



Rampage

Fresno City College

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since 1949

November 29, 2006

FCC's retention rate high

by Buen Moua

Rampage Reporter

The semester is slowly coming to a close. Classrooms start to shrink. Some, that are enrolled or had fought to get into a course at the beginning of the semester seem to have disappeared from the class.

At the beginning of this semester Fresno City College student John Thompson fought to try to get into the already filled classes. He was on waitlist and one of the classes was Philosophy. He said his friend was enrolled, but he sat in to see if he could add. Thompson did not get in.

"The thing is," said Thompson, "my friend was enrolled but lately hasn't gone to class. I could have been sitting in one of those empty seats."

The population of students at FCC was just over 21,000 in spring of 2006, according to the State Center Community College District's (SCCCD) 2006-2007 Fact Book.

Continuing students [enrolled consecutively in two or more full terms] made up 81 percent of the college population in spring 2006, compared to 65 percent in fall 2005; the fluctuation of continuing students at FCC according to the Fact Book, occurring since 2001 school year, spring always has a higher number of continuing students than Fall. About ten percent are former students returning, and the rest are first time students and first time transferring in FCC in spring of 2006.

According to an Associated Press article in November of 2005 in New York, college dropout rate became a concern to some educators. **See Programs page 3**

How aware are students?



International Awareness week kicks off with a parade of flags through the FCC campus Nov. 14.

Photo by Michael Behlen

by Ife-Chudeni Oputa
Rampage Reporter

Ariel Sharon, Kofi Annan, Brad Pitt, Tony Blair. "One of these things is not like the others. One of these things just doesn't belong. Can you tell which thing is not like the others by the time I finish my song?"

On Wednesday, November 15, the Associated Student Government held a forum as a part of International Week at Fresno City College.

Gerry Bill, Bernard Navarro, and Dympna Ugwu-Oju made up the panel of faculty that led the discussion. The forum discussed why students, and Americans in general, were so removed from international affairs.

As a part of the forum, ASG senator Ashley Harris presented the results of a survey conducted by the Student Government. The survey was answered by 112 students, and asked four questions. Three questions

dealt with foreign relations and one with current American pop culture. Ninety percent of the students surveyed were able to accurately answer the question, "Who is Angelina Jolie currently romantically linked to?" For the other questions, the results were drastically different. Only 29% of students could answer the prompt, "Name three current international conflicts," which had the highest percent of correct answers among the foreign relations questions.

"I think that a lot of our young students are extremely uninformed when it comes to issues," said Bernard Navarro, a Sociology and American-Indian Studies Instructor at Fresno City College, "I don't think it stems from a lack of interest in international affairs. I just think that if you look at the student life today, it's pretty chaotic." Navarro also faulted freedom for the nation's complacency toward the rest of the world. **"I think See International page 2"**

Alexis Khoury - A life in books

by Maylin Tu
Rampage Reporter

For some people, books are tortures devised by sadistic English teachers under the pretext

of "learning." For others, they might be harmless fast-paced entertainment particularly handy at the airport.

For English instructor Alexis Khoury, books are a passion.

This is Khoury's first semester at FCC. For the past sixteen years, she taught at Reedley College. Her husband teaches economics at FCC, and that certainly played a part in the transfer, but it was the commute from Fresno to Reedley that finally did it—that and the need for a change.

"It's much busier here...I'm really happy here...I've had a great semester. I love all the activity."

Khoury was born in Yonkers, NY, 20 minutes outside of New York City, to parents who married outside of normal socio-cultural boundaries.

"My father was a Jordanian Christian Arab and my mother was a Jewish girl from Putnam

County."

It was a match that both sides of the family had difficulty accepting, and one that ultimately did not last. Khoury's parents divorced when she was five, and her father moved back to his native country.

Growing up in a hard neighborhood and a broken family, she found solace in books.

"I was really little when I found out about reading. I think it was an escape for me... there was a lot of unhappiness and poverty."

Her love for reading naturally expressed itself in writing as well:

"When I was in second grade I used to write stories and put them in little books."

Eventually, books became more than just an escape, but a way to relate her own experiences to those of other people.

The first influential book she remembers reading was "Jane Eyre" by Charlotte Bronte.

"I think I identified with her sense of injustice."

As an undergrad studying English at NYU, Khoury decided to transfer to SUNY Binghamton to study with John Gardner after reading an article about him and his book "On moral Fiction." Ironically, the article mocked Gardner for the very reasons Khoury chose to study under him.

"It was one of the best decisions I ever made."

She graduated with a BA in English with an emphasis in creative writing and later received her master's from UMass-Amherst.

Although becoming an English teacher had always been the plan, teaching at a community college had not:

"I started teaching com-
see Khoury, Page 3

Crimes of the Heart



Photo by Robin Vallentyne

The FCC Theatre will feature the play *Crimes of the Heart* (above), the dance production *Urban Living*, and several concerts. See calendar, Page 2

International: Media partly to blame

continued from page 1

it has a lot to do with the fact that we have so many freedoms, which is a good thing,” said Navarro, “But at the same time it allows us to ignore what’s happening in the world, which I think is unfortunate.”

As an immigrant of Nigeria, Dympna Ugwu-Oju, who teaches Journalism at FCC, was able to give a different perspective. “When I came to the United States at age 18 ... I was amazed at how little Americans knew about America,” said Ugwu-Oju, “But I understand because I, too, have raised American children, and I understand the complacency. There’s no immediate

need to know about the rest of the world.”

“A historian by the name of Howard Zinn said this and I’d like to quote him ... ‘If you don’t know your history, it’s like you were born yesterday,’” quoted Gerry Bill, a Sociology and American Studies instructor at FCC, “If you were born yesterday the people in power can manipulate you into anything. That the danger in not knowing your history.”

All three-faculty members agreed that Americans’ ignorance is due in large part to the media and the education system. “We’re sort of educated about all the wrong things and we’re not really taught the things

that are significant or important.” This was made evident by the results of the ASG survey.

ASG President Tara Tobin asked, “So, what do you do ... to try to get your students to think and understand, even if you don’t move to try and change the world somehow?”

“Question everything,” said Navarro as he quoted Karl Marx. The forum made it clear that being informed can be uncomfortable, but it can also be liberating.

“Did you guess which thing was not like the others? Did you guess which thing just doesn’t belong? If you guessed [Brad Pitt] is not like the others, then you’re absolutely ... right!”

Upcoming Theatre Arts Events

compiled by Eric Valdez

Following is a list of productions by the music and theater departments in the month of December.

Friday December 1

Fall Student Recital #2

Time 1 P.M. to:

Location: Recital Hall MS 132

Description: Jazz musicians will present contemporary big band jazz music featuring compositions by band members.

Admission:\$10 general, \$5 student/senior citizens

Crimes of the Heart

Time: 7:30 P.M. to:

Location: Studio 105

Description: 1981 Pulitzer award winning play examining the plight of the three Magrath sisters.

Admission: \$10 general, \$7 student/senior

Holiday Choral Concert, Directed by Julie Dana

Time: 7:30 P.M. to:

Location: Shrine of St. Therese Church, Floradora and Wishon
Description: FCC Choir presents their annual Christmas concert in the beautiful St. Therese Church to

help promote the holiday spirit.

Admission: \$8 general, \$5 Student/senior

Saturday December 2

Crimes of the Heart

Time: 2 P.M. to: and 7:30 to:

Location: Studio 105

Description: See above

City Dances Fall Showcase

Time: 2 P.M. to: and 7:30 to:

Location: Main stage theatre

Description: Contemporary dances show.

Sunday December 3

Crimes of the heart

Time: 2 P.M. to:

Location: Studio 105

Description: See above

Fresno Community Concert Band

Time: 3 P.M. and 7P.M

Location: Tower Theater

Description: “A Christmas Rhapsody”

Monday December 4

FCC Jazz Composers-Orchestra, Mike Dana

Time: 8 P.M. To:

Location: Roger Rocka’s Music Hall

Description:Student jazz combos perform in an informal setting.

Piano Recital

Time: 7:30 to:

Location: Recital Hall

Tuesday, December 5

Brass and Percussion Concert

Time: From: 7:30 P.M. to

Location: Theater

Art Exhibit: Bob Kizziar

Time: 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.

Location: Art Space Gallery

Description: A Play In Clay: The Middle Years

Wednesday December 6

FCC Concert Band , Directed by Gary N. Deeter

Time: :7:30 to:

Location:FCC Theater

Description: The feature John Hord playing Shostakovich Piano Concerto #1

Student Jazz Recital

Time: 1 P.M. to

Location: MS 135

Description: See above

Rampage
Fresno City College



RAMPAGE

FRESNO CITY COLLEGE

1101 E. UNIVERSITY

AVE.

FRESNO, CA 93741

Editor in chief: Matthew T. Mendez

News Editor: Matthew T. Mendez

Sports Editor: Quinn Robinson

Views Editor: David Witte

Reviews Editor: David Witte

Photo Editor: Robin Vallentyne

Business Manager: Leah Edwards

Adviser: Dympna Ugwu-Oju

Reporters

Matthew T. Mendez, Leah Edwards, Joseph Rios, Quinn Robinson, David Witte, Eric Valdez, Christian Beltran, DC Leavy, Chelsea Bieker, Carly Hubbell, Efren Marquez, Johanna Tanori, Brian Noonan, Buen Moua, Ana Zavala, Ife-Chudeni Oputa, Maylin Tu, Robin Vallentyne, and Michael Williams

Photography/
Graphics

Robin Vallentyne, Michael Behlen, David Witte

Newsroom: (559) 442-8263

Business: (559) 442-8262

Fax: (559) 265-5783

E-mail:

Editor In Chief:

rampage-editor@

fresnocitycollege.edu

lowercasejenkins@hotmail.com

Rampage business Office:

rampage-business@

fresnocitycollege.edu

Adviser: dympna.ugwu-oju@fresnocitycollege.edu

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Letters to the editor and submissions to the calendar will be accepted via e-mail or in person 12 noon - 1 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday, at The Rampage, Room SC- 211, above the bookstore. Please keep all letters to a maximum of 500 words along with contact information.

Thursday December 7

Crimes of the Heart

Time: 7:30 P.M. to

Location: Studio 105

Description: See above

Friday December 8

Fall Student Recital #3

Time: 1 P.M. To:

Location: Recital Hall MS 132

Description: FCC Music Students perform chamber music from different time periods

Crimes of the Heart

Time: 7:30 to:

Location: Studio 105

Description: See above

Saturday, December 9

FCC Choirs with Fresno Phil-

harmonic

Time: 8 P.M. (Saturday) and 2:30 P.M. (Sunday)

Location:Saroyan Theater- Fresno Convention Center

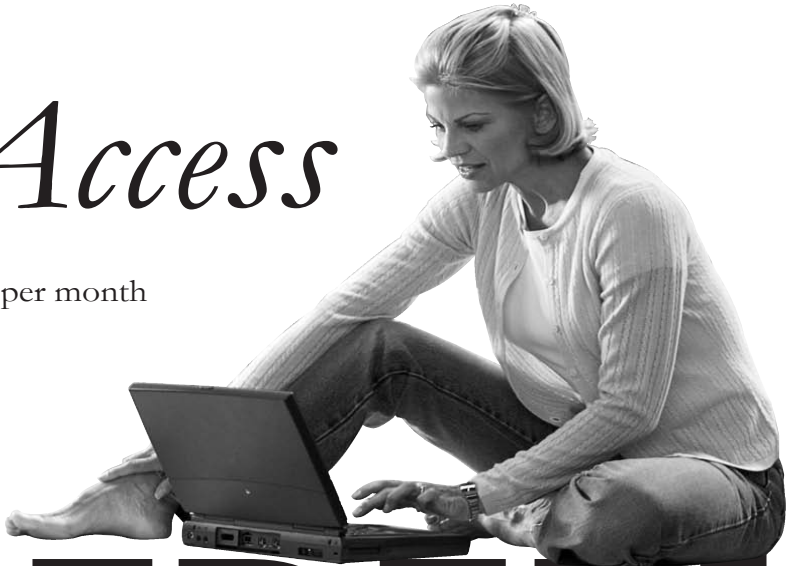
Description: FCC and Fresno State choirs perform with the Fresno Philharmonic in a holiday tribute
For more information, contact the Fresno Philharmonic at (559) 261-0600 or visit the website at fresnophil.org.

For more information on events in the music and theater department happening in December, contact the Fresno City College Theater Box Office at (559) 442-8221.

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Programs curb dropout rates

Continued from page 1

tors, which they turned their attention to helping students stay until graduation.

Former Princeton President and President of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, William Bowen, was conducting a research in detail who finishes college and graduates and who doesn't, according to the AP article "U.S. college Drop-rate sparks concern."

"The U.S. has always said it believes in opportunity and social mobility and fairness, but if you find that the odds of getting through are very different for different groups of people, that's something you ought to be concerned about," said Bowen in an interview with AP.

At FCC, the dropout rate was 15 percent in Fall of 2001, 14 percent in Spring of 2001, and around 12-13 percent consistently each semester from 2002-2005 school year, and 13 percent in Spring of 06, according to FCC Vice President of Admissions John Cummings.

"We retain about 85 percent of our students in Spring of 2006, and students who successfully completed that semester [with a passing A,B, or C grade in their classes] is 61 percent," said Cummings. He added that in the Spring of 06, only 15 percent of students had a withdrawal and 12 percent failed the semester.

"Typically for every semester, because registration at FCC begins prior to the beginning of a semester, many financial aid students who do not return in the spring are still counted as enrolled until the first week of the semester starts when they are dropped and having to add students on waitlists, the actual number of student drops

do not come until later after first two weeks," Cummings said.

What appears to be a large number of students at the beginning of a semester is usually the number of new students coming to learn about college life along with returning students getting their books, socializing with friends, and going to counselors, Cummings said. He continued that the parking and campus is clearing up now because students begin to come to school mainly to class [a routine], through the semester, and some students may decide they do not want to come to class on certain days.

In relation to the smaller number of students at the end of a semester, some students say they have been procrastinating towards the end here at FCC, a common issue with many students.

"I procrastinate all the way," said FCC student Sisouda Xayavong. Xayavong said that stress is what makes him get behind and lack of motivation.

Another FCC student Dong Le, Electrical Engineer major said that usually video games keep him from his schoolwork, but other than that he said he keeps up with his work.

When some students were asked whether they procrastinate or lose interest in school near the end of the semester, they did not want to comment because they said they did not feel like answering.

Some of the factors like personal problems outside of school result in some students dropping out of college or getting behind their schoolwork.

"Some students that come in to the Psychological Services have a lot of issues with school

and we help them resolve some of those issues," said FCC Psychological Services Director and Psychologist Brian Olowude. "Quite often it curates difficulty with being successful in their classes, when students come in for help."

"The problems that our students face are some that our community members face—it could be from simple relationships to major illnesses such as schizophrenia or major depression, or eating disorders," said Olowude.

"We've allowed for a certain number of students to continue their academic career by not needing to drop out," said Olowude. "Our overall mission is to work with them on health issues so that it doesn't become a barrier on their academic success."

Dr. Olowude said that the services at FCC are free and are confidential, and the Psychological Service [located in the Student Center above the bookstore in SC-216] is a part of the Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers and is accredited by the American Psychological Association.

"The absence of struggle in life doesn't really happen...there's always going to be struggles," said Dr. Olowude. He continued that the challenge is having the correct support system in dealing with those problems.

"I may have probably been lagging just as my friend has with his Philosophy class," said FCC student John Thompson. "I'm lagging in my other classes. I think everyone does."

Khoury: Is thankful for the chance to make a career out of her passion

continued from Page 1

munity college because I had to start working."

However, necessity became, as she says "serendipitous," as she found teaching at community college to be exactly what she wanted to do. Why? The opportunity to work with motivated students:

"Most of them choose to be here. Many of them are making sacrifices to be here, they're not being put through by their parents who are making them go."

She adds, "It's really right for me."

Her favorite thing about

teaching is, you guessed it, the students.

Her favorite author is Shakespeare. Her favorite book is Othello, and her favorite class to teach is, well, Shakespeare. Keep a look out for the class in spring of 2008.

Khoury's passion for books and carpe diem philosophy have led to a career she has nothing but praise for:

"I walk around everyday and I feel like the luckiest person in the world because I get to spend my life talking about something I love."



Alexis Khoury

photo by Maylin Tu

9-ball champion strikes again

Christopher Cruz took his second win at the 9-Ball Tournament Championship here at Fresno City College, and stands as the 'Unde-feated Billiards Champion.' Christopher's next move is

to compete in the Reno Open #44 on Dec. 1 through 4 at the Sans Regency Hotel. We at Fresno City College wish our fellow student Christopher good luck!



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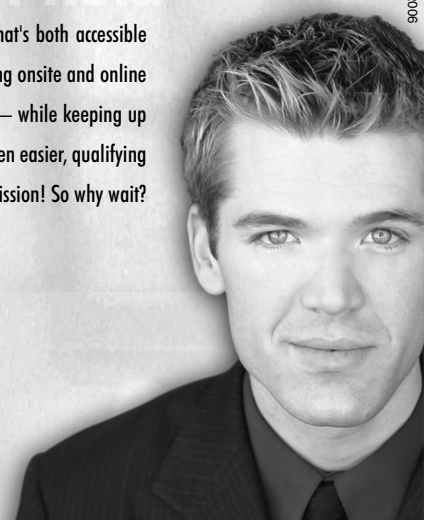
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Earth Talk

Questions and Answers About our Environment from E/The Environmental Magazine

Dear EarthTalk: Where can I find green-friendly gifts for friends and family this holiday season? - A.L. Burger, via e-mail

Reconciling one's green values with the urge to shop has never been easy. Most environmental groups today decry Western consumer habits as wasteful and a major cause of ecological degradation in a shrinking world. And many people, environmental issues aside, believe that the rampant commercialism we've all come to expect at holiday times cheapens what should be a reflective or sacred time of year.

Our buying habits are not easy on the wallet, either. According to the Center for a New American Dream (CNAD), 60 million American families carry an average credit card debt of over \$7,000 and pay more than \$1,000 a year in interest and fees. Further, says CNAD, "A record 1.6 million Americans declared personal bankruptcy last year."

For those who ply an ethic of moderation (for whatever reason) but still have to show up at a half-dozen holiday parties with something for under the tree, there are now more green-friendly (and affordable) options than ever before. Steer your web browser to any number of online merchants offering items from clothes, bed-and-bath and organic baby products to food, the latest books and "gifts that give back," such as tree-planting kits and "fair trade" crafts that support economically disadvantaged communities in developing countries. A few popular sites include the Green Home Environmental Store, Global Exchange's Fair Trade Online Store, The Eco-Store, Abundant Earth, and Gaiam, among others. A visit to Co-Op America's National Green Pages Online is one quick path to a treasure trove of such options.

While these stores all specialize in decidedly "green" items, many environmentally concerned consumers simply want to buy from mainstream retailers but want to feel confident their money is going to companies that are "good corporate citizens." If you better fit that category of consumer, pay a visit to Alonovo.com, which provides information on companies' social and environmental records alongside thousands of products for sale in partnership with Amazon.com. The website can also simply be used as a research tool to get the lowdown on companies before heading out to downtown or the mall. Alonovo rates companies in five different areas: social responsibility, workplace fairness, environmental issues, customer relations and overall business ethics. If you do buy from the site, the company shares from 20 to 40 percent of its profits with environmental and other nonprofits that



Image courtesy of Getty Images

"A number of online merchants offer green-friendly items for the holidays—from clothes, bed-and-bath and organic baby products, to food, the latest books and 'gifts that give back' such as tree planting kits and 'fair trade' crafts that support economically disadvantaged communities in developing countries."

you as a customer can choose.

Some other options include Consumer Reports' Greenerchoices.org, which rates mainstream products from cars to electronics based on environmental criteria, and Co-op America's Responsible Shopper, which features detailed reports on various companies that market "green" consumer products. Of course, you need not buy anything if you have a little more time (and items to re-use and recycle) on your hands than money. Sherri Osborn, the family crafts guide at About.com, offers up a healthy listing of "101 Great Gifts to Make" for any season, complete with links to instructions and materials needed.

CONTACTS: National Green Pages Online, coopamerica.org/pubs/greenpages; Alonovo, www.alonovo.com; Greenerchoices.org, www.greenerchoices.org; Responsible Shopper, www.coopamerica.org/programs/rs; About.com's 101 Great Gifts to Make, familycrafts.about.com/cs/giftgiving/a/120400a.htm.

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Holiday Gift Ideas

Christmas is on its way; here are some ideas to help make your shopping experience easier.

by Brian Noonan
Rampage Reporter

With Thanksgiving over and December approaching, the holiday season is about to swing into full effect. Traffic will be a nightmare, shoppers will fill the malls, and Christmas lights will illuminate the streets. While the holidays are generally considered a time of joy, there does remain that predicament of finding the perfect gift for every family member. The Rampage has your 2006 Holiday Shopping Guide here.

Although the biggest day (the day after Thanksgiving) of sales and shopping has already passed, it's important to get the shopping done as early as possible to avoid the hectic last minute shopping traffic. Most online stores also have shipping guarantees that promise to ship your products in time for holidays so long as the order is placed on time.

"I usually try to get all of my shopping done in the first week of December," said Fresno State senior Tyler Whitsett. "This way I'm right in between the heavy traffic times right after Thanksgiving and right before Christmas."

Electronic gaming has become a multi-billion dollar industry and it seems the latest holiday craze will boost sales even more. The X-Box 360, which retails at \$299 for the core system and \$399 for the core is probably the best value buy of the available platforms. It will be available in higher quantities because it was released last year, and is still comparable in performance to the higher priced Playstation 3. The Nintendo Wii is a little more affordable, but will be in extremely short supply because of the high demand and limited amount of units available.

"I would go with the 360 because now that it has been out for a year Microsoft has been able to work out some of the problems they had at first and it's a lot more affordable than the other systems," said sophomore Ross Janzen. "I've had mine for a while now and it was

well worth the money."

For those looking for something that might better fit their price range, the department stores in the mall are always having holiday sales. Quality jewelry items or brand name perfume/cologne for under \$100 makes a great gift for a significant other. Most stores also offer a gift-wrap service to expedite the shopping process for the customer. Other stores ideal for women includes Victoria's Secret and Bath & Body Works. Fragrances, body care, and makeup items are currently 25% off at Victoria's Secret, while Bath & Body Works has a 2 for \$10 signature hair care item sale. Items like these make great stocking stuffers for the women in the family.

For the men in the family, L.L. Bean has some great outdoor items that can be put to practical use rather than discarded or thrown in the back of the closet. These include hand made sheepskin moccasins, warm flannel shirts, and vests available in down or fleece. Men tend to be a bit harder to shop for since they don't always voice their needs, so gift cards can sometimes make up for this by allowing them to choose how they want to spend the money.

"I love gift cards because you can pick what you want," said freshman Alex Koop. Gifts for younger children and infants or toddlers can be found at places like Kay-Bee Toys and Discovery.com/gifts. Kay-Bee Toys currently has sales of 20% off on various Happy Feet movie merchandise, Milton Bradley games, My Little Pony items, and stuffed animals. One hot item from Discovery.com is the Discovery Ann B. Dextrous Motor Developer. Although it is \$59.95, the toy will provide educational value for infants and has progressive learning features to make it suitable for a baby from 4 months to 36 months.

So whether you're shopping for a newborn baby or a significant other, now is the time to take advantage of all the holiday sales and avoid the traffic and shipping problems.

Get ready for Spring Semester 2007

Spring Semester fees now \$20 a unit!

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Important Dates:

December 1, 2006

Spring Parking Permits Available

December 7, 2006

Fees Due (if you registered before November 10)

December 21, 2006

Fees Due (if you registered between November 10–December 21)

January 3, 2007

Textbooks go on sale

January 6, 2007

Advanced Registration ends at 1:00 p.m.

January 8, 2007

Spring semester begins and registration continues



FRESNO CITY COLLEGE
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Sal Mena Bids FCC farewell, says his tenure has been “a wonderful journey.”

By Leah Edwards

Rampage Reporter

Sal Mena is retiring after thirty-three years of service through the Extended Opportunity Program and Services. Those who wish to extend their best wishes are welcomed to attend the official retirement party in the cafeteria on November 30, 2006 from 12 until 3:00 p.m.

Mena has been a part of EOPS which has been serving students at Fresno City since 1970, in response to various demonstrations by students in 1968 and 1969 who were looking for equal educational opportunities.

“Students of color and low income began to protest at the Governor’s mansion and junior city colleges statewide. These students refused to go away and had to be forcibly removed by national guardsmen, but they continued to demand equal access to an education, and it was out of these actions that this program was developed,” said EOPS advisor, Mark J. McNiff.

Sal Mena was one of the first students of the EOPS program. He came from an agricultural community and wanted to do something different with his life. He wasn’t sure what he wanted to do but he knew he needed more to put on his resume.

Mena credits much of his success to his first mentor at Fresno City College, Mr. Angelo Antondo. He saw the difference that Antondo made in the lives of the students he worked with, and recognized his calling to do the same.

“I graduated from Fresno City and went on to become one of the first prototype students at San Jose State and earned my BA in social work from Fresno State in 1973,” said Mena.

Within a few months he

was hired to work in the EOPS program and continued his position with Fresno City College for the past thirty-three years. “And one month,” added Mena.

Mena said the greatest reward isn’t the numerous plaques he’s received over the years. “My greatest rewards are when former students come up to me and tell me about their life and what they are doing now,” said Mena.

His greatest treasures are those business cards he’s been given by these former students. He values the knowledge that he made a difference in the quality of their lives and often the lives of their families.

“Their success is our success, today’s students are tomorrow’s future,” said Mena.

Robert Singleton is just one of many former students who credits Mena with his current success.

“Mr. Mena helped me overcome my fear,” said Singleton.

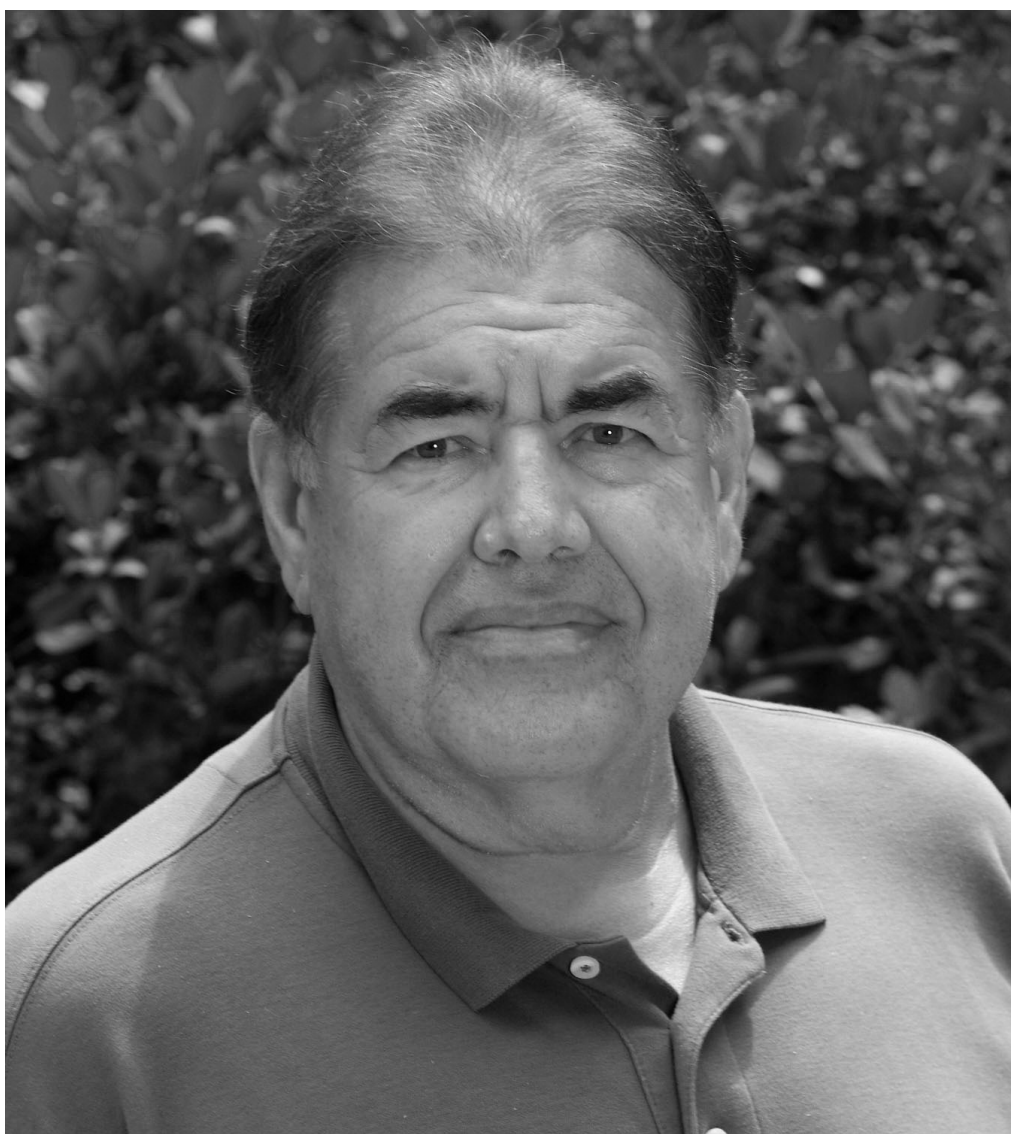
Mr. Singleton was forty-years old and afraid of going back to school amongst kids half his age. He began and quit, and it took several semesters of academic probation and encouragement from Mena before Mr. Singleton could make it through.

“Don’t ever say you can’t,” is still one of Mr. Mena’s favorite sayings.

He refused to give up on Mr. Singleton, or allow him to give up on himself. Singleton went on to graduate, became a part owner of Electric Communications, Inc. and the Executive Director of the King of Kings rehabilitation program on Martin Luther King Blvd. in Fresno.

“Although we can’t predict the future, we can help create it,” said Mena. “There are no goals you can’t accomplish.”

Mena lets students know that all they really need is dedication and determination to change



EOP&S Sal Mena Retiring after thirty-three years of dedicated service

the course of their lives.

As for his time at Fresno City College, “It has been a wonderful journey. I would do it again and again and again,” said Mena. “We come into this world with nothing and we go out with

nothing, but it is what we do in between. Be passionate about your profession, be a good role model, and a humanitarian.”

“The years went by fast because I enjoyed my work,” said Mena, “I will always support

Fresno City College.”

As for the rest of his future, Mr. Mena plans to spend quality time with his family and finish restoring his Classic 57’ Chevy.

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Opinion

Journalism: A lost art?

By Quinn Robinson

Rampage Reporter

News is supposed to ask the questions we feel the student population should know

The following article is not a sports article and due to lack of room in the opinion section was ran in this section. I want to apologize to the sports that I decided not to cover for this issue either due to no stories turned in to cover or lack of time to put a valuable piece of writing out in this issue. This stance that is being taken in the article below is something I feel really strongly about. to read it.

It's the final issue of the semester.

After we released the first one, I'm excited to say that we made it to issue 7 in one way. In another, I feel like we should've just stopped after the story controversy of issue one and tried again in Spring 2007.

As the semester progressed, those who are devoted to the production process of the newspaper (about six people on a good day) were hoping that they could turn the paper around and have six solid issues to wrap up the semester.

As each issue passed, the views of having a good paper dwindled almost as fast as the

respect we now have on campus from our peers and faculty.

The Rampage used to be an established junior college newspaper that'd win awards yearly for the quality of writing that the paper displayed. We still get the awards today, but these awards are different because they're like the awards you would get in kindergarten where "everybody wins."

When I first came into this newsroom out of high school it was completely different.

Yes, there were still your two or three flakes of the group, that's never going to change, but one main difference from back then to now is journalism was interesting.

Reporters didn't question the stories assigned to them by the editors. They might have disliked being assigned to cover a story on basket weaving but it didn't matter, because we were doing this because this is what we wanted to do in the future. We were able to go out and cover any story and make it interesting.

The relationship between

The Rampage and the Administration never felt genuine since I've been here.

The best way to describe the type of relationship the two have had would be the new McDonalds commercial. This commercial is where two co-workers surprisingly run into each other in line while ordering food and just stop and share moments of awkward silence because they don't really know what to say to each other and quickly try to find the quickest escape from the situation.

The relationship became a little more strained when we ran the accreditation story in the spring semester of 2006.

Yes, the Administration didn't care for it too much because it caught their flaws and pointed it out to the rest of the student population.

The incident that really has sent this relationship into a tailspin occurred the first issue of the semester.

The Administration seized the first opportunity it got to flex its "mighty muscle" and took

embarrassment to a whole new level. They then had staff members take away stacks and stacks of newspapers from reporters who had no idea what was going on at the time in front of a packed fountain area. As to think the football players punking us wasn't bad enough?

Good job Administration, I'm actually surprised you haven't cornered that can lady yet and demand a fee for letting her gather cans for charity on campus.

Now it feels like ever since the first issue, the writers at the Rampage are being forced to write "fluff" stories because they can't get anyone to talk to them about what is really going on around campus.

News is supposed to ask the questions that we feel the student population should know, not a forced promotional lip service to the Administration.

I used to believe that The Rampage was worth the time and hard work.

Now I don't feel that way. I see a newspaper who had an

instructor that wasn't afraid of standing up to the Administration, get replaced by one whose loyalties are clearly displayed more to them than the college kids who wanted to pursue this as a career. I say wanted because I'm not sure many of us up here do anymore.

If the Administration wants The Rampage to continue to be an award winning paper, then there need to be some changes.

The thought of one person teaching six classes and then "overseeing" the production is completely ridiculous. If you want some real advice, I suggest you give Contra Costa Community College a call and ask what it is they do with their paper, because I'm sure that's where you would like to see The Rampage one day, on the upper echelon of junior college newspapers.

If not then maybe it'd be best if "City At Large" is the only campus publication and just waste your money on a new neon-light sign for the Old Administration Building.

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Men's soccer advance in playoffs

Rams overcome tough DeAnza squad to secure victory.

By Mike Williams

Rampage Reporter

A win is a win.

It might be pretty and it might be ugly.

In Fresno City College's case, last Wednesday's game against DeAnza College wasn't so pretty.

This was the first time FCC (15-1-7) has played since Nov. 10 the flow of their offense struggled throughout the game due to the long break.

Although the Rams looked a little rusty getting back into the swing of things on the soccer field, coming out with a victory against a tough opponent like that of DeAnza should definitely boost the Rams confidence as they head into their next game on Dec. 2.

Even with the struggles the Rams had, you could sense

that they were in control the entire time.

The score remained 0 to 0 most of the game until Jose Pinto scored the game-winning goal in the 65th minute.

Fresno City took 11 shots only connecting on one, while DeAnza College only fired four shots.

Both teams had outstanding goalie play. DeAnza's Aliou Diallo had eight saves. FCC's Scott Grigsby played all ninety minutes and also had three goals to help his team secure the victory.

"I knew we would pull this one out," said Grigsby. "I don't care how we win any more, as long as we win."

Even though FCC hasn't quite put up the offensive numbers as they have the past few seasons, most teams still consider the Rams a serious offensive threat.

To counter such an attack opponents have tried to spread out the ball more and take a tougher defensive stance and keeping FCC's offensive power at bay.

Solberg and his team are determined to go into the Dec. 2 game against Consumnes River and leave with a victory.

With offensive fire power like Pinto, Andrew Fled, Eli Oregon and Victor Regalado, there is no stopping FCC.

The Rams have been countered with numerous styles of game plans but no matter the plan, all it takes is one sequence in the game for FCC to gain an advantage and that's where the Rams are the deadliest.

If the Rams win Saturday against Cosumnes River they advance to the state tournament Dec. 8-10 at Fresno Pacific.

Rams finish final leg of season

Cross country team wraps up 2006 season on high note.

By Brian Noonan
Rampage Reporter

Although the Rams didn't quite manage the finish that they had hoped for, they were still less than 20 points away from a top-10 placing at the California Community College State Cross Country Championships on Saturday, Nov. 18th at Woodward Park.

Fresno City placed 11th out of 21 teams and was also the second best Northern Californian representative. The Rams also had some excellent individual performances.

"We wanted to finish in the top five, but not everyone was on today," said freshman John Brodie. "This will just be more motivation for track season and hopefully we can pull it together for a NorCal title."

FCC's dynamic duo of sophomore Tony Pulido and freshman Bobby Rodriguez didn't disappoint, placing 6th and 10th

overall respectively.

In addition, the two were the top finishers for Northern Californian individuals. California competes in a league apart from the rest of the nation because it is such a large and competitive state.

This means that Pulido's 6th place finish makes him a first-team All-American (top 7 CA finishers) and Rodriguez will be named to the second team All-America.

Sophomore Cruz Adams also cracked the top 50 and ran a Woodward Park personal best 21:32 over the four mile course.

"I was pretty happy with my time since it was about a twenty second PR from my first time racing the four mile course here at Woodward," said Rodriguez.

With the cross-country season now over, the runners will enjoy a short break and then look forward to a successful track season once the spring semester starts in January.

The 2007 track schedule has yet to be finalized, but the first meet should be the Central Valley Conference Preview meet in early

February.

FCC will be in the running for a Northern California Track Championship on both the men and women's sides. Pulido was very adamant about the team's outlook for the upcoming season.

"We have great athletes in the javelin, discus and hammer, who have placed in the top in the NorCal," said Pulido.

"Now we have a few talented freshmen coming in with something to offer to the program. As for the sprinters, we have talented runners returning and new ones arriving who have run as fast as 48 seconds in the quarter mile. We are bringing some of the top hurdlers in the state and jumpers as well for both men and women."

Fresno City College is still looking for athletes who are interested in competing for Track and Field. Any interested track athletes are encouraged to speak to Coach Gary Bluth at 559-442-4600 ext. 8440, or in his office.



Photo by Robin Valleryne

From rear left to right: Tim Falagan, Cruz Adams, Bobby Rodriguez, Julio Moreno, Issac Viscarra, Tony Pulido, Jorge Martinez and John Brodie.

Volleyball makes early exit

1st round loss to DeAnza only motivates the Rams for next year.

By Mike Williams
Rampage Reporter

The Fresno City College women's volleyball team didn't end their season with a bang like they had hoped. Instead, the Rams made an early exit in the post season, losing to DeAnza College 3-0. In hind sight, the Rams had an outstanding season finishing 19-6 overall and 14-2 in Central Valley Conference play.

First year head coach Beth Buller has done a great job with a team that consisted of only three sophomores.

Last Wednesday in Cupertino, the Rams met their toughest match of the year. FCC was able to go toe-to-toe with DeAnza College in every match. However, in the end, the Rams couldn't gain enough momentum to carry them

to victory as they lost 30-25, 30-23 & 30-28.

Melissa Anaya led FCC with 25 assists she also helped out with 19 digs and seven kills. Jacqueline Hill had nine kills and also nine digs. Jackie Anaya had 20 digs.

The team wouldn't have the success it had if it wasn't for sophomore leadership held by Jackie Anaya, Lauren Storey and Hill. These girls played consistently week in and week out. They picked their team up at crucial times in the season and always played hard. These sophomores also showed signs of toughness by playing through pain at times during the season. The Rams are going to have a huge void to fill next season as these three players depart. Jackie Anaya plans to play next season at Fresno State while Storey and Hill haven't decided where they will play next season.

Buller's Rams will be one of, the if not the toughest team in their conference next season. FCC has eight players returning next year which shouldn't excite anyone who happens to have the Rams on their schedule next year.

Players returning are sisters Tanena and Donesha Jackson, Melissa Anaya, Christina Sanchez, Ana Siguenza, Lyndsey Myrick, Amanda Martinez and Ashley Fantazia.

These girls will be a force to reckon with next season. The team will be more experienced and more improved as players. FCC volleyball fans get familiar with Buller, because she's going to be around for a long time and championships are going to be won as the Rams prepare to establish themselves as a dominant force year after year.



Photo By Robin Valleryne

Melissa Anaya (4) dives for a ball against Merced College on Nov. 8. The Rams had another strong year, this time under first year coach Beth Buller.

With cosmetic surgery growing in popularity, it seems to be gaining acceptance.

Paper or plastic?

So what if people get plastic surgery? They're doing it for themselves, not you.

by Carly Hubbel
Rampage reporter

There are some things you cannot change all by yourself. It's just one of those hard lessons in life. You can't make the weather sunny when you want to wear your new tank top, you can't magically change your bank account from holding twenty-one dollars to twenty-one thousand and...you can't change the way you look.

Sure, you can go out and get an expensive hair cut, cake on makeup, or go to the gym for four hours a day, but no one will ever achieve the body or face they really want by doing only those things. That's where plastic surgery comes in to save the day.

People make fun of those who are pro plastic surgery. "It's so fake!" "It's so shallow!" "That's so sad!" Wah, wah, wah. More than likely, especially when they start to lose their youthful looks and get crows feet growing out of their eyes, plastic surgery won't be the heinous act those Negative Nancy's make it out to be. Lord knows, no one is completely satisfied with what they see in the mirror, so what exactly is wrong with somebody who gets a little nip/tuck to make themselves feel better?

Those who were born in the United States didn't choose to be brought up in a society where beauty consumes everything. Look at television, the countless magazines, all of the young actresses we see in People magazine who look flawless. How is the

average, run-of-the-mill, Fresno City student supposed to react when they see images like that everywhere they turn their heads? Cosmetic plastic surgery is the pillow many Americans fall back on, because what else will catch us? The whole, "Your beautiful on the inside" crap? Because from my experience, when you first meet somebody, you don't really get to see their insides, just the out. And you know we all size someone up on how they look. Shallow? Yeah. True? Of, course.

No one really has room to judge someone who gets cosmetic plastic surgery at some point in their lives, because really, they're doing it for themselves. People are obsessed with outward appearance.

"We didn't choose our looks and our bodies, and through plastic surgery, we finally can."

Once again, not our conscious choice, but it's the truth and we should all learn to live with it. Those

who get the surgery are simply trying to make themselves better to the world, and by doing that, they are making themselves happy. Low self-esteem can easily be fixed if a girl got a nose job to fix the huge bump in her nose, or the girl with double A's who for once wants to feel like a woman and get bigger breasts. We didn't choose our looks and our bodies, and through plastic surgery, we finally can.

Many of you are probably balking at my "Yay for plastic surgery" look on life, and that's fine. You just simply won't ever get plastic surgery. But don't judge those who do get it, because more than likely, they are already getting judged with what they were born with.

I want to know what's real and what's not. Be thankful for what you have.

by Chelsea Bieker
Rampage reporter

Today we are bombarded with a slew of magazines featuring headlines announcing celebrities are getting work done. Breast implants, nose jobs, botox, just to name a few. The craze is not just in the Hollywood realm though. I was recently getting my hair done and my hair dresser asks me if I like her "new lips." I'm thinking, what was wrong with the old ones? This leaves me pondering, what's real, what's fake, and why does society feel they have to surgically alter their faces and bodies to fit an ideal?

We can blame some of the obsession on sex. Sex is a powerful thing and is a driving force for advertisements everywhere. Magazines like Playboy, Hustler and all those

"I feel bad for the little girl that thinks she has to fit an ideal, or else she is a failure."

other mindless man reads give women a clear cut copy of what sexy is. The ideal is larger than life boobs, and not an inch of fat. This is simply not realistic, naturally that is. But now we can breathe a sigh of relief because my B-cups can magically go to D-cups? I don't think so.

Aside from complications that can arise during these appearance transformations, aren't there other issues at hand? For instance, why not appreciate what you do have? No one is perfect, but isn't it our flaws that make us interesting? When I think back to reasons why I was attracted to my ex-boyfriends, I don't think about their perfect set of abs, or perfectly proportioned ken-doll face. No. I think about that one crooked tooth, or that awkward patch of hair on his lower back.

I think about all the "weird" things that made them special. If they were perfect, how boring it all would have been.

I know a few girls that rushed out to buy boobs after they graduated high school. Do they feel better now? Probably. Have they thought about the upkeep for a set of twins as they get older? Probably not. I'm not disregarding the fact that many operations really do better the morale of the patient. That's fine. My concern is that society has lost its grip on what natural beauty really is.

I feel bad for the little girl that thinks she has to fit an ideal, or else she is a failure. Maybe I'm too much of a hippie to appreciate these kinds of procedures, but I personally

am interested to see how I age. The laugh lines that grace my Grandmothers cheeks are to me, nothing short of beautiful.

Surgeries that are geared specifically for cosmetic reasons only are a waste of money. I completely understand why someone who was in an accident or someone that had a mastectomy would want cosmetic reconstruction. That's fine. I just think we're going overboard when people walk around looking, well, fake.

I have always been against cosmetic surgeries because I think in part, that they are kind of creepy. I remember a sleep over a friend's house when I was young, and the mother came walking out displaying tattooed eyeliner and lip liner adorning her face. I was a little scared. Ever since then, I have steered clear. The message: embrace who you are, because after all, it is our differences that make us unique.

Campus Voices

by Carly Hubbel, Chelsea Bieker, and Michael Behlen

Are you for or against cosmetic surgery?



David Horwitz

"I understand that materialistic things can make people feel better about themselves, but I don't think it's necessary."



Jessica German

"I'm for it because if you don't feel good about yourself, you should be able to change that."



Nina Orozco and Olivia Neal

"I think it goes both ways; if it makes you happy, or you have a special situation, it's ok, but not if it becomes an addiction."



Terri Rixman

"I think it's way overrated."

We're not lazy, and we'll care later

by Efen Marquez
Rampage reporter

Many college students are broke. That is not exactly the news statement of the century but it is true and it does suck.

Earlier this semester, I wrote a news story about how community college students struggle to just get by. (August 30, 2006) With the upcoming holiday season and the unyielding pressure to keep buying more stuff, it becomes more apparent that the spending power of the average college student isn't very much. Why is that? As I reported in August, the costs for higher education are ever rising. Even as the price per unit here at Fresno City College has dropped, the overall cost has risen more than 30% since the 1990s and this is not the only reason.

Our jobs all mostly suck and, according to the book Strapped by Tamera Draut, there isn't very much hope for all us young people aged 18-30. The largest amount of job growth, nearly 58% of new jobs, occurs in the service industries such as sales associates, food preparation and waitstaff. I don't attend college so I can eventually serve French fries or sell shoes and I am sure that sentiment is the same among fellow students. Housing is exorbitantly expensive and the costs increase every year.

No one wants to still be living at home when they are in their early twenties but often times we have no other choice. Our paychecks shrink more and more every year and the cost of living continues to rise. Here is an example: According to the U.S. Department of Education, the average wages earned by a young man with a Bachelors degree dropped from \$52,000 in 1972 to \$48,000 in 2002. How can this possibly be? The cost of everything has at the very least doubled since the 1970s and we are making less than we were then? That is totally absurd and I sincerely believe that there is someone to blame for this.

Who might you ask? The Baby Boomers, that's who. The Baby Boomers have been in positions of power since around the time most of us were born and they are the ones who funded their present at the cost of our future. The national debt is somewhere in the trillions of dollars. With the onset of their retirement, who will be forced to pay off that debt? We are going to have to pay back that amount. However, that is going to be a big problem.

The Baby Boomers consolidated companies and outsourced every job they could to maximize their own profits and now we are stuck with the results of all that greed. Here is more salt in the wound: Ask a Baby Boomer why young people can't get ahead and a common answer might be that we are lazy, shiftless and aimless. We are a generation of layabouts that expect the world to be handed to us. This is the ad hominem argument that the Baby Boomer generation is rather fond of.

This generalization couldn't be more insulting and ignorant. We are the ones who will not only have to live with their poor and selfish decisions, but who will have to try and fix these problems. To top it off, we are going to have to do it with low salaries, bad housing and, generally speaking, little chance of retiring in comfort.

So what, exactly, are we supposed to do about this situation? Simply put, get involved in politics and domestic policy. That, however, may be a bitter pill to swallow. For so long, many of us have been conditioned to believe that the Government isn't going to help us. Voter apathy among young people is still high and the current Presidential Administration hasn't given us very much hope. No thanks to the Conservative Baby Boomer generation, many people aged 18-34 have almost no faith in the Government.

This is what must change if we are going to fix the problems. We have to get involved and demand change that will bolster our place in America. We have to push for these changes and hold politicians accountable. We must vote in large numbers just as the previous generations have when they decided to ruin the country. We, as young people have plenty of energy to deal with the pressures of college and still go out and party. It's time we put that energy to good use. Our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor depend on it.

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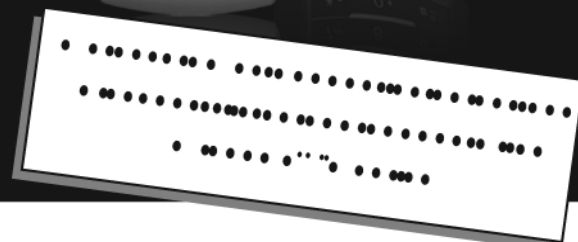
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‘The Fountain’ makes you think

by Buen Moua
Rampage reporter

Imagine being able to live for eternity, and be together forever with the love of your life.

“The Fountain” is a wonderful epic, sci-fi, love story-type movie from a poetic aspect. Writer and director of this movie Darren Aronofsky, creatively infused in a great story line with the concept of living forever, that makes you

focus and think, to piece together Tom’s quest in life, played by Hugh Jackman [you may know him as Wolverine from X-Men] who eternally struggles to save the woman he loves.

The movie begins in 16th

century Spain as conquistador Tomas (Jackman) searches for the Tree of Life, wanted and ordered by the Queen (Rachel Weisz), which grants immortality. Tom goes on an expedition to the Mayans where he finally finds the Fountain of Youth, the special tree.

The movie then jumps from the 16th -century to the present time. As a modern-day scientist, Tom endlessly struggles to find a cure for the brain tumor that is killing Isabel (Weisz), his wife. He devotes so much time in the lab that he loses focus on what is happening around him fearing of a lost chapter in life.

The next switch in scene takes place in space. Floating in a snow dome-type bubble dome along with the Tree of Life traveling through space in the 26th -century, Tom the space traveler finds out after a millennium, the hidden truths that he had not been able to figure out in his lifetime, having lived through the good, the bad and the worst.

As the three stories weave together near the end, “The Foun-

tain” starts to makes a lot more sense.

It is one of those movies where every scene seems out of place but in actuality it really makes the film’s story line more interesting, in my opinion.

This is a must see movie for those who might want to shy away from actioned-packed movies without a good storyline. I reccomend it Yes this is a love story, but not in the category of chic-flicks. I think it is very philosophical from a spiritual perspective as well as scientific standpoint. Everthing just seems to be in the mix.

“The Fountain” is intriguing in that it taps into your psyche, in my perspective. It brings to the table of more questions than answers. That was what happened when the movie ended. Everyone was speechless—either some did not get it, were questioning their own presence of being in the theater, or just did not get the whole story out of their minds.

In a scale from one to five, with one being the worst and five being the best, I give “The Fountain” a four out of five.



Hugh Jackman stars as Tomas, Tommy, and Tom Creo in Darren Aronofsky's movie “The Fountain.”

Jack Black rocks the house

Sasquatch? Pot? A demon pick of destiny? Oh yeah, this is a great movie.

by DC Leavy
Rampage reporter

Jack Black’s long awaited comedy “Tenacious D and the Pick of Destiny” was a smash hit.

First “Orange County,” then “School of Rock,” “Nacho Libre” and now Jack Black has added another piece of Cinematic comedy to his already impressive list.

Inspired by his debut musical album “Tenacious D”, Jack Black and Kyle Gass (KG) have answered some of their fans’ most perplexing questions. Like, “What was the greatest song in the world?” and “Did it really deserve a tribute?”

The story starts off as a twisted musical starring the young Jack Black and his dream to Rock-N-Roll. After being outcasted and ridiculed by his family for his bizarre fascination with the dark arts, he asks the Rock Gods what he should do in his time of need. DIO answers him and starts him on his quest to Hollywood to start the (self-proclaimed) greatest Rock band the world has ever known.

During his journey through the city of fallen angels he runs into KG, a local street performer with a great talent to rock and overwhelming delusions of grandeur. After hearing him perform, Jack is certain that he has the talent that he needs to complete his mission. Together they form a very unique band and begin their training to become the greatest band in the world (and yes, they do rock).

After practicing for a while, they perform at a local night club

and decide to enter a talent contest so they can win the prize money and pay their rent. Even though they know they rock, and have an annoyingly faithful fan (Lee) that follows them around to prove it, they still feel they need a little extra something to assure their status among other Rock-N-Roll Legends. So during their research of Rock, they come across a pick that has been passed down from some of the greatest musicians in Rock

history to future legends of Rock, called “The Pick of Destiny”. This pick is no ordinary pick and can give its possessor the power to play anything they could ever dream of.

With comedy and pot left and right as well as a great police chase scene, “Tenacious D and the Pick of Destiny” isn’t the best movie of the year but it’s definitely close to the top of the list and will captivate every stoner/pothead

or free spirit in the room.

So if you don’t mind the occasional bong rip, characters that randomly break out into song, and Jack Black flying on a Sasquatch’s back through a mushroom wonderland, then I suggest you go see this film. But be warned that this film is mainly targeted towards the already existing fans of “The D” and Jack Black, so I wouldn’t recommend you go see this with your mommy.



Kyle Gass (left) and Jack Black fulfill their rock-N-roll dreams in “Tenacious D and the Pick of Destiny.”

www.movieweb.com

‘Deck the Halls’ good, clean, family fun

by **Ana Zavala**
Rampage reporter

If you were expecting the “Christmas movie man”, Tim Allen in this movie, count him out.

Deck the Halls, the funny (but cheesy) movie, already has two interestingly agreeable characters: Steve (Matthew Broderick) and his new neighbor, Buddy (Danny DeVito), who just don’t seem to get along till their families force them to. The story line, like in many other Christmas movies, begins by baring the happy, but well-organized life of Steve Finch. Steve, joined by wife Kelly (Kristin Davis), daughter Madison (Alia Shawkat) and son Carter (Dylan Blue), takes the December Calendar out and lines up the families Christmas to-do activities list. Little did Steve know that all his family wanted to do was enjoy their time doing whatever fun things came up, together. Not long after Christmas plans were set, Steve noticed the house next door was no longer vacant.

Soon after, the two families meet.

Instantly, friendships flower between Kelly and Tia, Buddy’s wife (Kristin Che-

noweth) and Steve’s daughter Madison and Buddy’s sexy teen twins Ashley and Emily, who are realistically not teenaged looking (Sabrina and Kelly Aldridge).



Danny DeVito stars as Buddy in “Deck the Halls”.

www.movieweb.com

Newspaper stealing, town and Job-jumping Buddy takes it upon himself to make his life in this town exceptionally full of accomplishments.

Buddy finds the possibility for a little oomph in his life when his twin daughters show him that the neighbor’s house, not his, is visible through satellites in outer space.

His plan; make his house noticeably visible, even into the darkness of space.

This process turns chaotic when Buddy realizes that a few Christmas light won’t do the job. He decides to turn his home into a Christmas shrine.

Buddy’s home becomes the town’s marvel and it’s not long till word of Buddy’s mission reaches the media. Realizing his mission has become a spectacle; he decides to add unreasonably loud amounts of Christmas music throughout the day and into the night.

Steve, the town’s Christmas aficionado, feels threatened by the fact that Buddy is taking over his Christmas Guy role. He too begins a quest, to stop Buddy from taking his place.

Since the two families,

excluding Steve and Buddy, have befriended each other, the two have no other option than to hang out when their families do.

The two families attend the town’s yearly Christmas festival, and it ends in rivalry galore. Buddy and Steve are at each other’s throats competing in just about every event. A handful of fireworks gone wrong, a half burned-down living room, and arguments between Steve and Buddy cause their wives to pack and leave for Christmas in a hotel.

After realizing how out of hand they both got, Steve and Buddy join forces to mend the families back together for Christmas.

In the end, the lights go down but as in all movies there must be a happy ending. Steve comes to the rescue and has the whole town help put the lights back up. Buddy almost doesn’t reach his goal, when the lights fail to stay. Not long after, does Steve’s son Carter, ironically trips over an un-plugged cable only to plug it in and save the day. Needless to say, Buddy reached his goal.

Artist T-Rose hopes to go global



Image contributed by Rosetta Traylor, a.k.a. T-Rose

This piece from the “Shadowland” series will be on display along with other works by artist T-Rose Dec. 7 at the Full Circle Brewery.

by **Leah Edwards**
Rampage reporter

Rosetta Traylor, also known as ‘T. Rose’ and the ‘Paint Roller’ will hold a live performing art fundraiser the ART HOP on December 7, 2006 at the Full Circle Brewing Gallery, 620 F Street, Fresno from 5 till 11 p.m.

T. Rose overcame immense tragedies, which inspire her artistic expression and encourage others. She sees her art as therapy for all kinds of people.

“I’ve learned that color heals the body, mind and spirit,” stated Rosetta. “I believe that true

art is more the process than the product.”

According to a promotional flier, “T. Rose discovered her love for art while growing up in the ‘pop’ fifties in Southern California and has been creating form and color for as long as she can remember.”

“Childhood is the most open and expressive period of our life. Children are true artist, they create what comes through them spontaneously rather than by calculation and design,” said Rosetta.

T. Rose received her formal training at the University of Hawaii and the Honolulu Acad-

emy of Arts. She said however, that her primary motivation and visionary perceptions are derived from a near-death experience some 29 years ago when she broke her neck in a diving accident. She began using her electric wheelchair as a paintbrush. Shadow lands, one of her more popular series were inspired by “outer world visions of her experience. It’s a collective, participatory kind of art,” stated T. Rose.

Five years ago T. Rose was diagnosed with cancer. Before her illness, she had performed at the old Valley Children’s hospital and at Fresno City College, but she was forced to put her art aside while she battled again for her life. She is now a proud survivor, and excited to once again share her art and inspiration with the community.

“I am very excited to be back to paint rolling again,” said Rosetta. “I want to be an inspiration to others as well as the physically challenged. I want to help people with problems to stop feeling sorry for themselves.”

Rosetta Traylor has hopes of taking her show around the world, and making an impact people through art and expression. She is currently working on her biography aptly titled, “Inspiration.”

For more information, contact Don Anderson at the Full Circle Brewing at (559) 264-6323.

Killswitch Engage rocks Fresno’s Rainbow Ballroom

by **Efren Marquez**
Rampage reporter

Killswitch Engage doesn’t really take the stage so much as they storm it Viking-style and then set the remains on fire. Their gig at the Rainbow Ballroom was no exception.

The band has been making a name for themselves as one of the better modern metal bands and certainly looked the part with their mighty beards and general grizzliness. The notable exception was guitarist/vocalist Adam Dutkiewicz, who apparently sought to get physical in sporting 1980s style workout gear complete with headband. After jumping on stage, the band launched straight into the song “A Bid Farewell” which simultaneously sent the crowd into a frenzy an let them know that is was going to be a satisfyingly heavy night.

Along with several mosh-friendly crowd favorites such as “Fixation on the Darkness” and “My Last Serenade,” Killswitch roared through several of the tracks of their just-released album “Daylight Dies”, released by Roadrunner Records. The title track easily set a fire under both the moshing metalheads and the swinging straight edge kids with their crazy dancing and awesome

karate kicks. The band also plowed through a few more equally heavy tracks from the new album that the crowd really responded to despite the fact that many of the audience may not have heard the songs before. It was refreshing to see the crowd get so into the vibe of the music and almost surprising considering the sometimes apathetic Fresno crowds.

Problems? There were just a few. At one point, singer Howard Jones’ microphone cut out completely during the song “When Darkness Falls” but the crowd jumped all over the problem by singing along when he couldn’t, and did so with surprising harmony and cadence. Perhaps the only other “problem” was the set list that included a few new songs but was generally the same of past tours and shows. A bit of a disappointment to fans who were hoping for some variance in the songs played and who many of were holding out for the band’s crushingly heavy cover of the metal classic “Holy Diver” by Ronnie James Dio.

The end result of all this madness was a solid show that was probably as satisfying to old fans as it was those who were seeing the band for the first time. The overall sound and mix was ideal and there was no shortage of mosh pit action for those who felt the need to get hit in the face.

Bomb. James Bomb.

by Johanna Tanori
Rampage reporter

Casino Royale, the 21st film in Ian Fleming's James Bond series, came out this month to find crowds awaiting the special agent's origins revealed on screen.

James Bond. License to kill, right? Wrong! More like license to be a tool of a movie.

Daniel Craig plays the new Bond in this story, which takes place at a casino in the Bahamas. Here Bond tries to upscale the bad guy Le Chiffre, (played by Danish star Mads Mikkelsen), in a crazy high stakes poker game. But unlike other evil villains out for power and money, Le Chiffre is mainly trying to help aid his team of...hmmm bad guys? Anyway, he has this crazy scar over his left eye which he continuously weeps blood from. I guess that is somewhat innovative.

However, Bond can't figure out how he is continuously bluffing his way to victory, but then he finally figures out the connection and links it back to Le Chiffre's nasty case of pink eye. All

this is done with the aid and help of a new Bond girl, Vesper Legund, also a new government agent. Legund unexpectedly takes Casino Royale to a new shape as the character molds 007 into a sloppy guy in love. Which I found to be unbelievable and very uncharacteristic right? I mean Bond definitely has his share of rendezvous', but he can't fall in love. I repeat he has the license to kill. Either way the whole romance aspect really threw me off and it was obvious that it was only an interlude in the plot so that the explosions and high-speed chases could prevail in the end.

Casino Royale really sucked. I mean there I was buying my movie ticket, a 007 movie virgin, expecting to see the three pre requisites of the genre that makes Bond movies so memorable; attractive dancing ladies, cool gadgets, and lots of explosions. Yet, for all the stuff that was happening on screen, I only saw one of the three. Vesper Legund was too witty to dance around, but there wasn't even a moment when attractive ladies would have been well placed in the plot. Which I find to be ironic since the story

takes place in a casino.

Cool gadgets were the other thing missing from the film. There were definitely times when Bond could have whipped out a crazy gun that would have saved the world. But the only thing that even remotely resembled a new-age device was a defibrillator that Bond tries to use on himself. And it didn't even work! Whoever thought that would operate in this movie was very wrong.

Even though there were no pole dancers and no ipod-phone-x-ray-gun combos, there were plenty of explosions. In fact there is one really sick chase scene that takes set on the construction sight of a new building. There was a lot of gunfire and a lot of dust and a lot of jumping from 2x4 to 2x4. The end result is Bond getting his mark by way of bulldozer. That's right, they spared no creative juices for this film! Mostly it was a chance for Daniel Craig to showcase his

agility and physique. This was probably why it was my favorite scene; I mean it did dull the boredom for a little while.

So there it is. I did not enjoy myself. I don't even think I can consider this a Bond film after the hype I've heard about the other movies. So if you're looking for a

thrill and this movie is your only option, I suggest doing something else much more exhilarating. Do your homework, organize family photos, take a bunch of no-dose and then try your hardest to fall asleep. Do anything else! It would definitely be more exciting than seeing this film.

Dixie Chicks make nice

Country-rock group entertains mostly full Save Mart Center

by lfe Chudeni Oputa
Rampage reporter

In the dark of the arena, a Fresno City College student leans over to her two companions. "Kate Wilson says that was the best song," she says of herself. The three girls laugh.

They are out of place among the thousands of screaming fans who have gathered in the Save Mart Center. Unlike the people that surround them, singing and clapping offbeat, the girls have limited knowledge of the headliner's music. They aren't there as fanatics, but as students taking advantage of free concert tickets. Yet, as the three young ladies sit in the arena's stands they find themselves enjoying the careful blend of rock and country twang, and wishing they

too could sing along.

The Dixie Chicks performed to a not-so-packed Save Mart Center on Thursday, November 16 as a part of their Accidents & Accusations Tour. With war protestors outside and a number of empty seats inside, it was clear that the group had not outlived the controversial statement made by vocalist Natalie Maines three years ago in London. The Dixie Chicks had no plan to skirt around the subject. Fans cheered as they marched in to the tune of "Hail to the Chief".

The three women immediately brought the crowd to its feet with the energetic "Lubbock or Leave It" from their most recent album "Taking the Long Way". The Chicks delivered a nice balance of old and new material, sampling crowd pleasers like "Goodbye

Earl", "Cowboy Take Me Away", "Sin Wagon", and "Wide Open Spaces" from past albums.

With the exception of a few distracting background images, the Dixie Chicks delivered a concert light on gimmicks and heavy on talent. Unfortunately, the images that were meant to enhance the experience rarely added and often took away from the performance. However, what was lost by theatrics was made up for in passion. What the Dixie Chicks felt, they made sure their fans felt, whether it was the insolence of "The Neighbor" (inspired by the Dixie Chicks documentary "Shut Up and Sing"), or the carefree attitude of "Some Days You Gotta Dance".

The concert's appeal lay in its Southern simplicity, which came together beautifully in "Lul-

laby". It was this selection that FCC student Kate Wilson elected as "best song", and understandably so. With minimal accompaniment and the sweet voice of Natalie Maines, the Dixie Chicks delivered a pure and tender love song.

The mood quickly changed as Maines introduced the next song. She teased her fans about Fresno being home to the acclaimed Kevin Federline. "For Kevin, K-Fed, Fed-Ex," she said as she dedicated "White Trash Wedding" to the Fresno Native.

Undoubtedly, the climax of the evening came with the performance of "Not Ready to Make Nice". Maines delivered powerful vocals to match the song that so pointedly addressed the group's experiences over the past three years. The Dixie Chicks provided

more standout selections with the soulful "I Hope" and the poignant "Top of the World."

The talented trio took the audience up and down with a mixture of fast-paced tunes and tender melodies. Emily Robinson and Martie Maguire provided harmonies that beautifully supported Maines' vocals, while playing an assortment of instruments. Though the constant changing of instruments translated to a few moments of dead time between songs, it was a treat to watch such versatile artists. Watching the group members onstage it was clear that they were enjoying themselves, and this attitude translated to the fans. Audience members didn't have to like country music to be able to appreciate the performers' passion and fine musicianship.



photo by Robin Vallentyne

The Dixie Chicks rocked a not-so-packed Save Mart Center Nov. 16. The band made sure to poke a jab at Fresno for being the birthplace of "Fed-ex", Kevin Federline.