



FCC campus relatively safe

by Tawana Morgan
Rampage Reporter

There have been no reports of murder, rape, robbery, arson, or manslaughter on the FCC campus since Fall 2003, as reported by the State Center Community College District police department.

By comparison, 26 people have been murdered in Fresno this year, as of Sept. 15.

The majority of crimes committed on campus are auto

thefts (32 for the entire 2004 year). However, one aggravated assault, four liquor violations, and one drug abuse violation were noted in the report for the spring 2004 and the fall of 2003.

According to Jerry Dyer, chief of the Fresno Police Department, there is an overall reduction in both violent crime and property crime, and the City of Fresno crime index for 2004 is at a 33-year low.

But there has been an in-

crease in homicides and gang-related activity as reported by the media.

A man was shot Oct. 27 at Club Fred, one block from FCC. The victim, a black male, was transported to University Medical Center, where he was pronounced dead.

The next day, a man was slain at Birney Elementary School.

At FCC, there were reports of an unidentified male asking women if he could take

pictures of their feet and of them smoking, saying it sexually stimulated him. Campus police escorted him off campus and no arrest was made.

Many crimes occur on and off campus because they are crimes of opportunity. There are things students can do to protect themselves.

Educate yourself about the location of the emergency phones located on campus, keep

see Crime, Page 3

FCC hosts Dutch faculty

by Matthew T. Mendez
Rampage Reporter

Fresno City College recently played host to two instructors from the Netherlands in one half of a two-part deal between community colleges in Holland and the U.S. It is an attempt to enhance the understanding each culture has for the other.

The two instructors, Peter Ban Den Heijkant and Carla Reimes, visited classrooms while classes were in session at FCC from Oct. 15-Oct. 29.

The latter half of the deal will begin on May 14, 2006, when Fresno City College sends two of its instructors, Barbara Sausen and Becky Skaton to the Netherlands. They will return to the U.S. on May 28.

The Faculty Exchange Program is a completely separate entity than any of the various student foreign exchange programs. Although the students reap the benefits of the faculty program by receiving a more thorough and diverse education, the program itself is aimed at guiding instructors.

The objective of the program is to allow the participating instructors to share strategies resulting in the most effective methods of teaching their respective students. Each visiting professional is to pay very close attention to the problems that the host school is forced to overcome, what plans are made to dispatch such problems, and how the school goes about implementing those plans.

The manner in which the host school handled or mishandled any range of problems are brought back home along with the visiting instructors.

Heijkant, a mathematics professor, spent time in Sausen's office when there were no relevant classes to overlook. He described his greatest experience at FCC as having the chance to look into the different programs other than math that City College has to offer its students, as well as how congenially the students he came across acted.

"Students here are quiet and very well behaved," he said while explaining the differences he saw between those at FCC and those in Holland, "there's even students playing guitars without any problems."

A reception for the instructors from the Netherlands was held

Sustained...

FCC's debate team competes with top universities

by Clare Godinho
Rampage Reporter

The Fresno City College debate team has a secret.

For the first time in the history of FCC, Ralph Boyajian and Robert Yamamoto won first place in a varsity open policy debate, which was held in Santa Rosa a couple of weeks ago. Naser Nekumanesha and Daniel Morales won third place in the varsity division as well.

They won over teams like Pepperdine, San Francisco State, UC Davis.

"We were the only community college varsity open division team that was there," said Eric Fletcher, director of forensics at FCC.

Fletcher was also a participant of debate here at FCC from 1990-1992, when they won national awards. He has been here as either a student, instructor, or debate coach ever since.

"Fresno City College has a rich tradition of debate that a lot of people don't know about," said Dan Scott, the full-time assistant director of forensics at FCC.

His career is highlighted with past accomplishments that include participation on the debate team at FCC, before moving onto Cal Poly. After that, he was debate coach as a graduate assistant at Fresno State, and was the director of forensics at Sanger High for three years.

Among the tradition at FCC debate are two former students who have gone on to start award-winning debate programs at both UC Berkeley and UC Davis.

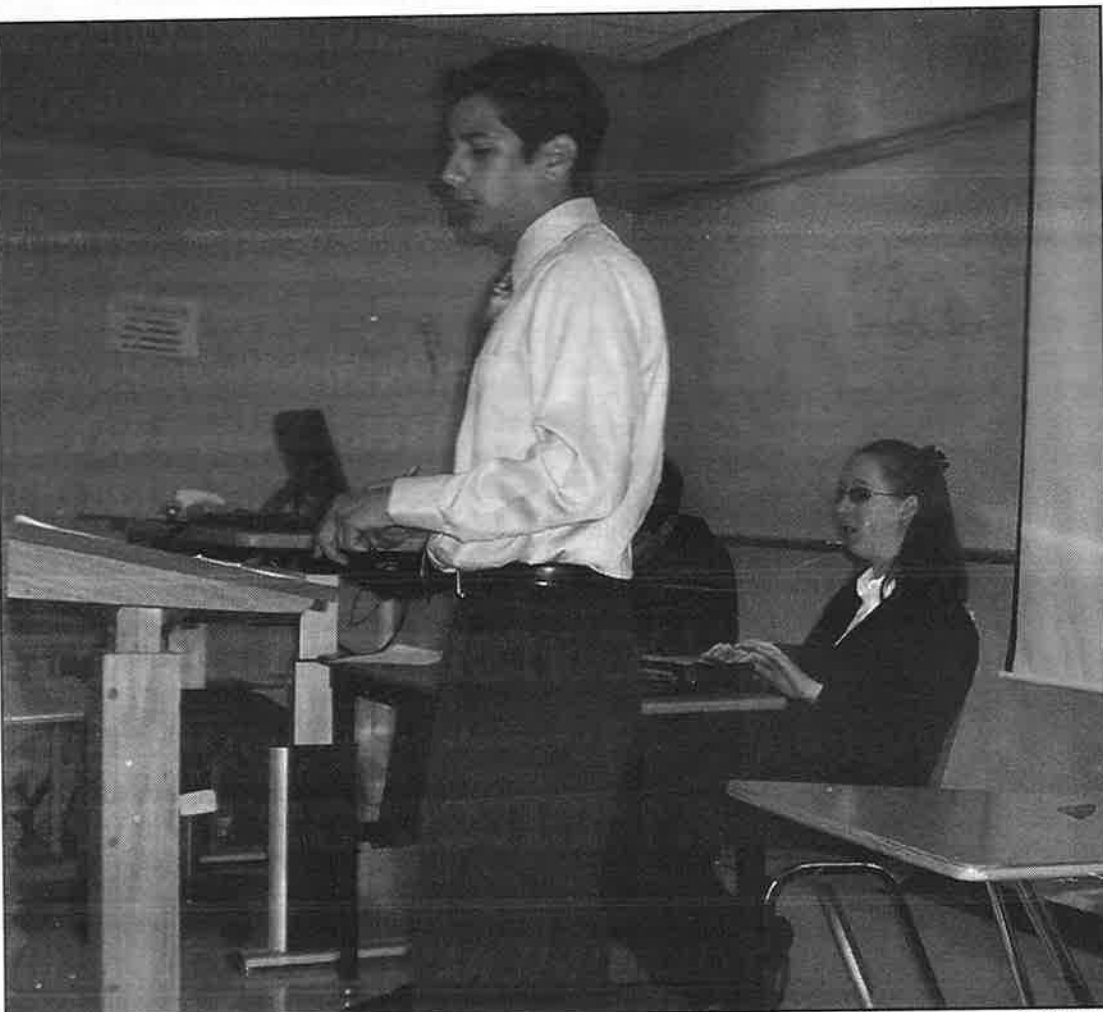


Photo contributed by Sal Gallegos

Daniel Morales nails a point during a debate at Santa Rosa Junior College Oct. 7-9. FCC outdebated such universities as Pepperdine, UC-Davis, and San Francisco State University.

What's unique about the debate team at FCC, unlike most other competitive organizations, is that anyone can participate.

"We don't make cuts," said Fletcher, "I've always had the philosophy that anybody can be competitive, anybody can debate. The only time we have to turn someone away is for money or van space."

Although the team has appreciated financial support from the administration, they

are still operating at a third of what other programs have, that are less competitive.

"It's difficult to utilize funds for out-of-state-tournaments," Fletcher said. "A significant portion of our season depends on our national invitationals and national championship tournaments, where about 95% of those are out of state."

At times, some students who wanted to participate in debate tournaments have had to

stay home due to lack of van space.

"Every big program in the nation, the more the funding, a lot of times, the more successful the program will be," Scott said. "Along with resources, funding is going to be the biggest need on a regular basis."

The FCC program has gotten so big that at a tournament next weekend, only a cer-

see Debate, Page 3

Letters to the editor

Rampage promotes defeatism

As a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom, I feel compelled to respond to the constant drumbeat of defeatism heard here in the U.S., most recently in the pages of the Rampage.

The charges levied against the war are many but I wish to take issue with only a few that I feel are either baseless or pernicious. The first would be the assertion that somehow Iraqis are worse off under their own elected government and Coalition military protection than under Saddam and his Ba'athist thugs. Incidents such as the recent spate of car bombings are cited as proof of how the Coalition invasion has "destabilized" Iraq and made life worse for the average Iraqi.

Do you suppose any of these critics have ever actually visited Iraq? I have. I've seen a Shia woman embrace a Marine and thank him in broken English for ridding her neighborhood of the fedayeen who had threatened the men in the area that they would execute their children unless they helped fight the Americans. I've seen a busload of Kuwaiti and Iraqi parents, spouses, and children picking their way through plastic bags full of bones trying vainly to determine which was their relative murdered by the Ba'athists and dumped in a mass grave outside the city of As-Samawa. Do you think any of those people are consoled by the morally relativistic and utterly repugnant argument that their loved ones were "better off" than those killed after the war? The Iraq people are now fighting for the soul of their country, and have a stark choice before them: fight for democracy or turn to a fractious "insurgency" with no plan for the future aside from a) a return to failed autocracy under Ba'athism and the minority Sunnis or b) a theocratic, fascistic hellhole led by fanatical zealots. We Americans should look back on our own history and realize that good and noble things are worthy of sacrifice; the Iraqi people know this too and so are dying now to salvage a future for their children where they won't have to lose a loved one to torture and murder by agents of a vicious, self-serving government.

The second argument against the war that I find fallacious is that our troops are being made to suffer an undue burden, and that we need to bring the home now; this allows one to occupy the seemingly paradoxical position of "supporting the troops" and opposing the war. This stance is utterly ridiculous.

No one wishes to be placed in the position of saying that the losses in this war aren't that great. Many supporters of the war have quoted statistics from WWII or Vietnam to show that our losses in this war are comparatively small; while I agree with them, I believe that this can be misinterpreted to be evidence of cal-

lousness toward the dead. I believe every American (or Iraqi, or British, or Dutch, etc) soldier, airman, sailor, and Marine killed in this war is a tragic loss to our country.

Someone's husband, sister, mother, or friend is lost. Families and communities are rent by the loss of these individuals. During my time in Iraq, I served with a young Marine named Lance Thompson. He was recently married, took my jokes about his Indian accent well, never shirked his duties, and believed in what we were doing in Iraq despite what we all saw as occasional ineptitude in the upper echelons. On November 15 of last year he was killed, along with two other Marines, by a car bomber in Ramadi.

Corporal Thompson did not die for a cause that was worthless. He rightly returned to Iraq because it was his duty as a volunteer in the military to do so, and he believed in the justness of the war. Thompson, like nearly all of us over there, felt that we had gone through an experience that none of our former peers could understand. We despised all of those who criticized the war and mindlessly parroted the senseless qualifying platitude "but we support the troops." If anyone feels opposed to this war on moral grounds, then by all means speak out against it; hundreds of thousands of Americans for over the past two hundred years have spilt their blood to guarantee that right to you. I would caution anyone exercising their right to free speech, however, to refrain from insulting the cause for which Americans have died, and the pledging support for their surviving friends within their hearts. The hypocrisy of ridiculing their sacrifice while simultaneously professing "support" might prove too much to bear.

Ladies and gentlemen, I extend this final thought to you for consideration: think very carefully when you next hear someone talk about the Iraq "quagmire" or how we are wrongly fighting "insurgents." There are many veterans of Iraq all around you, from all branches of the service. Not all share my opinions; I'd be surprised if they did. I still ask you to seek them out. Listen to their stories instead of the tripe being fed you from the media, and understand that for some of us Iraq isn't a far distant place on the TV or computer monitor. It's a place where we made many friends, and lost others that we will forever remember and mourn. Do us the courtesy of thinking about that the next time you open your mouth or put pen to paper and start to throw out criticism of the war in such a scattershot manner.

Dustin Turner

Former Corporal in 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, USMC

Lower the drinking age? No.

Lower The Drinking Age?

Personally, I like the young man who wrote the article about lowering the drinking age. He is intelligent, warm, and personable. As far as his drinking habits I do believe he is not of the norm, but to lower the drinking age is not only irresponsible but deadly.

I am a 48-year-old recovering addict. That's right, and I have done many things concerning alcohol in my life that were irresponsible and deadly. I grew up in New York City in the '60s and '70s. The drinking age was 18. The things my friends and I did were reckless and crazy with no regard for anyone else. It is correct to say that not all 18-year-olds or 20-year-olds would act in a non-responsible way, but does that not hold true of people of any age? Some people are just irresponsible regardless of age, myself included.

The kids I grew up with were irresponsible idiots when it came to drinking.

When you are young you believe you are invincible. I know I was young once.

So who does set the cap on the age limit for drinking? What age do we stop at? If we lower the drinking age to 18, then why not 16 or 17? A 16-year-old might argue that he is a gifted student and attends college, therefore he should be entitled to drink as well.

According to Mothers Against Drunk Driving (M.A.D.D.), 42,000 people were killed in 2004 in alcohol-related accidents; 18% of those were caused by 17-21-year-olds. That does not include deaths from bar fights, domestic violence, college hazings, and bingeing. For example, Mr. Gregory Ramirez, an English instructor here on campus, relayed to me that an acquaintance of his died in college died on his 21st birthday. Why? Because he did 21 for 21, that is 21 shots in a row for your 21st birthday.

Ask yourself how many of you are in some way touched by alcohol. Friends getting drunk and passing out, not using condoms during sex, getting stopped by the police and put in jail. You probably do not have to think too hard.

We are a culture of fix me now, fill up the void.

Maybe our country imposes its

drinking age for reasons other than "extortion". Politics definitely has a hand in what laws get passed or vetoed in congress, but special interest groups do their homework. A law does not just get passed because the politicians say so, our congressmen have to listen to a majority of the people and support laws based on what the people want.

M.A.D.D. and other special interest groups proved that drinking and driving is always unsafe, because you don't get caught does not mean you are not putting yourself and everyone else at risk. For every time a drunk driver gets caught, there are 10 times he does not.

Personally my son was killed in a drunk driving accident when he was 5 years old. The young man who killed him was 20. He was coming from a Saturday victory party after winning a baseball game. He had a blood alcohol level of .07. The legal limit was .08, so he was under the legal limit.

This average young man went to jail, and out on bond he committed suicide because he could not live with his guilt. All the sadness, the victims, the pain and the sorrow, for what?

It is not so much that drinking is wrong, many people can imbibe responsibly, not all people who drink are alcoholics, and not all young people who do drink are irresponsible idiots. With drinking and using in this country already being an epidemic, why enact a law that allows more freedom to an already out of control obsession. If you are a responsible person you will not get into any moving vehicle and operate it under any circumstance no matter what your age. There may be only four countries other than the U.S. that impose age limits on drinking, but according to the World Associated Press in other middle eastern countries they chop off your feet or kill your wife if you get caught once driving under the influence. I will take what we have here in this good ole U.S. of A. Be patient, be wise, trust me, 21 is just around the corner, I know I have already turned a few.

Remember, this is the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Eva Mee
FCC student



RAMPAGE

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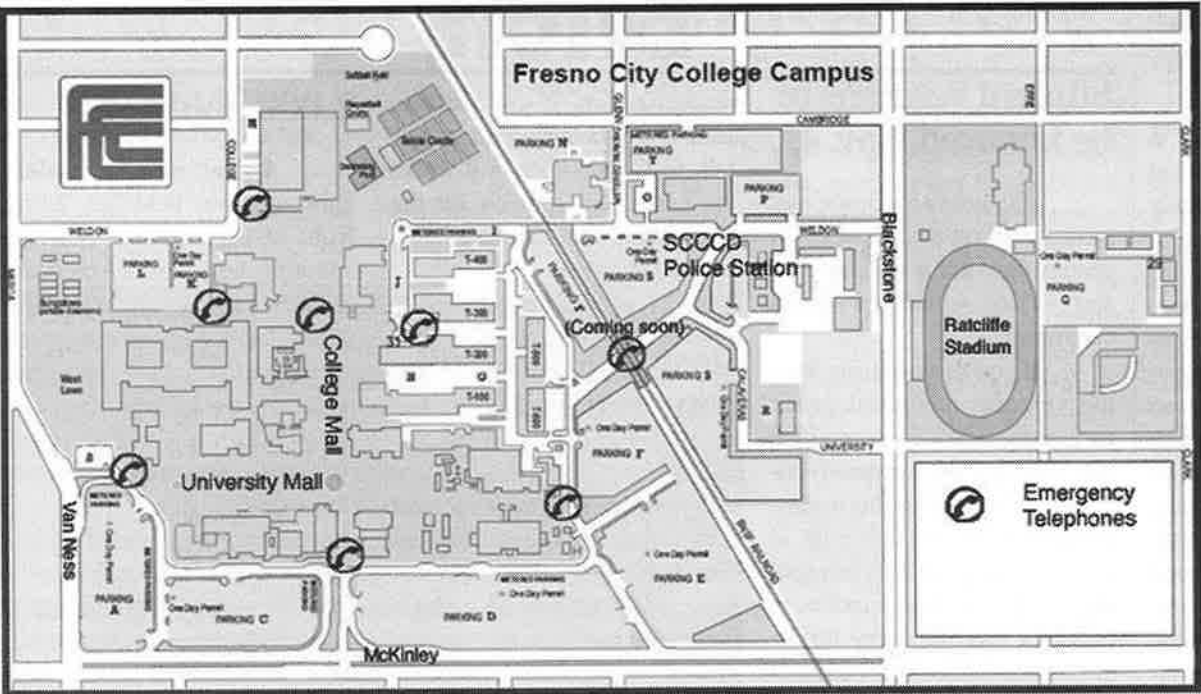
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This map details the locations of all emergency telephones on the Fresno City College campus. The phone under the new underpass is not up and running yet, but will be soon.

Debate: team not just a bunch of possibly dorky people

continued from Page 1

tain amount of students can go, based on the fact that they only have two drivers to drive vans.

“A lot of times, people think of the debate team and they think of a bunch of possibly dorky people hovering around playing Dungeons and Dragons,” Scott said. “But debate is actually a very hip activity. You have athletes, cheerleaders, and the full run of people. There’s no one type of person who does debate. That’s why debate is so fun and interesting.”

Fletcher said he would like to see students in the hundreds get the debate experience, and have a program not just based on competition, but on experience as well.

“We really hope to see an increase in enrollment in the Speech 26 class, because there are a lot of differ-

ent kinds opportunities for students,” Fletcher said.

This class can be taken for one, two, or three units, based on your involvement. It doesn’t matter what obligations you have, if you want to debate, they’ll work with schedules.

“It’s nice to talk about our competitive successes, but at the same time, this is an experience that provides so many different kinds of skills and has utility in any kind of future,” Fletcher said. “You’re always going to be in the position where you have to engage in the public and self atmosphere for job interviews, or presentations in front of some committee. This experience really prepares you for those kinds of situations.”

The Rams debate team faces off next at North Ridge on the weekend of Nov. 4.

Crime: course details survival techniques

the campus police department’s phone number on speed dial, use the FCC police escorts, particularly when going to parking lots (They can be reached at the same number), and educate yourself by picking up the public safety brochure which details additional advice.

The brochure is available in the Student Lounge.

Upon request from small groups or classes, a course will be provided that emphasizes survival and awareness techniques at no charge.

The crime statistics comparison report for Fresno reported an overall reduction in vio-

lent crimes, although the homicide rate increased by 44 percent, and the robbery rate increased by 6.1 percent.

The number of rapes was reduced by 22.1 percent, and aggravated assaults were reduced by 19.5 percent. Burglaries went down 14.7 percent, but motor vehicles thefts increased three percent, and arsons increased 18.2 percent.

Parents and students can now review the summary of national crime statistics for colleges and universities online. It is presented in four parts: arrests, criminal offenses, hate crimes, and disciplines. The website is www.ed.gov/admins/lead/safety/campus.

If you would like specific dates about crime statistics in Fresno, go to www.fresno.gov/fpd/policing_areas.asp.

FCC Debate Team Accomplishments

- WINNER five-time national championships
- WINNER of the year-long sweepstakes championships for community colleges twice in 1996 and 1997.
- WINNER of the national championship tournament, as community college champions four times: 1996, ‘97, ‘99, and 2000.
- PLACED 22nd nationwide in 1996, 17th in 1997 and 8th in 1999.
- WINNER of the cross-examination debate association/national debate tournament champions in 2000.
- WINNER of the national debate tournament champions in 2001.
- 2nd PLACE in the national debate tournament 2001
- 3rd PLACE in cross examination-debate association 2001.

Schedule of events

November			
1-24	Promising Art Majors to Watch	Art Space Gallery	
1-2	9 a.m.-12 p.m. FCC Fall Choral Festival	Theatre	
2	10 a.m.-2 p.m. Club Rush	Main Fountain area	
3	5-8 p.m. Art Show Reception	Art Hop	
4	10 a.m.-2 p.m. Chess tournament	Student Lounge	
10	12 p.m. Veteran’s Memorial Celebration	Free Speech Area	
11	Veteran’s Day Holiday – no classes, offices are open		
11-12, 7:30 p.m.			
13	2 p.m. FCC Opera – Musical Theatre Workshop	Theatre	

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FCC program devoted to helping children

by Matthew T. Mendez
Rampage Reporter

The Early Intervention Assistant Certificate program is a relatively new program being offered to Fresno City College students that focuses on early childhood special education.

Students attempting to obtain the certificate will spend ample amounts of time with disabled children up to the age of three. Current students have been working alongside children with various disabilities, including prenatal birth defects, prenatal drug intake, and known chromosome abnormalities (down syndrome).

The certificate is achieved after the student has completed 29 units of the designated requisite courses, as well as after earning an A.A degree in Child Development.

For the current fall semester, there are 35 students striving to secure the certificate, whereas last semester, only two students completed the required amount of units to obtain their respective degrees. Both students were immediately hired by the agencies they worked with while enrolled in school.

The journey of self improvement toward gaining a certificate for the Early Intervention Assistant program includes primary courses, supporting courses and labs.

Like most programs offered at Fresno City College, the Early Intervention Assistant Certificate program was designed to be procured by participating students in two years, or four semesters.

The suggested sequence of courses for students who are contemplating entering a career that requires such skills are separated by the first and second year estimated for completion.

In the first year, the six suggested classes begin with Child Development (CHDEV 39). The remaining first-year courses suggested by instructors include Infant toddler Development and Care

(CHDEV 7), Diversity issues in Early Care and Education (CHDEV 15), and Child Family Community (CHDEV 30).

The suggested courses for year two are a bit more demanding, but they really prepare students for aiding disabled children. Introduction to early Intervention (CHDEV 16) and Children with Special Needs (CHDEV 11), just two of the four available courses, focus on actual strategies and methods for working in early childhood special needs situations.

The program is headed by Kristine Colbert, a City College instructor whose devotion to amending the lives of disabled toddlers exceeds any and all expectations; her desire to help each of her students achieve their educational goals is a close second.

"One thing that students must know," she says, "is the high potential for getting hired. Students with this degree become first priority because of their expertise in working with disabled children."

Activities which students are expected to partake in range from assessing the various types of disabilities to shadowing their supervisor at their designated agency. Students are also expected to support the family relationships of the children they aid, creating community partnerships between agencies, and developing their own intervention strategies.

In 2002, Fresno City College became the 27th school in California to offer the program; the number of schools in the state that offer the program has since escalated to 42.

The Early Intervention Assistant Certificate program is funded by California's Early Start program, a branch of the state's Department of Developmental Services. Early Start's goal is to ultimately make the certificate available at every college in the country, so students interested in the program can transfer without worrying about changing career paths.

Student veterans to be honored Nov. 4

The veteran's peace memorial committee (V.P.M.C.) is gearing up to honor veterans new and old Nov. 4, during a special ceremony.

If you're wondering what the veterans memorial peace committee is, it's the committee that's putting this ceremony together. It's not a club, but a committee that you can help with. If you're looking out with this special ceremony, the committee is currently meeting every Friday at 10 a.m., in the library conference room, until the ceremony takes place. If you're just looking to attend the event, the ceremony take place Nov. 4 at noon near the veteran's peace memorial in the free speech area.

The ceremony will honor veterans and will also give special tribute to students who fought in Afghanistan and Iraq. If you're a student or know a student who is a veteran of these operations, then contact Mary Alfieris at 442-8224, so you can receive your rightly earned

recognition. If you want to learn more about this special day, talk to George Pisching who's the acting chairperson for the committee. You can also catch him at the event.

Coyotes, FCC host flag football tournament

Ratcliffe Stadium will host a flag football tournament Nov. 6, put on by the Central Valley Coyotes (Fresno's Arenafootball2 team) and the United Way of Fresno County.

100% of the proceeds will go to the Coyotes Katrina Relief fund.

"It's a good thing trying to raise money for the hurricane relief fund," said Fred Biletnikoff, Jr., head coach of the Coyotes. Biletnikoff is also the offensive coordinator for the Fresno City College football team. "The Coyotes are really grateful to be working with FCC."

The entry fee for each eight-person team is \$200, and the event will start at 10 a.m.

2,000 soldiers

A small, intimate candlelight vigil was held Oct. 27 in front of Fresno City College honoring the deaths of American soldiers. Many of the attendees stated that it was a nonpolitical event and that they supported the American troops in Iraq.

The vigil was one of many that occurred in Fresno that night.

Since January of 2004, Americans have lost 565 soldiers. 74 of these soldiers were killed in October—an average of three a day. An additional 15,220 have been wounded, and 7,000 are unable to return to combat. According to Senator Edward Kennedy in a statement released from his office Oct. 25, taxpayers are spending over \$195 million each day for the cost of fighting the war in Iraq.

One day in Iraq could cover the full cost of attendance for one year at a public college for more than 17,100 students, 79,000 needy college students with a Pell grant and enroll more than 27,000 children in Head Start.



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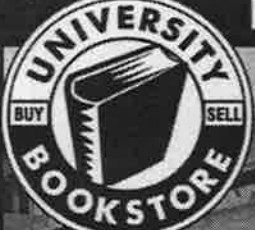
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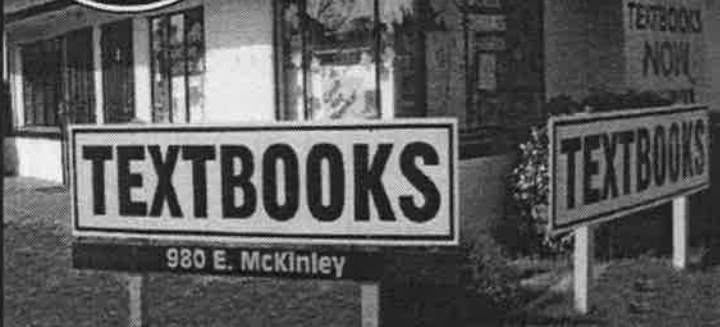
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Safe Halloween at Ratcliffe

by Jacob Wiens
Rampage Reporter

The Fall Carnival scared its way into Ratcliffe Stadium on Oct. 31 with six-

teen booths set up for children of all ages to play games, win prizes and trick-or-treat. The annual event is held to create a safe environment for families to enjoy the

Halloween festivities. Each of the 16 booths were run by a club or organization on campus, such as the Pan-African Student Union, the Student Paralegal Club, the Speech 20 Volunteer Club and Alpha O Mega. Janice Wong, a Fresno City College student, helped coordinate the event through FCC's College of Activities Office.

"The idea that [the carnival] is club-powered, driven by volunteers is nice to see," Wong said.

Last year, over 1,000 people came out to take part in the festivities. Strong word-of-mouth by club participants and advertising in the local elementary schools help draw the large crowds to the stadium. Fliers were sent out in the community, passed out on doorsteps in the neighboring residential areas, and a huge banner was hung on Blackstone Avenue to help advertise the event.

The City Singers at FCC also took part in the event by selling hot dogs and soft drinks to raise money for their upcoming tour of Italy in May. Stephen Garza, a City Singers member, said the turnout for the event is always good.

"Lots of kids show up because of the safe environment," said Garza. Security officers from FCC were working hard to keep everything under control and help keep the area well lit.

Kids get the opportunity to play games, such as the Milk Bottle Throw, Spin-to-win, Spooky Ping Pong, and Darts. Face painting was also available with a live DJ entertaining the crowd.

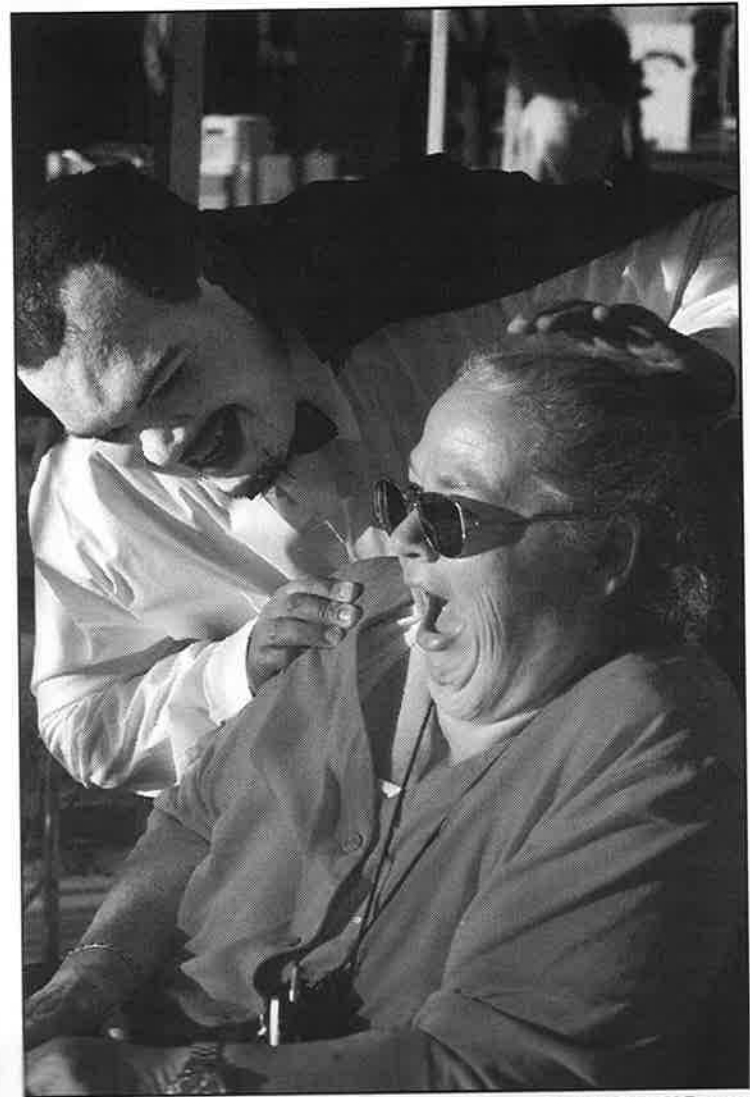


Photo by Robin Vallentyne
Raymond Reyes(left) pretends to bite Pat Adams at FCC's Fall Carnival on Halloween. 16 FCC clubs took part in the event.

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Exchange: Philosophy department planning similar program

continued from Page 1

on Oct. 18 in the Art Gallery, where Heijkant and Reims presented Felix Acquino with a sculpture they named "Bridging the Gap," a title that symbolizes the integration of not only both schools, but both countries as well.

The idea to exchange faculty members was not initiated by Fresno City College, but rather by the two instructors from the Netherlands, both of whom had noth-

ing but pleasant feedback for Fresno City College.

Tina Stovall of FCC's Faculty Exchange Program said the goal is for each participating institution to help each other produce a better education for all students.

"The main thing is to encourage faculty to go abroad and find out what's happening and try to make education better," she said.

In the distant future, FCC's Philosophy department will be involved in a similar program.

Sign language instructor has impact on students

by Leah Edwards
Rampage Contributor

Throughout our years in college we meet various instructors who make a prominent impact on our lives; Nancy Carroll an American Sign Language Instructor at Fresno City College is one of those special individuals.

Nancy Carroll was born deaf, but she never knew she was different until she was sent away to Mystic, a school for the deaf in Connecticut. It was a difficult time in her life, she said, because she didn't understand why. But as an adult she understands.

Carroll said her parents wanted more for her. They saw the importance of an education. They knew there are many deaf children who are never taught sign language and forced to struggle in a world that is often intolerant. Carroll stated that Sign Language should be mandated as a language for all Deaf children so they can use it as a tool to learn English or other languages.

Despite the trials of her childhood and teen years, Ms. Carroll continued her education and went on to graduate college, receiving her AA and her BA degrees. She took this even further by receiving a Masters Degree in Organizational Behavior from the California School of Professional Psychology before it became

Alliant University here in Fresno. She proved that she had an inner thirst for knowledge that surpassed any obstacles that might have stood in her way.

"The worst form of discrimination is deafness of mind," Carroll said. She quoted a passage from Victor Hugo written in 1845, "What matters deafness of the ear, when the mind hears. The one true deafness, the incurable deafness, is that of the mind."

She said it is a shame that many people have not changed their attitude in regards to the deaf community.

Ms. Carroll began her teaching career at Fresno State University, and has fourteen years of nonprofit management experience. She is active in the California Association for the Deaf as well as teaching and wrote the poem below for the Conference held in May of 2005.

Carroll's goal is to help deaf students overcome barriers and to teach hearing students understanding and comprehension. She teaches more than sign language; she teaches tolerance, awareness, and communication.

Deafhood
by Nancy Carroll

in a world ruled by sounds
where spoken words are often found
unable to reach thirsty minds
and frustration quickly abounds
Deafhood, a variant of sisterhood
a celebration of brotherhood
where observant eyes take command
through lit-up faces and flying hands
nourished minds rapidly expand
as we taste the freedom of our land
Deafhood, so misunderstood
by minds that function like WOOD
all the knocking and rocking
appear to do little good
Ahh these wary language battles
the nerves that constantly rattle
the continual fight for basic rights
they keep falling upon closed ears
that can hear and should
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Rams deliver a beating

Fresno City College has a tough time with San Joaquin Delta early, but puts them away in second half

By David Witte
Sports Reporter

When San Joaquin Delta's Jeff Combie ran a 6-yard touchdown on a quarterback keeper, memories of the last two years began to stir.

Delta has defeated Fresno City College two years running, so FCC got to work preventing a third straight loss.

At the end of the night, FCC stood on top of a 40-17 victory.

"I feel good that we were able to play an almost complete game," FCC head coach Tony Caviglia said. "We haven't played our best football game yet."

The Rams (6-2, 2-1) took their first possession to the 24-yard line before the Mustangs (1-7, 0-3) made them settle for a field goal. On the ensuing kickoff, Delta's Michael Williams fumbled, and FCC's Ivy Jones jumped on the ball.

"Coach gave me a chance to shine," Jones said. "I think I did good out there."

FCC's offense was unable to get the touchdown on the next two drives, and

settled for two more field goals.

With Delta trailing 9-7, Combie was able to break free again, this time for a 23-yard touchdown run. FCC retook the lead less than two minutes later with a 13-yard touchdown pass from Jeff Schott to Zeb White.

With three minutes left in the half, FCC's David Veikune caught a fumble in the air, the second of three turnovers for the Rams. FCC drove again, ending with another touchdown pass to Zeb White.

The Mustangs ended the half with a field goal, making the halftime score 23-17 FCC.

Fresno owned the second half, starting with Kevin Trippel kicking his fourth field goal of the game, tying a school record set in 1989.

Soon after, tailback Travon Jones found the end zone from three yards out, followed by a Schott touchdown pass to tight end Kenan Williams.

Travon Jones, Jose Rojas, and Wesley Coleman,

who hasn't had much playing time, each had eight carries. Jones ran for 77 yards, Rojas for 57, and Coleman 48.

Early in the fourth quarter, Combie left the game with an injury, and Abel Werner replaced him.

With a first down on the FCC 2-yard line, the Mustangs were unable to get in the end zone in four tries, and turned the ball over on downs.

The two Delta quarterbacks were held to 195 yards on 18-of-33 passing.

Under six minutes were remaining in the game as the Mustangs threatened one last time. Ivy Jones made had other ideas as he made another defensive play and picked off Werner's pass in the end zone to seal the game for the Rams.

FCC goes on

See Football page 9

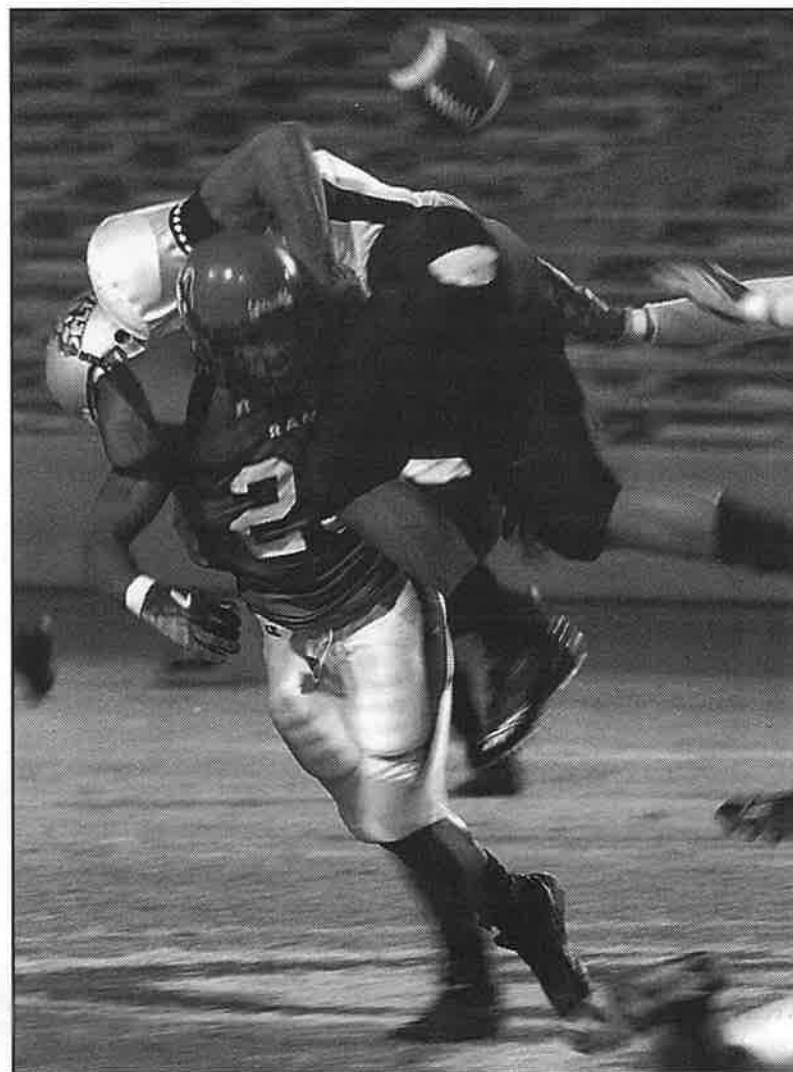


Photo by Jennifer Schmidt

Laying the smackdown: FCC cornerback Chris Grayson (center) catches Delta's Lionell Scott (top) by surprise as Scott attempts to cut his way through the Rams defense. David Veikune recovered the loose ball for the Rams.

Rams volleyball prepares for battle

Volleyball team remains on their hot streak as rematch with CVC power Taft approaches

By Matthew T. Mendez
Rampage Reporter

The Fresno City College Rams volleyball team overcame the Merced Blue Devils three games to one in an incredibly competitive match on Friday, Oct. 28 in the City College gymnasium.

The Blue Devils proved to be a tough opponent, as the Rams had to play as one solid unit in order to defeat them.

The effort was always present.

With the lead 16-13 in the second game, Fresno City DS Katie Bonesteel heaved herself to the floor while going after an obviously out of play ball, which head coach Sheri Ostrand-Hess noticeably appreciated.

Following what seemed to be an evenly played stretch, the Rams pulled out to a 25-18 lead, and after sophomore OP Katie Franz brought the score to 27-20, the Blue Devils were forced to call a timeout.

The most emulous period of the entire match began when Merced's freshman Libero Kelli Cole dove to the ground to send back an FCC kill.

As the ball was ferociously being returned her way, Cole quickly got back up to her feet and nearly punched the ball out of the gym, but it stayed in play, resulting in a point for the Blue Devils.

The game would remain competitive, and the Blue Devils looked as if they

were on their way to tying the score when FCC's sophomore setter Kaira Kachadurian pulled the Rams out of a jam during a feverishly played stretch. Sophomore MB Megan Roehl ended the game impressively at 30-25.

The Blue Devils jumped out to a 3-0 lead in the third game, but the Rams never seemed phased. Even as Merced built a 7-1 lead, the looks on the faces of the players for FCC were all smiles.

The Rams pulled to within three points when the score was 9-6, but the Devils would again extend their lead to 13-7.

For a few points, the Rams survived off freshman OH Jaimie Rose Walberg, who is quite effective at plac-

ing the ball where no one on the opposing team is expecting, as Merced's lead slowly began to dissipate.

FCC tied the score 21-21, and took the lead for the first time at 23-22. It looked as if the Devils were seeing their best chance at winning a game slip away when the score reached 25-22 in favor of Fresno City. But the Blue Devils would pull together and retake the lead 26-25.

After falling behind again 28-27, Merced ended the third set with a three-point run to make the final tally 30-28 in the best game of the night.

The fourth and final set started off just as competitive as the one that preceded it, but after the score was tied at seven,

FCC began to pull

away from their opponent. The Devils took a time out as the score reached 15-9 in FCC's favor, but the Rams could already smell victory.

Katie Franz made a smart play as soon as play resumed, and the Rams quickly pulled out to a 21-11 lead. Merced fought nobly to pull within eight points at 24-16, but the final set ended with a 30-17 score.

The Rams haven't lost a match since their difficult outing against Taft College on Oct. 5 at FCC. Fresno City gets another shot at the defending CVC champs on Nov. 4 on Taft's home court at 7 p.m.

Fresno City defeated College of the Sequoias and West Hills College prior to their match against Merced to make their record 13-5 overall, and 9-1 in league play.

Rams closing in on conference title

Rams team is on pace to break last year's record of most wins during a season.

By Quinn Robinson
Sports Editor

Coach Oliver Germond and his team continue their quest for a Central Valley Conference title as the Fresno City College Rams defeated the West Hills Eagles 7-0 on Oct. 27.

"We played well the last two games," said West Hills coach Rodney Ragsdale. "We came out flat and when they score within the first couple of minutes it's tough to come back from and they did what they needed to do to win and my hat's off to them."

The Rams scored early and often against a West Hills team that has played tough in the recent weeks despite what their 1-14-2 overall record might show.

The scoring started with Vanessa Cortez as she gathered a loose ball close to the Golden Eagle's net and kicked it past goalkeeper Rikki Calidron to put the Rams on top 1-0.

A few minutes later and a couple of connections between FCC's Tiffani Moore and Amy Kampf gave the Rams a 3-0 lead as FCC appeared to be rolling on all cylinders from there.

The Rams headed into the second half up 5-0 and kept their attack on as they added

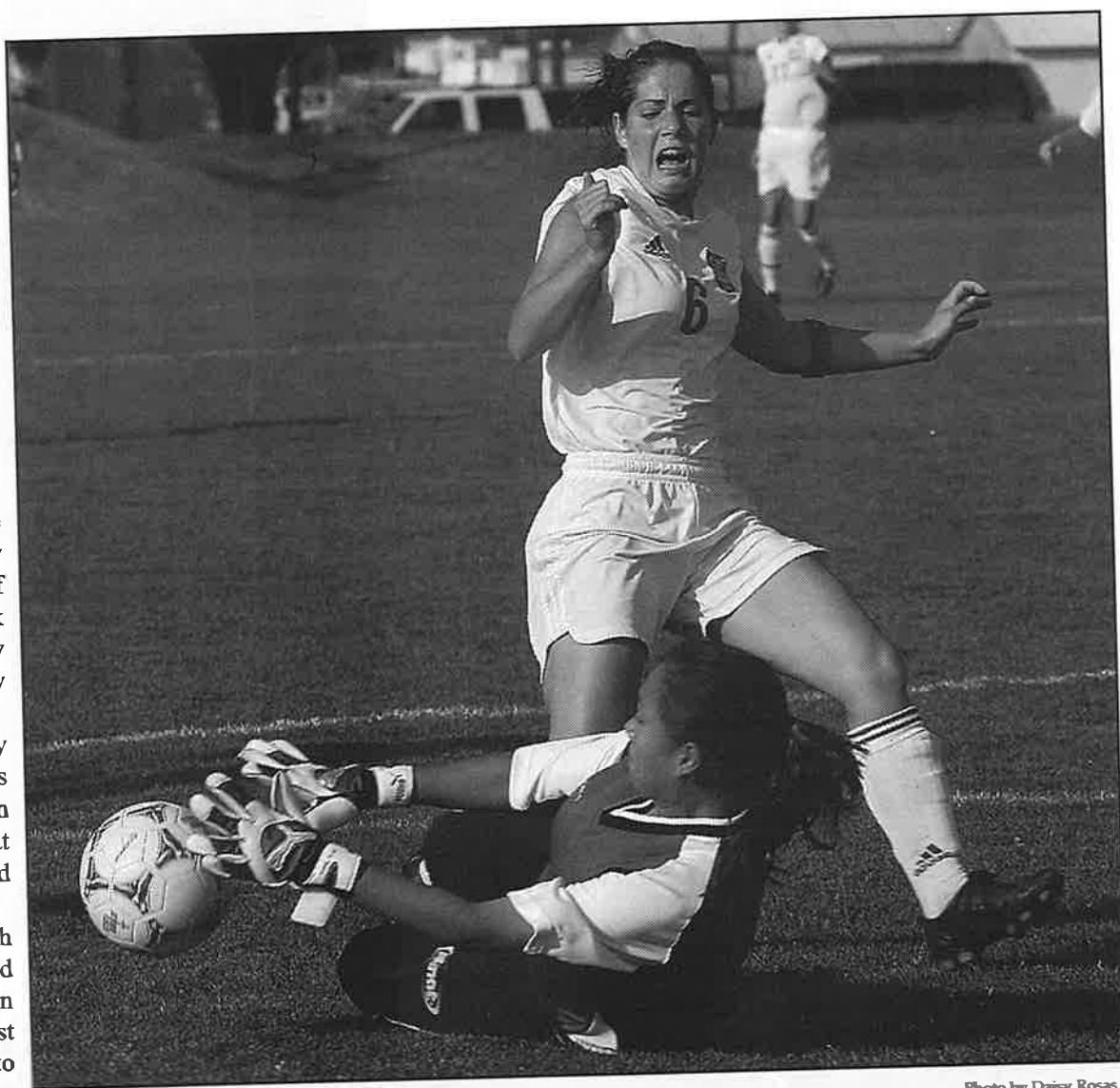


Photo by Daisy Rosas

Rebecca Devlin (6) closes in on Modesto's goalkeeper Adriana Ambriz in hopes to catch a rebound after a shot on goal. Ambriz made many saves like this one to halt the offensive threat of FCC..

two more goals, which closed out the 7-0 win for FCC.

"As a coach you're always worried that you're going to take a team for granted," said Rams head coach Oliver

Germond. "They lost 4-2 to Modesto the other day and that was a concern for us. I didn't want to take them too lightly."

Amy Kampf led all Rams with two goals and three

assists while Tiffani Moore added another two goals and Heather Mathos, Morgan Davis and Vanessa Cortes rounded out the scoring for the Rams.

"Obviously you want your forwards to do well and get good chances," said Germond. "We try not to single out any individuals. I think overall as a team we did well. We moved the ball well and for someone like Amy, it's her job to get good finishes."

Just like Tiffani [Moore] Alyssa [Porter] and Sam [Gonzales], it's their job to get the opportunities to finish, but our whole team played well today especially in the first half."

FCC (16-0-3) now prepares for their second of a three game series against Modesto Junior College on Nov. 1.

The Rams took the first game in a 1-0 victory at Modesto on Oct. 18 when a goal by Amy Kampf slipped past Modesto's Adriana Ambriz with 15 seconds left in the contest. to give Modesto their first defeat of the season.

If the Rams come out victorious on Nov. 1, they'll have a two game lead on Modesto for the Central Valley Conference title with three games left to play.

FCC is also closing in on another accomplishment for the season. One more win ties the record set by the '04 squad for most wins in a season and two sets a new record.

Manuvering their way to the top

Rams wrestling team is continuing to prove why they are one of the top teams in the state.

By Joseph Rios
Rampage Reporter

Brandon Lichtinger of Sierra College sat at the number-one seat in the 157-pound weight class. He was undefeated.

Keyword: was

FCC's K.B. Wender dethroned the former No. 1 ranked wrestler at the North Dual on Oct. 22.

"It was a key match," said Fresno City Coach Jared Smith.

Fresno City beat Sierra College 24-18 to take the home the win from Santa Rosa. Wender dropped weight from the 165-pound weight class to wrestle in the 157 weight class and earn the top

spot in the state.

The best from the North went head-to-head with the best of the South last weekend at the JC North-South All-Stars Wrestling Dual at Fresno State.

Fresno's Sabi Singh (125), Mike Righi (133), Sinai Pizzat (149), Paul Lujano (184), and William Griffin (197), were chosen by coaches from all over the state to compete in the dual.

In the rankings released two days before the match, Singh sat in the No. 2 slot under Jose Hernandez for Santa Ana.

Singh patiently defeated Hernandez 7-3 after riding Hernandez most of the match, taking Hernandez's counter game away from him.

Number one in the

state, Cory Hamabat of Mt. Sac defeated No.4 Righi by pinfall. Michael O'Hare also from Santa Ana faced-off with Pizzat in a one-two battle in which the No.1 seated O'Hare took the narrow victory 6-4.

In the 184's No. 4 ranked Shawn Riggs from Moorpark pinned FCC's Paul Lujano.

Griffin, who has only one blemish on his record, won by forfeit. Griffin's only loss came due to a disqualifying illegal slam early on in the season. Twelve of his wins have been by pinfall.

He is on pace to take the 197 title at the state tournament this season in Fresno.

On November 19, FCC travels to Fullerton to face Santa Ana. The Rams need to bring their "A" game to Ful-

lerton if they want to takedown Santa Ana.

The Dons are loaded from top to bottom.

"What's scary about Santa Ana is that they're strong in ways that we're strong too," said Smith.

Singh and Hernandez will go head-to-head again one more time before they undoubtedly meet in the State tourney.

"We've made a lot of adjustments to wrestle Hernandez for Sabi," said Smith. "They worked really well in the All-Star dual. We told him to pound, pound, and pound at his head. He was able to go up big on the kid and ended winning the match that way."

Pizzat will get a second shot at O'Hare. He won't be

wrestling again until the two meet Nov 19.

Pizzat will be focusing solely on their upcoming match with O'Hare. He won't be competing in the upcoming Cuesta Dual in San Luis Obispo Nov 5 or the San Francisco Tournament Nov 12.

"There's only one guy in the 149's that has given Sinai trouble and that's Michael O'Hare," said Smith. "We're a stone's throw away from beating this kid. To get over that hill, Sinai needs to adjust his style and change the way he wrestles."

It's better if he does that in the room and that he's not worrying about making weight

**See Wrestling
Page 8**

Upcoming Events

Football

Nov. 5, at Reedley 1 p.m.
Oct. 12, vs. West Hills 1 p.m.

Men's Soccer

Nov. 4, at Modesto 3:00 p.m.
Nov. 8, at Ohlone 3:00 p.m.
Nov. 11, vs. Taft 3:00 p.m.

Wrestling

Nov. 5, Cuesta Tournament, San Luis Obispo 9 a.m.
Nov. 12, San Francisco Tournament 9 a.m.
Nov. 19 State Dual Tournament TBA

X-Country

Nov. 5, Nor-Cal Championship, San Mateo TBA
Nov. 19, State Championship, Woodward Park 10 a.m.

Women's Volleyball

Nov. 2, at Modesto 7 p.m.
Nov. 4, at Taft College 7 p.m.
Nov. 9, vs. Reedley 7 p.m.
Nov. 11, at Porterville 7 p.m.
Nov. 16 vs. Columbia College 7 p.m.

Women's Soccer

Nov. 8, vs. College of Sequoias 3:00 p.m.
Nov. 10, at West Hills, Lemoore 3:00 p.m.
Nov. 15, at Modesto 3:00 p.m.

Women's Golf

Nov. 7-8, Norcals, Roseville TBA
Nov. 14-15, State Tournament, Fresno 9:00 a.m.

Football:

Continued from Page 6

the road next week to Reedley (8-0, 3-0), one of six undefeated teams in California, then finish at home against West Hills (1-7, 1-2). The other undefeated teams are San Francisco, Sierra, American River, El Camino, and defending champion College of the Canyons.

"I've heard (Reedley's) a good team," said Ivy Jones, who is from Sacramento. "The best team will come out on top. It will come down to the last play."

Valley Conference Standings

Team	record	conf.
Reedley	8-0	3-0
Sequoias	7-1	3-0
Fresno	6-2	2-1
West Hills	1-7	1-2
Merced	2-6	0-3
Delta	1-7	0-3

Rams score 17 points in third quarter

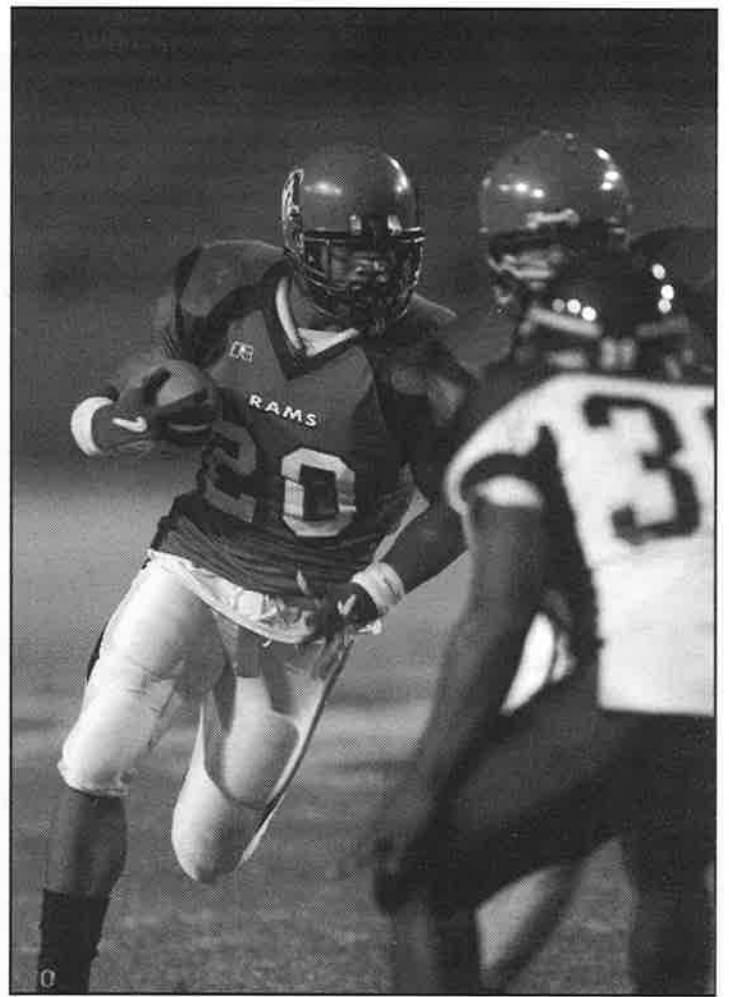


Photo by Brian Borrer

Rams T.R. Smith (20) carries the ball against Merced College on Oct. 22. The Rams now face undefeated Reedley College on Nov. 5.

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Rams men stay in chase

Coach Solberg's squad hands West Hills first loss in conference play on Oct. 28

By Quinn Robinson
Sports Editor

Just what the doctor ordered.

With a 1-2 Central Valley Conference record and a undefeated West Hills team as their opponent, the Fresno City College men's soccer team pulled out a much needed 1-0 victory to keep their hopes of a CVC title alive.

"We were trying to stay back and defend a little more today," said FCC coach Eric Solberg. "They're very fast and last game we played into their hands so this time we were just trying to play physical and defend."

Defend they did.

The Rams and Golden Eagles played most of the game back and forth trying to gain an upper hand on one another. The defense proved to be relenting for both teams as they played the first 45 minutes to a 0-0 tie.

The start of the second half was similar to that of the entire first. Much like a game of chess, the two teams were feeling each other out to see who would be the first one to blink.

As the game approached its final minutes, West Hills blinked first.

FCC was deep in Golden Eagle territory with the Golden Eagles' defenders battling the late surge coming from the Rams. The push proved to be much for West Hills as FCC was able to get behind the final defenders and take a shot on goal that deflected off Golden Eagles goalkeeper

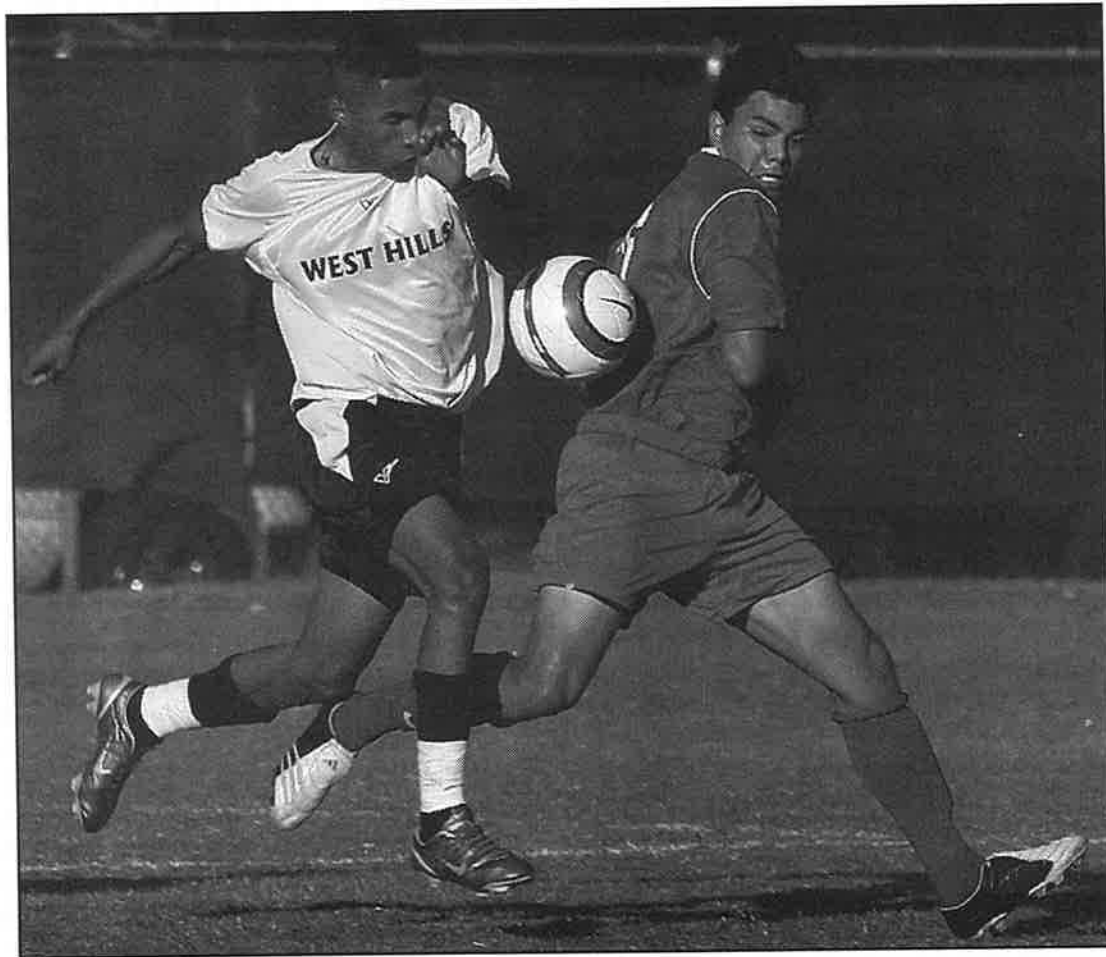


Photo by Jennifer Schmidt

Rams' Dominic Aragon (center right) battles for position with a West Hills Defender during their Oct. 27 match at FCC's soccer field. The Rams squeaked out a 1-0 victory over the Golden Eagles. The victory still kept the hopes of a Central Valley Conference title alive for FCC as they wrap up the final four games of the season and prepare for the playoffs.

Noe Diaz's hands and the crossbar before bouncing into the net for a goal.

"We just play our style of game we like to play and let [our opponents] figure it out," said West Hills coach Mike Graham. "Our style is to put the ball in the goal and attack, there's nothing new to that."

The physical game didn't come without a scare for FCC.

With both teams still jockeying for position in the second half, FCC's Justin

Aragon collided with a West Hills player and collapsed around midfield. Aragon had to be taken out of the game on a cart due to a leg injury, but coach Solberg was optimistic about the situation even though he wasn't completely sure of the extent of the injury.

"We think he took a hard shot to a nerve in his knee," said Solberg. "There was some immediate numbness to his knee but we think he'll end up being just fine."

The Rams have four

remaining games on the regular season schedule which include the next three games on the road at San Joaquin Delta, Modesto and Ohlone college on Nov. 1, 4 and 9 respectively before closing out the regular season at home on Nov. 11.

While the coach Solberg remains optimistic about FCC's possibility of tying for a Central Valley Conference championship, he's really focused more on how his team performs in the final four games so the Rams can get decent bid when the playoff seedings come out.

"We were kind of out of it with a couple of losses," said Solberg. "If West Hills loses another one and we can win our last two we have a shot at tying for the league. But most importantly we're trying to position ourselves for playoff seedings."

This year the state championships will be held at Fresno Pacific University, so depending on how the Rams finish out the season, they could be looking at a couple of "home" matches in the post season.

Rams: FCC ready for State Dual

Continued from page 7

and wrestling someone this weekend."

Singh, Griffin, and heavyweight Fernando Camargo will also be sitting out the next two meets.

The Dons also carry No.2 Steve Schantin in 141's and No. 2 Brian Judd in 184's. The Rams will definitely have their hands full.

"We have to be on our game for those matches," said

Smith. "It's really a flip of the coin. We are one to two points away in a couple of matches from breaking the dual wide open."

The Rams dual with Skyline, scheduled for today, was canceled. FCC has not wrestled at home all season and will not be at home until the State Tournament at the end of the season to be held in Fresno.

cricket cricket cricket cricket cricket cricket cricket

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Proposition 76, vote or die!

We should have voted for a governor with real qualifications



Eddie Ortiz

On November 8, California will conduct a special statewide election. There will be eight new propositions or policies that we have the power to choose to keep or not to keep. Out of these eight props, one has particularly caught my attention. On November 8, I am going to vote no on Proposition 76.

Now let me break down prop. 76, considered the "California live within our means act." If passed, about \$4 billion will be cut from public schools, school programs and yes, community colleges. If passed, this new proposition gives Governor Schwarzenegger (who I will tear apart in a minute) the power to manipulate the state budget, like taking roughly \$2500 per classroom or \$600 per student. We have the power to stop this proposition from passing.

There was a time when I held faith and belief in our government. Now that I am older I see that our government is corruptive and does not care about the people.

Simply, our government is bullsh. Arnold Schwarzenegger is a joke. He does not even have qualifications!

Weightlifting or saying the stupid line "I'll be back?" How can he lead a major state in America, he is a foreigner and most of the time you cannot even understand what the hell he is saying. If he is going to govern any place it needs to be far away, like Austria, where he came from. We made a circus out of the last election and instead of voting for a real politician with real qualifications and political background, we voted for a womanizing, cigar-smoking, racist A-hole.

Arnold proves actors should stick to acting. All he did was go on Jay Leno's show, announcing his candidacy and having Rob Lowe as a running mate. Just because he was on a show dealing with politics does not mean he should be in politics. Then he had the nerve to say, "We're gonna terminate Sacramento." This actor turned politician is not working, what is next? Jessica Simpson president of the United States?

This election is just for Arnold's political agenda, he wants to please his rich, right wing conservative party whereas here we are, the poor but hard-working and decent people of Fresno. Vote yes on these props and get screwed. No, thank you.

On November 8, please vote. We need to show and shout out loud that politicians do not run the show but we do, we can vote you into office and vote you right out.

So remember, November 8 is an important day and as Diddy would say, "Vote or die!"

Vote for a proposition that will force the state of California to repay debts



Christine Haeussling

Let's dissect Proposition 76.

- Limits state spending to prior year's level plus three previous years' average revenue growth

Now, you can't really say anything against that. What happened to those complaining about the increasing debt of the State of California?

- Changes state minimum school funding requirements

If you want to cut costs, you have to cut somewhere. Remember, it does not say eliminate school funding.

- Directs excess General Fund revenues, currently directed to schools/tax relief, to budget reserve, specified construction, debt repayment

The money not given to schools will go to debt repayment. Once California is on a steady path away from increasing debt, things will be rosier. It has always been like that, in a critical time, people have to make sacrifices.

- Permits Governor, under specified circumstances, to reduce appropriations of Governor's choosing, including employee compensation/state contracts.

At ease. It says under specified

circumstances. Arnold is not a relentless dictator, but the governor the Californians elected. In quite a hurry, too, if memory serves me right.

Proposition 76 will let state policymakers decide about school funding annually instead of giving a funding guarantee, no matter how good or bad times for the state are. Thus, it will balance the budget without raising taxes. Show of hands, please, for a tax raise. Didn't think so.

With Proposition 76, the government will be required to use extra revenue from fat years to create funds for meager years. This proposition will limit growth of the state budget responsibly. This keeps legislatures from creating new money-devouring programs that the state cannot keep economically when revenue drops.

According to the California Taxpayer Association, Proposition 76 is "a good deal to schools." As I said, it will balance the budget without increasing taxes.

All your governor is trying to do is to cut back spending. Cutting back always includes someone complaining, matter of fact, politics always include someone complaining. Anything does.

Read your voter's guide and think before voting. It is wrong to condemn Proposition 76 because of information from people not seeing the whole deal but focusing on one piece of information they picked out. Instead, force legislature to work by the simple rule of not spending more money than there is.

Campus Voices

by Eddie Ortiz, photos by Robin Vallentyn

Are you for or against Proposition 76?



Quincy Barnes
Business

"I say no because the governor is misusing his power. Arnold should stick to acting."



Roger Brown
Criminology/Theatre

"I think Arnold Schwarzenegger should stick to acting."



Christina Matthews
Social Work

"I'm against it. Schools need money."



Fabian Salas
Liberal Arts

"I'm against 76 because it takes money away from schools that need it."



Alex Garcia
General Ed.

"It's one out of many that makes the governor a tyrant. He doesn't care about the people he only cares about the money."

Eavesdropping

by Christine Haeussling

For years, I have been writing down quotes of people I talk to, or people I don't even know. Since I consider a lot of it very funny, I am so generous as to share it with you.

Christine: "What happened then?"

Mike: "Things happen, I had to take care of business."

Trey: "You forgot what you were doing."

David: "You can't hide sugar from me. I will sniff it out."

Johannes M.V.: "At the end of your life there's so much left to do anyway."

Josh: "Remember.. you can pick your friends and you can pick your nose but don't ever pick your friend's nose!"

Mike: "Willing comes for free, drunk comes as a habit."

Bill: "Reno is the outhouse, Vegas is the penthouse."

Shawn about us going to San Francisco for a weekend:

"We'll take sleeping bags with us and sleep in the park!"

Christine: "I don't wanna sleep in the park."

Shawn: "The park's cool! A lot of people sleep in the park!"

Christine: "Can you write in the snow?"

Jordan: "Oh yeah, perfectly in cursive." (about pissing in the snow)

Cedric: "Studying! maybe I should try that! It's a whole new way of cheating, store it in your head!"

Danny's place is being remodeled, afterward the rent would increase to \$700.

Christine: "\$700, I don't know, this area isn't that great."

Mike: "Who wants to pay \$700 and see (expletive) hookers over there?"

Eddie: "Can I get an amen?"

November 2, 2005

Don't feed the bird flu

How serious is this threat; is the world due for a pandemic; how close is the H5N1 virus to mutating; and what do we do in a worst-case scenario?



Matt T. Mendez

"scare" similar to that of the SARS outbreak in 2003.

SARS, or Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, quickly spread from the Guangdong province in Southern China to Hong Kong, infecting 8,000 people and killing 800.

The H5N1 strain of the avian flu has been found in Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Romania, South Korea, Siberia, Turkey, Russia, and Great Britain. Even without the ability to spread easily from human to human, H5N1 is known to have infected around 137 people, killing 68.

SARS proved to be fatal for only 10% of its victims, whereas the avian flu has killed at least 50% of the people who have contracted the virus. Quarantines worked with great efficacy to control SARS because SARS is far less contagious than a flu and has a longer incubation period.

In the past 300 years, the world has faced 10 pandemics, which—if you're good in math—tells you a pandemic occurs roughly every 30 years (I had to triple-check myself). Within these last three centuries, the longest time span between pandemics has been 39 years. The last global health crisis, the Hong Kong Flu, ended in 1969—no less than 36 years ago.

Although viewed today as a relatively minor health crisis, the Hong Kong Flu was an outbreak of influenza that began in Hong Kong in 1968 and worked its way to the United States within 300 days. There was, in fact, an outbreak of avian influenza in Hong Kong earlier that year, but the Hong Kong Flu was actually the A type of regular influenza, a trait very similar to the Asian Flu of 1957. As a result, the antibiotics given to people during the 1957 epidemic left their bodies prepared for such an analogous virus in 1968.

The similarities between both

influenzas involved in the two most recent pandemics account for why they combined to produce such a low fatality rate; the Asian Flu of 1957 and the Hong Kong Flu of 1968's conjugated death toll is estimated to be around 1.7 million—a microscopical total for a more lethal pandemic.

The worldwide health crisis that preceded the Asian Flu was the Spanish Flu Pandemic of 1918, a flu that was responsible for anywhere between 20 million and 50 million deaths. Unlike the two subsequent influenzas, which both began as a form of human flu, the influenza of 1918 mutated from a virus contracted exclusively from birds to one that was capable of spreading from human to human. As of today, that is far and away the biggest difference between the bird flu of 1918

and in all actuality, the flu may have already made its way there. Africa's rural hinterland, with its regular high mortality rate among domestic poultry, may very well be the ideal area for the virus to go undetected.

When you consider that many areas in Africa have already been ravaged by an AIDS epidemic, sporadic and unpredictable genocide, scarce resources, and the probable unwillingness of poor farmers who work with birds to give up their most lucrative mean of income, it's easy to see how the H5N1 virus can thrive in such a location.

Believing that the virus will eventually pass through Europe and Africa on its way West toward the Americas isn't really an opinion any longer—it's common sense.

Migratory birds, the initial hosts of H5N1 as well as its free ride across the globe, do not die from the influenza. Domestic birds, on the other hand, would be better off trying to fly through a tornado blindfolded with ankle weights stapled to their wings.

Whether or not the bird flu flies to America isn't as important as whether we have an effective means of vaccination. *Tamiflu* has shown some promise during testing, but it needs to be taken with 48 hours of the first symptoms' appearance.

The best chance the earth has of combating an outbreak of the bird flu is not to treat it, but to prevent it from ever happening.

Unfortunately, the world may be faced with yet another pandemic, embattled with a virus capable of traveling unopposed through the migratory super-highway.

After having said all that, I would like to close by saying that a worst case scenario pandemic is highly unlikely, but don't be surprised if it ends up happening.

Pandemic- An epidemic spanning over a wide geographic area and affecting a large proportion of the population.

Avian- Of, relating to, or characteristic of birds.

Influenza- An acute contagious viral infection.

Pathogen- An agent that causes disease, especially a living microorganism such as a bacterium or fungus.

Incubation- The development of an infection from the time the pathogen enters the body until signs or symptoms first appear.

and the present day bird flu.

If an enhanced form of bird flu which can be diffused exclusively by human contact does become a reality, and if it makes its way to the United States, are we prepared to combat the outbreak efficaciously?

As always, we the people of the United States of America, will not see the worst of the outbreak, but hopefully our country will do more than its fair share to aide those who are gravely ill in poorer nations.

Africa is likely to be the next continent to have an outbreak of H5N1,

The so-called "Spanish flu" caused at least 20 million deaths worldwide in 1918, and by recently reconstructing the virus, scientists have discovered the pathogen had evolved into a form of bird flu that developed the ability to spread from human to human.

The A H5N1 variant of the avian flu, which first appeared in 1997 in Hong Kong and is currently making its way across Europe, is only a threat to humans who come in close contact with infected birds—so far.

Diseases have a funny way of re-emerging after they were initially considered to be extinct, and bacteria have been evolving since the beginning of time. But how has this specific bird flu evolved?

There have been cases of birds passing the virus on to pigs this past May in Indonesia, which understandably leads many to believe the virus is metamorphosing.

So, what's my point? Well, the receptors on the respiratory cells of pigs are similar to those of people; therefore, the receptors may act as a vessel for the mixture of viruses from swine to human.

The last thing we need is some sort of smelly, mutated pig flu circulating its way throughout the world's population.

Caution: Do not take the H5N1 strain of influenza lightly, or disregard the omnipresent trepidation it has generated and consider it another overly hyped

Tips on not sucking at life



Mike Read

I suck at life. I have always kind of sucked at it.

I get all excited about something and go do it, only to have my drive fade a few months after.

On one side it is kind of cool because I am mediocre at about 1,000 different things, but completely worthless at the same time because being mediocre gets

you nowhere.

I used to think I was a good person. Now for the most part I just think I suck.

All this hit home in a new way a few months back when I met a homeless man who was not loved by anyone.

His name was Essex. We stood chatting on a sidewalk in downtown Fresno outside the Poverello House for about an hour.

He did most of the talking that day. Subject matter ranged from a time when he saw four people get run over by a car, to his wife who died from cancer, to his time fighting in Vietnam, to his favorite kind of beer and even to his deeply rooted resentment toward God.

I did a lot of listening; only chiming in here and there with brief responses and more questions.

The conversation was coming to

an end when Essex paused for a moment and lowered his head as if to think. Then he brought his face back up and said something that set me off balance.

"It feels *soo* good to talk with someone like this," he said with a slow drawn-out tone—like he just finished his favorite meal. "It's been so long."

I have never really heard anyone say something like that after a conversation.

Essex, though he confessed to be a traveler, currently had been living in a community of other homeless people. They knew his name here. Throughout the conversation he acknowledged fellow street-mates as they walked by, but here he is telling me how out-of-the-norm our conversation was for him.

These people who live on the streets are not starving for food, they are starving for love. They are dying for

someone to sit down and engage them the way I would any other human.

Essex was no different. He needed that love too, even something as simple and effortless as an open ear.

Not a day goes by when someone does not pick up the phone to call me and ask how I am doing. What is non-existent in Essex's life is abounding in mine. It is this thing we are all starving for—this thing called love.

I read a book titled *Under the Overpass* not too long ago. It is a documentary lived by two young, affluent college students who decided to learn what it meant to depend upon God. Each committed six months to living on the streets in various cities throughout the U.S. while journaling their insights and feelings.

It was dehumanizing at times, people

see Tips, Page 12

Being perfect, an unreachable goal

Life is not easy and does not always go the way you want it to go, so live with your imperfections



Eddie Ortiz

What usually comes to your mind when you think of the word "perfect" is probably something or someone who is flawless or faultless, no errors, complete, and lacking of no fixture.

As human beings we tend on being perfect. We want the perfect existence, the perfect job, the perfect marriage and kids, and the perfect household. For those who think you or your life has to be perfect, guess what: you do not.

For those who think you are perfect and your life is all great, reality check, no one is perfect or flawless and life is not always easy.

Open your eyes and see that you are not a diamond, you are probably more like a cubic zircon.

The reason I wrote this article is because I am in a period of my life where I am growing; mentally, psychically and spiritually. I guess you can say I am going through a stage of growth or maturity, something everyone in the whole world goes through. Everything around

me is different and brand-new and at times scary. I ask myself questions, questions that no one will answer but me.

During this time of growth I have answered questions and learned some things that no teacher or book can teach you. You have to look deep within your soul to answer those profound and cosmic questions. The one question that has been burning deep within me to be answered is, *what is perfect?*

The concept of the word perfect is weird and unrealistic. Being perfect in life or as a person will never be a fulfilled goal or reality but it is something we all strive for. I guess the defining moment that I realized I will never be perfect was when I asked myself, "Will I be a success?" I answered myself out loud for the whole world to hear, "No."

I did not intend to put myself down, I know I will be successful. I know I will succeed in anything I put my mind to and I have a list full of things I want to accomplish in life, from being a meteorologist to being an actor/director/singer/producer/dancer/author. I know in my heart I can be all those in life, we can all be what we want to be. No one can hold you down or stop you from dreaming but yourself. Can I get an amen?

Now back to my point, going back to that question "Will I be perfect?" I answered no, because no matter how successful and wealthy I am as an actor

or a meteorologist, that does not mean I am the best or 100 percent good, many actors and singers that have no talent become famous (Paris Hilton). I still can learn and grow to be a better meteorologist but I will never be perfect.

I know there are those who feel me when I say: Life is hard and can be a struggle to get by, life has a funny way of throwing those curve balls, but we always get by because the human spirit is strong.

Then there are those annoying and ignorant fools who think life is all roses and sunshine. Get off it, that type of simple-minded and ignorant thinking makes me want to throw up.

Follow me to this imagery: The all-American household with the white picket fence, the Smith's. We have Rick Smith, Judy Smith, Katie Smith, and Bobby Smith. The Smith's are the model family of what the all-American right wing, conservative, Christian household in America should be, they are perfect.

Judy is a stay-at-home mom, Rick is an accountant who works late but that does not mean he is having an affair. Katie just became captain of the cheerleading team and Bobby made the football team. If this was a movie, the Smith's would be living the perfect life.

Let me give you the real reality of the Smith's: Judy is having an affair with her gardener who is only 15 (very desperate housewife). Rick is, surprise,

surprise, also having an affair, with his young and very hot secretary. Katie is flunking English so she is getting after-school tutoring from her teacher (wink, wink) and poor Bobby, his situation is, well, he is drugging it up. That is life. It is not pretty or perfect, it is not nice, but it is real. That is how life is, messed up and scandalous.

We do not want to confront what is right in our faces because the truth and reality of our situation can hurt, but we have to. The way we face up to life's harsh realities is not by being fake and putting on a front or by being self-righteous and making yourself and everyone around you think you are better than them.

There is a say I believe in, "Those who live in glass houses should not throw stones." We shun away from our quirks or flaws but I think we need to accept our imperfections. That is what makes us human and real.

I think the imagery we see, mostly women, is Britney Spears, J-Lo or Beyoncé, at the grocery store looking like they are going to the MTV or Oscar awards. It is unrealistic, and looking perfect all the time is not real. You as a person or your life may not be what you want it to be but you are dealt the card you are given. So learn to love yourself and believe.

Have faith that everything, in time, will be all right.

Tips: If you think you're a good person, you are far from it

continued from Page 11

would walk by, only giving a quick glance in their direction.

I would imagine a person could only take so much of that, having people pretend you're not quite a human, before you start to feel like you're not human.

But these guys knew in the back of

their minds what would be waiting for them at the end of six months: A big house, a nice bed, warm meals, and most of all family and friends.

Instead of hope, the crutches that get most of the people at Poverello House through the day are drugs and alcohol. I think Jesus said in order to gain your life you must lose it. When you lay aside your-

self and your petty desires, your life takes meaning and actually begins when you begin to serve others.

My friends and I have literally seen love make people whole again. I cannot pen what kind of experience that was. It is beautiful to see a person who feels like nothing suddenly realize they are worth to another.

It is with thoughts like these that I am shaken from my little world into another, much broader and real.

How could we be so blind?

There is so much need that longs

to be filled which, in this case, asks for nothing more than our time.

I think most often, this act of doing is actually a matter of not-doing but just showing up. My mom says that is 65 percent of success.

If this speaks to you at all, feel free to join us downtown. We go every Wednesday around 7:30 p.m. Feel free to email me at spiikemiike@hotmail.com.

Remember this though, whenever you actually think you are a good person it usually means you are furthest from what matters.

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Horoscopes

David Witte

(that one guy you know)

These horoscopes are for people who do not take horoscopes seriously. If you are offended, you can e-mail your complaints to someone who cares.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

A bug will fly in your window, but it's okay, it's just a Volkswagen.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

Your short-term memory loss will cause great difficulty.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

Your short-term memory loss will cause great difficulty.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

You will unwittingly discover the ancient Toilet Paper Roll of Pharaoh Ramses II, and be cursed with evil-smelling gas for life.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

You will give your son \$25 for his field trip, then you will remember that you don't have a son.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Your family will hold an intervention to try and break your addiction to Hostess cupcakes.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

You will find yourself saying, "I remember back in Ought Four, when gas was \$2.07 a gallon!"

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

You never thought you would hear the words "applesauce" and "2,000 dead" in the same sentence.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

You will be indicted as part of Senate's investigation into the "Lingerie-gate" scandal.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

It's not the fact that you crashed your '87 Honda. That's only worth \$300. The problem is that you caused a six-car pile-up involving a Bentley, two Hummers, a Maserati, and a Saleen S7 Twin Turbo.

AQUARIUS (Jan 20-Feb. 18)

You will find two dead clowns in your closet this week. And then it will start to get creepy.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

Your short-term memory loss will cause - wait, did we already do this one? No? Okay. Your short-term memory loss will cause great difficulty.

Cloudy, with possible showers



Dave Spritz (Nicholas Cage) reports as New York's newest weatherman in Paramount's film.

Nicholas Cage returns to the screen in 'The Weatherman'



Victoria McLoughlin

Think of the last Hollywood blockbuster that rocked your world.

Now, minus the car chase, the lavish costumes, the foreign location and the Nickelback-esque soundtrack. What's left is....straight to video, right? Wrong.

In my opinion, what's left of the uncluttered, unassuming masterpiece "The Weather Man" is a near perfect script, a stellar cast and a directorial approach that's truly refreshing. Indeed, director Gore Verbinski should be given as much credit for his work on this project as he was for "Pirates of the Caribbean: Curse of the Black Pearl", if not more. The movie

shines.

The script (care of screenwriter and co-producer Steven Conrad) provides an uncommon blend of plot, moral and hilarious repartee; most memorably, between Dave Spritz (Cage) and his wife Noreen (played by Hope Davis), Spritz and his daughter Shelly (Gemmenne de la Peña) and between Spritz and his dad Robert (Michael Caine): each as excruciatingly uncomfortable as the other.

These interactions epitomize the film's appeal: "The Weather Man" gives us a story from his own perspective- we meet other characters solely based on their exchanges with him, and his subsequent -invariably questionable- evaluations and theories. Were we to see events unfold from his terminally ill father's perspective or that of his twelve-year-old overweight, lonely and slightly sadistic daughter, we may dislike "the star" intensely. In the

absence of such objectivity, we cannot help but be drawn into Spritz's curious, lonely and unenviable world, and feel for him to a certain extent.

We see him- miss vital clues regarding his children's welfare, watch his wife living with another man in their family home, even writing a lackluster novel, ironically titled "Breaking Point". And we hope that at some time he'll begin to appreciate the signs as we do, and work on making his life a little less pathetic. This hope is one that sweeps us gradually- perhaps our minds' way of offsetting the movie's increasingly ominous feel.

Indeed, while the movie seems to document the life of a man seeking to secure a job in the big time (New York's "Hello America"), it becomes progressively apparent that the outcome of the audition process -which I will not reveal- is actually irrelevant. The real issue is Spritz's countless opportunities

to join the world, which he neglects repeatedly. It is about how his decisions affect his family and his sense of worth and exactly what it means to be a grown up.

Would I go out on a limb and call "The Weather Man" a must-see? Certainly. But I can say with equal confidence that a lot of people who really should heed the movie's primary moral will bore easily, and may even leave the theatre before the movie ends. Reactions are certainly mixed, and one review is particularly scathing: "this is a Sundance film gussied up with studio production values and big stars" writes Kirk Honeycutt of www.hollywoodreporter.com.

Is this really such an abhorrent thought? That a film worthy of Sundance acclaim should be given support from those who believe in its value? ... Who feel that mainstream audiences, rather than simply a niche market would appreciate its unique structure and sentiment?

If people like Honeycutt had their way, Hollywood would remain a predictable menu of romantic comedies, action films and heartfelt dramas. Mixing up the "magic" (money spinning) formula would cause chaos, in the eyes of Honeycutt-ites. Why, it would be what gastronomy was to the humble a la carte. What the Frappuccino® was to the morning's ho-hum coffee selection. What The (pesky) Beatles were to the "civilized" music of the early sixties. What a horrifying thought.

Possibly, "The Weather Man" compromises the Hollywood status quo and the art of pigeonholing. But then again, Honeycutt may compromise tolerant reviewing and the art of not being a pompous, unforgiving film Nazi...

Go see "The Weather Man" and decide for yourself.

'Days of Our Lives' with violence



Joseph Rios

For as long as I can remember I have always watched wrestling with my grandma.

Yes, my grandma.

She has always ordered the pay-per-views on cable. When my cousins and I were still in grade school, wrestling events were as important as the Super Bowl.

From the Wrestle Manias, Summer Slams, Royal Rumbles,

Halloween Havocs, to Monday Night Nitro, Smackdown, and Raw - our eyes were glued to the television.

I grew up watching the greats. Superstars like Andre the Giant, Ultimate Warrior, Roddy Piper, and Bret Hart are just a few of the names from the now distant past.

But who can forget, in my opinion, the greatest wrestler of all time: Hulk Hogan. No wrestler can execute his signature moves better than Hogan.

Some wrestlers do power bombs, F5's, Frog Splashes, Figure Fours, Killer Cross-faces, Last Rides, stunnings - not the Hogan. The Hulk has two moves: the boot and the leg drop and nobody can shake up a

crowd like he did and still does.

I had the shirts, the action figures, the stuffed animals, and of course the belt. I still have my stuffed Hulk Hogan that I used to practice my moves on with. Next to the Ninja Turtles, watching and re-enacting wrestling was my favorite pastime.

These days, my cousins are in their twenties, I'm eighteen and wrestling doesn't have the same appeal to me.

My grandma shuts the world out when WWE hits the air, though, and I like to peek in on her and watch it every once and a while. She usually fills me in on what's been going on.

My grandpa watches it

with her, but he claims he doesn't like it (even though he's on his lazy-boy in front of the television for every episode).

Once I got a driver's license I was able to take my Grandma to all the wrestling events. We've seen Smackdown, Raw, a Royal Rumble, and numerous others that never made it to TV.

On Oct. 24, Raw hit the Save Mart Center. USA Network broadcasted the event live, giving cable viewers nation-wide a chance to see a small bit of Fresno - well, just the SM Center parking lot.

The last event my grandma and I caught was the Royal Rumble, which was a pay-per-

see WWE, Page 14

Cut Ashlee Simpson some slack - or not



Jacob Wiens

Poor Ashlee Simpson.

Let's cut the girl some slack.

Okay, so she might not be the greatest cinematic beauty to hit the big screen. And her harsh, smokey voice might actually cause people to change the radio dial. But she has had a rough year. After an embarrassing stint on Saturday Night Live and, well, an embarrassing stint on MTV with her own reality show, young Ashlee deserves some allies in the world of reviewers. So I'm going to give it a shot...

Ashlee Simpson released her second album last week entitled 'I Am Me'.

As a strong supporter of cute blondes who try to sing, I really wanted to like this album. I'm not joking. I was rooting for Simpson all the way. And after a very impressive debut (her first album, "Autobiography", went multi-platinum), I expected a few clever TRL-bound hits. But Simpson didn't quite deliver the goods.

With 'Boyfriend', her first single to hit the airwaves, I couldn't help but bop my head and shake it just a little. Unfortunately, it was all downhill from there. She continued a rocker-style vibe with 'L.O.V.E.', a tribute to girl power. I became bored. I wanted more. The best was definitely saved for last with 'Say Goodbye', a love song for the love-challenged. Simpson actually wrote most of her vocals, which is more than can be said for most of the pod-pop crew on MTV nowadays.

I'm still rooting for Ashlee, and with a number one debut last week selling more than 220,000 copies, I feel like a proud "Boyfriend."



Associated Press

Ashlee Simpson embarrasses herself (again) at the Orange Bowl Jan. 4. The 72,000 football fans present booed her when she sang "You make me wanna scream."

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WWE: have you booed an olympic medal winner?

continued from Page 13

view event. Naturally, she and I have become seasoned veterans when it comes to the whole wrestling scene. Raw was small potatoes compared to the Rumble, but exciting nonetheless.

Once we made our way from the parking lot, past the ticket takers, the program vendors, mobs of people and into the arena, we were able to find our seats.

At the center of the arena stood the ring; it looks much bigger on TV. The whole time I could only imagine the mayhem this speedo soap opera on steroids was going to offer me this time.

Shortly after we got settled into our seats, a family walked over and sat down next to us. A mother, father, daughter, son, and a woman who looked like the grandmother sat down alongside them as well.

"See, I'm not the only grandma here," my grandma said.

At this point, video montages of wrestling matches from the past were flashing across the jumbo-trons. The faces of all the greats flashed before my eyes and reminded me of the old days.

Next to me a little boy no more than 10-years old sat all the way forward in the fold-down stadium seat wearing an over-sized John Cena t-shirt with his eyes plastered on the empty ring.

This kid is me 10-years ago. Back then, I was wearing a Razor Ramon t-shirt and shaking a Hulkamania Styrofoam finger and sucking my grandma's wallet dry with constant trips to the snack bar and to the souvenir table.

The boy was with his older brother. Like me, he probably grew up on what some might call "stupid." Those people fail to see what wrestling is all about.

I'm sure there are some hardcore fans out there who would swear on their autographed copy

of Mr. Nanny that pro Wrestling is real. Ninety-percent of fans know this to be false.

The truth is, kids and adults of all ages have been watching and loving wrestling for years and continue to pass on the tradition of it for one reason: it's entertaining.

Why else would they call it World Wrestling Entertainment?

When I looked around I saw all kinds of families coming out to the show. I saw mothers with sons, brothers with younger brothers, dads, uncles, cousins, and even grandmas like mine who loved this stuff.

When you watch it you can't help but get excited. When I saw John Cena come out into the ring and I heard the crowd explode, I couldn't help but join in. When the crowd booed Kurt Angle, the only wrestler on the WWE roster with two Olympic gold medals, I wanted to hate him too. When I saw the Big Show get hit the face with a steel chair, I couldn't help but cringe.

These contemporary gladiators give families all over the nation and the world a chance to bond with one another across generations.

It is so much more than two muscle-bound, latex speedo wearing, tattooed, over-caffeinated men going at it in the ring. The complexity of the stories behind these matches rival "Days of Our Lives" and "Laguna Beach".

There is something for everyone. Moms watch it to see hunks like Cena and Batista prance around without a shirt on, little boys watch it because its like real-life super hero cartoons, teenage boys and men watch it because babes like Trish and Lita wrestle in the ring in next to nothing.

All I know is, no matter how long I go without watching wrestling it always calls me back. It truly is world-class entertainment, and as long as my grandma wants to go to see the shows, I'll be ready to go.