

Ballers
Rams are the only undefeated team in the state - page 6



Rampage

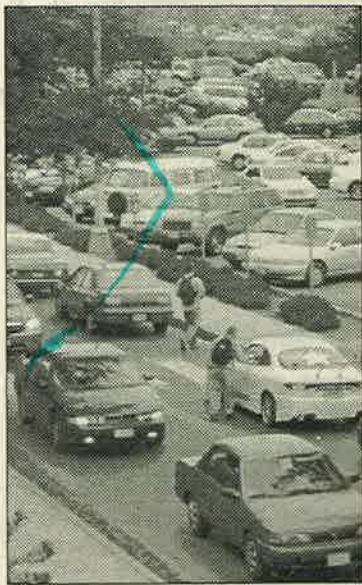
Fresno City College

Volume LXXIXIV Edition 1

February 2, 2005

"I don't feel like taking the time to look for a parking spot. It is easier to walk."

-FCC student Joshua Silveira



Photos by Daisy Rosas

Fresno City College students experience gridlock each day as they search for an empty parking spot.

Lots of help coming

2,300 parking spots at FCC, while 10,000 permits are sold

By Christine Haeussling
Rampage reporter

Fresno City College is scheduled to build two parking lots by 2009, according to the college's business office.

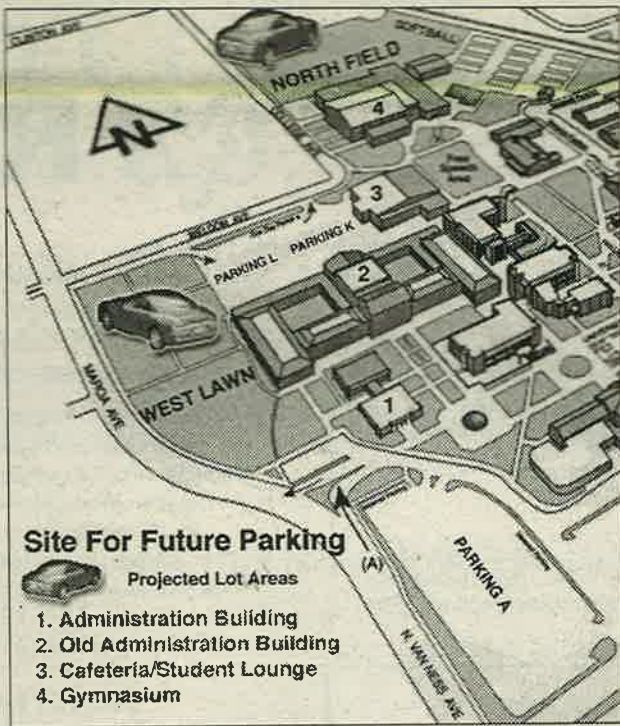
Mike Coppidge, of the FCC business office, estimates an average of 10,000 parking permits are sold each semester.

The FCC business office also estimates there are 2,300 general parking spots.

Although every student may not be on campus at once, problems are still occurring with the current parking situation.

"The new parking lots are going to be on the west side of the old administration building and north of the gym," said Associate Vice Chancellor of Business and Operations Brian Speece.

See Spot, page 5



Graphic by Daisy Rosas

ASG discusses 2005 plan

Student representatives make agenda with an activist approach

By Quinn Robinson
Rampage reporter

The Associated Student Government is now preparing to take an active role in becoming the voice for more than 20,000 students at Fresno City College.

In the Dec. 8 issue of the Rampage, ASG President Daniel Lorente explained that though ASG did little for the textbook issue this semester, the student government will be much more 'active' in the spring.

Almost two months later, Lorente is singing the same tune as his main focus for the ASG this semester is lowering the cost of text-

books.

"We're going to be quite a bit more involved on the activism side of student advocacy in the spring," said Lorente.

"The fall semester was more of an adjustment with just getting used to everything, whereas now we can utilize our contacts that we have.

We're working on textbook campaigning. It's an enormous task because it's hard to change textbook prices at the local level."



Lorente

Recently Lorente sat down with FCC President Dr. Doffney to discuss ways the prices of textbooks could be lowered.

Lorente was testing what would happen if the prices of the books were reduced a little, but then realized that if the prices of the books were slashed just by itself without restoring the deficit with district money, it would end up hurting funding to FCC and Reedley College.

"I met with Dr. Doffney and one of the subjects we discussed was textbooks and how to lower the costs," said Lorente.

See Plan, page 4

Extreme makeover

\$12.5 million of state bond money used to advance Applied Technology Division

By Mona Lisa McCormick
Rampage reporter

For the Applied Technology Division at Fresno City College, the first phase of the much needed remodeling, \$12.5 million of State Bond money, means the division can live up to its technological name.

"With this remodeling, basically, it'll bring us up to the standards of today as far as technology is concerned and also the size and use of the classrooms," said Associate Dean of Instruction of the Applied Technology Division, Richard I. Christl.

Christl taught for eight years at the Career Technology Center before becoming the Director of the CTC in 1980.

In 1992, Christl was appointed associate dean of what was then the Industrial and Technology Department.

The name was changed five years ago to the Applied Technology Division including 18 departments within the division.

Since his time at FCC, this will be his first remodeling of the division.

"The problem we've run into is the buildings were built back in the late 50's early 60's. Back then the [buildings] were designed for totally different industries," said Christl.

The remodeling will last a year and a half at the rate of two building at a time. The remodeling begins summer 2005, starting with technology buildings 200 and 300.

Technology buildings 100 and 400 will begin their remodeling in the spring 2006, all of which are located behind the FCC Bookstore.

By the end of summer 2006, the Technology Buildings 500 and 600, located across Blackstone avenue near Ratcliff Stadium, will be completely remodeled.

See Makeover, page 3



Christl

Entertainment editor accused in porn case

By Rebekah Miranda
Editor in chief

Rampage Entertainment Editor Felix Arthur Sanchez, 26, was arrested by federal agents and Fresno County sheriff's deputies at his home Jan. 28 and will now face charges of distributing and possessing child pornography.

Sanchez was approached on the Fresno City College campus by sheriff's detectives Thursday and was then taken to his residence.

According to an affidavit federal agent Mike Prado stated Sanchez confessed to possessing child pornography, including fifty saved files depicting prepubescent girls that were saved to his laptop computer's hard drive.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney David L. Gappa, Sanchez will be tried in a federal court due to the interstate commerce involved in sending pornographic images via the Internet.

Gappa said, "Cases like these, where the accused is cooperative

and has already confessed, are usually resolved within a year."

According to the affidavit Sanchez stated he had previously been caught on campus viewing incest Web sites/news groups on school library computers. Sanchez was then banned from unsupervised use of library computers.

Sanchez was also reported to have admitted to posting images of child pornography while being a member of a now disbanded Internet news group. Sanchez also stated he has been viewing child pornography intermittently since approximately 1999 or 2000, according to the affidavit.

At the start of FCC's spring semester Sanchez was assigned the position of entertainment editor of the Rampage, after previously working as a reporter.



Sanchez

Art Hop is poppin'

Fresno City College students enjoy local art and artists the first Thursday of every month

By Whitney Lafon
Rampage reporter

You don't have to look very far to find wonderful art in Fresno. It can be found all over downtown every first Thursday of the month at Art Hop.

Art hop was founded almost 12 years ago by the Fresno Arts Council, who wanted to encourage people to come to downtown.

Many cities around America have one night a month where all of the art museums and studios are open, this is called Art Walk. The Fresno Arts Council liked the idea, and wanted to do something similar, and changed the name to Art Hop.

Jane Whitehurst of Whitehurst/Arnold Studios was one of the people who approached the Fresno Arts Council with the idea for Art Hop.

Once the council accepted, Jane, Her Husband Frank Arnold, Robert and Zandra Ogata, and David and Sharon Alexander, converted an old bus barn into three studios. That first Thursday they invited other members of the Fresno art community to attend Art Hop.

After hearing the idea many other local artists decided that they too wanted to be apart of Art Hop. Soon after the Fig Tree Gallery and Gallery 25, joined Art Hop. Over the years the list has grown to include The Fresno Art Museum, The Fresno Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Spectrum Gallery and Javawava.

"Art Hop has changed the perception of Fresno greatly. Some people are surprised to

find that Fresno has such a wonderful art community, with such a variety of high class Art. It also has proved that downtown is a wonderful and safe place to be," said Zandra Ogata, one of Art Hop's founders.

Art hop is a great way to expose your self to art. It also proves that "Artists can work and survive in Fresno" said Jane Whitehurst, another founder.

"Students are exposed to different kinds of Art and different artists. It inspires students to take advantage of the different art classes that are offered at Fresno City College."

One Fresno City College Professor Steve Dzerigian, who is a current Art Hop artist said that Art Hop is great for city students because "the amount of art in Fresno is phenomenal. It's very rarely seen or written about. There are shows at Art Hop that can only be seen that one night. It gives students the chance to see the art and the artists."

Art Hop gives Fresno City students and the community a chance to see a wonderful variety of art from all different mediums. Going to Art Hop is like finding a piece of San Francisco or New York right here in Fresno.

Art Hop is the first Thursday of every month; the next date is February Admission is free, for more information about Art Hop contact the Fresno Arts Council at (559) 237- 9734, or go to their website at www.Fresnoarts.org.

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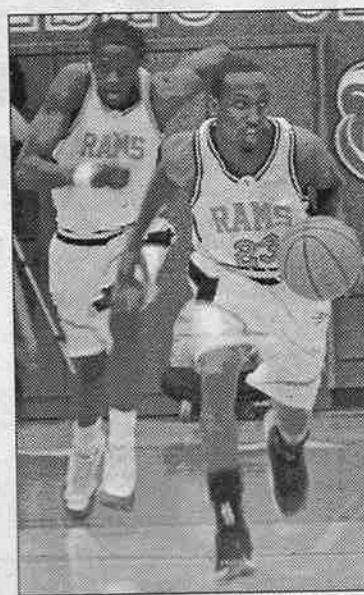


Photo by Daisy Rosas
M'Jumbe Williams, front, and
Cedrick Kalombo take the ball on
offense Jan. 26. FCC won 97-65.

Big Ballers

• FCC men's basketball team goes to 23-0, and is the No. 1 team in the state.

— See Sports, page 6

Ring, ring

• Two Rampage writers debate whether or not cell phones should be allowed in the classroom.

— See Views, page 9

Horoscopes

• See the Dorky White Guy in action.

— See Reviews, page 11

Events Calendar

February

4	7:30 p.m.	Community Concert Band	College Center
10	4:00 p.m.	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Student Art Exhibit	Theatre Main Stage
11	Last Day to Declare credit/no credit for full terms classes		
18	3:00p.m.-5:00p.m.	Pre-Physician Society Meeting	S-160
18	Lincoln's Birthday- Campus Holiday		
21	Washington's Birthday- Campus Holiday		
26	9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.	CalSACC Meeting	FCC Student Lounge
28	Last Day to Apply for Spring 2005 AA/AS Certificate Graduation		



FRESNO CITY COLLEGE
Rampage

RAMPAGE

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

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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 5783 or by mail to the following address:

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



Feb. 3
March 3
April 7
May 5
June 2
July 7
Aug. 4
Sept. 1
Oct. 6
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Dec. 1

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February is **African American History Month**



Discover the accomplishments and contributions of African Americans through books

Visit us today!

FCC Bookstore

Makeover: *Bond money brings division new and up-to-date facilities*

Continued from page 1

"The [buildings] didn't have the infrastructure as far as the web, the computers and lighting. The classrooms need to be remodeled to handle today's technology such as CAD, Computer Aided Drafting; we don't repair TV's anymore," said Christl.

The second phase of remodeling will include the Police and Fire Academies.

The \$40 million for the second phase will come from Measure E, Bond money to start a new school, the South East Center, located on the corners of Clovis and North Avenues.

The South East Center will be the new home for both the Police and Fire Academies. The current Fire Academy is located at the Career Technology Center near Jensen and Hwy 99.

One of the benefits for the remodeling is "indoor training," said the Police Academy Coordinator, Jim Edison, "weather that goes against us; hot, rainy, foggy weather. [In] extreme hot days, [we need to] tone down the outside training, if indoors there would be no problem."

"That's just one little thing,"

said Fire Academy Coordinator, Dennis C. Byrns.

"A lot of people look at college as being a classroom setting, for us there is a lot of hands on type of activities. So we're out there actually teaching the [students] how to do those things and to do those things you have to have those facilities to do them with; Burn building, tower to do ladder work and various props."

"The funding will help cadets receive some of the best tangible material that will aid in our education experience and I am very grateful

for the funding," said 1st year cadet, L. Taunton, 24, of the Police Academy.

"The reputation of the FCC Police Academy has already drawn state-wide attention from experts in the field. Hopefully, an enhanced facility will attract more cadets and more agencies."

Although the start or completion dates for the second phase have not yet been finalized, both the Police and Fire Academy Coordinators look forward to having a better facility for the students as well as the instructors.



Photo by Jason Kalpakoff

Fresno City College students, left to right, Seaver Vang, Carlos Camargo, Dante Rodriguez, and Victor H. Gutierrez, sand a 1932 Ford Coupe in the Automotive Department of the Applied Technology Division

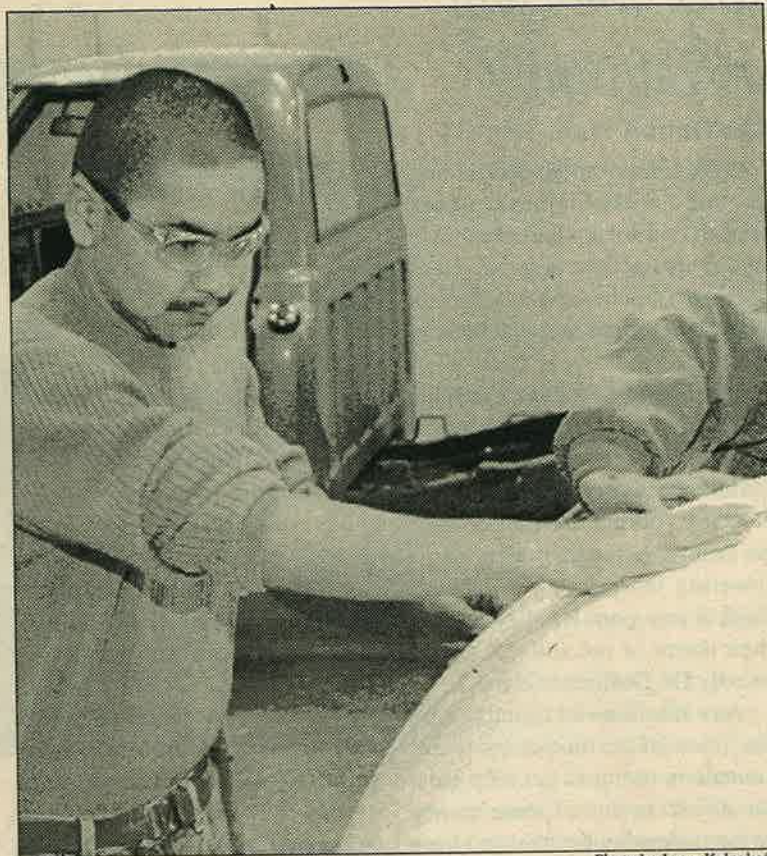


Photo by Jason Kalpakoff

Working hard Victor H. Gutierrez said, "With the new equipment the students will be able to learn better."

Rich opportunities are awaiting FCC students

Scholarship deadlines are coming fast. Apply now.

By Dana McIntosh
Rampage reporter

There are a variety of scholarships available to Fresno City College students.

One of the many scholarships available is the Earl and Muriel Scholarship.

There are up to three \$1,000 scholarships designated to go to students who have graduated from Buchanan, Kerman, Clovis or Clovis West high schools, and show promise of academic and civil leadership.

The accessible Arch Bradshaw scholarship is open to any full-time FCC student with a 2.5 GPA.

Information about the above scholarships and many others can be found

in the scholarship catalog, which can be picked up at either the financial aid office or the student lounge.

Another excellent source of scholarship opportunities is Fastweb.

Students can register to receive information about a variety of scholarship opportunities at www.fastweb.com.

Upon registering with Fastweb, an individual will receive only scholarship offers that they are eligible for.

This service is done entirely by e-mail, so it is fast and easy to submit the applications.

Fastweb is ideal for students with limited time. There are thousands of

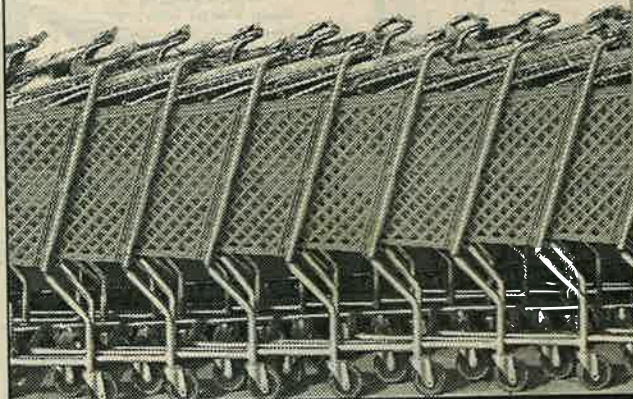
scholarship opportunities to be read through, but on Fastweb you receive only scholarship applications you are eligible for.

The downside is that there is a different application for every scholarship, whereas the scholarship catalog has one application for hundreds of scholarships.

Scholarship requirements:

- Enrolled in FCC by March 2, 2005
- Complete a FASFA financial aid form
- Complete the scholarship application form
- Have a minimum of a 2.5 GPA
- Complete the donor designated forms
- Have two letters of recommendation
- High school GPA verification form

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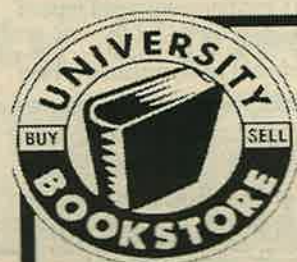
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Plan: ASG says they will do big stuff

Continued from page 1

"We went over the district budget and I looked through it and I tried to find areas where the district could curtail money and start spending money on areas that the bookstore normally spends money on.

The bookstore funds a lot of stuff on campus. That's one of the problems you run into. They pay for Ratcliff Stadium, they pay for Reedley's dorms, and they do a lot. So before you start talking about lowering the prices you have to think if you want Reedley to have their dorms or not and that's what exactly Dr. Doffney told me."

As a substitute for trying to drop the price of textbooks by itself, Lorente is trying to get help from the district to curtail some money so the student bookstore won't have to pay as much money as they do now, therefore reducing the price of textbooks for FCC students.

Lorente added that the ASG should pass a resolution in the upcoming weeks that would advocate teachers on the FCC campus to buy un-bundled textbooks instead of packaged deals that many teachers use in their classes.

Besides figuring out what the student body government at FCC can do to lower prices of textbooks at a local level, the ASG is also part in the Greatest Advocacy Plan Ever. GAPE is a program through California Student Association of Community Colleges in which all of the community colleges in the state are divided into regions. The regions then take turns advocating for the lowering of textbook prices to their local representatives in Sacramento.

"Each region is responsible for a week of advocacy to the capital," said Lorente, "We E-mail legislatures, call them and set up appointments. Fax them constantly during our GAPE period and basically bombarding them to let them know that this issue is near and dear to our hearts."

FCC's period to advocate doesn't begin until the week of March 6, but Lorente already has members of the ASG starting to advocate to our representatives in Sacramento.

The GAPE leads up to the March N March where students from junior colleges all over California march on the capitol to protest the cost of textbooks.

"Last year we took one bus to the March N March," said Lorente. "Our goal this year is five buses for the March N March. We are going to publicize the heck out of the March N March this year."

Lorente explained that because of students backing out at the last minute last year due to schedule conflicts, students would have to pay \$5 to reserve a seat on the bus for this year's trip.

"Once they get to the capitol, the \$5 will be refunded and students will receive a money per diem to pay for meals," said Lorente.

Small change, good savings

Student Body ID card now used universally on campus

Mona Lisa McCormik
Rampage reporter

The new Associated Student Body cards are more functional making the old library card obsolete.

Not only is the new ASB identification card used as the new library card, this card can also be used in the computer labs at the Media Center and students can receive discounts with merchants in the vicinity.

The new machine that combines the ASB ID Card and Library card has also been used at other universities and community colleges in the state.

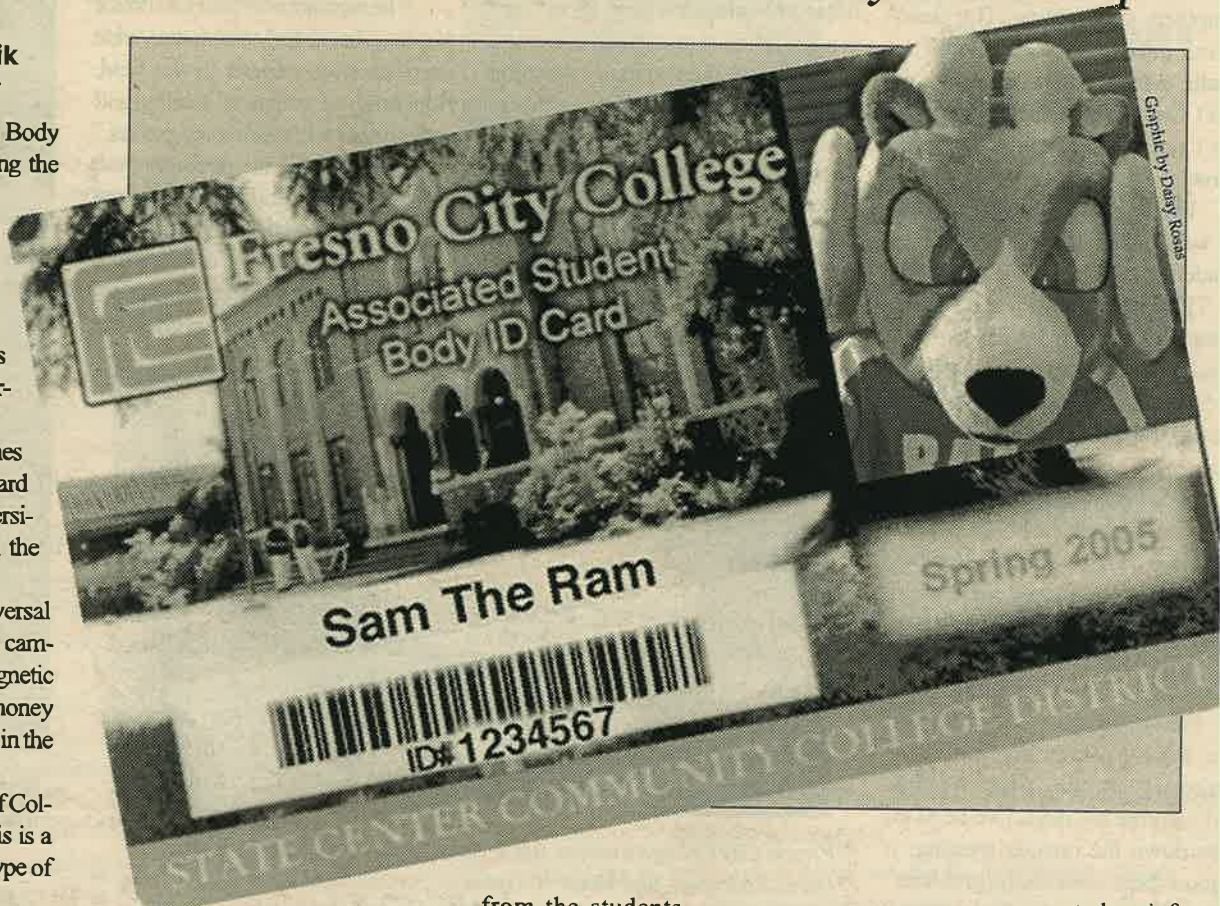
"We wanted to make a universal card, something that can be used campus-wide, [students can] use a magnetic strip to look up information, put money on [the card] where it can be used in the cafeteria and bookstore," said

Gurdeep K. Sihota, Director of College Activities. "At this point, this is a good step to getting a universal-type of ID card system."

Sihota said another reason for the new ASB ID Cards was, "the last machine was giving a lot of problems, making students wait and come back."

Some of the discounts students can receive with the card include: restaurants, a bowling alley, salons, music and clothing stores.

Students can attend FCC Home Sporting Events for \$1.00. Cardholders can also receive a 10% discount off when purchasing supplies at the FCC Bookstore.



Compared to the old ASB ID card, there is definitely more color. The new card currently has a barcode with the student's name, ID number, picture and current semester enrolled right on the front.

With a color background of the FCC library, it is a "nice looking card and very professional", commented Sihota.

"There has been good feedback

from the students and we're happy," said Sihota.

Second semester accounting student, Por Soua Moua, 19, said "[The new ASB card] is better than last semester, and it's cool because

it's two in one, and you don't have to carry many cards with you."

The cards are \$5 per semester, the

*"Students can
attend FCC
home sporting
events for \$1."*

student information is updated and a sticker is put on the card for the new semester enrolled. It is \$2.50 to replace lost or stolen ASB ID cards.

If students have questions

they are encouraged to call the College Activities Desk in the Student Lounge at (559) 265-5711.

Spinning Chair

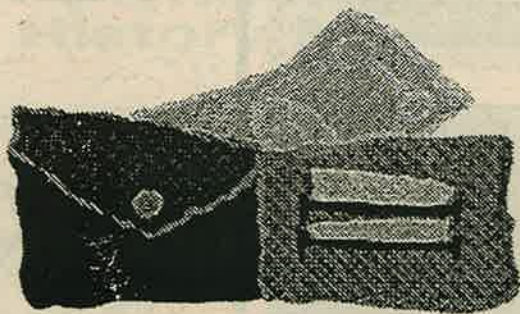
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SPECIALS GOOD THRU FEB. 28, 2005. WE MAINTAIN THE RIGHT TO CHANGE PRICES AND DISCOUNTS WITHOUT NOTICE AND TO CORRECT ERRORS. ITEMS OF EQUAL VALUE MAY BE SUBSTITUTED

Spot: *The struggle to find one continues*

Continued from page 1

At first these spaces will be occupied by portable rooms while applied technics, the student services and the old administration building are being remodeled.

The remodeling is scheduled to begin summer 2005.

After those projects are finished the new parking lots should be opened in 2009.

If you want to get to class on time right now you have to get up at least 30 minutes earlier when you come by car to be sure to get a parking spot.

In case students arrive on campus at rush hour which apparently is around 9 to 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. they sometimes have to look for a parking spot for as long as 40 minutes.

"You need to look for a spot so long and then you're late for class," said FCC student Mary Yom.

This semester Yom organized a carpool with her neighbor who luckily has the same schedule.

While Jason Stoffel, student at FCC, has to park by Carl's Jr. on Blackstone Ave. at 6 p.m. because the campus lots are so full, his friend Kevin Potts found a different solution.

From Clovis, Potts rollerblades to Shaw and Cedar avenues each morning and then takes the bus.

To get to his 7 a.m. class in time he has to leave his place as early as 4:20 in the morning.

"There is no trouble at all to find a spot at 7.30 a.m.," a student said. "The lot is half empty. But if you arrive at 7.40 a.m., good luck!"

FCC student Lynetta Lima thinks that accidents in the parking lots happen because people are in a rush.

She rather takes her time to look for a good parking spot because her classes are at night and she doesn't want to walk too far in the dark to get to her car.

Most students don't know that a campus police officer will escort them to their car at night if they call the department at 442-8201.

Joshua Silveira parks by Albertson's when he arrives for his 10 a.m. class.

"I don't feel like taking the time to look for a parking spot," he said. "It's easier to walk."

Parking in the neighborhood around campus is no real alternative. Most parking spots on the side of the roads are reserved for residential parking with permission.

When the semester starts people are not only on campus to go to class but also to buy books, see a counselor and add or drop classes, Anne Vangalder from the Campus Police Department said, "That's why parking at the beginning of a semester is always tough."

FCC set for February celebrations of African-American History Month

By Daniel Cloyd
Rampage reporter

Started in 1926 as Negro History Week, African American History Month has always focused on bringing attention to the contributions of African Americans in United States history.

The month of February was chosen because it held the birthdates of both Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.

In 1976 Negro History Week became African American History Month.

With more time and a new title, this month has followed the same goals of recognizing African American's contributions and culture.



Photo by Charles Moore, Kodak.com

Doing its part in recognizing the significance of this month, Fresno City College will be host-

ing a series of events starting on Jan. 31, and lasting until Feb. 23. Jan. 31 will begin the month of rec-

ognition with the opening ceremonies, which will be held in the FCC Theatre.

This year's African American History Month will bring dance performances such as Dallas Black Dance Theatre, speakers including Charles Moore [a civil rights photographer], and cultural food on Soul Food Day.

The planned events will do much to recognize African American History as well as its culture.

There will be nine events held this month.

Some will be held at the Tower Theatre and will require ticket purchase at the Tower Theatre Box Office. More information containing events and their times are available in the Student Activities Office.

Fresno City College AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH 2005



February 4
9 Ball Tournament
Game Room
10 am - 2 pm

February 8 - 10
Mini Vendor Fair
Campus Mall
9am - 6pm

February 11
Gospel Night
Theatre
6 pm - 9 pm

February 15
"A Killing in Choctaw"
One-man play performed
by Mr. Carl Raye
Theater
11 am

February 16
Rites of Passage
College Center &
Staff Dining Room
9:30 am - 2 pm

February 22
Remembering Bob Marley
College Center
12 pm

February 23
Reggae Music
Free Speech Area
12 pm

February 23
Club Rush
Main Fountain Area
10 am - 2 pm

For more information call: (559) 265-5711

Game of the Week

FCC Rams



VS.

Sacramento City College



Sport: Baseball

When: Feb. 10, 6 p.m.

Where: Sacramento

Notes: The top two pre-season favorites in the nation meet for a three-game series two weeks into the season.

Dates & Info

Men's Basketball

- Feb. 2, 7 p.m. vs. Merced
- Feb. 5, 7 p.m. @ Modesto
- Feb. 9, 7 p.m. @ Reedley
- Feb. 12, 7 p.m. vs. Porterville
- Feb. 16, 7 p.m. @ West Hills

Women's Basketball

- Feb. 2, 5 p.m. vs. COS
- Feb. 5, 6 p.m. vs. Merced
- Feb. 9, 6 p.m. @ Modesto
- Feb. 12, 5 p.m. vs. Reedley

Baseball

- Feb. 3, 6 p.m. vs. Cosumnes River
- Feb. 4, 3 p.m. vs. Shasta
- Feb. 5, 12 p.m. vs. Butte
- Feb. 10-12, @ Sacramento

Softball

- Feb. 8, 12:30 p.m. vs. Sierra
- Feb. 12, 1 p.m. @ San Mateo
- Feb. 13, 12 p.m. @ Redwoods (Fremont)
- Feb. 13, 2 p.m. @ Ohlone (Fremont)

Women's Tennis

- Feb. 9, 2 p.m. @ Bakersfield
- Feb. 11-12, Mission College Tournament (Santa Clara)

Undefeated

Rams ranked No. 1 in the state with a 23-0 record

By Quinn Robinson
Rampage reporter

Organized chaos.

From the start of his tenure here at Fresno City College, coach Vance Walberg has preached this very style of play to his team. This year, the Rams have turned it up a notch as they remain undefeated at 23-0. Sixteen of those victories have come with FCC scoring 100 points or more.

"That [organized chaos] is what we're trying to create," said Walberg. "We're trying to make better decisions than they make while playing to our style."

The Rams squared off against the Claim Jumpers of Columbia College on Jan. 29 in front of a packed house at FCC. Columbia came out on a roll early in the game, leading 10-5 while FCC struggled to establish a tempo they were comfortable with. The Rams gained control quickly after that as Anthony Zuniga hooked up with Reggie Butler for a fast-break alley-oop. The Rams won the game in a blowout, 118-70.

Columbia (9-12, 3-5) fought to keep the game close in the first half. The Claim Jumpers were able to break FCC's daunting press to get some open jumpers and drives to the basket that usually resulted in a defensive foul on the Rams. As the half wound down, the fans inside the gym got a little more comfortable as FCC led 58-35.

In the first meeting between the two this season, Columbia hit seven three-pointers in the first half. The Claim Jumpers could do nothing to repeat their shooting performance from beyond the arc. Throughout the night, the rim acted as a sixth man for FCC and made it almost impossible for a shot to fall in Columbia's favor when they needed it most.

"There's not much you can do to prepare for a game like this," said Columbia coach Nathan Rien. "You got ten guys that play their hearts out. They're a good team, well-coached and they shoot the ball really well."

Coach Rien witnessed FCC's shooting capabilities first hand. The Rams, led by sophomore forward Anthony Esparza's 21 points, shot 50 percent from beyond the arc as Esparza connected on five of his six attempts. Columbia's Mostafa Asefi led all scorers with 25 points while hitting five of nine 3-pointers.

The Rams were playing a little banged up as guard Anthony Zuniga is recovering from an injured hand and big man Cedrick Kalombo is battling with an

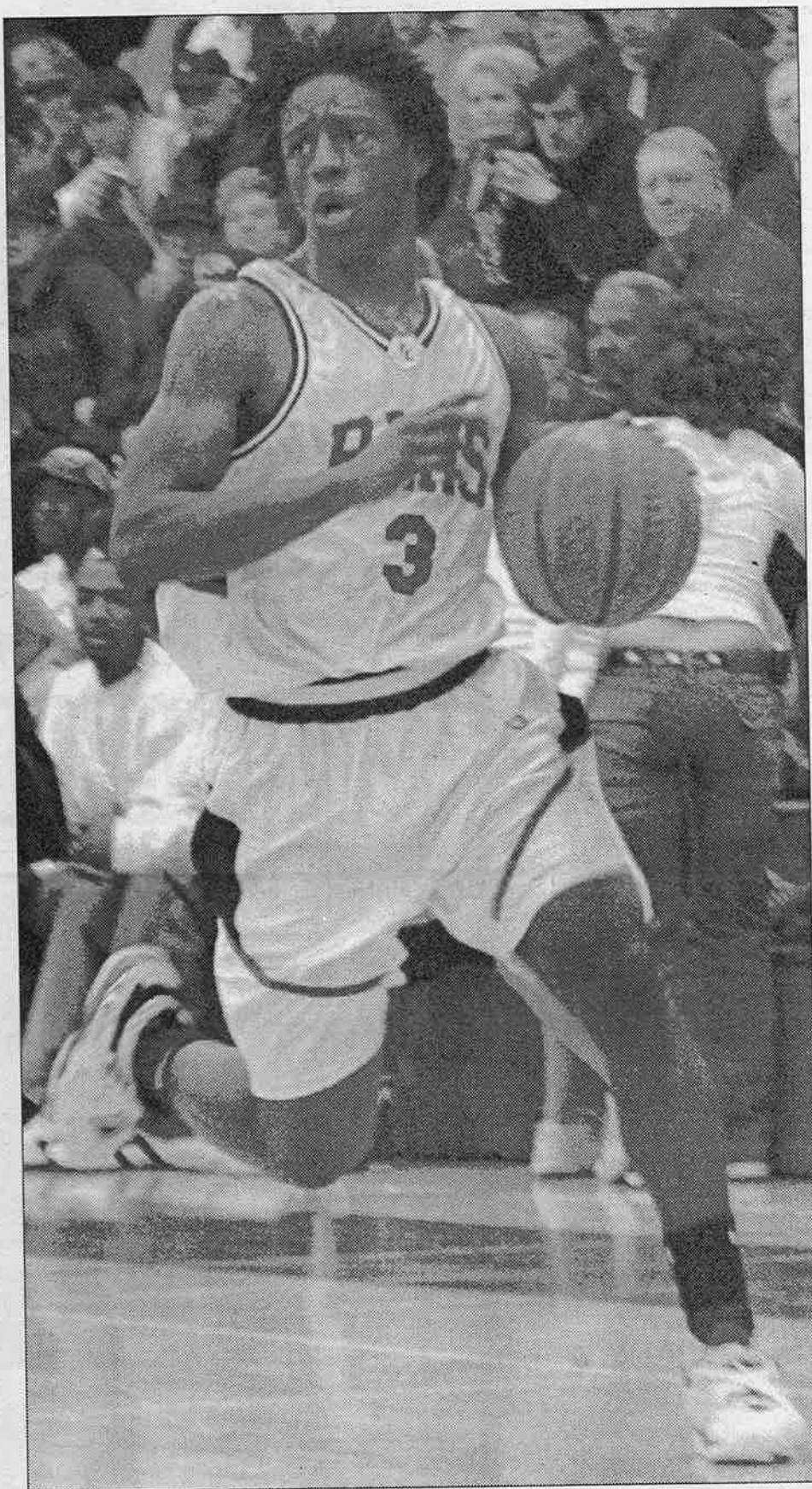


Photo by Jason Kalpakoff

Bubba Tolliver streaks down the court during FCC's 117-96 victory over West Hills College Jan. 22 at the FCC gym.

See Men, page 8

Women's hoops in and out of CVC lead

By David Witte
Sports Editor

After flirting briefly with sole possession of first place in the Central Valley Conference, the FCC women's basketball team has fallen back into a tie with Merced.

FCC defeated Porterville 71-58 Jan. 26, largely on freshman Verenique Warren's 18 points and five assists. Brittney Nicolls and Breanna Perry also scored 15 points each. Jennifer Borrer led Porterville with 27 points and 13 rebounds.

"We match up good with Porterville," FCC coach Donnie Johnson said. "They're a guard-oriented team."

FCC's win broke the first place tie between the two teams.

"The team that lost this game is not out of the race," Porterville coach Dave Kavern said. "They have to come over to our place, and a couple of other places."

FCC's next game, at Taft College, did not go as well. The Cougars beat the Rams inside, handing FCC a 74-71 loss.

"It was ugly," Johnson said. "When you get beat, everything's ugly. We started out flat."

Johnson cited Taft's height as a deciding factor. FCC only has one player over six feet tall (Rodisha Lawrence, 6-2), while the Cougars have three: Sherrisa Hayes and Denisha Profit, both 6-3, and Jocelyne Norris at 6-1.

"They are big," Johnson said. "And big people shoot very close to the basket, which is a high-percentage shot."

The Rams are now tied with Merced for first place in the CVC. Both teams have a conference record of 5-2, though FCC has a better overall record at 13-10 to Merced's 11-11. Porterville is half a game behind at 4-2 (17-5 overall). Taft is way down at sixth, with a 3-4 conference, and 7-15 overall record.

"On any given night in our conference, anybody can beat anybody," Johnson said. "Every night, we have players who step up and do good things for us, but we have yet to put together a complete game."

Some of FCC's players have become consistent at their good things. Lawrence leads the CVC in field goal percentage and is fifth in rebounds per game. Warren is second in assists, with almost four per game.



FCC's Erin Pearson pressures Porterville's Alma Lopez during FCC's 71-58 victory Jan. 26. FCC held Porterville to 29% shooting from the field.

Photo by Daisy Rosas

Starting out on top

FCC baseball ranked No. 1 in nation by Baseball America

By Quinn Robinson
Rampage reporter

With all the success over the years under head baseball coach Ron Scott, the 2005 squad has done something no other FCC team has done during his 17-year career.

They've entered the regular season ranked No. 1 in the nation by Baseball America.

"It's more flattery than anything," Scott said. "Our kids realize that it's a combination of our team's success in the past and our returning players. We haven't proven anything yet, we haven't won a game yet but it's a nice recognition for our baseball program."

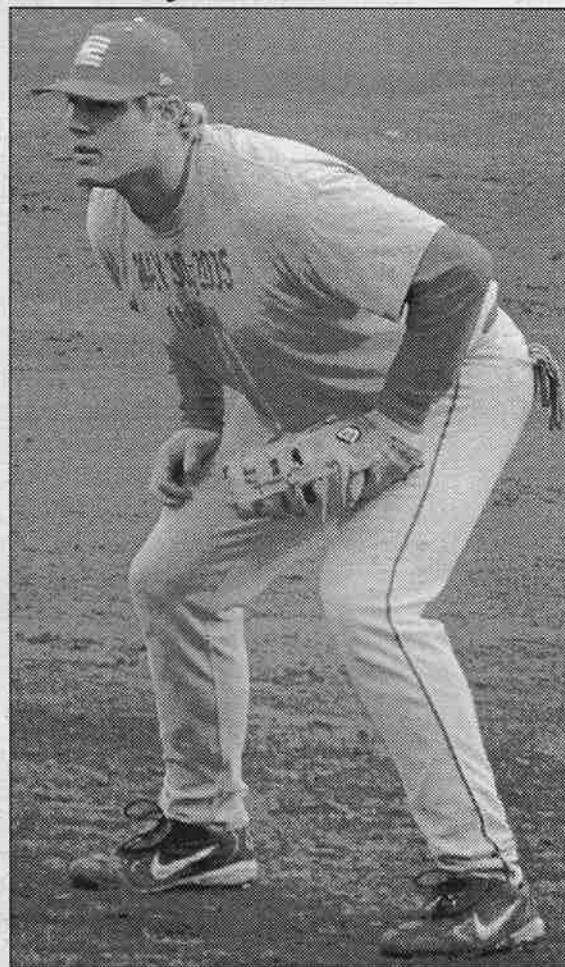
FCC went 33-7 overall last year and 17-4 in the Central Valley Conference, clinching their thirteenth conference title under Scott. The Rams won three playoff games last year before being ousted by Saddleback 5-2 in the state final four.

The Rams have a few players returning this season including Cal Big Stick award winner Chad Rothford and Cal Pitcher of the Year Andy Underwood. Underwood's freshman year consisted of a 12-1 record with a 2.10 ERA and 89 strikeouts to only 26 walks, while Rothford boasted a .369 batting average with 11 home runs and 57 RBI.

"I'm not going to see a lot of fastballs thrown my way this year so I'm working on hitting the off-speed stuff," said Rothford. "There are some pitchers who are going to come after me and there are some guys who aren't. I'm not sure how they're going to pitch around me, we'll just see if they do or not."

"We're expecting good things from Rothford and Underwood," said Scott. "We have Rollie Gibson and Justin LaBreck who are two outstanding pitchers. Then we have Jason Sadoian returning from last year. We have a good nucleus of returning players with some really good freshmen coming in."

Although FCC displays a line-up full of potentially deadly hitters, coach Scott still



Pitcher Andy Underwood (left) and first-baseman Chad Rothford (right) are preseason All-Americans by Collegiate Baseball. Underwood went 12-1 with a 2.10 ERA, and Rothford batted .369 with 11 home runs.

Photos by Daisy Rosas

sees his team's biggest strength coming from a pitching staff that has five left-handed pitchers on the roster this year.

"Any time you have left-handers, it's an advantage for you," said Scott. "They're a little banged up. Daniel Buller has had some arm problems and probably won't into it [pitching] until the middle of the season. [Michael] Guerrero and Gibson are left-handed and a kid named Sean Cunningham, those are four talented left-handers."

With the season just around the corner, coach Scott still senses some work needing to be done before they reach the level of play they want to be at.

"We need to work on our defense a little bit around the infield," Scott said. "We're not as clean in there right now as we want to be. We could probably work on our hitting game a little bit because hitting is usually behind in the cold weather."

"The rumor out there is the team to watch out for this year in the Central Valley Conference is Porterville," Scott said. "Modesto and Merced have always given us trouble in the past. It's a very balanced conference."

"As far as the state goes, I would say Sacramento and Chabot are the two best teams in northern California and anybody that comes from the Orange Coast Conference out

of southern California. That conference has won the state title thirteen out of the last fifteen years. Teams like Saddleback, Cypress, Santa Ana and Riverside, all those teams are really good."

FCC opens up the season with a game against Cosumnes River Feb. 3. The Rams will play two more games against Shasta and Butte College on Feb. 4 and 5 before traveling up to Sacramento for a three game series against Sacramento City College.

Sacramento is currently No. 2 in the nation behind FCC, although Collegiate Baseball magazine has Sacramento No. 1 in California, with FCC No. 2.

Back to the field

FCC's softball team looks to improve on a 19-19 record with 11 new faces

By David Witte
Sports Editor

Rhonda Williams and her Fresno City College softball team look to improve on an even record in the 2005 season, with a deeper pitching staff and an improved offense.

"We got some people out here that can swing the bats," Williams said.

The Rams' returners include 2004 Central Valley Conference pitcher of the year Jennifer Spradling, who went 15-15 her freshman year with a 1.74 ERA, as well as first-team All CVC short-stop Marissa Salazar, who batted .328 with 18 RBI.

Offense was a concern with the '04 team, with only Salazar and Katrina Jacques batting over .300. The team totaled only six home runs.

"We will always have some pinch hitters and pinch runners who can come in and get the job done,"

Williams said. "We didn't have that last year."

With only two sophomores on the roster in 2004, the Rams are expecting more depth. One notable new arrival is Sarah Montoy, a pitcher out of Kerman.

"We'll start switching off [with Spradling] preseason," Williams said. "And if that's working, we'll stick with it."

With 11 freshman this season, the Rams are looking to take the league back from Reedley, who tallied an 18-3 conference record (30-10 overall), before succumbing 2-0 in the second round of the playoffs to Sierra College.

"With 21 people, the possibilities are endless," Williams said.

FCC is growing up in a tough conference, though. With an 11-10 conference record in 2004, the Rams were fifth out of eight in the CVC.

The Rams kick off the preseason Feb. 8 with a double-header against Sierra College at FCC. The first game starts at 12:30 p.m.

Fresno to host championships

By David Witte
Sports Editor

The Fresno Sports Council and the Commission on Athletics have announced that Fresno will be the site of all fall and winter sports championships for California community colleges for three years.

"The benefit for all athletes is a tremendous educational experience with interacting with other athletes in other arenas, such as banquets

with athletes from other sports," FCC athletic director Susan Yates said.

The different sites will be Grizzlies Stadium for football, Selland Arena for basketball, Fresno Pacific for soccer, FCC for wrestling, Sunnyside High School for water polo, Riverside Golf Course for golf (of course), and Woodward Park, which is already the site for the state cross-country championships.

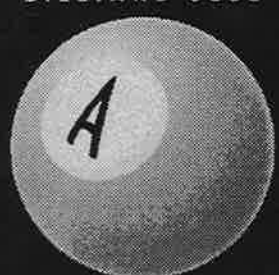
"One of the outreach programs

associated with this will be the K-12 schools," Yates said. "That will include the Adopt-A-Team program, where athletes go to the schools and interact with the students."

The football championship may change from Grizzlies Stadium to Ratcliffe Stadium.

"It'll put us on the map with the other colleges," Yates said. "I don't think the rest of the state realizes what we have to offer here."

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Different land, different life, different game

By Ryan McHenry
Rampage reporter

Welcome to the United States of America. It's a comment most people that reside in the United States never hear, or if they do it doesn't mean much. For Cedric Kalombo it means so much more.

Kalombo was born in Kinshasa, Zaire on June 2nd 1983, the second oldest child of a family of ten. Betty and Aimé Kalombo, who already had a girl were very happy to have their first son. The Kalombo family moved from Zaire to Johannesburg, South Africa six years later. Aimé made a living working as an aeronautical engineer until he retired, at which time he and his wife went into missionary work.

Aimé informed Cedrick at the age of 16 that he had a surprise for him on the way to his grandfathers house. Cedrick, unaware of the surprise, was very anxious. At 16 years of age, Cedrick was already growing rapidly to a height of 6 feet 3 inches tall. Upon arriving he was introduced to his first cousin, Dikembe Mutombo the 16-year veteran of the NBA and 7-time NBA All-Star.

Cedrick was immediately taken by surprise and couldn't believe Mutombo's size.

Mutombo is 7-foot-2 inches tall and shook Cedrick's hand. Cedrick's hand was swallowed up by the much bigger hand of

Mutombo. Cedrick had the opportunity to speak with Mutombo, asking questions about America, what it was like, and how he liked it there. Mutombo passed on that it was a tremendous amount of work being an NBA player. Cedrick recalls this moment as one which he will always cherish.

Cedrick left his home 3 1/2 years ago and has been living in the United States ever since. When he left home his family and friends were all very sad because they knew that Cedrick would be leaving, but at the same time were happy for the great opportunity that Cedrick had.

He spent his first year in college at Lee University of the NAIA conference in Cleveland Tennessee where he redshirted as a freshman. After completing his first year at Lee he decided to move on to a school more suited to his style.

Back home in Johannesburg, "it's a lot like living in the USA, it's a large metropolis with many different types of people," Kalombo said. Kalombo grew up in a five-bedroom house (two people in each room), and a huge living room where they would all hang out. Their house had a pool and a very spacious back yard where they would play football, or as Americans call it, soccer.

Fresno City College was not Kalombo's first school of choice. He lived in Atlanta, Georgia for a short time before coming to Fresno. He visited here the ensuing summer

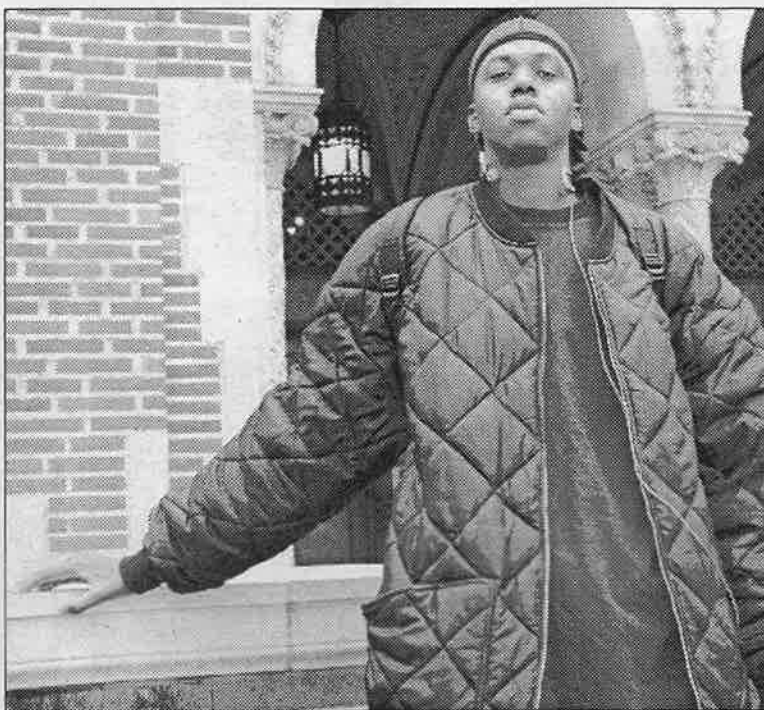


Photo by Sergio Cortes

Cedrick Kalombo is adjusting to life in America as well as American basketball. Kalombo is in the state top ten in blocks with 69.

where he met Alex Hanson. Hanson tried to talk Kalombo into playing here for the Rams. Kalombo met with the FCC coaching staff and decided that FCC wasn't the right place for him. He flew to Tampa, Florida where he was invited to try out for the basketball team there. "It was far too lackadaisical. I can be kind of lazy at times so I knew that Tampa wasn't the right place for me" said Kalombo.

In came head coach Vance Walberg, who runs the basketball program at FCC, preaching hard work and the success to prove it. Kalombo felt that a school that is much more strict and hard-working would be a better environment for him so he decided to come back

to FCC. And what a great move that was. Kalombo is playing on the No. 1 ranked basketball team in California and through Saturday January 29th boasts a record of 23-0.

Here in Fresno, Kalombo enjoys hanging out with friends, going to the movies, and occasionally he likes to unwind by painting and drawing. He is very musically diverse as he listens to a vast array of music from hip-hop to rhythm and blues, and rock 'n roll to gospel.

What Kalombo misses most about home is the food.

"Oh man, my mom can cook," Kalombo said. "I love her chicken and rice dinner, she makes this special sauce for the chicken, it's

good." Nothing beats home cooking no matter what country you're from.

On the subject of sports, Kalombo likes many different sports. He likes the New England Patriots to win the Super Bowl.

"They have been there before so they should win," Kalombo said. He also likes soccer, tennis, and track and field. Kevin Garnett and Tracy McGrady are Kalombo's two favorite NBA players.

"K.G. is very energetic and a great shot blocker, and that's what I like to do," Kalombo said.

Currently Kalombo is undecided on a major but dreams of playing professional basketball.

"He definitely has the size," coach Walberg said. "He is six feet, nine inches tall and has a 72-inch wing span so he is a definite presence for us under the basket."

To make it at the next level Kalombo will have to work hard to develop his strength and hands.

"Working hard, getting stronger, and improving his hands are areas Cedrick needs improvement on," Walberg said.

Kalombo's development has been slow-going so far this season. He attributes this to the difference between the European style of play and basketball here in the United States.

"The game here is much more physical, and back home it is more a finesse game," Kalombo said. He has shot 56.1% from the floor this season and leads the team in blocked shots with 69, which puts him in the top 10 in the state for blocked shots.

Men: Walberg not satisfied

Continued from page 1
injured left thumb.

"It's part of the game," said Walberg. "You hate to see anyone get hurt, but there are going to be bumps and bruises here and there. You just have to play through the injuries at this level."

As the Rams begin the second half of league play, coach Walberg still sees room for improvement from his team.

"We have to get a lot smarter," said Walberg. "There are three

things I preach to my team: to play hard, play together and play smart. I just don't think we're there yet and it's just going to take time but we'll get there."

The Rams next game is tonight in the FCC gym as the Rams host the Merced Blue Devils. FCC then hits the road for two games as they travel to Modesto on Feb. 5 to play the Pirates before heading to Reedley Feb. 9 to take on the Tigers.

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Cell Phone Etiquette

FCC students do have lives outside of class

Cell phones are not a distraction if the students in class and the instructor that teaches the class can simply grow up and not make a big deal about them. Most students that are going to college go because they choose to.

It too is their choice to go to class and pay attention, and if the ringing of a cell phone is going to distract them, then so is any other noise, from students outside to the person sitting behind them tapping their pencil.

Cell phones in class aren't the problem. The problem is the scene that people choose to make about a cell phone going off during class.

My mother is a cancer patient. Another chemotherapy treatment means another night of sickness. As I sit in class attempting to follow the lecture, my mind is elsewhere.

It is during times like this that my cell phone reassures me that if something has changed at the hospital, I will be notified immediately. Nearly every student here on campus that has a cell phone has a reason for it: they have children or other responsibilities they can't ignore.

First and foremost, due to the response that my mother's body has with the chemotherapy, her doctors have to contact me every time anything in her vital signs change or the health care provided to her needs to be altered in any way.

If her medication needs to be changed, I am the one that has to be contacted to OK that change. If she is admitted to the hospital or released to go home, once again I have to be contacted by a medical professional to acknowledge that change.

My family and I need to be able to communicate with one another at any given time to make sure there is someone with my mother at all times, as she is no longer allowed to be alone.

There was a time when my cell phone was an optional piece of technology and I might have stood differently on the idea of cell phones be-



Dana McIntosh

ing allowed in class, but circumstances have changed.

My cell phone has become a necessity. Just because class starts does not mean that the rest

"There was a time when my cell phone was an optional piece of technology ... but circumstances have changed."

of my life stops: illness continues, as does the lives of those not in class.

There are times when I need to be reached and it isn't always convenient for my schedule, but in comparison to the schedule of my mother's doctor, my schedule is far less important. I am relying on him

to give me the information I need to make life-altering decisions in my mother's life. I need to be able to be contacted whether I am in class or somewhere else.

Just one more distraction for students trying to learn

To use a cell phone for cheating you either need to have a dumb teacher or one that doesn't pay much attention at all. That's what I figured until I thought things through and found a way that works when people have the same test at different hours.

When you're in a class with 200 people sitting in an auditorium the teacher can't keep their eyes on everybody during the test.

So, with the help of one of those new must-have-to-be-cool cell phones with a camera, student A could take pictures of the test at 10 a.m. and give to student B who takes the same test at 6 p.m.

That way student B has enough time to look up at all the perfect answers for the not too difficult multiple choice questions that he or she otherwise still might not have gotten right and scores an A.

Even better, why limit this service to friends? Couldn't you upload the test sheets onto the internet and earn some money this way, for the good cause of your wallet?

All right, I threw it out there. And yet, cell phones can't be part of class. It is some-



Christine Haeussling

how distracting to the teacher, having to ask for students' attention every other minute. Even worse, it is distracting to you, my fellow students, that you are here driven by the desire to learn.

A cell phone has certain ways to make it harder for you to focus on what the instructor is trying to teach you.

If the cell phone is turned on, it's just too tempting to check every once in a while if a guy called or your friend or mom or whoever.

Then, if that guy called, it would probably be best to leave the room for a few minutes to call him back immediately. Oh no, HE is already calling back! I think I should run out and answer the phone.

So, no one is calling. No new text messages. No one you want to write a text message to. For these moments, there are games on your cell phone.

By the time you finally can't beat your own score at Snake and Tetris anymore and when there are no more things in space to destroy, then you'll hopefully have one of these cell phones that connect to the cell phone next to you via infrared. Sigh of relief.

Now you can also distract your neighbor and play against him on your cell phone display while he is doing the exact same thing. The instructor has been left behind three levels ago.

Although there really is no use for cell phones during class you can be sure that enough people have theirs with them, turned on, to play the funnest game of all: victims are the students who forgot to silence their cell phones, winner is who has the most phone numbers of these people. Anything left to say?



Illustration by David Witte

Campus Voices

How do you feel about students using cell phones in class?

By Sergio Cortes



Adrian Martinez
Art

"As long as it doesn't ring, it won't be distracting to students."



Adrienne Wheeler
Chemistry

"There are others trying to get an education and you are disrupting them."



Bernardo Salazar
Women's Studies

"It's annoying especially if it has crappy music on ... and it's really annoying when they answer it."



Martha Mendez
Psychology

"It is fine if people answer before and after class."



Jordan Church
Undecided

"I think it's rude unless it's an emergency."



Jovan Thompson
Business

"They should be paying attention instead of talking on their cell phone."

Tranquil Tantrums

Beware: The Empty Hand

Don't be fooled by something for nothing



Will Tranquilli

"Buy a piping hot Motley Muffin and you could be driving a Mercedes Benz 300 SL in time for Valentine's Day."

How can they offer you a \$50,000 car for buying a lousy \$0.79 pastry? It's a good deal, right? It is, for the winner, that one lucky buyer in 2 million. The other 999,999 lose.

Few FCC students can afford to ignore the economy of intelligent consumer purchasing; a limited budget can be extended by buying thoughtfully (with the exception of required textbooks, which a thinking person would have to steal). Most students can ill-afford not to buy brainfully. (Is 'brainfully' a word? Well, now it is.)

How thoughtful is the above example? Do the math. It's simple, they are giving you a statistical value of 395/100,000th of a cent for your hard-earned 79 cents. What? That's not the kind of discount that makes you rush out to buy a muffin? Well, gosh, isn't the car value enough? If you're brain-dead, yes.

There! You've been stricken by the empty hand, the offer of something for virtually nothing.

Look at it this way, after you have consumed 500,000 muffins, you get the value of a free muffin, but no cigar (or, in this case, no Mercedes Benz) because we have assigned a cash value to your chance to win and you've gotten your five hundred-thousand-and-first muffin free. Put in those terms, it's not really such a super-great deal, now, is it? Unless you are brain-dead.

How do they get away with this deception? It's hard to say. The law says an illegal lottery has three elements: prize, consideration and chance. The Mercedes is the prize, the chance (two million to one) is the odds against getting the

prize offered and the consideration - what you pay for the chance to get the car - is your 79 cent muffin purchase.

Bait-and-switch and other predatory marketing devices are illegal, why not these give-aways? There is no clear answer.

Such offers pervade every venue of advertising: TV, internet, radio, print and direct mail. A careful review of a Sunday edition of a prominent metropolitan newspaper (which shall remain nameless so as not to embarrass the little honey-making insect) contained no fewer than eight of these bogus deals.

"You are not brain-dead, so don't bite on the something for nothing deal, especially when you have to come up with the something."

How do they get away with it? Could the answer lie in the ever-present phrase, "No purchase necessary"?

"I'd like to register for the drawing for the Province of Ontario giveaway."

"Certainly sir, will that be cash or charge?"

"Neither, I don't want to buy the synthetic toe nail stiffener; I just want a chance to win Ontario. The ad says no purchase necessary."

"That is correct, sir, here are your rules."

Examining the rules under a 24 power magnifying glass (the print's kinda small) you discover that you must hand-draw the entry form exactly — using sharpened sticks of charcoal — on a paper-thin sheet of platinum, fill it out in ancient hieroglyphics, fold it twenty-seven times, have it authenticated by your third grade teacher, encase it in a steamer trunk and deliver it to the contest manager's offices in Madagascar by Overnight Federal Express. You have 24 hours from the date you receive the rules."

Or, you could buy an extra-large combo meal and drop your receipt in their convenient entry box. Duh!

To any reflective person, giveaways constitute fraud. They prey on the brain's inability to compare the true value of the offer with the sexy motivational four-color image of your heart's desire. Isn't it illegal to prey on human frailty?

Markdowns or a percentage off the regular price (the law says they must be actual discounts - they had to have been sold at the regular price prior to the sale) or a two-for-one offer or a bonus gift, these are values you can calculate. You can decide if the can of car wax at 25 percent off or with a free tooth-pick dispenser is worth buying now instead of waiting until it's actually needed.

But a chance to spend two weeks with Brit-tany Spears in her underwear (assuming her underwear would fit you)?

"Hell yes! I'll take two dozen cans. Who knows, I may buy a car someday?"

Do you really think you'll ever even see those intriguing unmentionables? Come on! Get a clue!

There is a deadly Oriental martial art called The Empty Hand — 'karate' in Japanese. If you must live within a budget, karate is probably not as dangerous to you as its commercial namesake.

So how to deal with this insulting marketing disease, the Empty Hand? Simple, if you are someone who has to pinch pennies.

As soon as you see or hear the phrase, "Register for this free drawing" or "Enter for our giveaway", tell the management that you are not brain-dead so you don't bite on the something for nothing deal, especially when you have to come up with the something.

Then, run, don't walk, to the nearest 25 percent off, two-for-one or bonus-gift sale.

If you're that rare student who is brain-dead or doesn't have to live within a budget, go ahead and enter that contest. Then, call me at the Rampage.

You see, I have this bridge for sale, we need to talk.

No youth, no future

What happened to our theatrical community?



Whitney Lafon

Recently I went to a local Starbucks and asked for a latte made with organic milk. I was informed politely that they did not carry organic milk anymore because no one ever got any. This proves the long told saying that "you don't want something until it's gone."

The theatrical community in Fresno which was once thriving in the 1950's and 1960's with audiences both young and old is slowly dying because most young people

have lost all interest in attending theater. I mean, why should they go in an age where you can watch TV, or movies or play video games at home why should you have to leave your house to be entertained?

They should go because it's wonderful, they should go because it's interesting and it's different. But they don't.

For most of the theater groups here in Fresno the average age of someone who attends theater is 60.

Half of the problem is that the theater community really caters its shows to the older audience, because guess what? They are the people who come.

Maybe if the theater community would reach out to the young people of Fresno by doing a

"Every time I look into a theater audience I notice that it is getting grayer and grayer. And there are no young people there to replace them."

show like Rent or Avenue Q, young people would be more included to go.

Every time I look out into a theater audience I notice that it is getting grayer and grayer. And there are no young people there to replace them.

This creates even a bigger problem, who is going to see a musical put on by Good Company Players or Children's Musical Theater Works, or a comedy or drama at the 2nd Space Theater or Theater 3?

People are always complaining about how there is no culture in Fresno. But there is plenty of culture, live theater can be seen all over Fresno, including here at Fresno City College or even at Fresno State.

Young people don't know what they are missing. There is a certain magic that happens when the lights come up on a stage and there are real people there, acting, not movie stars on some stupid screen.

Maybe people just don't have the imagination that they once did. Maybe they just don't know what they are missing. There's a certain charm to "My Fair Lady" and "The Sound Of Music" that just doesn't transcend on to the screen.

More and more people are starting to discover that, maybe you should be one of them, or else just like Starbucks and organic milk, Fresno just won't carry theater anymore.

REVIEWS

February 2, 2005

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Horoscopes

David Witte
(Certified dorky white guy)

Nobody was harmed in the making of this column, unless you count that one guy



ARIES (March 21-April 19) You will unwittingly discover time travel while fixing your blender, and wind up fathering your great-uncle.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Your first attempt at duck hunting will end in tragedy when faulty wiring in the old Nintendo electrocutes you.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Your dog will appear on the news both brave and confused when it walks 2000 miles home to Fresno, Ohio.



CANCER (June 21-July 22) You will be released from prison when the courts decide that being Michael Jackson's cellmate is cruel and unusual punishment.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You will avoid jail time when your lawyer uses the infallible "What? That's not my weed" defense.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) The West Side Squirrel Gang will put a hit out on you for "looking at our nuts wrong."



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) The police will have no luck tracking down the Tibetan monks who beat you up and stole your wallet.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) The Nobel Peace Prize committee will take away your award when ABC plays that tape of you beating a nun.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You will step down as Miss America when you are caught in bed with three underage goats.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) The Rampage horoscopes writer will soon discover the consequences of off-beat references to bestiality.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You need to surround yourself with more positive people, you jerk.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Pisces has been taken over by revolutionaries, and will now be known as the People's Republic of Pisces.

'Coach Carter' a slam dunk

Samuel L. Jackson and strong supporting cast a hit with young audiences



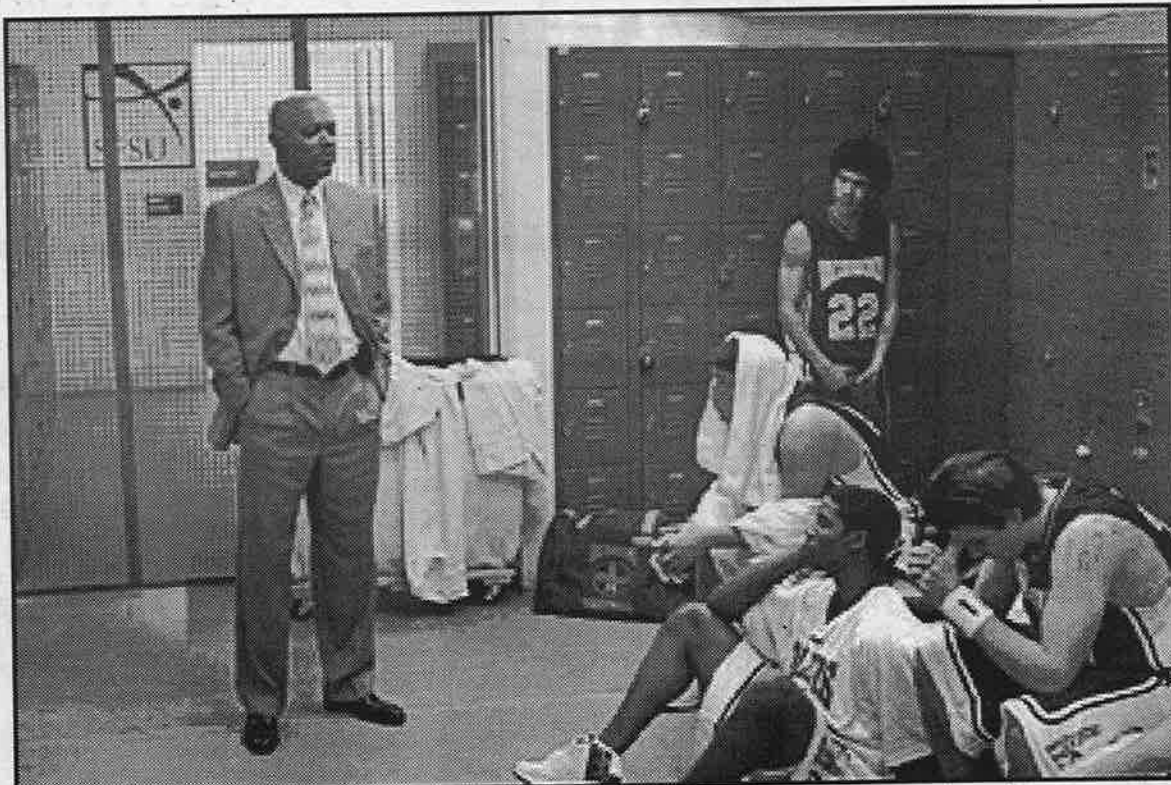
Quinn Robinson

Samuel L. Jackson does it again. In the past Jackson has taken on roles of a marine drill sergeant in 'Basic', a Chicago Police Department hostage negotiator in 'The Negotiator' and brought back the famous crime fighting cop the generation before us grew to love 'Shaft'.

This time Jackson takes on the role of a popular yet controversial high school basketball coach Ken Carter in MTV films' latest release, 'Coach Carter'.

In the film directed by Thomas Carter, Jackson takes over as head basketball coach for his high school alma mater Richmond High. Far from their days of winning seasons and state championships, Jackson inherits the task of taking a group of kids and molding them into winners both on and off the court.

A good supporting cast surrounds Jackson in this movie. Rob Brown plays Kenyon Stone who is being recruited to play basketball at the college level.



Samuel L. Jackson, left, as Coach Carter, looking disappointed with his team in the after a loss.

Nexbase.net

Besides worrying about how he does on the court, Stone is also preparing for his life off the court as his girlfriend played by R&B artist Ashanti is expecting their first kid.

Amidst all the powerful portrayals from the basketball team, the most powerful performance comes from Rick Gonzalez, who

plays Timo Cruz. Cruz started off his senior season watching the rest of his teammates from the stands.

After missing the game and being out there with the guys he's played with for the past three years, Cruz asked Coach Carter if he could rejoin the team.

Cruz is allowed to rejoin the team, but the rollercoaster involving Cruz

and Coach Carter doesn't end there, as director Thomas Carter is able to capture some heart-wrenching moments on the screen.

'Coach Carter' is a must see. The storyline really hits home with the younger audience and gives everyone reassurance that no matter what life throws your way you can accomplish anything.

'Phantom' on-screen surprise

Andrew Lloyd Weber's long-running musical goes to Hollywood



Joanne Lui

Those who are new to the "Phantom" phenomenon and die-hard fans of the show alike, "The Phantom of the Opera" is a thoroughly enjoyable and impressive movie.

From the dramatic opening beats of the overture to the last strains of melody, the beautiful and classical music of Phantom never fails to enthrall audiences. This onscreen treatment of Andrew Lloyd Weber's beloved show will not disappoint audiences.

"The Phantom of the Opera" is the story of a disfigured man who haunts a Parisian opera house in

the 19th century as its legendary "Opera Ghost", demanding a salary and a private opera box in exchange for his creative genius.

The Phantom secretly coaches a young chorus girl, Christine, to perfect her voice and be his angel of music. When Christine tries to break free of his control, the phantom's jealousy rears its ugly and violent head.

Whether you are rooting for the Phantom or Christine's fiancé, Raoul, Gerard Butler and Patrick Wilson play their respective roles perfectly, singing each song with power and passion.

Emmy Rossum, who portrays Christine, has an amazingly graceful and mature voice and screen presence, especially since the actress was merely seventeen at the time that she filmed the movie.

Minnie Driver is the only performer in the movie who does not sing her own songs, as opera star Carlotta is a soprano, but nonetheless the actress brings humor to the colorful character.



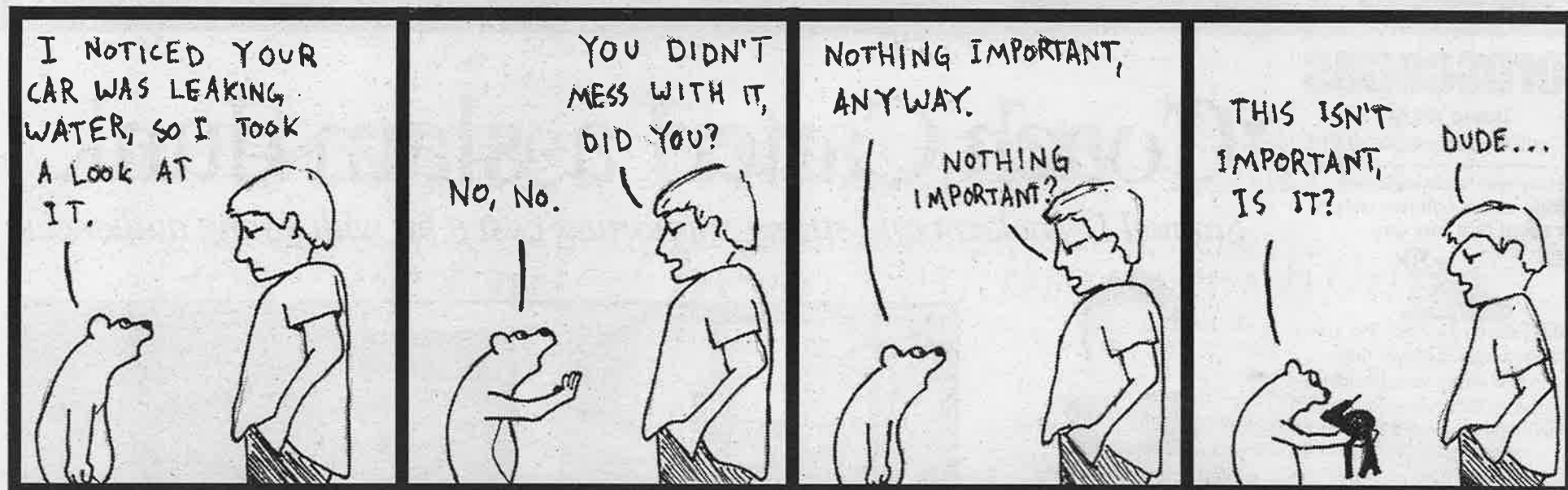
Rossum, left, taking voice lessons from the Phantom, Butler.

Yahoo.com

"Phantom" is the type of musical that is so wonderfully composed that simply listening to the soundtrack is awe-inspiring, but the movie's thrilling scenes, beautiful costumes and wonderful actors make it an experience unlike any other.

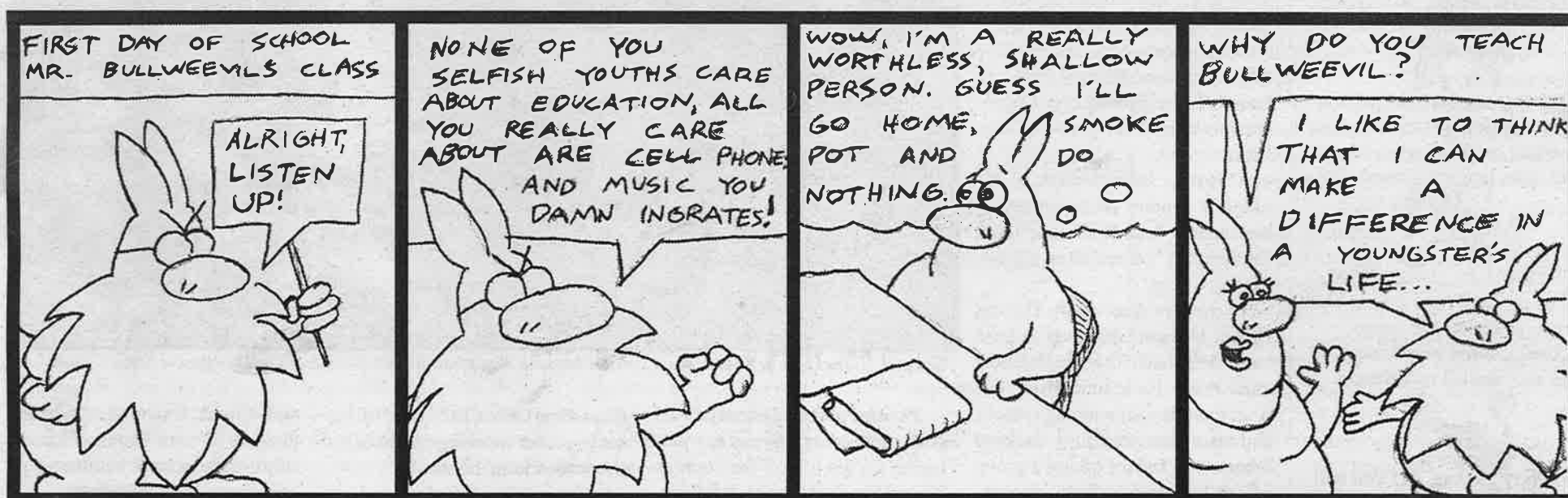
Sockunday Edukatlon

by David Witte



Bullweevil

by Jared Leas



'Precinct 13' is an assault on us all

Laurence Fishburne isn't the only prisoner of this movie



Hawke, front, and Fishburne star in Precinct 13.

Cinema.com



Poua Her

Assault on Precinct 13 is rated R for violence and profanity. It should be rated R for, "Really Bad." Directed by Jean-Fran ois Richet, the movie follows Sergeant Jake Roenick, played by Ethan Hawke, who is about to close down Precinct 13.

Roenick is a burnt-out cop, who has lost trust in his own judgment after a drug bust went wrong. He's your typical movie cop who battles with his judgment as he tries to hide behind alcohol and pain killers.

The movie starts with a great opening [with excellent acting] by Ethan Hawke as a hopped up drug dealer. But this performance falls short with the rest of the hard to believe story. Not even the acting of an Academy Award nominee could save the movie from a horrible plot

The Precinct is old and outdated, nothing works, and it is isolated in a snowy white Detroit factory neighborhood. The computers are all gone, and only three people are left to close down the old jailhouse. Sgt. Roenick, an old police officer and a secretary are cel-

ebating the New Year, when a bus with four prisoners must stop for the night due to the snow storm.

Among the prisoners is Marion Bishop, played by Laurence Fishburne, as the badass police killer and gang leader. He is also joined by Beck, a greasy junky, played by John Leguizamo a hustler who speaks in third person, and a woman who claims she has never broken the law before.

The Precinct comes under attack by rouge police who are trying to kill Bishop before he can testify against them in court. In a race to survive the night, Roenick is forced to hand over weapons to the, "bad guys" so they can help defend the precinct from the police on the outside.

The movie is full of bullets, blood, gun shot wounds, night vision goggles, mistrust and a Mexican standoff. We even have a secretary running around wearing stiletto boots, shooting at bad cops.

Fishburne's character kept reminding me of his Matrix character Morpheus. I don't know about you but I kept ex-

pecting Matrix Kung Fu from Bishop. Bishop is Morpheus, minus the fortune cookie talk and black trench coat.

The movie was a little hard to believe, to have a police building that is completely defenseless with only a motley crew to de-

fend it, and yet the bad guys are having a difficult time taking over.

The movie is great for those that are interested in seeing what the body count is at the end of a movie. It's even better if you like to see people getting whacked and shot at. Definitely not a date movie. I say wait for the video, but if you want to waste money, you are welcome to do so.

"Not even the acting of an Academy Award nominee could save the movie from a horrible plot."