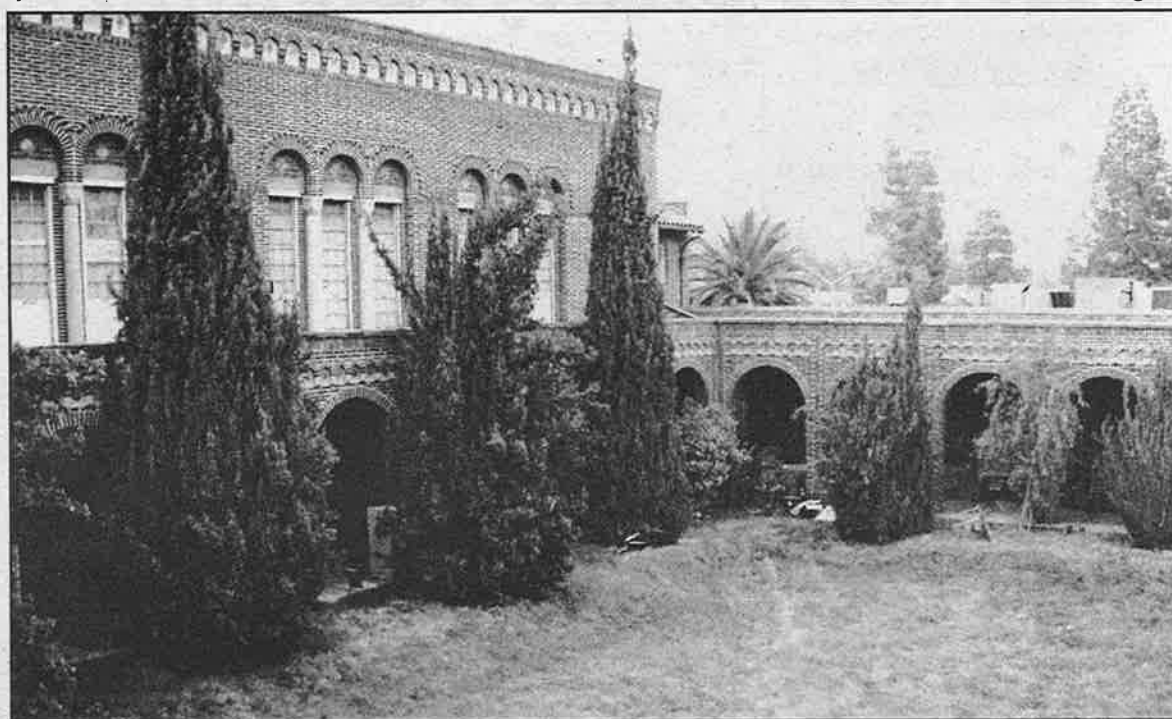


Photo by Julian Torres

One of two picturesque courtyards in the deserted Old Administration Building.

involved already, but in the end the ones making the decisions are the ones who see all the work that lays ahead. Indeed, there is tons of roads and bridges to cross but sitting and staring at them isn't going to make things run smoother.

Will it be a historic sight? Can we use it as educational use? Will it be torn down?

Money seems to be the biggest concern for most. I agree we're talking big dollars, but the money is out there it just needs to be found. There are tons of resources out there to help donate and build the funds to start the progress, all we need to do is look.

Of course the next big hurdle is to find out what to do with the building. Debates have arisen be-

tween whether it should be a historical sight or an educational center.

Why not both?

Why not restore it and use it? Capture the history of it and help it build futures for students. Select a spot and insert a museum-like section used to remember the past.

FCC could use the classrooms, and it's evident the added space would be nice. Picture students reading on benches in the courtyards between classes and the beauty of the Old Administration Building set free from the boards and fences.

After all the coalition has done and all the time spent on discussion, tearing down the Old Admin-

istration Building would be a disgrace. (Although the added student parking would be nice...never mind I would rather walk an extra 10 minutes than lose a great part of Fresno's history.)

So, what now? Now that arguments have been addressed to the Board of Trustees, it's time to see what action is going to be taken. Don't get me wrong they have started to make goals and more progress has been achieved, but it's no secret FCC has a long way to go. I just hope the goals they have set get met in good time. Because anyone could set an agenda, but it takes a lot of dedication to go through with it.



By Chris Castro

Ten Best Films of 2000

10. *Return To Me*
9. *The Way of the Gun*
8. *Gladiator*
7. *Nurse Betty*
6. *Erin Brockovich*
5. *Pitch Black*
4. *Thirteen Days*
3. *Traffic*
2. *Almost Famous*
1. *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*

Ten Worst Movies of 2000

10. *Titan A. E.*
9. *Urban Legends: Final Cut*
8. *The Skulls*
7. *Battlefield Earth*
6. *Wes Craven Presents: Dracula 2000*
5. *Mission To Mars*
4. *Loser*
3. *Play It To The Bone*
2. *Pay It Forward*
1. *Supernova*

Taking It To The Streets

Compiled and photographed by Joseph Moffitt

What does African -American month mean to you?



- Dianne Page

"Blacks trying to be free and a celebration of freedom."



- Esteban Rillo

"A month of history, a chance to understand what people went through back in the day."



- Katie Stewart

"A celebration of freedom and the strength of our people and acknowledgement of greatness once ignored.."



- Mercedes Kinner

"A celebration of our heritage and the knowledge of where we come from. The freedom of our people."

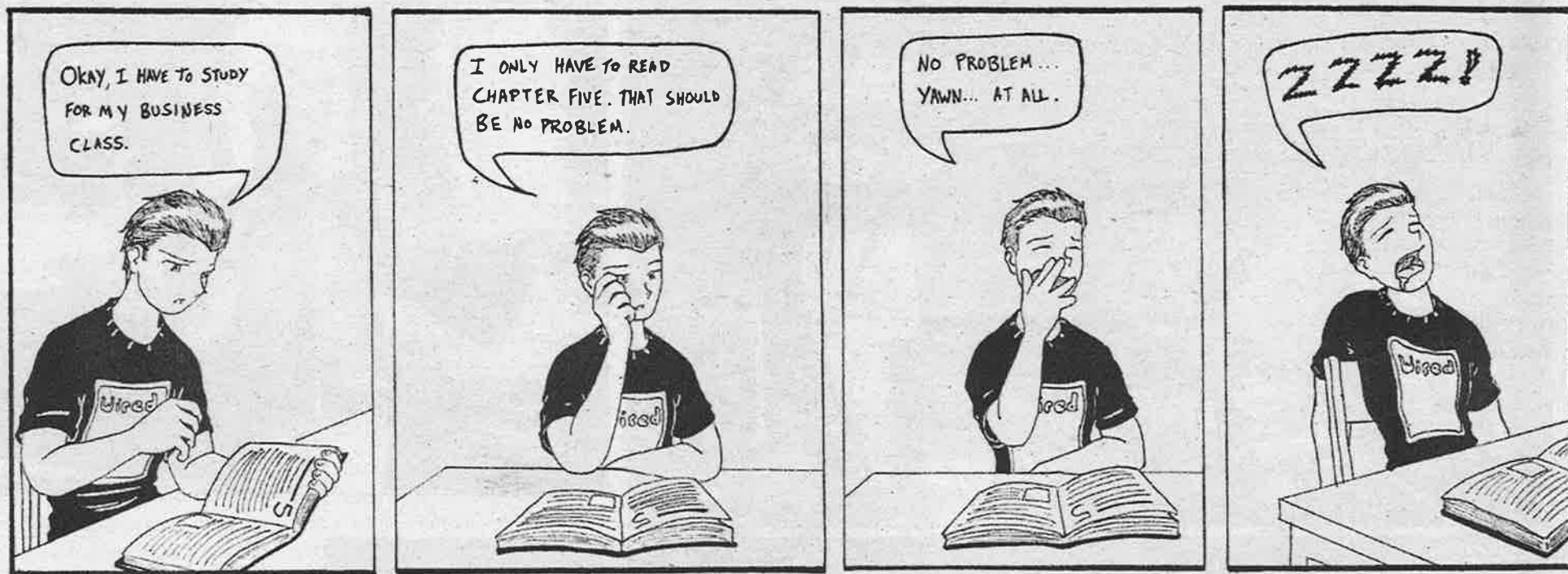


- Rita Hubbard

"It's informing me of my culture from the past, the history of black Americans."

City Life

Jesse Garcia



Don't wake me for at least 4 years

The California power crisis, the India earthquake... Madonna got married? Yes, it was an almost sure sign that once George Bush got into office the end of the world would follow.

OK, so once he was sworn in no locusts appeared, although I too had to take a quick glimpse at the sky, but not all our fears were put to rest.

So, now it's time for Democrats and liberals to hold their tongues and accept our new president. What's done is done. But, of course, it isn't as easy as it sounds. Just as I was about to give the "daddy's boy"

a chance, he proves once again stupidity will get the best of him.

It isn't a secret that he doesn't have America backing him up, and reality has shown that the only people in his corner are the Re-

publicans and conservative goons. So, you would think his first action as president would be something to win back the rest of the American public. Instead Bush made a quick move to take a stand against abortion and then tried what he thought would be a slick move and invite the Kennedys over for dinner and a movie.

Well, the dinner and a movie date made news coverage (anything that deals with the Kennedy family makes news), but it wasn't as smooth as he thought it was. Instead, abortion activists made more coverage and the Democrat-Republican battle continued.

So, what can we expect for these long four years ahead of us? We can expect for Democrats to contradict themselves, Republicans to try to pass bills that will make our lives miserable, and Bush to try to educate himself enough not to look as though hooked on phonics didn't really work for him.

Democrats will indeed contradict themselves. After shouting that Republicans exploited

Clinton and followed too closely to things that didn't really have anything to do with his job as president, Democrats will find themselves stalking Bush and draining any dignity he has left.

Republicans and Bush will pass bills that will set America a step back from progress. Instead of recognizing this is a new era and there are bigger problems other than social security, we will see not only the economy start to slowly go down but lower-class communities will decline.

Will Bush make an enormous mistake? He'll make tons of little mistakes that will cause damage even after his four years are up. With "daddy" by his side and holding his hand every step of the way, I doubt he'll bomb China just to see what the red button really does.

He will, with most conservatives, put military needs above many of the local communities needs.

All I know is this will be a very, very long four years.

How I learned to stop whining and just write

I write, therefore you read. I'm right, therefore you're wrong. I just made you read those last two sentences, and now you're nearly halfway through this one...does this make me a god? No, I'm just a fortunate writer.

What makes me a lucky writer is that my words have somehow been passed over by your eyes. I call myself a writer since this publication presents my "work" to you, the reader, and that's about all that separates me from a 5-year-old who can write his own name. That, and I haven't used crayons to write in who knows how long.

This was going to be a piece on the futility of expressing one's opinion, whether that be on politics or popular entertainment, to a largely indifferent public. I could have mentioned how pointless a task it is since most people will quickly disregard any opinion contrary to their own unless they are forced to do so (such as in a classroom). Also, people tend to listen less to a movie critic since they are commonly seen as snobby, "I-know-better-than-you" elitists. The public is usually influenced most by a piece of entertainment's face value...literally. (There's no question I dread more than when, after describing what a phenomenal independent film I had just seen, someone asks, "Who was in it?")

Of course I realized I was doing something I have done for a long time: lumping people into an easily definable mass entity. The truth is, people are individuals who are not all the same and have very differing opinions and views

(duh!). I'm sure many people like myself look for films of depth as much as another person looks for movies with big explosions. So, even though I may see my position as one of little power, surely at least one person out there may be at least intrigued by something I have written and may have watched a movie, or listened to a band I recommended.

Also, by merely mentioning the name of a movie or an album, I have given that work a little bit of exposure it wouldn't have otherwise had. Granted, a name-drop from me is hardly as effective as Britney Spears dancing like a stripper while lip-syncing to her next single, it nonetheless may accomplish something.

For instance, I have just read a very funny book about a twenty-something-year-old forced to raise his prepubescent brother after their parents died of cancer within a week of each other. Now, you may be wondering how a book with that subject matter could be considered funny. While I do have a morbid sense of humor, it has no reflection on this book which is as emotionally wrenching as it is hilarious. You'll have to read it for yourself; it's called *A Heart-breaking Work of Staggering Genius*, by Dave Eggers. Long title, good read.

See there? Now someone out there may go out and at least pick up that book and read a little from it to see if it's worth purchasing, or stealing, based on that tiny little recommendation. So, if I can get at least one person to think a little differently, I do have some degree of power. If my writing can make at least one person good, then I'm happy. And if that one person happens to be myself, all the better! It would be nice if I made someone else happy, but as I mentioned before, I am not a god. At least not yet.



Maggie Garza
News Editor
Editorial



Chris Castro
Entertainment
editor



Illustration by Josh Harding



Fresno City College celebrates African-American History Month

Photos by Julian Torres, Joe Chacon, and Reyna Gillet



Women

Cont. from page 1

After the loss, Johnson didn't fault the system. He brought in new players, stressed playing hard, not getting lackadaisical during games and team work.

And it is beginning to pay off.

The Lady Rams are currently ranked No. 6 in the state, are 25-5 overall and 7-2 in the Central Valley Conference. They play the No. 1 schedule in California and are an eye-opening 16-3 against fellow Top 25 teams.

"We've proven we can beat anyone," Johnson said. "We've also proven we can lose on any given day."

The latter was proven against Merced College when the Blue Devils knocked off FCC after the Rams failed to make a basket in the final 10 minutes of the second half.

But setbacks such as that have been brushed off by a team chalk full of experience and steady freshmen play.

Nina Roberts and Amber Easter are proven scorers on a team that plays 11 players 17 minutes or more.

Freshmen Nikki Williams and Rochelle Ortega have made significant contributions also, starting the majority of the games this year. They have played above their age and are very mature players who are adapting extremely well to college basketball,

Johnson said.

"College athletics are a lot more difficult than in high school," Ortega, also an FCC volleyball standout, said. "The practices are tougher, and the competition is way better."

And just in case it wasn't hard enough for the team to deal with last season's final game, it was dealt another blow in December.

During a non-conference game, one of the team's best players and leading scorers, Kendra Yancey, went up for a rebound and came down awkwardly on a knee. X-rays showed a torn ACL, and it spelled the end of her season.

"It was a huge loss for us," Johnson said. "It's unfortunate, but we still gotta play. Kendra's obviously a very talented player. But the thing with this team is that we have an awful lot of depth. Last year we had a lot of people who just played roles — this year we have players who can get the job done on any night."

During the summer, during conditioning, during every practice and every game, the team has fought to rid itself of the sour taste left on their tongues, after the Shasta game.

They may not have to wait much longer.

"We've talked all year about not allowing ourselves to beat ourselves," Johnson said. "When we stay focused we win — we have already proven we are one of the best teams in the state."



Photo by Brandon Castro

FCC women's coach Donnie Johnson instructs the team during a timeout last Wednesday against Taft.

In games last week, the Rams avenged an earlier loss to Reedley by beating the Pirates 75-54 Saturday night behind Easter's 17 points.

Easter scored 17 points in Wednesday's 76-43 victory against Taft. Roberts had 12 points and Ortega had 12 rebounds.

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Month

Cont. from page 1

College, which began last Wednesday in the theater, were kicked off by a terrific jazz band -- the O'Neill Brothers -- who played for about 15 minutes following a short speech by Emma Pellham-Wiley. Pellham-Wiley's speech focused on how life in America would be gravely different without the influence of African-American culture.

If we no imput from the African-American culture we would have no air conditioning (an unbearable condition for Fresno) and there would be no traffic signals.

These along with the lawn mower, elevator, fountain pen, street-sweeper, electric trolley and

countless other inventions were brought to us by black people. Pellham-Wiley hit home with this dissertation by making the audience recognize the the positive differences African-Americans have made to the American culture.

The ceremony continued with performances by Lirically Ill, a young FCC rapper, an African-American dance and topped off with the FCC choir with a song "Keep your lamps trim and burning," which was a song that African-Americans used while under the bonds of slavery to lead them to freedom.

Micha Morris who performed with the FCC choir said she felt they did a great job even though they have only been in school for a few weeks.

as good of shape, and I think the first one would've gotten caught also."

FCC police lieutenant Ron Watson estimates trains usually cross the tracks at speeds of 45-50 mph.

The last time that FCC has had a train incident on campus was when a man was killed about 2 1/2 years ago, according to Watson.

"It was a husband and wife, that were not students. The wife crossed the tracks and the husband followed behind and was smacked head on by the train."

Train

Cont. from page 1

surgery to repair her elbow.

"The engineer said as he was coming down the tracks and he saw several students trying to cross after the safety arms had gone down. He got on the brakes early because he had a bad feeling," said Perry, who noted that the engineer said the train was traveling 65-70 mph.

"If he hadn't of gotten on the brakes a little early, I don't think the second girl would've been in

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DELIVERY OR CARRY OUT • DELIVERY OR CARRY OUT

Beginning with Asahina, Rams expect an 'A'

Coach Ron Scott has high hopes for baseball team

By Jeffrey Swisher

Rampage Reporter

Jon Asahina and T.J. Boyd are preseason All-Americans headlining this year's Fresno City College baseball roster, which features five returning starters and a brigade of talented newcomers.

The Rams, ranked No. 3 in the state preseason poll, have made vast improvements from last year's team. In its 2000 campaign, FCC finished first in the Central Valley Conference, going 36-13 overall and placing third in the State Championships with a squad that included 22 freshmen with little experience at the collegiate level.

The difference this season is clear — the 2001 Rams have experience on their side.

Leading the pack of talented returners is Asahina, a right-hander who posted an 11-1 record as a starter last season with 137 strikeouts in 115 innings pitched. Asahina also contributed on the offensive end, batting .316 with three home runs and 17 RBI.

Asahina, who signed to play for Louisiana State University next year after turning down a minor-league contract from the Florida Marlins, is an important element in the Rams' success, according to FCC coach Ron Scott.

"He's our best player because not only is he going to pitch for us, but he's going to bat in our No. 3 spot," said Scott, who's entering his 13th season as the Rams' coach. "He's talented, and he's a hard worker. That's a rare combination."

Asahina put that combination to use last weekend in helping the Rams open the season with four victories in a tournament at Euless Park.

Asahina outpitched Jake Thompson, another LSU recruit, for an 11-3 victory Sunday against No. 2 Sacramento City College.

Other key returning FCC pitchers include right-hander Derek Mills, who's expected to pitch in the No. 3 spot for the Rams, and Chad Scarbery, a right-hander, who will pitch near the bottom of the starting rotation.

Among the newcomers to the pitching staff is Jason Martina, a transfer from the University of San Francisco, where he earned honors as the Dons' Freshman Pitcher of the Year.

"We really like our pitching depth," said Scott, who has led the Rams to nine conference championships.

On the offensive end, third basemen T.J. Boyd will provide



Fresno City won four games to open the season, beating Shasta 24-1, Ohlone 5-3, Santa Rosa 5-1 and Sacramento City 11-3.

Photos by Joe Chacon



FCC's Jason Pasma forces a runner at second during the Rams' 24-1 victory against Shasta on Friday.

power at the plate for FCC. Last season, Boyd hit .433 with 10 home runs and 59 RBI.

Catcher Brian Pierce, a transfer from Reedley, will also provide an offensive spark. At Reedley, Pierce batted .425 en route to a first-team All-League selection.

Here are Scott's responses to the 2001 season, which according to Scott, may be the most successful in school history.

What have you built on or changed from last year's team?

We're pretty much the same team every year, but we're going to have much more pitching depth. Last year, we had some pitching

injuries and our other pitchers weren't able to step up. So this season we've added more depth.

What areas will determine the success of your team this season?

Our middle infield will be big for us this year. We're replacing our shortstop and second base positions with freshmen so the main thing for us will be whether or not they'll be able to come through.

How do you rate the competition in the CVC and in the state?

In the CVC, I think we're pretty much the team to beat. In the north, the two teams will be

Fresno City and Sacramento. Riverside, Cypress and Santa Ana will also be tough. I have a gut feeling that one of those five will win state.

What are the major strengths of this team?

We really like our pitching depth. In all of our key positions, we have good, quality athletes. Pitching is our biggest strength. Our hitting and defense is good too.

What will be the ultimate obstacle for your team this season?

Our biggest obstacle is that our conference is fairly weak. I don't

Rams at a glance

Coach: Ron Scott, 13th season

2000 CVC record: 23-3, conference champion

Overall record: 36-13, lost to East L.A. in state semifinals

Returning players: Jon Asahina, RHP-IF; T.J. Boyd, 3B; Ben Dailey, 1B; Steve Frazier, LHP; Tyler Hergenrader, OF; Keven James, 1B; Richard Lujan, OF; Derek Mills, RHP; Jason Plasma, IF; Troy Pickford, RHP; Matt Rico, OF; Chad Scarbery, RHP; Brad Shannon, CF; Eric Stein, RHP

Newcomers: Dayton Buller, C; Kevin Burns, RHP; Craig Click, IF-RHP; Chris Davis, RHP; Rodney Davis, IF/OF; Lorenzo Galaviz, RHP; Mike Gillen, LHP; Dave Griffin, LHP; Clay Jacobsen, 1B; Horace Lawrence, OF; Thomas Martin, C; Clint McGill, IF; Jason Martina, LHP; Robert Mosqueda, IF; Vince Oglesby, OF; Mike Paustian, RHP; Nolan Phillips, IF; Brian Pierce, C; J.P. Ramirez, OF; Jake Rodgers, OF; Ryan Rothford, C; Tom Shannon, IF/OF; Ryan Wilson, RHP

Projected pitching rotation: Jon Asahina, RHP; Jason Martina, LHP; Derek Mills, RHP; Chad Scarbery, RHP

mean to sound cocky because there are some good teams in the CVC. But in the last five or six years, the bottom teams have been atrocious. We play 25 conference games and a lot of those games will be against inferior opponents. The competition will get a lot tougher in the state playoffs. We have to adjust to that.

What goals have you set for your team this season?

The first goal is to get to the state playoffs. We expect to win our conference, but even if we don't, we still want to be in a position to get to the final four of the state championships.

Experienced track teams look forward to new season

By Joe Chacon
Rampage Reporter

With the first meet for Fresno City College men's and women's track teams scheduled Saturday in Stockton, track coordinator Dee De Witt anticipates a great season.

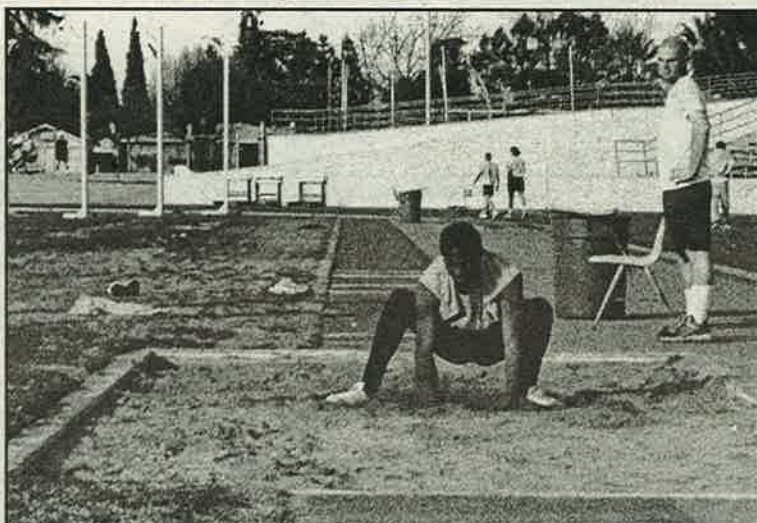
In fact, De Witt said, "Everything will be much improved this year with returning key runners, new jumpers, new sprinters and new jumpers."

De Witt said there's a good reason he's confident the team will be improved. "We've got some people where we were weak last year. That will make us a lot stronger."

Two new pole vaulters from Buchanan High School -- Brandt Willingham and Mike Kelley -- were recruited at the Central Section high school meet.

Twin sprinters Alex and Justin Steele add strength to the hurdlers and 400 meters.

The women's squad this year will be the biggest in recent history. "It's The biggest squad we've had in a while with our star Sarah Yanes in the long jump, 100, 200 and 4 by 100 meters," De Witt said,



Keri Guillemín (javelin) is the throwing squad captain. Last year, she missed the state meet by one inch because of an illegal javelin.

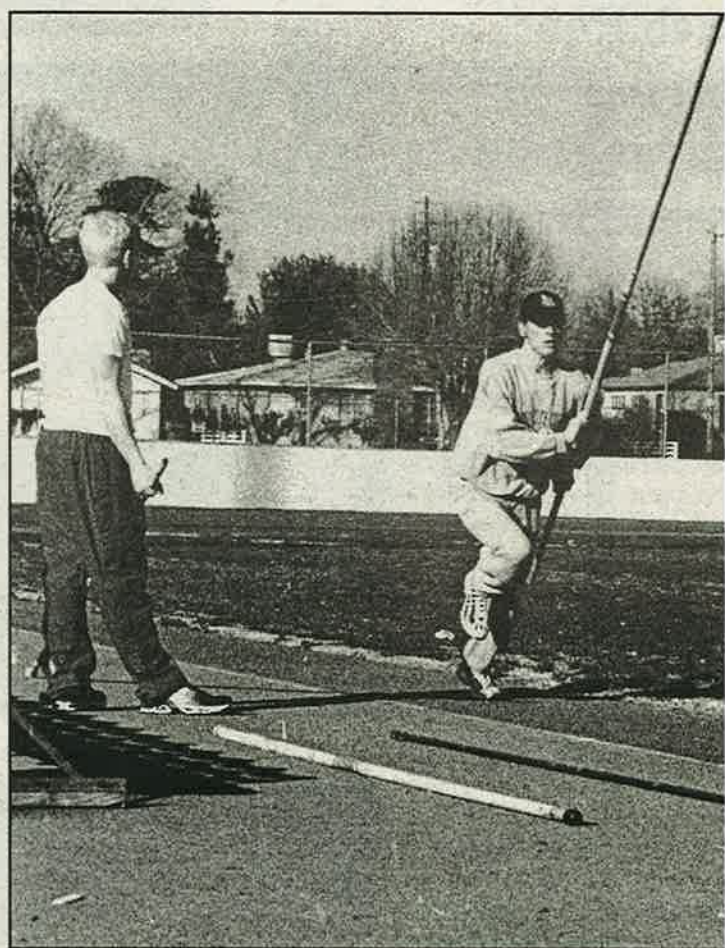
Sprinters Kristen Wasser and Nikki Avery from Lemoore will also high jump. They were the top recruits out of high school. Jerome Avery, Nikki's brother, graduated from FCC a few years ago. He ran in the Olympic Trials.

Two new coaches were added to the team: throw coach Dave Sutherland coached at Clovis, Madera and Fresno State. He has

20 years experience. Hurdler coach Hugh Adams coached at Fresno State for 20 years. Jump coach Curtis Allen will be coaching at City in between coaching at Clovis West.

Thrower Sean Mitchell, a returner, said, "It's going to be different this year we have a new throwing coach." Mitchell seemed positive about a new year and a new coach.

"Last year was everyone's first year, we were new. We're gonna dominate this year," Mitchell said.



Photos by Joe Chacon

Top left: William Halford, out of Edison High, works on his long jump technique. Top: Mike Kelley, left, watches Brandt Willingham take a turn on the pole vault runway. Both are from Buchanan High.

Sports events at FCC

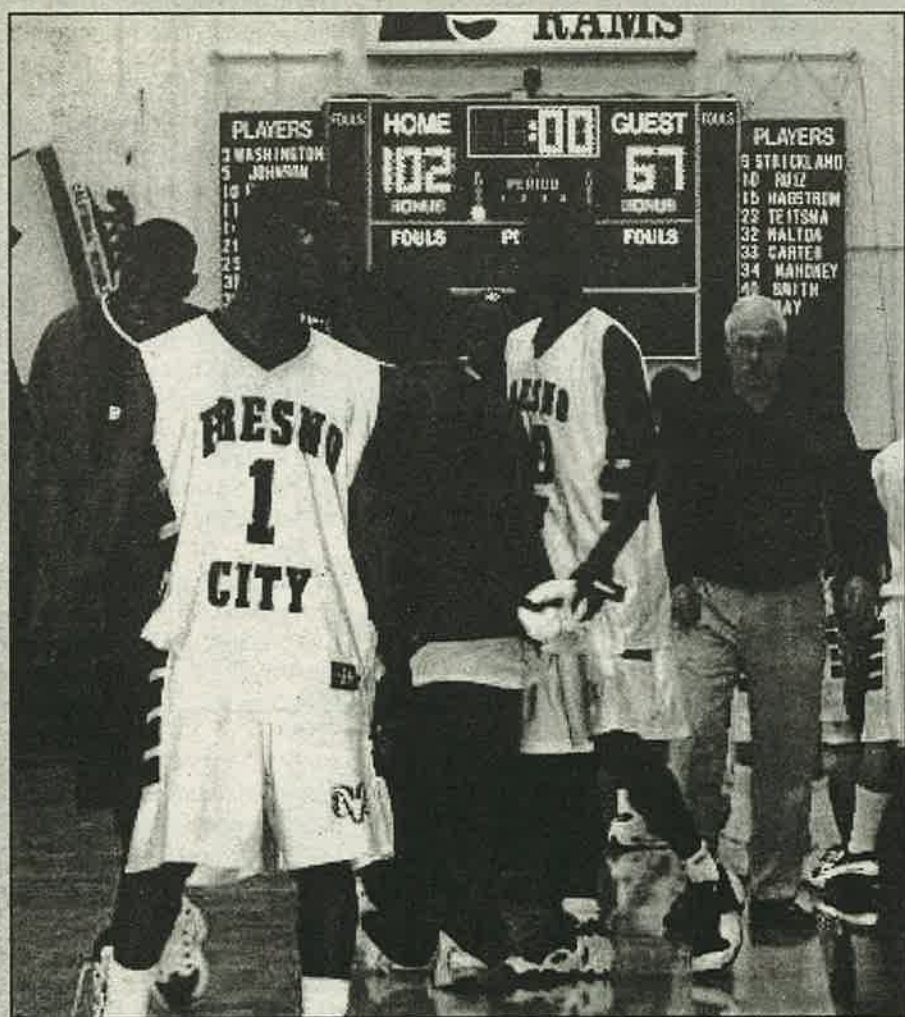


Photo by Brandon Castro

Feb. 8-10

Baseball: FCC/College of Sequoias Tournament, Euless Park

Feb. 14

Women's basketball: 5 p.m. vs. Porterville, FCC gym

Men's basketball: 7 p.m. vs. Sequoias, FCC gym

Feb. 16-18

Baseball: vs. Solano, Euless Park

Feb. 17

Women's basketball: 7 p.m., Modesto, FCC gym

Feb. 22

Women's tennis: 2 p.m., Merced, FCC courts

This could be year for boxing's return to glory

Main events in boxing have been struggling this past year, but this could be the year for blockbuster events.

These past couple years have teased us with main events only to come up like open acts for the *Back Street Boys*.

Such as Oscar De La Hoya versus Felix Trinidad when De La Hoya chose to show a defensive performance against his strongest opponent at the time. Also in a fight that had so much hype, Floyd Mayweather Jr. punished Diego Corrales by avoiding nearly every punch Corrales threw and pounded him with lightning punches.

Then the "Showtime" of the lightweight weight division, Roy Jones Jr., just destroyed all of his competition. Then there was Lennox Lewis beating David Tua in every aspect of their fight.

These were fights that were supposed to resemble those of the Sugar Ray Leonard and Marvelous Marvin Hagler heydays. Well, I guess these fights must of been over anticipated.

So maybe if we don't put out that much hype then maybe, just maybe, there will be some great fights. Nope go ahead.

There was some showing of a few great fights this past year, like Sugar Shane Mosley versus De La Hoya.

There were rounds in the fight that were an all-out brawl. But in the best fight in many years was Antonio Barrera versus Erik Morrales. This was an all-out brawl

from the opening bell to the split decision that went to Morrales arguably. There possibly could have been shots of the future bouts to come.

Now starting off 2001 will be a middleweight tournament in April and I hope to unify a champion.

Bernard Hopkins (38-2-1, 28 KOs) versus Keith Holmes (35-2, 26 KOs) start the tourney April 14 at Mandalay Bay in Las Vegas on HBO.

Then Trinidad (39-0, 32 KOs) versus William Joppy (32-1-1, 24 KOs) on May 12 at Madison Square Garden in New York. Trinidad has two 154-pound belts and will move up to the 160-pound weight class.

Hopkins for the past couple years has been regarded as the best fighter at 160 pounds. No fighter will make less than \$1 million in their first fight. The winner of the two fights will fight later in the year on pay-per-view.

The man that put this all together is Bob King. King has promotional deals with four fighters including his latest accusation against Hopkins. King signed Hopkins about a month ago for three years that include a minimum of four fights and a max of six. King also said the winner of the tourney will go after Jones, the lightweight champion, toward the end of the year.

Boxing has needed a unification in the middleweight division for some time now fans will get to see a great four-fight tournament. This is a monster event that could bring boxing to its peak for the first time in many years.

The mix of the fighters has started to get ready for some great boxing in 2001.



Brandon Castro

Sports Editor
Column

XFL offers a new layer of football with the same ol' skin

By Dale Mommer
Rampage Reporter

The quest to save football, make money and re-energize the game can now be defined by a project developed by World Wrestling Federation boss Vince McMahon called the Extreme Football League.

This new competitor to the NFL hopes to gain the 18-35 male audience that enjoys the same kind of smackdown approach of wrestling that will now be applied to football. The XFL also offers to the viewer a new, hard-core approach to football that promises to bring back the tradition of the game that works more for fans than corporations.

When it was revealed that the XFL was conceived and now partially owned by McMahon, it was instantly met with scrutiny. Many have compared this creation to the popular video game NFL Blitz, where the players are free to use all tactics necessary to stop the opposing team and routinely use unsportsmanlike conduct. Others have questioned the legitimacy of a league that was influenced by characters who wear tights and bodyslam each other in scripted scenarios in a steel cage. Though I do not expect to see The Rock playing defensive end any time soon, I do expect the same smackdown approach that envelops the WWF to pass to the XFL.

The XFL also gives the players the chance to play professional football and gain the exposure that they could only gain from playing in the NFL, NFL Europe, Canadian Football League or the Arena league. The XFL will give players a second chance through televised programming to display their skills and receive the potential recognition to deliver them into a starting role in the NFL. These players will be well paid for washouts with quarterbacks (\$50,000 a season), kickers (\$35,000), and all other players (\$45,000) receiving flat rates. For every game a team wins, a bonus of \$100,000 will be divided equally by all the members of the team. The winning team in "The Big Game at the End" will equally divide a \$1 million.

These figures are skewed, however, because the marquee players will always make money through endorsements that will separate them from other players of their positions and give them the recognition that they deserve.

The XFL is also changing the rules of the game to add more excitement or intensity. The game of football is still presented in its traditional format of two teams, a 100-yard football field, and the traditional ball. What is different is the technicality of the game where new rules have been



Illustration by Josh Harding and George Winn

implemented to change or add to existing rules.

One change is there are no longer fair catches. The punt/kick returner will have a 5-yard cushion to catch the ball and return it. The kicking team also cannot leave the line of scrimmage until the football is in the air. The ball is also considered a "live ball" after it is kicked more than 25 yards and can be recovered by either team. This will make punting and kicking a much more strategic and interesting part of the game because special team play in the NFL has demonstrated that momentum changes with one big play, such as the Music City Miracle, where the Titans won the game through a lateral kick return for a touchdown.

Another rule is there are no more point-after kicks. After a touchdown, the team must play the down on the 2-yard line and either pass or run into the end zone for the extra point. The clock will still run during this play, and the play can be intercepted or fumbled balls can be returned to the other end zone.

Other rules are more directed toward defense where the rules are more relaxed toward how they can tackle or cover the wide receivers. The defensive backs can use bump-and-run tactics on receivers that basically allow pass interference. This should make receivers more concerned about catching the ball and make them, not the defender, accountable for not catching the ball. Despite this rule the receivers have benefited from the new rules where they only need to keep one foot in bounds to register a completion giving them an edge on the sidelines.

These new rules should make the passing game more aggressive between the receivers and defenders. The play clock has

decreased from 35-25 seconds for each possession. That should carry the game at a faster pace. Taunting the teams after sacks or celebrating touchdowns is once again allowed so players can celebrate their accomplishments and not be punished for it.

One thing that did not change but should have is the quarterback is still protected from the defense. When the quarterback scrambles out of the

pocket for a first down, he is free to be tackled until he slides. That signals he has surrendered and now cannot be touched. This is unfair because wide receivers and running backs do not have this option and are routinely punished by hard hits. However, the quarterback is exempt from these rules even though he assumes the role of the running back when he scrambles for the first down. The quarterback should have no special protection and should be punished just like all the other offensive players.

Finally, there is overtime that

has been remodeled in the image of college football. Each team will have the ball at least once where it will have four downs from the opponents 20-yard line to score. This will make overtime an equal-opportunity situation to win the game instead of the NFL where the first team to score wins.

One point that I feel the XFL needs to address before becoming a legitimate, respectable league is how to create high-

quality play from outcast players from the NFL and other leagues. The public is used to seeing the NFL players such as Defensive Player of the Year Ray Lewis and MVP Marshall Faulk who seem to possess super-human athletic abilities. Every successful sports league has to produce dominate players that seem to perform miracles, such as Joe Montana and "The Catch" or Michael Jordan's exploits in basketball. The XFL must possess these kinds of players who create awe in the public's eye and become idols in the eyes of children and fans alike. Without these players, the XFL will always be second to the NFL in terms of greatness and will be viewed with this mind set.

The XFL is an exciting experiment because it offers exciting solutions to make the game of football better. True, it will be hard pressed to match the respectability of the NFL, but I believe that when the season is over, it will be respected in its own right. The XFL is placed in a great time slot where it will feed off the post Super Bowl excitement and before baseball so there will be a fan base for this sporting event. Since ticket prices are low and intrigue is high, the XFL will have a very profitable first season and once accepted will succeed in becoming a respectable sports organization.

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Chess Tournament
College Center, 10am - 2pm

Friday, March 2
3 on 3 Basketball Tournament
Gym, 10am - 2pm

Friday, March 16
3 on 3 Soccer
Free Speech Area, 10am - 2pm

Wednesday, March 21
Fitness Faire & Bench Press
Competition
Fountain Area, 10am - 2pm

Friday, March 30
2 on 2 Volleyball
Free Speech Area, 10am - 2pm

Saturday, April 28
Campus Wide Softball
Tournament
8am - 4pm

Friday, May 4
Pool Tournament
College Center, 10am - 2pm



Chess Tournament

February
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2001
Deadline
Feb. 22

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in the
Game Room



in the
Fountain Area

February 2001

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Satellite Student Union

Saturday
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CSUF Gospel Concert
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Satellite Student Union

Tuesday
February 13
CSUF Speakers: Ben & Jerry
7:00 p.m.
Satellite Student Union

Tuesday
February 13
African American
Health Issues & Careers
12:00 noon
FCC College Center

Saturday
February 17
CSUF 8th Annual Step Show
12:00 noon
Satellite Student Union

Wednesday
February 21
African Americans in the Media
Panel Discussion
12:00 noon
FCC College Center

Friday
February 23
Speaker: Theophile Obenga
Location TBA

Saturday
February 24
CSUF Talent Show
7:00 p.m.
Satellite Student Union

Monday
February 26
"Wall of Honor"
5:00 p.m.
African American Museum

Tuesday
February 27
PASU UMOJA Circle
"Putting God First"
8:00 p.m.
FCC College Center

Wednesday
February 28
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