Range FRESNO CITY COLLEGE



Postup Both FCC basketball teams make playoffs

pages 9-12

Volume LXXIX Edition 3

Published since 1949

February 25, 2004

Fresno City College students that smoke will have to stay 20 feet away from buildings is the ASG's proposal

Photo by Alex Verdago

passes.



ASG wants cleaner FCC 'No Butts' campaign to stop

campus' smoking-related litter

By Justin Eck

Rampage reporter

The Fresno City College Associate Student Government wants a campus free of cigarette butts. The ASG is proposing the installation of sand-filled trashcan lids or ash urns, said ASG President George Kutnerian.

The proposal has been in the works since the ASG participated in the campus clean up last fall.

"We noticed a lot cigarette butts on the ground and not a lot places to dispose of them," Kutnerian said.

The proposal is in conjunction with AB 846, a bill that prohibits smoking within 20 feet of a main entrance or windows of a public building, Kutnerian said.

"We're going to have posters reminding students of the 20 foot law, and we want to make it easier for them to dispose their cigarette

The proposal is still a work in progress and the sand filled trashcan lids and ash urns are just two options the ASG is reviewing.

"We are still working with

See No Butts, page 4

CSU Fresno gets transfer students from FCC

By Lynda Helm

Rampage reporter

California State University, Fresno has pushed up its application deadline to Feb. 1. the earliest deadline in five years, said Lynn Jaschke, an outreach counselor for University Outreach.

According to Jaschke, the California State University chancellor's office pushed up the deadline date in order to accommodate anticipated budget cuts announced by California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Jaschke, an alumnus of both Fresno City College and CSUF, now works as a transfer counselor in both institutions and has gained first hand knowledge of the transfer proce-

About 767 FCC students have applied to CSUF for the fall 2004 semester. "Most transfer students have been accepted to CSUF in the past if they complete and send an application by the deadline and complete additional deadlines and procedures," Jaschke said.

Upper division students need to have earned 56 transferable units with a minimum grade point average of 2.0 according to a Community College Transfer Guide provided by the University Outreach Services, available in the FCC counselor's office.

Students should be in good standing with their last institution and have earned 30 units of general education classes with a "C" grade or better.

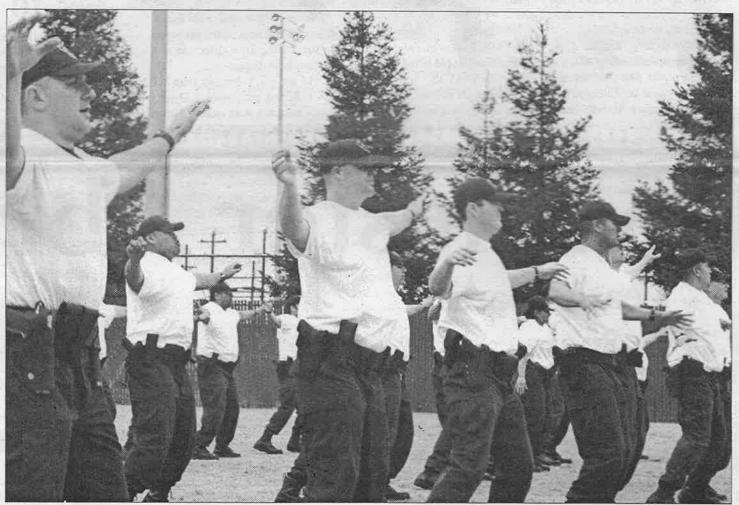
Once accepted, students will need to provide proof of measles and rubella shots and a copy of transcripts from previous institutions.

Freshman or lower division transfer students are accepted into CSUs on a first comefirst serve basis, Jaschke said.

Upper division transfer students, according to research done by Jaschke, have a higher retention rate. They are more likely to stay in school and graduate. 87.1 percent of transfer students who entered a CSU in fall 2001 were still in school the following year. Only 80 percent of first year freshmen are still in

See CSUF, page 4

Future enforcers



Criminology major sees increase

By David Witte

Rampage reporter

Television shows like CSI and Cold Case Files have sparked a recent interest in Fresno City College's criminology program. The surge of interest has resulted in an entirely new track that focuses on forensic evidence.

"In the fall we had in excess of 500 people in the intro course alone," said William Bertolani, who spearheaded the creation of the new track. "This is astronomical compared to five years ago."

Bertolani estimated 2000 students are in the criminology program and that it's hard to tell exactly how many there are, because so many students haven't declared a major.

"With the advent of police programs emphasizing forensic evidence and the development of technology came a demand for more education in this field,"

Bertolani said.

"I'm really glad we have this opportunity to get the education to do the job right," said Lynnea James, a sophomore on the forensics track.

"CSI is an informative program, but the activity of its role players generally exceeds that of their counterparts in the real world," Bertolani said. There are two different types of crime scene investigators: field technicians that collect the evidence from the crime scene, and lab technicians who analyze that evi-

"Rarely do you have laboratory forensic personnel go into the field to collect evidence, and vice versa," said Bertolani. "Rarely do you have field technicians go into the laboratory to analyze evidence. It's two different fields."

Lab technicians need a 4-year degree in chemistry or a related field. Field technicians need training for proper collec-

See CSI, page 4

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African-Americans at risk HIV is a growing concern

By Scott Copeland

Special to the Rampage

The Fresno City College African-American faculty and staff presented a forum Feb. 10 about HIV, as part of the African-American education month to raise awareness of the HIV problem in the black

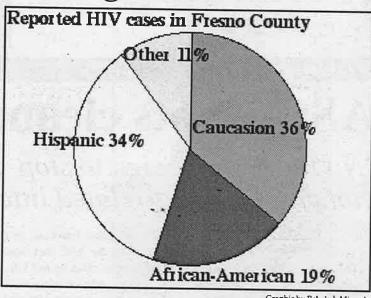
Speaker Gary Dennis of California HIV/AIDS Advocacy Network Grassroots Evolution says he became aware of AIDS epidemic while working with Friends Outside, an organization which works with the prison population. He has also advocated for AIDS patients discriminated against in the hous-

Currently, most of the state's money is invested in treatment programs, such as the AIDS Drugs Assistance, which ensures access to comprehensive drugs that allow AIDS patients to live longer, as well as improve their quality of life.

Although a variety of effective medicines have been developed to treat AIDS, they are expensive and insurance companies are reluctant to insure AIDS patients.

Speaker Sherene Douglas spoke about a recent outbreak of AIDS in North Carolina. The state enacted a new program in 2002, called Screening Tracing Active Transmission (STAT).

The program, the first of its kind,



Graphic by Rebekah Miranda

uncovered a 9.6 percent rise in HIV infection between 2001 and 2002, and an additional 5 percent between 2002 and 2003.

The study showed that 88 percent of the men who were infected were African-American, most of them homosexuals attending 11 predominately black colleges in the

Statistics provided CHAANGE show that of the nearly one million people in the U.S. who have HIV/AIDS, more than 130,000 reside in California, which ranks second in infections. It is estimated one third of them do not know they are infected. Although African-Americans make up only 13 percent of the American population, they comprise 57 percent of the AIDS patients.

Black women and children are higher risk of infection than white women and children, with 60 percent of new cases affecting black

Several of the speakers at the forum said that one of the problems in preventing HIV infection is a hesitation to discuss sex.

"If we can't discuss than we can't discuss prevention," Dennis said. Students with questions can call the CDC HIV/AIDS hotline at 1-800-342-AIDS.



RAMPAGE

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rampage@scccd.com Rampage is an award-winning newspaper published biweekly by the Fresno City College Journalism 5 program and is a member of Journalism Association of Community Colleges. Views expressed in The Rampage are those of the individual writers and do not necessarily reflect those of Fresno City College, its students, administration or the State Center Community

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 ad-

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SCCCD plans Spain excursion

By Lynda Helm

Rampage reporter

Fresno City College students and faculty will be traveling to Salamanca to learn about Spain's culture and language.

This excursion, offered through the State Center Community College District, with an extensive amount of help from the Centers for Academic Programs Abroad (CAPA), is priced at \$3,879. This includes roundtrip airfare from Fresno to Madrid and back.

According to a summer in Spain flyer the price also includes Medical and travel insurance, US airport/ customs hall fees, departure taxes, a private room in a Spanish home, daily continental breakfasts, a welcome and farewell dinner.

Interested students must turn their application in by Mar. 5 and include a \$300 deposit. This is part of the complete price. The entire payment must be in by April 17.

The price does not include tuition. However, a student is allowed 265-to apply for financial aid.

The price also does not include the price of the passport. Passports are usually priced at about \$60 according to Joyce Pinkard an FCC spanish instructor. She also said passport applications are available in either the downtown Fresno or Clovis post-offices.

Despite the price most staff members at FCC feel this is a great opportunity for students. This trip will give students a chance to "learn a large amount of Spanish in a short time while experiencing a different way of life in a beautiful city," said Pinkard. Michael Roberts, the FCC's Dean of Humanities agreed.

"I think this is a wonderful program that any Fresno City College student would benefit from.

"I believe a student will gain a significant amount of knowledge and maturity by simply going to Europe. I went on a trip like this myself a few years ago and stayed with a local family in Costa Rica. I felt the entire experience was worth every minute."

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eling group this year along with Sharon Ferrer, another FCC Spanish instructor. Both instructors have traveled to Spain in the past and have earned their master de-

gree in Spanish. Participants in this program will be housed with local families in Salamanca. According to Pinkard and the "Summer in Spain" flyer CAPA will help place students with families who share their interests and hobbies.

For example Pinkard said if a student enjoys playing piano this person would be placed in a house with a piano. Each student will be required to fill out a form given by CAPA containing a number of questions.

Every student will have their own room and key to the house plus the opportunity to receive mail and phone calls. They will also have a chance to do two loads of laundry each week.

This trip is meant to educate a student which means classes are part of the program. Each student must choose one out of nine available courses.

Each class is four hours long. Classes will be held at the local college, Delibes and taught by native professors.

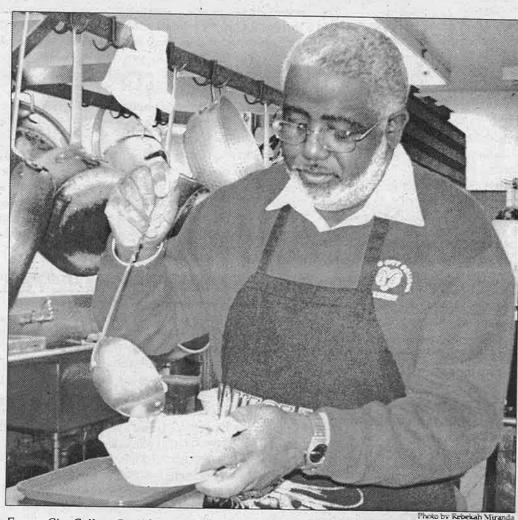
Once class is over students will have the opportunity to enjoy a number of local activities such as movies or plays. Pinkard said the Plaza Mayor is a popular hangout for young locals.

Located in the center of Salamanca this is often a place for friends to meet and attend puppet shows, poetry readings or just enjoy the scenery.

Students will have their weekends free from class which will give them a chance to travel Europe. The flyer states Madrid, Barcelona, the Costa del Sol, Paris and French Riviera were among favorites in the past.

The CAPA staff will assist students in choosing destinations and transportation.

Real Cajun Cookin'



Fresno City College President Ned Doffoney was the featured chef for Gumbofest on Feb. 20. Doffoney grew up in Jeanerette, Louisiana and has perfected his famous Cajun dish. The money raised from the lunch will benefit the concert band's trip to Normandy, France.

begin

By Lemuel Gary IV

Pulse editor

March is Women's History Month at Fresno City College and the Associate Student Government plan to highlight the better half in the biggest of ways, hosting a series of women discussion groups and seminars entitled "Circle of Sisters."

The 'y' chromosome comradery begins Mar. 4 with "Self Defense: Learning how to protect yourself," featuring retired local boxer Jennifer Alcorn as its keynote speaker, and continues every Thursday of the month, beginning at 1:00-p.m. in the student lounge.

Other topics on schedule include health & fitness, money budgeting featuring Marianne Dunklin, PH.D, and "Relationships: marriage, sex,

dent activities wants to extend the education beyond the designated month and create a fellowship between students and faculty that will transcend simple celebrations and monthly holidays.

"I want the students here, not excluding the men, but definitely the women, to feel as though they can depend on us, the faculty and leadership, for guidance, love, and support. We want to build trust and network within order to strengthen without."

For more information about the Circle of Sisters, or other events taking place this month, please contact Gurdeep Sihota at 265-5711, Shreya Shah at 229-1202, or Ayah Ramirez at 222-0133.

Mar. 4-Self Defense, presented by Jenifer Alcorn

Mar. 11—Health and Body image, eating habits and fitness

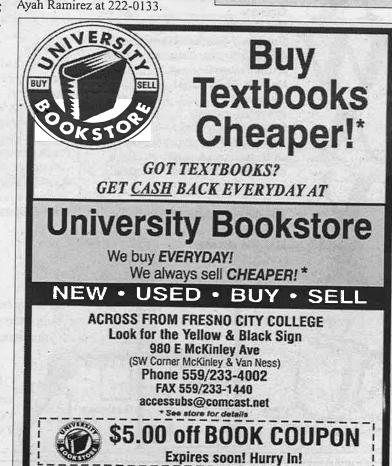
Mar. 18-Money, budgeting and finance planning, presented by Marianne Dunklin, Ph. D.

Mar. 25-Relationships and love, marriage and sex



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CSUF: 764 FCC students are set to transfer for fall 2004

Continued from page 1

school a year later.

CSUF's career center can help students find jobs that relate to their major. It offer job placement, hold job fairs, give referrals and help students with important interviews.

About 52 percent of students find jobs within a year after graduation," Jaschke said. Liberal Arts majors who earn their credentials are more likely to find a job fast in California. California has a high need for teachers, according to Jaschke.

Unlike FCC, CSUs charge a flat registration fee rather then charging for each unit Jaschke said. A student enrolled in 0-6 units will pay \$778.

Seven or more units will cost \$1,207. According to Jaschke, rates have increased 36 percent since the 2003-04 semesters. The rates are expected to increase an additional 25 percent by this fall.

Prices such as these have potential to keep some students from transferring.

However, students have a number of options available to help pay for college. Financial aid is one solution.

Applications are available online at www.FAFSA.ed.gov or in college counseling offices. The FAFSA application has a number of financial questions that help determine a student's eligibility for a number of grants, loans and work-study programs according to the Financial Aid & Scholarships section of the Community College Transfer Guide.

According to the guide, more than twothirds of families who apply qualify for needbased financial aid.

A CSU student must be enrolled in at least six units to qualify for financial aid.

Every student has a chance to receive aid. Upper division students have a chance to receive more then lower division students according to CSUF's financial aid office.

Students with a GPA of at least 2.0 are eligible for a number of scholarships.

Scholarships are given under hundreds of categories including past schools attended,

location of residence, ethnicity and volunteer

A website dedicated to finding students a scholarship is www.fastweb.com. Using a number of questions answered by the student the website connects the student to a number of available scholarships.

According to the fastweb website, the information for these scholarships is emailed to the student and can often be applied for

"I encourage students to apply for a number of scholarships," Jaschke said. "A large amount of money went unclaimed last year because no one applied for those particular scholarships."

Renaissance

Fair preview

March 10 in the Rampage



CSI: spark of interest

Continued from page 1

tion and handling of evidence at a crime scene, as well as to know what to collect.

"With the new option, we have created a new course, Criminology 9, entitled Crime Scene Evidence," Bertolani said. "The unique thing about Criminology 9 is that it's taught mainly by criminalists from the California Department of Justice laboratory."

One doesn't need to go through the police academy to become involved with forensic evidence, though.

"What they call criminalistics has become civilianized," said Richard Lindstrom, head of FCC's police academy.

"You'll find very few sworn officers filling those positions."

When asked why she chose to pursue forensic evidence, James replied, "Part of it was the CSI show, and part of it was a friend of mine in the Sheriff's department who is an I.D. tech, which is like a

"We're trying to provide training to those people who would like to become technicians in the field, trying to provide exposure to future law enforcement officers as to the value of evidence," Bertolani said.

"[We're] trying to provide an introduction to those students who would like to pursue a career in laboratory analysis of forensic evi-

No Butts: or smoke

Continued from page 1

grounds keepers before we decide on one option," said ASG Executive Vice President David Burns.

The sand filled trashcans and ash urns would most likely be paid for by ASG funds, according to Kutnerian.

"Student government would probably be paying a good chunk of the bill."

The proposal comes at a time when many campuses are prohibiting smoking on campus.

"This is an opportunity for students to show that they can keep our campus clean, and maybe avoid a smoke free campus," Kutnerian said. "We want to help make this a clean campus for all students."

The ASG is confident students will support the proposal and that smokers will properly dispose of their cigarette butts.

"The students we've spoken to seem very supportive of the proposal," Burns said. "If students dispose of their cigarette butts in the proper place, students won't have to see cigarette butts everywhere."

If the proposal is approved, the sand filled trashcan or ash urns won't take long to show up on cam-

"Once decided on, they would probably be here and installed in weeks," Kutnerian said.

The proposal will be decided on in the coming weeks and will be introduced to students by way of literature.

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#Javawava's Ceasar......\$4.95 Javawava house Ceasar salad with fresh Ciabatta bread

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Are we weightloss challenged?

Food is a preoccupation Most work out hard, I'm with students



bsession with one's weight is common yet the myth, that only women obsess over their weight, has been proven false by many doctors and psychiatrist who study eating disorders. Heck, I grew up with a couple of jocks who either needed to lose weight for a wrestling match, or a football player who needed to beef up their muscles.

I have come across a chosen few that would do anything to get the 'perfect' body. They obsessed over what they ate, how much they weighed, and how they can change that predicament

Some didn't even realize they had an eating disorder until it is too late. Another unknown truth is that binge eating is also an eating disorder, not just anorexia and bulimia. We all have heard about super stars who have tried to lose weight but instead began the process of slowly killing themselves to be skinny.

Things like that don't just happen in

Alicia Smith, Fresno City College student, suffered from obesity. Now weighing 165 pounds, Smith struggled through her early teens with weight

"I use to weigh 276 pounds. Yes, I know I lost a whole person. It's funny that I can joke about it now, but there was a time that I didn't want to believe that I ate too much. or that I was obese.

"I still have to make sure that I am not

eating just to be eating, or just because the food is there.

"It took fine a long time to lose this weight and to shed the insecure person who ate because she was sad, and was sad because she was overweight. It was no win situation."

She decided to lose the weight and change her health because of a highschool girl who called her "Earthquake." The pressure was on for her to make a difference in her weight.

I commend Smith for her courage to tell her story and to do what she did.

A lot of people in my family struggle with their weight so I know what it's like to want to eat right and just be healthy.

What's more important than body image is being healthy so one doesn't worry about high blood pressure or dropping dead from a heart attack at 40 years old.

·Melissa Whittle writes for the Views section of the Rampage

hardly working out

long time ago, in a galaxy not too far A away, I was in shape... this was until the realities of life smacked me across the face. Like most of us here, I'm now getting up before the sun to make it to class while juggling the rest of my day in the very short time span of 24 hours.

In this busy life known as college student or adult, who cares about exercising? Where is the necessary inspiration to pull another two hours in our day to get in shape?

Besides all that "it will extend your life expectancy," or " makes you more attractive," mumbo-jumbo, how could a human being benefit from exercising?

Or should I be asking, what could a human being gain from being lazy?

Let us pretend we do have the extra motivation in our day to go to the gym. Why would we when they try to butt-pound you with monthly fees and their Three-Year-Contract-of-Doom?

Regardless of the cost, I think I'd rather drop acid then work out next to those guys wearing the cut-off t-shirts. Expect major



arm-pit funk.

Going for a jog outside probably does more damage than good. Having the worst air in the nation isn't enough to motivate me, unless I'm looking for a little excitement and

Whenever that random spurt of motivation does strike, it's usually when you're changing your grandma's diaper at two in the morning, or another random scenario where it would be impossible for you to go.

We live in a country where happiness is a happy meal. We talk about changing our eating habits, but the truth is we don't want to change. We are happy wasting the night away at Denny's and we consider the Drivethru a mariculous invention of man.

Instead of fishing for survival with a string and hook in an Amazonian river, we the people have the luxury of sitting in our leather recliners while smoking a doobie waiting for the delivery guy to bring our combination pizza.

Being lazy is a job that no one but the people of the United States can fulfill. Taking in 80 percent of the Earth's natural resources is a big task, and consuming it is

All other activities must take the back seat if we are to succeed in our quest. Join the Movement of Consumption and be lazy! It's the safest way to live.

·Mike Read writes for the Views section of the Rampage

Compiled by Susan Morgan



Illustration by Jacob Franks

Campus Voices

Are you obsessed with weightloss?



Vanessa Ibanez "I'm concerned. To be healthy is

a key thing in college."



Linda Sanchez

"I think if you have a good body image weight isn't a problem. I like being fat."



Rhonda Suglian "I could care less. I am who I

am."



Brian Jefferson

"I watch my weight on a daily basis. I want a strong heart and to be muscular"



Jay Smith

"I'm not obsessed. I really don't have a reason to be. Eventually my metabolism wil slow down and then I'll worry about it."

Security alarms girl in a false alarm

During this fearful time of post-war society, security around the nation has become more intense. Airports have called off flights in fear of terrorist activity and events such as the Super Bowl have seen triple the security measures they are used to.

Every building which sees hundreds of people a day have locked down on suspicious suspects possible of committing catastrophic crimes. Mervyn's is one of these buildings

Mervyn's is no fool and understands that the one thing our Home Security Department is over looking is terrorist shrinkage. They could be on the brink of a new threat that may jeopardize all of capitalism as we know it. Could our country be attacked by petty shoplifting?

Mervyn's has fallen victim to the affects of terrorism and are now toughening their security to crack down on what could be, the next big threat on the freedoms of

Last Saturday, I had the fortune of seeing just how Mervyn's keeps everything calm during a

potential moment of crisis.

It was around noon when I entered the store to return some gifts my cousin had bought me for my birthday. She got me a cute initial purse that I was keeping and using when I entered the store. She also got me an anklet and some toe rings that were cute, but I decided I wanted the money instead.

As I left the costumer service desk I was appalled by the fact that I was forced to take a gift card instead of cash back. I spent 40 minutes in the store trying to find something else I could possibly want, but to no avail.

As I left the store, I was approached by a commonly dressed man who informed me that I was a potential threat and asked me to go back into the store. He was an undercover security guard snuffing out criminals from the inside.

While dressing in a very bright and tacky purple Tweety letterman jacket, sunglasses, and



"Released from my questioning I returned to the streets a free

> Sideout hat, he looks for potential threats to Mervyn's security and trails them until the time is right and pounces.

For the purposes of protecting the store's security system I'll call this guard "Dave."

"Dave" escorted me back inside the store and directed me to the costumer service desk. The

disguise was working. I thought he was just some weird guy with bad taste trying to pick up on me. Frankly, he freaked me out. I thought this "security guard" bit was a new pick up line or something.

I asked him to show his badge. He didn't have it on him, but he did show me his walkie-talkie. This was a true sign of a profes-

> sional, perhaps at the level of CIA. It's important to keep your identity secret from the potential threat and showing me his badge would have been giving himself away.

We made our way to the backroom where we met up with a manager and another security

guard. "Dave" asked me if I knew why they had taken me to the backroom. I told him that it probably had something to do with shoplifting.

He asked me to empty my purse. Do I have something in my possession of mass destruc-

They were soon apologizing

for inconveniencing me.

Apparently they thought I had stolen my purse. Just because I was wearing a purse that they sell in the store I became a target of terrorist discrimination.

"Dave" informed me that Mervyn's had been seeing a high level of shrinkage over the past months and had to increase. security measures.

Apparently they cut back on the money funding their hidden Cameras because they could have checked to see if I had walked in wearing the purse I supposedly

Released from my questioning I returned to the streets as a free woman. I also had a new outlook on Mervyn's and their efforts to keep this world a safer place. Perhaps "shoplifting" is just another ugly word for terrorism. Good job, Mervyn's.

Continue stopping people who look suspicious in your efforts for great costumer service.

·Susan Morgan is the Views Editor for the Rampage

My 2 cents

worth of 50



Students start doing it Ebay

ollege students have very busy schedules. We have school, friends, and a mindless minimum wage jobs that the Webster's dictionary is now calling McJobs. Some of us have even more than one McJob.

Nowadays, more and more students are washing their hands of the doldrum jobs, where minimum wage also means minimum respect and treatment for employees. Instead, students are trying something more challenging, and hopefully, more rewarding.

More and more college students are turning to online auctions to make money and get a first hand experience at managing their own business. Unlike starting your own business where you take out loans, rent a space and figure out what hours you're going to be open, you can now simply sign on to Ebay or Erock and start managing your own auction store.

To demonstrate the power of Ebay, Ellen DeGeneres announced on her nation wide television show that she was going to sell sheets with her face on them on Ebay to benefit the ASPCA. The sheets brought in over \$15,000 in just seven days.

She put plates with her face on them on Ebay with proceeds benefiting the Fresno Chaffee Zoo, hearing that our zoo was in trouble, she used Ebay to help. People nationwide were bidding to help preserve our animals. The plates brought in more than \$9,000. The power of online auctioning is spreading in all ways

Getting started on Ebay or any auction site is easy. On Ebay you register for free as a seller. When you put up an item for

auction, they charge you a very small fee for hosting your item and then take a small percentage off the winning bid amount.

For those who are overly cautious, you can pay a bit more for reserved selling. You set a reserved price and if the bids never reach that price you're not liable to sell it to the highest bidder and the bidders are aware of this.

Pictures are not required on your item's page, but are highly recommended as most people won't bid on something unless they see what it looks like.

Other auction sites like Erock, which auctions music related items and Yahoo Auctions, offer the same free seller registration, but the fees involved may be slightly different. One should research an auction site before committing to one.

These sights also offer tips and can help you sell your items. You can upgrade to a store registration and for a small fee per month, be exposed to some great seller benefits and advertising.

So instead of slaving away behind a hot greasy grill or handling rude costumers all day, join the world of technology and do it Ebay. One can sell what they make or go to garage sales and find someone's junk that some one else out there will think is a treasure.

·Susan Morgan is the Views Editor for the Rampage

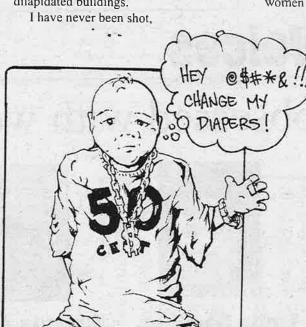


Lemuel Gary IV

lmost as quickly as 50 Cent can blaze Ahis purported guns at potentially perpetrating emcees whose jewelry pales in comparison to his spinning, 600 karat G-Unit engraved truck diamond dinner plate medallion . . . I write this letter, in outrage and of the sincerest sense of obligation to myself, society, and it's duties to man, woman, and child.

Dear 50 . . .

I am an African, residing in America in autonomy. I am not a negro, nigger, nigga, or any derivation connotating ignorance therein. I am not an aspiring rapper, slanging crack cocaine and weed on my block just to live and cop that Lebron James throwback because my mother I on drugs and her food stamps barely buy us food. My world extends farther than dilapidated buildings.



nor can I shoot a man at distances of up to 15 blocks with twin glocks simply because his color of clothes and choice of slang is opposite to mine. I don't hurdle fence, nor can I dunk a basketball; I cannot run 40 yards in 4.2 seconds and elude 250-pound men on my way to arbitrary goal lines and 6 imaginary points. I do not call women sluts, hoars, or bitches, or assume simply

My heroes are not Alpo, Leroy Brown, Pablo Escobar, or John Gotti - I am not an outlaw, thug, clocker, or "playa". I am a, man, a Black man, not a malcontent or a herb, simply because I pronounce my S like an S and not a Z. I am the whole. rather than the sum. We are the rule . . not the exception. We play chess, not women to pimp them out of their purity.

because I am famous I am justified in my

dehumanization of other beings.

We read novels, poetry, not just commissary slips or witness reports. We are scholars, teachers, responsible and true; we are not simple felons with three strike and three unsupported children. We are alive; we e not slaves. We are Richard sons, Henry Louis Gates Jr., el West, Malcolm X, Richard , Robert Fox, Kehinde Solwazi, yel Martin, and Rob Brown. We just C-Murder, Master P s, Michael Vick, or Michael We are men, more than simple which to toil.

se remember that. erely,

k America

el Gary IV writes for the Views of the Rampage

Sports

February 25, 2004

Men clinch CVC title outright

Rams receive the No. 1 seed in NorCal regionals

By Josh Butters

Editor in chief

The season finale against Reedley College should have meant nothing, yet again, the Fresno City College basketball team found a way to have it become a must-win situation.

After splitting two Central Valley Conference matchups with Col-

lege of the Sequoias-both teams winning on its home court- the Rams and Giants continued their race to the finish line for the CVC title.

With the Giants (25-2, 12-2 CVC) losing to West Hills 61-49 in the second to last game of the season, the door opened for the Rams to earn sole possession of the CVC

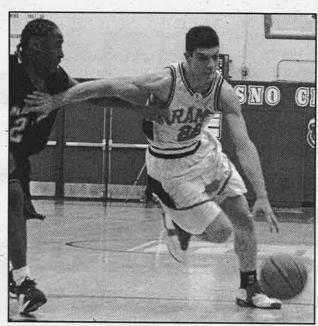
championship.

In their first meeting of the year, the Rams defeated the then No. 1 state-ranked and undefeated Giants 103-84 in the FCC gym.

The victory propelled the Rams (27-2, 13-1 CVC) back into the No. 1 position in the state, but the Giants returned the favor Jan. 31 with a 98-84 win in Visalia.

With both teams fighting for the top playoff seed in the Northern California regionals, the loss to the Falcons took COS out of the running, handing it right back to the

See Men, page 11



Rams guard Sal Espinoza breaks to the basket in FCC's 129-76 victory over Reedley Feb. 21.

hoto by Josh Hires

Big hitter

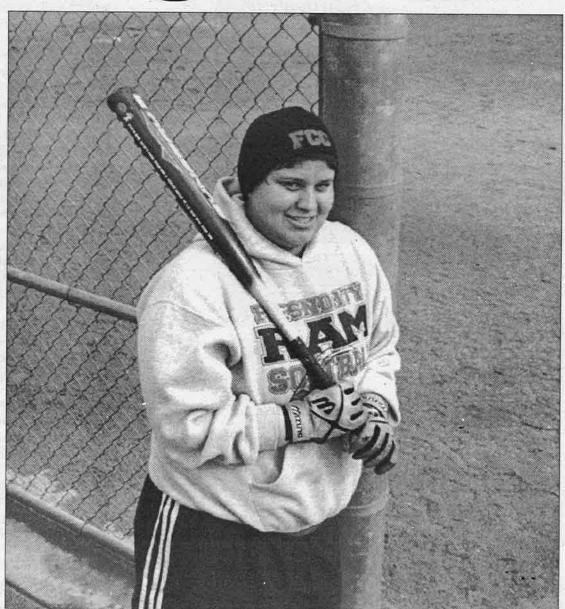


Photo by Josh Butter

Jennifer Segura is known for her ability to hit towering homeruns that can clear the 15-foot high fence around the tennis courts that's about 30 feet past the left outfield wall.

Jennifer Segura will give FCC's offense some added firepower

By Justin Eck

Rampage reporter

Fresno City College sophomore Jennifer Segura stepped up to the plate during practice and a brightly colored softball sailed through the air, eventually clearing the fence.

Not the outfield fence 200 feet from home plate, but the 15-foot high chain linked fence that borders the tennis courts, and stands about 10 yards behind the outfield fence.

"She's one of our big bats," said head coach

Rhonda Williams. "We're going to rely on power a lot this season."

She routinely hits homeruns in practice off a tee. "She can hit the ball a ton," said Jena Albertson, a freshman catcher.

The 26-year-old Segura has been playing softball for 21 years and is driven by the desire to win. Despite an injured lower back and a third degree sprained right ankle, she works her tail off at practice, smiling the whole time.

See **Segura**, page 13

Rams get No. 10 seed

FCC sqweeks into playoffs after finishing fourth in CVC

By David Witte

Rampage reporter

The Fresno City College's women's basketball team earned a No.10 seed out of 16 in the Northern California playoffs, one of four Central Valley Conference teams that made it into the postseason

The Rams play Foothill at 7 p.m. on Feb. 27, the night before the men play the same school.

"The boys play Foothill here. We go to Foothill," said coach Donnie Johnson. "It's a game we can win."

If the Rams beat Foothill, they go on to play the winner of the Reedley College/Sacramento City College game. Reedley is the 2 seed, and Sacramento City College knocked the Rams out of the playoffs last year.

Last year in the playoffs, both FCC and Sacramento City made first round upsets, meeting in the second round. The Rams defeated Solano while the Panthers defeated Reedley.

FCC lost to the Panthers 72-58. SCC then lost in the third round to Central Valley Conference champion Merced.

"I think we can beat Reedley with some adjustments," said Johnson.

The California Commission on Athletics cut the playoff field from 56 to 32 this year—16 in Northern California, and 16 in Southern California. Last season, the 32-seeded team had an 18-10 record. The Rams made a 10 seed with a 17 wins and 12 losses.

"We weren't sure we were going to get in," said Johnson. "I have to call transportation now."

The Rams didn't play Foothill during the regular season, but Reedley beat them twice. So Johnson can't really tweak practice to get them ready for specifics.

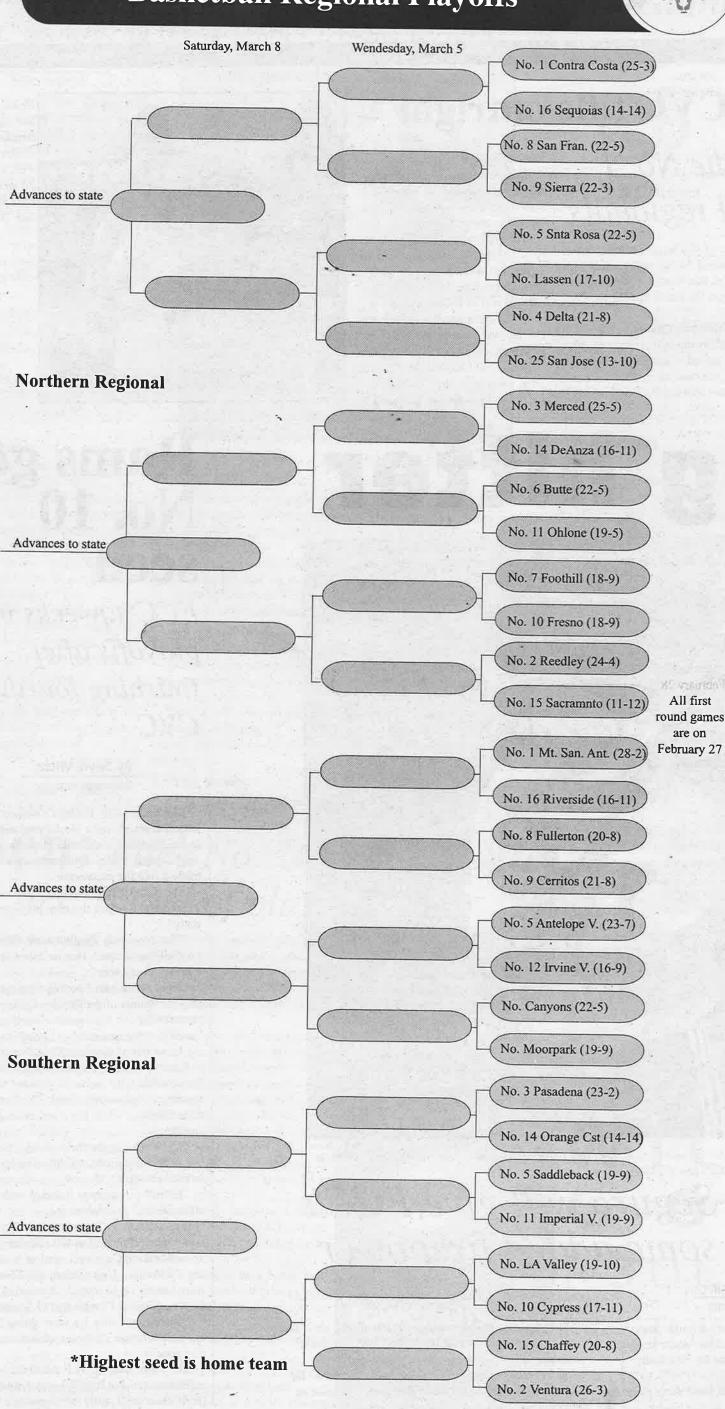
"We're going to work on things we've

See Women, page 12

February 25, 2004

California Community College Women's Basketball Regional Playoffs





Budget ci postsease len

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magine yourself as a 12-year-old in your parents' backyard. Day after day you finish your chores, ranging from raking the leaves, taking out the trash or cleaning your room.

In the end, you receive your allowance for the hard day's work, even if it is just a dollar, or a quarter or whatever your parents are willing to give.

With that money, you buy some lemons cups and a sack of sugar and start your ver own lemonade stand.

By the end of the day, it's time to go running home for dinner, you have made enough money to buy a toy or some of you favorite candy.

The next day, the loop begins again.
Then one day one of your parents is laid off by their boss, or takes a pay cut. To save money they can't give you that allowance anymore, but you're expected to continue finishing those chores.

You don't get your allowance. You can't buy your lemons for your lemonade. You can't buy your toys or candy.

That's what is happening in junior college basketball. Well, sort of.

With the state's budget crisis, California (the boss) has given a pay cut to the community colleges (the parents) that in return can't afford to give the athletes (the child) their allowance, a spot in the postseason.

This year, the playoff fields in basketbal have been cut from 64 to 32 teams, eliminating one round and in the process supposedly are saving money.

The teams that have been traditionally good enough to make the postseason as an at-large team aren't anymore.

The state championships—held in San Diego at the Jenny Craig Pavilion—will host only four men's and four women's teams instead of the routine eight.

With half as many teams in the postseason, the community colleges are left without their two March Madness brands of lemonade.

Cinderellas

Somewhere down the road, someone came up with the phrase in sports that a team that wins that wasn't supposed to is a Cinderella.

Winning in an upset gets you a ticket to the ball, in the case of the playoffs, the next round.

When the team finally loses, it's seen as the clock finally striking midnight; their carriage turns back into a pumpkin. The chauffer that drove them there, the coach, turns back into a rat.

Now there's no space in the tournament for those teams to shock people with major upsets.

Those teams that traditionally make buzzer beating, miracle half court shots are



its squeeze n like sour ions

staying home because of budget cuts.

Revenue

It does cost money to put on the basketball postseason. From traveling costs, officials and security, it can cost colleges a pretty dime.

Since the state championships were cut in half, there are now less travel expenses.

For that dime that was paid (the allowance), ticket revenue from games can quinch the thirst for money.

Last year, the highest attended game at the state championships had an attendance of 800 people. Those were people that paid a flat price to see all the games for that single day.

Eight hundred people paying \$7 a ticket is \$5,600. That's \$22,400 over four days for 16 different teams.

More money can be made.

If the playoffs weren't cut this year, just substitute one round of regional play for the first round of the state championships.

Since home games for a team have a better chance to sell out than a venue with teams from as far as an eight-hour drive away does, ticket revenue can be major.

Each gym on average would probably have an average attendance of 1,000 at a \$5 ticket price. For that round at eight different locations, \$40,000 would be made, \$34,600 more than before.

Add the two days for the championships, \$11,200 is made.

The first round of games that was cut this season makes 16 different locations left without the chance to make money.

Those sites would generate another \$80,000.

If the women's games averaged an attendance of 200, another \$16,000 in revenue is wasted because of budget cuts.

The colleges (parents) not giving athletes (the child) their allowance in this economic situation will put them in the hole even more.

The teams wouldn't keep the money (lemonade) for themselves. It would benefit everyone.

Children share their candy and toys. If that allowance isn't invested into the postseason, California community colleges will lose an estimated \$147,000 in ticket revenue.

That's a lot of lemonade to go unmade. Hopefully, next year the postseason will have the right ingrediants to make a profit.

It's time to tip our glasses to the teams that still made the playoffs and weren't affected, and remember the teams that were.

Here's to March Madness. Cheers.

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



California Community College Men's Basketball Regional Playoffs



Post season starts for Rams

FCC guards can break school scoring record

By Josh Butters

Editor in chief

With the postseason starting for the Fresno City College men's basketball team, guards Tyrone Jackson and Jason Walberg still have time to set records.

Jackson and Walberg are Nos. 2 and 3 on FCC's all-time career scoring list.

They have each scored 1,489 and 1,414 points respectively.

Lonnie Hughey (1962-63) holds the record with 1,525 points scored.

Sharp shooting

Jason Walberg continues to shoot lights out from behind the 3point line.

In his career, Walberg has made 305 3-pointers and is shooting 49 percent from behind the arc this

Playoff time

There will be some familiar faces in the Northern California regional playoffs. Of the 16 teams that made the field, 6 have faced the Rams sometime this season.

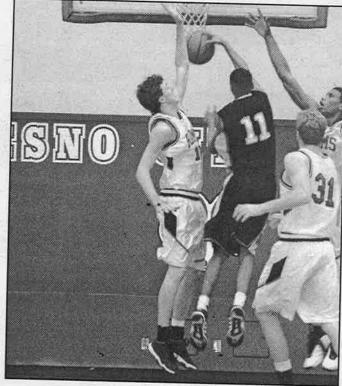
Teams include No. 9 San Jose City College, No. 6 City College of San Francisco, No. 10 Yuba and No. 15 Los Medanos.

Two other teams from the Central Valley Conference made the postseason: No. 3 College of the Sequoias and No. 12 West Hills.

Home sweet home

If the Rams continue to advance in the playoffs, they won't have to leave the friendly compounds of the FCC gym anytime soon.

They own a 32-game-homewin-streak.



Mike McCrary blocks a shot in the final game of the season.

the playoffs, the Rams are guaranteed home games in the first three rounds of the Northern California regionals.

After that, it would be off to the Jenny Craig Pavilion on the campus of the University of San Diego where the state championships will be held Mar. 13-14

Chip off the old block

Despite being 6-foot-2, Tyrone Jackson is one of the state's leaders when it comes to blocks.

The 2002-03 state co-player of the year is averaging 2.5 swats per contest, good enough for second in the state.

Tickets on sale

games will go on sale at the FCC gym box office on game day at 5:30 p.m., an hour and half before tipoff. Prices for tickets are \$7 for adults, \$5 for students with ASG

Ba-dunka-dunk

Talk about a slam dunk. Los Angeles City College center Tony Key brought the rim crashing down against Los Angeles Trade Tech with his two handed slam dunk.

Standing at 6-foot-11, Key's glass shattering dunk postponed the game, which was already out of hand. The Cubs were ahead by 39 points at that point in the second

Game of the Week





Foothill Owls

FCC Rams

Sport: Men's tennis When: Feb. 28 Where: Copper River CC Time: 10:30 a.m.

Notes: FCC, ranked No.. 1 in the state, will take on the perennial power Owls.

- Josh Butters

Sports Dates

Men's Tennis

Feb. 25-Foothill*, 10:30 a.m.

Mar. 4—@ Modesto 2 p.m.

Mar. 9-Porterville 2 p.m.

Women's Tennis

Mar. 2-@West Hills 2 p.m. Mar. 4—Modesto 2 p.m.

Mar. 9-Porterville 2 p.m.

Baseball

Feb. 26—Hancock 7 p.m.

Feb. 27—Sierra 6 p.m.

Feb. 28—Ohlone 6 p.m.

Mar. 9-Taft 2:30 p.m.

Softball

Feb. 26—Taft(DH) 1 p.m.

Mar. 2-@ West Hills 2 p.m. Mar. 4—@ Porterville(DH)

Mar. 6-@Sierra(DH) 1 p.m.

Mar. 9-Reedley 2 p.m.

* @ Copper River CC (DH)= Double Header

If FCC continues to advance in Tickets for FCC postseason Men: Face No. 16 Foothill in the first round of playoffs Continued from page 7

"They were the better team that night," said Rams head coach Vance

Last year, FCC went into the final game of the season with a one game lead in the standings over COS, defeating Reedley handily

This time, it was almost deja vue all over again.

With Jason Walberg, the state's third leading scorer out of the game with a sprained ankle, eight Rams scored in double figures in a 129-76 blowout of the visiting Tigers, clinching sole possession of the CVC title.

Reedley finished the year 5-22. "We knew we were going to

come out and play hard no matter what," said FCC forward Chad Thornton-King. "That's what we do."

The Rams blew out to a 64-31 half time lead and never looked back.

Adam Wall led the Rams with 24 points, shooting 6 of 14 from behind the 3-point line.

2002-03 state co-player of the

year Tyrone Jackson added 13 points, 10 assists and 7 rebounds before being taken out of the game.

"For us to win the CVC by ourselves, I was very happy," Vance Walberg said.

FCC is now set for the playoffs, having home court advantage throughout three rounds of the Northern California regionals. After that, all remaining teams will travel to San Diego for the state championships held at the Jenny Craig Pavilion March 12-13.

The Rams will take on No. 16 seeded Foothill (13-13) Feb. 28 in the FCC gym.

The Owls defeated Chabot twice, the team that handed the Rams one of their two losses on the

"It's going to be a battle from here out," Vance Walberg said. "There's a lot of good teams in the playoffs."

There's room for improvement though.

"We can always play harder defense," Thornton-King said.

The winner moves on against either No. 8 American River College (22-7) or No. 9 San Jose City

College (19-8). who play Feb. 27. Though Jason Walberg sat out

against Reedley, Vance Walberg expects his son to be ready.

"He's a tough kid," said the 2002-03 state co-coach of the year. "He'll be ready to play."

The game starts at 7 p.m.

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Segura: One of three returners

Continued from page 1

"She's a lot fun and has a good sense of humor," Williams said.

Softball is not all Segura thinks about. Her favorite subject is math and she will be attending Fresno State this fall semester, majoring in criminology. She wants to be a probation officer. No doubt her tenacious work ethic and toughness will serve her well.

On the field she is an intense performer, not afraid of a little contact.

At McLane High, Segura started at shortstop and in a violent collision, showed everyone how physical she could be.

As a base runner raced to second, Segura broke towards the bag, but the throw was high. The runner showed no respect to Segura by refusing to slide, and seemed to invite the contact. Segura obliged by lowering her shoulder. The base runner fell to the ground crying, suffering a broken collarbone.

"We're very lucky to have her on our side," Albertson said. "She really keeps the team together."

Despite her imposing playing style, Segura is fond of comedies, and her constant off the field smile and frequent laughter will attest. Her warm personality mixes well with the nine freshmen on this year's team, and her passion for the game has made her a terrific leader.

"I consider her the captain of this team," said freshmen outfielder Crystal Smith. "She really wants to help us out."

Batting clean up is no easy task, but the pressure doesn't bother her. As long as she doesn't think about hitting homeruns the ball will find a way to go over the fence. Her favorite position is first base, and you better believe she can pick a ball thrown in the dirt with the best of them.

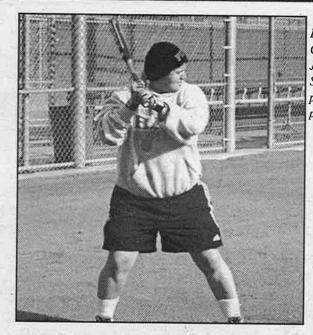
"She can really stretch to get balls at first base," Smith said. Segura is used to dealing with adversity, and will do what ever it takes to overcome obstacles. Her mental toughness reflects the mood perpetuated by her favorite book, "Alive," the story about an airplane that crashes in the Andean Mountains and the passengers are pushed to cannibalism to survive.

So how does she view her opponents on the field? Well, lets just say if you are on the opposing team, but are friends off the field, you better not get her way.

"When I'm on the field I have no friends," Segura said.

Segura won't be playing softball for Fresno State. She wants to focus on school. After 21 years of playing softball she can be proud of her extremely long career.

Her athletic skills are not just limited to softball. She lettered in four sports in high school including, basketball, soccer and volleyball as well as softball.



Fresno City College's Jennifer Segura talks pitches during practice.

Photo by Josh Butters

If you see Segura on campus send her a smile and you'll probably get one back. If you happen to be playing tennis on the courts near the softball field you may want to wear a helmet. Don't go into first base inviting contact, because you will get it, that and a trip to the hospital.

She's smart and ambitious, good natured and positive. She's athletic and intense, funny and

laid back. She's the heart of the order, the power hitter, yet she's humble and loyal to her team. Jennifer Segura is a complete student, athlete, teammate and leader. Whether it's on the field or off, she always brings her "A" game.

"She's a great team player," said sophomore pitcher Tracy Costa. "She's an all around all-star"

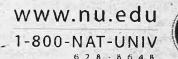
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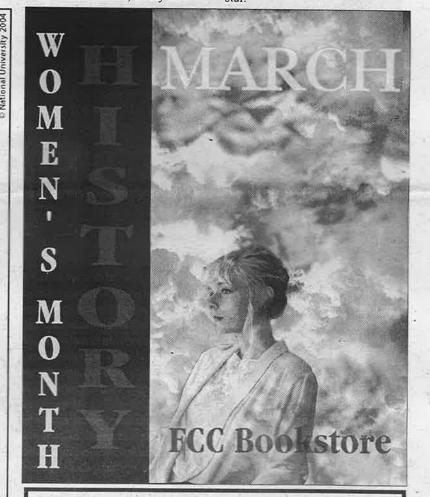
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done all year," said Johnson. "[practice] is usually intense most of the time.'

One thing that won't change is Johnson's intensity. One will be able to hear his raspy voice from anywhere near that gym.

"I don't hear anything come game time," he said. "When you're playing, you screen all that out."

All-CVC first team picks included Rams Ninon Salemon and Cassandra Chambers, to go along with the obvious MVP Amy Partish from Reedley. FCC's Ashley Connell made All-CVC second team.

The #1 seed in Northern California is

Contra Costa, who kicks off the postseason against College of the Sequoias.

"We're kind of up and down and all around because of injuries," said Johnson. "We're just trying to stay healthy."

FCC has had several players injured throughout the season, which contributed to their losses. With everyone healthy, the team can take on just about anybody, even CVC champion Reedley, who defeated the Rams

Twice defeated means little, though, as Reedley beat Sacramento City twice last year, only to lose to them in the playoffs. And the playoffs are what count. *



Erin Pearson (10) and Katy Vargason (right) go for a block in the Rams loss to Reedley Feb. 21.

Photo by Bryan Borror

Baseball team has high expectations

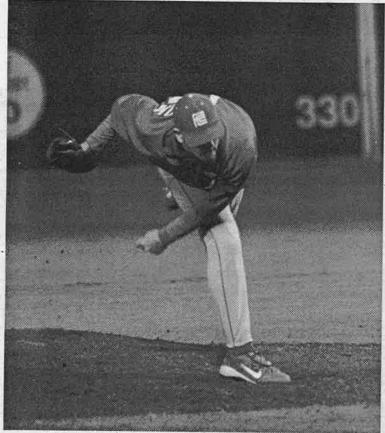


Photo by Bryan Borros The Rams baseball team is ranked No.2 in Northern California and

By Mike Read

. No. 4 in the state.

Rampage reporter

The Fresno City College baseball team sees nothing other that success ahead of them, the same success as in the past.

On top of the snack bar at John Euless park, where the Rams play out their home games, a banner shows every championship the team has ever won.

Twenty-seven conference championships.

Five state championships.

Having a high expectation of success to live up to, those that follow FCC know the high quality of athleticism that the coaches and players present.

"We're the guys every one else is out to get," said head coach Ron

After winning their league division last season, the team is currently ranked currently No. 2 in Northern California and fourth in the state.

In a three game series against Sacramento City College, ranked No. 1 in Norcal and third in the state, FCC took the first of three

"When you play a good team like that, it really shows what you

need to work on," said Scott. Though still in the pre-season the result of the series could, "change the seating in the play offs," said short stop, Jacques Lemoore.

The Rams are currently 5-2

Scott has been coaching the FCC baseball team for the last 16 years. Of those, his team has claimed 11 league championships.

Last week, Scott tallied his 550 th victory as the Rams' head coach.

The team this season is mostly from players around the valley.

"We've got a lot of players from Clovis and Fresno schools," said

Having been rivals with his teammates back in high school, the players have really united as a team.

"We've got great team camaraderie," he said.

Being one of the top ball programs in the state, players know they can trust their fellow team-

"We could put nine guys on the field and have another set of nine just as good backing (them up)," said first baseman Chad Rothford.

Those that play get receive tremendous exposure from scouts.

Transfer rates from FCC to a 4year school are 97 percent.

Tennis seasons start

Women's team has depth

By David Witte

Rampage reporter

Katt Mogote, the freshman from San Diego, let loose with a backhand. It sailed over the back line.

"Oh, Katt!" she exclaimed. Twenty minutes later, she won in straight sets. On the court next to her, sophomore Lindsey Thompson also took her match in straight sets.

The Fresno City College women's tennis team swept Bakersfield College 9-0 in their home opener on Friday, January 30.

"I don't have a game-buster on number one, but we have a lot of depth," said coach Marilyn Watts. "We should be the strongest team in the conference."

Watts projected College of the Sequoias and Modesto Junior College to be their main competition for the CVC title, but that was before she saw COS in action against Bakersfield College the morning of

"Somebody said COS is good," said Watts. "Looking at them today, I think we can take them."

FCC's number one player Kari Brock struggled in her opener vs. Bakersfield, losing the first set. She came back for the second and third sets to win the match. Number two player Stephanie Thompson took the first set, lost the second, and came back in the third for the win.

Molly McGuire, Tami Xiong, numbers three and four, took their matches in two sets alongside Mogote and Lindsey Thompson.

The three doubles matches went in similar fashion.

Coach Watts called encouragement from the bleachers.

"Good try, Kari."

"Good shot, Katt, good shot."

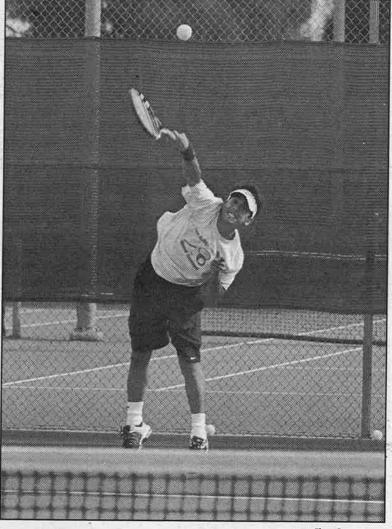
Coach Watts was pleased with

"It's okay, Steph, that was the right shot."

her team's performance out of the "It makes my job easier," she

said. "I get to be a cheerleader instead of a coach." Single matches are best two out

of three sets. Team matches are comprised of nine single matchessix singles and three doubles. If a team wins any five of those



Giovanni Rodriguez serves the ball during practice. The Rams are

matches, they take the team match. At the end of the season, there are team playoffs and individual tour-

"I'm confident we can place some of our players in the individual tournament," said Watts. "I have a solid core, and four new girls."

FCC's number five player Lindsey Thompson stayed even with the state's number two player for three sets last year, and Molly McGuire's only loss in the regular season came as a result of food poi-

Depth is very important, according to Watts. If a team has one great player and that's it, they'll lose all their team matches. Team wins require five wins out of nine.

Watts doesn't trust the preseason rankings. According to her, they are calculated with returners and the previous season's place.

Men's Tennis

Fresno City College's men's tennis team is off to a 5-0 start in their bid for a state title. FCC has taken the CVC title 21 of the past 22 years.

Ranked first in the state, the team has five players in the state's top fifteen. Coach Steve Loop named College of the Desert, who took the state title the last six years, as the main competition for the state title.

"College of the Desert has a bunch of new guys, and they're strong at the top, but they kind of drop off," said Loop. He's confident that College of the Desert is vulnerable this year.

"It's going to be tough, but we got as good a chance as anybody, as long as we stay healthy," said Loop. "The strength of our team is that we're very deep. We can play ten guys and not drop off."

FCC's #1 player, Franz Molina, is ranked #2 in the state, and the team has three doubles teams in the state's top ten.

Februaury 25, 2004

Soma kind of journey



By Susan Morgan Views editor

It's a crisp, chilled Tuesday night at around 9 o'clock as I stand outside the Starline club in the Tower District. Fir Street is wet and glistening. There is an unsettling quiet and anxiousness deep in my gut. The band was here earlier but are now no where to be found.

A few kids walk up and stand at the door discussing the bands they are about to see tonight. They light a smoke and laugh about the last show they were at. I'm cold and a little uneasy.

Another group, much older, gathers in front of me. They look right through me. The door of the club swings open and a couple of guys come out laughing.

They're obviously having a good time. They squeal out and greet their friends still standing in front of me and still looking past me.

"Happy Birthday Eli!" They scream shaking Eli's hand. This is the band. The email I received had informed me that the concert tonight was going to be extra special because it was Eli's birthday. I stand up and go to address the dark haired fellow standing next to Eli.

"Benji?" I ask still feeling a little out of place. "Ah, ya," he says. I introduce myself and his face lights up. We begin chatting it up about the band, the up coming album, and tonight's show.

I'm getting to know Fresno's favorite indie band, the Soma Holidays.

The Soma Holidays have had a long journey with several uncommitted demos, three bass players, and three drummers, but tonight's show is evidence that the music continues to poor out of these three gentlemen regardless of set backs.

The band, comprised of Ben Mcentee, Eli Reyes, and Luke Deniston has a strictly rock n' roll sound that is both brash and melodious. On this special night, the album, "Two Recordings" has yet to be released.

Their three years of song writing and live shows has finally paid off as the band and their fans anticipate the late February release of the first album.

The band mingles with friends that are arriving. Ben makes a point to not refer to the people at his shows as fans, but as friends.

"Fans? I don't know what that is," Ben says.

The Soma Holidays enters the stage to a whirlwind of applause. "I love you Eli!" A lady fan screams from the back of the room.

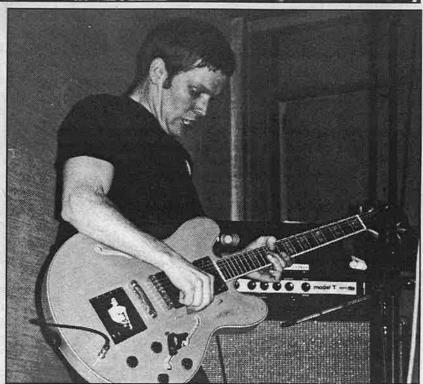
They prove quickly that they have enough energy to carry the show. Ben is a master at guitar affects with five peddles with him tonight.—He adjusts and readjusts frequencies and creates guitar riffs on the spot that send chills through the audience.

Their first two songs are verse less. As the mood permeates the room they quickly surge into their standard "Bedlam Love." The song depicts a morose scene of love gone mad where in a Twilight Zone twist, the one who is scomed by love winds up in a stray jacket in a sanitarium.

One of the less eccentric songs, but definitely one of their best songs is "Lies." The songs vocal expression of pain and agony was not very emo, but more reminiscent of Radio Head.

Instead of a British rock sound, the guitar was far more experimental like The White Stripes. It has a feel of raw aggression and chaos, but still maintains a level of rhyme and reason.

The band doesn't care to do covers so tonight they skip them.



Photos by Susan Morgan

On top, The Soma Holidays from the left, Ben Mcentee, Eli Reyes, and Luke Deniston. Above, Mcentee rocks out while the audience plays off his energy.

"You have to play G, C, and D chords and play a version of 'Louie, Louie' a thousand times because people are going to like it, but I hate that stuff," Ben says to me after the show.

In the band Ben is the singer/songwriter and lead guitarist. Luke is the bassist and Eli is on drums.

Eli Reyes attends Fresno City College as a political science major. He's now 24 years old and has been playing drums since he was four. He used to play for the Fresno band, Milk for the Morning Cake and bass for Julian's Calendar. He splits his time with Montecore who he is also the drummer for.

After the show Eli went missing so Ben and I went outside to talk. This is not Ben's first gig. He was in Ganon 382 in high school. He's been performing and songwriting for years.

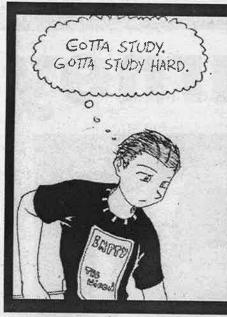
He's also been one of the loudest voices in the formation of a Fresno Music Scene. He played local music on the Fresno State college radio station during his attendance there

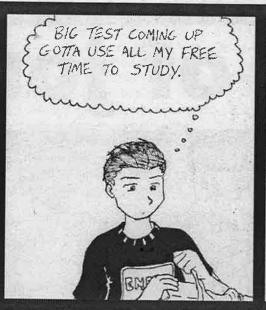
The band is very grounded and doesn't have flashy stars in their eyes.

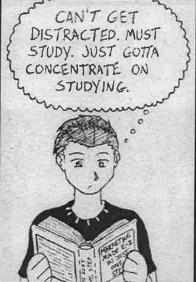
"I would just like to be able to play music as a day job," Eli says.

City Life

by Jesse Garcia









COMMENTS. EMAIL CARTOONIST AT: MAMIMI 666 @ HOTMAIL.COM

Meg Ryan and Omar Epps star in "Against the Ropes."

'Against the Ropes' is no knockout

By Sylvia Flores Rampage reporter

Darkness falls and a shroud of silence befalls a crowd of people as imaginations dance before them.

A glaze covers their eyes as they sit, watching, waiting for the next set of images to jump in front of

An ear catches people, softly whispering to one another.

Will their muttering stop so that others can sit and watch as this movie plays before them.

The movie before them is a fictional one, based on a famous female boxing promoter by the name of Jackie Kallen.

Growing up, Jackie Kallen's (Meg Ryan) life revolved around boxing.

Her uncle was a boxer and her dad was his trainer. She would watch them train and fight in the boxing ring.

assistant to a stadium manager.

Being the person who is always covering her boss and being abused by him, she quits her job when she stumbles upon Luther Shaw (Omar Epps), a street thug, and sees potential in his becoming a boxer.

Kallen takes notice of Shaw when she goes to see him at his home. Unknown to her, her boxer is a drug abuser.

Shaw comes in to collect money from the boxer, and beats him and his friend up.

After some convincing, she gets Shaw to join her and make him a boxing champ. She gets an old

Review

Against the Ropes

Staring: Omar Epps, Meg Ryan, Charles S. Dutton Rated: PG-13 Length: 1 hr 51 minutes Rating: ** 1/2 stars out of 5

friend, Felix (Charles Dutton) to come back into boxing and train her newest find.

Taking a big chance with Shaw, Kallen pours herself into making Shaw fight his way to the top so that he can become a boxing champion. Kallen runs into trouble trying to get Shaw his first fight, but manages to pull through.

Everything seems to be working out all right, until they get into a fight with themselves.

Things start to get bad, but Now she's grown up and is an Kallen finds a way to make everything right with Shaw, and all is well. Cue credits.

> There are some good boxing scenes in this movie, but the storyline was sub-par.

> We have seen movies like this before, where the underdog fights his way to the top and becomes top

It's a cliché movie. Not the greatest movie out, but it's not the worst. No movie of the year award will be given to this picture, but it is worth taking a gander at.

So why not check it out if you want to be entertained for just a

UPCOMING EVENTS

REGGAE REVIEW WEDNESDAY COLLEGE CENTER STUDENT LOUNGE **11AM**

GOSPEL SOUL CAFE' FRIDAY COLLEGE CENTER STUDENT LOUNGE

VENDOR FAIRE MARCH 16-18, 2004 CAMPUS MALL **9AM - 6PM**





Italian sodas

Soups

Salads

Entertainment & service

Monday-Thursday 6:30a.m.-6:00p.m. Friday-Saturday 7:00a.m.-10:00p.m. Live entertainment every Friday & Saturday Night

And the Winners are....

By Josh Butters

Editor in chief

It's that time a year again when your favorite Oscar's last name isn't Mayer and isn't made out of bologna.

The 76th annual Academy Awards are Feb. 29 and have nominees ranging from best film to visual effects.

With anyone, or thing having a possibility of winning, we pick our favorites for each category and are ready to defend those choices to anyone that begs to differ.

Here are some of my picks for the top six categories that interest the masses.

Best Animated Feature Film

The easy pick would be to go with "Finding Nemo," the box-office hit featuring a lost fish and his father's voyage to find him. Everyone loves it, children, adults and old people.

But best animated feature film should go to "The Triplets of Belleville." A step outside conventional animation didn't help its financial success, but will bring the

animators home an Academy Award.

Best Visual Effects

"Lord of the Rings: Return of the King" will make the other nominees in this category walk the plank.

Taking on "Master and Commander: The far side of the World" and "Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl," both pirate movies, "Rings" proves superior with its decapitation of dragons, giant spiders and battle scenes.

There's only so much you can do with ships firing cannons at each another.

Best Actress

If there wasn't any question about who should win for best actress, let there be an answer. Charlize Theron.

Transforming herself into a

hideous "Monster," Theron gives the performance of the year. The only reason she wouldn't win is if her age is taken into consideration.

> Great actors and actresses tend to win later in their careers, most of the time for roles seen as not their best. Denzel Washington winning for "Training Day" instead of "The Hurricane" or "Malcolm X" is proof of that.

Best Actor

Get behind Johnny Depp for his role in "Pirates of the Caribbean." His accent and portrayal of a shwash-buckeling hooligan in Disney's best live action feature film ever is worth the nod.

> From "Edward Scissorhands" to "Sleepy Hollow," Depp has shown his range for acting. It's time for his career to receive some

appreciation in golden statue form.

Best Director

Hands down, Peter Jackson will win for bringing "Lord of the Rings" to life. Spending the last ten years of his life working on it, Jackson's dedication is obvious with the final product.

Though "Return of the King" is the third part of a trilogy, the award will be given to him because of the epic series.

Best Film

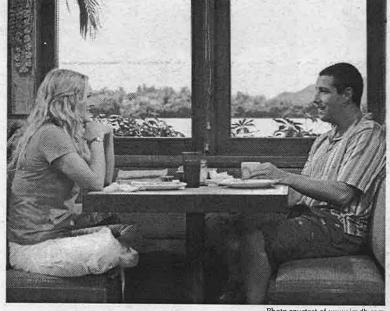
Desy Domento

"Lord of the Rings" will win best film, right? Wrong. The nod for best film should go to "Lost in Translation" starring Bill

The movie goes outside the box of what people have come to expect from films. Conventional is what this movie is not. "Lost in Translation" doesn't even have a plot, but it works.

If it doesn't win best film, it will win for best original screenplay, unless it wins both.

50 reasons to love Sandler's Stories



Adam Sandler and Drew Barrymore reunite in "50 First Dates." Their first movie together since "The Wedding Singer."

nguign

50 First Dates

Rated: PG-13

Length: 97minutes

Starring: Adam Sandler, Drew

Barrymore, Rob Schneider

Rating: ★★★ 1/2 out of 5

By Deborah Anderson

Rampage reporter

What if tomorrow you forgot ev- have lived as though it was the

erything you did and everyone you met, today? What if the only people you remembered were the people you'd known all your life? What would you do? What would your family do? What if you fell in love,

and forgot?

This might sound more like a drama than a comedy, one of those depressing tearjerkers that girls love and guys hate.

Fear not, Drew Barrymore and Adam Sandler handle this story with a kind of wry humor that can only come from them.

Lucy Whitmore's (Barrymore) brain has lost the ability to turn shortterm memories into long-term memories during sleep. As a result, Lucy's father and brother

same day, over and over over again.

> So, what happens when bachelor extraordinaire Henry Roth (Sandler), falls head over heels for a girl who can't re-

member him from one day to the

With the help of his good friend, Ulna (Rob Schneider), Willie the penguin and Jocko the walrus, Henry tries to make Lucy fall in love with him. Over and over and over again, with hilarious results.

Don't let your dislike, or disgust, of Sandler keep you from this movie, it's truly worth seeing.

Mooseport's Maine attraction humorous

By Sylvia Flores

Rampage reporter

The quaint, sleepy town of Mooseport, Maine, becomes a comedic battlefield when two men with nothing in common compete for political office and the woman they love. Gene Hackman, Ray Romano, Maura Tierney, and a great cast of familiar faces turn an amusing premise into a very funny movie.

Two-term American President Monroe "Eagle" Cole (Gene Hackman) moves to the town of Mooseport Maine, ready to retire to a life of writing memoirs and public speaking engagements. The town leaders ask Eagle to capitalize on his popularity by running for public office to fill a recent vacancy. Having never in his life lost an election, the former president is confident he can win the election in Mooseport, the kind of town where it's normal for moose to wander through the streets

When Eagle meets the local veterinarian Sally, played by Maura Tierney ("ER", "News Radio"), he flatters her with attention and they begin to date. Sally's boyfriend, Harold "Handy" Harrison (Ray Romano), has not quite the don juan as of late. Handy owns a small hardware store that takes up most of his time. Sally is unapologetic about dating the former president and leaving her boring ol' boyfriend to his own boring ol' life.

Review

Welcome to Mooseport

Starring: Gene Hackman, Ray Romano, Maura Tierney Rated: PG-13 Length: 1 hr, 51 minutes

Rating: ★★★ out of 5

Handy is unbearably jealous of Eagle and Sally's relationship. In an attempt to put his life back together, Handy decides to throw his hat into the race political election. The former first lady, played by Christine Biranski, who has since divorced Eagle, joins Handy's campaign camp and really shakes things up.

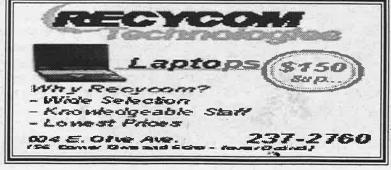
Eagle figures he can't lose to a small town guy like Handy and his "Plumber Power." PR director Bullard (Fred Savage) and political advisor

Grace Sutherland (Maria Gay Harden) help Eagle over-inflate the Mooseport election into a story worth watching.

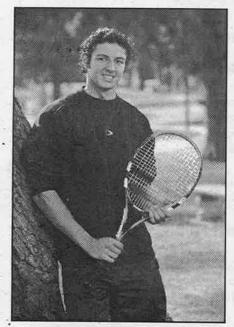
movie than can be judged from it's

previews. People who enjoy politics or small town humor won't be "Mooseport, Maine" is a better disappointed with this film.

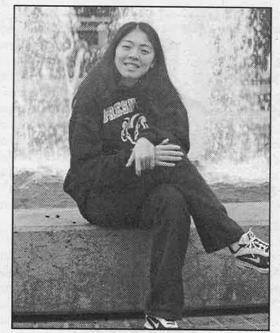




Foreign players doing their best



Franz Nolina



Ninon Salemon



Giovanni Rodriguez

International students bring sports talent to United States

Photos by Bryan Borror Written by Mike Read

Rampage reporter

Because of needs their countries could not provide, these four athletes came to the United States seeking the opportunities that make this country famous.

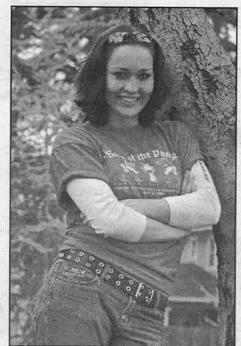
Laura Zaukaite, Franz Nolina, Ninon Salemon, and Giovanni Rodriguez are four international students at Fresno City College in attempt of seizing those opportunities.

"Most people in Europe think money comes really easy here," said basketball player Zaukaite. Having been here for a while, she knows this to be false. "(But) Work your butt off and you'll get every thing you want." Though she does not see herself playing in the pros, Zaukaite hopes to continue her education in the United States.

From Indonesia, Salemon comes from a family of basketball players. "The U.S. has the highest level of basketball," she said. "That's why I'm here." Like many aspiring athletes, she hopes to one day become a coach.

Fresno City College men's tennis team is set to take the championship this year thanks to the international players. Nolina played tennis all his life. Last season he placed first in northern California. Along with tennis, Nolina looks to take advantage of California State University rare wine making program. He will eventually return to Bolivia and take over his father's winery.

"In my country it is impossible to study and play sports together," said tennis player, Rodriguez. "Classes are too long in Chili." Rodriguez is majoring in international business. "The tennis team is very united" he said. Coming from a great host family and having four other international athletes on his team, he said "(Fresno City College) feels like home."



Laura Zaukaite

