



Rampage

Fresno City College

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Since 1949

January 24, 2007

FCC Program Bridges the Gap

by Ife-Chudeni Oputa
Rampage Reporter

The Foster Bridge Youth Program is now in its second semester and has begun the application process for the fall of 2007.

The Foster Bridge Youth Program is designed to support youth between the ages of 18 and 21 who have "aged-out" of the foster care system. Nearly 200 youths "age-out" of the Fresno County foster care system each year. "The whole focus of the Bridge is to get these youth to a college level in english and math," said Peg Mericle, FCC Dean of Social Sciences and Bridge Program Coordinator. In addition to english and math courses, Bridge students take classes aimed at job readiness and team building.

The program aids students both in and out of the classroom. Alexandra Gonzalez, the FCC Bridge Counselor, explained that there is greater time and resources available to foster youth in the program. The Bridge program aids students with housing, transportation, job placement, and many more of their needs. "It's easier for me because there's more people to guide me to what I'm going to do," said Cassandra Martinez, a Bridge student.

Students enroll in the program for one year. During the first semester, students only take classes with other Bridge participants. In the second semester, Bridge students transition into courses with non-Bridge students. "It's good, [but] when you're used to something you don't want to change it," said Martinez. "But, that's a part of life, changing and growing."

Sixteen students began the program in Fall 2006, and eight have returned for the spring semester. The cohort was smaller than desired due to a need for more intensive recruitment. "Knowing that we made a big error, we are recruiting right now in the high schools," said Mericle.

The Fresno County Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS) is in charge of recruitment for the program. "What we're doing right now, since we have Independent Living Program social workers placed in high schools throughout Fresno County, we're identifying the juniors and seniors ... and I'll be scheduling appointments to meet with them to talk more about Bridge," said Abby Montano, an ILP social worker. DCFS is also

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Underage drinking now criminal

By Leah S. Edwards
Rampage Reporter

As of the first of the year, underage drinking and driving are no longer just a civil issue; they are a crime. This new law is the result of legislation that was recently signed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in an effort to crack down on drinking minors. According to AB 2752, it is a crime to operate a vehicle with a blood alcohol content of .01 or above. .08 is the legal limit for anyone over the age of twenty-one.

According to Sunne Wright McPeak, Secretary of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency that oversees the CHP, "This new law represents one more effort to reduce the incidents of underage drinking and driving in California and at the same time save the lives of our young people."

This new law may not deter some underage drinkers from indulging, but perhaps it will encourage them to stay out from behind the wheel.

"This bill gives California a true zero-tolerance policy for underage drinking and driving," stated Assemblyman Todd Spitzer. With previous laws, a minor's



As of January 1st, underage drinking in California is a criminal offense.

PHOTO BY TONY J. MACHUCA

vehicle was impounded for a day, and the DMV was notified.

According to CHP News, statistics show that there were 5,218 collisions in 2005 that involved underage alcohol consumption, with 122 fatal crashes. It would seem that all the educational programs have not deterred enough young people to refrain from drinking. Californians felt

compelled to enforce stricter penalties to get the message across.

Previously, Californian law made it a criminal offense for someone under twenty-one to possess alcohol, but did not make it illegal for them to get behind the wheel. This new law fixes that error and enforces punishment for those who break it.

According to the CHP,

the goal is to shake up parents and underage drinkers alike by notifying the DMV, the insurance company, and the police. The incident will no longer be forgotten with the end of the hangover, but can stick with minors for quite some time into their future. So, for those who feel like drinking, it may be wise to reconsider.

Leah T. Mendez contributed reporting.

Fresh Parking Ideas for Spring

by Quinn Robinson
Rampage Reporter

Long, winding lines of cars. Bumper to bumper traffic. Welcome to the Fresno City College parking lots?

Usually encounters like this only occur on major

freeways across the country, but students that have attended FCC can say this has been a problem for semesters.

"Parking [at Fresno City College] is always a hassle," said FCC sophomore Alexis Sears. "You have an 9:00 a.m. class and have to leave before 7:30 just to make sure you get a spot, its

ridiculous."

Currently, there are 2,230 parking spots on the FCC campus available to students. The number increases to 2,417 after 5 p.m. Take those 2,230 spots and factor them in with 9,514 parking decals sold this semester, its not surprising that parking is this big of a problem on campus.

To try to ease the problem, Financial Assistance Officer Bill Carr said he could have the solution to the long lines of cars that weave their way around campus during the peak hours of the day. Giving preference to those who carpool.

"The short term solution of having the shuttles running at the beginning of each semester is a start," explained. "Students and faculty are still having a tough time finding parking on campus, therefore if a carpooling system were in place for the campus, it would cut back on the harmful emissions to the environment

while at the same time opening up parking spaces for those needing to get to FCC."

The idea is in its early stages but Carr sees his idea working in the same way that the general parking decals already operate. Parking monitors would go and make their daily rounds and would also look for violators of the carpooling spots that would be implemented on campus as well as the general student parking.

Those who choose to carpool would get a decal of a designated color and there would be a certain number of spots in each lot where drivers with those decals can park their cars. The number of slots is yet to be determined since the specifics are still being worked out, but Carr acknowledged that the number of slots can easily be increased if the need presents itself.

Dr. Ned Doffoney, President of

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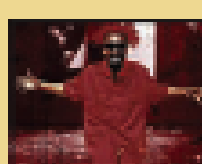
Students drive in endless circles looking for parking.

PHOTO BY NIKOLAI VASSILOPOULOS

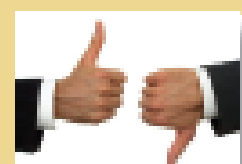
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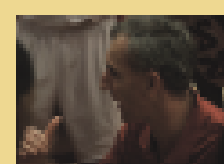
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Disabled Veteran lauds DSP&S Services at FCC

By D.C. Leavy

Rampage Reporter

Disabled men and women across the world have had to overcome quite a few obstacles and challenges in life that most of us never have to go through in order to succeed. One disabled veteran named Daniel Olivo Jr. has not only triumphed over these trials and adversities but has never given up hope.

"It's not the disability that matters it's the ability. Don't let anything stop you from getting a college education," he says.

Last semester Olivo presented an engraved plaque as well as a letter of appreciation to Dr. Janice Emerzian and the other members of the Disabled Students Program and Services Committee for their years of accomplishment and help. When asked why he took the time and money to honor this committee with an award, he replied, "If it wasn't for their program many disabled students like me wouldn't be able to go to college." Their most recent achievements being the latest disability shuttles, pick up spots and new hand rails to help support FCC's disabled community. Olivo continued, "Now disabled students can get to class on time without struggling so hard to get there."

At the same meeting where Mr. Olivo presented the award he also handed out a four page autobiography he had written detailing his tragic life and battles with alcoholism. The following is comprised of excerpts of this paper as well as quotes from an interview with Mr. Olivo himself:

Daniel Olivo Jr, a disabled veteran from the Vietnam War, has had anything but an easy life. While some people never truly appreciate what they have, he's had to endure

more during his life than most people ever have to experience.

Born at the end of the 50's to a poor Mexican family, Olivo has had to learn the meaning of sacrifice and a good work ethic the hard way.

When he was 3yrs old his mother, Mrs. Petra L. Olivo, died giving birth to his baby brother

years old slowly but surely starting him on the same path to becoming just like his father. Olivo says "My father felt that if I could work just as hard if not harder than the adults and elders, then I could drink a beer with the adults and elders." By the time he was 13yrs old Olivo was an alcoholic and felt neglected and abused.

Later in his life Olivo be-

came a victim of assault by two men. Which left him unconscious and severely bleeding. After the attack Olivo had become a paraplegic and had to go through years of physical therapy. Over the quite a few years after the attack had learned to walk, talk move and do basic physical actions.

Though his life was filled with tragedy, work and responsibility, Olivo still found a way to go to school. Soon

realizing his affinity for learning at fifteen he became an A student, a Captain and a Battalion Commander in the California Cadet Corp. in Tenaya Jr. High School. Soon he was teaching a military science class at the same school to kids not much younger than himself. This is when he came to realize that teaching was what he wanted to do with his life.

By the time he was seventeen he had to drop out of High School because of alcoholism but he managed to get a G.E.D. He had escaped the poor streets of his neighborhood, brutal abuse at the hands of his father, and the drug element

with the only option he thought he had: joining the army.

After enlisting into the United States Army Military Police Corp during the 1974 Vietnam War, Olivo was on the right track to changing his life. When he graduated Military Police School he received his Military School Police Certificate Award and became a Military Policeman.

On June 10, 1976 during America's 200th bicentennial he was awarded his High School Diploma through the Monterey Peninsula School District while working as a military policeman in Fort Ord, Ca. Three months later in Sept. 1976 he attended the Central Coast Counties Police Dept. Gavilan College in Gilroy Ca. and graduated as an honor student Dec 3, 1976. He then received his Peace Officers Standard Training, Law (P.O.S.T) Enforcement Certificate. After which he attended Monterey City College and received his Law Enforcement Certificate on June 24, 1977. During the course of his studies he remained with the U.S army serving as a Calvary Scout in the National Guard. "Once a Calvary Scout you're always a Calvary Scout," Olivo boasts.

His years at FCC he obtained his Associate in Science Degree in Administrative Justice, a Certificate of Achievement in Police Science, and he managed to make the Dean's List. As an active student body Senator he was awarded a trophy for most outstanding Senator. He was also

awarded a plaque for his service and hard work as President pro-tempore and Inner Club Council Chairman. The President of FCC at the time, Dr. Clyde McCully awarded him a brass lifetime membership student body card with his name engraved on it. Currently he is attending FCC and is studying to be in the liberal arts. It is his hope to someday become a teacher and share his experience with other struggling disabled students. Recently he has been elected Vice president of the disabled students club, with Henry Garcia as the active President

Dec. 21, 1984 he ironically received a minor in Chicano studies even though he is highly influenced by other parts of the Latino culture. During this whole life of achievements and accomplishments, Olivo was still suffering with alcoholism and began the road to recovery. On August 2, 2006 he celebrated twelve years of sobriety and doesn't plan on using any type of drugs illegal or legal. "...Nevertheless they're drugs, these legal drugs keep the financially poor stagnant, while the oppressors get richer and laugh at the poor all the way to the bank."

Olivo had four sons and taught them all the meaning of hard work and to never give up. Of all his achievements he said his children and education are his most cherished.

"Thanks to my life and military experiences, my college degree and education, I do possess intelligent lips of knowledge. Education is a precious jewel that no man can take away."

Rampage Baby New Year 2007

Only you can change your life. Remember the old saying, "If you do what you've always done, you will get what you've always got." Make 2007 the best year by becoming the best you.

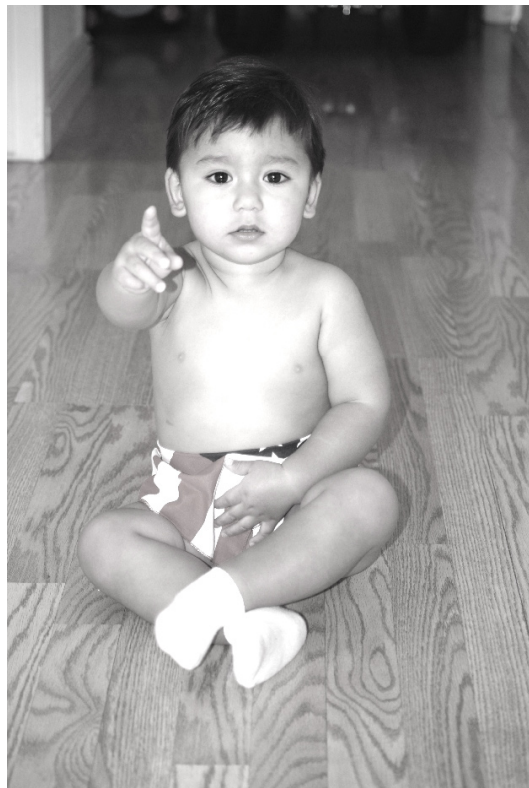


Photo by Todd J. Placencia

Ian Paul Vedenoff, 15 months, son of former FCC student Derrik and Jessica Vedenoff.

Rampage

Fresno City College

Rampage is an award-winning newspaper published biweekly by the Fresno City College Journalism 4 & 5 program and is a member of Journalism Association of Community Colleges. Views expressed in The Rampage are those of the individual writers and do not necessarily reflect those of Fresno City College, its students, administration or the State Center Community College District.

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 250 words along with contact information.

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Apple's new iPhone more than meets the 'i'

By Buen Moua
Rampage Reporter

It's an iPod. It's a phone. No...it's an iPhone.

Apple CEO Steve Jobs announced on Tuesday, Jan. 9 the company's latest mobile device, the iPhone. It has all the capabilities of an iPod, with Internet access, a camera, and of course it is also a cell phone.

"It's like having your life in your pocket," stated Jobs in the Sacramento Bee.

According to www.macworld.com, the iPhone is controlled by a touch-sensitive 3.5-inch display. No buttons are used; only one button called "home." The screen turns into a keypad, all that is needed to make a call. The iPhone is 0.46-inch thick and weighs 4.8 ounces with a 2-megapixel camera, volume control, headphone jack, etc.

It plays both music and movies which can be downloaded, and comes in a 4-gigabyte model staring at \$499, and an 8-gigabyte model with an extra hundred dollars, as reported in a Sacramento Bee article.

Also announced, Cingular will be the exclusive service provider, with a required two-year contract, which is included in the price.

Apple Company is among the top ranks of music sellers

worldwide with iTunes, the company's online music store, selling over 2 billion, 1.6 billion in 2006 alone, according to Sacramento Bee.

Fresno City College student Jonathan Smith owns an iPod and said that he can't wait to get the new iPhone.

"I listen to all kinds of music and it would be easier to have one device than carrying my iPod and a cell phone," Smith said.

"It is good for downloading movies and music, but it's too expensive. I would not get it," said FCC student Vang Yang, majoring in computers. Yang said he has a Motorola Sliver that has iTunes.

The new iPhone will be made available to consumers in June.



Apple's new iPhone plays music and movies and starts at \$499.

Fostering Hope continued from page one

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Students enroll in the program for one year. During the first semester, students only take classes with other Bridge participants. In the second semester, Bridge students transition into courses with non-Bridge students. "It's good, [but] when you're used to something you don't want to change it," said Martinez. "But, that's a part of life,

New Wage Brings New Issues

By Bianca Betancourt
Rampage Reporter

On September 12, 2007 Arnold Schwarzenegger signed a bill to raise the California minimum wage to 7.50 an hour and to 8.00 an hour on January 1, 2008. This minimum wage increase affects everyone around us and a huge majority of Fresno City College's student population that goes to school and have part time jobs. Student Stephanie Torres comments on the increase,

"It is really good even though they are increasing it a little bit it is good because things are so expensive these day and that's why a lot of people go to trade schools and stuff. They have to get a good job fast and school is usually too expensive. I think it will affect me a lot and gives me a little bit of extra money; I'm excited about it because I am one of those people with a minimum wage job and this will help me pay for books and tuition. But I still think that they will have to raise it again and I'm glad it will be going up again in



2008 because I think that it is good for me because I live at home and my parents are still there taking care of a lot of expenses. I could only imagine what it is like to be on my own and having to live on minimum wage, one thing that does scare me is that prices will go up because pay is going up."

Minimum wage is an obligation to employers and it is against the law for anyone to work for less than minimum wage. It is also important to take notice that the law applies to every one of all races and ages, to adults and minors.

On a website it was said that the minimum wage increase was a

victory for the poor, but economically it seems as though the grass is always greener on the other side or is it? Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez believes that this sends a message to poor families telling them that they want to improve their quality of life. People have to remember to look at the pros and cons of the minimum wage situation and what they have to remember is that an increase in minimum wage means an increase for employers with minimum-wage workers. People face the risk of being laid off, experiencing cut hours, and increased prices to customers.

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Where does it all go?

By D.C. Leavy
Rampage Reporter

Where does the lost and found items all over the FCC campus end up? What happened to all those skateboards the campus police confiscate every year? Does the police department have their own secret skate park or something? Are they trading the lost bags and missing walkmans for flashlights and batons?

Like many students here on campus, this reporter wanted to know where all the stuff takes a journey to. Is there a troll on a mountain somewhere looking over this vast wealth of contraband and confiscated goods?

At FCC, departments like the Library and Language Arts building are known for having a black hole of lost and found.

The Campus Police Department receives most of the items that students have either lost or have had taken away from them by Campus Police. It's the last stop for most of our miscellaneous goods before their voyage off campus.

From the Math, Science, English department all the way

down to the Business Science each division has had more than their fare share of lost items. Taking care of these lost items isn't as easy as just leaving them in a big box by the file cabinet.

As an established institute of higher education Fresno City College staff members have a procedure they must enforce to help keep things in order. For instance,



if you leave your back pack in the library, it's the job of the Library staff to take your back pack to the Campus Police, where it will be filed and remain at the police department until you come by and identify it to get it back.

Some departments tend to take their time with items and turn them over to the police whenever it is the most convenient to them. This has been a problem

for the police for a while now. The longer they hold onto it the less chance that the student will come to claim it, or even know where it is. Having a name, phone number, email address, or student ID will help the police return the items to the rightful owner.

The Campus Police Department will hold most lost items received for a maximum of 90 days. After that the lost items get sorted by type and are donated. For example, electronic devices are turned in to the Marjaree Mason Center. The lost or confiscated accessory items like a jacket, sunglasses or even a wedding ring, are stored in the Campus Police Station and then donated to the Salvation Army.

Another interesting question is where do all the drugs and weapons go that get confiscated on campus over the years? Well, just like any other facility that requires a form of law-enforcement like a security guard or volunteer, everything that a person can be arrested and charged with, is seized and turned over to the Fresno P.D. This is so that the incriminating

evidence (a.k.a paraphernalia) can be used in any pending court date or trial the suspect may have. If the evidence is not used in a criminal case against the person it was confiscated from, then it's bagged and stored in the police evidence locker. This is just until the day that it is has been assigned for termination.

Where did all the parking tickets go? So far the campus parking attendants have issued an estimated 75 tickets on campus. These tickets were mainly issued for parking in staff parking places without a noticeable permit or not putting enough money in the parking meters. The tickets that are usually issued for student parking lot violations this semester started Jan. 16. For those who don't know, a temporary free pass is given at the beginning of this semester for student parking.

A new regime of parking attendants (meter maids) are being trained right now to assign tickets for parking violations and make you pay a fine at the most inconvenient time you have. So for any student in search of an interesting job this semester, here's your chance.

One of the officers stated that teachers and staff, excluding the President and Deans of different divisions on campus do not

have the power or authority to confiscate anything from you.

They can ask a person to put it away, ask them to leave, or they can even call the Campus Police and have the person escorted out of the classroom and off of school campus, but they DO NOT have the power to take anything away from any student.

This is of course excluding a passing grade that you might need to graduate or transfer. In the website www.Youtube.com, was a video clip of a professor at a different institute who became so annoyed that a student answered a cell phone call in his classroom during one of his lectures, that he smashed the students cell phone on the ground in front of him, instantly shattering it to pieces and leaving the auditorium full of students in shock and silence over what happened. Then the professor continued with his lecture like nothing happened.

Rest assured fellow pupils said, "If this ever happens to you the teacher now owes you a new cell phone, and if I were you I'd get an expensive one."

At least a few intriguing questions are laid to rest not having to sit up late at night wondering what happened to the skateboard the police took from the person skating the quad.

Students to save money on educational loans

By Brandon Lynch
Rampage Reporter

The change in national leadership has brought new promises to students; promises that have the potential to impact not only their lives but also their pocketbook.

House democrats hit the ground running in what their calling a pledge to college affordability with their "College Student Relief Act", while impassioned debates between the two parties continued most of the day last week of whose plan will greater serve those wishing for an education.

According to C-SPAN on Wed. Jan. 17, the interest rate of college student loans will be reduced from 6.12 percent to 3.4

percent by 2011. The cost of the bill is estimated at \$6 billion over five years. The new rate would be in effect July 1, and won't affect current loans.

Students would save money through lower interest rates on their education loans.

For Fresno City College student Cynthia Teran, real estate major, this plan could be just the motivation she needs to get a loan.

"I've never really considered a loan because of high interest, so maybe instead of looking for financial aid I might look into getting a loan," Teran said.

"High interest rates and paying back money makes me nervous. It's expecting a lot from

a 20-year-old in paying back huge amounts of money upon graduation," said FCC journalism major Brittany Simmons.

"Any time interest rates are cut, it's good for the consumer, student, and it's good for the public," said FCC Financial Aid Director Frank Ramon.

Ramon added," They [students] will be able to pay off their student loans quicker. The less interest they have to pay the better."

The problem, Republicans said on C-SPAN, is this new rate will do nothing for current students, nor will it provide greater access for students wishing to attend who can't afford college. Even worse, the rate would only be realized for a total of 6 months

five years from now. Raising the question does this bill help college students or college graduates?

During election 06', Democrats successful campaign brought control of not only the house but also the senate, giving Democrats, for the first time in over 10 year. One campaign promise made was to change education opportunities giving those affected by the recent tuition increase, a new opportunity.

Republican leaders questioned the College Student Relief Act on Wed. Jan. 17, naming it the "Bate and Switch" stating "if it weren't so serious it would be funny."

The Republicans have a different proposal, one with a two part focus, a commitment to student aid, while holding schools accountable for their role in the college cost crisis: the 'College Affordability & Transparency Act.' This would provide students with \$90 Billion dollars a year – up 300 percent in 10 years. The act would also give students and parents more disclosure about the actual costs of college. In addition, any college increasing tuition twice the rate of the Consumer Price Index would also be forced to disclose to students and parents reasons for such increase.

Justin Stoner, District Director to California's 21st district congressman Devin Nunes said, "Tuition costs must be affordable, classes must be relevant and the faculty must be large enough to



Photo by Robin Vallentyne
Brittany Simmons gives her take.

serve basic educational needs, as well as specialized areas that lead to growing job-market opportunities. With regard to the student loan interest rate, the Republicans in the House supported a measure that would increase aid to students entering college."

"Finances can be a big deterrent in people's choice to go to university or a vocational college. The Democratic measure was poorly written. Congressman Nunes and other Republicans will continue to work with the Democratic leadership to make substantive changes that will help prospective and existing students pay for college," added Stoner.

If the new congress is able to meet in the middle of both Republican's and Democrat's plans, students stand the chance of coming out real winners.



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The Ram’s Tale gears up for 2007 publication

By Ife-Chudeni Oputa
Rampage Reporter

Submissions are now being accepted for the 2007 edition of The Ram’s Tale. The Fresno City College student literary and arts journal has been around since the 1980s. “It’s a wonderful way to celebrate our students’ creativity,” said Margaret Hiebert, FCC English instructor and the Ram’s Tale Managing Editor.

The Ram’s Tale publishes poetry, fiction, non-fiction, photography, and 2-D art. Students can submit multiple pieces in multiple categories.

Faculty members involved with the journal encourage everyone to submit. “The Ram’s Tale, in it’s history, has published a person who just wants to have that one poem in print,” said Lee Herrick, FCC English instructor and past Ram’s Tale judge, “but it’s often a stepping stone toward larger things.”

Fresno City College English faculty judge the many submissions. “We look for quality, things that stand out... diversity,” said Hiebert “In the fiction category we’re looking for a good story. In poetry we’re looking for strong images and wonderful language. In the art section we’re looking for arresting images.”

With the exception of being an FCC student there is little criteria for submission. “The criteria is to have been inspired by something, to have some depth to it ... and then send it in to us, because we will be able to see that and read that in the work,” said Zay Logan, FCC English instructor and the Ram’s Tale Co-Editor.

The deadline for submissions is February 1st. For submission forms students can visit the Humanities Division office, or contact Zay Logan at ext. 8469, or Margaret Hiebert, at ext. 8101.

Carpooling can be the answer to FCC’s parking woes

continued from page one

Long, winding lines of cars. Bumper to bumper traffic. Welcome to the Fresno City College parking lots?

Usually encounters like this only occur on major freeways across the country, but students that have attended FCC can say this has been a problem for semesters.

“Parking [at Fresno City College] is always a hassle,” said FCC sophomore Alexis Sears. “You have an 9:00 a.m. class and have to leave before 7:30 just to make sure you get a spot, its ridiculous.”

Currently, there are 2,230 parking spots on the FCC campus available to students. The number increases to 2,417 after 5 p.m. Take those 2,230 spots and factor them in with 9,514 parking decals sold this semester, its not surprising that parking is this big of a problem on campus.

To try to ease the problem, Financial Assistance Officer Bill Carr said he could have the solution to the long lines of cars that weave their way around campus during the peak hours of the day. Giving preference to those who carpool

“The short term solution of having the shuttles running at the beginning of each semester is a start,” explained. “Students and faculty are still having a tough time finding parking on campus, therefore if a carpooling system were in place for the campus, it would cut back on the harmful emissions to the environment while at the same time opening up parking spaces for those needing to get to FCC.”

The idea is in its early stages but Carr sees his idea working in the same way that the general parking decals already operate. Parking monitors would go and make their daily rounds and would also look for violators of the carpooling spots that would be implemented on campus as well as the general student parking.

Those who choose to carpool would get a decal of a designated color and there would be a certain number of spots in each lot where drivers with those decals can park their cars. The number of slots is yet to be determined since the specifics are



Photo by Robin Vallentyne
Parking meter out of order.

	Estimated Project Budget	2002-05 Actual Expenditures	2005-06 Budget	2005-06 Expenditures To Date	2005-06 Encumbrances	Total Expenditures
Design Services	171,539	22,083	0	0	0	22,083
Consultant Services	64,327	0	0	0	0	0
Fees & Other Charges	38,446	0	10,000	1,903	0	1,903
Construction & Equipment	2,144,234	0	0	0	0	0
Inspection & Testing	105,442	0	0	0	0	0
Contingency	107,212	0	0	0	0	0
Total	2,631,200	22,083	10,000	1,903	0	23,986

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February 27, 5:30 District Office Board Room;

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Information Sessions

February 1, 4:30 District Office Board Room;

February 27, 4:30 District Office Board Room;

March 28, 4:30, District Office Board Room

Questions? Call Kim Quesada at 244-5906



Scholarships Lost

by Ashley Harris
Rampage Contributor

Fresno City College offers scholarships to students, but many students are either unaware of the opportunities to get this ‘free’ money or simply don’t try. One might assume that students would jump at the chance to win up to \$ 2,000 if they act before March 2nd but that assumption seems disproved when visiting the sparsely populated Financial Aid lab.

“Most people come into the financial aid office to fill out the FAFSA,” explained Khammoune Xai-panya, an FCC student who works in the Financial Aid office. “Very few people have come in to use the lab to apply for scholarships.”

FCC’s Institutional scholarships are made available through donations given to the State Center Community College District Foundation. Awards ranging from \$100-\$2000 are given to those who fill out the application and qualify each year.

These scholarships are only available to new or returning FCC students, so those who are transferring next fall need not apply. For those who will be continuing their education at Fresno City, this could be a golden opportunity.

A few of the scholarships available are; FCC Associated Student’s, Bank of America Foundation, Dr. Martin Luther King Memorial, NAACP, Hmong Student



www.google.com

Club, and the Puente Project scholarship.

This year, students are able to apply for scholarships online. The now two year old ScholarX program has all the bugs worked out of it and is quite user friendly. Simply go to www.fresnocitycollege.edu and click the link for Scholarship Opportunities. The page has access to all the information you need to know.

“Read thoroughly,” advised Cathie Johnson, the FCC Scholarship Coordinator. She emphasized that it is quite important for applicants to consider the qualifications for each scholarship. “Students should make their personal statement relevant, and let the reader know what they’re applying for.”

Most importantly, Johnson strongly suggested that students mention they’re qualifications. The ScholarX application consists of a questionnaire, one page personal statement, and letters of recommendation retrieved through e-mail.

Last fall Erika Gutierrez was awarded \$100 in scholarship money. She, like about four hundred other FCC students last year, applied online for one of the institution scholarships that our campus offers.

“I found out about the scholarships through my counselor,” said Gutierrez. “The online application made the process a lot easier.”

Gutierrez said she is planning on applying for scholarships again this year. “It’s really easy, easier than the FAFSA. I can buy

A day in the Life

of an FCC police officer

by Cody Gless
Rampage Reporter

Imagine being brand new to your job and having to be the first person, on sight, to witness the aftermath of the brutal shootings of two students and a professor. This is one incident that SCCCD Police Officer Randall Marks will never forget. The incident took place at the science building early in Officer Marks’ stint with the Fresno City College Campus Police. The professor had been paralyzed from the waist down; one of the students had suffered a head wound caused by the bullet grazing her scalp, and the second student, the assailant, committed suicide immediately after the shootings. This is only one of the many incidents Officer Marks has experienced in his tenure with the campus police, a career he began on February 23, 1983.

This, however, is not a typical workday for a campus police officer, reported Officer Marks. The day generally begins with a briefing, and then periodic calls throughout the day. Some major responsibilities include: resolving parking conflicts, registering incidents such as break-ins, domestic violence, and referring students to the dean for appropriate disciplinary actions.

Officer Marks began his training

right here at FCC, where he earned his degree and completed 520 hours at the Police Academy on campus. In 1983, 520 hours was the standard amount of training required for P.O.S.T [Peace Officer Standard Training]. Now, a minimum of 1000 hours are needed before new officers are issued body armor, badge, a 40 caliber Beretta with belt, holster and magazines, baton, handcuffs, pepper spray, and raincoats.

Officer Marks couldn’t be happier in his career decisions, “I love this job too much to think of anything else,” said Marks, who choose campus safety out of the long line of law-enforcement positions. Officer Marks listed several of the benefits he believed were benefits of working as a campus police officer. For him, the primary reason for pursuing campus police work is that it is a much safer environment and he does not have to experience rape and homicide first-hand most of the time. Officer Marks said he also enjoys working with a younger age group and is able to mentor and assist students.

Officer Marks said he not only assists students through his police duties but also through academic counseling as well by providing students with insight and giving them a push to stay in school and go to class. Officer Marks said he truly feels that he has made a difference through impacting not just students but the staff at FCC as well.



Photo by Cinthia Rodriguez

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does
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Apoca-lip-too

By Maylin Tu
Rampage Reporter

“Apocalypto” starts with a practical joke of balley proportions—of testicular magnitude—of gonadic tenacity—it begins with a joke both funny and disgusting.

Ok, I lied. “Apocalypto” starts with a chase. A hapless food of prey charges through the jungle, bounded by powerful and deadly forces.

Thus begins Mel Gibson’s attempt to revitalize the sagging action-adventure genre. After taking on medieval Scotland and the biblical setting of the New Testament, he explores the heretofore little-filmed world of the ancient Maya civilization.

Set in the Yucatan peninsula sometime before Columbus sailed the ocean blue, “Apocalypto”

is about Jaguar Paw (Rudy Youngblood), a hero in the mythic tradition, who lives in a peaceful village with his pregnant wife and young son.

A band of raiders attacks the village unawares, taking Jaguar Paw captive, and sending him on a journey to a horrific fate—one that leaves him running for his life—hence the chase.

Gibson fills “Apocalypto” with sight, spectacle, and fascinating (if historically questionable) visions of an equally fascinating ancient civilization.

The cast is excellent—culled from unknowns found in Mexico, Canada, and the United States. The lack of big-name actors pays off in the authenticity of the performances.

The film’s characters speak the Yucatec Maya language, but “Apocalypto” sweeps along so confidently that you forget you’re reading subtitles. And what

could be worse than hearing idiomatic American English emerging from the mouths of supposedly indigenous peoples.

Mel Gibson and Farhad Safinia’s screenplay successfully weaves action and human narrative—particularly in the opening.

It also attempts a larger theme, framing the story with a quote by writer Will Durant: “A great civilization is not conquered from without until it has destroyed itself from within.”

The parallels to modern-day America are duly noted by the reviewer.

Accused variously of being “pornography” or simply a misleading depiction of Mayan culture—I suppose human sacrifice was never very politically correct—“Apocalypto” nonetheless succeeds in engaging the audience.

However, continuing in the tradition of Gibson’s

last two directorial efforts, “Braveheart” and “The Passion of the Christ,” “Apocalypto” revels—no carouses—in violence.

It is this emphasis on violence that turns the last fourth of the movie into something resembling the typical “slasher” flick.

As Jaguar Paw leads his pursuers deeper and deeper into the jungle, the question becomes not “Will he survive?,” but “Who will die next and how?”

Gibson utilizes some of the natural horrors of the jungle for creative carnage, yet this last part of the movie suffers from a too predictable reliance on violent deaths for its spectacle.

Of course, as evidenced by the continuing box office success of the “Final Destination” franchise, we as an audience never tire of the multitudinous ways you can slaughter people.

So if beheadings, spearings, maulings, rip-pings, etc. are your cup of brew, or if you just enjoy a good action flick, then go see this movie. But, if you prefer your movies light, hate graphic violence, and abhor filmmakers who take historical liberties, you might be better off staying home and reading for class.

Director: Mel Gibson
Screenplay: Mel Gibson, Farhad Safinia
Cast: Rudy Youngblood, Daila Hernandez, Jonathan Brewer, and Morris Birdyellowhead

Sudoku

Fill in the spaces so each row, column, and 3x3 box has the numbers 1-9

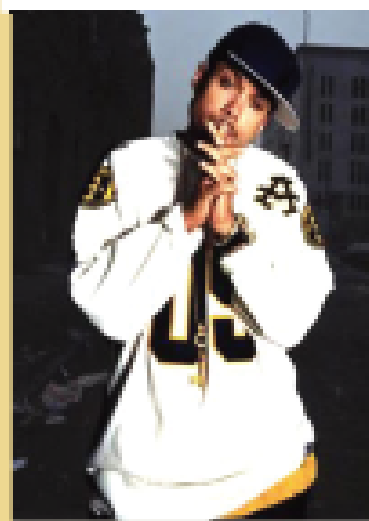
2		1						
7				2	6	8		
5	8				3			
4		2		9	1	3		
		3	6	7		1		5
			4				6	3
		8	2	5				7
						2		8

Crypto Quote

Each letter of this phrase has been substituted by another letter. Try to find which letters should be placed where to complete the quote. hint: This one is from a well known movie

M blyno Eykj sojjyj, “ M wyj’n
dosmopo mj nko doxnsoc, M elcn
dosmopo mj fo.’ Hyyw rymjn
nkouo. Xqnou xss, ko ixc Nko
Ixsulc
Qouumc Dlossou’c Wxg Yqq

The Commercialization of Hip-hop...



by Matthew T. Mendez

Editor-in-Chief

Just look around you. Regardless of where you're reading this column—whether you're in the middle of campus or in the break room at work—hip-hop's influence on the American public can easily be noticed. It is a culture that has permeated just about every aspect of our society, discriminating against neither ethnicity nor social class, to become the recognized lifestyle of those who are "where it's at."

I used to know where "it" was, but as that location kept drifting toward more recycled territory, I must have made a wrong turn somewhere. Every now and then I try to find my way back to the Hotspot, but I usually end up seeing the same old crap that made me stop caring about being there in the first place.

As it stands today, all the coolest people hit up the clubs as much as possible, and they basically dry-hump each other to some of the worst music in the history of creativity.



Why isn't it enough to matter how stupid something is, there's always people who are more than willing to wholeheartedly support it? Just as soon as the world is faced with an outbreak of Emo people (emotional punk music fans: aka, poser people), it seems we now have juggalos to deal with.

At first glance, I kind of thought it was just a joke, probably because the name sounded so ridiculous. Come on now, "Juggalo, is that like a person who can juggle or something?" but soon I came to realize that it was much, much worse.

Juggalos are the extreme/fanatical listeners of Insane Clown

Don't get me wrong. I love hip-hop, but you're not likely to catch me in my car bumping a song with a chorus as stupid as "gittin' gittin' some hed." The fact that this pointless, self-praising brand of hip-hop is now mainstream irritates the hell out of me, and I don't have to conform to the brainless ways of the masses like most of us do. Conformity is not the purpose hip-hop was initially intended to serve.

Somehow, I don't think the pioneers of hip-hop envisioned listeners grinding their genitals on a filthy floor to a song with the phrase "shake that Laffy Taffy" that had anything to do with their culture when they struggled for recognition.

Hip-hop was supposed to be a form of media that pointed out societal flaws and detailed the troubles of America's forgotten neighborhoods, not glorify them. Its message was supposed to be put in way that only the most talented emcees could articulately word it, not the most egomaniacal or materialistic.

Well, hip-hop is now the major genre of music for young people, and it has been for quite some time. It is what most kids grow up believing to be a prerequisite for recognized coolness. It's what made rich white kids from nuclear families embrace what they regarded as black culture.

This could have been a good thing.

This could have been the ideal method of introducing a predominantly African-American art form into the delusional world of white suburbia. But then it became too trendy. Rap music became the default genre for the gregarious and simple-minded. I know this only because I too

was influenced by pop culture at a time in my life. Thankfully, I discovered and opened my Third Eye, which has since then allowed me to see the majority of the rap industry for what it truly is: A virus.

Instead of opening eyes to the dangerous world of street gangs, it glamorized the lifestyle and opened up little more than jail cells and caskets. Instead of preaching about the inequalities facing minorities on a daily basis, it preached the importance of spinning rims, gold grills, and stunner shades. And instead of using their high degree of influence to educate and improve upon the sentiments of the unprivileged youth, most rap artists have our younger generations believing that their peers only respect hardcore tough-guy womanizers.

The easy way out would be to blame this deconstructive way of life on gangsta rap; however, while it certainly did give out a negative message to many of its listeners, gangsta rap also highlights what goes on inside the toughest neighborhoods of our country—something our government would rather keep hidden from us. And therein lies its purpose.

But there is absolutely no reasonable purpose behind

songs about \$20,000 pieces of jewelry for teeth; and I dare anyone to justify the remaking of a popular nursery rhyme containing the phrase "Do your boots hang low?" in the update. Listen to me, just because a certain song can be turned into something else, doesn't mean it actually should be done. Ok?

What's going on here? Have all the ideas for good, original, and satirical hip-hop been taken already? Have we run out of derogatory terms for women? Exactly how many times can the same song be remixed before people start to realize you suck?

What would the hip-hop industry be like today if Tupac Shakur were still alive?

That question will always be on the minds of those who grew up listening to rap during the infamous East/West Coast "War" era, and with good reason. 2Pac personified what it was to be a rap star, but he was much more than that. He was a poet, and had he lived to see past his 26th birthday, he may have even been a revolution. Sadly, due to his premature death, the legacy 2Pac leaves on the rap game is a dark one.

It pains me to say this, but as iconic as Pac remains in

the world of hip-hop, he may actually be the single greatest setback to the genre's evolution yet. Tupac was so convincing with his Thug Life image that rappers are still copying his actions and calling out his name for credibility almost ten years after his death.

Just how many carbon copies of Tupac Amaru Shakur's image or attitude have we seen over the past decade? Ja Rule, DMX, Eminem, Trick Daddy, Master P and 50 Cent are the most prominent 2Pac clones to have garnered the public's attention; each one of those guys have a little bit of Pac in them. And those are just the most popular 2Pac biters.

If Pac had survived, maybe he would have turned rap into a more socially viable form of media instead of the hedonistic garbage we hear on the radio every day. What's popular today is nothing but a catchy hook played over a sampled beat—a beat that was done better in the original song, and by a better musician.

Some people call these new songs "hits," but I like to refer to them as "distractions."

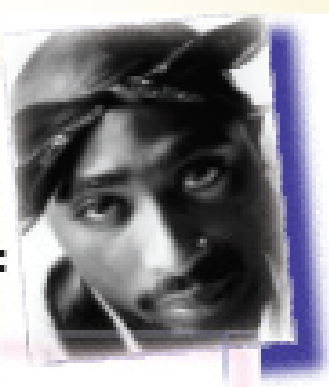
They distract you from appreciating what truly matters in life (your loved ones, helping others, and conserving the earth) by making you think that pointless, flashy materials are of the utmost importance.

They distract you from living a productive life by making you believe that keeping a reputation as a tough guy will make everyone respect you.

And they distract us all from evolving as a species by keeping us focused on how great the artists' lives are, instead of figuring out how to make life better for those who go without the necessary amount of bling.



Ja Rule



=

A tribe called 'Quacks'

by DC Leavy

Poser's music. These fans don't just like the music that I.C.P. puts out but have become obsessed with it's pointless fan-in-American culture.

As the followers of the stupidest version of hip-hop since the "Multiplication rap," Juggalos have emerged as the leading sub-culture trend among impressionable white American youths.

You might've seen a few on the FCC campus over the past few semesters or you might even know a couple of them personally. They're the kids that walk around school wearing face make-up like a clown even though it's not Halloween and they always tend to get arrested by the police more times than Bobby Brown.

Usually they aren't hard to find just look around the courtyard for the students who hang out all day and never seem to go to class and only appear to take up space. If you're still not sure, just listen for

someone being rowdy, loud, rude and obnoxious around campus. This is a usually a clear sign you have a juggalo near you.

Though considered a fairly new trend to the music industry (groupie div.) their popularity has spread through out the simple minded like a bush fire. Many of their followers consist of the old members of the former and infamous hate group called the pecker-woods, which in some of you might seem like a distant memory.

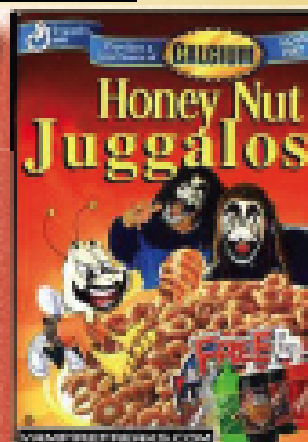
Over the past couple of years the Insane Clown Posse with their Dark Carnival and with the help of Psychopathic Records have acquired a legion of followers with their lame music and shock value. Much like Marilyn Manson did a few years ago.

Even though they've been laughed at and ridiculed by almost every major music evaluation

magazine including "Rolling-Stones" magazine and "Spin". They continue to play their music, and appear to have a growing fan base.

The group I.C.P. consists of two white middle-aged men that wear clown make up and attempt to perform *gangster-clown-rap*. I personally can't think of anything less hip-hop or rap than two white men wearing clown make up and rapping on stage. Their lyrics do nothing more than promote drug use, violence, ignorance, stupidity as well as a blatant lack of interest in a rhyming dictionary. Just when I thought rap had reached its darkest days with artists like Fred Durst (Limp Bizkit) and Kevin Federline (K-Fed) making the scene, now we have a new group attempting to set the bar even lower.

I've always considered myself a fan of originality and can



fully understand the need to find a place where you can feel accepted amongst your peers, but this Juggalo craze has got to go. It's as if all the kids that use to get picked on in school or were ostracized by the cool kids have found a place where they feel they can feel they belong. It's stupid and that had to be really creepy music to bring them together.

THE END

...and how ending that trend may help change the world.



riest for a future column—may-be even a future book. I don't wanna hear about how guys who wear pink shirts are real men, because real men don't blindly follow something after seeing it in a rap video first (that Cam'ron video with Mariah Carey).

I'm so Grizzly Adams, but at least I'm man enough not to let another man (a man who doesn't even know I exist) determine how I dress. I let my girlfriend do that, she likes me in red.

But I digress. There still is hope for hip-hop to change minds and make the world a better place. Hope might be all us true hip-hop fans have, but hope is gaining strength, and it has a name now.

Hope's real name is Immortal Technique, a Peruvian born emcee who grew up in Harlem and dropped out of Pennsylvania State University during his sophomore year because of an imminent prison sentence.

The sad thing is, Immortal Technique will NEVER be popular because his music focuses on social inequalities, politics, religion, and many other societal problems.

Picture this: Instead of hearing "Meet me at the mall, it's goin' down. Meet me at the club, it's goin' down" playing while you're on the dance floor, you heard "the Devil crept into Heaven/God overstept on the 7th the New World Order was born on September 11th."

Talk about a revolution. (Talk about a club full of people that don't know what the hell he's talking about)

But hope also answers to the pseudonym Tech N9ne. Much more popular and club-friendly than Immortal Technique, Tech N9ne has the ability to make every other rapper on the planet sound like they grew up on the corner of Cedar and Neez.

In other words, he can make anyone whose name isn't Immortal Technique seem as if they don't belong anywhere near a studio. Tech N9ne epitomizes avant-gardism—a parish who has survived by practicing new ways to perform his art and transform the entire industry.

If you don't know who Tech N9ne is by now, then obviously you're one of those mainstream losers I've been referring to.

Get out of your mainstream box and open up your Third Eye.

Not everybody has the patience to do such a thing, but for those who do, the world will become a much more enjoyable place to shoot the shit.

by Matthew T. Mendez
Editor-In-Chief

Imagine if mainstream rap, the same genre of music that influences the way an entire culture dresses, talks, and thinks, was dominated by artists who did not cater to the lowest common denominator of the American public. Imagine if today's most popular rappers actually tested the boundaries of hip-hop by trying things that have never been done before.

Then, after you've allowed those images to pass from one ear and out the other, try to imagine

how the world would be if every last die-hard rap fan spent their time and money on something other than what they've seen on videos during "106 & Park."

That would mean people would stop wearing headbands to school when they know damn well they haven't broken a sweat since that one time Mommy came home angry.

Wait a second...if that happened, that would mean people have started to think for themselves, which means conforming to pop culture would become unpopular, which would eventually lead to the end of fads such as adult males wearing pink Polo shirts.

Don't even get me started on those pink Polo shirts, I'll save that

Bout ta bubble

FINALLY IT'S HAPPENED, TECH N9NE HAS MADE IT INTO THE SPOTLIGHT AFTER YEARS OF BEING RELEASED UNDERGROUND. NOW MAINSTREAM SOCIETY IS STARTING TO GET A TASTE OF ONE OF THE UNDERGROUND'S MOST FAMOUS RAP ARTISTS.

by DC Leavy
Rampage Reporter

Tech N9ne has made it into the spotlight after years of only being released underground. Now mainstream society is starting to get a taste of one of the undergrounds most undisputed rap artists.

Over the past two-three centuries the hip-hop community has been blessed with a few occasional artist with the ability to revolutionize the standard of which we judge good hip-hop and rap music. They do this by being able to create and show the world their own original style, unique flair, and by having a hell of an attitude to match it.

Recently this phenomenon has been occurring less and less. Nowadays there's a new artist making the radio play-list almost every week and another trendy, un-original video premiering on every other major cable network

station. It's like all you need in the hip-hop world is some decent lyrics and a catchy hook, but Tech N9ne has come to raise the bar.

From the hometown of Kansas City, Missouri, Tech N9ne not only represents where he's from, but he does a damn good job at it. He proves that Kansas City streets aren't just for Dorothy and Toto anymore.

With his new album "Everready, The Religion" produced by Rick Rock and StrangeMusic Entertainment being released only two months ago, Tech N9ne is quickly climbing the charts with hit songs like "Bout Ta Bubble", and "Caribou Lou". His controversial style brings a unique blend of DJ rhythm, a hardcore approach to rap and a flair for the alternative and dramatic. Which makes it perfect for all the local club scenes.

Though he was once considered too gangster for M.T.V and too alternative for B.E.T, Tech N9ne with the help of StrangeMusic Entertainment, have set a new

standard for the rap community.

Just like Superman he seems to arrive at the nick of time to save the rap community from all this recent pop-culture, watered down butta@it that's been masquerading itself as real hip-hop. Songs like "Shoulder Lean", "Lean Wit It", and "Laffy Taffy" don't say or do much except promote stereotypes about urban culture and give you something catchy to dance to in the clubs.

These are the same songs that just need a little adjustment to the beat and tweak of the lyrics to be changed into the next "My Humps". Written by the same artist that sounds like almost everyone else that came before them. Saying the same thing, with the same hook, but has cuter girls in their video than the last rapper.

For a while the whole hip-hop/rap community appeared to have become synonymous with mainstream pop-culture trends. Leaving the fans of true hip-hop with something to be desired.

So after a few years of my own disappointment and a lack of interest in radio and television's lack of originality, Tech N9ne has shined some light on a pretty depressing situation.

Having been both praised and stigmatized for his dark, almost psychotic and sometimes suicidal subject matter, Tech N9ne has been kept out of the mainstream Rap scene. But with the help of well-known artist such as E-40, Brodsh Lynch and Twista, "Everready" has everything a true hip-hop fan could want. It also contains a few tracks that extend past the usual spectrum of the typical rap formula. Songs like "Riot Maker", "My World", and "Melancholy Maze" bring a unique twist to the usual mainstream rap that has been so dominant in the American hip-hop society.

Though this might be the first time you're hearing about this, Tech N9ne has already come out with a plethora of CDs before "Everready The Religion" was

released. "Anghellic", "The Calm Before the Storm", "Absolute power", and my personal favorite "Vintage Tech" were just some of Tech N9ne's earlier work that never made it to the radio play-list or a cable music channel. But by word of mouth, internet and a few promotions at his shows, most of them made platinum within a year in the underground community. Showing that skill and an ability to perform like no other is all you should need to succeed. If you're talented fans will buy you no matter where you promote and I definitely encourage you to buy this.

For more information or a sample of what to expect log on to: www.therealtchn9ne.com or you can find him on Myspace at <http://www.myspace.com/techn9ne>.

Views

10

January 24, 2007

Will a troop increase make any real difference in the wartime effort?

Should we send more troops into Iraq?

We made a commitment, we have to see this through...

by Brandon Lynch
Rampage reporter

The cost is high. Violence in Iraq is at an all time high. Nearly 100 troops are dying each month and the United States is spending \$2 billion each week. The cost for a quick withdraw, however, is even higher.

The Iraqi Study Group, a bipartisan group with members like retired United States Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, came up with four recommendations for an exit strategy. None of the recommendations shined as "the one", but only showed the lesser of the evils.

We committed ourselves to this war when we invaded Iraq. Right or Wrong, it doesn't matter now. That part of history can't be changed. We cannot cut and run now. We would be sending the wrong message to the World. Are we willing to say, "we've made a mistake and we're going to let you guys work out your problems now?" I hope not.

Adding troops will provide more security and reinforce the existing military presence. It will also provide United States troops to be incorporated within Iraqi forces. This addition will help train existing Iraqi forces. The sooner the Iraqi forces are trained and confident in their abilities, the sooner our brothers and sisters, moms and dads can come home.

I whole-heartedly believe in the war we are currently fighting. It's a testament to the true power and economic might of our country. During a time when vulnerability left us prone and defenseless, we chose to

show our strength.

We don't always understand why things happen. Take for instance the Gulf War. Why in the world didn't we finish the mission and capture Saddam Hussein then? He was an evil dictator who committed acts of genocide against his own people, and invaded a neighboring country.

Capturing Saddam Hussein opened the door for the United States to flex its muscles and remind the world that our resolve for freedom remains unchanging. At the same time we have been able to liberate a people from an oppressive dictator and create at least a hint of freedom. That freedom cannot be realized unless the Iraqi people step up to the plate.

Our commitment and belief in the Iraqi people is starting to fade. My support is with the Iraqi people and my faith is in democracy and the freedom that comes with it. The Iraqis have been provided the opportunity and they need to take hold of it and thrive. If adding additional military support can achieve this goal, then all the cost and lives lost will not have been in vain.

"The sooner the Iraqi forces are trained and confident in their abilities, the sooner our brothers and sisters, moms and dads, can come home."

Foreign affairs aren't our problem, let them deal with their own issues...

by Eddie Ortiz
Rampage reporter

In a 25-minute speech President Bush laid out his new strategy for Iraq. Bush announced an additional 21,500 troops will be sent to Iraq. This move was not what most Americans, myself included, wanted to hear. This is a dangerous move on Bush's part.

We have been at war in Iraq for three years already and the casualty rate of our men and women keep rising. 3,055 American soldiers have been killed in Iraq since the war began in 2003.

The addition of more U.S. troops in Iraq is sure to make 2007 a deadly year for our men and women. American soldiers are being killed at an alarming rate, not to mention innocent Iraqi civilians. Adding more troops is a step in the wrong direction and will ultimately mean more violence and carnage.

What are we solving? Nothing. How many more mothers and fathers are going to have to bury their children? This administration will never know the pain that many parents face. Bush and his advisors do not know the pain of sending their offspring into the calamity that is Iraq. Since when has the Iraqi government become the United States main priority?

I know the Republican Party would say that exiting out of Iraq would mean the collapse of the Iraqi government; WHO CARES!! That's Iraq's problem; let it collapse.

Yes, I know since we've been there

they have had an election and Saddam's regime is no longer in control. And I know the reason our military forces are there is to free the Iraqi people from Saddam's evil grip. He raped and murdered his own. Wrong I know, but ultimately not the United State's problem.

I believe it's time for the United States to stop being the watchdog to all helpless nations. It's time that our government put the United State's concerns before any other foreign nation. \$5.6 billion has gone into this senseless war and it needs to stop.

I'm ready for my government to take care of the homeless, the violence that takes place every day, and other problems that take place on home base. I know we can't just pack up and leave Iraq. We have been brain washed into thinking exiting Iraq early would mean defeat.

I think it's time that our President wake up and realize he's losing the public's support and confidence. Sending more troops means more violence. More violence means an increase in the casualty rate and a deeper financial commitment.

It's time for the Iraqis to defend their own nation. The United States can't keep responding ever time they call 911. One thing is for certain, were watching you President Bush. You fooled us once, shame on us if you fool us twice.

Campus Voices

How do you feel about President Bush's decision to send more troops to Iraq?



"Bad Idea. We have enough troops over there."

-Mike Lawrence
Welding



"I don't agree with it. I think it's ridiculous."

-Brigitte Chavez
Art History



"There's an underlying agenda. A deeper reason we're in Iraq."

-Scott Braden
Political Science



"I think it's dumb. We shouldn't send more troops. I think [President Bush] should look at more options."

-Georgina Salazar
Social Work



"It was great when we first entered and defended them against Saddam. I don't think we should be there anymore."

-Sasha Bell
Journalism

The Third Eye

Encouraging the expression of unorthodox thoughts, ideas, and beliefs since January 24th, 2007

Rampage reporter



Attempting to progress effectively in The Age of MySpace



Matthew T. Mendez
Editor-in-Chief

To us, the time human beings spend as the universe's dominant species is close to eternal. We are the unquestioned superior to the rest of the world's attempts to repeat perfection. We assume this will always be. Guess what happens when you assume too much...

To the universe, we humans are petty. We are judgmental, hypocritical, diabolical, and most of all,

disposable. In fact, we should be doing everything we possibly can do to maintain our place atop the food chain, but instead, we squander our opportunity by waging unjustified wars, conforming to the lowest common denominator, and worshipping pointless material possessions.

That ain't even the half of it.

Mind-numbing time-wasters such as MySpace and Craigslist are far from being the means that the devil infiltrates the body of the living, but they just may be the seedlings to his potentially flourishing garden of evil.

And by that, I proclaim MySpace is officially a bad thing now. Yeah, officially. Startiiiiiiing now!

When you start recognizing strangers in the mall as #113 on your friend's list, you've been on The Space too long. When you see upgrades to your profile in almost

the same light as you see upgrades to your car audio system, you're spending way too much time in Space. When you have a T-shirt that says "you looked better on MySpace" in your wardrobe, then...well, you get the picture.

This is the age of Bluetooth, Internet 2, and a Tickle Me Elmo doll that is obviously possessed by the souls of easily amused ghost laborers. That's right, I didn't get that joke either.

This is no time to be posting bulletins explaining your feelings on an hourly basis. Besides, nobody really cares all that much about what somebody else does unless it affects them personally, or if that person is "talkin' shit."

"Talkin' shit" has got to be the No. 1 cause of fights existing today for young people. Making matters even more dangerous is that "shit" can now be posted online via MySpace bulletin, or left on your

profile via MySpace comment. This sometimes leads to females flipping out of their minds and blaming all of life's problems on MySpace. Sometimes, it can even escalate to the point of profile deletion. This is a very productive method of problem solving...NOT! (see Borat movie to get joke)

But I digress from the potty talk, and must somehow get back to the point.

In the age of MySpace, other forms of communication have become more of a hassle than anything else.

How difficult is it to talk on the phone and listen to music at the same time now? Can you watch television and still hold a meaningful conversation?

I know I can't. Stupid, convenient internet.

ironically, you can yell at me at www.myspace.com/lowercasejenkins

Sex, education, and you

by Johanna Tanori
Rampage reporter

Do you feel that? It's coming. It is almost 1 month before the ultimate drown your single heart sorrows in rum and ice cream day. Also known to the rest of the world as Valentines Day. I have definitely noticed the Xs on my calendar becoming shaky, as the candy parade is about to commence.

I know what your thinking. Single girl, freaking out about love, intimacy, and companionship. While this is partially true I would just like to clarify a few things. Companionship is easy, there are tons of great people out there and if half the world would just try to have a conversation they might even enjoy it. No, companionship is a basic cave man tribe trait; even the fugliest of creatures can manage to find it somehow. Now love, love is a different story altogether, albeit that can entail horror as well as fantasy. Yet as D-day (oops I mean V-day) approaches and tales of new found romance are in the air, I can't help but wonder why is it so often that sex is the topic that floats in between fact and fiction?

There is a lot of information out in the world that dives into the deepest corners of the sex realm. People spend their whole lives writing books about how to do it, when to do it, when not to do it, who you should and shouldn't do it with and even how to do it better. Yet with all of this knowledge, people give and receive sexually transmitted diseases all the time. Take for example, the Human Pappillomavirus also known as HPV. I'm sure you've heard of it, or at least seen the commercials with young, spunky, athletic, teenage girls telling America how they want to be "one less" woman with HPV by getting the new vaccine Gardasil.

Remaining in the theme of information here's a short history lesson on HPV. It is the most common sexually transmitted infection in the United States, and there are 100 different types, 30 of which can be sexually transmitted. Symptoms can include abnormal pap tests and genital warts. Even worse female HPV carriers have a higher risk of developing cervical cancer. While "One less" might be the slogan for promoting the vaccine, it's not a bad idea for promoting safe sex. According to the Centers for Disease control and prevention, with 20 million

people currently carrying the virus an additional 6.2 million will be infected per year. What's worse is that half of the carriers both male and female are between the ages of 15- 24.

With numbers like these, HPV is not something to be ignored, nor should any possible mention of contracting genital warts. Yet how many people do you know personally, who have had unprotected sex? I mean even though most of us have had to go to the regulatory sex Ed class, could it be that we were are all so sexually driven that we just didn't pay attention? I mean how else can you explain the lack of brain power that people use when it comes to protecting themselves from venereal diseases, not to mention unplanned pregnancies. Maybe it's lack of common sense; it can't be lack of information, but what about the way the information is given? If this is the reason then there can only be one major culprit. Sex Ed!

When I look back on my personal experience with sex Ed, it was all very amusing. My 60-year-old teacher conducted her class much in the same way an arts and crafts class would be run. We made collages of our future model families (all with planned pregnancies of course), we

even made mobiles of the traits that our ideal mate would have. But the icing on the cake had to be when we made babies out of five pound bags of flour, which we then had to carry around for a week! As if that would show us what it's really like to have the responsibility of parenting a child. It was like some comical form faulty birth control. Of course there were also times when my teacher would invite out side guests from Planned Parenthood to sneak some valuable comments into the cut and paste montage that was sixth period. All in all there were bits of information but I don't ever remember being freaked out by a new sex concept that I had never heard of before.

Quiet possibly it could be the way that we are taught to think about sex, which we inevitably do all the time anyways. It's in every social situation and setting, on billboards and magazines, sex usually grabs your attention and doesn't let go. In a society that glorifies the act of being sexy, can we really expect the current sex Ed classes to effect young adults the way they have in the past?

Joe knows about World of Warcraft



I pulled into the Sierra Vista Mall parking lot having already made arrangements to meet my friend Ephraim outside of GameStop.

Loyal consumers of the narcotic-like computer game known as World of Warcraft (released in 2004), anxiously awaited the release of the newest expansion January 16. True zealots showed up to get their pre-ordered copy at midnight.

I joined the crowd.

For those who don't know what World of Warcraft is, you should ask the 8 million players worldwide – if you can pull them away from their keyboard.

I don't play WoW but I'll give you the low-down on what all of the hubbub is about. Each player goes out and spends roughly \$20-\$30.00 on the basic game and then sets up an account which costs about 15 bucks a month to maintain.

Each player creates a character and name that is entirely unique to them and then begins at the bottom with shoddy skills and abilities. Each player can "level" up from 1 to 60 and earn better armor and abilities that are useful in the game. (Owners of the new expansion can go to level 70).

Sixty is the goal, or at least it was. Each player gets involved in quest after quest and hooks up with other players from the game's two sides: the Alliance and the Hoard. You, along with many others, can team up and explore the seemingly endless landscape available in the game. Improving your characters skills and equipment quickly

becomes your only goal in life.

This is where most people run into trouble. This is where jobs are lost, girlfriends walkout, grades drop, and lives see the bottom of the toilet.

Getting to any level beyond 60 takes weeks of dedicated play. When I say dedicated, I'm talking about hours and hours a day, sometimes as many as 18 in one day.

Granted, not all players play in 18 hour sittings. That's for the lifeless, super-nerds who have little else besides massive multiplayer online role-playing games like WoW.

The guys I'm meeting up with swear they're not like that.

No, the guys I'm meeting up with have lives. They have jobs, go to school, even girlfriends.

They don't meet the classic image of an overweight or underweight and pale nerd behind the keyboard who spouts off the game terminology like a second language.

These guys hung out with the cool crowd in high school. They dressed somewhat fashionably and, for the most part, aren't too bad looking.

They don't openly tell others about their obsession with WoW. Uh-uh. No way. That's like admitting you collect Troll dolls or own a Frodo costume. Someone finding out you play WoW is like your mom looking under your bed and finding your stash of Klingon pornography – don't ask, don't tell.

They take almost an elitist standpoint when it comes to inter-player socialization. They constantly remind themselves that they're not nerds, they have lives outside of the game, and that they're not addicted.

I went online to decipher what it means to be an addict and what are a few of the warning signs. This is what I found. These findings deal with drugs. Practically the same thing if you ask me.

People who are addicted to drugs:

- experience negative consequences associated with using but continue to use despite those consequences. (loss of job, quitting school, divorce)
- set limits on how much or how often they will use but unexpectedly exceed those limits. (hours and hours of play)
- promise themselves and/or other people that they will use in moderation but break those promises. ("I won't let it get *that* bad" – yeah, right.)
- feel guilty or remorseful about their using but still fail to permanently alter the way they use. ("I missed out on that party, didn't do my essay, called in sick from work" – you have a problem man.)
- get complaints about their using and resent, discount, and/or disregard those comments and complaints. (girlfriend/wife kicks you to the curb, parents kick you out, boss fires you – you're messing up.)

It's a bit sad, but people have lost their jobs, wives, and lives due to their addiction to this game.

When I meet other people who play WoW they always ask me, "Do you play?"

I say, "Psh. No. I like having a life."

Just say no kids, just say no.

by Bianca Betancourt
Rampage reporter



- ## PROPS...
- to winter vacation passed and spring break to come.
 - to the sidekick, they are still going strong.
 - to fast food restaurants with 99-cent menus.
 - to Reggie bush and the saints for having such a great year.
 - to minimum wage going up, chaching!
 - to oatmeal raisin cookies.
 - to all the sports teams at Fresno City College, hope you all have a great season.
 - to the teaching staff, hopefully you won't be too hard on the students.



- ## CHOPS...
- to having to warm your car up in the morning due to freezing cold temperatures.
 - to finding a parking space at Fresno city.
 - to people who go to Fresno city for the first two weeks just to collect financial aide.
 - to people driving slow in the fast lane.
 - to people who don't use their blinkers.
 - to waking up early.
 - to people who leave lousy tips for good waiters or waitresses.
 - to people who hang out at Fresno City College on a daily basis but don't have a single class, you know who you are.

Ask the Interns

Dear Interns,
I am an older student with young children. I have been at City College for two semesters. I'm having a really hard time working and going to school. Are there any ways that you can direct me to find time for both children and school?
Signed, Lost in Priorities

Dear Lost,

Being a student is tough enough without the added responsibilities of working and raising children. Balancing all three presents a very unique set of challenges. We would like to start by applauding you for having the courage to take on all three roles simultaneously. As with most problems in life, there is more than one way to approach balancing numerous responsibilities. The following are some tips to help navigate the journey successfully: 1) Scheduling and Organization: Having a set schedule/routine will not only help keep you organized and on task, but having a consistent routine also provides an essential source of security and predictability for children. A day planner should be your new best friend! 2) Time Management: Learn to take full advantage of otherwise unused moments. Carry study materials (i.e., flashcards, textbooks, notes) with you to places where you may be able to squeeze in a mini study session like the gym, lunch hour, Dr.'s appointments, beauty

salon, and even the bathroom. 3) Set Appropriate Boundaries: With so many things to juggle, it is important to acknowledge your limitations. Know your priorities and learn how to say no. You can't please everyone all the time. Your responsibilities are to yourself, your children, and the completion of your goals. 4) Superheroes are for Comic Books: Everyone needs a little help at some point in their life. Seek out and utilize any and all resources available to you (i.e., family, significant other, friends, church, tutorial/career centers, psychological services, etc.). Don't compare yourself to others with fewer responsibilities and obligations. Degree completion is not a race. Give yourself extra time to achieve your goal, if needed. 5) Use Creative Parenting: Understand that quality time with your children is more important than quantity. Instead of trying to be "Supermom" use the time, however insignificant it may seem to you,

with your children wisely. Involving your children in meal preparation can not only be a time saving strategy but also a good source of quality time. Institute a before-bedtime ritual that allows you uninterrupted quality time with your children. Take advantage of the opportunity to act as a role model by implementing "study time" in which you and your children both work on your respective homework assignments together. 6) Don't Neglect Your Personal Life: Contrary to popular belief, it is NOT selfish to put your own needs first. If you don't take care of yourself, you will be no help for others. Make sure you make time for relaxation (i.e., take a hot bath or long shower, pamper yourself, take your lunch outside and have a private picnic, take a night off – no kids) and recreation (i.e., date night (with significant other), get lost in a good book/magazine, get together with friends, go for a walk/jog, take a drive to the coast, or otherwise engage in activi-

ties that make you smile). J Hopefully this information will be of use to you. Thank you for taking the time to write in.
Good Luck, The Interns

You can mail "Ask the Interns" letters to: Fresno City College Psychological Services c/o Dr. Brian Olowude 1101 E. University Ave. Fresno, CA 93741. Letters can also be dropped off in the following locations: above the bookstore in Psychological Services or the Rampage office, in the nurse's office, DSP&S, or at the Career Center. We are looking forward to hearing from you Fresno City.

The information contained in this column cannot replace or substitute for the services of trained professionals. Due to time and space (in the column), we may not be able to answer all of the questions provided. If you have serious psychological issues you should contact the Psychological Services Department on campus (ext. 8055) or another mental health professional. If you have a life threatening emergency contact campus police (ext. 8201) or dial 911! We make no guarantees concerning any treatment or action by any person following the information provided in this column. We are not liable for any damages that may result. The information offered can be regarded as trustworthy, supported by research, and reliable, however we make no guarantees of positive outcomes.



Madec cooks up more than wins

Ed Madec bonds with players through grandmother's tradition

by Joseph Rios
Sports Editor

I walked up the heavily inclined steps to the open office door that neighbors the gym. First-year men's basketball coach Ed Madec sat with his feet up on his desk. His hands sat folded behind his head while he analyzed game film from the team's matchup against Reedley College. They were scheduled to play them the following day.

I went in with an idea of what I wanted for the article. But because I had never met him, I wanted to feel him out. A few questions into the interview and in the midst of assistant coaches and players chatting about the game on the screen, I asked, "What do you like to do that doesn't deal with basketball?"

"I like spending time with my wife, my friends," he said while he shifted his attention from me to his players on the screen. "...and I like to cook."

"Cook, really? Where did you learn how to cook?"

From there on in, the subject of conversation shifted from Ed Madec the coach, to Ed Madec the New York-born grandson of French immigrants.

Ed was eight at the time and long before he made his journey from the east coast, his grandparents had made one of their own.

The couple emigrated from France after World War II.

While serving his country of origin, George was captured and imprisoned by the Germans. After the war and following his subsequent release, he and Lisette made the trek from Brittany to the United States.

The young couple had little more than a dream and a chance to start anew.

George was an engineer

— but a good one.

He designed and built printing presses from the ground up while his wife Lisette ran them. George built enough machines to satisfy their printing workload and built others to sell across the United States and abroad.

George wasn't much of a talker. Like many from the post-war generation, he let his actions do the talking.

He would wake up, go to work at the factory he and his wife built, come home to eat the food she made, and return to the factory where he'd often stay as late as 10 p.m.

When young Ed showed up to their home, it wasn't long before he was packing boxes, running machines, and driving the fork lift.

There he quickly learned the value of hard work and what a privilege it is to have a family.

"In all the time I lived with them, my grandparents never took a vacation," Ed said. "They were self-made — that's what I respect."

"I learned what it means to work hard, but not because they told me. They just did it."

Ed picked up cooking from his grandmother. She whipped up elaborate meals every night and the three of them always ate together.

During the week his grandmother made fish, pork, veal, and lamb accented with vegetables or some kind of pasta. On Sundays she cooked steak and homemade fries.

Ed would help his grandmother here and there with this or that, little by little, he picked up on her secrets.

When she passed away, he made dinner in her absence. Ed was 19.

Making dinner for his



Ed Madec goes over the gameplan with his team during their game against Merced College.

Photo by Robin Vallentyne

grandfather helped fill the enormous void she left behind. Ed had lost one of, what he calls, "the two most sacred people in his life."

Soon Ed would leave home and head north to attend Sonoma State where he'd use basketball as a vehicle to obtain a bachelor's degree in kinesiology.

Although he didn't see him graduate, Ed's grandfather lived long enough to know that his grandson made it through his first step in college.

Ed was able to get into a tough masters program at Chico State University. Only now, he was alone.

"Back then, I'd fear the holidays," said Ed. "I was still coping with the fact that my grandparents were gone. The holidays brought up the fact that I had an unstable family life."

His life felt unbalanced, Ed explained. He'd go to work to

make ends meet, play basketball, and lift weights — that's it.

Making ends meet meant digging ditches, delivering pizzas, valet parking, roofing, and even driving a taxi cab.

When the holidays came around he'd realize how alone he really was. It brought him out of, as he put it, "his comfort zone."

Which is why he loves to cook so much. Ed likes cooking big meals for large groups. It gives him a sense of familiarity, a closeness that he had when he sat down with his grandparents.

He'll even go as far as cook for his teams. Though he hasn't done it for the Rams yet, he plans to now that he's finally moved into his house.

"People take for granted family meals," Ed said. "I love big meals. Even as a player I loved eating with my team. That's when you really become a family."

It was in that search for a family atmosphere, that he met who would later be his wife.

While still in northern California, his best friend would invite him to come over for holiday events. It was there that he met his younger sister Maija.

When Maija went off to college at Chico State, the two began dating. Ed was coaching at Siskiyous College.

Shortly after, the two exchanged wedding vows. They've been married for a little more than a year now.

Only days before our interview, Ed found out that his wife was pregnant and they had just moved into their new home.

"I'm so grateful," Ed said. "It's amazing how you fall into things. I am so lucky to have had such great parental figures."

"All in all, I just consider myself a lucky person."

FCC Baseball vies for repeat title

by Blanca Betancourt
Rampage reporter

Joe Palomino, says that this is the best the team has been in awhile and this year would be the best to follow.

The Rams' throw the first pitch of the season against Butte College Jan 26 at 6 p.m. There is a total of twenty-four home games with the season ending in march at which the state Championship will take place.

The Ram's number one goal this season is nothing short of a state championship. This team is very determined.

They have been training



The Fresno City Baseball team warms up during a recent practice. The Rams toss the first pitch Jan 26.

Photo by Robin Vallentyne

very hard now and in the off-season. The Rams practice everyday for 2 1/2 to 3 hours and then train with a conditioning coach for thirty minutes after that.

Sophomore pitcher, Lee

Collins says to keep an eye out for incoming freshman Jameson Smith, a catcher from Clemson University, freshman Kyle Bryce, utility/first baseman from Tehachapi, and Marques Walden, a

pitcher from Central.

The main goal is to win state, last years winning state team had a record of 45 wins 8 losses, Fresno City's record 36 wins and 10 losses. The team needs more

wins and less losses and with the return of good players and the new additions to the team they will work together to accomplish just that, a state title.

Besides trying for a good record and state championship the Ram's baseball coach, Ron Scott, and staff are great at making sure the players advance their careers. In the past, 18 former Rams have gone on to the Major Leagues. Players have gone on to such teams as the Mariners, Angels, Padres, Mets, Astros, Dodgers, Giants, and Phillies — even recent player Gary Moran is being looked at by the Padres.

Under construction: new gym, fit center



Photos by Joseph Rios

Thanks Measure E

Fresno City students and faculty have a gift in construction on the north side of campus - and it's not even Christmas. Yes, thanks to Measure E, FCC gets a new gym. Groundwork for the new building began in June of last year. The new gym houses a regulation sized basketball court with cross courts. Along with the new basketball gym, a new fitness center and weight room will be construction. New classrooms, offices, and labs will be added as well. Crews expect completion this year. - Joseph Rios



Girls B-ball- starts strong

by Quinn Robinson
Rampage reporter

The Fresno City College women's basketball team are off to a good start for the 2006-07 season. With an overall record of 16-6 and a Central Valley Conference record of 3-1, the Rams are preparing for another tough year of competition in conference play.

FCC took part in a handful of preseason tournaments to get ready for conference play and fared well against the competition put in front of them.

The Rams took second place in the Fresno City College Invitational and took third in the Mt. San Antonio, Bay Bay Classic and the Lady Jag Invitational while being crowned consolation champs in Visalia at the Tom Gilcrest Invitational.

Fresno City started off conference play by winning their first three games re-

spectively against Porterville College, Taft and College of Sequoias.

The Rams then had a tough loss in overtime against Maricopa College 71-68 that put them back to 3-1 in conference play.

Coming back home to play in front of a supportive Rams crowd was just what the doctor ordered as FCC took out their frustrations on Modesto College by beating the Pirates 55-43.

FCC will now travel to Reedley College on Jan. 24 which will be another tough battle between the two extremely competitive squads.

After a scheduled bye on Jan. 27, the Rams will return to action on Jan. 30 at home as they square off against Porterville College as the final games of the season approach before post season play begins.



Freshman guard Vanessa House takes it to the rack in their matchup with Taft College. Photo By Robin Vallentyne

Rams Rundown

- 1/27- Men's+Women's
Tennis v. Sierra
College (Stockton)
Sotifball v. West Val-
ley (Fresno)
- 1/28- Baseball v. San
Jose City College
(Fresno)
- 1/31- Men's Women's
Basketball v. Porter-
ville City College



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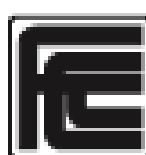
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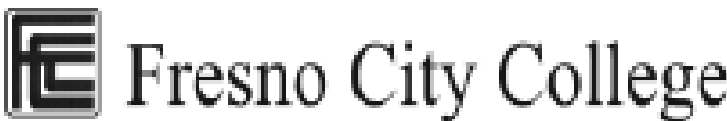
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Fresno City College

1101 E. University Avenue
Fresno, CA 93741

State Center Community College District



African American History Month

- Thursday, February 1,**
Opening Day Ceremonies
12:00 p.m., Theatre

February 1, 8, 15, & 22,
Afro-American Book Club
"Enough" by Juan Williams
6:00 p.m., College Center

February 2, 9, & 23,
Afro-American Film Festival
6:00 p.m., College Center

Tuesday, February 6,
Dallas Black Dance Theatre
7:00 p.m., Tower Theatre
\$18 VIP, \$13 general,
\$10 w/student id

Friday, February 9,
3 on 3 Basketball Tournament
10:00 a.m., Gym

Wednesday, February 14,
Rites of Passage
9 a.m., Staff Dining Room &
Student Lounge
- Thursday, February 15,**
Dr. Malik Simba - "Slavery,
Jim Crow & Reparations"
12:00 noon, Student Lounge

Tuesday, February 20,
Dr. Manu Ampim
"King Tut"
12:00 noon, College Center

Wednesday, February 21,
Reggae Celebration
10:00 a.m., Free Speech Area

Wednesday, February 21,
Club Rush
10:00 a.m., Fountain Area

Thursday, February 22,
Spoken Word - Poetry &
More
12:00 noon, Student Lounge

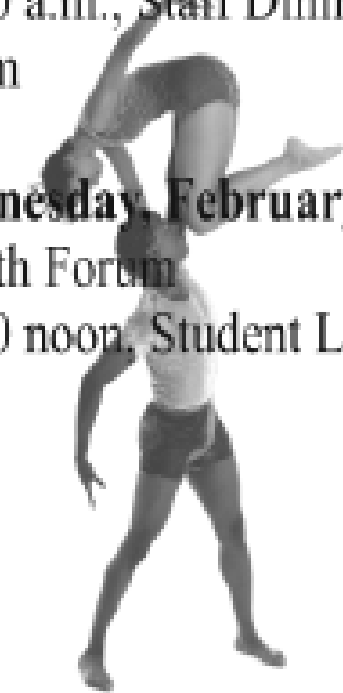
Thursday, February 22,
Spoken Word - Poetry &
More
12:00 noon, Student Lounge
- Friday, February 23,**
9-Ball Tournament
10:00 a.m., Game Room

Saturday, February 24,
Fashion Showcase
6:00 p.m., Cafeteria

Sunday, February 25,
College Gospel Celebration
6:00 p.m., St. Rest
Missionary Baptist Church
(1550 E. Florence)
Free Admission

Monday, February 26,
Family Forum
10:00 a.m., Staff Dining
Room

Wednesday, February 28,
Health Forum
12:00 noon, Student Lounge



For more information call
the College Activities Office
at (559) 265-5711



Fresno City College
Speakers Forum
presents

Amy Tan

Acclaimed Best-Selling Author of
The Joy Luck Club
Monday, February 12, 2007,
12:00 p.m., Fresno City College Gym
Free Admission

"This event is part of The Big Read, an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services and Arts Midwest."

Special thanks to the Friends of the Fresno County Public Library, Fresno County Free Library, the State Center Community College Foundation and the estate of JoNell Beal for making this event possible.

Hustle earns win against Reedley

by Joseph Rios
Sports Editor

Freshman Mike Marcial owned the court all night on route to the Rams 90-72 victory over Reedley College Jan 21.

On offense he controlled the flow, sending silent head nods and hand gestures to his fellow players. He led the team in assists (5).

On defense he disrupted plays during fast-breaks, swatted passes, and swiped balls. In one play early on in the first half, Marcial went to the ground in pursuit of a ball and slammed in the south-side bleachers.

He and Minor, both from Clovis High, displayed a tight-knit chemistry built during each game they played on the same side of the ball.

Jonathan Hewitt was unable to put up anything from the perimeter, but contributed in the paint. He drove in 16 points. In one play during the first half Marcial tacked up a steal and then immediately dropped it inside to Hewitt, who pumped then brought in two with a fade away from underneath the basket.

During the next possession, Hewitt drove in for another quick two by means of a graceful finger-roll.

But they weren't only ones hustling after the ball. In the first half, Coach Ed Madec alternated squads, digging deep into the

bench. He sent in wave after wave of fresh legs.

Each group of five never spent no more than a couple minutes in. And when they did come in, they swarmed to the ball with exercised ferocity.

In the first half alone they caused two ten-second violations and one five-second violation with their full-court press and an in your face zone-defense.

It seemed like each Ram was running on all cylinders.

They sacrificed their bodies left and right even in the face of bleachers,

speakers, fans, or a cement wall.

The Rams led at the half 57-31.

When the two teams came out for the second half, the ferocity that fans saw in the Rams calmed to simple enthusiasm.

"We haven't been able to put together 40 minutes of solid play," said Madec. "It's a case of mental inconsistency."

Slowly, Reedley was able to cut the once 26-point lead down to 16. Though FCC never got in any real trouble, a better team might have capitalized on their laxness.

"We did some good things. But there were just too many breakdowns. If we don't improve in these areas," said Madec. "It's gonna be a rough end of the season."

The Tigers were visibly frustrated with their inability to put together an effective offense.

Brian Burton earned a technical foul in the second half for taking a swing at Philip Matchum in response to his steal on defense.

"They're too good to get down on and they took off to an early start."

Reedley Coach Brian Fonseca

While still down in double digits, Clifford Hodge from the Tigers let out a roar after swatting a ball out of the air. It was a small victory, seeing as he and his team lost the war. Hodge grabbed three blocks against the Rams.

"They're just competing," said Reedley head coach Brian Fonseca. "They're a good team, the Rams. They're too good to get down on and they took off to an early start."

Minor (4), Marcial (2), Matchum (3), Daniel Valdez (1), and Sultan Toles-Bey (1), combined for 11 three pointers on the night.



Karya Edwards goes up for a board in the Rams at-home matchup against Modesto Junior College Jan 3. Fresno City slipped by with a win in overtime 91-89. Edwards scored three points against Reedley College. Photo by Robin Valiente

Wrestlers pin down seventh state title

by Joseph Rios
Sports Editor

Not enough can be said about the Fresno City Wrestling team after their performance this season.

Words like excellent, stellar, and superb only reveal the tip of the ice berg that exemplifies their, well, perfect season.

Every dual and every tournament they walked into from the start of the season at home Sept 2 to the State Championship Dec 9, the Rams came out with a win.

All in all, the team racked up 10 tournament wins - school record.

Alfonso Sanchez broke the record for individual tournament title wins, once held by Dustin Riley(8), by earning 10 titles.

First year head coach Paul Keysaw said, "I am very fortunate to come into this program. I wish I could take credit for it all, but I can't. I had great assistant coaches and the team really bought into my work ethic and philosophy."

Keysaw's program is based on being over-prepared and matching opportunity with that same preparedness.

"FCC wrestling is the hardest working team on campus and in the state of California. No doubt about it," said Keysaw.

Along the records men-

tioned, the Rams matched the school record for wrestlers placed in the top eight. The Rams placed 10 in the state finals, matching the 2001 Fresno City College wrestling team's record.

season.

Addressing whether he knew he had something special, Keysaw said, "Yes and no. We knew we were talented. But we didn't know how good we were until we realized

as he knocked on wood. "And we were able to peak at the right times. The Rams got a little help thanks to Fresno State. Before the beginning of this season, Fresno State announced that it was go-

ing to cut wrestling from its list of athletic programs in favor of cross-country to help balance its budget.

of what happened over at Fresno State. It makes me proud to be a part of the program."

Jewel Jackson, a signer from the booted bulldog team, double enrolled in Fresno State and at Fresno City so he could wrestle for the Rams. Same goes the story for former high school state champion Shaun Ceremello from Clovis.

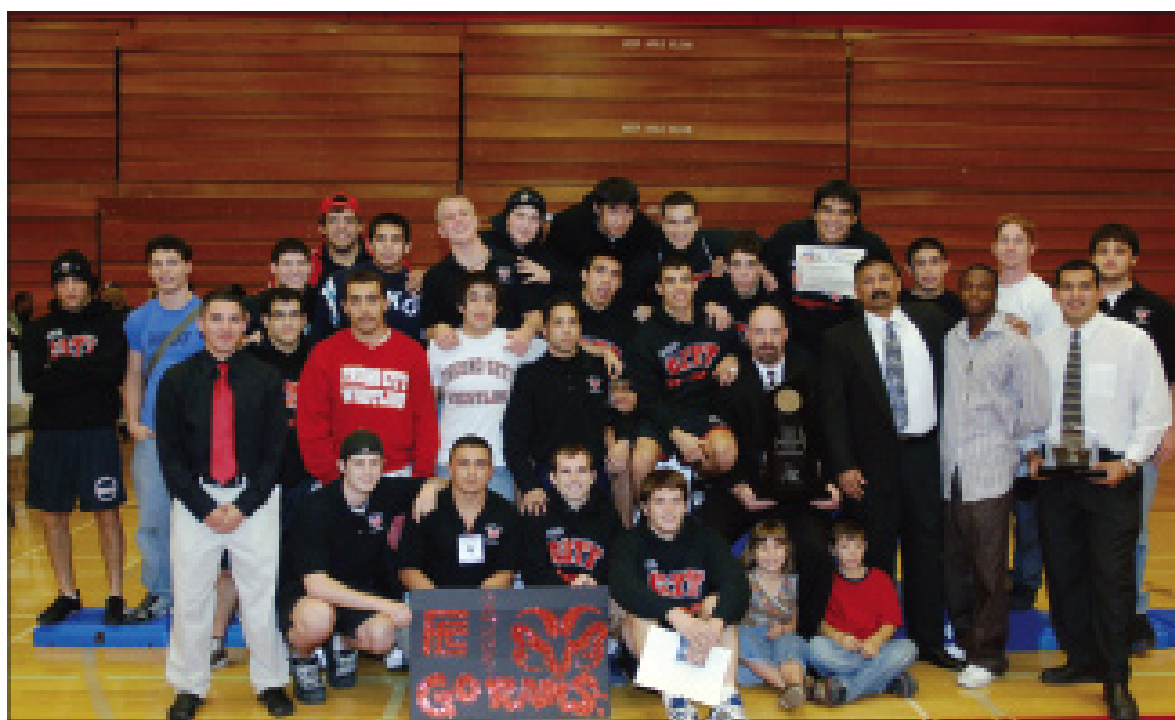
He signed to wrestle for Cal-State Fullerton then intended to come home to wrestle for the Bulldogs, only to find out mid-summer that he wouldn't see the mat.

Ceremello placed third at this year's state finals for the Rams.

Why were they so successful? It would be easy to point to the startup coach who whipped the team to shape, or the consistent stud in Sanchez, or the two stay Bulldogs who found a home at Fresno City. But they even they weren't the reason why FCC was so successful.

"At the end of the season we had 25 guys in the wrestling room, and 25 were all a part of our success and our state championship," said Keysaw.

"It begins and ends in the wrestling room. These kids were hungry to win and hungry to be successful."



The entire Fresno City wrestling team and staff pose after winning the state title. Photo by James Brummer

Coach Keysaw has been coaching junior college wrestling for 11 years and this was his first undefeated experience.

But their eventual success wasn't obvious, at least in Keysaw's eyes, at the start of the

we were undefeated."

In the beginning of the season, Keysaw leaned heavily on his backups - who came through time and time again.

"We were able to stay away from the injury bug," said Keysaw

ing to cut wrestling from its list of athletic programs in favor of cross-country to help balance its budget.

"I have to give it up for FCC," said Keysaw. "They have been very supportive of our wrestling program, especially in light