



'Valentine' will make you scream, but only because it's so bad

Page 4



Eight FCC football players sign with four-year schools

Page 9



Confident women head to basketball playoffs

Page 11



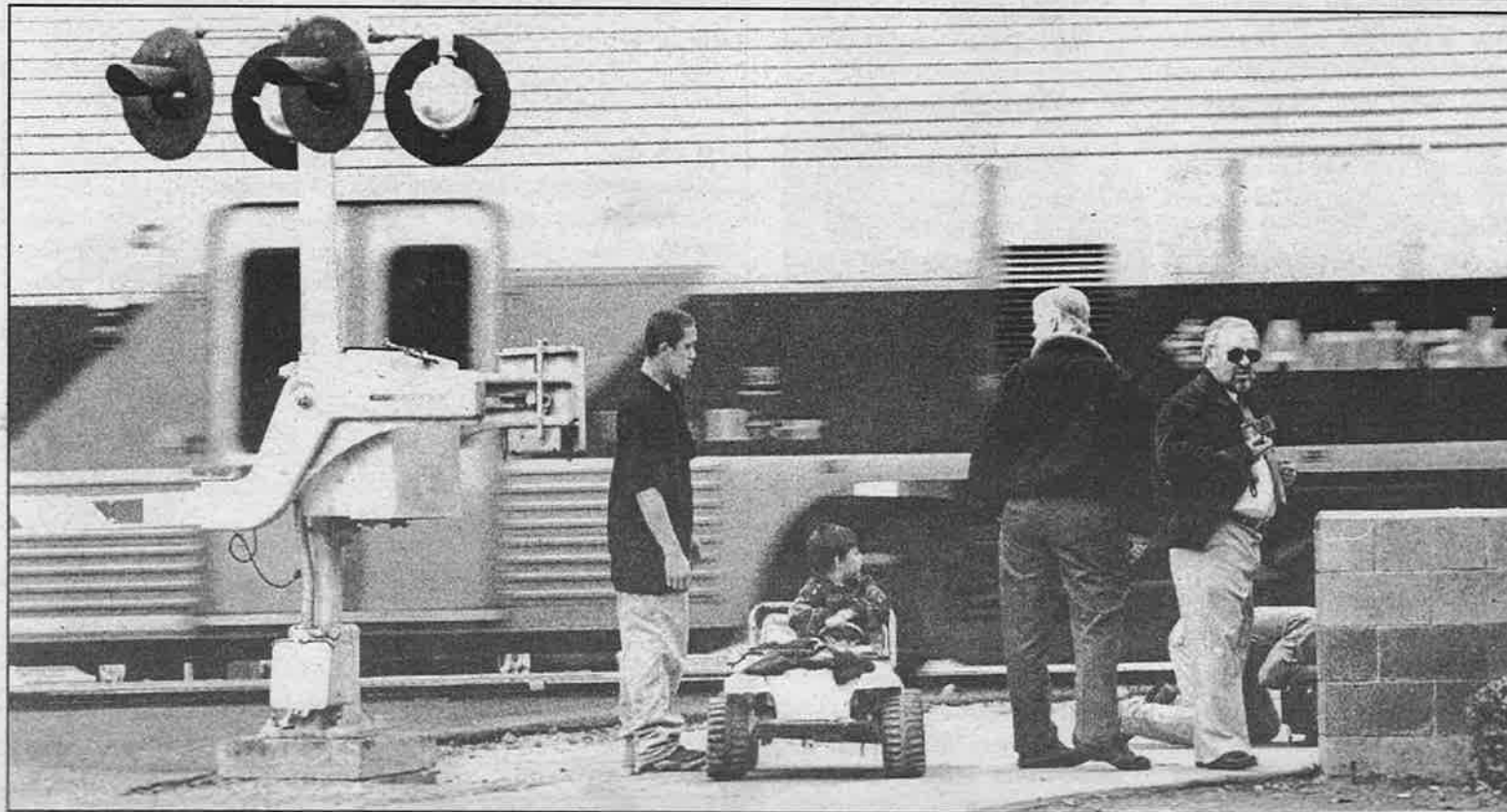
Rampage

FRESNO CITY COLLEGE

Volume LXXIII Edition 2

A Publication since 1949

February 22, 2001



While a news conference about safety near railroad tracks takes place (below) Tuesday, pedestrians (above) watch a train pass by.

Photos by Louis Chacon

Railroad tracks in spotlight

By Anthony Witrado

Rampage reporter

The railroad tracks running through Fresno City College have always been a concern of the school and city, especially in the wake of a recent injury and moving them has quickly become a priority.

This priority, however, will not happen soon, according to everyone trying to make it happen.

"People have been talking about moving the tracks for years," chief of campus police Marvin Reyes said as a train whistled by in the background. "I believe it will happen. I just can't see it happening in the immediate future — maybe within the decade."

Reyes is probably right. Attempts to move the tracks have been going on since 1918, but Union Pacific and Burlington

On the Internet

We are a group of Fresno citizens working together as a community improvement association to eliminate an old hazard that runs like a dagger through the heart of the city.

— from the web site called www.movethetracks.org, which was designed in an attempt to rid the city of a number of railroad tracks.

Northern Santa Fe, owners of the track, refused to pay for the multimillion dollar operation — now estimated at \$350-\$400 million.

"We hoped to move them within the next few years," Fresno city councilman and FCC instructor Brian Calhoun said. "Unfortunately, the companies

don't want to pay for it, so making it happen isn't easy."

In October of last year, the County of Fresno, Fresno City Council of Governments and the two railroad companies have all agreed to contribute \$25,000 each to fund the update of a \$100,000 study to prove the tracks are a hazard and should be moved.

The tracks going through the campus on Weldon Avenue have



thousands of students crossing every day and is one of the highest pedestrian traffic locations in California. This is one of the reasons

See Tracks, page 12

Students air views on latest attack on Iraq

By Maggie Garza

News editor

The images of the Gulf War that seemed far behind us were brought back to surface after the United States' encounter with Iraq last week. The United States and Britain's bombing of Iraqi's air defense and radar systems was a routine act, according to President Bush.

Bush claimed it was necessary

to enforce the no-fly zones and sanctions that the United States felt Iraq was undermining; and it was inevitable to ensure the safety of our own pilots along with the British. The sanctions, put to place after the gulf war in 1991, was to contain Iraq's leader Saddam Hussein.

The United States and Britain got mixed reactions from other countries. France and Russia had little hesitation to express their

feelings toward the bombing.

FCC itself had many mixed emotions toward the situation. Many students showed concern for what may lay ahead between the United States and its old rival Hussein.

Sherise Graham, a student at FCC, showed concern toward United States and Britain's lack of notice beforehand to our allies. "They should have gave them a notice ahead of time or explained

to them the reasons...just talk to them before they did that," said Graham.

Other students agreed it was necessary, and were happy to see sanctions being enforced.

"I think it was overdue. They were targeting our warplanes in the no-fly zone. They could have endangered our service men, and that was part of the terms of agree-

See Bombing, page 2

Special month boring to some

By Jeffrey Swisher

Rampage reporter

Orsyndah Shabazz, an African-American student at Fresno City College, flipped through the Feb. 7 edition of the Rampage, glanced at a photograph collection of recent on-campus celebrations of February's African-American History Month and sighed in disappointment.

"It's the same stuff every year," said Shabazz, as she surveyed images of gospel recitals and barbecue cookouts. "They need something new. Something to spark more interest."

Shabazz will celebrate African-American History Month but has little intention to participate in any of FCC's festivities, which run through February at FCC and Fresno State. She feels that many of these activities are "boring" and far from the interests of many African-American students.

Shabazz isn't the only student with those sentiments.

"I think interest is lacking a bit," said Eugene Livingston, an African-American FCC student. "If we had tents up with more things going outside and on campus, there would be more people involved. But now it's just like, 'Oh, black people got a month now, good for them.'"

FCC, in cooperation with the Pan African Student Union, organized multiple events to celebrate the history and achievements of African-Americans. According to Livingston, the school's attempts in reaching out to the students and notifying them of the events are failing.

Nine of the 15 FCC-sponsored functions were scheduled to take place at FCC, with six occurring at Fresno State or at Tower Theatre. Only one event took place at FCC's fountain area. The rest were schedule as in-door events,

See History, page 2

Coalition willing to work hard

Thanks for your opinion piece in the Feb. 7 Rampage.

Your title is right, restoration of the Old Administration Building is far from reality through talk, plus a good deal of other action than it otherwise would be. As coordinator of the coalition to save and use the OAB, I can say that the coalition believes that the SCCCD board, the ultimate power in this matter, is committed to working with us to restore as much of the building as we possi-

Letter to the editor

bly can.

The main issue is, as you say, money. Getting money requires talking to people; it requires talking with all the people involved to work out a plan for using the building once it is restored for use. This requires a lot of talk. Finally, you're right that it takes an enormous amount of dedication and hard work. Many of us have al-

ready put in a lot of hard work on restoring and using the OAB, and we're prepared to put in a whole lot more.

We're asking anyone and everyone who wants to work with us to do so.

Here's my e-mail address and campus phone number for anyone who wants to be part of our hard-working coalition to join with us: WendellStephenson@SCCDD.com, campus extension 8389.

Wendell Stephenson

Bombings

Cont. from page 1

ment," said FCC student Randy Chase.

Chase had his own opinion about the United States not giving France notice about the bombing.

"France has always been lackluster in their support of anything that the British and the American forces have been willing to do," Chase said. "I don't know how Iraq could really retaliate, if they

mounted a military force then we would have to go in and do even more than we really did."

Not all FCC students saw a war in the near future but all agreed the United States must remain prepared.

"His (Saddam Hussein) war machine is still intact that's for sure. I wouldn't want to see us in military conflict. We need to be prepared, Saddam Hussein is not a world leader you can deal with," Chase said.

"I think Bush wants to, since he's the new president, show that

basically there has been no change to our position to Saddam Hussein," stated one of FCC's political science professors, Sarbjit Johal.

"I think that's natural for the United States," commented Johal on the lack of notice.

Johal, along with others, don't see Iraq retaliating in a war-like manner.

"Unless it's a terrorist thing, it (Iraq) doesn't have the power to retaliate, it's very weak," Johal said.

History

Cont. from page 1

either at the school's theater or College Center — out of sight and out of mind for the majority of FCC students who were unaware of the celebrations.

Aside from a posted flier featuring a list of when and where events would take place, FCC has made little effort to notify students of any school-related functions in celebration of African-American History Month, leaving some students oblivious to on-campus ceremonies.

But it isn't entirely the school's responsibility to motivate students to attend the functions, said

Lucille Rash, coordinator of two of FCC's events.

"We try to get to the younger people," said Rash, who teaches business at FCC. "But the person must have a desire to participate. They have to get up off of their butts and do it themselves."

Rash said the attendance of students has been "great" at every event she has attended. But she sees a steady decline in the interest shared among young students toward African-American History Month.

"There has been a drop in interest with kids," Rash said. "Things have come into their lives to deter them such as drugs and things like that. I think they need to step back and instill a sense of

pride in themselves. They need to look at where we've been and where we are today."

FCC's organized ceremonies offer a variety of events ranging from a dance recital to a comedy show. Despite the variation, Shabazz remains disenchanted, claiming that the events focus too much on arts and music rather than the historical contributions of African-Americans.

"I think we should have actual actors playing the roles of historical African-Americans walk onto campus in full costume," Shabazz said. "They could talk to students and teach them about black history. That would get people's attention."

POLICE LOG

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

Feb. 9

Officer dispatched to speech/music building regarding intoxicated student. Student sent home via taxi.

Feb. 8

Sergeant Anderson took report regarding hit and run.

Feb. 8

Officer took report regarding vehicle vandalism.

Feb. 7

Officer took report regarding disruptive student.

Feb. 7

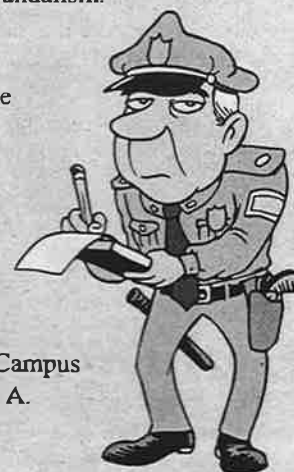
Officer took a report on graffiti at assessment center

Feb. 6

Officer observed vehicle speeding on Campus Drive south. Initiated traffic stop in lot A. Driver cited.

Feb. 5

Officer took report regarding vehicle stolen from Lot C.



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RAMPAGE

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Campus Calendar

Compiled by Rampage Staff

Feb. 23

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

Feb. 28

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

March 1

•A Streetcar Named Desire: FCC College Theatre, March 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 7:30 p.m.; March 3, 10, 2 p.m. 442-8221.

March 1 - 2

•India youth talent show tryouts: FCC College center, 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.. Contact college activities.

March 2

•3 on 3 Basketball tournament: FCC Gym, 10 a.m. - 2p.m. Contact student activities.

March 7

•Club rush: Fountain area, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

March 10 - 11

•Renaissance Faire: West lawn, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

March 16

•3 on 3 soccer: Free speech area, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Contact student activities.

March 17

•India youth talent youth show:

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.

FCC class appreciates art off campus

By Joe Chacon
Rampage reporter

Students from instructor Kathy Wosika's Art Appreciation and Crafts Design classes spent the day at Arte Americas.

"There's no better way to appreciate art than to see the real stuff," Wosika said. "It's a great way to get everybody out here to be introduced to these great facilities."

Exhibits on display came from a print-making studio in Los Angeles, a retrospective that covers material that's been done over the years.

Along with silk screening work on display there was a racism exhibit.

"It stirred people up, it brings

an awareness, it makes someone feel something really deeply and really strongly," Wosika said.

Wosika plans at least three trips a semester to the museums in Fresno for extra credit.

Along with the extra credit, students gain an appreciation of different forms of art. A lot of the tours are for college level, but tours for children are available.

A hidden fact is that every Thursday, Arte Americas, the African American Historical & Cultural Museum of the San Joaquin Valley and the Fresno Metropolitan museums are free to the public.

A \$10 yearly membership fee allows students entrance to all of the museums in Fresno.

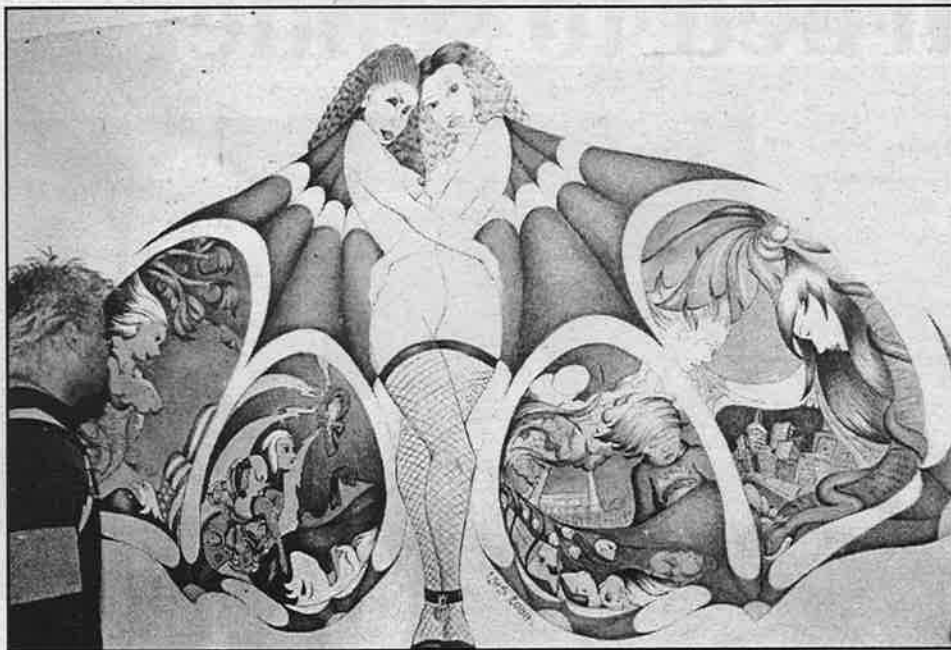


Photo by Joseph Kidd Chacon III

Art such as this at Arte Americas in downtown Fresno is being studied by a Fresno City College class. The class earns extra credit by visiting museums to gain a better appreciation of art.

College instructors happy to be caught in the Web

By Bill Perry
Contributing writer

A group of academic pioneers is blazing a trail into Cyberspace by developing and offering classes on the Internet at Fresno City College. The successful launch of three Internet classes this year means more are on the way.

One of the first to develop a virtual or Internet-based classroom at FCC is Marilyn Meyer. After three years of persistence and hard work, Information Systems 15 went online in the fall. Meyer made a few modifications and improvements to the course and now has 22 students enrolled in her spring class.

Although having a home PC with Internet access and Windows 98 is ideal, Meyer says students can also take the class by using lab PCs on campus.

The format is very similar to a traditional class in that students receive a syllabus, lecture notes and assignments. However, they receive this information by accessing a password-protected Web site. They even have class discussions and take tests right over the Internet.

Although Meyer rarely speaks with her students face-to-face, she is able to work more closely with each of them than in a traditional classroom setting because every question they ask and every answer they give is in writing and can be reviewed by her at any time on the Internet.

She requires her students to become involved in the classroom discussions by introducing themselves to the other students, answering questions, and even by responding to comments made by fellow students on the discussion portion of the class Web site. Unlike a traditional classroom, she can analyze the comments and count the number of comments

each student contributes to the discussions.

Some students prefer to take an Internet class because of the flexibility. Others with full-time jobs or with children at home find this may be their only alternative in pursuing education. Students who live outside the city or who are constantly traveling also find the Internet classes convenient.

Connie Murphy is offering her first Internet class this semester, Business English (BT-12). The flexibility fits nicely with the schedules of her 23 students enrolled. She has a corrections officer who logs in at 2 a.m., a student who logs in from work at a local hospital, and a mother with a newborn who wants to stay at home while taking the class.

Murphy has nothing but positive things to say about the course. "I really can't think of disadvantages. I brought [the students] in at the beginning for an orientation to get the basics, and that really helped."

Unlike Meyer, who has her students take timed tests over the Internet, she can monitor when they begin and end a test, Murphy has her students come to the campus once a month for testing.

Although she is very pleased

with the results so far, Murphy admits "online classes are not for every student. You must be self-motivated. Some students need the traditional classroom."

The third class currently offered over the Internet at FCC is Brad Lopez's Health 1.

Lopez includes video streaming with his Web class, which allows students to watch and hear lectures and presentations, as well as read them. It's the closest thing to being in a classroom since it "facilitates traditional and interactive features all in one setting," says Lopez.


Although Lopez was hoping to have 20 to 25 students sign up for his class, he is pleasantly surprised to have 53 students currently enrolled.

Like the other instructors, Lopez acknowledges the importance of being self-disciplined when taking a Web class. For his course, he has his students sign an agreement stating they will be "self-motivated, highly disciplined and do the work without prompting."


Stevie Daniels, who is helping coordinate the various efforts at academic computing, says that more classes are on the way. Classes currently being consid-

ered or being developed include word processing, Visual Basic, introduction to business and beginning Java programming. She says that 10 classes could be ready by spring 2002.

Even with support gradually growing, she admits that future classes will take time to develop and must then pass curriculum. "We might be slow, but we want to be good," Daniels said.



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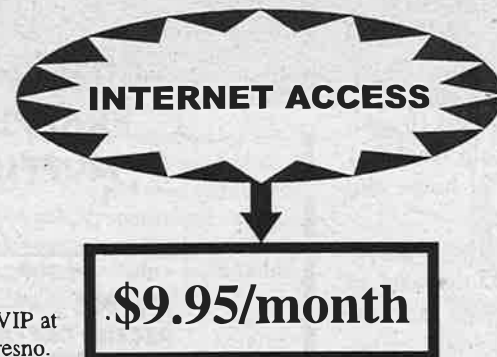
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'Valentine' should be returned to sender

"Valentine," featuring Denise Richards and David Boreanaz (TV's "Angel"), is the latest entry in the slasher/horror genre. Nearly everything about this movie was ripped off from "Scream," from the good-looking actresses, and

the motives for the murders committed.

Though there were a few good parts, the film was a big disappointment. One of the few good parts of the movie was the sound track, featuring the usual collection of alternative-metal bands, including Marilyn Manson.

"Valentine" is about five friends, Kate Davies (Marley Shelton), Paige Prescott (Denise Richards), Dorothy Wheeler (Jessica Capshaw), Lily Voight (Jessica Cauffiel) and Shelley Fisher (Katherine Heigl), who have been friends their whole lives. While in middle school, they went to a Valentine's Day dance where a



Nick Bergstrom

Rampage Reporter

Movie Review



young man, named Jeremy Milton, asked to dance with each of the girls. Milton was shot down by every girl except Dorothy, who was a little big-boned as a child. They were caught under the bleachers kissing by some kids, and Dorothy claimed Milton attacked her.

When the girls grew up, they started getting strange and threatening Valentine's Day cards in the mail. Then, Shelley was murdered by someone wearing an angel mask (is that a hint as to who the killer is, or just a red herring?) All of the killing started when these Valentine's cards started showing up. Paige and Lily were also murdered by the same person...maybe.

The strongest performance in "Valentine" was given by Marley Shelton, who plays the main protagonist. Denise Richards only seems to be in the film for a hot-tub scene. I think the cast was chosen more for their good looks rather than their talent.

The script was poorly written and extremely predictable. The Valentine's cards were rather witty, but they weren't enough to make this movie slightly worthwhile. The ending was somewhat surprising, but it was too little, too late.

I recommend you skip this movie if don't want your money to go to waste.

Think hard about Dr. Phill's help

We all know of Dr. Phill from "Oprah."

He's the one who tells people

what's wrong in their lives and how to fix it "his way."

He has come up with a new book, "Life Strategies: Doing What Works, Doing What Matters."

Like his other books, "Reconnecting With Your Partner," "The Relationship Rescue Workbook" and "Life Strategies 2001, a Day-to-day Calendar," Dr. Phill gives us insight on how to better ourselves.

Phillip McGraw, known as Dr. Phill to most of us, offers 10 valuable life laws to help reach our greatest potential at home and work.

He gives readers a set of guidelines to get yourself motivated, to get your life on track. Are you capable of more than you are ac-

complishing? Stuck in a rut and not getting what you want? Living a lonely existence with little hope for change? Then maybe this is a book for you.

The only problem is that you can get the principles by reading the table of contents, one expects to get more in-depth explanations inside the chapters.

The book was written for the "Opera-watching couch potato with low self-esteem." He has some good ideas but plays them out to the least common denominator of society.

So, does the book help or is it a placebo? Guess you'll have to read it if you want to know. Need help? Get Phill. If not, move on.



Katharine Strauss

Rampage reporter

Book review



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Horoscopes

By *Diego Herra*
Rampage Reporter



Pisces (Feb 19 - March 20)

Make this a good week to take projects off the shelf, finish them, and make space for a new life coming up. If you're unsure about how to proceed, defining your goals is step one. If you've already done that, you'll do best if you stay positive and on schedule as the week begins.



Aries (March 21 - April 19)

Your focus on financial security is really about your need to develop and share your talents with a growing number of people. If you feel like your friends are judging you according to your material worth, liberally using your credit card may be an indication that it's you who is judging others by brand name status and unwilling to wait until you feel more flush before purchasing everything you want.



Taurus (April 20 - May 20)

This can be a week of unexpected and exciting opportunities for fame and fortune, and only you can hold yourself back. If you are unsure of your talent or your ability to work hard and succeed on a consistent basis, your doubts can distort your behavior. Results depend on you.



Gemini (May 21 - June 20)

Your insights and informed opinions will make people turn to you when they need advice and encouragement this week. The better you manage and organize your information, the more confident you'll be about your interaction with others. You may need to work at believing in yourself so you can meet other people halfway. This may open a new opportunity for love and romance.



Cancer (June 21 - July 22)

It may not feel like you're doing enough if you just do your job. Although it's more work, you won't mind taking any extra time to do something beyond the call of duty if it's for a friend. This week, doing something creative and emotionally uplifting can also be good for your future.



Leo (July 23 - August 22)

This week it can be mind-opening to network with people whose ideas are as advanced as yours and like you, are also ready for great success. The more successful you are, the busier you'll be and the more contact you'll have with the public. Although you may not mind working harder for your career now, a friend can take off some of the pressure.



Virgo (August 23 - September 22)

Surf the internet and network with your acquaintances because this week, new ideas and information can give you a wonderful insight into a tense situation at school. Friends and associates can bring opportunities, but you'll need to find a balance between your duties and taking on more than you can handle.



Libra (September 23 - October 22)

The world may be stressing and testing you. Although you may outwardly define yourself by your visible professional achievements, you can still have a major breakthrough in your personal issues. It's important to stay on your life's course.



Scorpio (October 23 - November 21)

No matter how much your friends and partners encourage your creative and emotional growth, unless you can detach from pre-programmed conditioning, you may not believe it or be able to profit from it. Past negativity will come up once again.



Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21)

You're mentally ON this week and everything you've been thinking and learning is starting to come together. Your mind is open to making new connections and your increased awareness can give you flashes of brilliance that can enable you to do great on that pop quiz.



Capricorn (December 22 - January 19)

It's absolutely necessary that you find the medium in your life. Maybe it's you who's been too serious lately. When you work, you'll be more motivated and find more energy if you do work that is socially relevant and is designed to do something to help people in a meaningful way. It's time to be honest with yourself and at work.



Aquarius (January 20 - February 18)

Your brilliant insights can lead to incredible inventions and major discoveries. If people think you're being irresponsible, it could be they don't understand that your independent mind is your foundation. More than the money, it's the independence money provides and how generous you can be to everyone you love.

'Hannibal' is more than just nail biting

He fits the profile of a common serial killer. An older, middle-aged white male, but that's it. Hannibal Lecter (Anthony Hopkins) is different than any other on-screen psycho. He's a connoisseur. After one too many "Scream" movies and weak attempts at the psychological/slasher genre, it was almost inevitable that Hannibal should come out of retirement and bring a little class back to death and dismemberment.



Josh Harding
Rampage reporter

Movie review

In 1991, "The Silence of the Lambs" brought the new face of terror. Hannibal's legacy was then established. SOTL ended with Hannibal's clever but gory escape, and he has since faded to the back of our minds. Now resurfacing 10 years later for the sequel, aptly titled "Hannibal," everyone's favorite suave psycho is back for a new adventure, this time outside the confines of an asylum.

The movie focuses primarily on its namesake. We learn a lot more about Hannibal seeing him interact with people in different social situations. He is a very captivating character and this actually allows the audience to develop some level of apathy toward him. Hannibal challenges our idea of what a killer is, what things we think they enjoy besides, well, killing. Ten years after Hannibal's escape, we catch up to him in Paris. He is the curator of a library, a respected colleague, and he attends the opera. He has apparently shaken his cannibalism, which was based out of contempt for certain individuals. He seems pretty comfortable.

From here a series of events is now set into motion which brings Hannibal back into action. FBI agent Clarice Starling (Julianne Moore), who was the object of Hannibal's fixation in the previous movie,

is in trouble. After a botched drug bust and being thrashed by the media, her career is in jeopardy. Hannibal's resurfacing gets Starling reassigned to the case, and gives her a chance to redeem herself in the eyes of the bureau.

Starling is not the only one looking for Hannibal. Mason Verger (Gary Oldman), super-rich tycoon and the only surviving victim of Lecter's (he has the scars to prove it) seeks revenge. He has the resources to capture Hannibal, as well as a sadistic plan for payback. In some respects, Verger is just as twisted as Hannibal. Hannibal easily evades his pursuers in Paris, but once he learns they are using Clarice as a pawn to get to him he returns to America to help her out.

The situation is reversed not long after his return and now Clarice becomes Hannibal's only hope to survive, yet before the film is over, things will be reversed one more time and we'll finally learn Hannibal's true intent with Clarice Starling.

On its own, Hannibal surpasses many standards for gore and violence. Though the truly disturbing violent scenes are few and far between, they are, truly disturbing. Lecter has an imagination when it comes to these things, a real sense of irony, rather than hogging all the human flesh for himself, this time he shares it with his victim, heh, what a guy. Some of these scenes are actually comical. In the darkest sense, the sheer intensity of the violence coupled with Lecter's matter-of-fact attitude produced a few chuckles here and there.

There are many new faces among the cast, as well as a few old ones you'll remember well. I think Hannibal pulled off the monumental task of following as a sequel to a great movie. It allows a new audience to catch up on the events as well as answer many questions and fulfill expectations of old-school SOTL fans. Besides, how could you pass up the chance to see a 600 pound man-eating boar do his dirty work? I sure couldn't.

'Moon' lacks a shining star

You would think that with the name of "Moon Over Buffalo," there might be some sort of relation to the title. Yet, the only relation is that it is placed in Buffalo, and the moon doesn't even come into play.

"Moon Over Buffalo," (playing at Good Company Player's Second Space Theatre) is a comedy written by Ken Ludwig. It is set at the Erlanger Theatre in Buffalo, New York in 1953. It is about a traveling troupe of actors, who while trying to live their lives and perform, get caught in three different love triangles, causing an hour and a half of hilarious chaos.

From the point of view of someone who has been back stage at many plays, the set is very realistic...minus some cracks in the walls and large water stains. If you have been in plays before, you feel quite comfortable when you see the set.



J. Riley
Rampage reporter

Theater review

The majority of the cast are veteran thespians of Good Company Players, aside from Chip Neuenschwander who makes his debut as Howard. At first, his inexperience with G.C.P. shows during his opening entrance. It appears as if he is in need of a good stiff drink. By the time he leaves the stage, I realized that this is the character and not him. While type-casting is usually not a good idea, in this case the slight type-casting of certain characters, really did work well.

While this show is a very wonderful comedy, there are obvious problems. The play is wonderfully written, yet it doesn't display a realistic view of the life of an actor. The chemistry between the couples is not felt, only implied. Emotionally, you don't get the feeling that these people truly do care about each other.

Over all, the cast pulls off an enjoyable performance, even if it doesn't display a realistic view of life behind the stage. I give the show 2 1/2 stars on a bad night and 3 1/2 stars on a good night.

Dope show breaks chains wide open with 'Inches from Mainline'



Nick Bergstrom
Rampage Reporter

Music Review

From beginning to end, "Inches from the Mainline," by the band Slaves On Dope, is full of surprises. They quote Hamlet, talk about nature and whatnot. Hailing from Canada, Slaves On Dope moved to Los Angeles in

1999 and then they released this, their first album.

Lead singer Jason Rockman, guitarist Kevin Jardine, Frank Salvaggio on bass and Rob Urbani, the drummer, get together and make a great mixture of techno and heavy metal. There is a Korn-ish quality to their music unlike anything else out there.

Track 4 on the album, "Fallout" has a



Slaves on Dope consists of, from left, Rob Urbani, Frank Salvaggio, Kevin Jardine and Jason Rockman.

great sound; the drums, guitar and bass fit together perfectly. The title track is the best song. "No Faith" is my personal favorite, with the harmonic riffs and excellent lyrics. This album is a must for any fan of metal music. They were one of the other bands who played at the OZZfest tour this last summer, so check them out.

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Fresno City College

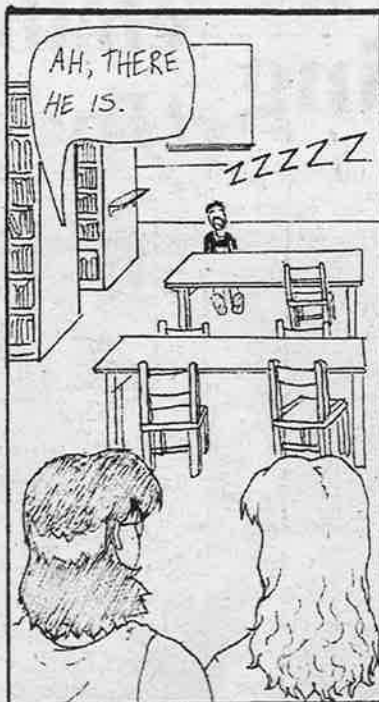


Bookstore

City Life

Jesse Garcia

WHILE TRYING TO STUDY FOR HIS BUSINESS CLASS, MICHAEL WENT TO THE LIBRARY BUT INSTEAD OF STUDYING, HE FELL ASLEEP.



Too many fools, as MTV gets burned again

"Who's more foolish - the fool or the fool who follows him?" Obi Wan Kenobi posed this question in "Star Wars," but it applies as much today as it did "a long time ago in a galaxy far, far away." Once again, a youngster misinterpreted something broadcast on MTV and parents are more than ready to blame someone else.



Chris Castro
Entertainment
editor
Opinion

ation of the "V-chip," which supposedly blocks out violent imagery when activated in a television set.

A couple of years ago, a fuss was raised over "Beavis and Butthead" when a kid burned down his mobile home because Beavis, a cartoon character, said that "fire was cool." And how about those high-school kids who laid down in the middle of a highway, imitating football players in the film "The Program." I'm convinced there should be a new required subject in school: Common Sense.

A kid in Connecticut apparently didn't think the suit was a vital part of the stunt, and just decided to skip ahead to lighting himself on fire.

Students should be taught in schools that it's probably not a good idea to light one's self on fire or do anything shown on a television show called "Jackass."

This reminds me of an episode of "The Simpsons" where a

nuclear missile has a warning printed on its side: "Do not point near face." Has the nation become a land of morons? Do we really need to make the world idiot-proof? If Lieberman has anything to say about it, we just might.

Apparently, an adolescent boy (ever notice that most of the stupidest things in the world are performed by males?) imitated a stunt performed on MTV's "Jackass." If you haven't seen this program, it's basically about exhibitionists performing really dumb stunts (swimming in feces, testing pepper spray and stun guns on each other, etc.).

Not the most educational program on television (unless your just dying to know what a colonic actually entails), but it is pretty entertaining in a slightly morbid sense.

The stunt that led to a fiery boy, and a fiery-tempered parent, involved a man wearing a fire-retardant suit and being lit on fire. A kid in Connecticut apparently didn't think the suit was a vital part of the stunt, and just decided to skip ahead to lighting himself on fire.

The boy's father, after learning his son was copying "Jackass" (and, hopefully, after he called an ambulance), called his congressman to complain and, as fate would have it, the man he called was Joseph (part-time vice presidential candidate) Lieberman.

Lieberman led a recent crusade to stop Hollywood studios from targeting an underage audience when advertising R-rated films. He also pushed for the cre-

Taking It To The Streets

Compiled and photographed
by Cathy Alexander and
Wendy Alexander

What do you think of the school newspaper -- The Rampage?



- Rocky Tui

"I think the paper is very good. It has a lot of great stories and information."



- Shelli Martin

"It's very informative and a good paper."



- Valery Garcia

"I love the Rampage because it keeps up to date on issues involving FCC campus that we might not otherwise be aware of."



- Tammy Schreine

"It's informative but needs to be more exciting."



- Catherine Miller

"It's interesting but needs improvement."



By Chris Castro

Top Ten Reasons Fresno Should Have An XFL Team

10. Not enough attention is paid toward athletics in this town already.
9. Cheerleaders can be taken from Goldiggers, the Silver Dollar and City Lights.
8. When the opposition is hit by one of our players, fans would say, "He got Fresno'ed!" We'd gain national attention as the phrase catches on when it is shortened to getting "no'ed" ("Boy, you got no'ed!").
7. "Gladiator" is always rented out.
6. Our mayor portrayed a character named "Bubba."
5. We need to beat Clovis to the punch (the Clovis Cowboys or the Clovis Criminals, since that's all the Dallas Cowboys are).
4. Jerry Tarkanian could recruit the players.
3. Trent Dilfer would surely return to Fresno for the chance to get sacked on a regular basis.
2. Name for the team: the Fresno (Car-)Jackers.
1. Fresno is EXTREME...ly boring.

Don't fret: Taxes can be done easily, and free

If you are a college student that makes \$25,000 or less per year, then more than likely you qualify for free on-line tax preparation and filing through the Quicken Tax Freedom Project.



Dale Mommer

Rampage Reporter

Opinion

The project is sponsored by Intuit, which is well known for their TurboTax programming that is used by millions to prepare their taxes. The platform uses both the TurboTax federal and state programming that costs on average of \$50 at retail price. The best part is that the Quicken Tax Freedom Project electronically sends your completed returns to the IRS and lets you know exactly how much you will be receiving or paying back to the government.

To utilize this free service, you only need a computer with Internet access and have in your possession all of your W-2 forms. Then you just have to log on to www.quicken.com and once there find the icon that says Quicken Tax Freedom Project.

After you click on this icon, you will be instantly sent to the Quicken Tax Freedom Project home page, and from there you just click on the icon that says Quicken TurboTax EZ. Once inside, the program will first ask you some questions that will ascertain



Illustration by Jesse Garcia

if you qualify for the Quicken Tax Freedom Project.

If you qualify for the project, you will then have to fill out some personal information about yourself and create a log on name and password that will be used to secure your account and allow you to monitor your return after you complete the project. It is important to not make any mistakes here because they will use this information to send your return, and your personal information will also contribute to how much the government decides to give you back.

The next step is to fill out all

information regarding wages and salaries that will require the use of your W-2 forms. There will be a series of menus that you will have to log on to and fill out a form for each W-2. If you do have any questions about anything regarding your W-2 or problems understanding the programming, there is free on-line or a 1-800 number that will instantly connect you to a qualified TurboTax representative. I doubt you will need their assistance because the programming is so well laid out that all you have to do is follow the instructions.

After you have com-

pleted submitting the information regarding all of your W-2's, you will then have to alert the IRS to any additional income that you have received. This would include any investing in the stock market, inheritance money and interest on any securities or bonds that you have cashed this year. What would not be included would be anything that you could classify as a gift, such as money for Christmas or a birthday.

If you did not receive any additional income, continue to the next step where you will have to answer additional questions that are needed to complete your fed-

eral return. Once you complete these questions, it will process all the information you have provided and tell you what your return will be. I recommend you go back before pushing continue at this point to make sure that all the information is correct and not misspelled. After your return has been displayed to you, it will ask you if you want your return mailed or automatically deposited into your checking account.

The next step is to fill out your state taxes, where you will have to note the state you live in and the rest is automatically done for you by the programming. At the end, it will once again ask if you want your state return sent by check through the mail or automatically deposited into your checking account.

The Quicken Tax Freedom Project is entirely free, and you do not have to download Quicken into your computer to run the program. The program does require that you have the program Adobe Acrobat Reader, but if you do not have it, don't fret because you can download it for free on the projects home page. The average time it takes for someone to complete their taxes using this project is half an hour, and the time you save compared to filling out tax forms and rushing to the mailbox to mail it is invaluable.

In the end, this free project gives you access to one of the best tax software programs on the market while effectively taking the stress out of your tax season.

America, still celebrating holidays in its own ignorance

As we come to the end of a month that is supposed to hold some significance to a culture that has been inspired and has been an important part of the molding of a universal culture in America, I am sadly reminded of this bitter yet beautiful poem written by the great Maya Angelou. So true that America has beautiful mottos and statues that are suppose to represent the democracy and liberty that so many Americans throughout history shed blood for. Yet the irony lies in the fact that America itself denies most of what makes us so grand in everyone's eyes. A pillar to most countries, America has yet to come to terms with problems that have plagued us throughout history.



Maggie Garza

News editor

Editorial

What country of justice parades equality while minorities seem to flood the lower class, and poverty as well as crime haunts the everyday lives of the struggling? What country of peace bombs another with no advance warning to allies ahead of time, causing allies to side with old enemies and flaunt at our ignorance? What country of generosity lives in comfort while they withhold medicines that could save millions of lives in Africa and Saudi Arabia? Africa,

America

*The gold of her promise
has never been mined
Her borders of justice
not clearly defined
Her crops of abundance
the fruit and the grain
Have not fed the hungry
nor eased that deep pain
Her proud declarations
are leaves on the wind
Her southern exposure
black death did befriend
Discover this country
dead centuries cry
Erect noble tablets -
where none can decry
"She kills her bright future
and rapes for a sou
Then entraps her children
with legends untrue
I beg you
Discover this country.
.....
—Maya Angelou*

with their people dying of the "sleep disease," and Saudi Arabia with its growing multitudes of cancer sick population due to chemicals we exposed to them. What country of love spends most of their focus on military than millions of children who are underfed, uneducated, and mistreated? What country? Our country.

But who am I to judge a country that has housed me and fed me? Who has kept me warm in winter while babies in other coun-

tries die of harsher winters? Who has fed me abundantly with fast food and lean cuisines while mothers in far-away lands hold their starving children in their arms? How can one country solve the problems in far-away places when their own people are on the streets living in poverty? I do not know. I do know there are answers, there are solutions...there has to be.

We get opportunities each day, but we turn our backs. How easily we could donate medicines to other countries, but medicines here are a business. America is a capitalist place and medicines are a big market, they don't want to bother with dying babies.

bies.

I do know this is a month that is suppose to represent two aspects: Black history and the history of our presidents. In this month we're suppose to remember the past and rejoice in our future. We have come a long way America...we have. From chains on rights we now put the chains on ignorance...yet ignorance still floods America. From respecting national leaders whose faults went hidden to overexposing leaders whose faults parade our televisions and papers. Oh yes, America we have come a long way, but we still have a long, long way to go.

Set your goals high. We'll help get you there.

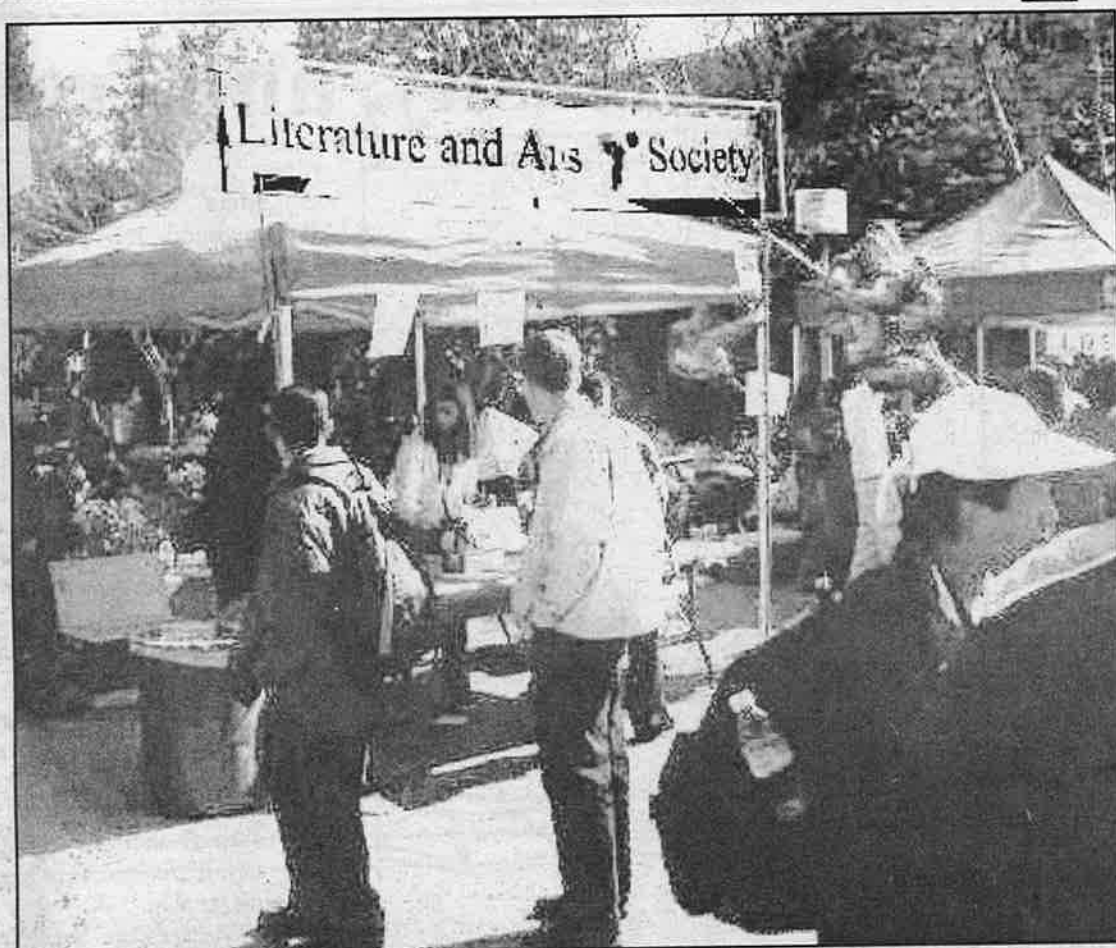
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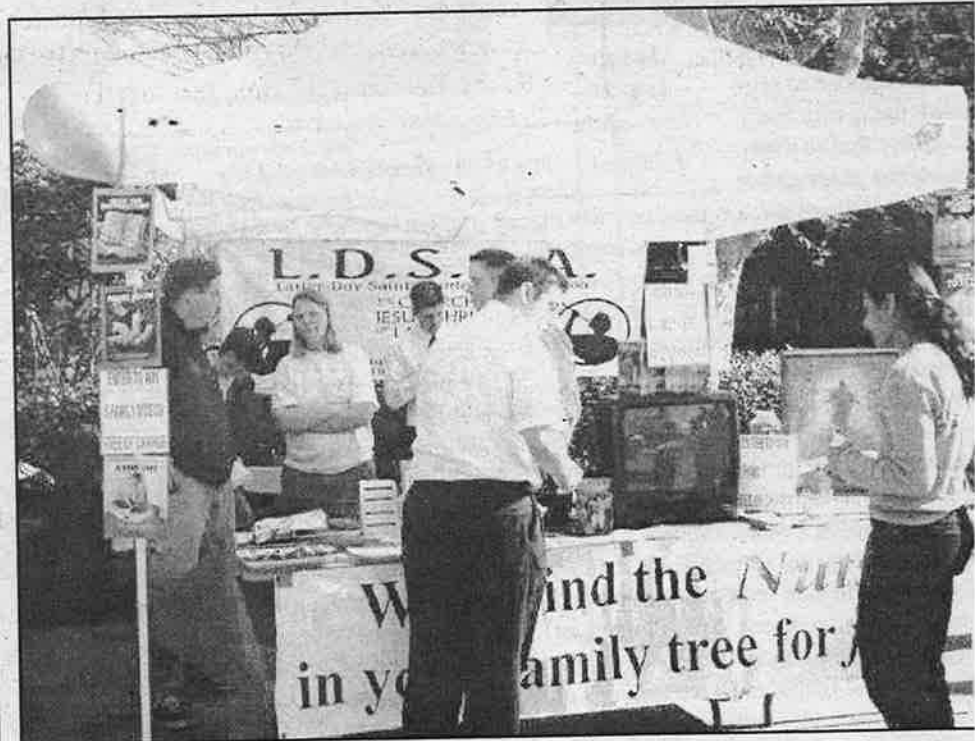
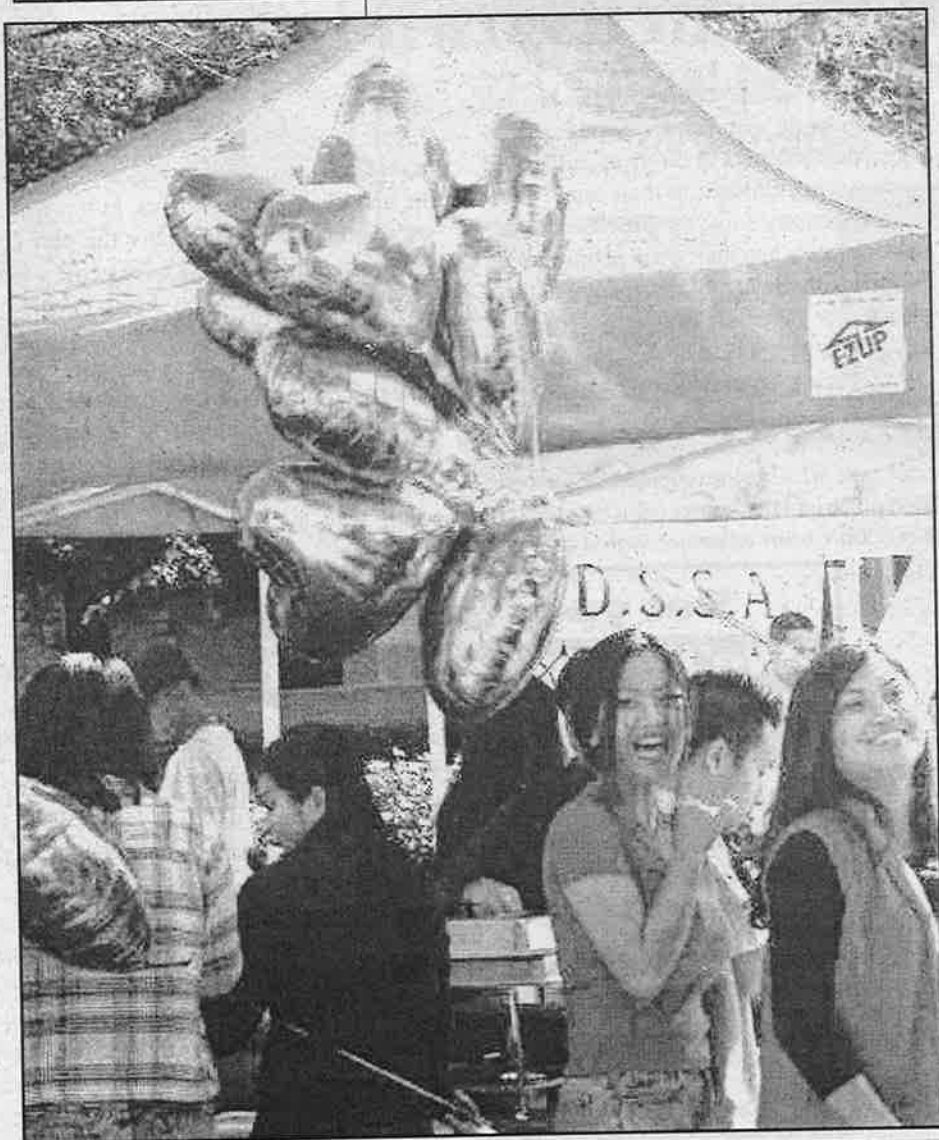
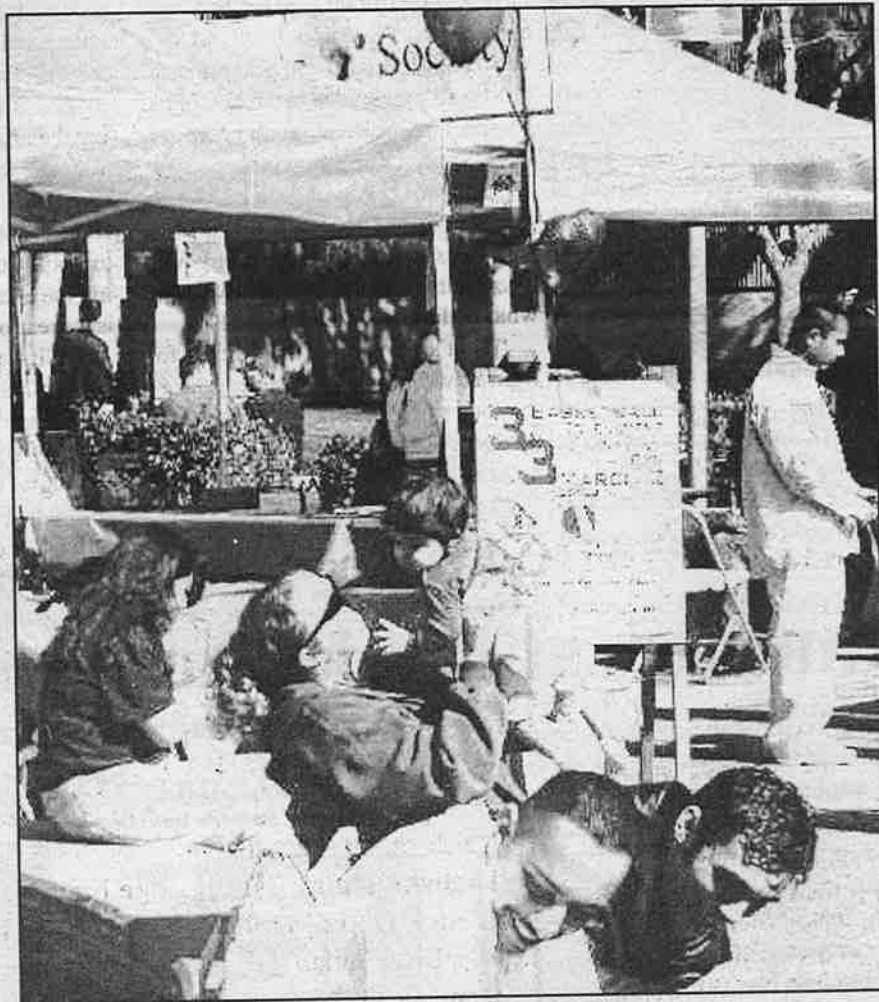


What a rush !

FCC students gathered in the fountain area of campus on Valentine's Day to see what campus clubs had to offer.



Photos by Cathy Alexander



Eight FCC football players sign with four-year schools

By Brandon Castro
Sports Editor



Demorieux Reneau, defensive back
All-State Region II, named 1st Team Defense
All-Valley Conference, named 1st Team Defense
Career at FCC: 92 tackles, 8 interceptions, 17 pass
breakups, 4 sacks in 2000 season



Layton Johnson, wide receiver
All-Valley Conference, named 1st Team Offense
Career at FCC: 47 catches, 774 yards, 8 TDs



Kyle Biggs, quarterback
All-Valley Conference, Offensive player of the year
Career at FCC (2000): 134-of-281 attempts, 1,935
yards, 20 TDs passes and 5 rushing



Umar Alfa, linebacker
All-Valley Conference, Defense honorable mention
Career at FCC: 52 tackles, 2 forced fumbles, 2
recovered fumbles, 4 sacks, 2 pass breakups

Eight Fresno City College football players have signed scholarships to play football at four-year universities, by far the most among Central Valley colleges.

Among the eight players, one has decided to stay in Fresno and play for the Fresno State Bulldogs.

"My family supported me from high school through junior college," said future Bulldog Demorieux Reneau. "I think it will be could for them to watch me play."

The 6-1, 190-pound defensive back looks to fit right in to the nickel defense (five defensive backs) that the Bulldogs will run.

"I'm probably going to fit in good. But you know wherever you go, it's not like you're just going to come in and play, you're going to have to work for your position. I've been working hard already, so I hope it pays off."

Two of Reneau's teammates -- Frank Jordan and Layton Johnson -- have signed to play for the San Jose State Spartans, the Bulldogs arch-rivals. The Bulldogs and Spartans traditionally play on the last game of the season, a day Reneau and Johnson have marked in their calendar.

"I'm really excited about that. I can't wait for that day to come," Johnson said. "I've been playing with him for two years, so I really know what he has. It's gonna be on!"

"That's the game I'm waiting for right now because just suiting up in the locker room, that's going to have me hyped," Reneau said. "I went up

against Layton [Johnson] for two years so we're gonna go at it. Hopefully, I get the better end."

Wide receivers Johnson and Jordan didn't only play football at FCC. They were also teammates at Hoover High, and now will be in Spartan blue and gold, in San Jose.

Johnson and Jordan's best friend during the FCC football season, quarterback Kyle Biggs signed to play for New Mexico Highlands University along with good friend Umar Alfa.

New Mexico runs a spread offense -- a style that Biggs feels comfortable running.

"It's like Oregon State's. So there's a lot of short passing, a lot of reads," Biggs said. "It's a real mental offense."

On the defensive side, Alfa will play down lineman in the New Mexico 4-3 defense. Alfa grew up and played high school football in New York and will be accustomed to the cold weather New Mexico will dish out.

"It's high elevated, and in the winter it's cold," Alfa said. "It reminds me of home. It's going to be fun."

Alfa's defensive counterpart during the FCC season, linebacker David Tautofi, signed to play in the Pac-10 Conference with UCLA.

"It's a terrific opportunity for me to play. I worked hard for this. Having the chance to go in there and start is a great opportunity," said Tautofi.

UCLA plans to run a 4-3 defense similar to the defense FCC ran this past season. Tautofi is expected to make an impact from the start.

"They needed quicker guys on the edges, because they didn't have enough sacks this year. So they really feel I can do the job next year."

Defensive back Josh Norman like four other Rams, chose to stay in California and play at Cal State University at Northridge. Norman will attend Northridge on a football and track scholarship.

"I'm looking to win long jump down here [Fresno], so going up there I want to continue that and win it up there, too," Norman said.

Northridge runs a man-to-man style defense, a defense Norman loves to run.

"They like to play a lot of bumb-and-run, man-to-man. I like to get in your face."

Although five FCC players are staying in California Kevin Hines is moving to Iowa to attend Iowa State University, "It's the Big 12 [conference], that's one main reason why. I got a chance to come in and start right away," Hines said.

He is expected to get a lot of playing time because of two seniors that have moved on, and Hines will be competing with a redshirt freshman for the open defensive line position.

Before the season started FCC head Coach Tony Caviglia set the early goals.

"Winning is very important but transferring our kids to four-year colleges is, too," Caviglia said. "We sat in our open house, which we call academic day, and we said, 'The number one philosophy is to get guys who can transfer to four-year universities.'"



Frank Jordan, wide receiver
All-State Region II, 1st Team Offense
All-Valley Conference, 1st Team Offense
Career at FCC: 45 catches, 603 yards, 6 TDs



Josh Norman, defensive back
All-Valley Conference, Defense Honorable Mention
Career at FCC: 20 tackles, 13 pass breakups



David Tautofi, linebacker
All-Valley Conference, 1st Team Defense
Career at FCC: 33 tackles (6 for losses), 2 forced fumbles, 7 sacks



Kevin Hines, defensive lineman
All-Valley Conference, 2nd Team Defense
Career at FCC: 35 tackles (12 for losses), 3 forced fumbles, 7 sacks

Photos by Louis Castro

Rams hope to fill softball gaps after loss of star pitcher

By Jeff Swisher
Rampage Reporter

With the bitter taste of last year's season-ending 3-1 loss to De Anza College May 8 in the Northern California regionals still lingering in its mouth, the Fresno City College softball team is eager to make a run at state-wide prominence.

But it's not going to be easy.

The Rams suffered a blow days before their home opener Feb. 3 against West Valley College when ace pitcher Kelli McCollister was declared ineligible to play because of academic reasons.

"That's a huge difference between last year's team and this one," said FCC third basemen Sara Spencer. "Softball is a pitching game. We really have to get stronger in other areas."

In the 2000 campaign, McCollister helped lead the Rams to a second-place finish in the Central Valley Conference at 16-5 and 31-13 overall. Her absence has shifted the team's focus away from pitching and more on other aspects of the game.

"Offense is key for us," said FCC coach Rhonda Williams. "Our offense just has to be able to get clutch hits and put runs on the

A close look at FCC softball

Coach: Rhonda Williams, seventh season

2000 CVC record: 16-5, second place

Overall record: 31-13, lost to De Anza 3-1 in Northern California Regionals

Returning players: Christine Fajardo, 1B; Kelly Gentry, OF/P; Miranda Gonzales, SS; Kelly Lazarus, OF; Lisa Phelan, OF; Danielle Presley, 2B; Valerie Romero, OF; Sara Spencer, 3B.

Newcomers: Kawana Chester, OF; Jennifer Downs, 1B; Veronica Galvan, C; Wendy Jimenez, 3B; Jenny Padilla, P; Kathy Ramos, C; Dana Serrato, IF.

board. That's the name of the game."

Much of the offensive load will fall on the shoulders of second basemen Danielle Presley, who is expected to pack a powerful punch in the middle of the lineup.

"She's a big hitter," Spencer said. "She hits bombs."

Kathy Ramos, a transfer from Reedley, will also be vital to the Rams offensive production. Ramos, a catcher, will add speed to FCC's attack from the leadoff spot.

"She's a strong catcher and a hard worker," Spencer said. "She's going to do a lot of good

things for us."

The strength of the Rams may not lie in offense or defense, but in experience. Last year's squad was entirely made up of freshman. This year, the Rams are a tight-knit group with a season under their belts which -- according to Williams -- is a definite advantage.

"When you have a group of kids who have played a lot together and have experience at this level of competition it helps," said Williams, who is entering her seventh season as the Rams head coach.

Spencer agreed.

"We have great chemistry," Spencer said. "It helps because we know what type of players we are. That definitely plays a role in communicating with each other on the field."

Despite the loss of McCollister,

Spencer remains optimistic.

"This team can view the pitching situation as a big downer or we can overcome it and just say, 'We're going to get more hits and do more things to make up for it.'"

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Keo looks for KOs with career as boxer

FCC student had to give up kickboxing after injury, but that hasn't stopped him

By Joe Chacon
Rampage Reporter

In his first professional debut as a Muaythai kick boxer, he left an impression on the promoters.

So much so, that in his second fight, he was fighting for the North American California Muaythai Kickboxing Championship, and won.

Keophetlauh Sychanthavong, Keo as everyone calls him, has been boxing since 1989 in Bakersfield and Fresno.

"I started boxing at home in my backyard. I got to know Wes, then I started boxing at Holmes Playground in Fresno," Keo said.

Wes Hodgins and Richard Reynoso had been training amateur boxers for the South East Fresno Boxing Club at Holmes playground since the end of the 1980s. Before that, Reynoso and Nestor Chacon were training boxers in 1984 to 1985 at Ted C. Wills Center in a classroom after moving from Reynoso's backyard.

"We were organized back then," Chacon said. "We had Ray Lovato who fought Trinidad for the title but lost. Armando Reyes, Armando Alvarez (Chief) and Tony Maldonado, they all went to the nationals in Oklahoma, New York and Texas."

From the backyard to the small classroom to Holmes Playground, boxing in Fresno has come a long way. That all changed when Paul Carmelo opened Ringside Gym in downtown Fresno 15 years ago.

The South East Fresno Boxing Club moved downtown to Ringside. A couple of years later Reynoso passed away. That's when Chacon came back to boxing after taking some time off.

Chacon is now the president of the Amateur Association in the Valley, and with Hodgins they run Ringside Gym training amateur and professional boxers. They do all this with a handful of volunteers.

Keo, a student at Fresno City College since 1998, plans to major in business



Photos by Joe Chacon

Keophetlauh Sychanthavong (left), known as Keo, works on his boxing skills (above) with Jose Reyes. At right, Keo has been working on boxing since a broken leg ended his successful kickboxing career.



management and graduate with his liberal arts degree this spring.

Keo works on campus in the Social Science building in one of the new computer labs.

Last semester, Keo broke his leg playing soccer and also injured his ankle. "I broke my leg," he said, "that's what's stopping me from kickboxing."

Keo is making a strong comeback with boxing still in his heart, said, "I turned it all around, now I'm trying to get ready to box."

Since Keo has fought as a professional in kick boxing and held the California Championship title, he is ineligible to fight as an amateur.

"I've talked to Wes already about fighting," Keo said. "He said I'd have to fight as a professional. That's why I'm giving myself six months for my first bout."

Keo plans to fight this summer. He trains every day after school at Ringside. He shadow boxes, hits the heavy bags, hits the speed ball and spars under the close eye of Chacon and Hodgins.

Keo also trains kick boxers at the gym but is now concentrating on his professional boxing debut.

Even though Keo will not be fighting soon, he works out with other fighters who are getting ready to fight March 3 at Ringside Gym.

The gym puts on fights throughout the year to raise money for the South East Fresno Boxing Club, which is a non-profit organization that works with youths and to pay rent on the building.

The proceeds raised help the fighters on road trips to tournaments, lodging for overnight trips and meals.

"We had two female fighters that went to Midland, Texas, for the nationals," Hodgins said. "I'm still paying for my part."

The South East Fresno Boxing Club, a non-profit organization, has volunteers that

give their time and knowledge and are constantly looking for sponsors. "We're always looking for volunteers and sponsors to help with the gym and to put on fights with trophies, chairs and security, anything that goes to putting on a fight," Hodgins said.

According to Hodgins, if you want to sponsor a boxer, or buy gloves, shoes or trunks, or maybe sponsor the Ringside Gym, you're guaranteed free advertisement at the fights and at the gym.

"We'll put your name on the tickets, and on the trophies at the fights. You will be

recognized at the fights with a banner with your company's name if you have a banner," Hodgins said.

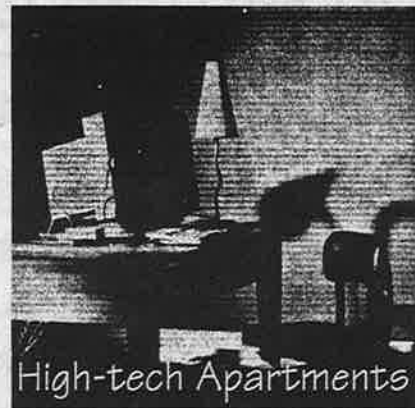
A night at the fights usually has 10 to 16 bouts with an intermission.

For Keo, keep a watch out this summer for his pro debut. "I invite everyone to the gym, it's a good place to train and to watch boxing," Keo said.

Anyone interested in volunteering or sponsoring a fighter can contact Chacon or Hodgins at 485-8377 at Ringside Gym.

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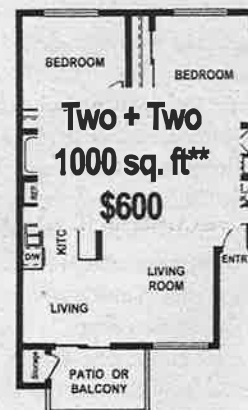
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Nestor Chacon, president of the Amateur Association in the Valley, helps run Ringside Gym. At left, Chacon serves as cornerman for Keo.

Women advance; men end with win

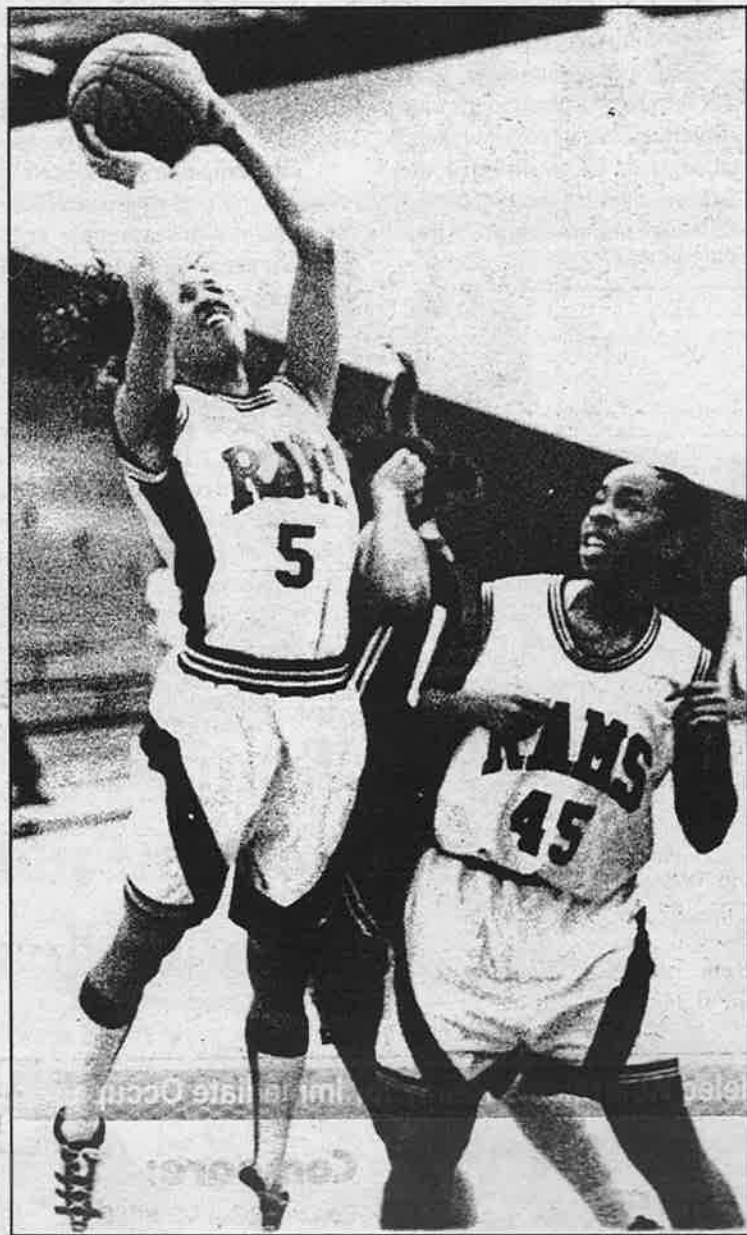


Photo by Wendy Alexander

Zammiah Johnson takes it the hoop for two of her 13 points as teammate Kendra Yancey looks on. The Rams open the playoffs at home against either American River or Reedley on Tuesday night.

Women brimming with confidence going into playoffs

By Brandon Castro

Sports editor

The FCC women's basketball team will have the third seed in the playoffs with an overall record of 27-6.

The Rams were in a tie for the No. 1 seed with Merced and San Jose in the Northern Region. The tie went to a coaches' vote that found the Rams with the third spot. Merced received the first seed and San Jose the second.

"I think we were jacked out of it, but you know it works out for the best," forward Rachel Green said. "Either way, we're going to state."

The Rams will host the winner of the American River-Reedley game at 7 p.m. Tuesday.

"We're pumped up. Whoever comes along, they're just in our way. We got to knock them down," said guard Moneshia Washington.

"We'll kill them both!" said guard Zammiah Johnson.

Earlier in the season, the Rams beat American River by 25 points in the San Jose tournament. The Rams also defeated Reedley twice. The first contest was in Fresno, where the Rams won in overtime. Then in their second meeting, the Rams scorched the Tigers in Reedley by 25 points.

The Rams gave out more of the same in beating Modesto last Saturday in a 66-56 victory.

At halftime, the Rams led 34-18, and Modesto couldn't hold ground with the Rams as they scored 32 points in the second half.

"Modesto got the bad end of the stick, so we had to come out and kill them," Washington said.

Johnson scored 13 points, Washington had nine, Rochelle Ortega had 10, and Nina Roberts scored 12 with five assists.

The Rams shouldn't be called cocky, they should be called good.

Green says, "Were confident, were confident, were confident."

No playoffs, so men can only look to next season

By Brandon Castro

Sports editor

The men's basketball team finished the season strong by beating Modesto 84-68 Saturday night.

Modesto led 35-32 at half-time, but the combination of guard Cory Canteen, forward William Frisby and guard Robert Ross was too much for Modesto. The trio combined for 57 of the Rams' 84 points.

Frisby led the Rams' attack with 28 points, and Ross had 15. Canteen chalked up 14, Dion Aye nine, Jimmy Whitfield eight, Carl Lee four and Todd Esajian had four.

The Rams finished the season 15-12 overall and 6-8 in the Central Valley Conference.

FCC, though, isn't eligible for postseason play. Earlier this season, the Rams were among three teams banned from the playoffs because of improprieties regarding subsidizing of players.

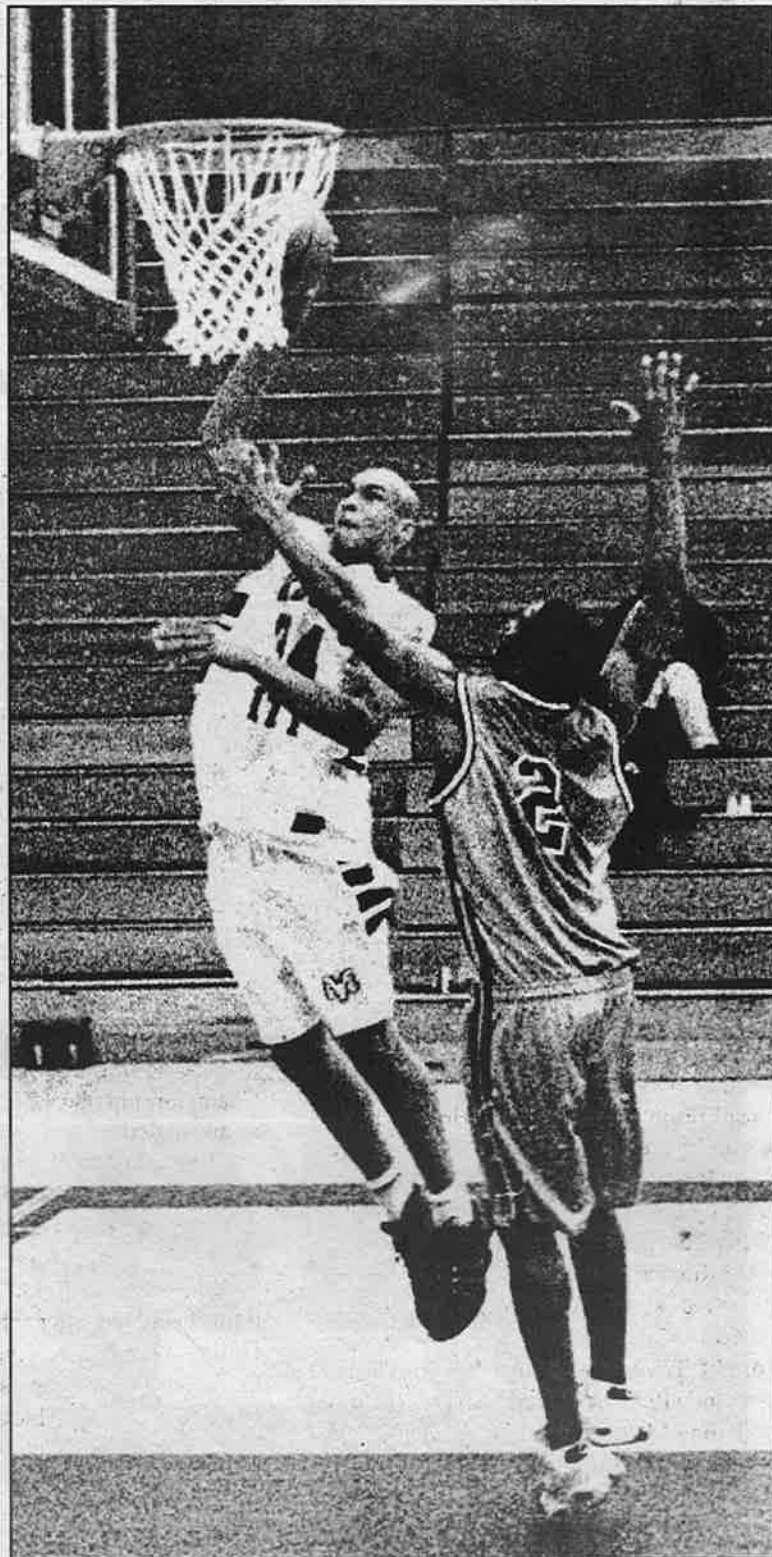
Next season, though, looks good for the Rams as eight of their 11 players look to return. Among the returnees are the 6-6 forward Lee, the 6-7 forward Frisby and the 6-6 guard Ross.

"We're gonna have a better team," Lee said. "I'm gonna come back because I want a ring with Fresno City. We're gonna get the ring for Fresno City next year. We're going through the tough times right now, but we're gonna be happy in the long run."

The Rams lacked depth this year, a thing that shouldn't be a problem with eight returning players.

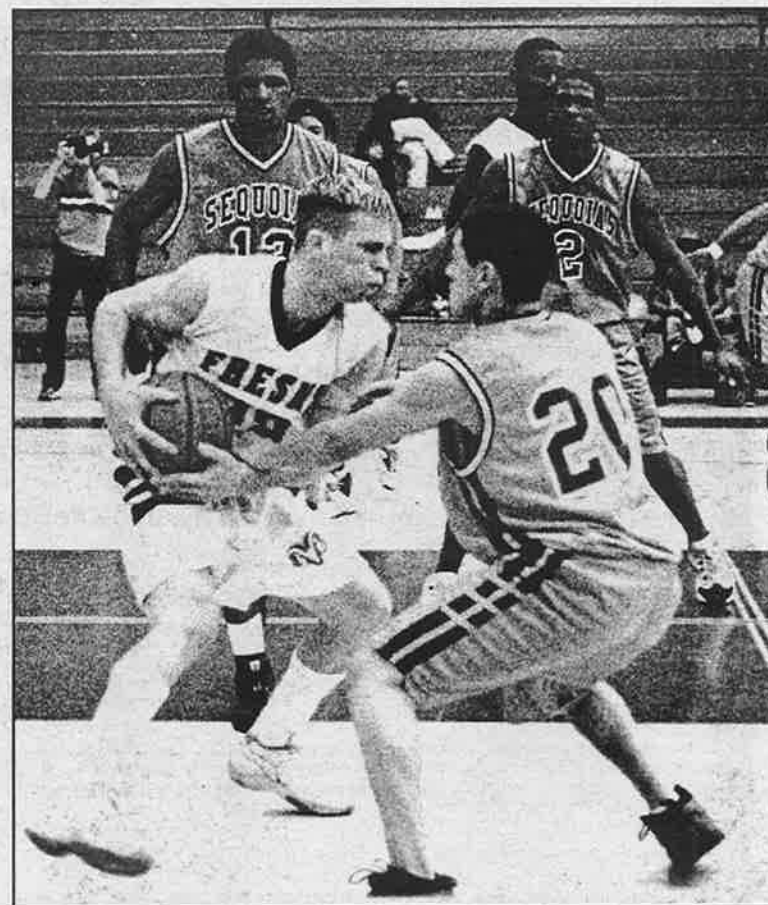
"Frisby's a hell of a player," said College of the Sequoias coach George Tarkanian, after escaping with a 93-85 win Feb. 14. "I think Lee's a great player, I think Lee's the best post player in the state of California. Cory's a fine player, too. They just don't have enough depth. They have as good of a four player combination as there is in the state."

After the COS game, Rams coach Peter Sharkey said: "We're a team that in the last five or six games played well for a half of a game. Tonight (against COS) in the first half, we played horrible, and in the second half we were pretty decent, and at times we were really good. But the bottom line is that was a great team we played against."



Photos by Wendy Alexander

The Rams' William Frisby, scoring above against COS' Chris Sockwell, is one of eight players expected to return next season. Below, FCC's Todd Esajian works against Sequoias' Chris Castillo.



Tracks

Cont. from pag 1

the location is prone to accidents. Two weeks ago, FCC student Jamie Davis was struck by a train, breaking her arm, and two years ago a man was fatally hit as he attempted to beat the train across.

"It's quite remarkable that we haven't had more people struck out there," Reyes said. "It's like a gun going off. If you pull the trigger the gun will fire, if you stand

on the tracks you are going to get hit."

Reyes also has personal issues with the tracks.

"My dad was struck and killed [at a different track in Fresno several years ago] by a train," he said. "It's one of those things you just never forget."

FCC students agree the tracks should be moved, but also agree such accidents can be easily avoided.

"I can't see how you could be hit by a train," FCC student

Armando Cineceros said. "It's not like being in a car accident, it's common sense — if you see a train coming, you should wait."

"Some of these situations took place because of the rash behavior of individuals who choose not to abide by the warnings they are given," Reyes explained. "It's against the law to proceed once the lights and bells begin and once the arms come down. To choose to ignore that is not only foolish, but against the law."

In light of the recent injury to

Davis, new signs have been posted along the tracks near the east parking lot. But signs have been there all along and accidents continue to occur. New, shinier signs are not the answer, but awareness and preparation could be, however.

The campus police department is doing everything it can to patrol the area, but around the clock surveillance is impossible. When students do cross illegally, they will be cited by the department. Railroad police and the Fresno Police Department also occasion-

ally patrol the tracks and will cite and possibly arrest any violators, according to Reyes.

A new campaign is being put on by Amtrak, CalTrans, the State Center of Community Colleges and FCC regarding safety issues around the tracks. FCC has been chosen as one of four locations in California because of the amount of traffic running through the area.

The campaign was kicked off Tuesday with a news conference on campus to let people know there is cause for concern and the situation is being dealt with.

"Operation Life Saver is to let people know we do know about it and are trying to correct the situation," FCC president Daniel Larios said. "The tracks have always been a concern of mine. This can help us possibly move them, but I don't know if we can do it in the immediate future."

Again, the immediate future is not a possibility for a strip of track some call "a dagger through the heart of the city."

Train vs. person: not a good idea

Trains go about 65 mph, a human, about 10 mph, and that's if they're running. Who will win? The law of physics shows that a train will more often than not, win.

So why do we risk it? Most people don't realize how fast the train is moving till it's in their face. They believe they have the time to move across safely. Only, some aren't lucky enough to avoid the train.

At Fresno City College we have had several accidents including a student who was a second to slow. Do you realize how close to a train you have to be to have your backpack hit! I'm glad she survived and all, but wow, she isn't going to be able to forget this for a while. I don't think anyone will.

Standing just feet away you can feel the ground tremble, the sheer speed creating a cold, whipping wind. It makes me wonder how stupid someone has to be to play chicken with a fast moving hunk of whistling metal. As one of my fellow Rampagians said, "What part of honk, honk, honk, don't you understand?"

I think if you can't figure out what the flashing red lights and dinging, lowering arms are trying to tell you, then I hope you don't find it out the hard way.

Lets play safe folks. Try staying away from the train, it's not worth the price you could pay your life. A life shouldn't end in a greasy smear on the tracks.



Katharine Strauss

Rampage reporter
Opinion

What a difference the train makes!



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