



# Ram<sup>page</sup>

Fresno City College

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Since 1949

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## Fresno City College Remembers The Greatest Generation

By Jeannie Batey  
Rampage Reporter

Fresno City College honored "The Greatest Generation" during a Veteran's Day celebration on Nov. 7. The ceremony, held at the Veteran's Peace Memorial, concentrated on veterans who served in World War II during the wars in the Pacific and in Europe.

The event remembered the raising of the flag in Iwo Jima, the pummeling of Pearl Harbor by Japanese planes and the victorious campaign of U.S. forces in the battle of the Coral Sea. It recalled the battle of the Bulge, the Italian Campaign, and the Final Offensive against Germany.

Robert E. Fox, Dean of Student Services, warned those gathered that they would be lis-

tening to the sounds of propellers from the Black Hawk helicopter that flew overhead.

Fox said, "We dedicate this fly-over to the brave men and women currently serving in times of war...and those who answered our nation's call to arms in the past and stood on the ramparts of freedom in times of war and peace."

Fox continued, "Today we pay special tribute to those great Americans who were raised during the great depression, fought in World War II, worked on the farms and in the factories, and sacrificed for the war effort while maintaining the home front."

FCC's interim president, Dr. Guy Lease, spoke about one California hero, Pat Bowman, who was raised in Los Angeles during the depression and was an 18- year- old freshman at UCLA

when WWII broke out. Bowman volunteered to join the fight and became a pilot in the Army Air Corp.

After his training, Lease continued, "Bowman served in the Pacific where he met a young nurse from Pennsylvania whom he eventually married. Upon completion of his tour in New Guinea, he was reassigned to be a pilot trainer in the U.S., and he later joined a bomber squadron in England."

"He flew many missions in the last year of the war over Germany and many of the other countries that were conquered by the Nazis earlier in the war."

Lease said, "In two of the three squadrons, he was the lone surviving pilot."

Lease told those gathered that the California hero was in fact his own father-in-law.

Later, Retired Lieutenant

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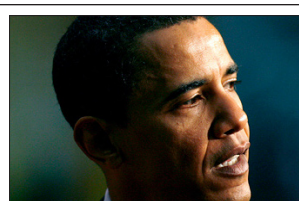
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Continued: Veterans honored at FCC



the missiles [in Desert Storm] were shot from a submarine 200 miles away.”

Van Vracken added, “We brought it here to show people, and make them aware of submarine sailors.”

The ceremony continued with a performance by FCC’s New Wrinkles called the “Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy,” which was followed by a Hula Performance by the Polynesian Club of Fresno.

The tribute to the “Greatest Generation” concluded with a Rifle Salute.

FCC student Petrina Daw, a cadet sergeant majoring in psychology said, “I think it’s amazing; It’s an honor and a privilege to be able to work with our veterans, and it’s an honor to be around people who have been there, done that, and fought the great wars.”

Rockers said, “Over 90% of

Veteran salutes during celebration

Photo by Ramiro Gudino

Colonel Bob Small led the invocation, followed by the raising of the colors. California Heartland Chorus performed the Star Spangled Banner. Then came an armed-forces salute.

Arthur Hill and Fredric Earnest Von Ruden were honored with the Citizen Soldier Award for their service in the Army and Navy.

The event respectively featured a display of a submarine model.

“It’s the latest class of the United States submarines...The fast attack,” said Navy Sailor Jim VanVranken.

Van Vranken and fellow Navy officer Rocky Rokers joked that they represent the highest class in the navy, “We are submarine sailors.”

The displayed submarine is a model-sized version of the sub that shot the Tomahawk missiles during Operation Dessert Storm.

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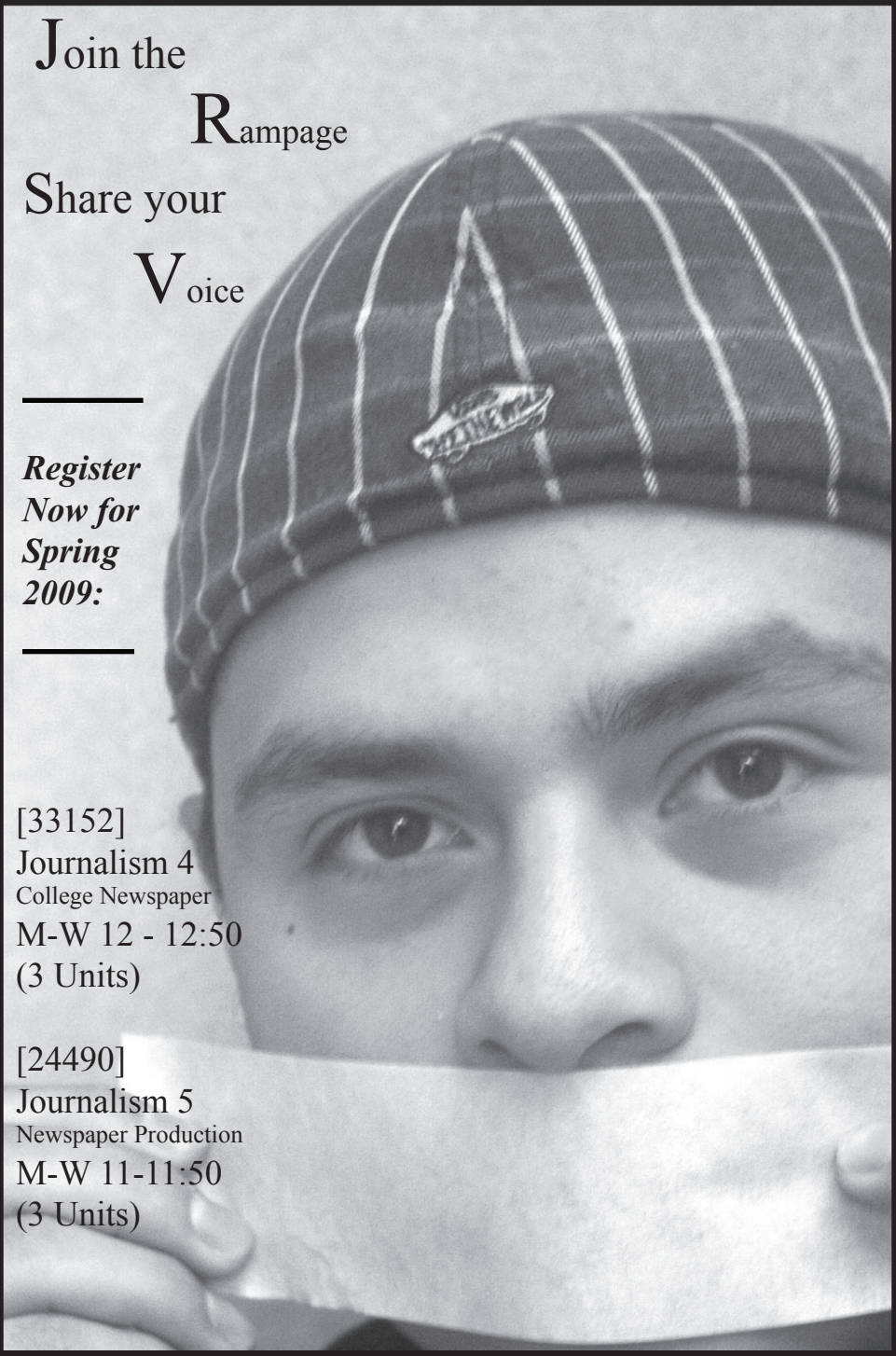
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M-W 12 - 12:50  
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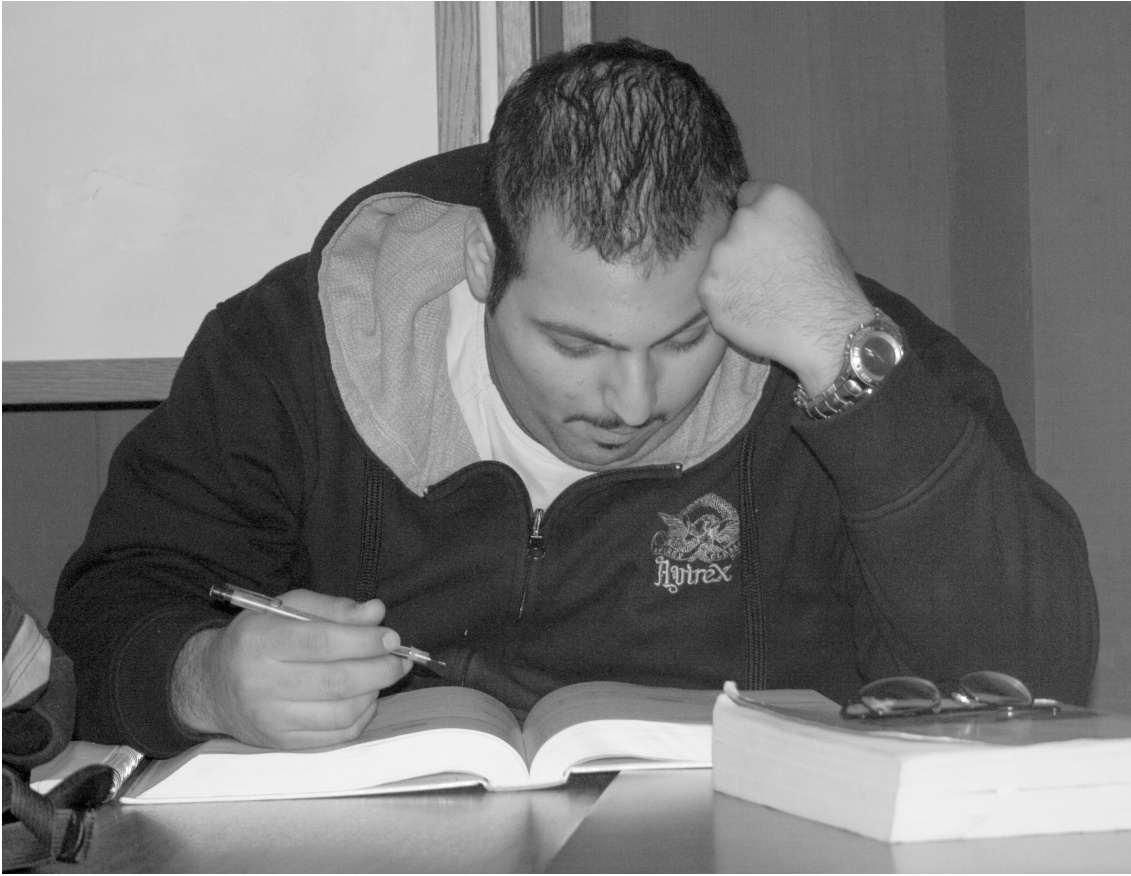
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# Finishing strong



James Yovnan at the Tutoring center.

Photos by Ramiro Gudino

By Jeannie Batey  
Rampage Reporter

The last day to drop passed long ago, there is no way for a Fresno City College student to get out of a class without damaging their record. How does a student succeed now that the semester is in its final stretch?

FCC computer concepts student, Robert Stevenson, said, “I’m going to keep going to class, keep going early, and turn in all my work.”

He said that balancing his classes and finding work is hard, and now that the drop date has passed he will not give up on the classes he chose.

“I have a whole bunch of work to do; I have to find a job and keep good grades; I don’t have a lot of time, so the tutorial center comes in handy,” said Stevenson.

The tutorial center is a way for students to retake their tests, finish missed assignments, and basically understand information that their teachers are giving them.

Another student, Brittany Clement, is in her first year, fresh out of high school. Clement said that the tutorial center helps her, “Unwind all the information” her teachers throw at her.

The school has been going through a few academic changes. Title V is quickly coming into effect, allowing a student to be able to petition to withdraw from a class but only with strictly documented proof of an extenuating circumstance. Also, other requirements under review are: new students will be required to take Math 103 and English 1A in order to graduate.

But according to the Admissions and Records Manager, Doris Griffin, “If you are a continuing student, as long as you don’t leave... and come back, that would not apply to you.”

Griffin said that FCC has a couple of things they are trying to do for students in order for them to never fail a class more times than they are allowed.

“We’ll require first year students to see a counselor before the final attempt, not after...so that way, they can thoroughly discuss it with a counselor and make sure that they realize what

all the consequences are, should they not be successful in the class again... we are trying to make sure students see counselors before they take it for the last time possible.”

One of FCC’s mathematics instructors, Rosemarie Bezerra Nader said, “The students really need to be sure to put themselves in a class they are ready for. It’s very beneficial.”

Nader also said, “They need to stay in and they need to pass, and they can do that by making use of resources, such as office hours and the tutorial center.”

According to the State Center Community College District Department of Institutional Research’s website, a total of 22,415 students registered but successful completion rates ranged from 50.87% for African Americans to 71.31% for white / non-Hispanic group.

Griffin said, “I think it’s really important if students want to succeed that they be really aware of what is in the college catalogue and know what the requirements are and they meet with a counselor to go over their plan for success.”



FCC student, April Hallford gets help from Beradine Rutmug, a Psychology tutor.

# Students confront Fs

By Mark Smith

Rampage Reporter

Due to a recent change in Title V, Fresno City College students could be facing some academic changes. The State Center Community College District’s rule on withdrawals was revised over summer to limit the number of times a student can retake a class.

The number of withdrawals, or W’s, allowed for any one class now stands at four. What this means is that if a student drops a class by the drop date and receives a W, he / she can attempt the class two more times. If a W is received both those times, then the student must complete a repeat petition for counseling intervention to attempt their final time. The counselor will inform the student of the possible outcomes or consequences should the student take the class a fourth time. If the student receives a W that fourth time, he / she is prohibited from taking that class any more.

There can be exceptions. Substandard grades, classified as either a D or F, deliver an automatic two attempts for retake. A student who receives a D or an F at any time, regardless of how many W’s they have received in the class, get two tries to pass it. If the student fails to pass with an acceptable grade after two tries, he / she is not allowed to take the class again.

Doris Griffin, admissions and records manager at FCC said,

“If a student has three Ws but didn’t get a substandard grade, he / she still get two more retakes even if it puts them over the four W count because no matter what, if they get a substandard grade, they get two retakes.”


Also, military withdrawals and extenuating circumstances do not count in a student’s overall W count. Military withdrawals must be documented in order to be approved. For extenuating circumstances, a student must submit a petition to the Academic Standards Committee in order to be approved for withdrawal or to retake a class.

According to the FCC website, extenuating circumstances are defined as “documented cases of accidents, illness, death in the immediate family, military duty, jury duty, family displacement, job displacement, instructor error and/or other circumstances which are justifiable in the judgment of the college president or his designee”.

“[The circumstance] has to be documented, and it really has to be beyond the student’s control. Having a hardship in a relationship with a boyfriend or girlfriend might be a hardship to the student, but it’s really not an extenuating circumstance,” said Griffin.

He continued, “Needing a class is not an extenuating circumstance, unfortunately.”

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*Michelle Oquendo*

Michelle Oquendo, DeVry University '08  
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# Pregnant with Doubt

By Melissa Ramirez  
Rampage Reporter

Imagine this: high school has ended and Jane Smith goes off to college ready to start her new life. She plans on taking fifteen units, more than enough to be considered a full time student. Then it hits her, the strain of juggling all those classes, doing all that homework, and raising a child becomes unbearable.

Though some girls undertake the hardships of being a student and mother, most just cannot handle the pressure and simply drop out. According to the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, 48 percent of community college students have either been pregnant or gotten someone pregnant. Of those, more than 20% drop out of school.

There are many reasons a teen becomes pregnant. In an article written in 2004, researchers from RAND Health concluded, “Exposure to sex on television may influence teen pregnancy by creating the perception that there is little risk to engaging in sex without using contraceptives and accelerating the initiation of sexual intercourse.”

Why is it that sex in media is shown through perfect eyes? Only 38.5 minutes per week is spent on meaningful conversations between a parent and their teen, according to American Family Research Council, “Parents Fight ‘Time Famine’ as Economic Pressures Increase,” 1990. So where does the other time go? About seven hours daily in a teen’s life is spent watching TV, concludes another study by BJK&E Media report, The New York Times, December 30, 1997.

Experts say that media producers withhold information from the youth about a more realistic look at teen sex. So where can teens learn more if not from their elders or TV? There are many organizations that inform teens of the risks of pregnancy and there are equally as many who can help an already pregnant teen.

“I dropped out of my first year of college because I needed to work two jobs to save up for when the baby was born,” said an FCC student who chose to remain unidentified. “After a couple of years I decided to come back to finish my education.”

Though the student finished her education, she felt that the problem could be overwhelming. So why would someone drop out? “Most pregnant girls drop out either because lack of support or lack of resources,” said Maddy Surface, coordinator of FCC’s Child Care Access Means Parents in School, (CCAMPIS).

CCAMPIS provides free childcare for full time students, and gives free access to the Child Development Center on campus for children between the ages of two to five. They also provide \$26 per day for being a licensed kinship provider who’s attending school or working and have a child younger than two years of age.

Surface also stated that not many girls realize the programs that can help them or are aware of programs that encourage women to continue college even while raising a child. A great example of such program would be Teen Success, an organization from Planned Parenthood located on Van Ness Ave. and directed by Heather Meyers.

“We motivate teen mothers to finish school and teach them how to juggle both parenting and being a student. We also help them with any internal issues they might have, maybe guilt over the fact that they feel they’re spending more time with school and not enough on their child,” said Meyers.

Another form of support that Planned Parenthood provides is the Morgan Scholarship, which is open to all graduates from the Teen Success program. All that is required is a short essay



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discussing the prompt given. The scholarship gives \$2,000 for the student’s first year at a four-year college, \$1,000 for the student’s first year at a Community College, and \$500 for a year at a Trade School. If the applicant is successful during her first year, then the scholarship will be extended through the second year as well.

Located in Downtown Fresno is yet another form of support for pregnant teens as well as all students. Kayla Wilson is the School Readiness coordinator of Fresno County Office of Education (FCOE). The program provides parenting support, individual encouragement, and classes teaching better parenting skills. Having been a teen parent herself, with three kids before reaching age 22, Wilson knows the hardships one must face while trying to receive an education and raise a child. “It seems so overwhelming and there are very stressful times, but education is a lifetime gift not only for yourself, but for your family as well,” Wilson stated.

There are also some consequences for a teen mother who doesn’t finish her education. Director of Teen Success,

Heather Meyers, said that the girls in her class felt left out socially and felt unsure about their future.

CCAMPIS coordinator, Maddy Surface added, “I noticed my students talk about their quality of life staying the same. With lack of support and no planning, they stay with the same job and have fewer opportunities to move up.”

Affirmed by pregnantteenhelp.org, billions of dollars are spent on teen mothers and their children. As much as 80% of unwed teen mothers end up on welfare according to pregnancy-info.net

“There are so many programs that are willing to help. Look for academic support, talk to someone before deciding whether or not you want to drop out,” stated education director of Planned Parenthood Alan Gilmore. “Maybe it’s better to take fewer classes in the beginning so it won’t be so stressful. There’s nothing wrong with delaying a dream or goal as long as you do what is best for you.”



# Shake to the Rumba

FCC’s Rumba Club keeps Latin traditions alive through dance

By Tim Limbrick

Rampage Reporter

Salsa dancing and adaptations of it, such as the Mambo and the Rumba, was the craze in Latin America during the 1960s, and the spirit still lives on today here at Fresno City College.

The Rumba Club is fairly new to FCC. It started roughly two to three weeks into the semester, but grounding for the club started about a month before the fall semester.

The group is fairly small, but it has a lot of support from the Salsa community in Fresno. President and founder, Alex Ortiz has worked diligently to make things possible for something so precious as this.

He made preparations during the summer by first finding not one advisor, but two. Stephen Grover, a mathematics instructor at FCC, and Nereyda Maroot, a Spanish instructor, share the title of advisor for this club.

The purpose of this club is to conserve the art of Latin American dancing by teaching it. They also try to inform their members

on the history of Latin American dance and its importance. They cater to both recreational and serious participants.

“Rumba is open to everyone!” Ortiz said.

As opposed to other dance related clubs like Folklorico, Rumba is more contemporary because the rules and guidelines are from the streets and nothing is set in stone.

Rumba Club isn’t focusing on competing as of now, but Ortiz said that eventually he hopes to assemble a team of six to seven dedicated couples who will take extra time to practice dancing.

Practice meetings go as follows: members begin by slowly learning simple steps first. After that, they add a series of simple steps together, while also gradually speeding up the tempo. The group then branches out into pairs of guys and gals, who proceed to put the previously learned steps to good use.

Switching partners from time to time, more complicated



Students Salsa dance at FCC’s Rumba Club

Photo by Tim Limbrick

steps are slowly added to the number until perfection is reached. When actual practice for the club is over, the practice gym is open for anyone to come and strut their stuff. This also gives club members an opportunity to get some practice time.

For students interested in knowing more, Rumba Club meets every Thursday in the practice gym from 7:00p.m. - 9:30p.m.

And in addition to club meetings, on November 19th there will be an information booth out by the fountain for Club Rush.

## Candidates to appear in public forum



FCC’s presidential candidates will participate in a public forum to be held on Thursday, November 13, from 2 - 6 p.m. The forum will be held in the Health Science Building Forum Hall, Room 150.

- |             |                          |
|-------------|--------------------------|
| 2:00 - 2:50 | Dr. Kay Adkins           |
| 3:05 - 3:55 | Dr. Cynthia Azari        |
| 4:10 - 5:00 | Dr. Lori Gaskin          |
| 5:15 - 6:05 | Dr. Tina Ludutsky-Taylor |

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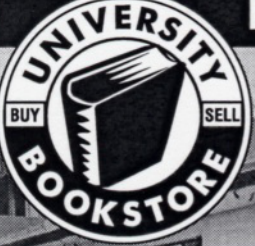
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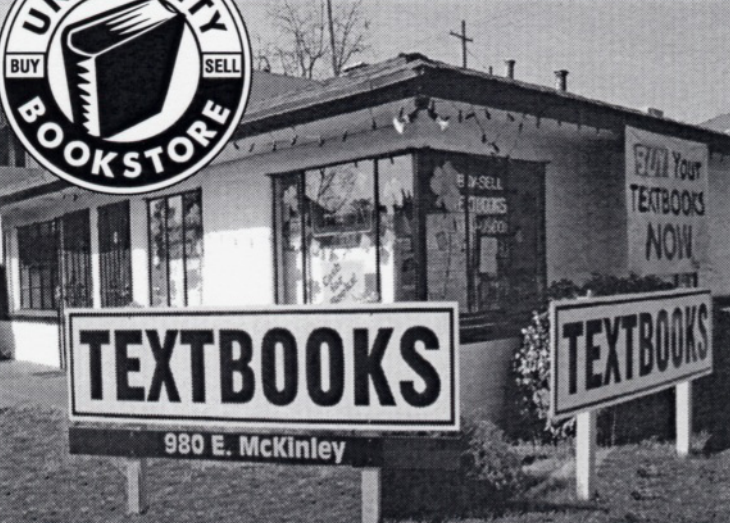
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## “Milk” Offers More Than Big Names

By John Esquivel

Rampage Reporter

Every generation has its underdog hero. For every decade, there is someone whose change is undermined by what’s going on in mainstream culture. For one particular decade, that hero may have been Harvey Milk. While not entirely overlooked, his works and impact are not seen as a transformation for the traditionally homosexual lifestyle. Writer Dustin Lance Black and director Gus Van Sant set out to tell the story of this gone (but not forgotten) hero.

The film stars Sean Penn as Harvey Milk along with James Franco and Josh Brolin, as politicians and activists. The film follows Harvey Milk as he becomes determined to become a voice for the homosexual community in San Francisco. As he became involved with politics, his drive sent him to bigger places. In 1978, Proposition 6 was on the ballot for Californians to vote for banning or keeping gay teachers from school districts.

Harvey Milk, a simple San Franciscan supervisor for the Castro District, acted as the unofficial spokesman for the “No on Prop 6” campaign. Once the votes are counted, many are surprised that the Proposition did not pass considering that similar bills passed in Kansas and Florida.

Milk became a local favorite because he solved problems that other supervisors weren’t able to solve. For example, many people in the city felt that dog waste was becoming a problem. Milk was able to pass measures solving this problem and invited the press to a local park to talk about his accomplishments. Before he arrived at the park, he had a friend leave waste on the ground. During the conference, he purposefully stepped on the waste, making a great photograph opportunity for the press.

The film also covers Milk’s interesting lifestyle as a homosexual and a politician. When he was elected into office, his whole district the Castro District attracted many citizens. The news coverage of the event made it look like a party. He even attracted attention for his campaign tactics, which were very untraditional. He received many death threats for speaking out about his sexuality, but he still showed up to numerous rallies and parades knowing the potential consequences.

The film also follows the events that lead up to his tragic death. Throughout the film, Harvey Milk clashes with supervisor Dan White (Josh Brolin), a representative of an Irish Catholic community. White eventually leaves his position, claiming that the pay was not enough to support his family. White eventually realizes that he has made a mistake, and pleads to the mayor to let him have his job back. He eventually heard speculation that someone else would be taking his job and on November 27, 1978, Dan White killed both Mayor Mascone and Harvey Milk inside the San Francisco city hall.

There is also quite a bit of buzz around Emile Hirsch’s role in the film. Hirsch gained notable success in his break out lead role in the film *Into The Wild*. This is Hirsch’s second time working with Sean Penn, who directed *Into The Wild*. Hirsch said that the experience was a bit odd at first. “It’s sorta like being asked to play a basketball game with your coach,” said Hirsch.

The crew of this film went to

great lengths to make this interpretation as accurate as possible. They contacted some of the actual people involved in the events and, with the cooperation of the city, filmed the entire movie on location. The entire Castro District was set up in order to look as it did in the 1970’s. Even the Castro Camera Shop, which was owned by Milk and was his political headquarters during his campaign, was transformed with the help of its current shop owners.

Emile Hirsch, who portrays activist/campaign supporter Cleve Jones, said that befriending the real Jones gave him a whole new light on the subject. He claimed that one of the most emotional moments during filming was having the real Jones drive him around San Francisco. While driving, Jones told many stories that happened on the numerous city blocks and told about all the lives that were lost during the AIDS epidemic.

For many of the actors, age and education was a huge factor in finding their roles. Franco expressed how surprised he was when he discovered how little he knew about Harvey Milk, considering that he had grown up in the Bay area. Black, the writer of the film, was born a year after the assassination of Harvey Milk. He states that he learned about Milk from a director he was apprenticing under. He was very shocked to hear of a man who was so direct with his sexuality.

The actors showed courage and dedication to these roles, but Sean Penn gave the stand out performance of this movie. Penn displayed such an amazing amount of charisma and eccentricity that one would not doubt that he truly got into character. However, to the defense of other actors, it was a challenge to recreate roles for people that had already passed on. Franco claims that there is very little footage of his character, Harvey Milk’s lover Scott Smith. He had to rely on audio footage that was never put into a documentary based on Milk.

This movie plays a significant role today considering Proposition 8 just passed.

The cast described the scene they saw when they showed up to the world premiere of the film. In addition to the fans and supporters at the Castro Theatre, there were also crowds of Proposition 8 protestors expressing their discontent with the film. Suddenly, they realized the film was more than entertainment or a history lesson, but rather an example of how history can repeat itself. The film coincidentally is an example of the courage of the past and how there is still a struggle for human rights today.

There is no surprise ending or twist to this movie. This is a retelling of one of San Francisco’s most defining moments. The filmmakers chose to leave out the riots and the trials that followed the death of these two politicians.

The film instead ends with a vigil that attracted between 25,000 and 40,000 mourners. The sudden ending of the film embraces Milk’s impact rather than overshadow it with the just as newsworthy events that followed from White Night Riots and the infamous “Twinkie Defense.”

The heavy subject matter and closure of the film will not leave moviegoers disappointed. The special attention to accuracy helps create the feeling that one is watching the actual events rather than a retelling of Milk’s life. This is more than just the latest movie from your favorite actors/actresses. The film tells a story of faith, activism, death, and legacy.



All photos courtesy of Focus Features

*From Top to Bottom: Top: Harvey Milk (Sean Penn) celebrating with Mayor Martin Moscone (Victor Garber). Dan White (Josh Brolin) campaigning with his wife. Milk celebrating victory on Proposition 6. Scott Smith (James Franco) confronts Milk. Bottom: Jack Lira (Diego Luna) celebrates at a Milk event.*



# Zack and Miri Make Hilarity



Zack and Miri look for potential candidates for their porn film

by **Brendon Mustaciola**  
Rampage Reporter

Kevin Smith’s (Clerks, Dogma) latest writer/directorial effort, Zack and Miri Make A Porno, is a deceptively sweet tale about a raunchy subject: amateur pornography. Lifelong losers/platonic friends Zack (Seth Rogen of Pineapple Express) and Miri (Elizabeth Banks of W.) fall into hard financial problems; their water and electricity are shut off, their rent is months overdue, and their jobs are taking them nowhere.

After a disappointing ten-year high school reunion they come to the drunken conclusion that their cash flow problem elixir may come in the form of a self

highly original story. The film is a joke-a-minute farce with warmth to melt any underdogs heart. The soundtrack is filled with early to mid 90’s grunge reminiscent of Smith’s earlier efforts including Mallrats and Clerks.

The cast is a pure delight to any hard-core fan of film; Jeff Anderson (Randall in the Clerks movies) as the “cinematographer”, Jason Mewes (the Jay to Smith’s Silent Bob) as the mostly naked male porn lead Lester Molester, Craig Robinson (of The Office) as the producer, Justin Long (Dodgeball) as a star of “all male films” and Superman himself,

certainly exaggerations, they are not caricatures of lame stereotypes. Smith’s script crafts characters that relate to the underdog in all of us, from the Plain-Jane high school girl to the recovering heroin addict.

The story is not just about pornography and anyone who says such is only viewing the film on its most basic level.

The film is not just about titillation; it’s about the process of being a filmmaker and trying to connect with an audience while still maintaining originality. What is so absorbing about the story is that it presents the American staple of a gang of underdogs banding together to accomplish the impossible.

Each character is realistically flawed yet maintains the gusto needed to succeed despite having the world against them.

Filled with a cast of cult icons (Tom Savini, The Jason Mewes, Jim Norton just to name a few), porn legends (or so I’m told), and a plethora of fluid-related jokes, this film is definitely not aimed for more conservative crowd, but for the averagely liberal young or young at heart.

“Zack and Miri Make A Porno”  
Written and Directed by : Kevin Smith  
Rated: R (for crude sexual content)  
Running Time: 101 mins.

*“For fans of Smith, this film will not disappoint. It has all the staples of our favorite Smith films.”*


produced adult film, however, once they record button is hit, they find they may not just be friends but “friendlier”.


For fans of Smith, this film will not disappoint. It has all the staples of our favorite Smith films; realistically vulgar dialogue, schlubby yet quirky heroes, and a

Brandon Routh, as his lover, with, of course, Smith’s wife Jennifer in a small cameo.

What separates this film from other gross-out-sex-comedies is the true pathos felt for the characters.

While the characters are

  
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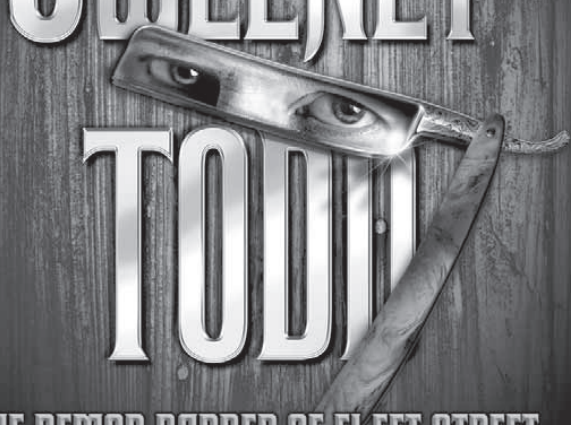
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Players go on a great journey to prevent Lucien from rebuilding the Tattered Spire

Photo courtesy of Lionhead Studios

# This “Fable” beats predecessor

by Brandon Alexander  
Rampage Reporter

In the world of RPG’s, length, complexity, and drama are key ingredients to success. Gamers want to feel immersed in the world that the software developers create for them.

“Fable 2”, unlike its predecessor, has all of the above in good measure.

The first “Fable” was an epic let-down, and although the game hit shelves with low expectations, “Fable 2” is definitely everything its predecessor claimed to be and more.

The game takes place in Albion, an undisclosed amount of time after the first. You start off as a child named Sparrow in the slums of the main city of Albion, Bowerstone.

Immediately you begin making choices that shape the world around you in irrevocable ways. Each decision you make has consequences and you will definitely see them.

Your guide throughout the game is the blind but deadly Theresa, who is the little sister of Fable’s protagonist.

This however doesn’t explain how the original Guild of Heroes, which burned down at the end of the first “Fable”, has long since been forgotten. Either Theresa is very old and is still beautiful, or the people of Albion have very short attention spans.

With your big sister having been killed by Lord Lucien, Bowerstone’s ruler, you set off on your journey of revenge (or justice) after having been rescued by Theresa.

“Fable 2” also boasts the franchises trademark good and evil system, allowing your character to become a dreaded warmonger who resembles the devil himself or Albion’s noble hero.

“Fable 2” is much more than a game with a storyline though. There’s plenty to do all around Albion.

You can take up jobs. Any self-respecting hero has a day job right? You get

paid based on the quality of the work you do and depending on how well renowned your work is, people will definitely let you know about it, maybe even make romantic advances. What’s more attractive than a blacksmith?

Speaking of romance, your hero’s

can even become pregnant, although any hero may have children. It’s also possible to cheat, be polygamous, or even get divorced, so keep that spouse happy!

The parallels with real life never end! You can be ugly or attractive, short or tall, muscular or scrawny, fat or skinny.

*“The first “Fable” was an epic letdown and although the game hit shelves with low expectations. “Fable 2” is definitely everything its predecessor claims to be and more”*

love life is a feature too. You can fall in love, get married, buy a home, and have sex.

If your hero’s gender permits you

It is all up to you and the decisions you make throughout the game.

As if the high level of complexity

and great game play weren’t enough, the world of “Fable 2” is visually stunning. The environments are vibrant and detailed.

There are beautiful landscapes, ominous caves, mysterious ruins and terrifying dark forests. And with Albion having grown to ten times its original size since “Fable”, there is much to see.

Peter Molyneux and Lionhead studios have definitely fulfilled their promise and created a truly massive and complex world in which you can truly become whatever you want.

There are many choices to be made and many adventures to be had. The world of Albion awaits you.



Photo courtesy of Lionhead Studios



# Does the Country Promise Change in Peace Have Reason Yes We Can Retribution to REVOLUTION REDISTRIBUTION Prejudice Hate Crisis Fear Terror Grassroots Hope? Safety Security Solidarity believe



Zimbio

## We've Come Along Way

by David DeLeon  
Rampage Reporter

Having experienced two Political Science classes here at FCC under the tutelage of Dr. Sabjit Johal, has inspired me to surf a wave of critical thinking that, more often than not, tend to picks apart the government and it's lack of structure to accommodate for change.

I've complained numerous times about the faults of the system of our government, time after time shooting my mouth off in a negative light about the Bush Administration ever since 9/11.

I was of voting age when Bush was going for his second term. And with very little comfort in the decisions his administration it made me feel as though my voice really did not matter in the democratic process, and with Arnold Schwarzenegger as the Governor of California, it further quelled my desire to vote.

What was worse, it quelled my desire to exercise my civic duties as a citizen of our country.

I had become so deterred with the direction and decisions made by the leadership within our country I did not believe my vote could change things.

Then came along a young Junior Senator from the state of Illinois, someone who had a multi ethnic background and a grounded view of what the country could do to improve our nation's socio-economic situation, as well as improve our race relations with the world outside our own.

As Obama was propelled to the presidential nominee spot, the hope that perhaps a change for the better would manage to break through the dark clouds that surrounded the Bush regime was beginning to resonate within the lips of many around me, including teachers and

loved ones.

All around me a message was sent through the media and the mouths of those watching the campaign trail carefully; the young voters of America simply have to get involved with this all too important election.

Further more, as a part of the Mexican American minority, I felt a similar message. The necessity for the minority vote was just as vital as the young adult vote. This would display a hope that voices of minorities could bring change.

As the campaign trail carried on, this message began to hold within me, perhaps it was time to get involved with the democratic process and finally participate in this election.

If there was ever a time to hope for an improvement from our country, now would it be it, with the prospect of a president who is all about change.

As a first time voter, as well as a full time student attending FCC, I'd like to talk about why I decided to put my figurative money where my mouth was and actually have the right to complain about whether my vote counted.

I received my absentee ballot a few weeks after registering to vote, I took the time to actually read up on the measures and politicians up for election. I carefully made my choices and dropped my ballot off on Election Day.

After watching Obama get elected, I felt a great sense of pride. I believe his victory spread across the land a great hope for the future; a future that may not enable a return to prosperity, but definitely a turn for the better.

## We've Got a Long Way To Go

By Brandon Alexander  
Rampage Reporter

There are many who look at our nation and the fact that we've elected a new president as a sign that America has finally lived up to its promise of the American dream. They see Obamas' win and they think that everything is going to get better because of the promises of a single elected official. I'm not so sure.

For one, our economy is the worst it's been since The Great Depression threw this country into chaos all those years ago. Stocks around the world are close to crashing as a result of our own stock market veering of course. As a result, investors and consumers alike are holding onto their money like they may never see any again.

This is, at least, partly true for some people. Jobs are being cut like weeds on the White House lawn, and the current president elect isn't the one who can do something about it.

Not to mention we still have two and a half months of Bush left to ride out.

Obama's not a legislator, he can't make laws. And while it seems our branches of government are largely controlled by the democrats, at least for the time being, that doesn't necessarily mean that things will run as many believe.

Congress, who does make laws, has done a phenomenal job of stimulating the economy haven't they? Our country's leadership is in dire need of change, and not the kind that looks nice on a t-shirt either, and needs to be completely revamped. One round of elections is not going to do it.

There's simply no way.

The only solution in sight, it seems, is to increase the deficit and put our country in more debt. Tax cuts will only decrease revenue and leave our country in worse shape than it already is. I mean lets face it, we're not going to stop spending any time soon, or at least no

the way we've been promised. I'm not saying Obama isn't going to keep some, if not all, of his promises but he's going to have much less money to do it with if he doesn't start getting the American people some sort of help.

And by the way, didn't our country just spend \$700 billion for no reason?

The economy and deficit are not the only reasons our country is heading in the wrong direction. The main reason would be the smug self-assurance that some of this country's citizens have had for decades. The same self-assurance that has led us to believe that so many of our problems have disappeared over night.

For instance, one problem that continues to be a hindrance is racism.

There is still to this day so much racism and hate in our country that people are very blind to. Even in California we believe that homosexual marriage is wrong, but we recently voted to spend millions of dollars to make animals more comfortable.

Our media still perpetuates stereotypes and participates in the symbolic annihilation of entire peoples, and then turns around and wonders why the rest of the world snickers behind our backs.

The high school drop out rate is still extremely high, our education system needs reform, our crime rates are unacceptable, gas still costs an arm and a leg, people are losing their homes left and right, and we're fighting two wars.

This is hardly the time to feel secure about anything in America. At the end of the day, while I'm happy to see Obama take the wheel from Bush and steer this country in a new direction, there are still many large problems that our country has yet to confront. I fear we may never confront them. For you see, our biggest problem is believing that we don't have any.



# A Healing Generation in the Making

## The impact of America's changing attitudes

by Marcell Dillworth  
Rampage Reporter

Many Americans are proud to be a part of what I consider the healing of the American wound. This wound, healed by the election of Barack Obama as President of the United States was inflicted by Slavery.

If Obama is successful, his presidency will elevate the image of black Americans to higher levels.

If his administration ends up like Jimmy Carter's, it will be the last time America will see a person of color in the White House in this century.

I also believe President elect Obama will put an end to the dominant belief in the black communities that America is so racist that the country will never give a black person the support they need.

In other words, "the white man should not be trusted."

I would like to believe that Obama's election finally means that all will be judged as individuals and by what they prove on a personal level.

Right now we are also judged by the images of our ethnic groups.

For example, immigrant workers from Latin America had an image of being content to work long, hard hours for low wages.

That image had a considerable

impact on the way Latin Americans were viewed.

President George W. Bush helped change the Latino image when he made the decision to reach out to Hispanics voters.

It was a common theme for the leaders of the conservative base to market the idea that they should reach out to Hispanic voters because many Hispanics had the same values.

While conservatives do not have a monopoly on family values, they were successful at changing the image of Latin Americans among their peers.

President elect Obama had to scale huge obstacles to change the image of African Americans. He may not change the fact the 70 to 80 percent of black American fourth graders are reading below the national average.

Nor, can he change black men's attitudes towards their families and persuade them to go back home to lead their households in positive ways.

Will Obama's election reduce crime rate in prominently black communities?

Here are things a Successful Obama presidency will accomplish.

A successful President Obama will open avenues for black Americans who seek

to be leaders of businesses such as fortune 500 companies or many other ventures they choose to pursue.

He will also put an end to an age-old debate by black scholars and intellectuals about whether white people would ever elect a black man, or woman, to the highest office.

Black people have harbored, and still do to a certain extent, the feeling that for a long time they had to do for themselves.

The feeling that they couldn't depend on anyone, especially white folks, to help in anything.

That argument goes back to the days when Marcus Garvey was a powerful influence on black America.

The core of Garvey's philosophy was to encourage his followers to go into business for themselves.

He believed that black people should have organizations of their own, and be self-reliant. Then they would not be at the mercy of white people.

Garvey asserted that "America is a White Man's Country."

"Why should I waste time in a place where I am outnumbered and where if I make a physical fight I will lose out and ultimately die?"

But Garvey's philosophy seems to ignore the role white Americans played to end slavery, segregation and racism.

It also ignores all the white people who died helping Harriot Tubman with the Underground Railroad.

It also ignores the Republican platform that Abraham Lincoln ran on that had four entries rejecting slavery.

Garvey's supporters seem to ignore the signing of the emancipation proclamation; they ignore the end of Jim Crow law.

They also seem to ignore the fact that many white people were beaten and some were killed during the civil rights marches of the 1960's.

The truth of the matter is that white people, more than any election since Carter became president, voted overwhelmingly for a democrat; they voted for Obama, a blackman.

Without a doubt, the image of America will change. While racism isn't dead, we are on the right track concerning that issue.

Despite all of this country's scars concerning slavery and racism, Americans have finally shown that anyone who aspires to be president can do so, regardless of race.



Photo by nytimes.com

# What To Do Now: The Iraq Problem

By: Patrick Willey  
Rampage Reporter

Joe Biden received a lot of heat when he stated Barack Obama would be tested by the world within his first six months as president.

"We are going to have an international crisis, a generated crisis to test the mettle of this guy," said Biden two weeks before Barack Obama was elected with over 52% of the popular vote.

It is impossible to know what Biden was alluding to, but it is obvious that his statement is foreshadowing Barack Obama's first major test as he enters the presidency.

Obama will inherit two wars. There is a dwindling conflict in Iraq, and an escalating conflict in Afghanistan.

It is difficult to deny that these two separate crises were not inflicted from the outside world, but from the inverted actions of a previous president.

What Biden was actually alluding

to, was a "generated" crisis. This means there will be an outside agitator.

Biden is correct. Obama will be tested by some unforeseen conflict. But before that happens, he will explore a long term solution to the Iraq/Afghanistan question.

Biden's comment made sense, but it doesn't matter. Obama is being tested; he is looking forward to real solutions to all of these questions.

His position on Iraq is directed toward a "responsible end".

The sustained withdrawal of troops, a responsible evacuation, followed by a rejuvenated focus on surveillance of Iraq's borders has been Barack Obama's premeditated solution to the war in Iraq since he began his campaign.

His position on Afghanistan pivots on his desire to add two battalions toward adding security, increasing awareness there, and attempting to reform the governing body there.

Afghanistan, not Iraq, will be Obama's first test. It will be the main front

of Obama's "war on terrorism". It is an inherited war.

The last time an American president inherited a war, Richard M. Nixon was elected to replace Lyndon B. Johnson in 1968.

He promised a secret plan to end the war in Vietnam. There was a lot of emphasis on that "secret plan".

Nixon expanded the war by invading Cambodia. The war in Vietnam went on until Gerald Ford entered office.

It is more than a test. Obama faces true world turmoil. The fact that the United States is mired in two ongoing conflicts further complicates things.

The state of the world will inevitably provide a number of unforeseen challenges for the Obama administration.

We can't really tell how many of these tests will come within six months, six days, or six years.

Afghanistan itself is tied to a number of strings.

Many of them are attached to Paki-

stan. Inevitably, there will be a decision that needs to be made that will directly impact our biggest ally in the war in Afghanistan.

Currently, Pakistan is in the middle of electing a new prime minister, democratically. It is also providing refuge for our worst enemies.

Whether Barack Obama can walk on eggshells may make all the difference in Afghanistan.

Whether the United States can be there for their president may have a direct effect on how he will affect foreign policy, and for how long.

"And he's going to need help . . . to stand with him. Because it's not going to be apparent initially; it's not going to be apparent that we're right," concluded Biden.

Biden was not reading tea leaves, he was making an estimated guess, and there have always been enough smart people in the white house to make those.

The real test isn't going to determine whether Obama is smart enough; it's going to answer whether he's right.



# CAMPUS VOICES



Do you think  
Obama's  
election will  
change race  
relations in  
America?

by Kristen Petros

Rampage Reporter

photos by Ramiro Gudino



"I think it will make it better, if he does well, people will respect other races, but if not, then it will get worse."

**Ashley Mireles**  
Paralegal



"It will change a lot; he's done a lot for civil rights already."

**Brannon Lee**  
Biology



"I think it's going to stir up a lot of old issues."

**Cara Houssiere**  
Child Development



"It's something African Americans can be proud of. It proves that there's no reason that anybody can't do anything in America."

**Emanuel Warner**  
Engineering



"I think really it's going to increase if anything... I honestly don't think he's going to last his full term..."

**Erika Figueroa**  
Nursing



"I haven't let it sink in that he won yet... I haven't really given it much thought."

**Karen Cornelison**  
Social Work



"I don't know that it will actually. It would be nice if it does."

**Kevin Jones**  
Anthropology



"I don't think it will."

**Tashia Bosworth**  
Photography





Susanna and Figaro played by Jasmine Swalef and David Vecchio

Photos by Ramiro Gudino

# Opera

## strikes a *high* note



Susanna played by Jasmine Swalef

By Ivette Lopez  
Rampage Reporter

The Fresno City College Opera workshop displayed their talents in their latest production *The Marriage of Figaro*. Directed by Melissa Wolfmann in the FCC theatre on November 7-9, the opera was presented to the public throughout the weekend.

Originally composed by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, and written by Pierre de Beaumarchais, this comic opera told the story of a young Figaro, played by David Vecchio, on his quest to wed the beautiful Susanna, played by Jasmine Swalef. The opera, originally controversial due to its hidden support of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century French Revolution and its characters crossing the hierarchy of classes in their quest for love, was a hit in its three day span at FCC. Being the sequel of *The Barber of Seville*, also by Beaumarchais, the opera followed the adventures of Figaro through a series of songs sung by the talented group in the workshop.

With its set filled with simple props such as single pieces of furniture, small veils, and even ribbons, the audience was able to focus more on the actors' breathtaking voices. Thanks to the musical talents of Jeran Brown, Avis Ambrose, Kathleen Whiting, Isabel Contreras, Derek Payne, Tony Imperatrice, Michelle Spina, Kirk Cruz, Chris Sharp, Amanda Braden, Timothy Bernardi, Sarah Escorcía Ordóñez, Mara Gabriellen, Kelly Krumbein, Susan McDonald, Alex Newton, Raisha Pacella, Pamela Parrot and Ronald Parrot, the three hour long opera captivated audiences in its four act duration.

Future shows organized by the FCC music department will take place throughout the months of November and December in the FCC theatre, recital hall, as well as in Roger Rocka's located in the Tower District. For dates and prices, contact the FCC Box Office at 442-8221 for more information.

# Twitter

By Brendon Mustaciola  
Rampage Reporter

How clever can one be in just 140 characters? This is the challenge posed by the newly popularized micro-blog site twitter.com. The micro-blog Twitter is a fast and effective way to keep fellow bloggers up to date on basic yet semi-personal information.

"It's simply an easy way to send updates to my friends. It's cheaper than sending out a bunch of text messages, since you just have to send one to Twitter and then Twitter sends it to everyone who is subscribed to me. Also, if I leave my cell at home and I have my laptop with me, I can use it to send texts to people from twitter.com," explained Fresno City College student, Julie Morrice.

The website professes, "Twitter is a service for friends, family and co-workers to communicate and stay connected through the exchange of quick, frequent answers to one simple question: What are you doing?"

Twitter works much like mass email, text messages, Facebook updates and Myspace posts. It pushes blogging to new limits by asking its users to sum up their information in 140 characters or less. This usually limits bloggers to use concise prose and simple words. For example:

"There is a big party at Matt's house this weekend" or "I'm going to the Flashback Flick of Spaceballs tomorrow at Edwards at 10 p.m."

These cheekily named "tweets" can be delivered to any or all fellow Tweepers. Twitter updates can be received via email, RSS feeds, Twitterific (a Mac OS X, iPhone and iPod application) or via a Facebook application.

Although Twitter is nearly two years old, it has only recently gained its mass popularity due to large companies and departments such as NASA and the BBC using Twitter Tweets to give news junkies a quick fix prompt and concisely.

Recently, celebrities have been jumping aboard the Twitter bandwagon. British comedians Stephen Fry, Academy Award winning screenwriter Diablo Cody and horror filmmaker James Gunn, as well as politicians Barack Obama and Joe Biden are all Twitter Tweepers. Although many celebrity Tweepers have been ousted as fakery, some are quite accurate with information regarding a celebrity's whereabouts.

The downside is that once one has amassed a large number of friends on Twitter, the updates can become quite irritating. The constant pings and tweets of updates can become overwhelming to the point of frustration.

For those using Twitter on their phone, the constant text messages can accrue many tiny charges that eventually lead to an expensive cell phone bill. Lately Twitter has recently come into some controversy when the American government concluded that the miniature blogging network could be effectively used by terrorist organizations to strategize and implement terrorist activities and attacks. Islamic extremist and Al-Qaeda related forums have been discussing ways to use various GPS, cell phones and online communications such as Twitter to smuggle plans and weapons across borders.

The Federation of the American Scientists reported that "the activists would Tweet each other and their Twitter pages to add information on what was happening with law enforcement near real time."