

Burned
Students
produce play
"Burn This."

page 5

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Student killed in shooting

Shooting victim Rene' Abbott remembered as outgoing and clever

By Josh Butters

Editor in chief

Friends and family are morning the loss of Fresno City College student Rene Abbott, 18, who was killed April 27 near California State University, Fresno.

About 400 people attended Abbott's funeral May 3, when she was described as outgoing and clever

Abbott was a member of the FCC women's golf team that finished fourth in the state this season and was expected to play next year.

"Rene always made me smile," said teammate Amy Rider. "She always had something special to say. "Road trips will never be the

same without her."

Police told the "Fresno Bee" she was shot about 7:30 p.m. while sitting in her parked car with two other

people. A man walked up to the car,



Rene Abbott

parked in a lot at the rear of an office complex on North Ninth and Shaw and opened fire. Police also

said that witnesses saw a man running from the parking lot where the shooting took place just west of Fresno State.

The man was later described as High where she also was on the golf

an African-American 6 feet tall or taller and is in his 20s.

Abbott later died at University Medical Center.

Abbott's boyfriend, 21-year-old Kurt Wolf was also in the car, and was shot but his injuries were not life-threatening.

The other person in the car, a male, was not injured.

Abbott was in her freshman year at FCC, majoring in marketing. She graduated in 2003 from Clovis West High where she also was on the golf

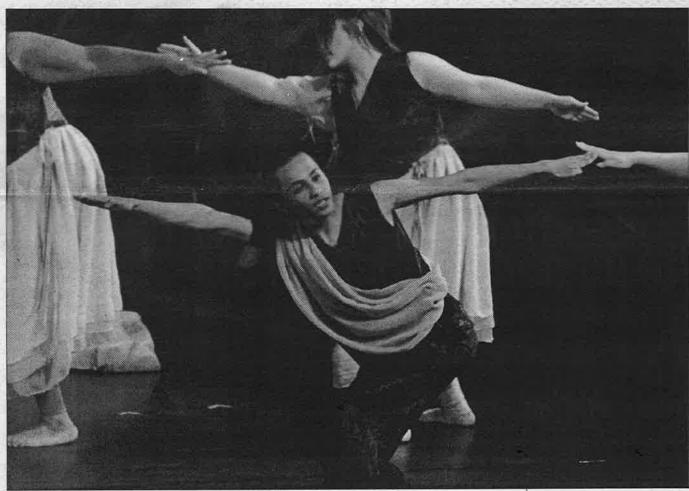
haam

"We're going to miss her," said FCC women's golf coach Rhonda Williams. "Next season will not be the same without her. Our condolences and prayers go out to her entire family.

"We're going to be in morning for a long time."

Anyone with information about the crime is asked to contact detective Mike Garcia at (559) 621-2410 or to call Crime Stoppers at (559) 498-STOP.

One last chance to dance



Photos by Bryan Borror in City Dances

FCC students perform in City Dances which was directed by Janice Jansen. Jansen will retire after 29 years of teaching dance classes at FCC.

remains humble.

"The dance program is very strong thanks to her, the dancers do very well when they leave here," Wheeler said.

Jansen recalled one of her favorite performances was last spring's City Dancer's Tribute.

"The unity of the dancers and their overall performance was definitely memorable," said Jansen.

Since her days of teaching P.E. Jansen has taught theater dance, modern dance, fitness and health, and pretty much everything but tap she said.

Danielle Atkinson has been a student of Jansen for the past three years. This spring is her sixth and final performance at FCC.

"She (Jansen) is truly remarkable. She is dedicated to her work and her students. It is

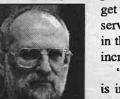
See Dance, page 4

SCCCD faculty look for pay raise

With contracts under dispute, COLA and pay increase are factors

By Josh ButtersEditor in chief

Zwi Reznik, president of the State Center Federation of Teachers, hopes that State Center Community College District faculty will



Zwi Reznik

reserves."

get the respect they deserve from the district in the form of a salary increase.

"We know the state is in a budget crisis," Reznick said, "but the district has maintained and continued to grow

Reznick would like full-time faculty members to receive a raise of 3.5 percent, which would include a raise through the cost of living adjustment formula (COLA), plus a 1 percent increase and another 1 percent in-

crease if growth targets are met.

"The issue for us is that COLA, if it's not provided by the state, we don't get it," Reznik said. "The only additional money the district has to provide is the first 1 percent. The second 1 percent is tied to growth. In order to get that growth money, the 1 percent is a lot

less than they're getting from the state."

The full-time faculty's contract expired in the summer of 2003. In December, both sides of the dispute were in a stalemate. A mediator was called in by the state to no avail.

"One of the ways this works for the district is that the faculty is willing to accept the growth," Reznik said. "The faculty has been willing to take more students into their classes. We have are very much aware of the difficulty the state of California is in. We're in a district that is among the wealthiest in the state."

According to Reznik, full- and part-time faculty members are represented by the same union and part-timers are hoping for an increase too.

The current contract for part-time faculty runs through June 2005.

See Contract, page 4

City Dances director
Janice Jansen will
retire after 29 years at
FCC after one
last performance

By Rebekah Miranda and Mike Read

Rampage staff

In May of 1976 Fresno City College dance instructor Janice Jansen directed her fist dance performance.

"It was free to the public. We had seven weeks to prepare and it ran for two nights. It was so packed people were sitting on the floor in the isles," Jansen said.

After 28 years this is Jansen's last semester at FCC. She began as a cheer coach and only taught a couple classes, basic yoga, social dance and physical education.

Office: (559) 442-8263



Dan Wheeler, chairman of the theater and dance department, has worked with Jansen for ten years and said, "Everyday she is delightful. She is intelligent and creative and will be missed so much."

Wheeler said that despite her years of accomplishments and performances she

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author

of her latest

"Killer

Helping your library friends Index

Local author auctions off name of character in her next book to help FCC library and others

By Rebekah Miranda

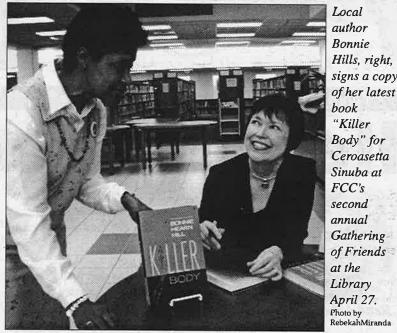
News editor

During the Fresno City College Library's second annual Gathering of Friends, murder mystery author Bonnie Hearn Hill auctioned off a chance to star in her next big thriller that's still in the works and is currently untitled.

Hill said the highest bidder is promised a leading roll and their real-life characteristics will be portrayed as the story unfolds.

All proceeds from the April 27 auction go to the Friends of the Library, an organization designed to help raise funds for cultural and literary events, library materials and scholarships.

Ed Palacios won a recent auction sponsored by Valley Public



Radio KVPR, with a bid of \$500.

Hill said she saw Palacios as a Sinatra-type who dressed well and had class, she wrote him into the story as the suave Eddie P.

Throughout the west wing the

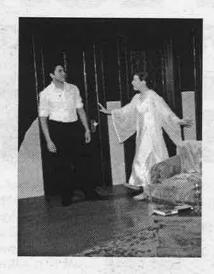
You aren't born a

computer scientist...

event showcased FCC students artwork. The adaptive horticulture class displayed their potted plants and a couple Jazz Band members, Nate Ketner and Jason Jurzak, played to an audience in the corner.

Studentproduced play "Burn this" sparks controversy

- See News, page 5



God talk

 Two Rampage writers debate. whether it should be ok to share one's religion with others on campus

-See Views, page 7

Stressed out

 Rampage Views editor Susan Morgan shows how to get through finals without pulling your hair out

- See Views, page 8

Tennis makes state

nis team faces the SoCal champion for the state title.

- See story, page 9

Last at-bat

· The FCC softball tear (above) wins its last game of the year, ending season o sweet note despite not male ing the playoffs

- See story, page

· Fresno City College men's ten-

On the line

• The FCC baseball team ca earn homefield advantag throughout the postseason

See story, page 1

FRESNO CITY COLLEGE Letters and submissions to

RAMPAGE

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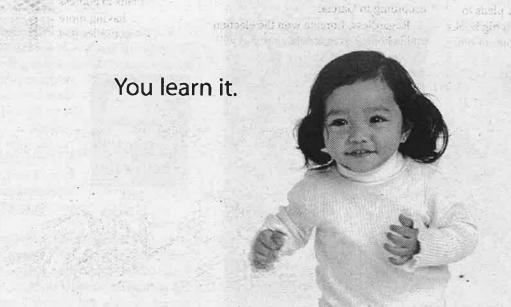
Submit your letters to the editor

. 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 (rampage@scccd.com, by fax to 265 5783 or by mail to the following ac

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FCC elects new ASG delegates

Daniel Lorente President **Political** science major Plans on addressing book prices and student tuition



Daniel Lorentee voted new Associated Student Government President for 2004-05 school year



Edgar Castellon President Pro Temp Political science major Plans on addressing Smoking on campus and the trash it causes



Borneman Legislative V. P. International Relations major Plans to address increasing asg awarness, student

Christian



Shreya Shah **Student Trustee Buisness Accounting** major Plans to address parking and text book prices





Scott Taylor Senator Marketing major Wants to see more activities

Daniel Lorente was elected Fresno City College Associated Student Government's new president April 30.

By Mike Read

Rampage reporter

"When I sat down to look at what I could accomplish for students, I looked for things I could put the most (progress) into," Lorente said.

Even with the good of all students in mind, only 257 of 20,341 students voted, coming to roughly 1.2 percent of the student population. This raises two issues: students don't know, or students don't care.

"I had no idea such a thing even existed," sophomore Holly Gomez said. The campaign and election process spanned three days, and candidates were limited to campaigning in the north/west corner of the campus.

"I hate to say that (students) don,t care, but they just come to class then leave," said Emie Garcia, overseer to the electoral process.

Lorente still plans to use his newfound power in favor of the students.

His plan for lowering textbook cost is to go after the textbook conglomerates.

By focusing primarily on the constant stream of new editions, Lorente plans to work some kind of contract with big books distributors by selling more copies of older

By not releasing these new editions, Lorente said it allows teachers to pick from books they prefer while creating a reservoir of used books for students.

This method of contacting the book distributors is a recent proposal among school governments. According to Lorente, other colleges have signed contracts with these distributors, resulting in the same affect as Lorente's proposal.

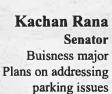
"I wanted to run a legitimate campaign, even if I was unopposed." Lorente said.

Through giving away coffee and bagels, handing out brochures, and talking to people, Lorente continued his method of campaigning when Robert Scott appeared as an opponent halfway through the election.

"I didn't have a class at the time so I decided to run," Scott said. Similar statements, including "Daniel's a book worm, probably smarter than me, but I know every one," and "I'll give you ice cream when it's hot outside," did not prove strong enough to entice the majority of the 257 voters.

A pre-requisite for running is turning in an application and 150 student signatures, according to Article II, section three in the ASG election code. Scott provided neither yet some how made it on the ballot, according to Garcia.

Regardless, Lorente won the election and is hoping to make changes that will change FCC for the better for the benefit of the students, even if only 257 of them







Valerie Weston Senator Mass Comm. major Hopes to save the west lawn from turning into parking and addressing more activities

Rica Sotto Senator Nursing major Plans to address having more activities that include food



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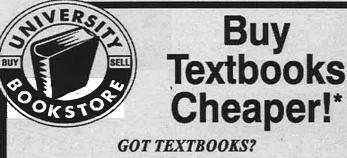
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City
Dances
included the
performances
of dozens
of FCC
students



Dance: Jansen retires after 29 years
continued from page 1 ing convicts explored the showcased the grace, talent

a tremendous loss to the department but I am grateful for all of her contributions," said Atkinson.

Dance 21 presented, "City Dances: Looking Back," a concert of student and faculty choreography. The five-night event depicted everything the dance courses have to offer.

The dances were performed and created by the students themselves. Dances like "Club Michael" simulated a Michael Jackson video from the eighties, and "Displaced Aggression" which mixed dance and escap-

ing convicts explored the creativity of the student dancers as well as entertained the audience.

"What we tried to do is present the students a different way to look at what they already know about dance," said Debra DeRosa-Parola, an adjunct faculty member.

"They already know Hollywood dance, now they get a chance to do something different and artistic with what they know."

Revealing the joy people felt dancing to Michael Jackson, and recalling movies of the 60s showcased the grace, talent and time that each students and faculty member dedicated to the production of the show.

Scenes flowed from one to the other with a brief pause in between. Each time the curtain pulled aside a new setting, a new mood, and a new dance style were preformed.

The production and show rewards its dancers through the experience of choreographing their own scenes and performing their work at the end of each semester in Fresno City's Modern Dance class.

Contract:

Photo by Bryan Borror

Full-time faculty wants 3.5 percent raise

Continued from page 1

"Part of the agreement was that we could re-open certain things," Reznik said. "That includes salary, so we re-opened the salary issue."

With the issue re-opened, debates continue.

"The district has refused to provide any salary increase for our part-timers," Reznik said.

According to Reznik, SCCCD part-time faculty are the lowest paid in the state. It would take a \$10 per hour increase just to meet the state average, he said.

Part-time faculty also receive no health benefits, Reznik said. Part-timers are not required to hold office hours since they don't get paid for holding them.

Reznik would like a fact-finder to be called in to settle the dispute before things could become ugly.

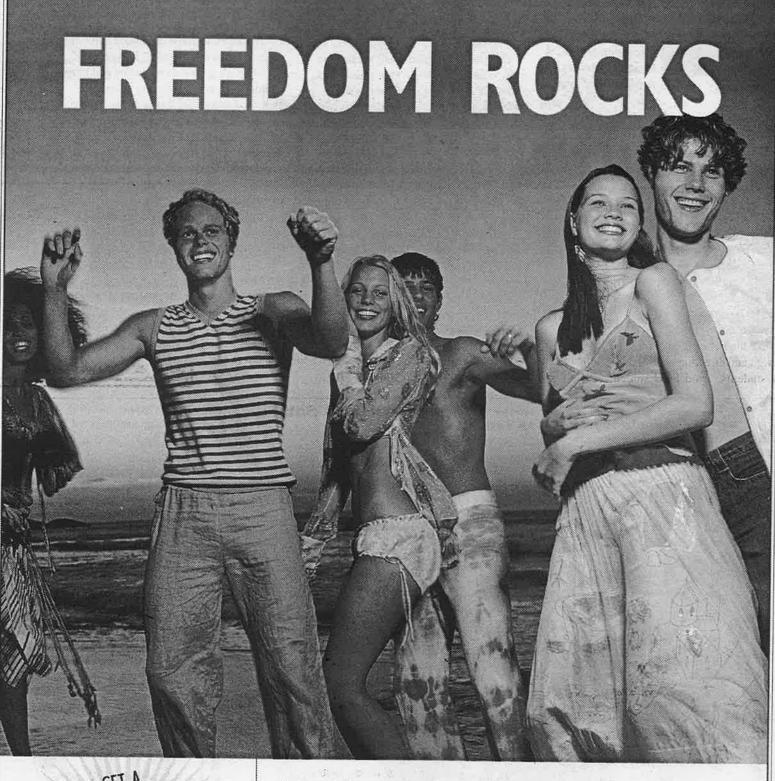
"Once fact-finding is complete, and if the district were not to accept the recommendation of the fact-finder, it's at the point that the faculty decides whether or not to strike," Reznik said. "That is a point we do not want to get to."

Correction

A story in the April 21 issue of the Rampage ("Parttime faculty debates contracts") contained several factual errors.

On three occasions, the report erroneously attributed quotations to Fresno City College psychology instructor Jerry Fleming. Fleming did not comment on the subject of faculty contract negotiations to the Rampage.

Other quotations in the report were insufficiently attributed. Statements from Alisa Messer, Richard Riordan, George Caplan, and Marty Hittelman were taken from The California Part-Timer newsletter, a publication of the Community College Council of the California Federation of Teachers.



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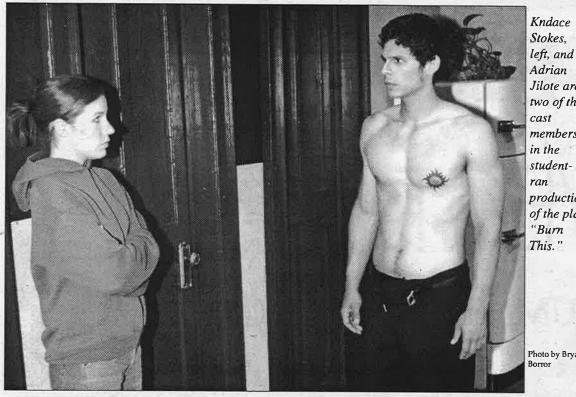
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'Burn' play uses sex to entertain



Jilote are two of the cast members in the studentran production of the play "Burn This.'

Photo by Bryan

By Rebekah Miranda

News editor

In 1987, Lanford Wilson wrote an urban contemporary play called "Burn This". It had all the scandal of today's Sex in the City and funny, edgy, homosexual characters of Will and Grace.

Fresno City College and Delta Psi Omega joined together and did their rendition of "Burn This" April 22-24.

"The entire production, the sound, the lighting, costumes, set design and direction was all done by students," said FCC student

producer Casper.

Casper said that more than a year ago he and two friends were discussing the continuous content of the plays at FCC and the audience they attracted.

He pitched the idea to have a more modern play performed, and produced by students. The theater department agreed, Casper then filed the papers and got to work.

Dana Fouch, a theater major and director of "Burn This", said that the play had a little more spice and flavor to it than the traditional college production.

This is Fouch's last year at FCC and will transfer to UC Santa Cruz for the winter quarter.

David Stone, a lover of local arts, came every night the play ran. Stone said it was a great story of love and tragedy, set in the great city of New York.

"It was sexy and dramatic, not like the school's normal productions," Stone said.

Stone said it was refreshing to see contemporary stories performed and would love to see more in the

Fields of color

Artwork by Vincent L. Mendez Art Hop Night Fresno City Hall 26000 Fresno St. May 6, 2004 5-8pm

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Talk of God at FCC

We shouldn't fear one's faith on campus

The very question of whether or not religion should be allowed on a campus, is an affront to the framers of the constitution.

With the intent of protecting citizens from state-rule, the tuition paid for classes, tax paid on beer, and money taken from each paycheck, should let us rule the state.

We pay for Fresno City College to function. For what rite of theirs prevents a group of Buddhists from gathering under a shady tree, when their predecessors funded the grass they sit on, and the tree they sit under. In the overshadowing theme to slowly segregate the two, I ask the question why?

Fear is one of the few answers. Any form of persecution or hatred is driven by fear. What specifically drives the fear I cannot say, except to ask what is different? What is different for passionate women activists, prideful Asian coalitions, or stoned ultimate frisbee teams to congregate in a state-funded place?

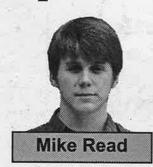
I doubt most religious followers lack the common sense of forcing their beliefs upon an individual. Any that would do so shouldn't be outside. So what drives the desire for extremists to completely eradicate religion from schools?

With the way things are heading anything religious in content will eventually have no part on a campus, and those that wish it to exist will covet religion just as the pilgrims who fled from religious convictions.

There are no Christians, Buddhists or Muslims fighting for schools to be free of religion. Agnostic believers fight for a God-free school in hopes of not succumbing their children or themselves to the oppression of religion.

Yet, at the same time, it would be just as fair for religious groups to fight to put God back into schools.

In the end it doesn't matter which side you're on. The circle only has one side and it is hard to be wrong either way when the battle of right and wrong is based on a



subject that is clearly based on one's own

My opinion is that we return to our roots. We should embrace the constitutional right of freedom of speech and freedom of religion and allow everyone to express who they are and what they believe.

•Mike Read writes for the veiws section of the Rampage

Students shouldn't force their beliefs on others



I am all for evangelism. I understand why people would want to share what they believe to be the secrets to ultimate happiness. There is a point when evangelists become rude and intrusive. I know that most of the students at Fresno City College have experienced exactly what I'm talking about, from people waving signs, to trying to guilt you into penance and baptisms.

In the Bible, Jesus taught that this was the wrong way to go about doing things.

The Pharisees were very controlling of their disciples. They forced their patrons into believing everything they taught including animal sacrifice and gift giving to priests to erase their sin. In the Bible, the Pharisees were used as the example of what not to do. I believe that the best way to evangelize is through your actions. If your religion does make you truly happy, others who are looking for fulfillment will be drawn to you and ask for your advice.

I think that the methods of some are counterproductive, bothering those who aren't looking for spirituality can sometimes lead to bitter hearts and retaliation. A lot of evangelists don't understand how their messages could be spreading anything but good will. They don't seem to grasp that most people are happy with their lives and aren't soul searching.

Some even have strong beliefs in other religions and find it extremely insulting when you tell them that the structure they based their lives upon is a lie. It also angers people when evangelists get in their personal space, shouting repent from their soapboxes. It is condescending and hypocritical to go around telling everybody that they are living their lives wrong and should apologize for ones actions.

I don't think there is a person alive who doesn't feel like shouting "Your not the boss of me!" When some ranting rightwing idiot is trying to guilt them into penance. So for all those itching to spread enlightenment go ahead, but be considerate of others.

More are caught than taught. More people will come to you looking for enlightenment if they see the beautiful ways in which your religion has changed your life rather than you trying to describe the beauty of your truth with words.

•Irisa Keahey is a member of the Rampage staff



Illustration by Jacob Franks

Campus Voices

Compiled by Susan Morgan and Irisa Keahey

Is it OK to express your faith on campus?



Monica Mondragon

"It expresses who they are inside. I don't mind going around seeing what other people believe."



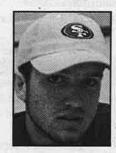
Tommy Gerth

"I think its very proper. It is a good thing that the Lord has his word on people."



Jack Perry

"I feel it's fine as long as they don't push it in your face."



Jason Montgomery

"I'm a Christian so I feel that sharing the word on campus is all right."



Samuel Ebright

"This is a public campus so people should be able to do whatever they want."

End of the semester stress hurts grades

You want to get an A in US History, and to do so you have two weeks to read a 300-page book. So you load up on Starbuck's Coffee and spend long nights breezing through pages.

You skip lunch a few days doing other homework for other classes and vou're all doped up on headache medicine.

We already have incredibly stressing lives. With final grades being posted, your parents putting the pressure on you to perform well, friends, relationships, career choices, class registration, and a degree somewhere off in the future our stress levels are going insane.

Students have a very vague understanding of stress and it's long-term affects. Students don't take enough time to learn what the symptoms are of an upcoming burn out.

The University of Florida Counseling Center has begun assessing the problems of stress related to students. Instead of waiting for stressed out students to come to them, they now promote distressing courses and pamphlets as well as online services for students curious about the

The university explains that stress comes from four different sources. The first is environment. Simple things like noise; pollution, traffic, crowding, and the

weather create anxiety. Then there is the physiological aspect of stress. The examples include illness, injuries, hormonal fluctuations; and inadequate sleep or nutrition.

The third source of stress is your own thoughts. The way you think affects how

you respond to stress. Negative self thought, and perfectionism all contribute to increased stress.

The last category is social stressors. This can include financial problems, work demands, social events, and losing a loved

The university also states several symptoms. If you have any of these signs such as frequent colds, muscle tension, headaches, fatigue, difficulty sleeping, being emotionally irritable, angry, mood



Susan Morgan

You cannot function to

the best of your ability

when you have sleep

and nutrition fatigue.

swings, forgetfulness, and have a difficult time concentrating, then you are maxed out and on your way to getting burned out.

Claremont McKenna College has been participating in a study done by the LA Times called "Increasing student stress: a sign of

> times," written by Steven Wagner. The school found that due to an increase

admission standards,

cheating increased 50 percent. "Certainly, all students everywhere experience some stress," said Diane Haper, professor of psychology at CMC. "Better students put pressure on themselves to continue doing well, while others add

their peers." A nationwide study done by UCLA

stress to their lives by keeping up with

found that first year college students feel more stressed than ever before.

At Princeton, the faculty recently approved a proposal to establish a better grading standard. The university's Website concurs that they will award less than 35 percent of their undergraduates with a letter

You cannot function to the best of your ability when you have sleep and nutrition

To cope with stress James Archer, Ph.D. and counselor at University of Florida gives some ideas for students.

"Try to develop a balanced lifestyle," he said. "That means making sure to get your sleep, food, exercise, and recreation." He also says to gain perspective by

discussing problems. Discussing your problems with a trusting, empathetic friend can allow you to gain a new perspective.

He goes on to further say that relaxation techniques such as meditation, selfhypnosis, and deep muscle relaxation work help to put you in a state of profound calm and relaxation.

Try to remember that finals are just another test and if you stay cool and collected you'll be surprised by how well you will perform.

·Susan Morgan is the Views editor for the Rampage

Bush and Kerry: same person, different parties

ohn Kerry or George Bush? J Here is a news flash, it doesn't matter who you pick. Bush and Kerry are bluebloods, went to Yale, and here is the clincher, they both belong to an elite secret society named the "Brotherhood of Death," which is commonly called the "Skull and Bones."

Simply called "The Order" by members, it is

not your everyday fraternity. Members of the Skull and Bones include former Supreme Court Justices, current public officials, and a number of corporate CEO's.

All members of Skull and Bones take oaths to secure positions of power for one another, and to protect the status quo, which finds all 322 current members in major positions of power. Never mind that Kerry is a Democrat and Bush is a



"Most Skull and Bones

members feel that the

election is a win-win

situation.7

and Bones really cared who wins the election. After interviewing a number of known Skull and Bones members, Robbins told Goodman, "Most Skull and Bones members feel that the election is a win-win situation. As long as a "Bonesmen" is in the Whitehouse, there are going to be many more "Bonesmen" in the administra-

Goodman if the members of Skull

tion." According to CBSNEWS.com, Skull and Bones is the bestconnected white man's club in America; and will remain so well into the 21st century. Skull and

Bones is alive and well, and has been influenc-ing public policy and foreign policy for 150 years. Skull and Bones was started in 1833 at Yale University and is exclusively made up of old money initiates.

The ruling class in the US is

there are 322 Skull and Bones members. According to the 2000 U.S. census there are more than 36 million African-Americans, 32 million Hispanics, and 140 million women in the US, and not

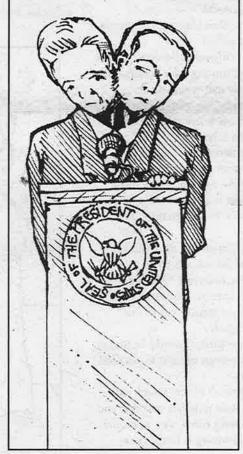


Illustration by Jacob Franks

one person from any of these groups has ever come close to becoming President of the United States.

If Skull and Bones members are not making all the decisions, they are certainly making most of them. Non-Yale bluebloods will control the scraps left over from Skull and Bones.

So. Kerry or Bush? Either way the US will have a walking, talking corporation in the White House, who will only serve the interests of other ruling classclowns.

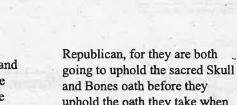
Voting truly has become a joke. You can vote one or the other, but you will be getting the same person. The old tactic of choosing the lesser of two evils is worthless. Sure Kerry and Bush belong to two different parties,

and may take different stances on certain issues, but the secret society that they both belong to is what's important.

Abraham Lincoln said something long ago that is more relevant today than it was in his

"Wise statesmen...established these great self-evident truths, that when in the distant future some men, some faction, some interest, should set up the doctrine that none but rich men, or none but white men, were entitled to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, their posterity should look again at the Declaration of Independence and take courage to renew the battle which their fathers began."

•Justin Eck writes for the views section of the Rampage



uphold the oath they take when sworn into office. Bones members include Bush

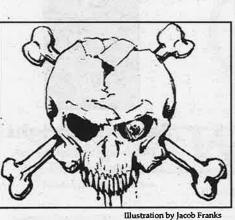
Sr., Senator John Chaffe,

Artemus Gates, (the president of New York Trust Comp., Union Pacific, and Boeing Comp.), Russell W. Davenport, the editor of Fortune Magazine, just to name a few.

Alexandra Robbins, who authored a book about Skull and Bones entitled, Secrets of the Tomb, was asked by acclaimed independent journalist Amy

full of Skull and Bones members, and despite such a small number of initiates, might be the most powerful group of individuals in the world. They have put two US Presidents into office (Bush sr. and Bush Jr.) just in the last 12

To put things in prospective



Sports

May 5, 2004

Win or lose, covering FCC was life experience

F or the last four semesters, I have been able to watch Fresno City College athletics for free. Like a get out of jail free card is to the silver top hat in Monopoly, a press pass is a journalist's best friend.

With each passing event or roll of the dice there's another chance to prove yourself as a writer, or in the hat's case, a chance to pass go and collect \$200.

Not that I won't be back again to watch any of the Rams. Like the majority of students, it's going to take me about three years to get my two-year degree. Sigh.

And in between ditching class and sleeping in, I might catch a football game or two.

For me, the most memorable things about writing sports for a newspaper for me

aren't just what happen at the game, it's the things that happen once the game is over, or before they begin.

Sacramento

For the team's season opener, the FCC football team traveled to Sacramento City College to take on the Panthers. An otherwise mediocre game, the post-game meal with Rampage photographers is what will be remembered.

I went up with my friend Josh who was also a staff member of the newspaper at the time. Two other photographers went up together in another car so they could return to Fresno that night after the game.

Josh and I stayed the night at my Uncle David's house, who lives in Roseville, an equivalent of Clovis to Fresno.



At 11:30 p.m. everything is almost closed down, except for Denny's. After the game, we find the nearest eatery for a grand slam of an affair, just to find out it closes at midnight.

A Denny's closing at midnight?

Aren't they supposed to be open 24

hours a day?

A little confused, we rapidly eat our food and hit the road.

In the mourning, I'm talking to my uncle about how the game went and that the Denny's by the college closed at midnight.

"You went to the Denny's by the college?" he said.

"Yeah."

"That's why," Uncle David said.
"People get murdered at that Denny's.
That's the worst area in town."

Recalling the night at Denny's, we were the only white people there and most likely, had the only car in the parking lot without bullet holes in it.

See Butters, page 10

For the sophomores



FCC freshman Stephanie Aaron is mobed by teammates after scoring the winning run in the bottom of the eighth inning in their season finale agianst College of the Sequoias April 29.

With the playoffs out of reach, the Rams win one for their departing teammates

By Justin Eck

Rampage reporter

An eight-game losing streak ended the Fresno City College softball team's hopes of making the post-season for the first time since 1995.

The Rams were able to end the season on a high note though, after defeating College of the Sequoias 6-5 in extra innings.

With the playoffs out of reach, FCC went into its last game wanting only to win one more time for the team's two sophomores, Jennifer Segura and Katrina Jacques.

By the end of the game, Segura and Jacques both had RBI hits in clutch situations. Down by three runs entering the bottom of the seventh inning, Segura and Jacques did what sophomores are supposed to do: rally the troops. Their RBI singles helped tie the game, sending it into extra innings.

In the bottom of the eighth inning, freshman Stephanie Aaron collided with the COS catcher, knocking the ball out of her hands, and scoring the winning run to end the game.

"I pretty much had to plow into the catcher," Aaron said. "I did it for Kat

and Jen.

Aaron was able to score from third after Marissa Salazar knocked her in with a sacrifice fly to left field.

"I was just trying to hit it hard," Salazar said, who wanted to talk about Jacques rather than her game winning RBI. "When I first came out here I didn't know anybody, and the first person I noticed was Kat. I made really good friends with her."

FCC finished the season with an overall record of 19-19.

The season was full of ups and See Softball, page 11

FCC men's tennis to play for state title

Rams to take on yet to be determined SoCal champion May 14

By Josh Butters

Editor in chief

With one more win, the Fresno City College men's tennis team can finish the season as undefeated state champions.

The Rams (19-0) will take on the Southern California champion, either Ventura or College of the Desert May 7 at Monterey Country Club in Palm Springs.

FCC defeated Foothill 5-0 to win the school's third Northern California championship, sweeping the singles matches.

"It was an easy win," said Rams' Louis Taylor. "We're going to win state."

If FCC wins, to celebrate the occasion of winning the school's first state title, the team is planning to test its fear of heights by skydiving.

"I think we're all scared of heights," said Rams head coach Steve Loop. "If we win, it should be interesting to see who chickens out."

The Rams go into the championship the favorites no matter which of the two teams they play.

Ventura boasts the No. 1 ranked singles player in the state and COD has won the past seven state championships.

COD defeated Ventura earlier this season 5-4, not to mention that the championship will be held on COD's home court.

"No matter who we play, it's going to be tough," Loop said. "It is always nice to beat someone on their home court though."

FCC knows a little about COD. The Rams lost in the state championship match to them in both 2001 and 2002.

Coming back from a hip injury, FCC will benefit from the play of Franz Molina, who was ranked No. 2 in the state in singles in the preseason.

"He's going to add to our depth," Loop said.

And that's how the Rams think they will See Tennis, page 12

Butters: Denny's makes a good postgame snack

Continued from page 9

So when going to Denny's, if it closes at midnight, get out of there as fast as you can.

Taquitos

Every Monday during football season, Rams head coach Tony Caviglia holds a press conference at the local restaurant Bobby Salazar's

Caviglia picks an outstanding player from offense, defense and special teams to go with him and answer question from mostly television media for the nightly news.

The FCC coach almost always buys a food platter to take back for the coaches of chips, burritos, taquitos and guacamole dip.

He usually picks up the platter after the conference at the register and goes on his way. This time, a waitress made the mistake of bringing the food into the conference area.

Placing the plate on the table in front of the players, linebacker Roosevelt Cooks' eyes widened in jubilation.

"You guys can have some if you want," Caviglia told the group of people in the room.

With the plate in front of Cooks and him chowing down on taquitos, he answered a question with "I like to hit people."

Even though it wasn't Cooks' platter, I said no thanks to the offer for free food. It had a feel as if the linebacker owned the Mexican cuisine and you don't take food off someone's plate. Especially if he is nothing but muscle, lead a football team in tackles and has been quoted saying that he likes to hit people.

San Diego

There are perks to writing about a winning team. You don't have to talk to guys who just lost a game and there are more games because of playoffs.

Last year's men's basketball team went 38-2 and made it to the

state championships held at the University of San Diego's Jenny Craig Pavilion.

After deciding another photgrapher, Keith, and I would go down and watch the games, problems began.

On the day of the quarterfinal round, the day we wanted to travel down, the mighty steed of a car that would take us down there wouldn't start. We became marooned in Fresno for another two days.

Thankfully, FCC won its first game and moved on to the semis. We go down the night between games in the rain and as we enter San Diego, a loud clunk comes from the front of the car.

With everything still working, we make it to the place we would sleep.

In the mourning, the car wouldn't start once again and it seemed that we might miss the semis even though we had made it all the way across the state.

After push starting the car, we make it to about two miles away from the arena.

We have to push start it once again and it stops in the middle of an intersection.

After a third push start, we make it to the school's campus and the car dies as we roll into the parking lot.

We push the car down a hill and are able to roll it into a stall.

Keith looks under the hood and finds the problem, a snapped alternator belt that looked like a shoestring that was chewed up by a dog.

After the FCC game, Keith fixes the car in the parking lot and we push start it again to get back to where we were staying.

In the mourning on the way to the championship game, the car needs a jumpstart and we make it back to the arena for the last game of the season.

FCC loses to Los Angeles City College 90-82.

The perks to covering a winning team are over.

I still don't remember what was more memorable about that weekend. The fact that it was one of the best games I've ever seen or that we might have been stuck in the parking lot forever.

Foot assault

During a press conference for the Producers Dairy Bowl held at Ratcliffe Stadium last season, a member of the television media assaulted me.

Dan Taylor, sports broadcaster of ABC 30, talked passed me and stepped on my foot.

Saying nothing, he continued to walk past me.

He didn't say he was sorry. There was no apology.

In my disgust, I decided to start a boycott of his newscast, and it worked. Their ratings have gone down.

The sole problem?

The only viewer they lost was this one.

Column writing

The best part of writing is having your work read by people. Especially in opinion writing where you can express a point of view, even if you don't even agree with what you're writing with.

In my final column of the 2002-03 school year, I predicted all FCC teams still alive in the state championship race would lose, and they did.

Before the beginning of the softball postseason, I had attended a Fresno Falcons hockey game and sat in the front row right beside the penalty box.

After the second period, the team has a promotion known at chuck-a-puck, where you buy a puck before hand, throw it onto the ice during the intermission and try to be the closest to a bullseye at mid ice.

As pucks begin to pour onto the ice, one zips quickly past my ear, narrowly missing my head. I thought nothing of it, just some kid with a weak arm.

After the game in the parking lot an FCC softball player yells at me, saying "nice article in the paper."

In response, all I could think was "prove me wrong," which they didn't.

On my way home, I begin to think if the parking lot and chucka-puck incidents could have been related.

If they were, I had no proof.

The softball team lost in the regional playoffs, going two-andout in a double elimination tournament.

If they lost because of that one player that might have chucked the puck, she must have missed her cutoff man, like she missed the back of my head.

Baseball championships

Despite the FCC baseball team losing in the first round of the playoffs, I still found myself going to the state championships held at John Euless ballpark.

I watched four teams that I couldn't have cared less about play three days full of games.

The eventual winner, Cypress

had killed FCC 18-1 earlier in the season.

Helping out with press releases, I went to fax statistics off to daily newspapers in the baseball office.

As I opened the door, the room was pitch black with the only sound coming from the air conditioner.

Lying around the room in various locations were members of the FCC baseball team asleep in the middle of the day.

With a championship game right outside the door, the players decided sleeping was a higher priority than seeing what it took to win the state title.

Knowing what it takes, obviously wasn't on their agenda

Name Tags

After watching the FCC football team destroy Diablo Valley College in Pleasant Hills 59-9, it was time for another trip to a local Denny's.

Me and the other Josh once again go in and have breakfast at 11:30 at night—this Denny's didn' close at midnight, so we knew we were ok.

We sat and ate and made a trip to the restroom on our way out.

Josh finds a Denny's nametag resting on top of the urinal and decides to keep it.

For the rest of the night on the drive home, he wears it, referring to himself as "Obed," the name of the nametag.

He still wears it once in

awhile. Hopefully on one of our Denny's stops, he will be able to get us an employee discount.

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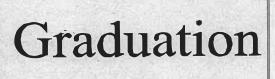
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004

Taking on the state of California

FCC badminton player Yuko Nakahara faces life in a new country and opponents in the postseason

By Justin Eck

Rampage reporter

Fresno City College is thou sands of miles away from Okayama City, Japan, but Yuko Nakahara, a freshman badminton standout has embraced her new home.

The women's badminton team has just five players, but Nakahara stands out not because she is an international student, but because she simply does everything her coaches and teammates ask her to.

'She's been a joy to have on the team," said coach Carol Kadingo. "Whatever we ask her to do she does. If we told Yuko to climb the bleachers ten times she would do it." Nakahara, 20, has the talent and work ethic to move her way up the to the second

seed for next season.

"She has definitely improved over the course of the season," Kadingo said. "With conditioning in the fall and a little more experience, I expect Yuko to be one of the best players next year."

Nakahara likes Fresno, but misses her family. She has one brother and one sister, both living in Okayama.

This is her first year ever playing badminton, and she became interested in it after talking to a counselor. She hopes to transfer to Fresno State because she is majoring in Agriculture. Fresno has treated her well, Nakahara said.

"The people here are very friendly," she said. When she wants to get away, Nakahara goes to Yosemite. "It is so

beautiful and amazing," she said.

In her spare time she likes to read Stephen King novels that are translated to Japanese, and occasionally can be seen munching on pizza with her friends. On the court, Nakahara prefers playing singles rather than doubles.

"I haven't played with my partner long enough," she said.

Currently the women's badminton team is 2-4 on the season, but has four singles players and two doubles teams poised to qualify for the state tournament. To do so, FCC must win its first round matches at the conference tournament at Skyline College.

The Coast Conference Championships will be held May 8.



Nakahara hits a birdie over the net during badminton practice

Softball: Rams miss playoffs with overall record of 19-19



Stephanie Aaron runs past the College of the Sequoias catcher to score the game-winning run in the bottom of the eigth inning.

Continued from page 9

downs, but Segura and Jacques wouldn't change one thing about

"I'm just proud to know that these girls have heart," Jacques said in tears. "I can't believe it's over. I don't want it to be. But it's been a pleasure playing on this team."

An emotional Segura offered similar sentiments.

"Even though we didn't make the playoffs, I wouldn't trade this team for anything." "I'll be here next season to watch them."

When FCC went into the bottom of the 7th, Segura had a feeling the Rams would go into extra innings.

"When I got into the dugout, I just told everyone I wanted to go into extra innings," she said. "I wanted us to go out with a win."

Catcher Jena Albertson believes Jacques could play at the next level, and was inspired by both Segura and Jacques's leadership.

"Kat and Jen are truly team players," she said. "Kat was always very positive, and kept this team together. She gives it her all and never givers up. Jen is the same way, and always helped us relax, and helped us play our best."

The Rams will have a potential of nine returning players next sea-

"I'm really excited about next year," Aaron said. "I think we will have a real strong team." No doubt they have the potential, but most of the players were too busy reflecting on the end of the season.

"I'm just really sad right now," said pitcher Jennifer Spradling. "Jen and Kat are leaving and without them we would have fallen

After Aaron scored the final run of the season, a dog pile grew as players jumped on top.

Through the whooping and cheers of the players, Segura's voice could be heard as she shouted and jumped around. She wore the same determined look on her face as she had all season, and as her look of intensity faded, her smile

Jacques finished the season the same way she started as well. Her jersey was covered with dirt from all the headfirst slides, and sported bright green grass stains from diving in the outfield, trying to make the hustle play.

Of Note

Spradling was named the Central Valley Conference's pitcher of the year despite the Rams finishing in fifth place in the CVC.



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Rams lose second straight

Showdown with Modesto gives winner one game lead in CVC title race with one game left in the regular season

By David Witte

Rampage reporter

Victory eluded the Fresno City College baseball team for the last week, with road losses at West Hills and Porterville, dropping the team's record to 28-6.

"We lost two games in the span of a month," said coach Ron Scott. "That's still good. We unraveled a little bit in a few key moments. Some of the luck that carried us went their way."

FCC saw its usual offensive outburst against the Pirates, as Leonard Davis went 2 for 4 with 2 RBI. Chad Rothford went 2 for 3 with a double and 5 RBI, and Jacque Lamoure and Kasey Perry combined for 5 runs.

There was also an uncharacteristic collapse on the part of the defense. Pirates Jay Osbourne and Juan Verdejo combined for three doubles on their way to the 12-11 victory.

That left FCC tied with Modesto Junior College for the lead in the Central Valley Conference. The Rams and Modesto spent the entire season jockeying back and forth for the CVC lead.

The two teams took each other on May 4 for the lead in the CVC

"We've lost two games over the past month. That's still pretty good."

—Fresno City College baseball coach Ron Scott about the Rams losing their last two games after winning 12 in a row.

with two games left in the season (results not available at press time).

"A win tomorrow for the championship would be a step in the right direction," Scott said Monday. "It should be a great baseball game. We're going with Jason Sadoian at third. He's earned it, he's a good hitter."

With Andy Underwood (9-0) pitching, the team is confident.

"We got our best guy going tomorrow," Scott said.

FCC travels to Reedley May 6 for the final game of the season

Then, it's on to the playoffs.
With a win over Modesto, the

Rams will most likely gain home field advantage for the regional playoffs. With Fresno hosting the state championship, FCC could possibly have homefield advantage throughout the postseason.

"State championships are really hard to win, and we have as good a chance as anybody," Scott said.

But one factor in the upcoming games will be the weather. With temperatures reaching into the high 90's this early in May, the possibilities for the postseason are tough to think about.

"We'll just try to stay cool," Scott said.

Alumni Spotlight



Rafer Alston

Sport: Basketball
Position: Guard
Last played for FCC in: 1999
Currently: Guard for the NBA's Miami Heat

Ram Stat: Alston is averaging 6.8 points per game off the bench for the Heat in their first round postseason series with the New Orleans Hornets that will be decided with a Game 7.

Tennis: beat Foothill 5-0 to advance to finals

Continued from page 9 win the title.

"They [COD and Ventura] are both really good teams," the FCC coach said. "They're both top heavy, with really good Nos. 1-3 guys and drop off after that.

"That's where we think we'll win the title."

Also

All of the four players that qualified for the state championships out of Northern California are from FCC, including Sam Gibbs, Louis Taylor, Daniel Ndela and Erik Grotemeyer.

Of the four doubles teams that qualified for the state championships out of Northern California, three are from FCC. Rams doubles teams that qualified are the pairings of Gibbs/ Taylor, Groteymeyer/ Ndela and Geoff Mora/ Alex Shwenkenberg.

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