



# Rampage

Fresno City College

Volume CXI Edition 1

Published since 1949

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## PROPOSAL BENEFITS OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES:

**-\$606 million (11.6% increase from current funding.)**

**-\$130 million for equalization.**

**-\$30 million for career and technical education programs.**

**-Enrollment fee of \$26 per credit unit to stay.**

## FCC finds promise in new proposal

by Clare Godinho  
Rampage Reporter

Governor Schwarzenegger unveiled his 2006-07 budget proposal on January 5, 2006. It's the biggest chunk of change community colleges have seen from the state in a long time.

His Strategic Growth Plan is designed to bring the California infrastructure up to par, with special consideration to higher education in the form of \$11.7 billion total investment over the next ten years.

"We will need more roads, more hospitals, more-

schools, more nurses, more teachers..." said governor in his state of the state speech, given before a joint session of the California state legislature earlier this month.

"The governor is a big supporter, as am I, of community colleges," said assemblyman Mike Villaines, of the 29<sup>th</sup>

district.

Schwarzenegger himself attended Santa Monica Community College.

Two years ago Fresno City College was ranked 61<sup>st</sup> in per-student funding from the state, out of 72 community colleges throughout California. Thanks to equalization, FCC is

**see Budget, Page 3**

## 'Canyon Suite' goes national

by Nigel Wojtak  
Rampage Reporter

On Friday, February 17 Fresno City College's Theatre Department will perform Chuck Erven's original play, Canyon Suite, at the 2006 Region VII Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (ACTF) at Southern Utah University in Cedar City, Utah.

Canyon Suite was performed at FCC in December of 2005 directed by Fresno State's, Brad Myers. If Canyon Suite is then selected to perform at Nationals this could mean excellent recognition, not just for the actors and crew, but also for FCC's Theatre Department and Fresno City College as a whole.

The Kennedy Festival, or ACTF, has been in operation for about 30 years giving the opportunity to universities nationwide to perform and represent the

**see Suite p. 2**

## Enough room?



Photo by Matthew T. Mendez

FCC students wait at the side of Michael Schuler's Psych 2 class in Forum Hall 101, hoping to add.

## Class sizes snarl students' schedules

by Jeff Rodriguez  
Rampage Reporter

Fresno City College has a shortage on classroom space. Students are struggling to get classes they need to transfer or graduate.

Adding classes the first three weeks of school can be a science in itself. With enrollment going up every semester, registering for classes can be difficult or even impossible. The waitlists fill up quickly. Some students have no choice but to try sitting in on classes with the slight hope

of getting added.

Sorayma Chavez, a Fresno City College student, believes the school should do more to accommodate students. Pushing the add date back a few weeks could be a starter. Then a teacher could know how many students have dropped. She has unsuccessfully tried to add Biology 1 in two previous semesters.

"I was lucky to finally add Biology this semester," Sorayma Chavez said. She only needs to complete a few more classes to fulfill her degree. She is also trying to add

Sociology 1A and Math 255. Math 255 is really holding her back from moving forward with her degree. Sorayma is willing to sit on the floor to add the classes she needs. Some teachers will allow students to sit on the floor the first three weeks of school to see if they can be added.

Economics teacher Jim Franz is willing to accommodate students as much as he can. He would like to give everyone a chance to add his class because he knows many students will drop. They are

**see Classes p. 2**

## Programs offered to FCC students

by Matt Mendez  
Rampage Reporter

There are over 130 scholarships available to FCC-students who meet the academic and financial requirements given within each reward's description, and the deadline to turn in an application for any of them isn't until March 2.

The 136 scholarships fall under 49 different categories, including nursing, science, music, business, and athletics. There is also a category for general education, which has 20 scholarships alone--the most of any specific classification.

The scholarship applications are only accepted online through Fresno City College's official website ([www.fresnocitycollege.edu](http://www.fresnocitycollege.edu)). While applying, students must know either their social security number or student ID number.

**see Scholarship p. 4**

# City Singers plan trip to Italy

*Students get global lesson in diversity - and want to share what they've learned*

by Herbert Graham

Rampage Reporter

The Fresno City College City Singers are taking a trip to Italy in the last week of May. Julia Dana is the instructor of the City Singers. Craig Arnold, from Luther College in Iowa conducts an organization that helps choirs travel outside the country. Arnold asked Dana if the City Singers would travel with his Nordic Choir, last spring to Italy and she accepted.

To ensure the trip to Italy is a success Julia Dana and the City Singers are planning fundraisers to help pay for their expenses. Dana and City Singers have conducted fundraisers, which included spaghetti and tamale dinners, singing valentines, and bar-

becues.

Mr. and Mrs. Badgley of the music department will perform a duo recital to raise money for the trip to Italy. Mrs. Dana will also perform a solo faculty recital March 12th for donations for the trip. The City Singers will also perform recitals to help pay for the expenses.

"If the students have the desire to go, they will go," said Dana, who will help pay for the trip's funds out of her own pocket.

The City Singers and Mrs. Dana are excited about their trip to Italy.

"I'm excited, because I have only been to New York. The music we are learning is not difficult but is a lot to memorize," said Isabel Contre-

ras, an alto for the City Singers, "Everyday Mrs. Dana teaches us an Italian 'word of the day,' so we will know some of the Italian language."

Kelly Krumbein, a soprano for the City Singers, is looking forward to the trip.

"I'm really excited. This is my first time leaving the country," said Krumbein.

Mrs. Dana explains concerns for the trip

"It's a lot of work, to raise the money, my job as a teacher is to expose you guys to as many different experiences as I can and to different types of choral literature. I've been doing this for seven years exposing students to different types of music."

Mrs. Dana also gives an insight of Italy. She explains

that choral literature began in Italy. The literature originated during the middle ages and the Renaissance Period.

Dana and the City Singers plan to explore Italy during their leisure time. The places they plan to explore are the churches, the statue of David, and The Coliseum.

The Concert Choir, City Singers, Fresno Choral and other parts of the Fresno City College Music Department will also have a multicultural concert Feb. 6, 2006. The concert, titled "It Takes a Village," will be held in the Fresno City College Theater at 7:30 pm. The State Center Community College District Foundation gave the Fresno City College Music Department a grant to put on the multicultural con-

cert. The concert will include music from North and South America, New Zealand, Asia, Europe, Polania, China Mongolia and from other various regions all over the world.

The Fresno Unified School District children's choir will also perform at the concert. Students will imitate instruments, dance and conduct a percussion ensemble.

Mrs. Dana explains that she would like to have a multicultural concert every year.

"The student body is very diverse and we hope to motivate people to join the choir," said Dana. "It is important that people see how diverse we really are."

## Suite: Two friends go national with play

continued from p. 1

performing arts in their towns and establishments. The FCC Theatre Department has been involved for just about that long.

The ACTF sent scouts to attend the performances of Canyon Suite and then informed the department of their nomination to perform at the Region VII festival in Utah based on a decision by the regional board. Hundreds of shows enter but the regional board, which considers all the shows, narrows the selection down over the period of a week-end and end up with about seven shows to go to that state's regional festival.

(Region VII includes California, Nevada, Arizona, Utah and Hawaii.) After all plays are performed in all regions, judges will select four to six plays out of the whole U.S. to perform at the National Festival.

"It's a real 'feather in your cap' if your school's play makes it to Nationals. It helps recruit Performing Arts students to your school

and department and really puts your theatre department in the spotlight," said director and Theatre Arts instructor Brad Myers.

Chuck Erven, playwright, and Brad Myers, director, wanted to collaborate on Canyon Suite not only because of a friendship but also because Myers had "never directed an original piece before and wanted to help out."

"Working all together is really exciting for me," said Myers.

Canyon Suite is Myers' fourth play he's directed and the last one he directed, "Indulgences in a Louisville Harem", went to Nationals.

However, Myers isn't the only one with a success rate, Erven has been nominated for the David Mark Cohen playwrighting award for the Canyon Suite script. The David Mark Cohen award is awarded to any playwright who has produced at a university or

college, and has the best script.

Each region out of all eight regions nominates two or three playwrights giving the total of competitors to about 13.

This is Erven's second nomination, the first being Painting Landscapes a few years back.

The collaboration of two friends and two theatre communities, Fresno State and Fresno City, has shown great success through the example of Canyon Suite.

"I loved collaborating with the Fresno City College people. They have such great passion and great spirit. They are wonderful people," said Myers.

## Rampage



### RAMPAGE

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# Budget: FCC students might have more options to look forward to

continued from p. 1

now ranked 58<sup>th</sup>. The goal is to be in the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile.

Equalization is a state program that was created to increase the per student allocation of resources to rural schools, where funding is often lower.

Traditionally, community colleges were given less money than what was called for by Proposition 98. Proposition 98 earmarked a certain percentage of state funds for California schools, including community colleges.

"We're now back into receiving more of the amount of the original money we were allocated before Proposition

89," said Douglas Brinkley, Vice Chancellor of the State Center Community College District.

"This year, the governor's making a proposal that will get us as close as we've been in a long time to the voter's stipulated amount of resources, and that's actually a good thing for community colleges," said Dr. Doffoney, president of Fresno City College.

The money obtained from the governor's budget will be seen in the form of new full-time faculty, and more classes. It will strictly be used for operating costs.

Technology is a big department that FCC is interested in strengthening, along with adding more tutorial services. "Making sure that students have access to the services that they need," said Doffoney.

Nursing, sciences, photography, business technology, chemistry, and English instructors will be added as well, thereby providing the much needed additional classes that students can enroll in.

It's a long and political process however, and the governor will re-evaluate his budget proposal in May, and compare it to the amount of revenue the state has gained.

"I'm optimistic, but I'm also realistic," Doffoney said regarding the budget proposal.

The money that has been proposed for education is a huge jump compared to last year.

According to an article published in the Fresno Bee on Wednesday, January 11, 2006, it looks like community colleges just might get money that touches on Proposition 98 status. The budget is strengthened by a projected two-thirds reduction in the deficit from \$16.5 billion, when Schwarzenegger first was elected, to \$4.7 billion in the next fiscal

year.

The Governor wants to construct 2,000 small schools and 40,000 classrooms all while modernizing 141,000 other schools. He also wants to see construction and expansion at University of California, California State University and California Community College campuses.

"Community colleges are providing the best opportunity to really give our youth the chance to decide what they want to do," said Villines, "I really believe we've got that focus... I've been encouraged that the governor has always said that too."

## Artspace Showcase

Jessyca Dewey

Rampage Reporter

The FCC Art Space Gallery officially opened the semester's first art show titled "Can You Dig It?" featuring artists Mary Ollila, Jud Smith and David Varney. The show, which opens Thursday, Feb. 12, and will continue through Feb. 16, is made up of an eclectic variation of art forms. Very eclectic, infact.

Artist David Varney showcased pieces that included cardboard and expanding foam while Jud Smith featured a collection of pieces made of concrete, steel and various found objects. Pieces by Ollila consisted of items such as Kozo paper and seashells.

The three artists vary as much in background as they do in art form. Ollila currently teaches sculpture at FCC for the fourth year and her personal work includes stone carvings, metal-works and drawings. However this was not her original career plan. Originally from Michigan, she spent 8-9 years working as an auto designer for General Motors. Eventually she realized that this was not her passion.

"I became incredibly bored and stifled and somebody asked me what I wanted

to do and I said 'Well, I really want to be an artist.' She acted upon this realization, went to graduate school at Idaho State University and since then, her art has been shown all over the country.

Smith, on the other hand, has been pursuing a career in art for the majority of his life. Influences of model-building and archeology in his artwork can be traced to childhood interests. After attending the California College of Arts and Crafts, he founded Arkeon Art which is an "exploration of fine art and functional art in concrete, metal, wood and found objects" according to the company website, [www.arkeonart.com](http://www.arkeonart.com).

"I've always been into things that are crude, rusty and decayed," said Smith at the artist reception Thursday night. This is very consistent with the samples of work shown at the gallery, many of which are exactly that; crude, rusty and decayed. Throw in the words 'genuine', 'alluring', and 'striking' and you have got a great description of Smith's work.

On the opposite side of the spectrum, the collection of pieces chosen to be shown by David Varney were compiled of soft, foamy materials and

light colors.

Where Ollila's and Smith's work is striking and the message obscure, Varney's work is messy by nature and, in many of the pieces, the story behind the work is written in a Sharpie-marker scrawl.

Encompassing a whimsical look at art as well as the eye-catching beauty of symmetry, this gallery collection offers a diverse show for a diverse audience.

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# Scholarship: *required GPA varies among programs*

Continued from Page 1

The FCC scholarship catalog, which has a descriptive listing of each scholarship, is also on the website. Scholarship brochures can be picked up at the financial aid office in the Student Service building.

Some scholarships require a minimum GPA of as low as 2.5, while others carry a requisite average of up to 4.0. However, most scholarships set the GPA barometer at 3.0, including the Bank of America Foundation Scholarship, which can earn a student up to \$2,000 in four semesters.

There is at least one scholarship still available to students that was not listed in the school's catalog, that being the Jonnah Laroche Memo-

rial Scholarship, which grants \$500 for a continuing community college student and \$1000 for a transferring student.

"Not many people are aware this scholarship even exists, so [the Statewide Academic Senate] received very little applications for it," said Robert Martinez, an electronics instructor at Fresno City and a member of the Student Welfare Committee, "this particular scholarship is not offered every year, the statewide center picks different regions...and this year happens to be our year."

Unlike the other scholarships, the Laroche Memorial Scholarship's deadline for sending in an application is Feb. 24. One original and

seven copies of the entire application must be turned into the Academic Senate Office no later than 5:00 p.m. on the deadline date.

Many students are unaware of how many opportunities there are to receive money for college. According to the school's scholarship catalog, over \$1.5 million has been awarded to FCC students in the past ten years. But a recent report in the Fresno Bee stated that less than 30 % of graduating high school seniors even apply for financial aid, let alone a scholarship that requires a well-written essay.

"It's important to know, particularly for students who don't have adequate financial resources," said Fresno

City College President Ned Doffoney, "that there are opportunities to acquire adequate financial resources, and many people don't know that."

To help students with filling out the various financial aid forms, the Central Valley Higher Education Consortium started the California Cash for College campaign. The auxiliary campaign began five years ago as series of workshops intended to generate more student interest in receiving monetary aid.

This year's campaign features over 15 workshops within reasonable driving distance for students, including one being held in the Fresno City College cafeteria on Feb. 11 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

"Cash for College is a campaign to raise the level of awareness for students and potential students that financial aid opportunities are available," said Doffoney, "not only on campus, but there are also statewide financial aid opportunities available."

"The Central Valley Higher Education Consortium is a group of colleges in the Central Valley that want to raise the level of people going to college in the valley. We know clearly that the college going rate is less than half of what it is state wide, and that's

just not unacceptable."

Receiving some form of financial aid may be more important to students now than ever since there is a possibility that the college will decide to do away with the health fee waiver. Still, FCC students will only be paying \$14 for health services, as opposed to \$50 at California State University Fresno.

"If we didn't do it, unfortunately some people wouldn't get medical benefits," said Mike Villines, a member of the California Legislature and an assemblyman for 29th district, speaking of the termination of the health fee waiver.

ASG will be putting together an information packet for Club Rush, an event that features many of the school's student-led organizations attempting to recruit new members, which will be held Jan. 25 in the main fountain area from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

"For all the services you can get, it's good," said student trustee Zyanya Bejarano, "Get informed, go to the College Activities Office next to the cafeteria in the student lounge. Check out their information on programs for free services, works shops, conferences, and coupons."

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## 2006 California Cash for College workshops

•Clovis West 1070 E. Teague	Jan. 25 6:30-8:30 p.m.
•Harmony Church 5372 E. Belmont	Jan. 28 1-3 p.m.
•University of California center 550 E. Shaw	Feb. 4 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
•Fresno High 1839 Echo	Feb. 7 6-7:30 p.m.
•FCC Cafeteria 1101 University	Feb. 11 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
•Clovis Community Center 390 W. Fir	Feb. 11 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
•Berean Christian Store 7512 N Blackstone	Feb. 28 6:30-8:30 p.m.



## Upcoming photo exhibit to remember Civil Rights

by Sean Felton  
Rampage Reporter

Many people know what the decade of the 1960s was all about. This was the decade of the Civil Rights Movement. During this time, in American history, prejudices, stereotypes, and racism all flourished. One important figure of the Movement was Dr. Martin Luther

King Jr. His holiday just came up on January 16th, 2006. February is Black History Month, and Fresno City College has an upcoming event to remember history in a visual perspective.

ASG (student government) is holding a Civil Rights photo exhibit, which begins on Wednesday, February 1st and runs the entire month, until the 28th of February. It's open on weekdays, with the times ranging as follows: Monday through Thursday from 8:00am-6:00pm, and Friday from 8:00am-3:00pm. General admission for students is free.

So, don't worry about pulling out money for this event. This event will be held in the Student Lounge (next to the Student Café) at Fresno City College.

In an interview with Gurdeep Sihota (director of college activities), she states

the reason for the event is that "people learn history better by seeing it visually." Photographs have such a powerful impact on people. Sihota also states, "By having this exhibit, [I] think that people will connect to the history and hopefully try to understand the Civil Rights Movement better." The Civil Rights period was one of the most important events in U.S. history. If it wasn't for the Civil Rights Movement, this country would still live in segregation, and society would be more chaotic.

The artist that is putting up the photos is Matt Herron. Most of the art being displayed at the exhibit consists mostly of mounted photographs and banners. The kinds of photos being displayed are mostly photos from the Selma March, which was in Birmingham,

Alabama. There will be some photos of famous African-American leaders during the movement. According to Gurdeep Sihota, "Some of the photos that students will see are seen in history textbooks." To experience history on a very different level, make sure you come out to the Civil Rights photo exhibit.

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# Classes: *FCC must abide by state capacity laws for each room*

continued from Page 1 room.

taking away from someone who really needs it.

"That's the frustrating thing. You know in three or four weeks people are going to start being absent, and by the ninth or tenth week half the class will be gone," said Jim Franz. This makes students question the schools policies on adding classes, and if the school is ever going to do anything about it.

There is only so much the school can

do with their resources. They have people in charge of figuring out how to stretch the fa-

cilities to best accommodate the students. The school must abide by the state mandated maximum capacity for each

"The state determines capacity by how many square feet. Then there are formulas by square feet and how many students," said Tony Cantu, Dean of Instruction.

The type of class also plays a role in capacity. Science classes with a lab will have different formulas than the lecture classes. Teachers are allowed to add students, but rules are rules.

"I really admire them for trying to do a lot of differ-

the afternoon." Students find these hours to be inconvenient around busy work schedules however.

Jim Franz believes the school is headed in the right direction. More online classes are on the horizon, and there is funding for the old administration building, which will add more space for classes as well.

Hopefully more changes are coming because it is a competitive world, and students are staying here longer than expected.

Extending the add date past three weeks could be a start. For now exploring the other district options such as Madera and Clovis Centers could be the answer.

*"The state determines capacity by how many square feet." --Tony Cantu, Dean of Instruction*

ent things," Franz said, "They try to create early morning classes, and certainly they are trying to schedule classes in

## Letters to the Editor

### FCC campus 'Awesome'

Recently I was doing some shopping and I met a young lady then I asked her, "Hey, don't you go to city college?" She answered me and said "Yeah I go there." Then I asked her, "Don't you love it?" And to my surprise she said "(expletive) no I can't wait to hurry up and get enough units to get the (expletive) out of here."

Well, as for me, I love it here. This campus is awesome. It's people are No. 1! Ambition. Inspiration, admiration, hope and care are to be found at almost each step I take. Any directions I pursue I can greet a smile, a handshake or a common and decent courtesy and at each one of my destinations (class, library, labs) I acquire

help, knowledge, expertise and encouragement.

Today, because I'm finally 100 percent sober I'm able to enjoy life to the fullest and yes I love this life and I love being a part of this FCC community.

Pete Madrid

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January 31 12:00 FCC Staff Dining Room

February 1 5:00 District Office Board Room

February 27 5:00 District Office Board Room



Questions? Call Kim Quesada at 244-5906.



# Sports

7

January 25, 2006

## For Rams, hustle and teamwork payoff

*Walk-on Philip Matchum named CVC player of the week; team continues to prosper under Walberg*

By Joseph Rios  
Rampage Reporter

Any success the team claims in the last three and a half seasons is due to a game-plan built on hustle and players willing to put in the work.

"What we do is nothing fancy" said Coach Vance Walberg. "We just try to play harder than the other team."

Last season, the "Hustling Rams" used this hard working, full-court, in-your-face attitude to earn the team's first state title since 1963 – and they did it with a flawless 34-0 record.

This season's Rams (22-5, 5-1) are chasing after the league title.

Fresno City cut down West Hills Jan. 21 93-77 in a pivotal matchup that kept them alive going into tonight's game against The College of the Sequoias.

They'll be depending heavily on what they have been ever since Walberg took leadership of the team in 2002 – hard work.

The Rams play hard, up-tempo ball every minute of every game. That means most, if not everyone on the bench is seeing time on the court.

"I believe it's hard for a kid to play more than two-three minutes at my pace," said Walberg. "At their pace they can play the whole game but at my pace..."

It isn't strange to see Walberg pulling starters out and cycling in players one after another. He bombards the other team with fresh legs that keep coming and coming until they can't take it anymore and crumble.

This game-plan shows in the stat book; nine players on the roster are averaging over seven points a game.

"We need to have our four or five studs to be consistent," said Walberg. "But what's nice is that we have the chance to get four or more guys to come through for us."

Walberg has a strong batch of players leading the pack toward a CVC Championship this season.

Philip Matchum, a walk-on from Clovis East High School exploded onto the scene to start for the Rams.

Matchum was named CVC player of the week on the COA website for the week of Jan. 23. He contributed 18 points against West Hills on Saturday. Jordan Farley led that night with 19.

"I didn't really recruit Phil, he came out on his own," said Walberg. "He worked so hard, we decided to keep him at grey shirt and he kept working so much harder and shooting the ball so well we decided to keep him on – now he's starting for us."

Farley also returns this season. Farley was first team all-league last year and the current leader in rebounds. Adrian Sanchez, leading three-point shooter from last year returns to the lineup this season as well. Anthony Zuniga, another sophomore, has a touch that allows him to distribute the ball well with producing turnovers and will be a great asset to FCC going into the post-season.

Another freshman to look out for is Dubois Williams. He is one of the better rebounders and defenders on



Ram's sophomore guard Heath Colvin attempts a difficult lay-up against Poterville

Photo by Jennifer Schmidt

the team. He has 22 blocks and leads the team with 45 steals this season.

"The better he gets, the better we will get," said Walberg.

Sophomore Rick Cardoso is the only player on the team with more blocks than

Williams (42). Cardoso has also put up 240 points and snatched 21 steals.

Sophomore Keena Payton leads the squad with 332 points and a 13 average.

Freshman Gary Jenkins from Clovis West has

been out with a broken hand but has great athleticism. It showed last season when he and the Eagles took the High School Valley Championship at Selland Arena.

TJ Aguilar is also injured. He has a torn rotator cup but will play though the season and get it operated on in the off-season."

"He's by far the toughest guy on the team," said Walberg. "He's our toughest inside player and our toughest inside defensive player."

There are a lot of expectations on the returning champions. Despite the expectations, the philosophy remains the same.

"The philosophy is not complicated, Fresno City basketball consists of playing hard and playing smart," said Walberg. "Our job is to win the league championship every year. When you set your goals that high every year, it's tough to reach them."

"But we do."

### California statewide coaches poll for the week of Jan. 22

Rank	Region	Record
1.	Fullerton (S)	25-0
2.	West Valley (N)	22-3
3.	Siskiyous (N)	21-2
4.	Chaffey (S)	21-4
5.	Compton (S)	16-3
6.	Fresno (N)	22-5
7.	San Francisco (N)	20-3
8.	Los Angeles (S)	23-2
9.	Orange Coast (S)	18-7
10.	Moorpark (S)	18-5

# FCC baseball season draws near

*Rams prepare to right last season's wrongs*

By Matthew T. Mendez  
Sports Editor

The FCC baseball team, which at one point last season was ranked No. 1 in the nation, begins the 2006 season in Santa Cruz against Cabrillo College on Jan. 31.

Last season's team made it all the way to the state final four championships, which have been played at FCC's home ballpark, Euless Ballpark, since 1995. The Rams lost to Palomar 12-9 before losing to eventual state champion Santa Rosa 17-2 just a few hours later.

The Rams had come into the state championships as the heavy favorite, earning Northern California's No. 1 seed in the postseason. But after defeating Orange Coast College in a miraculous 6-5 comeback victory, Fresno may have ran out of gas.

In the Orange Coast match-up, right-hander Andy

Underwood pitched a complete game, giving up 10 hits and striking out 12 batters. Underwood started the game off by putting the Rams in a 3-0 hole, but head coach Ron Scott kept his Northern California All-American on the mound, and Underwood ultimately calmed down and got his team the victory.

Underwood has now transferred to California State University Fresno, leaving the Rams with quite a huge vacancy to fill. First baseman Chad Rothford and outfielder Jason Sadoian have also used up their two years of eligibility.

Fresno's main concern this season is the quality of its pitching staff, but their overall talent on the field has improved from last season.

"We expect to be real successful like we have been," Scott said about this season's expectations, "our goal is to win the league championship, and ultimately make it back to the state finals."

The Rams do have incoming pitchers Romeo Newman, and right-hander who transferred from Long Beach St., and RHP Danny Mora

from Central High School. LHP Michael Guerro, an expected starter this season, is ineligible due to grades not being up to par.

RF Tyrese McDaniel, who in high school played baseball at Clovis West as well as basketball under current FCC men's coach Vance Walberg, is one of the biggest hitters in the state. He is expected to bat cleanup.

FCC will also be returning LF Matt Lieb and second baseman Robert Walden, two players who are expected to contribute mightily to the team's improvement on defense.

In coach Scott's 14 years as Rams baseball coach, FCC has won 10 Central Valley Conference titles, five Northern California Championships, and have advanced to the state championships five times. The last time Scott took the Rams all the way to the California state title was in 1992.

The Rams finished last season with an overall record of 35-8, and this season, the begin the year ranked No. 3 in the Northern California J.C. pre-season poll.

## North Cal. J.C. Pre-Season Poll

Rank	Team
1.	Cosumnes River
2.	Sacramento City
3.	Fresno City*
4.	Chabot
5.	San Mateo
6.	Sequoias*
7.	American River
8.	Santa Rosa
9.	Ohlone
10.	Merced*

**Other teams to Watch:** Feather River, Porterville\*, Modesto, Sierra, Marin, Hartnell, West Valley, Shasta.

\* = Central Valley Conference Team.

## Upcoming Baseball games at FCC

2/2....	vs. Consumnes River
2/3.....	vs. Ohlone College
2/4.....	vs. Cabrillo (DH)
2/9.....	vs. Sac. City
2/10.....	vs. Sac. City
2/11.....	vs. Sac. City
2/16.....	vs. Chabot College
2/17.....	vs. Santa Rosa
2/18.....	vs. Santa Rosa
2/18.....	vs. Chabot College
2/23.....	vs. Porterville*
3/2.....	vs. West Hills*
3/4.....	vs. Sequoias*
3/7.....	vs. Reedley*
3/11.....	vs. Modesto*
3/18.....	vs. West Hills*
3/23.....	vs. Reedely*
3/28.....	vs. Porterville*
3/30.....	vs. Taft*
4/6.....	vs. Sequoias*
4/8.....	vs. Merced*
4/20.....	vs. Modesto*
4/29.....	vs. Taft*
5/4.....	vs. Merced*

\* = Central Valley Conference Games

# Former Rams tailback to play in Super Bowl XL

Matthew T. Mendez  
Sports Editor

Former Fresno City College running back Maurice Morris will be playing in professional football's biggest game when his Seattle Seahawks take on the Pittsburgh Steelers in Super Bowl XL on Sunday, Feb. 5.

Morris is Seattle's back-up tailback for the 2005 NFL offensive MVP Shaun Alexander. The former FCC

superstar had 71 carries for 288 yards during the regular season, averaging 4.1 yards a carry.

As running back for the Rams during the 1998 and 1999 seasons, Morris set 16 school records, including most rushing yards (3,708), carries (593), and rushing touchdowns (45) in a career.

Morris scored 298

points during his two years at FCC, which is enough for another school record.

According to NFL.com, in his entire junior college career, Morris was held under 100 yards rushing only once, in a 92-yard effort against Siskiyous. He was a two-time JC Grid-Wire All-American, and he also set national JC records of all-purpose yards (4,487)

and rushing yards (3,708) on 593 rush attempts.

After his career at FCC, Morris spent two seasons with the Oregon Ducks. He currently holds the school record for most carries in one season with 286 in 2000, and he was Oregon's first two-time 1,000-yard rusher.

In 2002, Morris was selected 54th in the NFL draft by Seattle. By becom-

ing the Seahawk's first pick in the second round, Morris became the 36th running back selected in franchise history.

Like most of the Seahawks players, Morris will be making his first Super Bowl appearance.

Seattle beat the Panthers in the NFC title game, while the Steelers defeated the Broncos in the AFC.



# Volleyball team makes a run at state title

*But lose to eventual champs in tournament held at Selland Arena*

By Matthew T. Mendez

Sports Editor

The Fresno City College volleyball team came within winning 3 games of taking the California Community Colleges Commission on Athletics Women's Volleyball Championship inside the Selland Arena this past December.

The Rams lost to an undefeated Orange Coast team in the quarterfinals on Dec. 9, ending their hopes of winning a state title in their hometown. The Pirates would eventually go on to win the tournament, putting the final touches on an unblemished season (26-0).

Following the loss to Orange Coast, the Rams were defeated by West

Valley College in a close three-game match. That loss would eliminate FCC from the state championships, but not before showing the competition that they truly belonged in a tournament of elite teams.

Fresno City staged two upsets while on the road during the Northern California Regional playoffs to get back to their home city.

No. 10 seed FCC made its way back to Fresno after traveling to No. 7 De Anza College, and then to Sacramento City, which had come into the regional playoffs as the No. 2 seed and ranked No. 6 in the state.

Fresno defeated De Anza in a three-game sweep (30-18, 30-24, 32-30) on Nov. 30 before outlasting Sacramento City in a five-

game slugfest three days later. The Rams gave up the first two games to Sacramento, and then rallied in the third and fourth games to reach the decisive fifth round, which they won by a score of 15-12.

For next season's squad, Fresno City expects to have at least five returning players, including Lauren Storey, Michelle Guiterrez, and Jackie Anaya, who sat out this season but played the year before.

The Rams will be preparing to make another run at the state title, but they are also expecting to contend for the Central Valley Conference regular season title again. FCC finished second to Taft College, a team they defeated easily on their own home

court in November. Fresno finished league play with a record of 14-2; Taft finished with a mark of 15-1.

However, FCC will lose some vital components to this season's success. Sophomores Kaira Kachadurian, Megan Roehl, Caitlin Merrell and Katie Franz are all moving on, and freshman Jamie-Rose Walberg hasn't decided if she'll return next year.

"The thing about JC is that every year is different," said Rams head coach Sheri Hess, "I mean, one team could be dominant one year, and then you lose half your starting lineup. It's not like at a four-year school or at a high school...it's literally whoever shows up at preseason.

"Our conference is

so tough too, I believe we had four teams from our conference that went to the regional playoffs. We were the only ones to make it to the state playoffs, but we still had a lot of our teams win in the first round."

Coming off an exceptional season (20-8 overall) and equipped with several experienced returning players, next season's FCC volleyball team hopes to tack up just three more victories in December than they were able to this time around.

## Ram's road to state finals

De Anza (30-18, 30-24, 32-30) W  
Sac City (19-30, 24-30, 37-35, 30-27, 15-12) W  
Orange Coast (14-30, 20-30, 18-30) L

# Lady Ram's game tying bucket rims out at buzzer

*FCC suffers heartbreaking loss, but freshman Duren shows promise in defeat*

by Russell Bourg  
Rampage Reporter

Saturday night the Lady Rams Basketball team almost pulled out a last second miracle to tie the game with 4 seconds on the clock.

The pass came from freshman guard Kari Caramillo in to Brinae Duren who had a tough shot to make with only 1 second on the clock. It went up, looked good but rolled off the front of the rim. The Lady Rams looked very tough in a 69-67 loss against valley rival Reedley College, putting them at 17-11 for the season and 1-3 against Reedley College.

The star of the game was freshman forward, Brinae Duren, the leading scorer for the game. With her inside dominance and rebounding capability, she was an unstoppable force in the paint.

Second leading scorer

was sophomore guard, Alex Peoples, contributing inside with 15 points and great defense. Other notables were Breanna Perry a sophomore guard with many key 3 pointers, two to end the first half. With Verenique Warren, a sophomore guard and Kari Caramillo, a freshman guard, Reedley had a tough time keeping up with the quickness and tenacity of each possession.

Along with help from Nathalie Olveda playing excellent defense the Lady Rams showed a gym full of fans, they aren't pushovers.

With first year coach Ray Alvarado the Lady Rams are learning a new system, dealing with being short players, coach Alvarado says "Things are going good considering we are short bodies, we just have to stick it out and continue being competitive with some of the best schools in the state.


"Our ultimate goal always is to win a championship and to be respected, but we have to do the little things in order to succeed."

With two first place

trophies for pre-season tournaments under their belts, the lady Rams have their work cut out for them. "We need another year to reach our full potential, we need to go out and recruit a full

squad." Says Coach Alvarado.

The Lady Rams are a team that shouldn't be taken lightly, we should hear some noise from them in the post season



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- 2 Hotdog/Soda tickets for the game
- A basketball shirt for you and a friend
- VIP Seating

**ENTRIES DUE FEBRUARY 3RD**

## Is Kobe the best player ever?

Matthew T. Mendez  
Sports Editor

No.

End of column.

I wish, but it still is an intriguing question. The man put up 81 points in 42 minutes the other day in front of 19,000 blissfully happy Lakers fans at the Staples Center. This came just weeks after he manhandled the Mavs with 62 points (and 0 assists) without even playing in the fourth quarter.

He already has three NBA championships to his name, and he's only 27 years old. Of course, he did have Shaquille O'Neal with him on those Lakers teams, but it must be noted that Shaq never won a title without Kobe either.

Bryant will probably have to win at least three more titles without another great player on his team in order to be considered among the likes of Michael Jordan.

The differences between the two aren't quite so subtle. 'His Airness' took a bottom-feeding ball club and turned it into one of the greatest sports dynasties of all time; Kobe was traded to an already highly prestigious franchise with a dominant center.

Then there's LeBron James. No matter what Kobe does in the next season or two, we're always going to be concerned with what LeBron *will* do. He's already proven to be better than Kobe or Jordan were at 21, but that doesn't mean he will end up being as good as either of them in the long run.

The interesting thing about a LeBron vs. Kobe matchup is that each player takes the challenge of guarding the other superstar each trip down the court.

In their last game

against each other, Kobe proved who the better player is by scoring on three straight jumpers to win the game; LeBron bricked his shot to win the game at the buzzer.

James said it best himself during an interview with ESPN.com's Marc Stein: "I'm competitive, but I don't just wanna go out there and kill everybody, like Kobe does."

Bryant probably has more critics than any player in professional sports (besides T.O.), and rightfully so, but he's also one of the great talents we will ever witness.

One thing is certain: Bryant will never be as beloved as MJ. Kobe is seen as a selfish, narcissistic loner, whereas Jordan was admired for being able to portray the part of America's role model for almost two decades. Kobe, in less than ten years, has already seen the darkest of days as a celebrity, and his endorsement deals and reputation are in need of some severe damage control because of them.

But if he keeps putting up mind-boggling numbers like he did on Sunday, all of Kobe's troubles will fade into nothing more than a couple of regrettable memories. The question now becomes, can Kobe Bryant score 100?

Kobe for president in 2008.

## Softball team readies self

*Early season test is against defending state champs*

Matthew T. Mendez

Rhonda Williams begins her 12th season as Fresno City College softball coach in a double header against Moorpark College and Mount San Antonio College in a little city known as Walnut, Ca. on Saturday, Jan. 28.

Coach Williams believes that Mt. San Antonio will be the best team the Rams will have to face all season long. The Mounties finished last season with a 39-3 record and a state championship.

The Rams' first two home games will be against College of San Mateo at 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. on Feb. 2.

FCC returns two all Central Valley Conference players in Jennifer Coronado, who plays first base, and all-purpose big hitter

Melanie Madrid.

To complement their stellar returnees, the Rams will also have Tina Gonzalez, a standout pitcher who red-shirted last season because of transferring from Reedley College, and freshman catcher Taylor Hiyama.

After finishing last season with an overall record of 10-26, and a league record of 6-14, the Rams fully expect to turn things around this season.

"We expect to contend for the CVC title," Coach Williams said, "I think we definitely have the talent to do that, it's just a matter of putting everything together and performing on the field."

### Upcoming Softball Games at FCC

2/3.....vs. San Mateo  
2/4....vs. Ohlone & SJD  
3/2.....vs. Taft  
3/7.....vs. COS (DH)  
3/23.....vs. Merced  
4/4..vs. Porterville (DH)  
4/6..... vs. Reedley  
4/8.....vs. Solano (DH)  
4/20..vs. Modesto (DH)  
4/25.....vs. West Hills

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# Views

11

January 25, 2006

## Aisle-seat, anybody?

*Doesn't a waitlist that's full after two weeks tell the administration anything?*

*If you want to be lazy, put your mind to work at McDonald's!*



Jessyca Dewey

We've all heard of the infamous Fresno City College 8-year-plan. We've heard horror stories about poor academic advising, unavailability of classes as well as any other reason or excuse for attending FCC for more than the typical four semesters.

For most, junior college serves as a two-year stepping-stone to a four-year university. For others it seems to turn into a four-year stepping-stone to a four-year university.

If the "dog-ate-homework" excuse is still holding up for you, why don't you try getting a job at Hot-Dog-on-a-Stick? For those students who actually are trying to get through the system and acquire an education along the way, certain registration policies here are not helping.

I recently attended a class on campus that is not in a forum hall. It should be. The classroom was packed. There was no room left on the floors and people were still standing against

the wall. The teacher is great, his class in high demand and also a major prerequisite, not only for CSU and IGETC requirements but also for many individual programs.

However, on the first day the teacher made it clear that the dean does not allow for him to add whoever needs to take the class. Neither will the dean provide for further accommodations.

This is a public school. If students are willing to sit uncomfortably in an aisle, their heads knocking against the railing, balancing a notebook across their lap while trying to see over people that have seats in order to take semi-decent notes, and pay \$26 per unit in order to do so, shouldn't they be allowed to?

Understandably, if the room's capacity has reached its maximum, the dean would be wary of allowing students to add the class. Still, such problems can be easily detected prior to the beginning of the semester. If a class waitlist is full by November, you'd think that administration would have the foresight to perhaps place the class in a forum hall.

But if there are no forum halls available at that time and students continue to be willing to sit in aisles in order to get the class, as long as there are clear exits, why not allow for students to sit in? No, it's not ideal and probably not incredibly safe but it can't be that hazardous. Within a month or so the room is sure to thin out, anyway.



Quinn Robinson

Every semester students at Fresno City College are seen frantically heading toward the registration office to add desperately needed classes in order to be able to transfer to a university by the end of the semester.

All sorts of excuses are used as students beg, plead, and sometimes try to bribe their way into a class that is already at full capacity. Just kidding about the bribing, that would be funny to see, though.

So instead of wasting your time now to try to get in the class you so desperately need, here's a better idea. Sign up for the class when you're first able to, duh!

If you had signed up for that class say, in November or December, when registration first started, you now wouldn't be paranoid about not getting out of Fresno next fall. Much less hav-

ing to endure one more semester at an institution I consider more academically prestigious than let's say, the other place which is located on Shaw.

I don't think the administration should be forced to add sections of general education courses. If students want a class that bad they will find a way to switch their schedule around so they can take that class. Here's an even better idea: How about a night class? Seriously, we don't live in southern California or the Bay Area so it's not like we have things to do here.

If you are one who is more concerned with your social life rather than being among the 17 percent of the Central Valley population with a college education, then, I'd like to supersize that please.

Stop wasting the time of those who really want to get out of here and make an impact in this vastly changing world. I'm not the first one to think this but I might be one of the first to actually say something about it.

If you don't like what I have to say maybe it would be wise to take a second and think about what you want to do with your life. Maybe it's just me, but I know a cheap fast food outfit isn't in my future.

## Campus Voices

by Russell Bourg, photos by Nathan Tyree

*"Should overcrowded classes be split up or should students wait it out since many drop anyway?"*



Venito Crouch

"Wait it out, many people will drop within two weeks anyway."



Shagane Correa Lily Romero

"Split classes for time management. Not everyone gets priority registration."

"Split them, schedule accommodation. Classes have to be switched to fit schedule and work."



Jr. Perez

"More classes. Students get lazy and don't attend if they don't get particular classes."



Steve Worley

"Wait it out, since many drop."

## SIMPLE



Herbert Graham

LYING IN THIS COOL SMOOTHING SCENE  
 DRIFTING IN THE DESIRES THAT I'VE SET  
 AND BELIEVING THAT I WILL REACH THEM  
 I WOKE UP, JUST AMAZED AT HOW EVERYONE, SMILED  
 REJOICED AT THE JOY THAT WAS GIVEN  
 WHEN THEIR TRIALS WERE JUST DOWN THE ROAD

EVERYONE WAS AWARE, AND KNEW THAT THEIR BENEFITS SEEMED LESS  
 THAN THEIR DIFFICULTIES  
 I SMILED ALONG WITH THEM AND BELIEVED, THAT THEIR HOPE AND HAPPINESS IS NOT  
 HARD TO UNDERSTAND

THEIR GAINING IS GREATER, THAN THEIR  
 DISBELIEFS AND THEIR FEARS  
 ARE LESS THAN THEIR DESIRES  
 I'M FREE AND CLEAR ALSO, BECAUSE  
 IT'S SO BEEN DONE, I CAN  
 GET THERE  
 DOWN THE ROAD I SEE, AND BELIEVE  
 THAT THE BLESSINGS ARE  
 SIMPLE

## How expensive is the campus bookstore?

*The campus bookstore may be more expensive but gives its profits back to students by supporting activities and programs*



Sonya Henson

"Where should I buy textbooks?" The answer to this question depends on who you ask and where you want your money to go. Many Fresno City staff members will swear by the campus bookstore. Why is this so? Isn't the campus bookstore generally more expensive?

The campus bookstore is self-supporting, meaning that it pays rent to the college, pays its own employees, and receives no college or government funding. In addition to this, the bookstore gives its profits back to the students by providing funding for co-curricular activities and programs. But not every student has the time or interest to participate in these activities, therefore not every student benefits. Yet, every student must buy textbooks, therefore every student would benefit from lower prices.

The campus bookstore buys used books from students and several used book companies. At half of the new price for the book, selling back your used textbooks to the campus bookstore is a better deal when compared to University Text-

books across the street from the college. University Textbooks sells mostly used books for a lower price than the campus bookstore. But the buyback price on books is 1/2 to 1/3 of what the store sells the book for. Since University Textbooks sells the book for less, the buyback price is less than if a student were to sell his/her book to the campus bookstore. Many new and used textbooks can be bought for less over the Internet. The downside of buying a used book

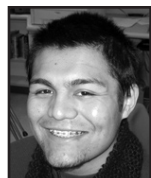
over the Internet can be poor condition of the book and missing pages.

So where is the best place to buy textbooks? Prices vary from store to store and book to book. If you want to find the best deal, shop around and compare prices. While students would benefit more from lower prices rather than profits going to select programs and activities, the convenience and reliability of the campus bookstore is unbeatable.

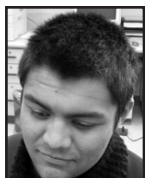
Book Title	Campus Bookstore	University Text-books	Amazon.com (does not include shipping and handling)
Introduction to Psychology (Plotnik)	\$53.35 new \$40.00 used	\$34.00 used (loose leaf edition)	\$52.00 new
Financial Accounting & Managerial Accounting set (Weygandt)	\$72.00 new \$54.00 used	\$50.00 used (set) \$27.00 used (each)	\$34.15 new (each) \$32.00 used (each)
Biology: Concepts & Connections, 4 <sup>th</sup> edition (Campbell)	\$121.35 new \$91.00 used	unknown	\$104.40 new \$37.99 used
Core Concepts in Health (Insel & Roth)	\$66.00 new \$49.50 used	\$46.00 used	\$81.00 new \$75.00 used



# Emo CD sales rise: Kleenex stock follows



**Joseph Rios**



**Emo Joe**

We've all seen him.

His diagonal laying hair covers his sorrow-stricken face. He hides in the shadow of the hood on his faded black sweater.

He walks as though he has a tetherball between his ankles; his pants don't match his gender. His torn Vans are littered with holes; his favorite emo lyrics are scribbled on their sole and they're tattooed on his.

His eyes peer through the thick, black spectacles shaped in military fashion – though he looks nothing of a soldier.

His arms are too skinny for battle. No, he only fights the losing battle of love and then writes deep emotional lyrics about his tragic tours of duty.

In recent years, the emo scene has grown and carries with it a massive following of tissue toting fans that live off lyrics abounding with death, depression, lost love, and suicide.

Bands like, My Chemical Romance, Taking Back Sunday, Dashboard Confessional, Something Corporate, Matchbook Romance, and Silverstein (to name a few) make up the contemporary emo scene.

The fact that you may disagree with the classification of certain bands as being “emo” is evidence to the problem music fans face. In today's language emo has become a word that describes any band or any-thing that is somehow “emotional.”

The classification throws a blanket as large as one of grandma's quilts over the entire rock music scene. Most bands shun the title.

The term is anti-macho, weak, and an insult to some.

There was a time, though, when the word had a true meaning, a time before the word lost its distinction.

The word emo once described a fledgling genre of music birthed out of underground clubs in Washington D.C. during the mid-1980s. The roots of the new sound rested in the soil of the hardcore punk model from the previous decade.

During this period, The Rites of Spring, deemed the “Fathers of Emo”, began pumping out the sounds that resonate today in bands like MCR and The Used.

The raw passionate cries coupled with emotionally charged lyrics fueled the emo sound. From the late 1980s to the early 1990s the emo sound began to evolve.

Bands like Fugazi opened the door for a new wave of emo that reflected the rising indie craze.

During this time a mass of soft emo climbed to the helm. This new batch of tunes was less thrashing and more melodic than its antecedent.

Bands like Sunny Day Real Estate and Texas is the Reason emerged to fit this new indie-emo mold.

Many of the wrist-slitting anthems of today are blends of the two early emo-archetypes.

Bands like Hawthorne Heights and Thursday boast tracks that reflect both eras on their albums. However, bands like Jimmy Eat World lean more toward the indie-emo era and brutal acts like From Autumn to Ashes and From First to Last hold tight to the hardcore roots that germinated in the beginning.

We could argue all day over who is emo and who isn't, what kind of emo it is, who started it all, when and where, and still get nowhere.

What is certain about the genre today is that the label can be placed on almost any band – which makes it easy

for MTV to spoon-feed it to pre-teens hopped up on anti-depressants.

Not to say that these bands don't have talent. Nor do I want to give the impression that I don't listen to any of these bands myself.

At the bare minimum, emo lyrics mirror the heart-ache-enriched poems of ole. Much of what is written is done so with powerful language, devastating metaphors, and vivid imagery.

It just bothers me how quickly music rapists like MTV ravage a genre, water it down, give it a name (often the wrong one), and market it to the mindless and deaf.

More than anything, I fear for this generation of wrist-slitting, pill-popping, cry-baby drones.

There is so much life out there to be lived. So much light to see and they focus on

the darkness of it all. If left unregulated I fear we could see teen-suicide (which is the No.3 killer of teens 15-24) jump up in the rankings.

Lines like, “I think I'll blow my head against the ceiling,” or “...won't you kill me in my sleep,” are rampant throughout the emo genre and do nothing but fan the flames of teen depression and self-pity.

Even the MTV-embraced Fall Out Boy slides in lyrics of death amidst the catchy tunes while on nation-wide telecasts. In their smash hit “Sugar We're Going Down,” we see lyrics like, “I'll be your number one with a bullet...a loaded God complex, cock it and pull it.”

If that's not an allusion to ending that which God created I don't know what is.

Quinn Allman, guitarist for The Used, told *Guitar*

*World*, “There is definitely a movement. Kids call it an ‘emolusion’ but its not emo. It's a new wave, a new setting on your amp, a new rhythm, and a new dynamic reflection with your vocal. And it's not even that – it's just music, just a different way to say the same thing.”

Whatever it is, people are listening, they're buying cd's, they're going to shows, and the Kleenex stock is on the rise.

But allow me to wrap this all up with a simple message to the took, the hood-winked, the bamboozled, the led-astray, and the run amuck youths out there – yeah, you the one with the tears in your eyes wearing the throwback A-team t-shirt - the one with a reason to end it all...

Cheer up emo-kid, cheer up.

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# Reviews

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January 25, 2006

## Boys, why can't you lose, ever?

Let's talk about how guys have to win at everything- all the time. I'm not talking here about healthy dedication to one's craft, which many women are also known to embody. No, I refer to the unflinching male desire to conquer at all costs, as often as possible, no matter how inane the contest.

Pay attention the next time you're around a man or two. Watch as they go about their day relatively normally; working, eating and scratching just as much as you'd expect.

Normally, that is, until IT happens.

The invitation. The gauntlet. The perceived "I dare you" that strikes up something very primal in even the most docile of the species. Sometimes all it takes is a stop light. The scene is all too familiar: two men pull up at the same time, log the model, year and interior of the other's car and.....wait. In those tense few moments, if there's a hint- a mere murmur of a sign- that one has acknowledged the other, *it's on*.

"He wants to race," I've heard by one too many guys, of ages up to 58.

On occasion, this may be true. But guys: often, it's really not. Sometimes a car inches forward because the driver has reached for something and loosened his/her grip on the brake. Sometimes a car revs because a driver wishes to demonstrate a newly adjusted

## Another epic battle in the war of the sexes Vicci vs. Jake

engine to their passenger- and their passenger alone.

But just as often, a driver is so convinced that he's been challenged that he'll stop at nothing to be crowned the winner. He'll watch the lights change in rotation around him; calculating the milliseconds until his will do the same..... all the time with one eye on his opponent.

Sadly, this "competitor" is often unsuspecting. Somewhere between thinking about the clue to 14 down and whether his argyle sweater would be better accented with blue or brown slacks, a man's concentration may be broken by the screeching tires of the car to his left. Or was it a van, or an SUV?

Because the truth is, some people *just don't care* about being the first person to take off and reach 50mph (only to be met with another red light 500 yards down the road). Some people don't care about being the fastest eater, loudest belcher or most likely to contract syphilis.

While I'm not advocating that men lose their competitive spirit entirely, I do feel they should narrow its application. Best Worker, Best Dad, Best Husband: all noble titles. And whether it's chess or stamp collecting or pole-vaulting, guys should have a specialist subject to pour their



heart and soul into.

But wouldn't we live more harmoniously if guys were to accept "if someone does a better job than me, I'm probably going to lose"? If they decided against game fixing, steroid-taking and ear-biting in favor of a good, clean fight?

Please guys: leave Mr "14 down" to his clothing and crossword dilemmas. Allow your younger brother to beat you at Candyland for a change. And just once, regardless of shuffling cars or grumbling engines, leave an intersection at the same time as everyone else.

Try constructive competitiveness for just one day. Choose your battles and your opponents. You'll avoid red cards, traffic tickets, and many lonely nights on the sofa. Trust me.

## What's with the shoes, ladies?

Do girls really need 50 pairs of shoes? Why do girls always go to the mall and have to buy something? Is it a biological need? Should we be studying this desire in Biology class?

I want some answers!

I live with two avid shoppers. The two women in my life cannot help it. Even if they have a negative balance in their bank accounts, their desire takes over. The cure for any common sickness? A day at the mall.

Don't get me wrong. There's absolutely nothing wrong with shopping. We all need the basics- shirts, pants, socks, underwear. I love shopping for boxers myself. But where did the fascination

come in to play? Do you really need to have a closet full of shoes you don't wear? And the clothes with the tags still on them... were you ever planning on wearing them?

I don't think I stand alone in my confusion. As a man, I am used to buying one pair of shoes, maybe two, a year. I wear them. I wear them everyday. Do I care if they match my jeans or my chords, my black pants or my brown ones? Not really.

And I really don't pay attention to the shoes on girls. I can't tell if they spent \$20 or \$200 on them. They all look the same to me.

So where does this fixation stem from? I can't help but think it's a form of competition. Guys always get the wrap for being overly competitive, but girls are ruthless! They want to look the best, be the hottest girl at the club, have the greatest boyfriend... So if having the most expensive clothes will give them the confidence to go out and get the attention they desire then that is the price they will pay!

In my opinion, simplicity is the key. Cut all the dangling things from your ears. Less is more. Stick to one scent of perfume. We like familiarity anyway. Most guys love it when girls have a signature scent.

So take that \$50 you were about to buy some crappy dangling necklace on and spend it on something even better... like pitching in for dinner once in a while! ( That was

## 'Brokeback Mountain' worthy of high honors

by Jacob Wiens

Rampage Reporter

Once in a while, a movie comes along that breaks the typical American cinematic formula. "Brokeback Mountain" is one of these films. Ang Lee's departure from directing big budget disasters like "The Hulk" brings something new

to the movie theater: he proves that sometimes the best storytelling comes from the simplest tales, told with a whole lot of heart.

The movie centers around two young men: Ennis (Heath Ledger), a Wyoming ranch hand, and Jack (Jake Gyllenhaal), a rodeo cowboy. The two men meet

while sheepherding during the summer of 1963 in Wyoming. What begins as friendship for the two men flourishes into a lifelong love affair. The story follows their lives as they separate, meet and marry women and ultimately have children of their own,

all the while meeting in secret sporadically.

The story is a tragic one. It allows you to enter the hearts of lovers Ennis and Jack to journey with them through desperate and heartbreaking struggles. Outside of the intense relationship they have formed, their lives seem empty and unfulfilled.

The performances are worthy of the highest honors

in Hollywood. Ledger and Gyllenhaal deliver the goods with performances that will blow you away. They portray real men with real struggles. By the movie's end, you'll be convinced that relationships with real feelings do exist outside of society's conventional bubble.



# Joe G: the little concert promoter that could



**Joseph Rios**

If you ever meet Joseph Gonzalez, don't expect to meet a big guy.

Don't worry, he appreciates your underestimations. In fact, your doubts are what keep him coming back for more.

"He's the best promoter in Fresno," said Adam Sobolew, lead singer and guitarist for The Blue Northern.

Most people know Gonzalez as "Joe-G." The nineteen-year-old promoter runs Joe-G Productions which handles bands from all over California and books shows at venues in and around the Fresno area as well as Bakersfield.

"He's definitely someone you want know," said Andrew Hernandez, also of The Blue Northern. "Other promoters' shows don't turn out right; he has a way of putting everything together."

In a recent poll done by "Untitled Tracks," a MySpace site devoted to promoting the

Fresno music scene, Joe-G was named the Best Promoter 2005.

"He's the reason Fresno is being looked at for big shows coming to town," one voter said. "Without him, there would be no scene."

There was a time, though, when he was just Joseph Gonzalez—before he became "Joe-G": the minor celebrity within the Fresno hardcore/punk scene.

During his sophomore year at Central High School, the band "Most Inspirational" played a gig during his lunch hour.

Though he didn't know it at the time, that show would change his life. Was it fate that the band that would compel Gonzalez to jump into the music scene was named, "Most Inspirational?"

Regardless, Gonzalez was hooked and began to follow the band everywhere it went. If they had a show somewhere—he was there.

"I wasn't affiliated with the scene or anything," Gonzalez said. "They played and I was like, 'these guys can get it done right here.'"

It didn't take long for Gonzalez to become converted. "Before I knew it, I was follow-

ing them everywhere," Gonzalez said. He even went as far as taking the dreaded Greyhound bus to go see them in Bakersfield.

Within no time, Gonzalez was meeting other bands and attending an increasing number of local shows. He began to notice quickly that music business might be something worth pursuing. Soon after, Gonzalez set up his own website to inform the public about shows in Fresno. It was a success, and bands to contact him about promoting their shows.

At the end of 2004, Gonzalez approached the former owner of Big Game Studios (now The Belmont) and was given a slot during the week to put on his first show.

Gonzalez put the bands together in one day. About sixty people came to his first show.

A week later, he got another call to do a show at Big Game.

"It got to the point where, if I wanted to do something, he would let me do it," Gonzalez said. "I've been doing shows there ever since."

Joe-G has come a long way since his first show. Last Friday's show at The Belmont hosted over 300 paying concert goers (not including the band members, roadies, and people

on the guest list).

For a small venue like The Belmont, 300 people equates to a near full house. And at eight bucks a head, that's a nice sack of change at the end of the night. But for Joe-G it's never been about the money.

"It's rewarding to see kids enjoying the show," Gonzalez said. "I take hits sometimes, but as long as people are having fun—who cares?"

Joe-G Productions staged approximately 45 shows in 2005. He wants to double this number in 2006.

Gonzalez found it easy to articulate his vision of true success. "To have [kids] say 'what's there to do?' and....let's see if

*Joe G has changed the music scene in Fresno by promoting local bands who haven't had much exposure.*

Photo by Joseph Rios



Joe has a show," Gonzalez said. "That's my dream right there."

At some point, Joe-G hopes to open his own club and promote shows out of his own place. His venue would cater to every crowd, hosting everything from punk and hardcore, to jazz, and even folk music.

Between putting on shows, working, and going to school, though, Joe-G finds it hard to go to shows himself.

"Nothing beats sitting down and enjoying the show," said Joe-G. "I can't remember the last time I was able to just sit down and actually enjoy a show. For me to be able to just sit down and actually enjoy a show—that's always a plus."

# Fresno band signs national record deal



**Matthew T. Mendez**

Recently signed by indie label Magna Carta Records and currently awaiting the worldwide release of their debut album, Speakers for the Dead, a heavier-than-heavy melodic metal band comprised of four Fresnoans, are hoping to make a noticeable impression on the underground rock scene.

Speakers for the Dead have only been together for a

little over a year, and already they have garnered somewhat of a cult following in Fresno with their impressive live shows at the Crossroads pool hall.

SFTD was formed in mid 2004 by lead vocalist Curtis Shamlin and guitarist Jason Garcia. The two found their drummer in Gary Shipman, and after a brief stint with Kevin Lynn at bass, the band's roster was made permanent when Rob Slocum took over where Lynn left off.

I interviewed Shamlin over the phone and, like an idiot, I forgot to record the conversation, but I do remember him telling me that he and Garcia used to be in a band called GRYP (pronounced "grip") from 1996-2002.

Shipman was a former member of the local band Dirtnap, and Slocum used to play with More than Without as well as September Children. Now, with each member using what they learned from their prior allegiances, they set out to make a name for themselves, together.

"We've all kinda been around for a while," Shamlin said, "and once we got together things kinda became easy." Shamlin, a former Fresno City College student, also takes care of booking and management for the band.

The album, entitled "Prey for Murder," was originally scheduled to be released on March 14, but Garcia was diagnosed with brain and lung cancer in late 2005. Garcia

was somehow able to perform his part of the album between radiation and chemotherapy treatments.

On Dec. 9, a benefit concert was held at the Crossroads to help raise money for the ill-stricken guitarist. The event drew in over \$1,500, and so far over \$3,000 has been raised to aid Garcia in his recovery.

A new release date has yet to be scheduled, but Shamlin said recording for the album is complete and the final product will feature 12 original tracks. Stand-out songs include "No Wrong," "Fade," "Again," and "I Am."

My favorite SFTD track is "Back Home," which begins with a rhythmic drum roll before it slams into a pow-

erful guitar riff, then Shipman takes center stage again with his relentless drumming.

"Fade" and "Again," two tracks that Shamlin named as personal favorites, are reminiscent of Stone Sour and even early Mudvayne, but each song distinguishes itself from that of other bands with the constant change of pace.

Speakers for the Dead will once again take the stage and resume touring beginning in February, starting with a Feb. 3 show at 9:00 p.m. at the Crossroads.

If at all possible, please help Garcia through this difficult time by sending donations to Pilgrim Medical Trust--Jason Garcia, 3673 N. First, Fresno, Ca 93726.



# Mean, lean, game machine



**Nathan Tyree**

The next generation of gaming began on November 22, 2005, when Microsoft unleashed its new Xbox 360 gaming console. This powerful gaming system can play today's latest games and become a gamer's most technological and advanced entertainment arena.

The Xbox 360 incorporates plug and play technology that allows it to read media and music from USB devices, like the Apple iPod and Sony PSP, and a digital camera hub for viewing images. Some of the most powerful hardware devices, like its 500 Mhz ATI graphics card and three core processors running at 3.2 Ghz, were conceived specifically to go under the hood of the sleek system. Every game designed for the new console is to be enabled at 720p resolution and with the ability of High Definition TV of up to 1080i resolution. With its backwards compatible ability and DVD playback, most of the original Xbox games can be played and movies can be watched. Each Xbox 360 will be able to have interchangeable faceplates to fit the user's preference and personality. Who wouldn't want to play the beautiful new gaming system?

Microsoft decided to ship a Xbox 360 full system at a price of \$399.99 and a Xbox 360 core system at the price of \$299.99, which excludes the extra accessories of a 20 gigabyte hard drive, Ethernet cable, component High Definition AV cables in order to play on HDTV, Xbox Live silver edition and a headset for Xbox Live. These accessories are bundled with the full system. By doing this, Microsoft split the market into two,

making many gamers skeptical. Why would Microsoft sell a console system without a hard drive when in order to play games the console needs a hard drive cache? By itself the hard drive costs \$99.99. That's just the hard drive, not to mention how much the headset and Ethernet cable for Xbox Live costs or the HD AV cables.

The early release date has given Microsoft the opportunity to grab the next generation market of gaming ahead of Sony Computer Entertainment, which has not set a release date for their new PlayStation 3 yet. The trickery of this situation is that Sony is able to compare their mostly unrevealed hardware for the PS3 to the new Xbox 360 and see if they need to improve or upgrade any technology, like the powerful Cell processor and Blu Ray disk technology.

It also gives Sony the opportunity to add any cool and shiny gadgets to its system. Sony can also regain control of the market after the height of the Xbox 360 release has died down and is able to gain strength in the media and hype if Microsoft's system has any malfunctions that would deter its praises. But Microsoft sees their early release date of the Xbox 360 as a way to push Bungie's new Halo 3 and try to set the sequel to the much anticipated first person shooter game of the year, Halo 2, on the same release date as the PS3.

Halo 2 sold over 13 million units in one year, not to mention the \$125 million from sales in the first 24 hours

the game was released. The hype of Halo 3 may overwhelm the Sony's PS3, a plus side for Microsoft.

Microsoft was playing it safe when they launched the Xbox 360 with several sequels to big hit games like Quake 4, Call of Duty 2, Tony Hawk's American Wasteland, and Perfect Dark Zero. Several of the launch games were ported from the PC. These games are not all too spectacular and are merely bland to the common gamer. Within the first half hour of playing any Xbox 360, a gamer can see that the graphics are spectacular and realistic, equal to that of newly released PC games if not better. But the gameplay of most of the Xbox 360 launch games perform like any average console game and suffer from the ill fate of repetition.

They did not raise the bar in engulfing the gamer in any serious story. A basketball game plays like a basketball game and a shooter game plays like a shooter game. Don't get me wrong, I'm not sure how different a game developer can change the gameplay to a basketball or golf game (which are usually fun in their entirety) but Call of Duty 2 and Quake 4 played on the Xbox 360 like any other shooter game.

I want to see new and improved ideas formed around the hardware abilities of the new gaming system. Games should be developed with the intent of a smooth, realistic experience that engulfs me so much that I don't have to question the fact that I'm playing a game and not ask myself, "Why am I really playing this?"

The price of the Xbox 360 controllers, although they are one of the best console controllers I have ever played (because they fit my big hands), and the price of the detachable 20 gigabyte hard drive and headset are outrageous and steep for any college gamer to afford, besides the payments for owning a car, renting an apartment, buying classes and textbooks. Whatever money you do not spend on fast food, music CDs or cell phone bills, save in a pillow case under your bed so you will have enough money for the new system when it becomes readily and widely available.

Only few Xbox 360 units were shipped in the United States and the next shipment is unknown. In a massive shipment before the launch date, Microsoft brought about 400,000 units into the United States and roughly the same amount to Europe and Japan in the following weeks. The company stated

that in 90 days, it would be able to ship 3 million Xbox 360 units worldwide but there seems to be a great shortage of the system in the U.S. By shipping worldwide so early rather than waiting to ship worldwide in six months, many Americans did not receive the gaming system during the holiday season.

There is a waiting list for pre-ordered Xbox 360's for those who paid through a store or online company. I've heard that the system won't be available in walk-in stores until February 24 but I bet it won't be until April. Because of this dicey situation, some people went frantic and are selling their new systems on eBay anywhere from \$500 to \$1500 and upward to \$10,000 for the new system. For those who have a compulsive behavior and really need to get their hands on the Xbox 360 the best bet is going to an online auction website and spending a ton of money for it.

There are some cooling issues in about 4 to 5 percent of the Xbox 360s and the system will overheat if there is not enough ventilation for it to breathe. This is mostly a user issue and has nothing to do with a malfunction of the hardware. Remember, the next generation systems will use and act more like PC computers so make sure not to enclose the console in a cabinet, drawer, or entertainment center and also make sure there is enough air passing under and over the power supply. I have also heard of several internal issues that the DVD player may skip or stop spinning, several may freeze and lock up.

If you're like me, then you'd probably wait until some awesome and crazy action and shooting games like Halo 3 and Gears of War, racing games like Burnout Revenge and Test Drive Unlimited, drama games like Alan Awake, The Godfather and Scarface: The World is Yours, spy games like Tom Clancy's Splinter Cell 4, and horror games like Resident Evil 5 and Dead Rising are released in the upcoming months. Only then would the new system be worth buying. If you're like me, you would also get the Xbox 360 with full system components instead of the Xbox 360 core system.

Heck, the full system is only \$100 more and comes with the parts you'll end up using in the upcoming years so why spend more when buying the parts separate? Wait a few months until any other issues with the new system are healed and games worth playing are released before surrounding yourself with digital entertainment.