

Nurses
Program
celebrates 40
years at
Fresno City
College.

- page 3



Rampage

FRESNO CITY COLLEGE

Volume LXXIX Edition 2

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February 11, 2004

On the right track



\$2.2 million approved for auto underpass

By David Witte
Rampage reporter

When the California Department of Finance sent Debbie Dills to approve a rail underpass project at Fresno City College, district Associate Vice Chancellor of Finance and Administration Brian Speece took her on a tour of the area. As they discussed the current crossing, the bells clanged and the guard-arms started coming down.

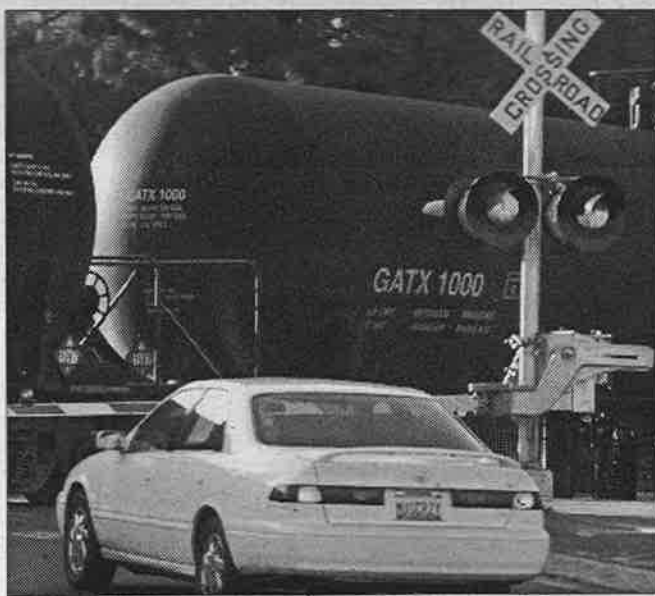
While they watched, two students bolted forward to beat the train. Af-

ter the students leapt across the tracks in front of the deadly locomotive, Dills turned to Speece and said, "You set that up, didn't you?"

The state chancellor's office recently approved \$1.2 million, and CalTrans received a \$1 million grant for an underpass to replace the current rail crossing near the Health Sciences building.

"Students don't fear the trains," said Speece. "We've had two deaths and one major injury in the past seven or eight years."

See Underpass, page 2



Photos by Keith Kountz (top) and Bryan Borrer (above)

Students and cars are stopped on their way to class by trains. An underpass will help prevent accidents.

Support services help FCC students

By Melissa Whittle
Rampage reporter

A new program on campus has made a large impact on Fresno City College students. Student Support Services Program has been on FCC campus for three years.

It is one of the federal funded programs that's geared to help students who will be the first in the family to go to college.

TriO programs were first developed in the 1960s when legislation put into place funding that would assist low-income families to attend college when previously, only families with large incomes were able to. Other programs like financial aid was also put through legislation for the same type of reasons.

SSSP is designed to provide support needed to help FCC students stay in college and transfer to a four-year college.

Ginna Bearden, SSSP director at FCC, is proud of the three TriO programs that she is involved in.

Those programs includes Upward Bound, and Educational Talent Search. These two programs assists, and teach high school students how to enroll in college and survive there.

Prior to her current position, Bearden was the director of Fresno State University's SSSP for nine years when she decided to come to FCC and help develop SSSP for the college.

Bearden feels that it takes years to develop a well-run program, SSSP is already starting to show "retention and growth."



Ginna
Bearden

See Services, page 4

UC Merced promises opportunity

By Rebekah Miranda
News editor

University of California, Merced will be the first new UC campus built in almost 40 years, giving Fresno City College students another option for their education.

Opening in 2005, UC Merced will be the first major American research university built in the 21st century.

Donny Munshower is UC Merced's Transfer and Admissions Program Coordinator. Munshower said that the UC provides a variety of programs in support of transfer admission, particularly for community college students.

Munshower and UC Merced transfer advisors travel to community colleges throughout the San Joaquin Valley giving assistance with academic planning, admissions, and financial aid.

"We encourage anyone who meets the requirements to declare a major and see what UC Merced has to offer them,"

Munshower said.

According to the Answers for Transfers book, UC Merced will open with academic offerings in the Division of Engineering, Division of Natural Sciences and Division of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts.

Chancellor Carol Tomlinson-Keasey states in the campus guide that students will be exposed to extraordinary opportunities. She states that students will get a chance to participate in new areas of research, guided internships, and community service activities.

The Sierra Nevada Research Institute along with the World Cultures Institute will be a cornerstone of research and education at the new UC. The information provided to interested students also explains that UC Merced has joined partnerships with UC Berkeley's Lawrence Hall of Science and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory for innovations in

See Merced, page 4



Photo courtesy of www.ucmerced.com

A banner with the school's name on it hangs on the skeleton on what will become UC Merced.

Office: (559) 442-8263

Advertising: (559) 442-8262

Fax: (559) 265-5783

e-mail: rampage@sccd.com

Underpass: on Weldon Avenue

Continued from page 1

The construction window is from mid-May to August first, when it won't disrupt traffic as much. If the bureaucracy is still dragging its feet come summer, they will build it summer of 2005.

"Our engineers say that's doable," said Speece. "The contract is signed. Burlington Northern/Santa Fe is going to give us their schedule."

"We have a number of goals," said Doug Brinkley, Vice Chancellor of Finance and Administration. "One is safety.

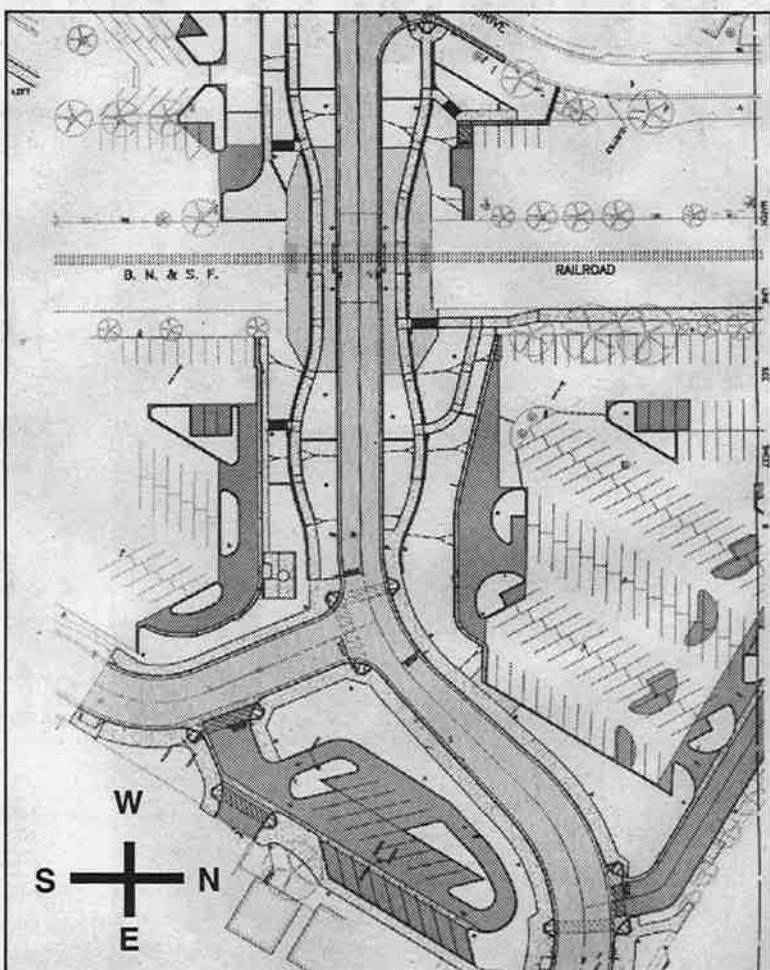
Another is to increase access to the east parking lots, and we won't have the delays."

The plan is for Burlington Northern/Santa Fe to build the structure south of the current crossing. The State Center Community College District will then divert Weldon through the parking lot, and under the railroad to Campus Drive.

"When the project's going, auto traffic won't be able to get across this way," said Speece. "We'll keep the pedestrian crossing open so students can get to the Health Sciences building."

The modifications to the parking lot will take away about 100 stalls, but Speece hopes to add more parking everywhere he can, especially with money from Measure E. The current parts of Weldon that will be gone will be replaced with parking.

"Whenever someone would get



A Map shows where the underpass would redirect traffic

injured, we'd write letters to different agencies," said Speece. Those agencies included the California Public Utilities Commission, the U.S. Department of Transportation, CalTrans, and most importantly, Burlington Northern/Santa Fe.

"We were finally able to get the railroad to talk to us, which was the

problem," said Speece. S.C.C.C.D. tried to get the railroad's attention for so long, they had to deal with three people, all of whom held the same position.

Getting the state's attention was the easy part. They classified it as a health and safety issue, and the project moved to the top of the list.

Police Log

Feb. 7

• Report of injured spectator at basketball game

Feb. 6

• Sergeant dispatched to counseling center regarding ill staff member. Individual turned over to nurse. Report taken.

Feb. 5

• Officer observed skateboarder and attempted to contact him. Individual fled and resisted officers. Individual arrested, cited, and released

Feb. 4

• Report in regards to non-injury hit and run in Lot C
• Report in regards to non-injury hit and run in Lot S

Feb. 3

• Report regarding lost or stolen purse
• Report regarding disruptive student on the Mall

Feb. 2

• Report in regards possible theft of wallet
• Officer dispatched to Bookstore regarding shoplifting. Individual arrested, cited, released. Report taken.

Jan. 30

• Report of violation of restraining order
• Report of non-injury hit and run at the Clovis Center

Jan. 29

• Report of vehicle burglary



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Rampage

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1101 E. UNIVERSITY AVE.
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News editor: Rebekah Miranda
Views editor: Susan Morgan
Photo editor: Keith Kountz
Pulse editor: Deborah Anderson

Advertising manager: Irisa Keahey
Business manager: Teresa Dawson
Adviser: Jeremy Martin
Operations manager: Samuel Yuk

Reporters

Justin Eck, Sylvia Flores, Lemuel Gary
Lynda Helm, Mike Read, Melissa Whittle,
David Witte

Photography/Graphics

Bryan Borrer, Jacob Franks

Advertising

Phillip Hornton

Submit your letters to the editor

The Rampage welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be no more than 500 words, and writers should include their affiliation with Fresno City College or State Center Community College District along with a return mailing address or phone number. The Rampage reserves the right to edit letters for length or clarity. Letters can be sent by e-mail to rampage@scccd.com, by fax to 265-5783 or by mail to the following address:

The Rampage
Attention: Letters to the Editor
Fresno City College
1101 E. University Ave.
Fresno, CA 93741

Letters and submissions to the calendar will be accepted via e-mail or in person noon-1 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday, at The Rampage, Room SC-211, above the bookstore.

Editorial:
(559) 442-8263

Advertising:
(559) 442-8262

Fax:
(559) 265-5783

E-mail:
rampage@scccd.com
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Future nurses study at FCC

Program celebrates 40th anniversary

By Melissa Whittle
Rampage reporter

This year the Fresno City College registered nursing program is celebrating its 40th anniversary, according to Dianne Moore, FCC Director of Nursing.

"The registered nursing program started in 1964," Moore said. "Back then they used to hold classes in the Old Administration Building, and they went to St. Agnes Hospital for their skills lab."

Currently there are 345 students enrolled in the RN program. That number has doubled in the last five years, according to Moore.

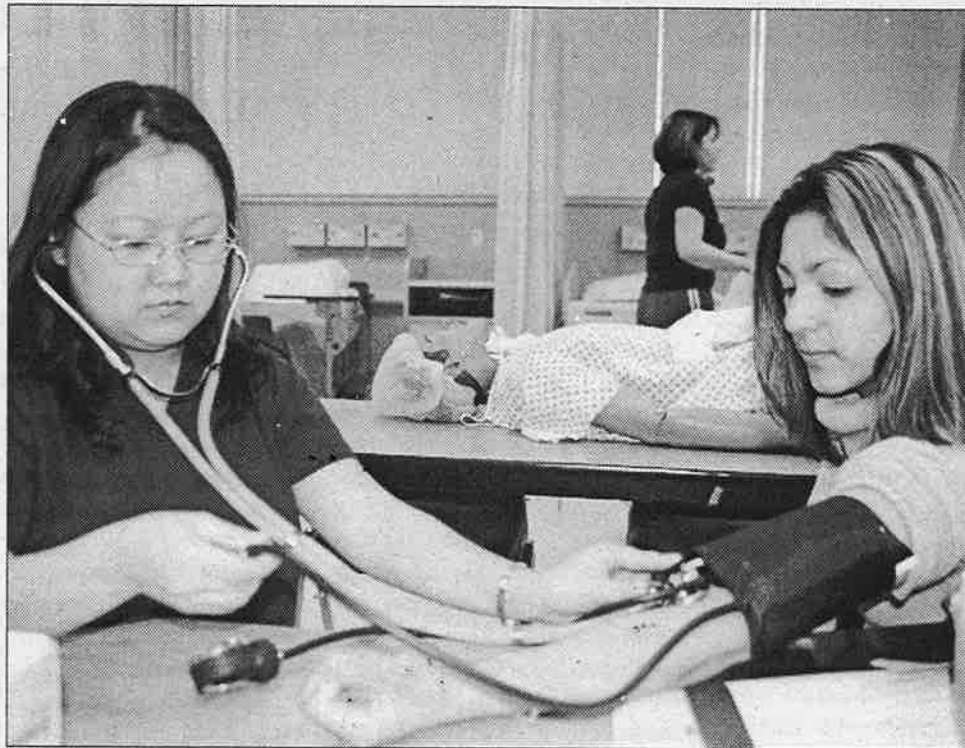
"The program admits 45 to 76 students at a time, usually two to three times a year," said Moore. The program graduates between 125 and 150 students a year, according to Moore.

The RN program at FCC is the largest undergraduate nursing programs in California, and one the largest in the United States.

The nursing program is also very diverse, as 61 percent of the students are of a minority group.

Of these 28 percent are Hispanic, and 5 percent are African-American, according to Moore. Also the nursing program is comprised of 19 percent male, which is up from 13 percent in 1997, said Moore.

Much of the San Joaquin Valley is in the grips of a severe RN shortage, and the FCC nursing program is producing about 70 percent of the nurses in the Fresno area, according to the FCC Website.



Fresno City College students practice taking each other's blood pressure. The nursing program is in its 40th year at FCC.

for the middle of October 2004. She is hoping to have nurses past and present come for a night of celebration.

"The celebration will probably include a nice sit down dinner, complemented by a power point presentation on the history of the nursing program, and plenty of old and new photographs," said Dick.

After 40 years Dick still hasn't forgotten where she came from.

"I'm very proud to have graduated from Fresno City College," she said. "Fresno City College still has a great reputation as being a very good school."

The reunion will be open to any nursing students current and former. A night to relax may be exactly what current RN students' need.

"Many students need to study around 60 hours a week," said Moore.

"The work is very intense." After 18 months of prerequisites RN students began a long difficult journey that lasts about two years, according to the FCC Website.

Many of the students work at Hospitals to fulfill certain requirements and gain experience.

"I study about 20 hours a week," said Vang. "That comes out four to five hours a day," she said. "It's a whole lot of work, but I really love helping people."

Vang wants to go on to Fresno State to get her bachelors degree, and according Moore, many FCC nursing students end up at Fresno State. The requirements to getting into the FCC nursing program are very straightforward.

Students need a 2.5 GPA, and they must have completed all of the prerequisites.

After that you get your name put into a lottery, and if you get chosen your in. "It's very exciting," said Moore. "People have to work very hard to get through this program, but the pay off is very rewarding."

people," said Claudia Dick, an RN who graduated in the first class at the FCC nursing program in 1964. "I got in on the ground floor," said Dick, who is organizing the 40th anniversary reunion.

Dick is still working as an RN, and after 40 years shows no signs of slowing down. "I'm 65 and old enough to retire, but I'm not interested," she said.

Dick is busy trying to get the reunion to become a reality.

"I'm trying to find former classmates," she said. She is currently working for the Community Behavior Health Hospital, in Fresno. The reunion is tentatively scheduled

ing to the FCC Website.

This shortage has prompted some students to pursue a potential career as an RN.

"I knew there was a shortage of nurses in Fresno County," said FCC nursing student Paku Vang. "I've been wanting to be a nurse ever since I was in high school."

Vang has worked at Fresno Community Hospital and recently with Clovis Community Hospital.

The training may be more technical today than it was in 1964, but the desire to help people is a common attribute still associated with nursing.

"I became a nurse because I wanted to help

Corrections

- In an article in the Jan. 28 issue of the Rampage, Thomas Crow's name was misspelled
- In an article in the Jan. 28 issue of the Rampage, Ned Doffoney's name was misspelled
- In a photo caption in the Jan. 28 issue of the Rampage, David Lange's name was misspelled

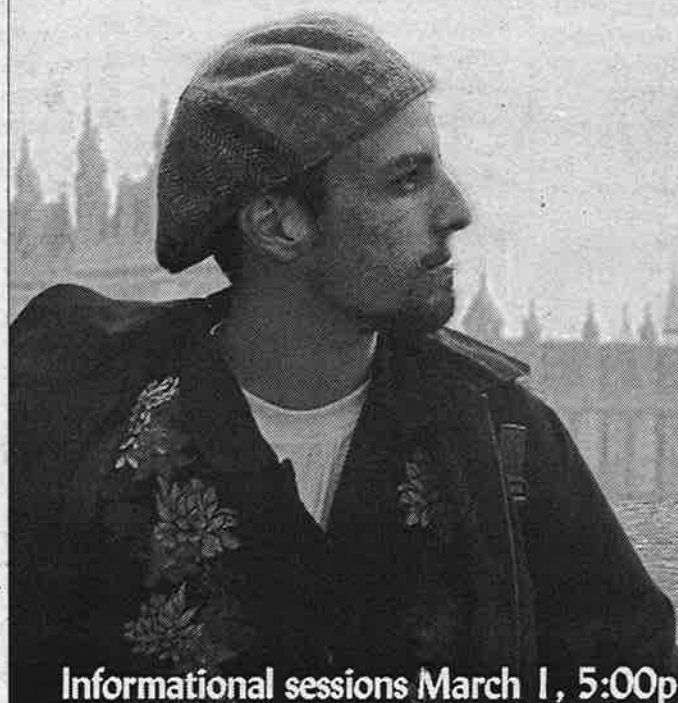
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Services: *help students*

Continued from page 1

Many of the students who are in the program are extremely satisfied with how the program is run and what it offers to them as students.

Each student is accepted into the program for a number of reasons. They might have good academic standing or English is their second language or they are the first in their family to go to college.

What they have in common is that they all need support to be a better student, that's what the program provides.

FCC student Margurita Farias, business administration major, has been a participant in SSSP for a year she is happy with the program because when she has a problem and needs to speak to her counselor she doesn't feel rushed when she gets in to talk to them or get advice.

Farias also likes being able to checkout a laptop computer up to

three days when she may need to use it for an assignment in class.

Farias is not the only FCC student that feels that way Susan Soledad, nursing major, has been on the program for three semesters and heard about the program in the financial aid office from another student.

Soledad decision was finally made when her wonderful counselor moved to SSSP, "I had her as a counselor at the regular office and followed her over she was just one of those people".

Soledad said, "When you're a student you can spot the people who are here for the students and it's just not a paycheck. You have the tendency to follow those type of people around."

SSSP participants swear by the program it is commendable supportive and as a running joke has the best food.

Merced: *new UC*

Continued from page 1

research. This gives students access to cutting-edge science and internship opportunities.

According to the UC Merced website students will have access to natural laboratories through a partnership with the National Park Service to gather research within Yosemite, Sequoia and Kings Canyon national parks.

UC Merced will admit both freshman and transfer students in the Fall 2005. To be eligible for admission to UC Merced, students must meet the University of California's admission requirements. The Introducing the University publication states that preference will be given to junior-level California community college applicants who have completed at least 60 transferable units.

Smacking down the vote

WWE wrestlers seek FCC students to register Feb. 17

By David Witte
Rampage reporter

The World Wrestling Entertainment's Shelton Benjamin and Charlie Haas will visit Fresno City College for the Smackdown Your Vote rally on Tuesday, February 17. The event helps promote young voter registration.

"One of WWE's missions is to increase the number of young voters," said Gurdeep Sihota, Director of College Activities. According to Sihota, they will give away a pair of tickets to the Smackdown event at the SaveMart Center that night.

"The neat thing is that the 17th is the last day to register to vote," said Sihota.

The rally will take place at the main fountain area between 11 am and noon. If it's raining, Benjamin and Haas will visit the College Center.

"While they're here, they're going to be signing autographs, taking pictures, and encouraging students to register," said Sihota. "Last year we had Ivory and Hur-

ricane here."

WWE and Smackdown Your Vote campaign for young voters alongside MTV's Choose or Lose, Rock the Vote, the New Voters Project, Hip-Hop Team Vote, 18 to 35, Harvard Institute of Politics, the Youth Vote Coalition, Declare Yourself, and the League of Women Voters.

These groups combined to create the 18-to-30-year-olds Voter Issues Paper, or the 18-30 VIP.

The 18-30 VIP poses questions to presidential candidates which are important to young voters.

"The organizations that organized this document, working together, promise to get 20 million 18-to-30-year-olds to the polls on Election Day," the VIP reads.

"But we won't tell them how to vote. It's up to the candidates to win them over."

Young voters have already watched the Democratic race heat up in Iowa and New Hampshire. As candidates of every political party gear up for the race, WWE and its compatriots prepare to bring in as many voters as they can.

"Any candidate-or political party-interested in the 20 million voters who

are up for grabs in this election can use the VIP as a guide to talk with 18-to30-year-olds about the issues that matter to them," reads the VIP.

The document poses questions about the economy: "How will you tackle the challenge of providing all young adults with access to affordable health-care coverage?"

There are questions on education: "In light of the struggle to pay for college, what will you do to make it easier for young adults to attend college or graduate school without accumulating unmanageable debt?"

And questions on motivation: "How will you restore confidence in the political process for young voters?"

"You are a VIP (Very Important Player) in America," reads the VIP. "But only if you get in the game."

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Views

February 11, 2004

The new UC Merced campus

The college offers great opportunities

This school isn't the one for me



Susan Morgan

The new University of California is quite mysterious.

All that most students know about it is that it resides in the gateway to Yosemite, Merced and that only a few majors will be open.

There are a lot of great things that come with enrolling in a totally new school. After reading all the brochures, talking to the UC Merced representative, Donny Munshower and learning about it from the website, I've uncovered some of the mystery. First off, the campus is going to be totally brand new with the state of the art technology and architecture.

The student dorms will be apartment like and the best part of all is that no one has ever used the shower before you. Everything is clean and ready to go.

Only a few majors will be open to students as of right now for the fall of 2005, but if your major is one of them you should consider UC Merced because it offers a lot of advantages over other UC campuses.

The School of Natural Sciences has the greatest advantage of all because the school is located near Yosemite National Park. The campus already has a research facility in the park reserved for students.

The School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Art will focus on the central valley's rich heritage and mixed culture. The location is perfect for in depth research on the origin of languages and the sociology of people living together from different ethnic backgrounds.

Another plus is that San Francisco is only two hours away. The site of the campus is beautiful. It is far out from the city and is accented with a gorgeous backdrop of the

Sierra Nevada.

The campus community in the beginning will be relatively small so the campus could be extremely close. In fact, due to the lack of places to go in Merced, the campus student life should be very active.

The campus is near Lake Yosemite and the Sierra Nevada so a lot of outdoor activities will be available to the students along with recreational centers and parks.

Being the first class of the school also has its benefits. If you're fearful of not having the best transcript or that your grade point average and background can't compete with other student's applying to UCLA, UC Merced is a great choice.

The school hasn't made a reputation for itself, so very few people will be applying in its first year. It is a great way to receive an education from a UC level school with out sweating the nerves of being rejected.

The new frontier—UC Merced—seems a little imitating now because it is so new, but give it half a chance.

•Susan Morgan is the Views Editor for the Rampage

My objection with UC Merced stems from two main logical points. The first being its decided destination as a "research institution".

Research institutions are often at the mercy of federal funding and grants. UC Merced, according to its website, has secured several million dollars in research grants thus far.

The instruction in a research institution is scientifically channeled. Those in the social science and arts departments might feel prohibited from achieving their best.

There are little stipends for the next van Gogh, Henry Louis Gates, Jr., or Allen Ginsburg. Should we allow burgeoning minds to dim on the assumption that their work is not valuable simply because there is more money to be had in genetics or animal science? To debase education to a level of earn or else, is not only illogical, but endangers the autonomy of very individuals it has sworn to enlighten.

There is only so much "research" to be had for the aspiring poet, actor, or musician.



Lemuel Gary IV

Intellectually, with a staff of roughly 130 in faculty, 30 percent of which are designated for science majors, UC Merced can't provide its prospective student with an education worthy of its costs.

Logistically, the entire UC Merced project makes little sense. UC Merced has struggled receiving funding for its construction and now stands at only a 50 percent completion rate. Its rural setting leaves much to be desired by the average student.

Potential students must brave the ever treacherous highway 99, who's own reclamation project was to be completed in conjunction with the construction UC Merced several years ago. The project is, as of late, yet to begin.

It is being opened at only on a "modified status" with an anticipated 5,000 students and an estimated 130 faculty – which are still in need of \$10 million and two bond measures to adequately support them (Modesto Bee).

Furthermore, its lack of support has been at such a crisis its chancellor spent \$900 on a bus trip to lobby legislative support said the Modesto Bee.

Support which Governor Schwarzenegger has pledged at the behest of the other schools of the UC system.

According to Brad Hayward, president of the UC Board of Regents, Governor Schwarzenegger's recent budget cuts have forced the UC system to dramatically severe spending totaling to around 372 million dollars in reductions.

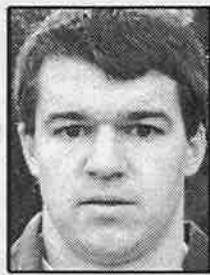
•Lemuel Gary IV writes for the Views section of the Rampage



Illustration by U.C. Merced

Campus Voices

What do students think about UC Merced?



Michael Czajkowski

"Why is it in Merced when no one lives there?"



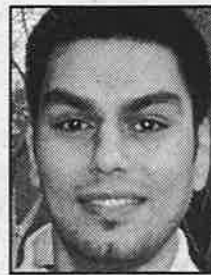
Susan Boling

"It's nice to have a UC closer. I don't plan on moving when I transfer."



Lorine Lacey

"I'm not going to go there."



Ali Qali

"It's kinda far, like an hour, that makes it kinda hard for transportation to and from."



Mike Gleim

"I am still mad about the Brine Shrimp."

Ideas to get over Valentine's Day



Susan Morgan

Ah, the sun is shining, the birds are singing, and the scent of gasoline hangs in the air choking the pert smell of roses. A little spark of imagination and *vroom*, all the precious pretty little valentines are in pretty little flames. Not that I'm bitter, I just like the smell of melted chocolate.

Well, I've come up with some great ideas to fill in the lonely hours spent cursing Simon Cowell during American Idol.

The first idea is Grow-A-Date. The incredible growing man or woman, just add water. Your date will be ready in 30 seconds. What's great is you can pick on up at the student store for a couple of bucks. Trust me, it will be the cheapest date you can get on Valentine's Day.

Another idea is to throw a party. Invite all the hot people you know who are single and promise the party will be memorable. So when the soccer team shows up you can bust out the cheap champagne and explain that the girls you invited have opted to go see "Under the Tuscan Sun." Oh, well, what are you going to do?

Start decorating your house with clover and wear all green. When faced with something reminiscent of love just throw on an Irish accent and say, "Kiss me Blarney Stone!" In fact, you can have real fun with this by grabbing heart-shaped valentines out of people's hands or anything heart-shaped and scream "Give me back me lucky charms!" then run away.

If that seems a little too extreme for you try something more low key. Go to a place that couples go such as a fancy restaurant. Sit next to an unsuspecting couple. Dress in

all black with pale white make-up. Then, very slowly recite "The Raven" from your Edgar Allen Poe collection.

Every time the couple tries to kiss squawk, "Cried the raven 'Never more.'" Afterwards invite one of them to meet you at the top of the Fresno City College bell tower at midnight and dash out of the room while covering your face with your jacket.

If none of these ideas spark interest there is always the fall back plan of going to the Fresno State men's basketball game that Saturday. Sit by a teenage couple this time. Every time they try to get their mack on yell, "Double dribble! What a rebound!" and my personal favorite, "Go for the Threeeee!" Hey maybe your chanting will actually help somebody score!

Regardless of what you do try not to let the February pinks and reds give you the blues.

•Susan Morgan is the Views Editor for the Rampage

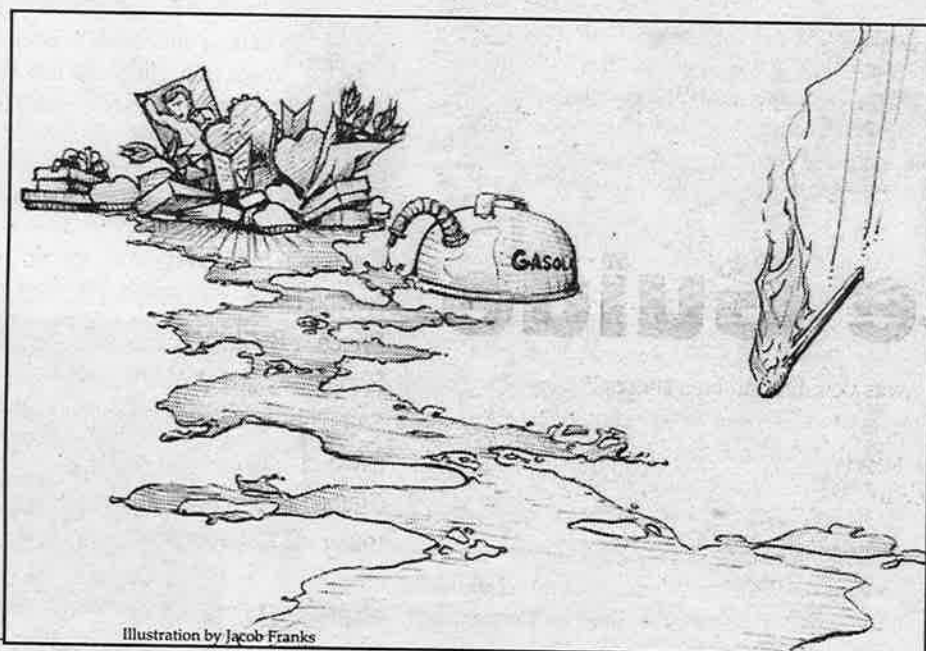


Illustration by Jacob Franks

Venos, god of love gives advice



Phillip Hornton

February is the month of dating. Unfortunately, a lot of guys are clueless as to how to treat their girl on a first date and what to wear. So this is Venos, god of love, Valentines' gift to all you guys out there. I shall provide you with a list of do's and don'ts on the subject of dating.

Do not wear black socks and sandals. That will not count for dress shoes at a nice restaurant. Also, do not wear a Yugioh shirt as a dress shirt. Not smooth.

If you're a hairy kind of guy, know that shaving any sort of shape such as a heart in your body hair is *not* a turn on. It just means you have way too much hair and should seriously do something about it.

For the guys who have Hairy-Back Yeti syndrome, seek immediate help. There's a reason why people rarely see the yeti. His name isn't yet it's Bill and he's an outcast of the village do to his grotesque hair.

Do not take your girl to a hole-in-the-

wall restaurant. No buffets. Taking your girlfriend to Yoshino's at Fresno City College is not cool. She wants to be taken to someplace nice. Take her to a real Japanese restaurant. Do not make a run for the border. Just say no to Taco Bell and all fast food places all together.

Take her to a place where a guy named Andre has to sit you down at a table or a guy named Drake has to approve that you're cool in order to let you past the velvet rope.

Why wear a shirt that's canary yellow? It's blinding. Skip the plaid too. Stick with solids on a date to accentuate what your date is wearing.

Do not wear more jewelry than your date. Its very tacky to be flash more bling bling in your teeth than your girl has got around her neck.

Do not wear butt-hugging jeans with a thong. Say it with me, "guy with thong is wrong." Say this as loud as possible, three times.

There are some things you can do to tell if she's "the one" on your date. Unlock her door for her. If she unlocks your door, she's a keeper. On the other hand, a girl who eats too much might just eat through your wallet. The price of jalapeno poppers has really gone up.

Just remember that it's all about the ladies on this special day. Without girls there would be no Valentine's Day. Guy's would call it Fertility Day and it wouldn't have much to do with love.

•Phillip Hornton writes for the Views section of the Rampage

Genius doesn't begin to describe Dubya

Individuals, who do or say things that are deemed stupid enough, may be the proud recipients of a Darwin Award. This special award is reserved for the dumbest of the dumb. When President George W. Bush's days as president are done and gone, he will undoubtedly have so many Darwin Awards, he'll have to buy a second ranch to make room for them all.

Bush is the proud recipient of these awards for his outstanding commitment to stupidity, which has lead to an unjust war in Iraq, a \$500 billion deficit, and a foreign policy in bedded in irrationality.

Despite his blunders a lot of Americans still support Bush. According to Seattle Columnist Neal Starkman, the reason can be found in the "S factor". Bush speaks and the "S factor" takes a hold of the sheep. The sheep simply get in line, ingest every word like it was scripture, and avoid all types of rational thinking in hopes of maintaining their rank as "stupid".

Corporate CEO's and right wing Christians are not stupid for supporting Bush, because Bush's interests are the same as theirs. The "S factor" plagues those "who don't have the wherewithal to expand their sources of information," according to Starkman. These same people get "perplexed by issues comprising more than one side," said Starkman.

The war in Iraq was partly "fueled" by claims that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction. So far however, there are no WMD.

In "Killing Hope" a book about CIA interventions, by William Blum, the reader learns about the CIA planted bombs in Honduras to give off the impression they were from Russia.

Honduras was accused of being a potential satellite of communist Russia, and a right winged regime was promptly installed with the help of the U.S. Just substitute "terrorism" for communism and let that be that.

Meanwhile more than 530 U.S. soldiers are dead, and more than 9,000 Iraqi civilians have also per-



Justin Eck

ished since the start of the war. Most of the deaths on both sides took place after Bush ordered an end to official combat in Iraq.

Israel's occupation of Palestine serves as good reminder that occupation usually leads to oppression, and oppression usually leads to bloodshed.

It's no surprise that the same people who support Israel's occupation of Palestine are often the same irrational thinkers who support Bush. Their logic could be "We'll stop terrorism by using terrorism as a justification for violence, and then everyone will love us." Now that's a great idea.

If there are no WMD in Iraq the Bush Administration can still push the whole ruthless dictator card. Of

course the U.S. government supported Iraq during their war with Iran. U.S. gave Iraq the materials to create biological weapons, but hell that was way more than a decade ago.

It was during this time of U.S. support in Iraq that hundreds of thousands of Iraqi civilians were slaughtered.

Going to war with a country who has a "dictator" in charge or because of widespread corruption within the government, would mean going to war with half the world.

American foreign policy has always been absurd, but who has the ability to remember these things. Memories seem to find the memory whole just a little easily in the U.S.

According to Business Week, when Bush entered office there was a \$127 billion surplus. The surplus is gone, and a projected \$521 billion deficit is what we are left with.

Occupation is expensive stuff. According to the 2003 World Almanac, the U.S. sends more aid to Israel than any other country except Russia. The yearly checks hover

around \$1 billion to Israel.

Credit should be given to those few brave souls who stand up for what is right. The ones who believe truth is more important than any given political party. Sure it may be un-American to question the governments' actions, or watch C-SPAN rather than Fox News, but thumbs up to the rebels who do.

A recent USA Today/CNN/Gallup poll shows Bush's approval rating dipped below 50 percent for first time since taking office. USA Today reported on Feb. 3 that Bush's "approval ratings for handling the economy, Iraq and health care fell to near-record lows."

The same poll found more than four out of ten people said they believed the Bush administration deliberately misled the public about WMD.

Bush may envision the United States of the World, but let us hope he is too stupid to accomplish it.

To those of you who have been calling me a "bleeding heart" you may rest assure you are right.

•Justin Eck writes for the Views section of the Rampage



Romance Guide

By Deborah Anderson

Pulse editor

Valentine's day is a chance for men everywhere to make up for, well, anything.

Truth is, this is as much your holiday as hers. For one whole day, you can do anything for her and she will never once question your motives.

Did you get her flowers? She won't ask, "What did you do?" she'll probably say, "You're so sweet."

If you're still at a loss for how to navigate the maze known as Valentine's Day, the Rampage staff has felt your pain.

We've called florists, sampled chocolate, and watched romantic comedies until we passed out from exhaustion.

Now your day of making up for whatever it

was you did will be a success!

Movies

Oh the joys of going to a movie theatre on Valentine's Day.

The uncomfortable seats, the old sticky soda on the floor, the parents who just couldn't leave their screaming children at home; just you and 500 other people enjoying your special day.

Instead of going out to a movie, rent one. Curl up on the couch and feed each other kettle corn while you relax.

If you *must* go to the movies, go to a matinee, and good luck with the sticky floors.

See Valentine, page 8

The List

Flowers

Floral Guide for Valentine's Day: Keep in mind that delivery on Valentine's Day can run anywhere from \$7 to \$15.

Roses:

Half-dozen roses: \$50 to \$60.

One-dozen roses: \$80 to \$100.

Rose Alternatives:

Tulips: \$40 and up

Oriental Lilies: \$50 and up

Orchids: \$50 and up

Movies

Because we couldn't leave you stranded without suggestions for romantic movies to rent this Valentine's Day, here are the movies that topped our charts.

An Affair to Remember

Benny and Joon

Chocolat'

Cruel Intentions

French Kiss

Gone with the Wind

Notting Hill

Princess Bride

Romeo and Juliet

Sleepless in Seattle

Save the Last Dance

What Dreams May Come

You've Got Mail

Restaurants

Here are some restaurants ideas to dazzle your lady.

Black Angus 224-2205

Red Lobster 221-9495

Fratelli's 299-8761

Chilli's 432-3711

Thai House 221-7245

A Perfect date movie

By Deborah Anderson

Pulse editor

When Matt Cooper began writing "A Piece of My Heart," he wrote it as an autobiographical screenplay.

Some 19 years later, the final revision, now titled "Perfect Opposites," opened in theatres.

"What's really difficult is when you write something like this, that it's so autobiographical, it's easy to get tied down to 'Well, this is how it really happened,'" Cooper said.



Matt Cooper

The movie is about relationships. More than that, it's about how men think.

"This is a bit of a journey.

It's very real in term of relationships," said Cooper.

When Cooper describes the movie as a journey he's not kidding. The movie is structured like a relationship: You think you know the people in the movie in the beginning and throughout the movie. They keep surprising you, for better or worse.

The movie has a retrospective feel to it, which is not surprising considering the fact that it was written by a man looking at his past.

It was written originally to appeal to people in their late twenties and early thirties.

But as Cooper soon discovered, "when you're in your thirties you lose that sense of romantic wonderment that you had when you were younger."

So the target audience for "Perfect Opposites" got younger, 18-25 to be exact.

"What I really like about the movie is that it doesn't talk down to young people," Cooper said.

"It's an adult movie geared toward younger people, a movie that doesn't insult their intelligence, that treats them like adults.

"Youth-oriented movies treat kids like morons."

While it's not the most original movie, it's honest, something most romance movies aren't.

"Perfect Opposites" is entertaining and genuine, a treat for anyone, just bring some tissues. You'll probably need them.

BREAKING ON THROUGH

By Deborah Anderson

Pulse editor

When Lucas Escalera, Steve Marez, and Eric Carrillo decided to start a band almost three years ago, they knew they had potential, just not a singer.

Then fate intervened.

One day Marez, Escalera, and their friend Justin Harris were driving when Harris started singing along with the music. The idea light turned on with the brilliance of a 10,000-watt bulb. They had a singer.

With the addition of their final member, Steve Partain, they had a complete band, dubbing themselves Break the Sky, because, in their words; "people say the sky's the limit. we say the limit's what you

make it. Break the sky."

Their demo sounded good, if a little rough around the edges.

Many bands sound good recorded but awful live. When Break the Sky told me they were having a show at the Starline, I was a little apprehensive.

I liked them, but I dreaded to think what would happen to their music when released from the shelter of the studio.

They assured me that they give 110 percent onstage at their shows. Carrillo was so confident that he told me, "You come and tell me after the show if you aren't impressed."

While the band was tuning the instruments Carrillo stepped up to the microphone, "I don't like playing for people who are sitting down.

I feel like you're all looking at me. Get up here, get around the stage." Their active stage presence and powerful instrumentals were evident to anyone watching.

By the time they reached the middle of their set, it had become clear to me that their demo was a nothing less than crude representation of their skill.

They not only sounded better on stage than in real life, but they were moshing and going crazy on stage, all without missing a single beat. Literally.

When they began playing their most popular song, "The Church: Upgrade to a Rosary", the crowd, especially the girls, were drawn to the stage.

With subtle but powerful lyrics, and serious instrumentals, it would



Left to right, Lucas Escalera, Steve Partain, Eric Carrillo, and Justin Harris of Break the Sky

Photo by Keith Kountz

be the most likely radio single if Break the Sky were ever to put one out.

Break the Sky is truly a force to be reckoned with. They have it all: stage presence, outstanding music,

and moving lyrics. There might even be something in the works with a major record label.

"We might," said Marez, "it's under wraps. Top secret, you know?"

City Life

by Jesse Garcia



Budding Expression

By Deborah Anderson
Pulse editor

There are five Fresno City College students, each with a different style, showing their work at Studio 637 in the two blocks west of Tower Theatre.

With works that range from traditional, to impressionist, to abstract, "Budding Expressions" has something for everyone.

"Tree", by Brandon Jacobs, is soothing and meditative, without being boring.

The brightly colored background intertwines with the branches of the tree almost like ocean waves, it's relaxing just in existence. Jessica Hanna's "Just Another Crucifixion", is not

painted, so much as sculpted from the canvas. It takes a minute for the full impact of the piece to take hold, after that it's hard to look away.

"Remembering Fall" is a three-dimensional piece by Isaac Riley. The bright red and orange leaves look as though they had fallen on to a still wet canvas, and dried there.

Heather Hart's work is all very visually exiting and complex, it's hard to pick one favorite.

I did love her "Country Cat". It was more like a textured photograph than a painting.

Renee Muniz was the artist behind the visually entrapping "Rustolium" series. Each piece in the series, there are three, holds your attention and keeps it.

Valentines: Suggestions

Continued from page 1
Flowers

Women want to feel special and unique, and while roses are beautiful, they are hardly unique, so you have some options.

If you're going to get the arrangement delivered, make it count. Call her work, and find out if employees can receive deliveries while on the job.

If so, have her arrangement delivered. she'll love it because it's beautiful, and because you just out-

did everyone else.

Dinner

What girl doesn't want to be taken to dinner and shown off like the trophy that she is.

Ok maybe that's a stretch in your case, but still, every girl wants to be a trophy to her man, whether she is or not.

If you want to do something special for her in the restaurant, your best bet is to go in a different day than Valentine's Day.

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SmackDown Your Vote Rally
February 17 in the Fountain Area at 11:00 a.m.
Featuring: WWE Superstars Charlie Hass & Shelton Benjamin

AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

February 18 Rites of Passage College Center, 10am	February 25 Reggae Fest Tribute to Bob Marley Feat: Queens Compound Free Speech Area, 11am	February 27 Gospel Soul Cafe College Center, 7pm	February 29 College Sunday Christian Comm. Church (corner Dakota & West) 10:45am
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3 on 3 Basketball Tournament, February 20, 2004
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Sports

February 11, 2004

Global game



Laura Zaukaite
Lithuania

Yun Hsu
Taiwan

Ninon Salemon
Indonesia

Photos by Bryan Borrer/ Illustration by Josh Butters

Fresno City College's Laura Zaukaite, Yun Hsu and Ninon Salemon aren't fluent in English, but are domesticated in basketball.

Players give FCC international flavor

By Mike Read

Rampage reporter

Three girls from three different parts of the world unite at Fresno City College under their love of basketball. Ranging from Eastern Europe to the islands of Indonesia, Laura Zaukaite, Yun Hsu, and Ninon Salemon are the international force behind the FCC women's basketball team. Each grew up in a haze of basketballs. The strong and constant surrounding of the game from friends and family gave the girls an "in your face" atmosphere of basketball. "I've played since I was just as big as a basketball," joked Zaukaite, a sophomore forward. Strongly influenced by her father to play, she started young. "Next to being Catholic, basketball is the second largest

religion in Lithuania," Zaukaite said.

She often wears an "I love Lithuania.....but where is it?" T-Shirt. The subtle yet blatant humor compliments and defines Zaukaite's out-going personality.

Zaukaite grew up in the city of Klaipeda, Lithuania. The Eastern European city borders the Baltic Sea, creating a Monterey style town. Half the year it rains and snows, creating wonderful cross-country skiing opportunities which she loves.

Standing at 6-foot-1, Zaukaite grew up playing with older girls because she was so tall. She joined her first team when she was seven years old and has been playing ever since.

Coming to the U.S. through an exchange program, Zaukaite stayed with a family in Merced, attending Merced High.

See Women, page 10



Josh Butters

Applicant wanted

Dear Vance Walberg, With the health problems of Rick Majerus, head coach of the University of Utah men's basketball team, you should consider applying for the job.

After this season, he will be forced to retire because of his continual ailments due to his heart condition and the school will be looking to replace him with a proven winner.

Enter you.

After a year and a half as the Fresno City College coach, you have proven that the style of basketball you preach can work at the junior college level after giving high school coaches headaches during your 13-year tenure at Clovis West High where your record was 343-68.

Don't get me wrong, FCC loves you and would love to see you stay.

But we want to see you succeed on a higher level even more.

Over the last season and a half as a Ram, your teams have gone 61-4, winning a Central Valley Conference championship and finishing second in the state. There's no reason why you couldn't be successful at the next level.

Let the same itch that made you want to jump from the high school to junior college coaching ranks consume you. Take it up a notch and see what you could do.

The only thing left to prove at FCC is winning a state championship, which you almost did last season, losing to Los Angeles City College 90-82 in the state championship team.

This year, your team is on the right track to do just that.

Then what? Rebuild and have the same goal again and again each year?

Take that competitive nature to the next level. Utah would be a perfect fit for you.

You would love the competition. Utah's cross-state rival is Brigham Young. You would be able to start a friendly, yet

See Walberg, page 10

Rams sign on the dotted line 11 former FCC football players move on

By Josh Butters

Editor in chief

Their careers at Fresno City College may be over, but 11 Rams football players will transfer and play at four-year universities.

Along with going to school, players will play for schools ranging from Hawaii to Texas Tech.

Wide Receiver Terrance Grant decided to stay in California and play for San Jose State.

"I'm glad to be playing in the Western Athletic Conference,"

2004 Signing Day

For a complete list of former Fresno City College football players that will compete at four-year universities and their highlights as Rams.

See page 11

Grant said. "They have some real good coaches and they are big on their academics."

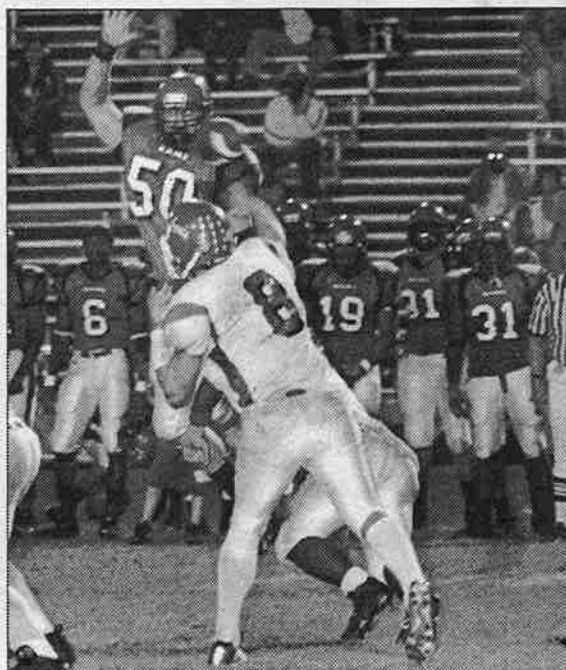
San Jose State is in the same conference as Fresno State.

"I'm going to love it," said Grant of getting a chance to play against

Fresno State. "If I can't play for them, I'd love to play against them."

Defensive lineman Deke Bake, an All-Valley Conference selection, will play for Texas Tech.

See Signing, page 11



Defensive lineman Jacob Houston (50) has transferred to Sacramento State and is one of 11 Fresno City College football players that have signed a letter of intent to play at a four-year university

Photo by Bryan Borrer

Women: On the bubble of making playoffs

Continued from page 9

In a conversation, you would never guess that Yun Hsu was not born in the United States. Her flawless English has Zaukaite and Ninon Salemon catching the tail end of her jokes.

Hsu was born in Taiwan. She has made several visits back to her home town of Taipei since her arrival in 1989. After going back in 1995, she returned in 2001 to attend college at FCC.

"I was an overly active child and played a variety of sports," Hsu said. "I grew up playing street ball then joined my first team in the sixth grade." Along with basketball Hsu also does the javelin throw for the FCC track and field team.

Countries in Asia broadcast ESPN, allowing Hsu to watch American basketball while living abroad. Unlike the United States, sports are not as obtainable to watch. "Games are highly specialized but not widely publicized," Hsu said. Yet the popularity of basketball rages all over the eastern Asian countries, especially now with Chinese star Yao Ming playing for the NBA's Houston Rockets.

One of Hsu's most memorable games

took place in Bangkok, the capitol of Thailand.

Loosing by a three-pointer as a result of a "shady" charging

call, was not enough to dampen Hsu's spirits. "The (praise) my team received from all the other coaches and the enthusiasm we played with is a game I really look back to."

She described her home town of Taipei as San Francisco, Los Angeles, and New York crammed into a single city with Hong Kong-like sky scrapers. "There's so much to do in Taipei," she said. "So when I came to the states and people tell me the places to go, like L.A or San. Fran', I'm like, what are you talking about? There's nothing to do here."

Off the court, Hsu enjoys going on long drives into the foot hills near Shaver Lake

"Next to being catholic, basketball is the largest religion in Lithuania."

—Fresno City College forward Laura Zaukaite

and shooting pool at Avalon Billiards on Blackstone Avenue. With incentive from head Coach

father, Salemon got an even earlier start with the game.

"I really want to play for the NCAA," Salemon said. "That's my goal."

Salemon began playing when she barely knew how to walk and has been working hard trying to get a scholarship to any four year university. If things don't work out, she plans on moving back to Indonesia and trying there.

In her off-court time, Salemon loves relaxing to music. Some of her favorite singers are Faith Hill, Babyface, and Mariah Carey.

The three have grown close during their time at FCC, each trying to find their place on the team. Salemon was named an All-Central Valley Conference first team selection in 2002-03 and is currently one of the state's leading scorers.

Zaukaite has gone from a starter last year to having a supporting role this season, coming off the bench in games. Hsu is a freshman trying to prove herself.

All three hope that place is San Diego, where the state championships will be held. A destination over halfway around the world from where they have called home.

Sports Dates

Men's Basketball

Feb. 11 @ West Hills, 7 p.m.
Feb. 14 @ Modesto, 7 p.m.
Feb. 18 Merced, 7 p.m.
Feb. 21 Reedley, 7 p.m.

Women's Basketball

Feb. 14 @ Modesto, 5 p.m.
Feb. 18 Sequoias, 5 p.m.

Baseball

Feb. 12 Sacramento, 6 p.m.
Feb. 13 Sacramento, 2:30 p.m.
Feb. 14 Sacramento, 1 p.m.
Feb. 19 Chabot, 6 p.m.

Men' Tennis

Feb. 14 Foothill, 10:30 a.m.

Walberg: Coach is 61-4 at FCC

Continued from page 9

competitive rivalry with former FCC and Clovis West coach Steve Cleveland.

He used to be in the same shoes as you are now.

He turned BYU into a contender and his resume looks familiar to yours, if not as good.

Currently one of the players that Utah is trying to recruit plays at FCC.

I don't think you would mind coaching state co-player of the year Tyrone Jackson for another two seasons. It would be an awesome package deal for the school and you wouldn't have to start from scratch when it comes to recruiting if you were able to get Jackson to play for you again.

The Utes have made it into the NCAA tournament 10 times since

1989. It's a powerhouse that has made the final four once in past years.

Don't settle for a state championship: coach at a school that can win a national championship.

First, you can eye a Mountain West Conference championship. Then your goal can be move along in the March Madness tournament.

Then a Final Four Appearance.

Finally a championship.

You've won in high school.

You've won at FCC.

In a perfect world, student athletes stay at a junior college for only two years.

In this situation, hopefully you will too.

•Josh Butters is the editor-in-chief of the Rampage

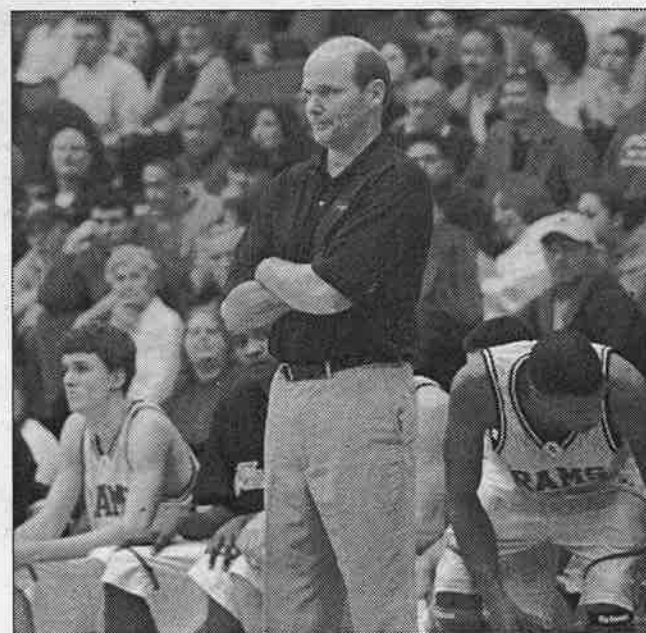


Photo by Bryan Borrer

Vance Walberg spent 13 years at Clovis West High before coming to Fresno City College.

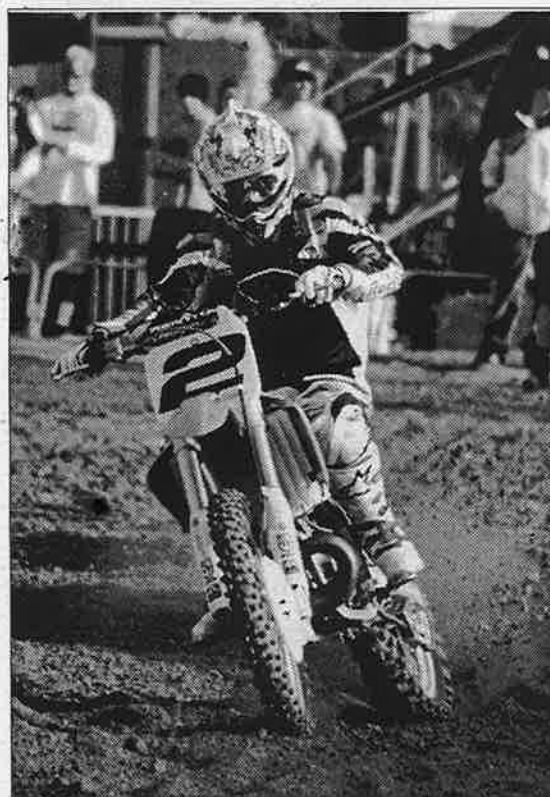
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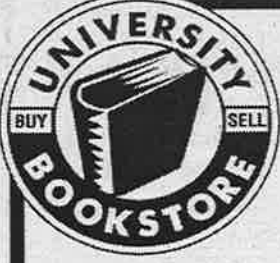
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Signing: Three Rams go to Midwestern State

Continued from page 9

"I'm looking forward to playing in the Big 12," Bake said. "Texas Tech is a good program."

Three players will attend Midwestern State University (Texas), quarterback Wayne Desmond and receivers Marcus Davis and Jason Washington.

Desmond threw for 1,658 yards and 15 touchdowns.

Davis was the Rams second leading receiver.

Linebacker Roosevelt Cooks will transfer to the University of Nevada, Reno.

In his sophomore season, Cooks

led the Rams in tackles (111), tackles for loss (22), sacks (10) and pass breakups (5).

FCC football coach Tony Caviglia is pleased with his former players that helped the Rams go 9-2 this season.

"I'm happy with the group of sophomores that are moving on," Caviglia said. "It's going to be fun watching them play at the next level."

Grant will always remember his time at FCC

"We're a big family," he said. "I'm going to miss playing with those guys and playing in Ratcliffe Stadium."

2004 Signees

LB Roosevelt Cooks

Nevada, Reno

•A third team All-American, Cooks led the Rams in tackles (111), tackles for loss (22), sacks (10) and pass breakups (5).

DL Jacob Houston

Sacramento State

•Houston had 57 tackles, 8 tackles for loss and 6 sacks.

DL Deke Bake

Texas Tech

•All-Valley Conference, Bake led FCC with 15 hurries and had 12 tackles for loss with 5 sacks.

WR Marcus Davis

Midwestern State. (Texas)

•Averaged 17.4 yards per catch and was FCC's second leading receiver.

WR Jason Washington

Midwestern State

•Caught eight passes for 127 yards in 2003.

QB Wayne Desmond

Midwestern State

•Second team all VC, Desmond

threw for 1658 yards and 15 touchdowns as a sophomore.

WR Terrance Grant

San Jose State

•All-VC, Grant led the Rams in yards (571), catches (30) and touchdowns (5) while averaging 19.1 yards per catch.

OL Jake Kellum

Sacramento State

•All VC selection that graded out at 85 percent of blocking assignments.

OL James Corbett

Southwest Texas

•Allowed only one sack for the entire 2003 season and graded out on 83 percent of his blocking assignments.

LB D.J. Brookter

Utah State

•Brookter had 52 tackles and five tackles for loss for the Rams.

LB Chirs Williams

Hawaii

•Williams will walk on for the Warriors.

Softball season in swing

FCC has three key returning players

By Justin Eck

Rampage reporter

The Fresno City College women's softball team is ready for action despite having nine freshmen and only three returning sophomores.

The Rams' youthfulness and inexperience are countered by a tenacious work ethic that has the squad hungry for the spoils of victory.

"Regardless of our experience, no other team will be better conditioned than we are," said FCC softball head coach Rhonda Williams. "It's just a matter of getting the experience they need to compete."

Last year, the Rams went 25-18 placing third in the Central Valley Conference behind College of the Sequoias and Reedley. The Rams were 15-6 in the CVC.

"Right now we are the toughest struggling Rams," said sophomore outfielder and pitcher Katrina Jacques. "But I think we'll win our conference."

Williams doesn't want to jinx her team with any predictions, and is waiting for her young team to get a few games under their belts.

"It's too early to tell," Williams said. "I'll know a lot more about this team after we've played some games."

Having such a young team may pose some problems, but getting so many freshmen playing time has its advantages.

"It's really exciting having such a young team," Williams said. "You're not sure what you will get right now, but if everyone can stay healthy and stay eligible, next year is looking real good."

There is no doubt this young team has some talent and if cultured right they will undoubtedly have some success.

Jacques brings a lot of speed to



Photo by Josh Butters

Rams catcher Jena Albertson warms up during practice.

the team and besides pitching, is the team's best outfielder. Tracy Costa is by far the team's fastest pitcher, though no one is sure exactly how fast she can throw.

"I was clocked at 62 miles per hour my sophomore year in high school," said Costa. "But no one has clocked me since."

Along with Jacques and Costa, Jennifer Spradling, the remaining sophomore will round out the pitching staff for the Rams. Spradling also has the potential to be the Rams best power hitter, while Jacques, who batted .333 last year, will look to have the same kind of success.

Freshmen Marissa Salazar is going to be a real bright spot, and as she hones her skills she will probably become the Rams best infielder.

"I don't like to rate them so early in the season," Williams said. "The way I see it there is no place for this team to go but up, and I expect them to do just that."

The Rams' softball team is really focused on winning the CVC this year, and every Rams fan knows in order to do that you have to go through Reedley and College

of the Sequoias.

"We can lose all our games this year, as long as we beat Reedley all three times," said freshmen Antonia Martinez, who graduated from Reedley High. Though losing all their games is not what this team is aspiring to do, Martinez's comments go a long way in illustrating the intense rivalry between the two schools.

Last season the Rams were 1-2 against both Reedley College and Sequoias.

When collectively asked if they were going to win the CVC this year the team responded with a resounding, "Hell yeah."

Unlike other community college sports like football, baseball, and basketball there are no pre-season rankings for community college softball, so it is difficult to measure how good other teams are going to be.

Considering how young this team is and the fact that they don't have depth, it might be tempting to bet against them. However, when this team starts to gel, only a fool would bet against a team so well prepared and so thirsty for success.



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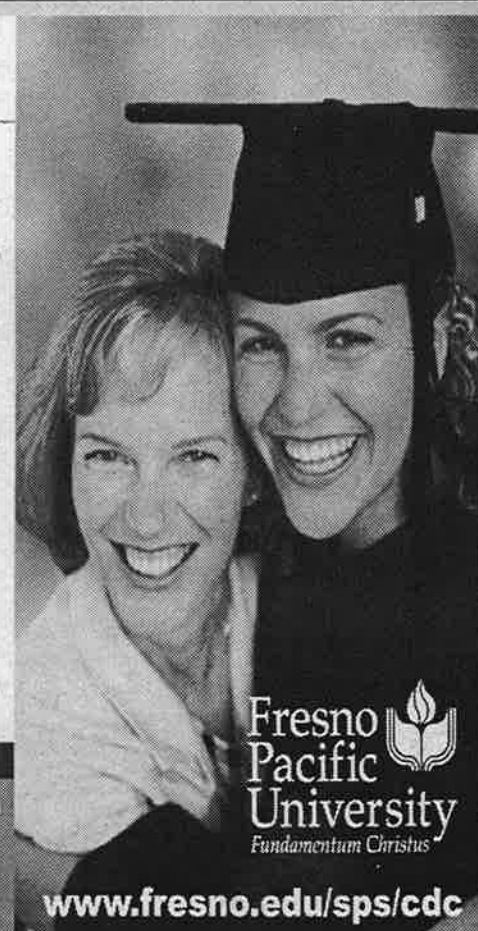
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Dancing for Black History Month



Dallas Black Dance Theatre kicks off February festivities

Photos by Bryan Borrer
Written by Melissa Whittle

Rampage reporter

Opening ceremonies held on Feb. 2 at Fresno City College, kicked off events that are to celebrate Black History Month.

One of the big events of the month was the Dallas Black Dance Theatre. They took the stage at the Tower Theatre on Feb. 3. They are a small company of 12 dancers that created a night of wonder for the audience.

"The movements themselves

were mesmerizing. It pulled you in until the performance was over and it was time to applaud," said Glinda Johnson.

She was astounded by the performance of the dancers. "Their performances were an event in themselves but it shows that African-Americans have come a long way."

Johnson says, "It was a time people with color weren't allowed on any stage."

Performer, Melissa Young started dancing as a hobby as a young child. "I didn't see it as something that I would do for the rest of my life. Until I had seen an Allen Aulley production," she said.

"When I saw people who looked like I did, that is when I striven for it to be something more."

Young went on to receive a certificate from the Allen Aulley Dance School in New York. Her solo performance, "Change my Name," received the loudest applause next to the closing curtains standing ovation for the performance of "Full Night."

The dancers paid homage to those who've come before them, and this is only one of the many events happening this month.

