



**Hey, this is a  
Brendan Fraser  
movie that's funny**  
*Page 4*



**Stirring version  
of 'Streetcar'  
worth watching**  
*Page 6*



**Everyone wants  
Jon Asahina, but  
FCC has him**  
*Page 11*



# Rampage

**FRESNO CITY COLLEGE**

Volume LXXIII Edition 4

A Publication since 1949

March 7, 2001

## Forensics seeks another crown

*By Jeffrey Swisher*  
Rampage reporter

Last year, the Fresno City College Forensics team claimed the National Parliamentary and Debate Association championship in junior college competition and finished 16th out of all competing colleges -- proving its worth among the nation's elite. And on March 23, the Rams will be gunning for a repeat.

The Rams are gearing up to compete in the 2001 NPDA championship in Denver, an annual event that pits more than 300 colleges against each other, with each team looking to argue its way to the top.

Eric Fletcher, the director of the forensics team, is optimistic about his team's chances.

"We want to repeat," said Fletcher, who will be concluding his third year as the Rams' coach. "This is a big deal for us."

Throughout the season, FCC has had impressive showings at more than 11 events -- finishing ahead of prestigious universities such as Stanford, USC and UCLA.

The Rams kicked off the season in winning fashion as they took first place among 30 teams to earn the Sweepstakes Award, Sept. 29 at Fresno State. Justin Vinnard and Jeff Cornelius teamed up in parliamentary debate to down USC and UC Berkeley in the final round.

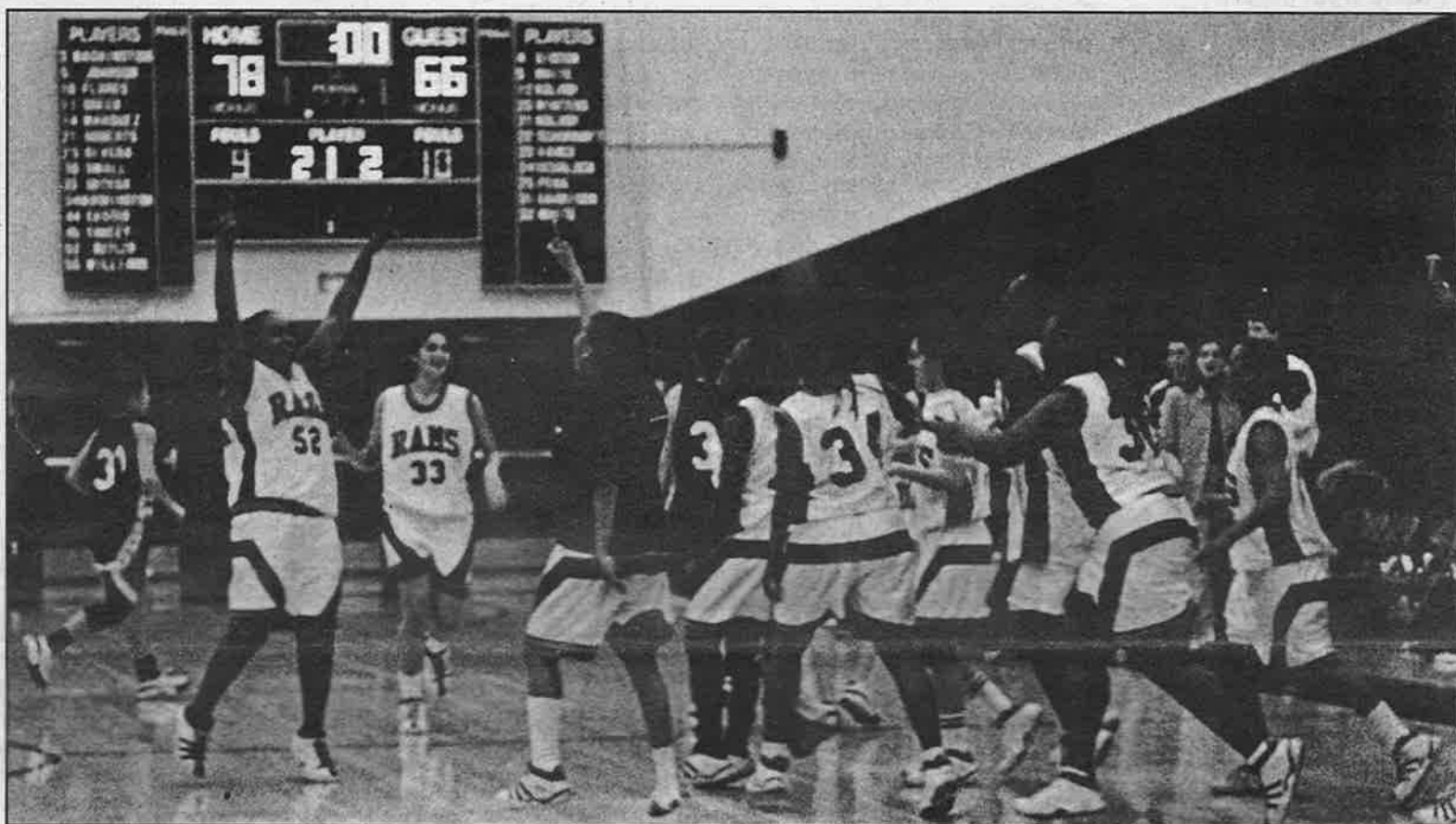
"That was an excellent way to open the season," Fletcher said.

At the Elliot Invitational, held Oct. 3 in Santa Rosa, FCC struck again as Vinnard earned honors as the top speaker and finished third in parliamentary competition with partner Eric Grijalva.

Cornelius and Vinnard shared the championship podium at the Governors Cup, held Oct. 29 in Sacramento. Cornelius took home

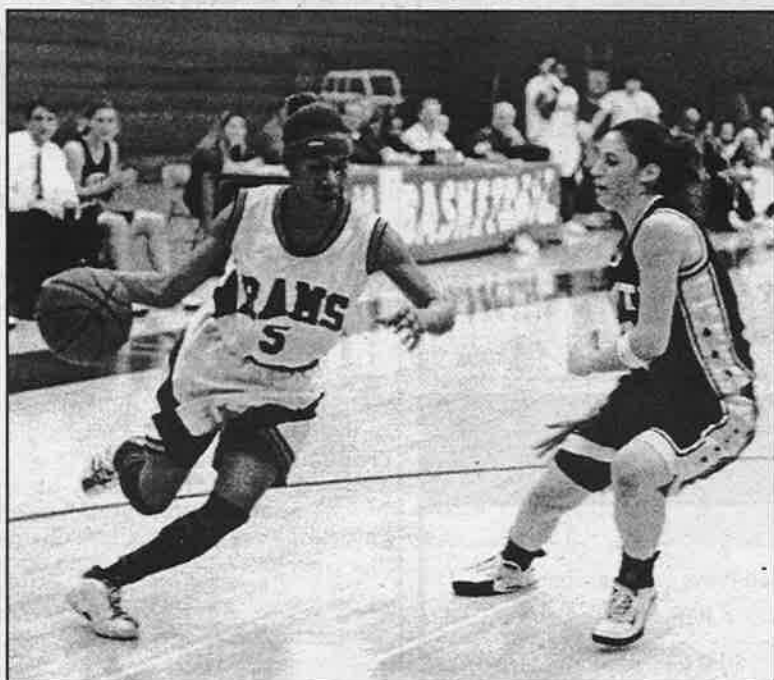
See **Forensics**, page 2

## BOUND FOR STATE



Photos by Wendy Alexander

*The Fresno City College women's basketball team celebrates after beating Butte on Friday -- a win that sends the Rams to the state tournament.*



*Fresno City's Zammiah Johnson, left, shows her moves to a Butte opponent during Friday's win.*

## Women's basketball reaches the final eight

*By Anthony Witrado*  
Rampage reporter

Donnie Johnson is almost there.

He is one game away from fulfilling the goal he set three years ago when he stepped in as Fresno City College women's basketball coach. One win away from an appearance in the state final four.

"I thought we had the opportunity to do this the last few years," Johnson said. "Last year I thought was the best shot, but we were just too young and inexperienced."

The Rams are headed to the

state championships in Stockton for a meeting with Riverside (27-9) -- Fresno's first trip to the state championships since 1993.

The Rams beat Reedley 91-56 last Wednesday and beat Butte of Oroville 78-66 Friday to qualify for the state tournament.

Johnson told his team at the beginning of the season anything less than a state final four appearance is a disappointment.

He did not say it to light a fire under his team. He did not say it because coaches are supposed to say things like that. He said it because

See **Basketball**, page 12

## Prepare for the joust, you Renaissance fans

*By Josh Harding*  
Rampage reporter

Grab yourself a turkey leg and dust off the armor, the Renaissance Faire is coming to town.

Set for this weekend on the west lawn of Fresno City College, expect a cavalcade of colorful

characters straight out of history.

In its 10th year at Fresno City College, this particular festival will kick off the year for the groups that carry out the event. The faire is an all-day event, which seeks to entertain as well as educate spectators. The actors who participate strive to represent

their given time in history as accurately as possible, through language, costume and setting. From the elaborate costumes of royalty to the tattered rags of a peasant, every social class is represented in the festival. Always set in Renaissance times, this particular festival will focus on the events

of 1579. The story revolves around a love triangle between Queen Elizabeth, her love interest and a potential suitor. The events will be played out over the two days of the festival. The variety of people portrayed is truly impressive.

See **Renaissance**, page 3



## Letter to the editor

Before George W. Bush's father became president, one invulnerable submarine could destroy any country on Earth.

The Cold War ended 10 years ago. The former Soviet Union split into 15 countries. There are about 280 million people in the United States. For the past 10 years, the United States has been spending about \$280 billion for defense. In other words, the

United States has been spending about \$1,000 per person per year for the last 10 years.

It would take about 250,000 Oklahoma City-sized bombs to equal the deaths of World War II. The Oklahoma City bomb killed about 200 people; WWII killed about many, many thousands. One U.S. submarine now has more firepower than all of WWII.

According to page 207 of the

2001 World Almanac, the U.S. defense budget is now five times larger than the Russian budget. All western European nations are allies of the United States.

Still George W. Bush is trying to increase defense spending.

Carol Hand  
Scottsdale, Ariz.

## Forensics

Cont. from page 1

the Top Speaker award, while Vinnard finished behind him in second place.

Vinnard and Cornelius tallied the best win-loss percentage in the nation within the parliamentary competition, with a 16-2 season record. The duo's impressive performance earned them a spot in the Tournament of Champions, which will run April 19 in Washington, D.C. Vinnard and Cornelius will be the only team representing a junior college in the tournament, which features more than 100 four-year universities.

Vinnard and Cornelius haven't been the only competitors tasting success.

Russell Morris and Walt Natale took first place in junior competition at the Steve Lins Invitational, held Jan. 26 in Modesto. Morris and DeNatale won the honors by downing UC Davis in the final round.

The Rams had an impressive showing in San Diego's Sunset Cliffs Classic, as they were the only junior college to advance to the final round. In what Fletcher called, "the second biggest tournament of the year," Grijalva earned honors as the second-place speaker, topping speakers from Stanford, UCLA, UC Berkeley and Creighton. Genevieve Walden added to FCC's success to finish 16th for the Rams among 600 speakers.

This season, FCC standout Jes-

sica DeButts has focused primarily on a competition called, "speech to entertain," which entails the speaker delivering a speech on the same topic at various events. DeButts' speech topic about Alan Greenspan has earned her placings in four tournaments this season.

While the topic of DeButt's speech remains the same throughout the forensics season, it's usually shaped, changed and molded from event to event to progressively improve the effectiveness of the speech, according to Fletcher.

Other types of individual-speaking competitions include speaking to entertain, dramatic

interperations, humorous interperations and "impromptu" — in which the speaker is given 15 minutes to prepare a speech about a random topic assigned by the event's judges.

Other FCC speakers who have placed in tournaments this season are Sarah Santos, Marc Bravo, Tracy Pepper, Juana Echeveste, Renee Newlove, Johnny Lopez, Matt Silbermann, Todd Blanco and Mark Painter.

"You are required to do a lot of research and combine that with critical thinking skills, presentation skills and reasoning abilities," Fletcher said. "This team is just a great group of kids, and they do a great job."

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To place a classified in the Rampage, contact Aaron Keller at 442-8262. Or bring in the information from noon to 1 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

## POLICE LOG

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

Feb. 22

Report taken involving a stolen vehicle from lot D.

Feb. 23

Officer took report regarding vehicle damage.

Feb. 24

Officer responds to a call from the Health Science building regarding two injured students. Students were turned over to American Ambulance.

Feb. 24

Officer responds to a call from the library regarding an injured employee.

Feb. 24

Officer dispatched to campus traffic accident. Subject was cited and released.

Feb. 26

Report taken regarding vandalism. Windows broken on campus.

Feb. 26

False fire alarm reported at Clovis Center. Officer dispatched.



In appreciation of your support in our fund-raising event. The Rampage staff would like to thank you.

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## Campus Calendar

### March 7

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

### March 8 - 10

•FCC Theatre and Dance Department presents "A Streetcar Named Desire": FCC Theatre, 7:30 p.m.  
Contact theater box office at 442-8221.

### 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: 7 p.m.

### March 21

•Fitness Faire & Bench Press competition: Fountain area, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

### April 4

•Air guitar: Free speech area, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

### April 21

•Partners in Pride neighborhood clean-up: District parking lot, 7 a.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.





Angela Davis, considered a radical revolutionary in the 1960s, talks about women's prison issues before a crowd of 200 in the FCC College Theatre on Saturday. Davis, 57, is currently a professor at UC Santa Cruz.

Photo by Julian Torres

## Three qualify for winter games

By Joe Chacon  
Rampage reporter

The Adult Transition Winter Games held in February had three Fresno City College students qualify for the Winter Games in Lake Tahoe March 12-15.

In the downhill skiing competition, Brian Stewart took the gold medal, and in the slalom he had two silver medals. Christopher Alipaz in the bunny-hill downhill skiing won a gold and two silvers in the slalom, and Ed Duarte took two gold medals in the downhill glide. Tammy Hurley is the winter games coach.

While preparing for the winter games, the Adult Transition Program was also con-

ditioning for a power lift competition at Break the Barriers in Fresno.

Coach Jarod Hergenrader said, "We have nine athletes in two events competing in the dead lift and the bench press. We train twice a week. We do a cycle -- we start out with the bench press, reps with curls, flies and military press."

There is one female on the team, "We're excited we have one girl, Elisa Vierea. She's about as good as the guys. She dead lifts 160 pounds," Hergenrader said.

Ed Duarte, the shortest athlete on the team, benches 170 pounds, and Demetrius Robinson dead lifts 215 pounds.

The power lift competition will take place March 16 at Break the Barriers.

actors, as well as their passion for its history.

Many of the people you see there have traveled a long way to participate. The actors themselves are organized into guilds, which portray specific social groups or occupations. The guilds travel up and down the state throughout the year putting on different shows.

This upcoming festival will feature some local talent as well. FCC student Heather Gerard will be among the ranks of actors that weekend. Along with her friends, they will be portraying street entertainers dazzling onlookers with their juggling skills. Heather has been involved in the faire for six years. She has had experience being guild member as well as running one of her own. She points out the common force of the Faire's participants, a love of acting and of European history.

The beneficiary of this event in the past has been the Fresno Aids Project. This year, all proceeds will go to The Marjorie Mason Center. Tickets are \$4 for adults and \$2 for children, but you can receive half off with the donation of a non-perishable food item. We may not be able to travel back in time but this weekend we'll have a chance to see how things went down back in the day... and eat Thai Food.

## Renaissance

Cont. from page 1

"There are several 100 actors. You can ask any actor who they are and why they're there," said Michael Butler, who runs this particular event.

There is a central stage, which at different times will feature music, belly dancing, fire eating and some staged combat. Different craft booths will be open displaying their wares, Renaissance-style jewelry, swords, pottery and clothing. You may even get the chance to see some of these artisans in action, seamstresses spinning wool or blacksmiths pounding out fresh weapons. Aside from the arts and crafts, another big draw is the food. The infamous turkey leg may occupy the mouth of many a fairgoer, or perhaps a banger, which is a type of hot dog. There will also be tri-tip available, and Thai food. Yes, that's right, Thai food. Under guise of foreigners from a different land, a little diversity has been worked into the cuisine.

"Just don't go there full," sums up Student Activities Director Gurdeep Sithota.

Witnessing a Renaissance festival makes one aware of the great undertaking of the

# FCC students speak up for themselves at negotiation contest

By Julian Torres  
Editor-in-chief

Communication Art department chair Mark Woolsey took 26 Fresno City College students from various speech courses to participate in a negotiation speech contest at Reedley College. The event, which pitted FCC against Reedley, was one of several contests held throughout the year, organized by Woolsey.

"I started it back in 1989, when I was director of the forensics team. Our first competition was in 1990," said Woolsey, who noted that nearly 2,000 students have participated in the event over the last 10 years.

The contest consisted of three events, in which students were given scenarios and judged upon how well they could negotiate a suitable outcome within a five-minute time frame. In the first scenario, competitors were asked to negotiate a proper selling price on a vehicle. In the second, they were required to play the role of a child negotiating a candy deal with a parent and the third, involved an employee requesting a

raise from an employer.

Many of the participants were first time competitors, who had no prior public speaking experience. "I didn't have any experience, plus I'm afraid to speak in front of people. I thought of it as a game and decided to just go for it," said Si Guo, who placed 10th among the 70 who took part.

Top placers from FCC were Brandi Burson, 2nd; Manpreet Takhar, 4th; Patricia Hancock, 6th; Jose Prendez, 7th; and Sara Puga, 9th.

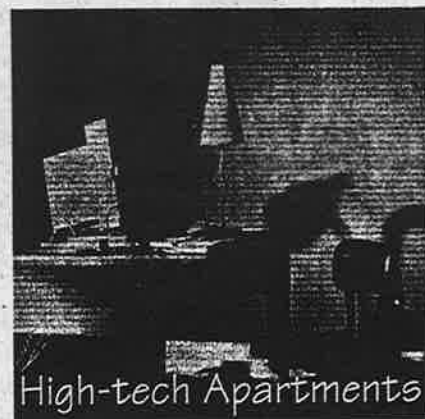
Next up for Woolsey and his speakers will be a teaching demonstration, as part of FCC's showcase April 26, where students will be asked to develop a curriculum and present it within a 15-minute period.

Competition is somewhat informal and on an intramural type basis. Anyone interested in participating in upcoming contests should contact Woolsey in the Humanities office at 442-8181.

"A lot of times, students say that there is nothing to do on campus," Woolsey said. "I think if they take the time to look, there is."

## Newly Remodeled Apartments Ready for Immediate Occupancy

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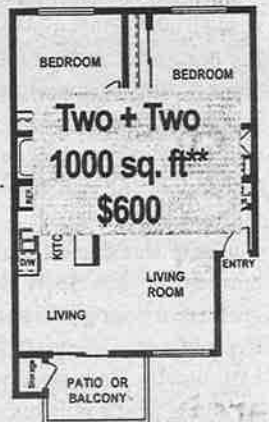
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## More fun than a barrel of monkeys

Brendon Fraser is in another movie, but wait, this one is funny. He plays a comic artist named Stew Miley. A

network has just signed his cartoon "Monkeybone" as a series. Being a bit skeptical about the launch of his new career, he crashes his car on the night of the pilot



Corey Strauss

Rampage reporter  
Movie review

screening and goes into a coma. All this happens right before he gets the chance to ask his girlfriend to marry him.

While in a coma, he is sent to the underworld of nightmares called downtown. He arrives in town on a roller coaster with two stops, one at downtown and the last in the land of the dead. There he meets his cartoon sidekick, Monkeybone. A troublesome, tormenting and obnoxious monkey obsessed with the act of "monkey boning."

Monkeybone traps Stew in



Courtesy of 20th Century Fox

Like a lot of Tim Burton movies, "Monkeybone" is a wild ride.

#### Cheapest times to go...

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downtown and takes over Stew's real body bringing him out of a three-month coma. Monkeybone continues to mess things up in the real world. Stew then takes over the body of a cadaver-organ donor. With the help of Stew's girl-

friend, they fight Monkeybone, reclaim his body and save the day.

The whole movie has a very "Nightmare Before Christmas" meets the "Adam's Family" at a twisted amusement park. Like all of Tim Burton's movies, this one is full of scenic "eye candy". The costumed characters, animatronics, and mixture of claymation with reality, can only be compared to "Roger Rabbit."

All in all, it was a great movie. Beautiful scenery, fantastic effects and Whoopi Goldberg. I'm going to see it again.

## 'Down to Earth' should bury itself

The movie "Down to Earth" is about a young struggling comedian named Lance (Chris Rock) who gets hit by a truck and killed. He gets reincarnated as an old, white man - Mr. Wellington -- who was a rich old miser who only cared about his money. Lance really wanted to play the last show at the comedy club the Apollo. But when he was on his way to work on his material for the audition, he gets hit by the truck.



Nick Bergstrom

Rampage Reporter

Movie Review

"Down To Earth" was not what I expected it to be. It wasn't the laugh a minute movie it should have been. Chris Rock, one of the most hilarious people alive, did not do very good job. I think it could have been much funnier than it was. I mean, Chris Rock playing a fat, rich white man, you would think he could have made it into a great movie, but it was nothing but a mediocre comedy. There were some good parts, such as when he did his standup in the movie. I think that was really the only good part of the movie. The supporting cast in this movie was not that good.

There was a good plot and good cast, but the film was really slow moving and got kind of boring. I have never seen Chris Rock in a PG-13 movie before, and now I know why. He is good when he can just go crazy, which puts his comedy in high gear. I thought this movie was a big waste of money. It could have been so much better.

## Actors offer moving portrayal of sisters

"Having Our Say," written by Emily Mann and directed by Gordon Goede, is a delightfully written play that tells the life history of Bessie and Sadie Delaney. Their history includes moments

at a time where African Americans were treated cruelly. Yet the story unfolds in a whimsical way.

The Delaney sisters, played by Gwen Spratt and Ruth Howerly (a Fresno City College employee) are Bessie Delaney (Spratt), a 101-year-old former dentist and Sadie (Howerly), a 103-year-old retired teacher. From the moment the play begins you are a part of it. With this uniquely written story, the actors are completely aware of you. You become visitors in their house who have come to hear the story of their lives. And quite an enticing story they tell.

No matter if you are a person who is interested in history or is just curious about it, or if you are an African-American interested in your own heritage, or just simply a veteran playgoer or actor, this play is exceptional. Along



J. Riley

Rampage reporter

Theater review

#### "Having Our Say" Final Weekend

Thursday  
at 7 p.m.

Friday and Saturday  
at 8 p.m.

Theatre 3 in Fresno

with great writing and a unique approach, there is convincing acting, great slides and sound.

While everything was great, there are always things that could be improved, after all nothing is perfect. There are a few points during the performance, in which you must strain a slight bit to hear what someone is saying, particularly at points in which their backs are turned. Also, if a line is skipped (which often happens in plays) they may cover it up, but it leaves the slide operator with more work of trying to forward past some slides and find his place.

Both Spratt and Howerly pull off a great performance, both working with each other in such a way, that if you didn't know better, you would think they were sisters. And with the great slides and sound I give it 4 3/4 stars on a good night, 4 on a bad night.

If you do see the show, remember you are visitors in their home, so please remember to keep your feet off the furniture.

## Horoscopes

By Diego Herra  
Rampage Reporter



#### Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Someone new comes into your life. You can tell them about meeting them that they are a pretty cool person to hang out with. Don't forget to keep in contact with him or her. They think you're special too.



#### Aries (March 21-April 19)

You might not be thrilled to continue school. Try to develop the routine you desire. Don't overthink the idea. You can do this, just try.



#### Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Don't forget to check the oil in your car. Problems might arise. Unfortunately, you might have to take strong action that you have been trying to avoid. Don't wait until the problems get worse.



#### Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Just keep doing what you have been doing. You have what it takes to fulfill a longterm goal. The end of the road is at hand. You can do it, just keep trying.



#### Cancer (June 21-July 22)

A friend means well, but she might tell something to another that shouldn't be revealed yet. This can be distracting. Other situations can arise from this. Find solutions that will work with everyone's plans.



#### Leo (July 23-August 22)

You are a genius this month. Your ability to work hard puts you above your peers and classmates. Your work ethics really are starting to show. Listen to your intuition, it has been great for you so far.



#### Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Great expectations come to fall short. Don't take this as a reason to quit. Reorganize your ideas to make it work out for you. Friends will support you in your circles.



#### Libra (September 23-October 22)

The perfect partner is waiting for you. Try something new, and if you reach out far enough you might just find what you are looking for. Don't lose hope about love, because love is waiting for you. The one that is sitting next to you might be the person you have been looking for.



#### Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Expectations are high, forward progress seems to be moving at a slow rate. You only have a little more until you get what you want.



#### Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Look for having that test postponed. Class cancellations. Time will work well for you this month. Time seems like it is going a lot faster than last month. Eat up, because next month will test your patience.



#### Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

What happens now will affect you later. Don't worry today, for tomorrow is another day and carries its own problems. You have much more to do than worry about your current dilemma.



#### Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

Don't take abuse from others. It's not worth it. You are so much better than some may treat you. Your time is too important to waste. Make sure the things you do this month have a bigger purpose.



## A tribute to Poppy Z. Brite

Every so often there are great writers that come along who deserve to be mentioned for all of their works, not just a single book.

So this edition of my book review is going to be dedicated to a woman who in my eyes, is a goddess. It is undoubtedly so that you have not heard of



**Katharine Strauss**

Rampage reporter  
Book review

Poppy Z. Brite. She seems to be an underground artist of sorts. It takes an effort to even find her books in the bookstore.

Born in New Orleans, May 25, 1967, she was a born writer. By age 3, she was telling stories ("The Bad Mouse," released on CD by Gauntlet Press) recorded on tape recorders. At 5, she was making booklets about bats and "Attack of the Mud Monster."

And so it began. The young gothian started her stride. By the time she was 12, she was serious about her work, sending her stories out to anyone she thought would publish them. In high school, she shook up her classmates with an underground newspaper called The Glass Goblin.

A California based magazine, "The Horror Show," bought her first story "Optional Music for Voice and Piano," when she was 18. "The Horror Show" was small (at largest, circulation was about 10,000), but horror professionals respected it. After a few more stories were sold to the magazine, editor David B. Silva made her part of the "Rising Stars" issue. It was from that issue that Douglas E. Winter, a publishing consultant for Walker & Company,

discovered Poppy. Thus began her career in writing books. After dropping out of college to pursue this career, she wrote "Lost Souls."

While writing this book, she went through an array of jobs, some of the most interesting, from candy maker, mouse caretaker (at a research lab at UNC), artist's model, short order cook and even stripper. At night she sat down at her desk to write.

She moved to Athens, Ga., which influenced her fictional town Missing Mile, North Carolina. While there she met her husband, Christopher DeBarr.

Still waiting for someone to buy her novel, "Lost Souls," she went to a convention in New York where she met three writers who introduced her to Richard Curtis. Richard snapped up the opportunity to represent her, and in 1991, Dell Books bought "Lost Souls," and signed her up for a three-book contract. Nine months later "Drawing Blood" was finished and "Swamp Foetus," a collection of short stories, was in the works. Back in New Orleans, where she felt more at home, it was decided it would be renamed "Wormwood," as it is known today. It took her two years to finish her third book "Exquisite Corpse," and when she turned it into the publishers, they told her they wouldn't publish it due to "extreme" content. The books' main characters were two serial murderers based loosely on Danny Rollings and Jeffery Dahmer. Simon & Schuster finally decided to buy it after numerous rejections from other publishers.

Courtney Love, musician, contacted Poppy around this time and asked her to write a biography for her. She had read "Lost Souls" and loved it. Love wanted a version of her life story written to counter

negative stories already in progress. "Courtney Love: The Real Story," though not one of Poppy's favorites, shows her fascinating writing style in a whole new light.

Harper Prism, a fantasy/horror division of Harper Collins, began a project publishing a series of novels based on "The Crow," and asked her to write one, and thus, "The Lazarus Heart" was born.

After "The Lazarus Heart" was produced, she took some time off to go back to her first love, short stories. In 1998, "Are You Loathsome Tonight?" and 1999, "Self-Made Man" were made. Poppy was still playing around with the story that has started "Lost Souls" and finally published "The Seed of Lost Souls."

Poppy Z. Brite's latest novel, "Plastic Jesus," came out in May 2000, inspired by the murder of John Lennon. She is in the midst of working on a new novel, which is kept secret to what is, but no doubt it will be as great as the others.

Poppy Z. Brite is truly a role model for myself. I've read every piece of her work I can get my hands on. The funny thing is I only heard of her when my friend handed me the book, "Wormwood" and told me to read it. I fell instantly in love with her writing. Her vivid writing hooks you in and keeps you reading until there's nothing left to read.

With her trilogy "Lost Souls," "Drawing Blood," and "Wormwood" you are introduced to a group of people you learn to love, hate, despise and envy with each book. Their intertwining lives build an amazing story.

My hat goes off to Poppy. I wish her all the best and hope that her career stays strong, and that she keeps producing works of art.



Photo courtesy of Hellcat Records

Dropkick Murphys blends Irish heritage with a unique sound.

## Dropkick Murphys? It's an odd name, but the band can play

Is there anyone up for some fast-paced punk rock? Well, I am. Go no further than the Dropkick Murphys.

An absolutely great band, but their musical style reaches out to all sorts of people. Not only do they reach the ears of the punk rockers, they also

reach back to their roots and use there heavy Irish accents. When they put all of their music together with their interesting instrument selections. The Dropkick Murphys are one of the coolest bands I have ever seen. This band is made up of seven Irish American males led by lead vocalist Al Barr.

Barr is also joined by Ken Casey, bass and vocalist; Matt Kelly, drummer and vocalist; James Lynch, guitarist; Marc

Orrell, guitar and accordion; and Ryan Foltz plays the mandolin and tin whistle. My personal favorite is Spicy Mchaggis the Bagpipe player.

The Dropkick Murphys have been around for years and their new CD, "Sing Loud, Sing Proud" is the newest addition to their many cool CDs. It is headed by song seven, "The Gauntlet," a very cool punk song. This song is more of a traditional punk song. My personal favorite song on this whole CD is number four "The Rocky Road To Dublin." It is a genuine Irish song, and when mixed with the punk beat, it turns the sound of the song into something completely different.

The Dropkick Murphys have a sound all their own with the mixture of the punk and genuine Irish folk music. It makes a great new sound that has never been used before.

They have played in the Vans Warped Tour for the last few years. If you enjoy punk rock or Irish folk music, you should check them out.



**Nick Bergstrom**

Rampage Reporter

Music Review

## 'You Can Count On' Linney for an Oscar-worthy performance

In writer/director Kenneth Lonergan's "You Can Count on Me," actress Laura Linney brings weight and honesty to the role of Sammy, whose life is turned upside-down when her brother comes to visit.



**Chris Castro**

Entertainment  
editor

When Sammy and her brother were very young, their parents were killed in a car accident. In present day, Sammy still lives in the small town they grew up in, has a young son and works at a local bank branch. Her life is safe and quiet ... and boring. As soon as a new bank manager begins to get on her nerves (saying she can't take an hour break be-

tween her shift to pick up her son from school, even though she's been doing so for three years), Sammy receives a letter from her brother saying he's coming to visit. Sammy instantly becomes ecstatic and can't wait for her brother's arrival.

Sammy's brother, played by Mark Ruffalo (from the short-lived UPN cop drama, "The Beat"), is one small step from being classified as a bum: He has no job, moves from place to place getting money from whomever he can, and has one set of clothes. He visits Sammy to tell her he needs money, and that the reason he's been out of touch is because he was in jail.

Sammy, though heartbroken by her brother's state is nonetheless happy to have him around (he bonds with Sammy's son and helps out around the house).

Sammy is mostly just happy to see her brother, whom she loves very much. Soon, her brother's influence leads Sammy to examine her own life and make a few rash decisions.

Laura Linney's performance is important to the success of the film and she handles the burden exceptionally. She infuses Sammy with an honesty and wealth of emotion not often displayed in movies today. Sammy, as a character, is very strong and in control of her life. The screenplay offers Linney the chance to play a role not often found in most movies.

-- The script also portrays the relationship between two siblings truthfully while avoiding the usual clichés (not once does either Sammy or her brother discuss the death of their parents except in the end where it is only indirectly

mentioned).

"You Can Count On Me" shows a remarkably genuine-feeling portrayal of a brother-sister relationship. Laura Linney, who is nominated for the Academy

Award of Best Actress, may lose to Julia Roberts come Oscar night, but her performance will no doubt delight anyone who comes in contact with this fine film.

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## Semrick and Reaves shine in 'Streetcar Named Desire'



A "Streetcar Named Desire," written by Tennessee Williams, is a powerfully written psychological drama portraying neurotic people who are victims of their own passions, frustrations and loneliness.



Joe Moffitt

The play portrays the conflict between the sensitive, neurotic Blanche DuBois (Ashley Semrick) and the crude, animalistic Stanley Kowalski (Mike Reaves).

Blanche visits the home of her sister, Stella (Kendra Russo), in New Orleans and that is when Stanley started picking at her, almost testing her. Before she had met Stanley, she told her sister of how their plantation had been lost due to the costs of paying for the funerals of many family members. There was not enough money for her to keep the plantation.

This semester's production of "Streetcar" was pulled off to perfection by everyone involved, from the brilliant acting from the lead characters and supporting cast, to the surreal set and sound, as well as the stage crew.

As one theater-goer questioned, "How do they change clothes so fast and get back on stage while remaining in character?"

Answer, a great stage crew. Wonderful actors giving grand performances also figure into the mix -- Russo, Michael Harrison (Mitch) and most notably the lead performances of Semrick and Reaves.

Reaves has performed in many productions at Fresno State, but his debut on the FCC stage was performed in fine style. Reaves brought his own style into his portrayal of Stanley, which I found to be smart, intense, and very passionate, leaving me with feeling Stanley was "survivor

from the stone age! Bearing the raw meat home from the kill in the jungle!" A territorial male with simple beliefs and a short temper. He does not have many manners and does not care what people think of him. He seems very simple, but there is much more to him.

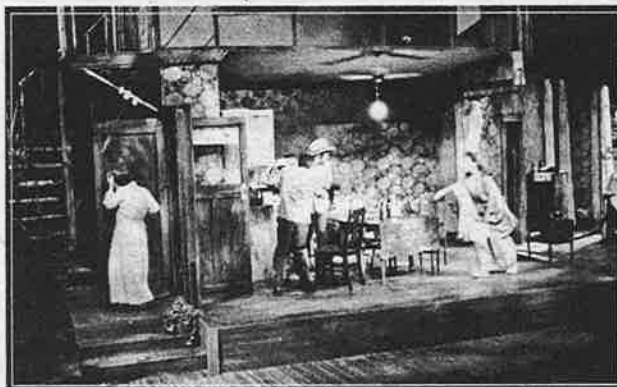
Semrick casts a star's light on this famous role. She gave an intelligent, highly creative, and passionate performance as Blanche, showcasing not only her ability to play a broad range of characters but a genuine talent, with great emotional range.

Semrick showed us Blanche as she is, a loquacious, witty, arrogant, fragile, and ultimately crumbling figure. And in the end showing us that both the desire to be loved and the fear of death were quite apparent in the way Blanche thought. She wished to be loved like she was with her husband, and she feared death, as it took her first love. This refusal to let go of the past and adjust to her new surroundings and the love life she possesses are the key frailties that bring such a strong yet ultimately helpless character to her knees.

Daniel Wheeler (scene and lighting design) and Francis Sullivan (sound design) collaborate once again, in genius form to create a surreal, almost brutalistic setting. Perfect for the animalistic, savage nature of the theme that Williams wrote originally.

Although this is a very socially challenging play in the way in which Williams depicts how brutal and deceiving human nature can be, C. Tim Quinn's masterful direction takes the point of view that no matter how structured or "civilized" society is all people will rely on their natural animal instincts, such as dominance and deception, to get themselves out of trouble at some stage in life, even if they don't realize it.

In this reviewer's opinion, FCC theater does not get the recognition it deserves. I highly recommend this fantastic play, you'll agree and love it.



Photos by  
Joe Chacon  
and  
Wendy Alexander

## History of 'Streetcar' on the stage

By Corey Strauss  
Rampage reporter

If you have ever seen, "A Streetcar Named Desire" on stage or the 1951 movie with Marlon Brando, then you are familiar with the story. There isn't a theater student in any school who hasn't performed one of those famous scenes. At the time of the play's first production in 1947, it was clear that Tennessee Williams had written an extremely controversial and timeless drama. In the 1951 film version, the censors and production codes were challenged because of the play's explicit topics of rape, domestic violence, homosexuality and sexual promiscuity.

Blanche DuBois is the southern belle, with aristocratic gentility and superior attitude, on the edge of her sanity. Stanley Kowalski is the brutish, violent, and unrefined brother-in-law to Blanche. Stella DuBois Kowalski is the sister to Blanche. She left

her life of her high society upbringing to marry Stanley.

The movie censored more of the racy scenes by merely suggesting some of the parts that needed to be toned down for censors. Such as, the movie suggests that Blanche catches her deceased husband in bed with a man, whereas the play confirms this act.

The storyline continues to tell how she told her husband, "I saw what you did, you disgust me." The man then proceeds to leave the party and shoot himself. In haunting dreamlike fits, she recreates the scene in her head over and over accompanied by the slow and distorted polka music being played before the shot. The famous scene where Stanley loses control and in a rage, slaps Stella. To this day, the scene can send an empty hollow feeling into your stomach. Toward the end of the play, Blanche is forced to admit her past promiscuities. After losing the DuBois family

plantation, "Belle Reve" and the mental trauma of her young husband's death, she found some comfort in the sexual company of strangers, traveling salesmen, and young boys.

Finally Blanche is raped by Stanley, which totally destroys her world, all of her neurotic fantasies and her gentle illusions. Her sanity is broken permanently. The controversy of this play was soon overlooked by the crowds of adoring fans of the fifties. Despite the time period of the play, it doesn't feel dated.

Of course, a bad production by inexperienced high school students, or just flatout bad acting, might cause you to dislike this play. Forget what you've seen. Find it, read it, go see it on stage, or rent the movie. This piece of literature took giant strides on stage and on the screen with its controversial topics. The play continues to send chills down our spines and put lumps in our throats.



# The police vs. beads, beer and breasts

What were they thinking? That was the general opinion from my fellow Fresno City College students and friends when talking about last week's Mardi Gras Celebration in the Tower District. Did they honestly think they could hold that many people fenced in that small of a space?



**Anna Ramos**  
Rampage reporter

Opinion

The event happens every year. Yet, this is the second year that admission has been charged as well as the area being fenced off. Every year the event is shut down early because there are always some people who get out of hand, so I don't know why the police didn't see this coming or prepare for it better.

By 9 p.m. the limit of 15,000 people was reached and some gates stopped letting people in, which angered people who had been waiting in long lines, leading to one of the entrance fences being knocked down by people.

It is silly to think that you could hold 20,000 (that was the total by the end of the night) in a two-block fenced area. What made it even worse was the overcrowded beer gardens, and all the people that packed the Tower restaurants wanting to get a drink.

The Fresno Police Department stated that they were going to enforce the "no flashing for beads" rule, and those who did would be

arrested. Walking around, I saw groups of guys surrounding young girls who were flashing for beads. There were several incidents where the police were standing, overlooking what was going on. It was only obvious to me what was happening, when you have a large group of men with video cameras holding up beads and there is a girl standing in the middle holding her shirt up. It only led me to the conclusion that if the officers couldn't directly see it, then there was nothing they could do about it.

One of the other main factors of the event was that there were too many young kids out. Unfortunately, they were the ones causing most of the trouble. The area was packed with young kids, some of whom were causing trouble and basically didn't know how to behave in public. All I could think was "where are these kids' parents?" Who lets their 12 year olds out of the house, half naked, to a place where there is drinking, partying and all past curfew. Many people believe that there should be an age limit (21 and over) to get in; however, I think that would only cause a bigger problem with people jumping fences and sneaking in.

I think that the Tower District underestimated how many people were going to attend the event and it was a bad idea to fence off the area. Those who did not get in were lined up along the fences and those who were trying to leave had to wait in long lines just to get out. In my sister's case, the person at the gate would not let her out be-

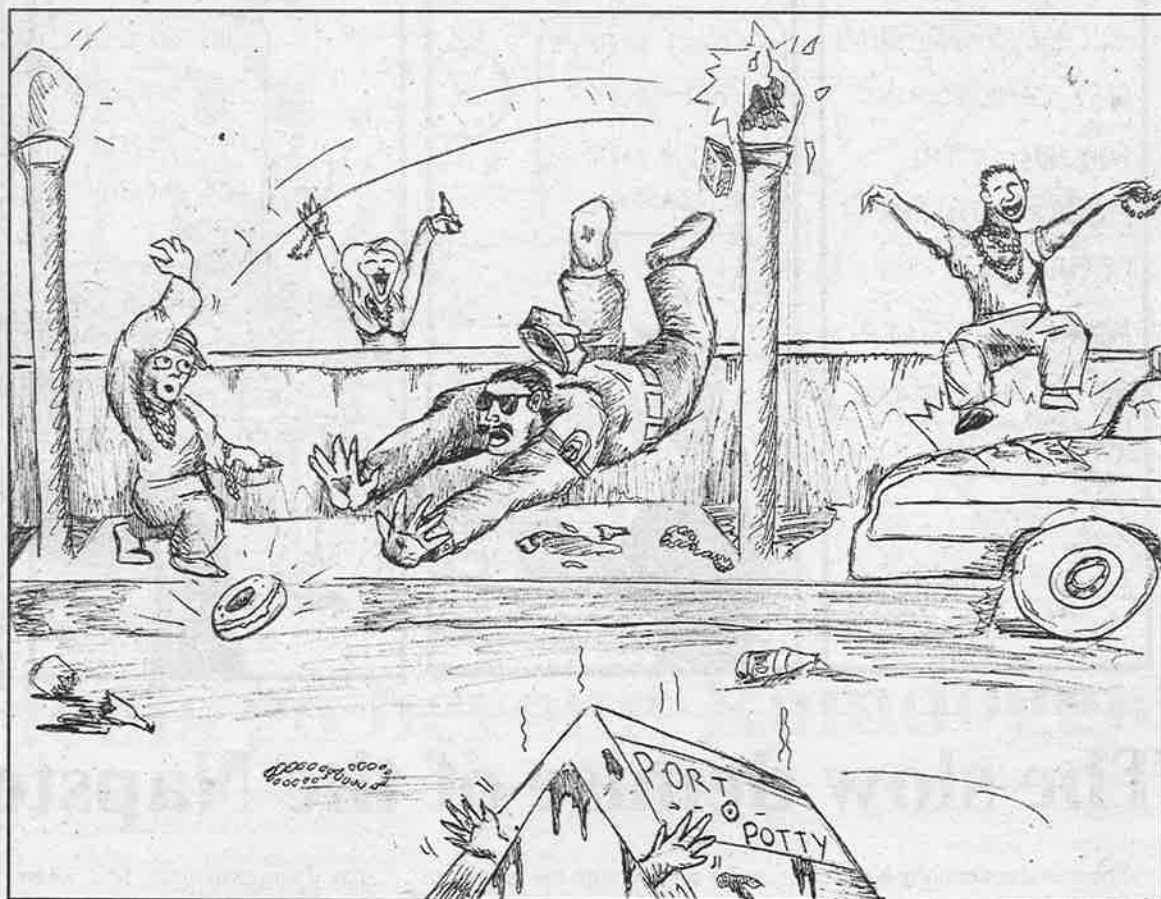


Illustration by Josh Harding

cause she did not have a ticket stub. She had to argue with the man, and eventually had to push her way past him to get out.

When the police shut down the party and started to push everybody out, they didn't consider where all the people were going to go. You can't push 20,000 people out of one area and expect them to disappear. That angered a lot of people, especially when they had just paid \$5 to get in and were being forced to leave.

The fights and destruction of property was unnecessary, and it was a shame for the area busi-

nesses to have their store windows broken. This was by far the worst ending to a Mardi Gras celebration that the Tower has had.

On the contrary, many felt that this year's celebration was among one of the best. It seems that those who were outside the gated area were the ones who thought it was a disaster. What a lot of people don't know is that a lot of the fights and the stabbing happened outside the fenced off area. There should have been more officers outside the event.

Now that the event is over and done, the fingerpointing of who to blame begins. There is really no one person to blame. It was just a bad combination of things. Too many young people (and the underage drinking), and too much alcohol, in too little of a space.

The Tower District is better off not fencing the area so there is more space. Personally, I would like to walk without having to push my way through the crowd. There should be one big beer garden out in the parking lot of the old Tower market (keep the drunk people together, instead of having them walk out and fall over on people like me), and mostly be better prepared for the "what if" situations.

I enjoyed the Mardi Gras celebration. The costumes, beads, and music showed how much culture we have in Fresno; however, you have to remember that you are in Fresno and not in New Orleans. If you want to flash, and try to show what you have, spend the extra money for a plane ticket, because the last thing I want to see is another woman's breasts.

## Gosh, Mickey, is it just the money?

Walt Disney had a dream. He wanted to create a fun family-oriented amusement park to be enjoyed by people of all ages. This dream became a reality in 1955.

Years before, this dream Mickey Mouse stole the hearts of many with his cartoons, pal-ing around with the likes of Minnie, Donald, Goofy, and his faithful friend, Pluto. When Disney died, the company was eventually given over to Michael Eisner, but was it for the best? Seems it has gone downhill recently.

Has the mouse gotten too commercial? Excuse the expression, but it seems to me that Mickey has gotten a bit cheesy. Hundreds of Disney stores (over 550 around the world) sell anything Disney that will make a buck or two. The funny thing is, you can only find generic Disney collectibles and toys from the latest cartoon movie.



**Katharine Strauss**  
Rampage reporter

Opinion

I couldn't find a collectible toy from two movies ago when I went in the other day ... thank the gods for eBay. They move into Time Square with one of their stores with the hopes to "change things for the better," but how many porn shops and hookers can they clear out to make room for a giant mouse? But, hey, it got Disney's name in the paper again, didn't it?

Let's not forget the opening of the new theme park, California Adventure. It's very hard not to miss as you are going to Disneyland because it is literally its neighbor. Sorry to say this, but looking at it, it reminds me of those overnight carnivals that travel in on trucks, set up, and in a few hours are running for the general public, only with a grinning mouse face all over it.

Disney now owns radio and TV stations, cable systems, newspapers (no bad press there, I'm guessing), books, home videos, theatrical productions, computer games and programs, and pro sports teams. But there are some things they own that they wouldn't tell you about, or put Disney's name on, like the films they produced such as "Pulp Fiction" and

"The Rock." They also produce Insane Clown Posse. Wow, wouldn't want Mickey to be singing lyrics like that.

Funny thing is, when you walk through the gates to the Magic Kingdom, you forget all of this and become 6 years old again. That is, until you get off a ride and it dumps you right into a gift shop.

What's even sadder still is that Disney movies are not the classics they used to be. The last great Disney movie I remember was "Mulan," and even that wasn't as good as "Aladdin" or "Beauty and the Beast."

I know it's not just me who thinks that Disney is taking over the world. A few days after I started writing this article I found a book called "Team Rodent: How Disney Devours the World," by Carl Hiaasen. I found it very funny, and exactly what I was thinking about the Disney Corporation.

I don't expect people to storm the Magic Kingdom with signs reading "Down with Mouse!"

Just think for yourselves and decide if Mickey really is a rat in mouse clothing.

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## City Life

Jesse Garcia

MICHAELS GIRLFRIEND ALEX, CAME LOOKING FOR HIM IN THE LIBRARY WITH HER FRIEND ANGIE. THEY FOUND HIM ASLEEP AND DECIDED TO HAVE FUN WITH HIM.



## The slow demise of the Napster music community

The music community Napster may have finally met its end when the courts ruled against it in an injunction that could effectively shut it down.

Napster has been plagued by lawsuits from Metallica and record companies who claim they have violated copyright laws by allowing their users to freely copy and distribute music. Napster has also been criticized by their own members because of their attempts to institute a monthly fee that has hurt the community's respectability. The future is not looking bright for Napster.



**Dale Mommer**  
Rampage Reporter  
Opinion

The record companies have been unrelenting in their pursuit to end Napster. The rock band Metallica led the pack by filing the first major lawsuit against the community. Metallica's drummer, Lars Ulrich, and Dr. Dre have carried the banner to eliminate them for copyright infringement.

Dr. Dre has been quoted to say, "They're taking food out of my kid's mouth." After the latest ruling against them, Napster offered the five major record companies, who filed the lawsuit, a billion dollars to settle out of court. As of now, the companies have not accepted this offer because of their belief that they can get more out of the music community in terms of money and rights. The music companies also have time to let Napster sweat about their future while they strategically plan how to proceed.

Napster has not sat idle, however, as the courts and music companies decide their fate. The creator of Napster, Shawn Fenning sold their company to BMG who will combine their popular mail-

order service with the largest online music community. BMG is taking a considerable risk with this acquisition because they can lose a lot if Napster goes under, but if Napster somehow survives BMG will suddenly find themselves millions of members to buy their music.

Napster is also considering charging fees for their service that could range from \$4.99-\$19.99. There have been rumors that Napster will set itself up like an e-mail site, where accounts will now be limited to space. To acquire more space you will have to

pay a larger monthly fee. There are alternatives to Napster, such as MIRC that is a ftp client and allows you to transfer music files but not as easy to use as Napster.

Napster was a good idea that gained popularity, but unfortunately it violated several copyright laws and will be shut down. A service that provides unlimited free downloads of copyrighted material was bound to face this kind of judicial scrutiny, and even if the platform somehow survives, it will be a shell of what it once was.

Metallica's drummer, Lars Ulrich, and Dr. Dre have carried the banner to eliminate Napster for copyright infringement.

## Taking It To The Streets

Compiled and photographed by Cathy Alexander and Wendy Alexander

"Where do you like to eat between classes?"



- Elizabeth Lopez  
"I usually bring my lunch because the prices are too high."



- Darrell Davidian  
"I like to eat at the cafeteria or Yoshinos. Sometimes, I just grab something quick and energizing."



- Julie Vidrio  
"I usually eat at Wendy's."



- Josh Hires  
"Yoshinos, because it's convenient, and they are open at night. I have night classes."



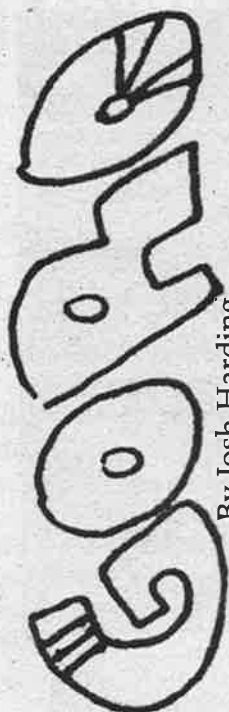
- Alex Hernandez  
"If I have to eat, it's at Yoshinos."



## Top Ten Hidden Facts

10. Every time a bell rings, an angel gets his wings.
9. Every time a criminal is executed, George W. Bush's approval rating goes up.
8. Guns don't kill people, people kill people.
7. People kill other people much quicker with the use of guns than with knives or hammers.
6. NBC's prime-time coverage of the NFL is getting beaten in the ratings by WB programs, such as *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, *Angel* and *Gilmore Girls*.
5. If a tree falls in the woods and no one's there to hear it, it makes the sound of one hand clapping.
4. Clark Kent is Superman.
3. Bruce Wayne is Batman.
2. George W. Bush is president.
1. "Soylent Green" is people!





By Josh Harding



## Needs of FCC students go beyond Ramdoggie

It's hard not to remember those silly campaigns in elementary school. The ones where the class president candidates would make absurd promises such as: "If I'm elected class president, I promise to do all I can to put an extra soda machine in the cafeteria", "If I'm class president our lunch recess will be 10 minutes longer."



**Maggie Garza**  
News editor

Editorial

Funny how some of us fell for it while the majority of us could care less who was voted in. It was either going to be the class-kissup or the most-popular-and-annoying kid in class. In high school, things didn't get much better. In fact I can't recall one name from any of our student council. Probably because the honor students ran that popularity-race, just to make their transcripts look a little prettier for all those wonderful UC schools.

Not once was it about politics and, most importantly, not once was it about the students. You would think now that we are at a higher level of education that some things would change, but like most, some things never do.

Yes, it's hard to get involved in a school with such diversity. From differences to age, ethnic groups and gender trying to capture the essence of such an institute could be an almost impossible job. Yet it is the job of our own student government to try its hardest to accomplish.

This time, it isn't just the voting in student government officials that's hard. It's getting students in the student government that seems the hardest. With most elections ending by people winning by default (since no one ran against them.) It's a clear sign that the diversity of our campus isn't going to be reflected by our student government.

But do they actually represent us, the students? Between picking what to sell at club rush and participating in the same activities each year (Welcome Week, Ramdoggie Round-up, Renaissance Faire, JDF walk), what has the student body done to represent the thousands of students who come to campus each day?

They say they want to lower book prices, but so does everyone else, and like everyone else, nothing is really being done about it. College books is a business, and it's all about the profit. It's a price we're going to have to pay as long as America decides to be a capitalist country.

Are our needs really being discussed? And what are our needs?

What about a better library with more resources? Fresno State has a whole section filled with government documents and legal cases. I bet political science and law students at FCC would like that. What about less crowded

classrooms? Or better yet, the classes we have to take to get out of here actually become available for us to take. How about helping students get the books needed for class, maybe using some ASG money to do a lend-a-book program with students (if this program exists, maybe getting the word out might help). What about introducing yourselves to the student body and finding out what are their concerns and their issues instead of waiting for them to come to you?

It isn't easy. This school is an environment where people come to one or two classes and leave just as quickly as they came. With students trying to maintain grades, work and deal with family issues, it's hard to get them involved. Yes, it

isn't easy, but no one said it was going to be. Now they want us to pay a student-rep fee. Which isn't a really big deal, in fact it's only a dollar. It's the fact, that it's a fee charging us to pay for the student body to represent us, the students. Trying to decide whether to buy red or black jerseys to wear during club rush isn't representing me. Is that your idea of them representing you?

To be the eyes, the ears and the voice of the school can become very difficult. It's hard trying to find out what information the students really need and we do our

best to get enough feedback to help us get that information out.

The student government also spends endless hours on activities throughout the campus. But good intentions are good only if something good comes out of it.

The student government makes decisions representing what they think we want. Before you leave the vote up to them, take a moment to think: Is it the vote you want them to cast? Don't be afraid to voice your opinion. We, the students, are the essence of this school, and we have a right to be represented the right way.

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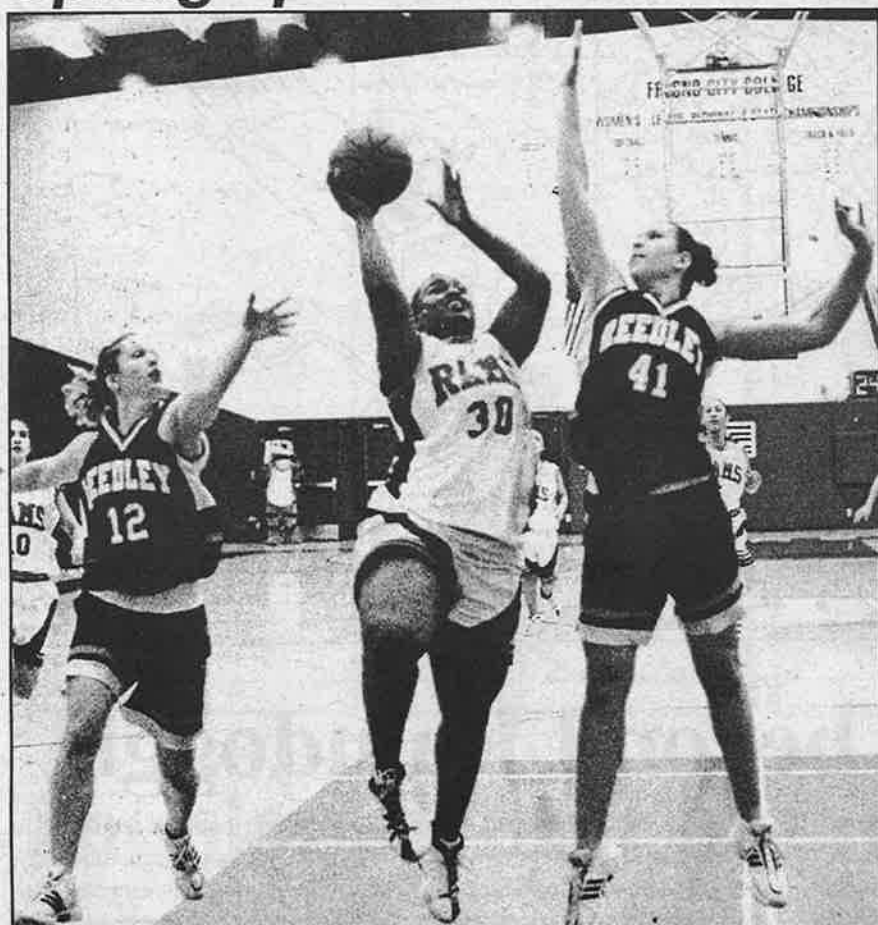
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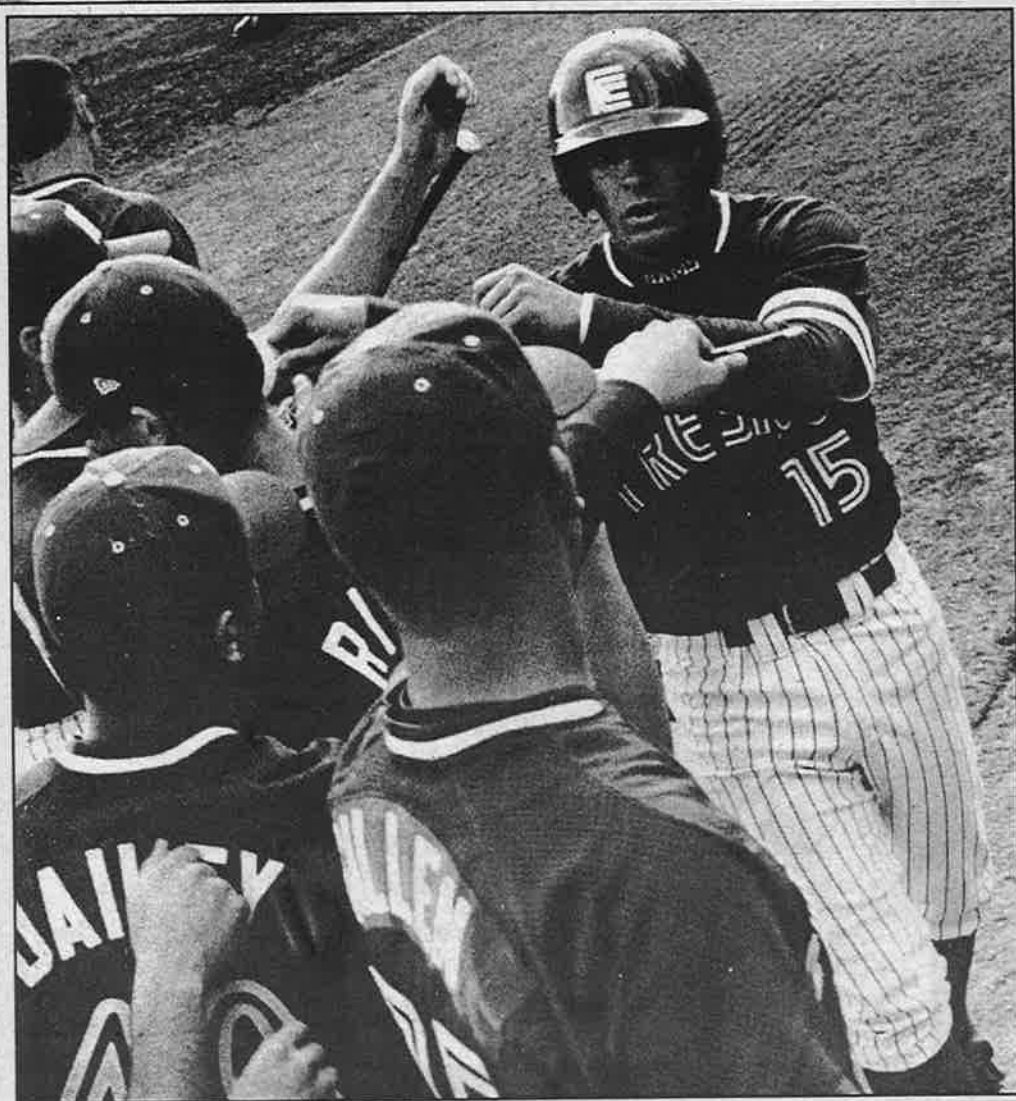


# Sports

## Spring sports hit full stride



Photos by  
Julian Torres,  
Louis Castro,  
Wendy  
Alexander,  
and Joe  
Chacon





# Asahina has turned down big deals to stay at Fresno City

*By Anthony Witrado*  
Rampage reporter

Jon Asahina is having the time of his life.

And he is having it at Fresno City College — not a four-year university on a full athletic scholarship.

"Without a doubt," the FCC ace pitcher said, "I am having the time of my life. This is the best thing that's ever happened to me."

Asahina is talking about his transition from being a freshman phenom at Wake Forest to being the ringer on a junior-college team fully expected to reel in a state championship.

Asahina, a former Edison High standout, received a full athletic scholarship to play baseball at the University of Wake Forest after declining a contract from the Florida Marlins because of a contract disagreement.

Unfortunately, things didn't work out at Wake Forest the way



Photo by Joe Chacon

*Rams' ace Jon Asahina delivers the heat during FCC's win over Merced College on March 1. Asahina improved his record to 4-0 in the regular season.*

Asahina hoped and, due to unspecified circumstances, he left the university.

"I can't really go into the specifics," Asahina said, "but I was disappointed in myself for not fulfilling the expectations I had for playing baseball and in school."

So Asahina decided to hand the Demon Deacons back their full ride scholarship after one semester, pack up, leave North Carolina and come back to the basics of Fresno.

He says he wanted to make the best of a bad situation — he needed to make up for not playing for a major Division I school by having a remarkable year for FCC.

He accomplished the mission quickly.

Asahina, as a freshman, led the Rams to the state final four and earned all-conference and state honors.

Asahina took the momentum to the offseason and became the ace

of the Fresno Barons summer club. His stock soared as colleges again took notice of his talent. The sophomore-to-be upped the ante — forcing the Marlins organization to consider offering him a big-money deal.

However, talks with the team again fizzled and Asahina returned to FCC. But not before taking several recruiting trips to national-powerhouse programs — finally choosing Louisiana State, the 1999 national champions.

"I felt like that was the best place for me after FCC," he said. "I figured if something doesn't work out with the Marlins, LSU would be the best fit. I'm really happy with the decision and excited about it. It was like if things worked out (with the Marlins), then fine, but if not, I get to have fun for another year before it becomes a job."

This season, the all-American is focusing on the task at hand: He says anything less than a state championship would be a disap-

pointment, and he is more than willing to put the responsibility on his broad shoulders.

"I want to be able to put our team in position to win every time I pitch," he said. "We definitely have the talent to do it, it's just a question of do we have the focus to do it."

"Jon is one of the leaders on this team," FCC manager Ron Scott said. "We count on him offensively and on the mound. He really has a bright future."

But the extremely superstitious right-hander doesn't want the baseball gods to rain on his parade.

"I don't want to make any predictions," Asahina said. "I wouldn't want to jinx anything."

But even if it does become a job for Asahina, one would have to believe he would bust through the corporate doors and into a corner office with the same ease his 90-plus mile-per-hour fastball zooms by hitters.

## Rams stumble in doubleheader

*By Brandon Castro*  
Sports editor

The Fresno City College softball team lost both games in a non-conference doubleheader against San Joaquin Delta College on Saturday.

The Rams lost the first game 6-1, then fell one run short of a comeback in the second game, losing 5-4.

After retiring the first batter of the second game, Rams starting pitcher Kelly Gentry walked two batters and gave up a hit to load the bases.

Delta's Natalee Owens hit a single to drive in the first run of the game. Then another single by Cassie Poggio gave Delta a 2-0 lead. A force out at the plate and a

pop out to Rams second baseman Danielle Presley ended Delta's scoring in the first inning.

In the bottom of the first inning, Presley hit a triple to drive in a run for the Rams.

Delta then scored again in the top half of the third inning.

After a double by Cheryl Evans and a single by Monica Manaois, Owens hit a ball down the third base line to score both the runners to give Delta a 4-2 lead and force Rams head coach Rhonda Williams to change pitchers to Kelly Lazarus.

Then on Lazarus' first pitch, Delta's Poggio hit a shot just feet away from the left field fence and scored Owens to extend the lead 5-1.

Lazarus then got three outs on

two pop outs and a force at first base.

The Rams answered back in the bottom of the third inning by scoring three runs of their own. After two quick outs and two walks, third baseman Sara Spencer hit a double over Delta's center fielder to score both the runs.

With Spencer on second base, Veronica Galvan came up to the plate and hit a single up the middle of the Delta defense to score Spencer, to bring the Rams' within a run at 5-4.

Then, in the seventh inning, with the Rams' still down by a run, Delta's second pitcher of the game, Evans, struck out Presley, got Spencer to ground out, and forced Galvan to pop out in foul territory.



Photo by Louis Castro

Right-hander Kelly Lazarus sets to pitch during the Rams' double-header loss to San Joaquin Delta College.

## Foreign influence is the heart of a diverse tennis team

*By Jeffrey Swisher*  
Rampage reporter

The Fresno City College men's tennis team partly resembles a United Nations assembly.

Four of the 12 players on the 2001 roster are foreign — with two from Mexico, one from Iran and another from Brazil. The foreign influence on tennis in the United States is evident on the Rams team.

And it's a necessary element of its success, "From what I've seen, out-of-country players are very important to most teams in America," sophomore player Vincent Owens said. "I don't know where this team would be if we didn't have some of these guys."

Hector Almada is a foreign exchange student from Hermosillo, Mexico, who is currently the Rams No. 1 player. Almada was initially recruited by Fresno State, but after failing to score well on the TOEFL test — which is required for international students looking to transfer to a four-year university — he was unable to play for the Bulldogs.

Instead of returning to Mexico, he opted to spend two years at FCC and transfer to Fresno State to play tennis as a junior.

"I was disappointed at first," Almada said. "I was really upset until Fresno City offered me the possibility to play with them and transfer later."

Almada decided to play tennis at the college level in the United States because, he said, the oppor-

tunities to develop into a professional player are far greater here than in Mexico.

"Mexico doesn't have the system or organization like they do here," Almada said. "Plus, they don't offer many scholarships. Here, you can play tennis, get your degree and prepare to be a professional player at the same time."

Freshman Francisco Medina is also from Hermosillo. He plays at the No. 2 spot for the Rams. Other foreign players on FCC's squad include Mohammed Nassini of Teran, Iran, and Rafael Larkin of Brazil.

The influence of foreign players on the sport of tennis in the United States is in large part due to the amount of talent that exists in other countries, according to FCC coach Mark Belman.

"The tennis in other countries is extremely tough," Belman said, "so these guys are usually good, solid players. They work hard, they're talented and they do what they can to help their teammates out."

The Rams are ranked No. 2 in the state and have played their way to a 5-0 record through Mar. 2. Almada likes what he sees of

the FCC's team's performance this season. And, according to Almada, he's playing the best tennis of his life.

"I'm playing well, and I'm getting good results right now," Almada said. "I'm going to be ready for the state championship. So far, everything's been great. I'm just hoping for the best."

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## Sports shorts

Compiled by  
Brandon Castro**Feb. 25****Softball**

Bakersfield Tournament.

FCC rides a Kelly Lazarus home run to take two out of three games in Bakersfield.

**FCC 4, Bakersfield 3**

Winning pitcher: Kelly Lazarus.

Losing pitcher: Candice Swan  
FCC, Lazarus 2-3, HR, 2 runs  
batted in; Gonzales HR.

WP: Lilla Bermeo. LP: Jenny  
Padilla.

**FCC 7, San Jose 3**

WP: Lazarus. LP: Kim Rose.

FCC, Gonzales 2-4; Lazarus  
2-5; Spencer 2-4; Cerado 2-4;  
Romero 2-4; Chester 2-3.

**Feb. 28****Women's basketball****FCC 91, Reedley 56**

Second round of the NorCal  
playoffs.

The women's basketball team  
easily sweeps by the Reedley Ti-  
gers in the second round of the  
playoffs.

**March 1****Baseball**

Jon Asahina strikes out 10  
batters in 6.2 innings to capture  
his fourth win of the season.

Mike Paustian allows no hits and  
strikes out four in two innings for  
his third save of the season.

**FCC 4, Merced 2**

WP: Asahina. LP: Bair  
S: Paustian

FCC; Matt Rico 3 RBI; Ryan  
Rothford 2-4

**Softball****FCC 3, COS 2**

Kelly Lazarus hits a double and  
knocks in two runs to aide the  
Rams to a win over rival College  
of the Sequoias.

WP: Kelly Gentry. LP: Tanya

Wilson.

FCC; Lazarus 2B, 2RBI; Sara  
Spencer 2B, 1-3; Dana Serrato 1-  
3, 2B; Jenn Downs 2B

**Women's tennis****FCC 9, Porterville 0**

FCC's Katie Papi beats Holly  
Nonorgues in singles matchup, 6-  
3, 6-1. Papi also teams up with  
Stephanie Thompson to defeat  
Nonorgues and Lupe Avina of  
Porterville, 6-0; 6-2.

**Men's tennis****FCC 9, Porterville 0**

FCC's Hector Almada defeats

Porterville's Kyle Meltching in  
singles competition, 6-0, 6-1.  
FCC's Vince Owens and Rafael  
Martin defeat Meltching and  
Blake Bartlett in doubles play.

FCC improves their record to  
5-0, 2-0.

**March 2****Women's basketball****FCC 78, Butte 66**

Third round of playoffs.

Amber Easter and Zammiah  
Johnson score a combined 40  
points to help Rams advance to

play No. 3 Riverside at S  
Joaquin Delta College in Stockton.  
Tip off at 4:30 p.m. Thursday.

**March 3****Softball**

FCC loses both games in no  
conference doubleheader against  
San Joaquin Delta.

**Game one: San Joaquin Delta  
College 6, FCC 1**

**Game two: San Joaquin Delta  
5, FCC 4**

FCC; Danielle Presley RE  
3B; Sara Spencer 2RBI, 2B;

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