Student pepper-sprayed in altercation with police

by Joseph Rios

Editor In Chief

District Police pepper sprayed and cited Fresno City College student Michael Vazquez after he refused to sit on a wet curb in the McKinley parking lot Tuesday morning.

Officers initially spotted the vehicle because one passenger appeared to be violating the seat belt law.

Once pulled over, the officer said he smelled marijuana, spokesperson for the District Police Lieutenant Richard Gaines said.

Upon noticing this, the officer asked the three students to step out of the car so he could investigate further.

Daniel Ibarra (the driver), Carlos Aguirre, and Vazquez exited the vehicle. While one officer paraphernalia. They did, however,

searched the inside of Ibarra's Ford Mustang.

The officer asked Vazquez if he had any knives. Vazquez produced his pocketknife keychain and the officer allowed him to keep it.

"I was being cooperative," Vazquez said.

Officers found no drugs or

searched the students, the other find a half empty bottle of vodka. Ibarra (24), Aguirre (21) claim that the bottle had been there for days. Vazquez (20), said he only learned of the bottle after the police search

> When one of the officers asked Vazquez to sit on the curb, he squatted down. The officer asked him to sit all of the way down and to cross his legs. Vazquez told him he did not want to get his clothes

wet, he said.

"Then he threw me on the ground," Vazquez said. "He had all of his weight on me and I was on my stomach."

Gaines said one of the passengers (Vazquez) refused commands from the officer and became combative. This led to the altercation.

See "Three Students" on page 4

Blackout Part II



Students crowd around the fountain after their classrooms went black for the second time in months.

Cat sacrifices itself for another dayoff

Rampage Staff Report

The Fresno City College campus went black for the second time this academic year just before noon on Jan 14. Students flooded the hallways and grass areas as they left their evacuated buildings.

Students in the Language Arts building were heard saying, "Not again."

An explosion at a PG&E substation left 27,700 residents without power, a spokesperson

from the State Center Commuand from Herndon to Downtown rial near the Free Speech area. nity College District said. This included FCC.

Jeff Smith from PG&E told the Fresno Bee that a cat crawled into the substation near Ashlan and West avenues and sparked the chain reaction.

"Another cat or squirrel sacrificed itself for us to have a day off," FCC student Raisha Pacella said.

The power outage extended from Blackstone to Bethel Fresno.

Some teachers chose to continue with their lectures. Blackouts, it seems, are almost commonplace. "The lights went out, class was almost over, but our teacher kept talking," said Erica Perez who was in the Sociology Department. "Then another teacher told us to get out."

Allen Graham moved his weekly bible study from the senate chambers to the Veteran's Memo-

"We weren't going to let the devil get in our way," Graham said.

President Ned Doffoney delivered his decision to cancel the rest of afternoon classes at approximately 12:05 p.m.

After the blackout last semester, Doffoney said, the college learned to better facilitate the exit of disabled students from the upper levels of department

See "Evacs" on page 3

FCC: a year in review

by Eddie Ortiz

Rampage Reporter

A new year has just begun, but before we move forward towards the future, we must look back into the past.

"[Fresno City College] had strong successes," stated Dr. Ned Doffoney.

During 2007, construction finally began on the Old Administration Building. When Bond Measure E passed it provided \$30 million to restore the historical site. The building will provide additional classroom space.

"The construction on the OAB was a huge step in 2007," stated Public Information Officer Kathy Bonilla.

Also, the college received a much needed accreditation. According to Bonilla, Dr.Doffoney did a great job in keeping a momentum going after the college's successful accreditation. The president said he made sure the campus was in good shape throughout 2007 and was delighted all recommendations were met.

And most of us can't forget that we almost had a presidential hopeful, Hillary Clinton, visit our campus. Officials said the communication flaws that prevented her appearance have now been rectified. "It was a bump in the road," said Dr. Doffoney.

Dean of Instruction Tony Cantu described the past year as "successful" and foresees an even more triumphant 2008 academic

However, a good year is See "OAB" on page 4

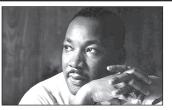
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Jessica Estrada lost her father and aunt during two separate holiday seasons.

Holiday brings...

Pain and Healing

By David Malagon

Rampage Reporter

The Holiday season is a time for families to rejoice, a time for individuals to make personal dedications to better themselves and the world around them. For Jessica Estrada, the holiday season was anything but peaceful, joyful, or exciting.

In fact, it was an absolute nightmare. Her inner most fears came to life once again. She spent another holiday season mourning a deceased relative.

While finishing up her first semester in 2005, her father Daniel Estrada passed away. The grief was too much for her to handle. Estrada was not able to complete her courses causing her to fail her entire first semester. She was carrying nine units at that time.

About two years later, tragedy struck Estrada once again. Her aunt Gloria Olmos, also a FCC graduate, passed away due to complications involving lymphoma on Dec 14 2007.

After her father passed away, 19 year old Estrada fell into a deep state of depression and wasn't able to focus on her studies as she had wanted.

She promised herself to help anyone in similar circumstances. Estrada decided to major in Nursing because of her strong desire to help others.

"I have learned that life is short, it's precious and it's something to be valued," Estrada said. "I intend to make the most of it and to learn as much as I can and to love as much as I can and to be there for people who have been there for me."

Estrada's loss was a devastating time for her, but she has tried to stay on track to complete as many units as she can along the way. "Class is therapeutic. [It] kind of gives me a break from being sad, because I know I need to focus," Estrada said.

Estrada also recommends services that are available to all students at Fresno City College such as grief counseling at the Psychological Services office.

"When you're going through losing a loved one, it's hard to do it alone without any support system," Estrada said. "If someone doesn't have family or friends they feel they can talk to I strongly recommend they utilize the resources available at Fresno City because there is always someone there to listen and to guide you."

The past holiday brought grief for Estrada.

"My Aunt Gloria meant the world to me, she was my second mother and a strong female in my life, and she taught me to be independent," Estrada said. "She was the most intelligent woman that I've ever known.

"She saved me. She was someone who was always there for me. I never went without emotionally and financially. She loved me like her own daughter."

Estrada is currently enrolled in nine units at FCC and has no plans to quit - no matter what comes her way.

"Just remember that life is a roller coaster ride and we're going to have our ups and downs but try not to let that interfere with your education," Estrada said. "In the long run it's going to make life that much harder."

The Rampage

Fresno City College's Premier Student-Ran Publication

RAMPAGE

Fresno City College 1101 E. University Ave. Fresno, CA 93741

Editor in chief: Joseph A. Rios News Editor: Carrie Gunter Views Editor: Cynthia Moreno Entertainment Editor: Cody Gless & Deshad Cato

Business Manager: Leah Edwards Asst. Business Manager: Jeannie Batey Adviser: Dympna Ugwu-Oju

About Us

Rampage is an award-winning newspaper published biweekly by the Fresno City College Journalism 4 & 5 programs and is a member of the 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 500 words along with contact information.

Reporters

Joseph Rios, Carrie Gunter, Jeannie Batey, Cynthia Moreno, Cody Gless, Deshad Cato, Pedro Quintana, Adrine Avanesyan, Mona Lisa McCormick, Eddie Ortiz, Ivette Lopez, Joseph Boone, Crystal Matthews, Alexis Abrahamson, Marcell Dilworth, Seiji Ashihara, Sebouh Simonian, David Malagon, Allisen Casares, John Esquiuel, Shirley Nakagawa, Matthew Mendez

Contact the Rampage

Business: (559) 442-8262 Production Rm:(559) 442-8263 Fax: (559) 265-5783

E-mail: Editor In Chief: rampage-editor@fresnocitycollege.edu Rampage business Office: rampage-business@fresnocitycollege. edu

> Advisor: dympna.ugwu-oju@ fresnocitycollege.edu

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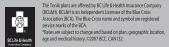
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Hammers knocking again at the OAB

by Joseph Boone Rampage Reporter

Workers buzz as restoration and renovation efforts for the historic Old Administration Building continue. Currently, trucks haul out loads of hazardous materials from the building as other groups such as the State Center Community College Foundation struggle to find donations needed to finance the performing auditorium.

According to Michelle Cantwell-Copher, executive director of the Foundation, due to the auditorium's public access and revenue-producing status, the State of California refuses to finance that particular aspect of the restoration and renovation.

This led to the creation of the Foundation, which is responsible for raising the additional \$4 million needed to complete the auditorium with the rest of the building. The first million was raised internally among Fresno City College and District staff, and thus far the Foundation has managed to over double that amount from outside donations. However, the Foundation has currently raised \$2.4 million, short of the \$4 million needed.

The auditorium and a designated historical classroom will be renovated in an entirely different way than the rest of the building. While most of the OAB will consist of modernized classrooms, one room will be preserved as close as wood floors and the like. However,

in spite of its unique appearance the room will be used as a classroom for normal functions.

Though the auditorium is not being preserved in its original state the changes are prudent for modern use. The old auditorium had around 900 seats made for relatively small people. Upon completion the count will be reduced to about 700 significantly wider and more comfortable seats.

"People are bigger now, they will appreciate the wider seats." said Dr. Ned Doffonev. Other changes improve the performing atmosphere of the room such as sound insulation.

The auditorium is of special interest to the performing arts divisions who perennially struggle to find an appropriate venue at an appropriate time. An additional on-campus stage will ease booking at other venues like the theatre and potentially lure outside guests to perform in the new facility.

The OAB stage is significantly smaller than the theatre stage leaving it relatively ill-suited for theatrical performances requiring plenty of walking space and props. According to Brian Speece, director of operations for the OAB project, the stage will primarily be used for musical performances.

The OAB was in use until 1976 when it's exemptions from the Field Act were no longer granted. The Field Act requires that buildings receiving public monies and housing K-14 students quake-resistant building codes. The Field Act was enacted on April 10, 1933, in response to the Long Beach earthquake that left about 600 schools damaged, 70 of which were destroyed.

The OAB was originally completed in 1916, six years after the schools founding and was not built upon reinforced masonry (a necessity to comply with the Field Act). "A lot of this remodeling is to reinforce the brick walls," said Speece.

The OAB served as the first permanent structure on what was then known as the Fresno State Normal School campus, which later became Fresno State College. Fresno State relocated in 1956 and Fresno Junior College, presently known as FCC, purchased the campus.

The college made good use of the OAB, which functioned as a sort of heart of the school providing classrooms, administrative offices, and plenty of room for the arts, be it musicians playing in the courtyard or guest speakers in the auditorium.



Firefighters help one of many disabled students down the stairs.

Evacs go a bit smoother

Continued from page 1

buildings.

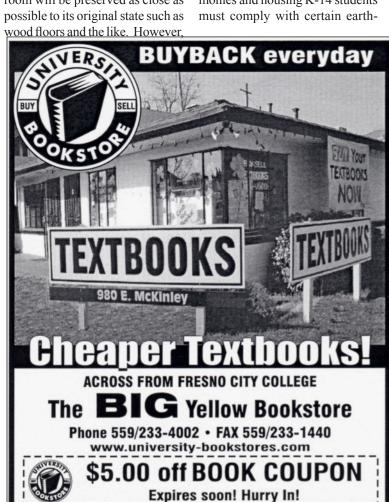
Using the blue evacuation chairs, firefighters removed each disabled student one by one from each department. Norman Norwood, a second year Psychology student, was trapped on the third floor of the Math and Science Building. Five firefighters assisted him to the ground floor.

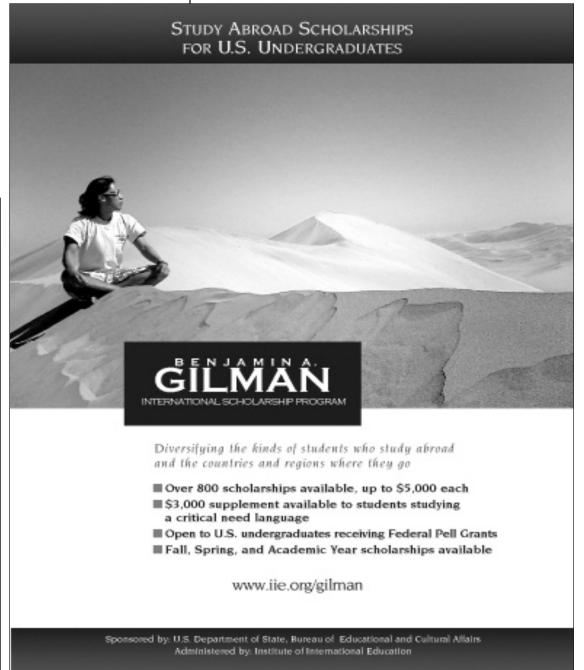
Kimra Woodson waited patiently for the fire crews to help her down the stairs after she left her business class. "The administration was very kind and thought-

The perpetually hectic parking lot became worse - even by FCC standards. Police Officers barricaded the entrances to the parking lots and directed the gridlocked traffic out onto McKinley and Blackstone avenues.

Some students stood stranded while their parents circled the campus, unable to pick up their children.

Classes resumed the following day.







Three students cited

Continued from page 1

Justin Landis came back to his car between classes around the time the scuffle began. "I was standing on the opposite side of my truck," he said. "At some point, I started hearing a bunch of shouting. The guy on the ground was screaming that he couldn't put his hands behind his back. The cop looked really calm and the guy just kept screaming for a long time."

"Then he was like, 'I'm going to mace you, I'm going to mace you," Vazquez said of the officer on top of him. "Then he sprayed me three times."

Officers detained Vazquez in the back of one of the two police cars on the scene. Officers continued to fill out the necessary paper work with the cooperation of Ibarra and Aguirre.

Vazquez said that the police notified the campus nurse, but was unavailable. Paramedics treated Vazquez onsite.

All three students were cited and released at the scene, Gaines said. Vazquez said that he was taken to the District Police station where officers took his picture and recorded his fingerprints. They did not read him his rights, he said.

Ibarra received a vehicle code violation and Vazquez has a court date in March.

"It could have been handled better on both sides," Aguirre said.

Vazquez met with Dean of Students Robert Fox recently. His future on this campus is

AB revitalization a key goal in

Continued from page 1

never without its share of tragedy. "We lost some people in 2007, that's always difficult," replied Dr.Doffoney. "That was a lowlight of last year."

According to Dr.Doffoney the main focus in 2008 will be student learning. "Getting the word out is always a challenge," said Bonilla.

Bonilla said 2007 was a good year and looks forward to future campus events.

She said the college had a wonderful year in athletics. Both the men's basketball team and wrestling squad won state championships.

The Arts Department produced great plays for the community to see and the Music Department's choir performed wonderful

concerts throughout the year. Also, our band of Jazz composers, led by Mike Dana, rocked Fresno State and local venues.

The declining economy and upcoming presidential election will have a significant impact on students this year, stated Bonilla.

She predicts the possibility of fewer students attending FCC as the economy slopes downward. During 2008, Bonilla will continue to be a spokesperson for FCC.

According to Tony Cantu, seeing so many faculty members involved in outside interests was a highlight in 2007. "It gives FCC visibility," he said.

In addition to Cantu's praise with staff involvement last year, Cantu is also pleased with Associated Student Government's performance in 2007 and seeing new faculty members grace FCC was a highlight in 2007. "2008 will be exciting," said Cantu.

From campus growth to working on student initiatives, Cantu is excited to see these things take place this year. "I plan on using all my vacation dates," he said jokingly.

According to Cantu he will continue to work hard and be the best employer he can be. previous year ended on a high note and accolades.

However, school officials are predicting a better year to come. With revitalization of the OAB, overcoming accreditation failures and a wide open national presidential election set to take place with campus possibilities, the new year will be anything but average.

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Legend

Rennie Harris

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Top From Left: Lori Gambero, Alex Gorman, and Laura Castro read from the play in the first stage of callbacks. Second Row, Left: Debbi Shapazian; second row, center: Lauren De la Torre; Second row, right: Director Charles Erven.

by Alexis Abrahamson Rampage Reporter

It may be out of the ordinary to see fellow students scattered around the dull lit hallways talking to themselves in what would seem to be a one-sided argument.

If you looked down the hall in the Green Room just before the recent auditions, you would have seen a pair of girls doing just that with scripts in their hands having an imitated conversation. A line of people stood nervously preparing for their monologues that they had to perform in front of Director Chuck Erven.

Erven held auditions for the Spring showing of "Living Out" on Jan. 9.

In the beginning of auditions Erven sat on the bare stage stripped of everything except the gray fold out chair he was seated on.

The actors vying for a part listened and waited quietly for direction. Erven explained that the way he produces would be very intimate and flexible.

He told them that whoever does not get picked he would still call and notify them personally so if they have any questions he can get them answered, something many directors do not do. For those who do get called back, practice will be five nights a week from five to nine at night. This informed all the actors that this was no small commitment whatsoever, this is going to be a day and night obligation.

All of them one by one left the vacant theatre to wait outside for their chance to audition.

Erven sat in the front row and scriblled notes. When the first actress walked onto the center of the stage, Erven had her explain what monologue she was performing and to start whenever she was ready.

When she began, her face changed from nervous to love sick in the blink of an eye.

Her eyes seemed vacant and sensitive staring into the dark nothingness of the theatre. Only a few streams of light shone from above onto the black, wide-open stage.

She expressed how much she loved her boyfriend and how their relationship affected her life in more ways than one. After a few minutes of watching this pained woman, it was bizarre to see her revert back into her normal state. She wiped the false tears off her smiling face and readied herself for critique.

Erven just said great job with a smile and asked her a few questions about herself.

While waiting in line to audition you could see all the anxious actors and actresses joke around with each other to help with the nervousness.

Lauren DelaTorre, who was auditioning said, "In order to get mentally ready for a monologue I listen to music that best fits the mood of the character." They all discussed with each other what type of music they listen to. Many jokes were made but all laughs sounded distracted by the growing anxiety.

One by one each actor or actress would come in and try their best. Many of their performances suffered because of nervousness.

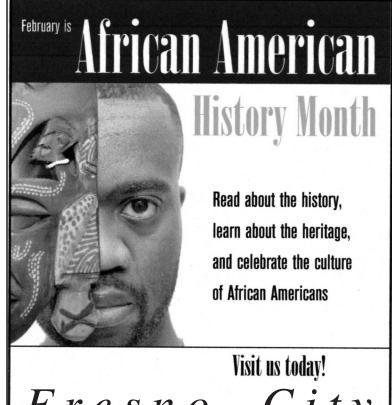
When asked if he takes it into consideration that nerves may interfere with their performance, Erven said, "I take it into consideration to try to alleviate them when they are nervous because I want to be able to see them at their very best, which is why I do it in private so I can help them."

Anyone can tell by the way that Erven interacts with the actors that he wants them to do the best they can.

He had some sort of con-

structive criticism for each person. He advised some to forget the script and improvise. He directed others on how to best relate with their character.

The auditions were only half the battle for most of the actors and actresses; they also had to show off their talents at callbacks later that week.



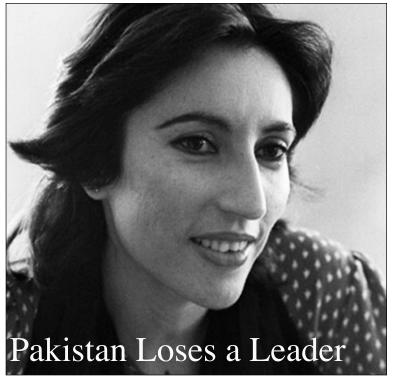
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The Status of Democracy Worldwide

The philosopher Plato first described it as "a rule by the governed." Our founding fathers took their infinite wisdom and laid the groundwork for what has now been the blueprint for nations across the world. In recent years many countries have adopted the democratic process, more than any other time in history.

Yet, as recent events show, democracy is not a pill easily swallowed.

by Deshad Cato



Former Prime Minister of Pakistan Benazir Bhutto was assassinated while leaving a rally to gain support for her attempt at re-election on Dec. 27, 2007.

The Interior Ministry of Pakastan stated that they had proof that al-Qaida was in fact behind Bhutto's death. High ranking members of the organization said that al-Qaida had nothing to do with the assassination and the allegations of their involvement was a planted story, the Associated Press reported.

Benazir Bhutto's death sent shockwaves worldwide. Many countries chimed in on the important role she played to the people of Pakistan.

In Pakistan, after the news of her death was announced, her supporters' grief and anguish turned into rage. Riots broke out all over the country.

America lost a vital ally in the war on terrorism and in the quest for a democratic Pakistan.

"The Bush Administration placed a lot of hope on Benazir Bhutto because they want a democratic Pakistan," said Johal. "They where looking favorably on her return to politics in Pakistan.

"Pakistan is a key country for the United States because of the so-called 'War on Terrorism' with neighboring countries and also because Pakistan has nuclear weapons. It's a country that is very important to America's security because the hope is that we have a country that is democratic there."

Mr. Johal also spoke about how Bhutto's assination will affect the upcoming election. Terrorism has already become one of the hot button issues in America and on the world stage.

"I don't see there being a whole lot of difference in foreign politics as it relates to Pakistan. There will be different emphasis, with more emphasis on democracy. Terrorism will be important but it won't be as stressed as much seeing as how some Democratic candidates want to pull out of Iraq. Regardless of that fact, I believe Pakistan will still be an important country for the United States," Johal said.



place where the principles of democracy are being put to the

Civil unrest exploded in Kenya after the country's presidential elections took place. widely disputed race. Supporters of Kibaki's opponent, Raila Odinga, showed their disapproval by rioting in several parts of the

Pakistan is not the only country. Reports of voter rigging, Kenya and the direct challengincorrect figures, and the effects politics. of tribalism are believed to be the tribalism being the focal point.

> dominant and economically ac- more so now than ever. tive ethnic group. His opponent the third largest ethnic group in recent conflicts.

manipulations of admissions, ers to the Kikuyu domination of

The age-old struggle bemain reasons for the chaos with tween these tribes and the ruling Kikuyus is what pushed Kenya to Kibaki belongs to the its breaking point. The political Incumbent Mwai Kibaki won the Kikuyu Tribe, Kenya's most climate in Kenya is a volatile one

The New York Times re-Raila Odinga is of the Lou Tribe, ports as many as 650 dead due to



With all the world's woes being thrown into are homes and onto our computer screens it's hard to notice when Democracy actually does what it's original creators dreamt that it would

On Aug. 15, 2007 Hugo Chavez called for presidential term limits to come to an end, extending his rule indefinitely.

He was overwhelmingly backed by The National Assembly of Venezuela and was confident going in the Dec. 2 referendum, a direct vote in which an entire group of people are entitled to vote in an election if asked to either accept or reject a particular proposal, vote.

On Dec. 2, 2007, 51 per-

cent of the voters rejected the 69 amendments proposed by Chavez.

After the referendum results were made public Chavez stated that he would step down at the end of his second term in

It's moments like these that prove while Democracy is by no means an easy goal, it is a goal worth fighting for.

Whether it be a Boston Tea Party, a French Revolution, or simply flexing of our political right to say "no" democracy is the essential tool for the world to gain its liberty whether it is for Venezuela, Kenya, Pakistan, and yes, even America.

Call for Nominations for Wall of Honor

The 2007-2008 WALL OF HONOR Committe invites you to nominate individuals for the State Center Community College's WALL OF HONOR at the African American Historical and Cultural Museum. The recognition ceremony will be on Feb. 28, 2008.

> * The Wall of Honor is dedicated to recognizeing the contributions of outstanding African Americans who have distinguished themselves and are affiliated with the State Center Community College District.

All nominees must exhibit personal and professional integrity and a commitment to strong ethical values. All nominees will be considered regardless of age, gender, educational background or religion. Your input is valuable to us and will be greatly appreciated.

FOR SPECIFIC CRITERIA AND A NOMINATION FORM PLEASE CONTACT:

Teresa Patterson, Committee Chair State Center Community College District Office 244-2637 teresa.patterson@scccd.edu fax 226-3757

COMPLETED FORMS MUST BE RETURNED TO TERESA PATTERSON BY JANUARY 25, 2008

Entertainment

January 23, <u>2008</u> 7 Rampage

In The Name Of Burt Reynolds...

By: Deshad Cato Rampage Reporter

Uwe Boll is responsible for taking some of the most beloved video games of our time and butchering them beyond belief. Every bad, stupid, idiotic video game adaptation you've ever seen in your life was probably directed by this man. His latest offering is "In The Name of the King: A Dungeon Siege Tale", and just like all of his movies it's based on the video game of the same name.

I have to say I was really surprised by this film. Don't get me wrong it was still a mediocre film, but it was entertaining all the more

It would seem that Boll made concious effort to rip off of every medieval film you've ever

You have a bit of "King Arthur", a dash of "Merlin", and a big chunk of "Lord of the Rings". The only thing wrong with that is all the aforementioned movies are really good; so if your going to rip them off you'd better make sure always with enough bone crunchyou live up to the standard.

And that's where "In The Name of the King" falls short. While the action lives up to today's standards of special effects and fight scenes it's the story that falls flat. Not because it's a bad story, but just because we've seen everything it has to offer. There isn't a single original bone in this films body.

Couple this with the horrible editing, I swear the movie switched from scene to scene in 4 minute intervals, and it's obvious that this was just a ploy to get movie goers money. I will admit however that this is probably Bolls' best work to date.

Jason Stathom, of "The Transporter" films and "War' opposite Jet Li, does a good enough Job in the acting department. It would be easy enough seeing as how he kind of plays the same guy in every movie, but at least he plays them with a sort of charisma. And just as expected, his fight scenes are as enjoyable as ing blows to have you flinching with sick glee.

The rest of the cast was okay at best. The most entertaining of the bunch is Burt Reynolds as the king. When you stop and realize that Burt Reynolds is actually playing a king in a movie you paid to watch...well lets just say it gets really funny after that. Not in that "I'm laughing at Burt Reynolds" type of way, but in that "Oh my God its Burt Reynolds!" kind of way.

And that my friends is what almost saves this film.

If you can get past the fact that "In The Name of the King" is just another in a long list of bad gaming movies then it can be a really enjoyable little movie. I'm not sure if that's what the director was going for, but that's what it turned

The bad acting, predictable plot, and shoddy editing all serve as a simple tool to keep you interested just enough to where you don't walk out of the theater.



At its core "In The Name of the King" is a dumb movie for dumb action junkies. I would recommend this movie for anyone who wished that the "Lord Of The Rings" films were only a one part type of deal or for anyone who

likes watching movies so bad the actually kind of entertaining. For the rest of us, those who actually enjoy good movies, I'd wait the 3 months until "In The Name of the King: A Dungeon Tale" makes its way onto HBO

Clover-failure

by Cynthia Moreno Views Editor

There are few movies that can capture the moment when an oversized, human-flesh eating, alien looking, government-experiment monster attacks a major city in America. Perhaps King Kong or Godzilla paved the way for abnormal sized animals taking over major cities and winning the affection over humankind.

Well, for King Kong it was winning the affection of a slim, golden-haired young woman whom falls in love him. Or at least, that's what us moviegoers would like to think. Godzilla wasn't so lucky, and neither was Cloverfield's alien monster.

In Cloverfield, the monster is everything but nice- and its agenda is filled with disdain for civilization. It rampages through the city of New York, causing major earthquakes as he stomped in rage throughout the city. It took its vengeance out on buildings, bridges, and people.

Just minutes before his rampage, a group of friends threw a going-away bash for a guy named Rob who would be moving away to Japan for an amazing corporate

Rob was not an ordinary man- for he had the love of a beautiful young woman by the name of Lily, an apartment with a priceless view of Manhattan in the thriving metropolis of New York City and a profound talent for documenting every moment of his young life with his camcorder.

He had clips from the moments he spent with Lily-traveling, talking, and eating. Let's not forget- there was also a bed scene. It



Google Images

was clear to see that Rob and Lily were in love with one another.

At the bash, she walks in late with a new guy. Rob, his brother Jason, and his girlfriend are shocked. Post-college gossip becomes the main appetizer at the bash as word of mouth dishes out that Lily had slept with Rob.

So why was she with another guy? Both wind up having an argument- and the camera, which was initially intended to give Rob a collection of farewell speeches-, ends up being the lens by which the movie takes placeand intensifies the love affair between Rob and Lily.

The camera never stops rolling- not until the movie is over-, which delivers a devastating blow to the audience. Think of Cloverfield as this: The Blair Witch Project meets New Yorkminus the throwing up feeling. The only feeling one experiences is complete and utter fear since the monster appears to have nine more lives than the average cat.

No military bomb, grenade, or fighter jet manages to kill the beast that knocks over just about every major building in the New York City landscape, including Lily's apartment. One vivid moment in the movie: the Statue of Liberty's head being ripped off and thrusted into the streets of New York City.

Rob is determined to find Lily when he learns that she is hurt and trapped in her apartment.

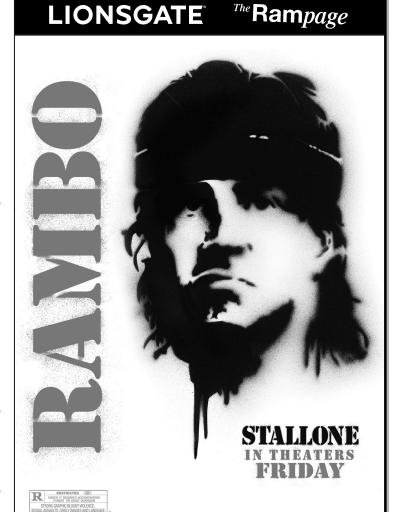
Eventually, Rob and his friends' parade to the dangerous side of town taking a non-so scenic route through a subway tunnel where they are viciously attacked by the monsters devil-dwarfs. After a small brawl, Rob rescues his beloved in her Leaning Tower of Pisa-looking apartment complex that the monster managed to push down.

The rest is history- as both Rob and Lily's failed attempts of getting out of New York lead them nowhere but to Central Park- a place where their last few breaths of life were taken underneath a bridge.

To make matters worse, they wind up giving their own farewell speeches to the running camcorder, whom throughout the entire movie, lived longer than any of the actors and actresses. What happened to the monster in the end is unknown.

The movie finishes with Rob and Lily's tears of fear and an energizer-bunny camcorder that stays on long after the bridge where Rob and Lily hid collapses into a pile of rumble in Central Park. Moviegoers: save your money and the popcorn cravings for a better

Cloverfield's ending disappoints the audience leaving them in wonder. Oh, and another thing- beware- according to the movie- the monster never died. Is that a sonic boom I hear?



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IN THEATERS JANUARY 25

by Cody Gless **Entertainment Editor**

If you're looking to hear technical perfection, a perfect "A pentatonic" or a bunch of whiney douche's crying about their girlfriends; you won't find it at a Pepper show.

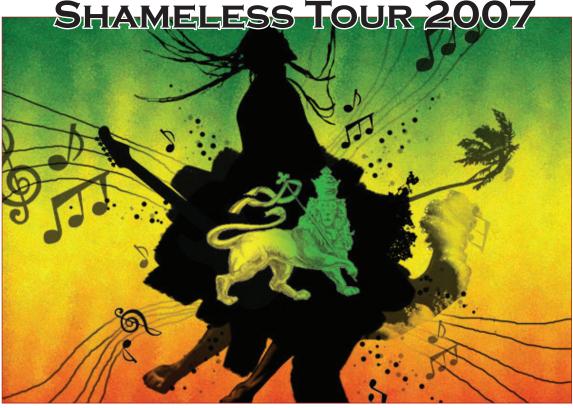
You'll find a laid back group of guys simply doing what they love and increasing their loyal fan base one amazing show at a time.

The experience you will undergo at a Pepper concert is one all its own. From the band to the fans, Pepper's primary goal is to create a fun environment for not only the fans but for themselves as well.

To classify Pepper into one genre or stereotypical group is impossible. The Kona based Hawaiian trio known as Pepper draws their influences from a number of varying genres and have had a number of different bands and artists that have contributed to their inspirations and productions.

The best way to describe Pepper's sound would be to say that their Hawaiian Reggae roots got it on with Punk; Dub and Ska jumped into the mix, and hip hop got it all on tape with the end result being Pepper.

Pepper draws their influences from a wide array of bands, from The Red Hot Chili Peppers,



persona and sound.

Their most recent album, No Shame was released on October 3rd, 2006 and can be described as the bands "totally uncut and uncensored" album. Pepper prides this album for showcasing each member and showing them all for who they truly are, musically and personally.

The album No Shame, has had contributions from two of the "Nu-Ska and Reggae greats"; Nick

Sublime and Nirvana to old school Hexum of 311, Tony Kanal of No Metallica and even the Police, Doubt as well as the innovative Pepper exudes a truly innovative input of Paul Leary of the Butthole Surfers.

> Pepper consists of a threemember make up: Brett Bollinger-bass and vocals, Kaleo Wassman- guitar and vocals And Yesod Williams on drums.

> The three originally came from The "Big Island" of Hawaii. "We grew up aspiring to be professional surfers" recalled Wassman, "When we discovered that we weren't that great at surfing we settled on being musicians." Was

sman said with a smile.

You may have caught Pepper on their most recent national headlining tour with the amazing Santa Cruz based Reggae/Metal fusion Known as the Expendables along with Up and coming Dub-Reggae/Rockers, Passafire hailing from Savannah Ga.

The Expendables are a truly talented group of musicians and are as humble and easy going as they are skilled; making the impossible possible.

The band consists of four members: Geoff Weers on guitar and heading vocals, Ryan Demars on bass, Adam Patters on drums/ backup vocals and Raul Bianchi on lead guitar.

Their ability to fuse reggae and metal is impeccable. Two genres of music that would have never ordinarily seemed possible to mesh, come together to form a genre all its own. Transitioning between roots reggae and face melting "Iron Maidenesque" metal.

One of my favorite albums "Gettin' Filthy" was released in 2004' featuring songs like: bowl for two and let her go. Since then, the Expendables have released their self-titled album; which is a close second.

If you ever have the chance to catch the Expendables live, I strongly recommend it, if not; picking up an album is a must!

Despite the technical difficulties that Passafire had to deal with towards the beginning of their set, they were able to put on an outstanding performance and produced an amazing unnaturally, natural reggae vibe given their southern roots.

This reporter had the chance to sit down and get a feel for where the band was really coming from by getting a little perspective from each member. Passafire is made up of four members: Ted Browneguitar and vocals, Adam Willis on keys, Will Kubley on bass and

Continued on pg 9



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POSITIVE VIBRATIONS







Continued From pg 8

vocals, and brother Nick Kubley on drums.

"We would primarily describe the genre of our music as reggae/rock" stated Willis, "The bands that have influenced us the most over the years, has been The Police, The Clash, and 311" said Browne, "We most recently have been grabbing inspirations through sitting down and listening to bands we normally never would have thought of listening to".

The bands formation is rooted in Savannah, Georgia, out of Savannah College of Art and Design. Passafire met and got together on almost what seems to be an accidental basis.

"We originally got together to do a school project," said Willis, a music production major at the time. "After we messed around for a while and thought we didn't sound too bad, we picked up a bassist", (Will Kubley, who was a high school senior at the time) "and decided to start gigging around town"

The bands success thus far can be attributed solely to hard work and dedication.

During the bands humble beginnings, Keyboardist, Adam Willis acted not only as a musician, but as the bands primary promoter and manager as well; booking the majority of the bands shows and getting their name out there.

You can find Passafire on Peppers record Label, Law Records as well as on tour, as they continue to tour whenever they get the chance. The band is currently on the road with the reggae genius of bands like Badfish, The Wailers, and 311.

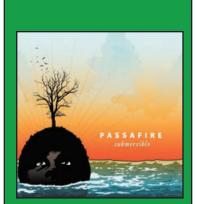
Given this bands work ethic along with their innate ability to harness their raw talent to produce a sound all their own; I can tell you right now, this band is going places, so if you want to catch an unforgettable show, make that trip and Catch a Fire with Passafire.

This tour has been Phenomenal. You couldn't ask for a much better lineup than The Expendables, Pepper and Passafire to keep the mood right.

The only thing that could make for a better show is by throwing SLIGHTLY STOOPID into the mix, and we're in luck, the people Silver Back Management along with Law Records, and Earshot Media has put together an upcoming tour with Headliners: Pepper and Slightly Stoopid.

I'll have all the details as well as a review in upcoming issues. Until then, this is Cody, bringing you the scoop on what's happening in music.

A Special thanks to: Mike Cubillos, Coach, Pepper, The Expendables and Passafire.







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Views

Pro v. Con

Death Penalty Evokes Mixed Feelings

An 'eye for an eye' leaves us blind

By Eddie Ortiz

RampageReporter

It took Angel Diaz 34 minutes to die -- 34 excruciatingly painful minutes of waiting for the chemicals flowing into his body through the IV tubes in both arms to kill him. According to witnesses, his eyes widened, his head rolled, he continued to speak, and his body continued to move limply for 24 minutes. His Adam's apple bounced up and down continually and his jaw was clenched.

Diaz was executed in Florida on Dec.13, 2007 for murdering the manager of a topless bar. After his body was removed, it was clear that Diaz's execution was botched.

Even though this case holds no real value to residents of California, it is clear that the death penalty has become a barbaric form of punishment.

Recently, the California Commission on the Fair Administration of Justice (CFAJ) examined the state's death penalty in an effort to identify inconsistencies in its application and reforms for improving the system.

There are two common arguments in support of capital punishment: avoidance of the actual problem and revenge.

Should the death penalty be abolished in California? I say no, but what I do think, is that the death penalty hasn't stopped crime.

There are many reasons why capital punishment is deeply flawed: it costs tax payers more to execute someone than to keep them in prison for life, it violates the 8th Amendment, the possibility of putting an innocent man or woman to death is high, and life in prison is a worse punishment and more effective, and killing the perpetrator doesn't bring the victim back to life.

Does the death penalty put an end to violence and criminal behavior? Is it possible a potential murderer considers the possibility that he or she might be convicted of a crime and face the death penalty? It's highly unlikely.

According to www.balancedpolitics.org, carrying out one death sentence costs two to five times more than keeping a criminal in prison for life. It's due to countless appeals and legal wrangling that keeps the process dragging, yet we still insist on wasting our hard earned money on this process.

Saddam Hussein and Kim Jong-il are people who we condemn for murdering their own people, while we continue to do the same.

The 8th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution prevents the use of "cruel and unusual punishment". Some would say the death penalty violates this restriction.

What is even more disturbing is the possibility of innocent men and women being put to death.

There are several documented cases where DNA testing showed an innocent man or woman was put to death by the government. It comes down to economics; a poor defendant is given inadequate legal attention by not-so qualified legal representation. These mistakes cannot be afforded.

It's understandable that little sympathy is given to a murderer, but what we need to grasp is when someone is given a death sentence the pain suffered is over in an instant. With life in prison, the pain goes on forever. It forces the prisoner to examine the crime they committed everyday, whether it is rape or violence; internally the person has to live in that environment.

The death penalty is useless. The death penalty doesn't change the fact that the victim is gone and won't return to the living. Hate, revenge, and anger isn't the cure to the pain of losing a loved one. It all starts with forgiveness; there the healing process can begin.

In the end, we as a society have to move away from the "eye for an eye" revenge mentality if we want to advance as a civilization. The "eye for an eye" frame of thinking will never solve anything. If we keep thinking revenge is the solution to teaching murders and rapists a lesson, then all we have is a vicious cycle of continued violence.

Let your burden of hate, anger, and revenge be on the murderers and rapists of the

It's like what Mahatma Gandhi once said, "The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong".



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Death pays its dues

By Alexis Abrahamson

Rampage Reporter

Let me sketch out for you what Governor Schwarzenegger's new budget plan for California is going to be. We have a \$141 billion dollar budget plan that aims towards cutting education funding and state subsidies for the elderly by ten percent, and Medi-Cal could face a billion dollar cut as well. If that isn't bad enough 22,000 inmates are going to be released early.

This is the plan to save Californians from the \$14 billion dollar deficit that is breathing down our necks. Since Schwarzenegger is truthful when he says that we are facing a multi-billion dollar deficit, then why is he going to spend \$136 million on a new death row at San Quentin

ing it. Why is a new death row on the top of the list? It isn't like the inmates on death row are going to go anywhere anytime soon.

On the average it takes over ten to fifteen years to execute someone on death row. Our tax dollars are not only spent to house them for all those years, but it will also cost and additional \$17,000 dollars for each inmate to be executed.

If the drugs to execute them only cost \$122, then what the heck are we spending the other \$16,878 dollars on?! I assume it's all of the extra fees for an execution team, maintenance, and last suppers.

California has the most congested death row, holding 641condemned inmates. As an alternative to spending a billion dollars for a new death row complex for inmates who are going to be dead in ten to twenty years

is a savings of about 10 million.

However, a more realistic approach to this situation would be to shorten the appeals process. The American legal system allows criminals to overturn their convictions by continually appealing a courts decision. This process is costly and timely. The way California's legal system is set up, criminals on death row can spend their entire lives appealing their verdict, while we pay for their lawyer fees.

Although it is very rare, some inmates on death row are innocent, and they have a chance to prove their innocence through the appeals process.

I propose that there be a limited number of appeals to which an inmate is entitled. That way, an inmate on death row would still have the chance to prove their innocence and taxepayers could save millions

High death penalty costs result in American deficit. On average, it takes over ten to fifteen years to execute someone who is on death row.

State Prison? San Quentin is not only the oldest prison we have, but it also is the most expensive out of all of them to operate.

By the time this idea is finished it is going to wind up costing California over a billion dollars. In the very beginning the Legislature granted \$220 million for the project. Just on the planning for this complex has cost \$20 million; the building is going to be around \$356 million to construct. The price of this project is costing us way more money then anyone expected.

It doesn't make sense that we are going to spend money while we are supposed to be savanyways, we should just get rid of them now.

No death row inmates, means no need for a new billion dollar complex.

Spending \$17,000 to execute each one of them is obviously ridiculous; in the end it would wind up costing us \$10, 897,000 dollars total.

I believe a more reasonable, simplistic and cheaper way to perform executions would be to just give them an \$8.99 bottle of NyQuil to drink, and shoot them when they pass out. That would only cost about \$5,762.59 plus the additional cost of the bullet to execute them all. This

of dollars.

If the liberals would stop prancing around issues involving the 1% of death row inmates that were proven innocent, then perhaps we could focus on more important issues facing California.

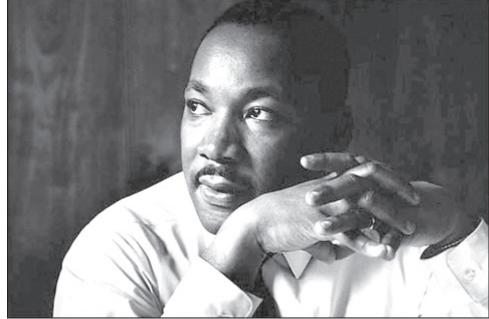
All in all, the death penalty shouldn't be a drawn out process. And in times of debt, building new facilities to house these inmates shouldn't be on the top of our to-do list. If the California government insists on splurging on non important projects, we won't be getting ourselves out of debt anytime soon.

The Fierce Urgency of Now

Americans have always been dreamers; it is time for their dreams to be realized

By Joseph Rios





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The nation waits in anticipation as we prepare to usher in the birth of a new era in the American saga.

Or it could be business as usual.

We Americans who are of voting age in the year of our Lord two thousand and eight have an opportunity to be a part of something bigger than ourselves.

Or it could be just like every other year.

All areas of the American experience point to a country pregnant with change. Her long carriage of this restless child shows signs of a troubled birth to come, but new life nonetheless.

Yes, we Americans have many reasons to doubt and be skeptical.

The last eight years have not given the American people much reason to hope and the past months on Wall Street have done their share to damage the optimism of our citizens.

And yes, Americans are staring down the barrels of many guns: the growing anxiety as a result of the sub prime mortgage crisis, the economic downturn, the looming recession, the skyrocketing price of oil, an endless war in Iraq and Afghanistan, threat of war in Iran, high health insurance

premiums, increasing tuition costs, statewide budget cuts, severed international ties, and a growing number of nuclear armed superpowers around the globe.

Oh, and lest I forget, there is always poverty, disease, crime and the threat of terrorism.

The future has not looked this grim in decades and solutions are so very few. Yet, I believe the drive for progress has only begun to gain traction. Even amidst these seemingly indomitable troubles, our country has found reason to hope; we have found reason to dream.

I believe the words of Admiral Isoruku Yamamoto in the film "TORA! TORA! TORA!" have come to pass once again and, "...all we have done is to awaken a sleeping giant and fill him with a terrible resolve."

We as a nation are fed up with the direction and condition of our country and we refuse to stay the course. I believe we so many who have our eyes on the current events of this country bear witness to the infant stages of a Great Awakening.

Across the nation, we tuned in and marveled at the record numbers of voters, on both sides of the aisle, who showed up and caucused for their candidate in Iowa. What materialized in the subsequent primaries was anything but ordinary, normal, or business as usual

If the first primaries showed us anything, it is that Americans hunger for righteous leadership and peaceful promise. We starve for economic restructuring and fiscal assurance, for our future is insecure.

Middle class citizens are tired of watching millionaires get all of the tax breaks. They are tired of seeing their children get funneled into factories they worked so hard to keep them out of.

They are tired of seeing those same jobs get shipped overseas or across the border. They are tired of American cars made in Brazil and Japanese ones made here

They are tired of giving the bulk of their checks to insurance companies. They are tired of overdrawing their checking accounts at the end of the month. They are tired of paying credit card bills that never seem to shrink. They are tired of milk prices going up before the bottle reaches the "sell by" date. And they are tired of a government that allows foreclosures on their homes as well as their liberty.

Most of all, they are tired

of a governing body that closes its ears to their cries. They are tired of a governing body unsympathetic to their strife.

Ronald Reagan was only half-right when he said that American is like a "Great Shining City on a Hill." Yes, for some Americans, times could not be better.

But I have to agree with former New York Governor Mario Cuomo, though, who said we resemble a "Tale of Two Cities." Presidential Candidate John Edwards described a similar scenario in his "Two Americas" speech to the Democratic National Convention

Both are correct.

Unfortunately the United States has not lived up to its promise of equality.

The economic divides could not be steeper and the lines drawn in racial sands could not be more prominent. The only minority our government seems to fight for is the wealthy.

Poor Americans of all colors are tired of looking up at the "Great Shining City on a Hill" from the valley of poverty and despair.

They are tired of the moat and sentry that prevents them from entering the walls of the shining city they call their neighbor. They are tired of manacled dreams and unrealized aspirations. They tired of lip service and inaction. They are tired of being told that human progress rolls in on the wheels of inevitably. They will wait their turn no longer.

No longer will the American name be synonymous with empire and tyranny.

Let the voices of peace ring out in the times to come. Let the cries of the hungry, the sick, and impoverished reverberate throughout the great halls of the Capitol. May our leaders rise upon righteous wings into the realm of revolutionary consciousness. And may justice fall from the sky like rain onto this arid land.

May our renewed sense of responsibility and commitment to freedom be a point of solace to our despondent allies. And to those we may call foe, my hope is that this eminent awakening be a symbolic olive branch that would stand as a testament of our good will.

Finally, may the words of John F. Kennedy give us strength as we pursue this grand endeavor, "All this will not be finished in the first 100 days. Nor will it be finished in the first 1,000 days, nor in the life of this Administration, nor even perhaps in our lifetime on this planet. But let us begin."

"Let the voices of peace ring out in the times to come. Let the cries of the hungry, the sick, and impoverished reverberate throughout the great halls of the Capitol. May our leaders rise upon righteous wings into the realm of revolutionary consciousness. And may justice fall from the sky like rain onto this arid land."



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Black Issue Shows

Shades of Gray

By Deshad Cato

Rampage Reporter

The time for America to once again choose its President is fast approaching us, and one of those individu-

als vying for the job is Barack Obama. This charismatic senator from Illinois has led a grass roots movement for change that has catapulted him to the spotlight along with his main opponents for the democratic ticket, Hillary Clinton and John Edwards.

Over the course of a year, Obama has gained major support from the American people. His message of change and hope for a better, more unified America has transcended color, age, and political lines. With his recent preliminary win in Iowa, his close second in Michigan, and a controversial finish in Nevada, it would seem that Obama has

done what many of his opponents said he couldn't do. This makes a considerable impact on the 2008 presidential race.

However, with all his momentum and support, there is one major issue that Obama has to face that none of his opponents have to.

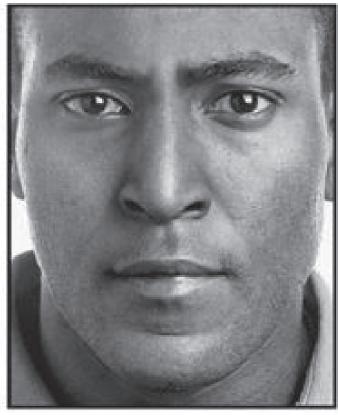
A lot of people have given out the Bradley Effect when a voter says they'll vote for a non-white candidate only to turn around and vote for the white candidate.

While the Bradley Effect may play a role in Obamas' presidential run, I believe there is a greater problem on the horizon; being the divided African American stance on whether to vote for someone history tells us won't win.

Most political correspondents

who report on Obamas' growing base of support always seem to be in shock that every black person in America isn't clamoring behind Obama, and while that in itself speaks of how little these so called "political experts" know about the voting and racial climate in America.

ed him; that is until the primaries started and the same voters who pledged to vote for him dealt him a crushing blow and voted for the opposition. That opposition came in the form of Michael Dukakis; Jackson's very white opponent.



A lot of people have given out the Bradley Effect: when a voter says they'll vote for a non-white candidate only to turn around and vote for the white candidate.

The truth is that while many African Americans believe that Barack Obama is the right man for the job many of those same people feel like he doesn't have a real chance of winning.

Whether it be a lack of trust in the Electoral College, or a lack of trust in America itself, many African American voters feel that if they put their vote on Obama something would ultimately happen and he wouldn't win.

For example, many remember Jesse Jackson's 1988 run for the democratic ticket. The polls taken during that time

It was a hard pill to swallow for many who put their faith in Jackson, and many see the same potential pattern happening with Obama.

Thus, many voters turn to the next best thing; someone they know has a better chance of winning with their vote even if that candidate doesn't necessarily match their political beliefs.

Now of course this doesn't apply to all African Americans. Some, including me, believe that Obama has the real support to win the democratic ticket. Many remember the glory days, scratch

showed that many white voters support- the whole Lewinsky fiasco, of Bill Clintons' administration. These individuals put their trust in Hillary to bring back some of those ideals; things like a better health care plan and a cut on taxes. There's also those who can identify with Edwards' upbringing as part of a

> working class family and his average man image; a trait some experts say he shares with Obama.

Then there are the African Americans who are simply Republicans who have a completely different set of candidates to think of. These voters are harder to convince based on different is-

You combine the pressure of having to convince a voter to change their candidate and potentially their party. This daunting task is accentuated by past years of broken promises, shattered hopes, and forgotten policies. These are the obstancles Barack Obama faces.

This is a reality that I'm sure the Obama camp has realized since day one of their campaign. There have already been allegations that while he's one of the best candidates for the presidential nomination. Obama lacks the overall "blackness"

to win the minority vote. Again, this speaks a lot about the state of America, but its true nonetheless.

As for now, it looks like Obama has managed to shed the problem. His approval rating amongst African Americans has been on the rise since his strong second place showing in New Hampshire and Nevada. Many analysts categorize Obama as a strong candidate.

Only time will tell if Obama can deliver the "change" America so desperately needs, but its up to all Americans to accept and embrace that change.

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Sociology Department's Candidate Forum Offers Varied

PERSPECTIVES

by Adrine Avanesyan Rampage Reporter

The Fresno City College sociology department hosted the 2008 Presidential Campaign Forum Jan. 13. The crowded table of candidates and representatives tackled issues ranging from health care, the war in Iraq, taxation, and the economy.

In an interview prior to the event, Gerry Bill from the sociology department said, "This is an opportunity for people to learn about the candidates who are going to be on the ballot." Bill also went on to say that the purpose of education is to train students to be citizens. Without informed citizens, we can not have a democracy.

Media interviews were held from an hour prior to the actual forum. The candidates and representatives took their seats around the oval table. The political tension could have been cut with a knife.

What was originally designed for one on one interviews quickly grew into a roundtable discussion. During the interview, the representatives squared off on divisive issues and echoed the sentiments of their respected party.

Missing from the media interview were the representatives for Clinton, Obama, Kucinich, McCain, and Don Grundmann from the American Independent Party.

The war in Iraq was an unavoidable topic and seemed to be at the center of attention.

George Phillies from the Libertarian Party vowed that as commander in chief, he would end the war in Iraq.

According to Phillies, moving the troops out would not be a problem, the real issue would be moving all the supplies out of Iraq. He said that moving the supplies out truckload by truckload would take three to six months.

Stuart Weil, representative for Rudy Giuliani gave a rebuttal to Phillies by saying, "The general view that the Republicans and Giuliani especially is to maintain the great nation that we have and we must realize that we are still at war with an enemy that wants to see us destroyed."

The only thing that would guarantee safety to the people of the United States would be to make sure that the world becomes more like America, Weil said.

Weil's comment aroused anger in Richard Becker, representative for Gloria E. La Riva of the Peace and Freedom Party.

"That is a clear Imperialist viewpoint of wanting to dominate the world and we shape the world and make it look like the U.S," Becker said.

He went on to say that the United States needs to get out of Iraq and that the view that was presented by Weil depicted the lies that the Republicans have





Top: Richard Becker of the Peace and Freedom party was one of the more vocal representatives. Above: Student attend the forum.

the United States.

"You would think that it was Iran that had 750 bases around the world. You would think that it was Iran that had a military budget of this year of 800 billion dollars," said Becker.

Weil from the Giuliani camp mentioned President Bush's plan to end fascism by bringing Democracy around the world.

Becker responded by saying, "The U.S. needs to get out of Iraq now, they never should have gone in, it was an illegal invasion based on lies, based on doing what Giuliani and all the Republicans are doing now which is invoking fear among the population to gain support for what are unjustifiable ends."

Healthcare was another topic that brought about different

been telling people in this country. responses. Stewart A. Alexander, sonal responsibility. Wayte said, Becker also made it clear that like from the Peace and Freedom Party, "It is not that Ron Paul does not Iraq and Iran were not a threat to is running for Vice President on a want a safety net, we just want to joint ticket with Brian Moore.

On the issue of healthcare Alexander said, "We need to develop a universal health care system where it is not privatized but make certain that the government is responsible for taking care

Steve Wayte, representative for Republican candidate Ron Paul, gave a very different perspective.

According to Wayte, Ron Paul was not about the New Deal because, he believes, the New Deal has bankrupted this country.

Wavte made it clear that the Ron Paul campaign did not support government funding for social programs such as welfare or health care.

His answer to solving poverty in the United States was permake the holes a little bigger."

Phillies' proposal for reducing health care costs was to eliminate cost transfers.

He said, "If Congress wants to say emergency rooms should provide health care then Congress should pay for it." Becker said that health care is sold as a commodity and that the maximization of profit is driving the cost of health care through the roof.

Furthermore, Muir Matteson, representative for Steve Kubby of the Libertarian party brought an alternative perspective to the table.

His answer to all topics at hand seemed to be "end the violence."

According to Matteson, taxation was an example of how the government initiates violence

For Your Information

What is a Libertarian?

Libertarians are stated to believe in, and pursue, personal freedom while maintaining personal responsibility. Libertarians strongly oppose any government interfering in their personal, family and business decisions.

Are Libertarians liberal or conservative?

Libertarians are neither. Unlike liberals or conservatives, Libertarians advocate a high degree of both personal and economic liberty. Source: www.lp.org

What is the Independent Party?

The Independent party believes in focusing on American problems first and foremost, Reducing immigration, stopping all government subsidies to illegal aliens, terminating international trade agreements.

Is the Independent Party liberal or conservative?

Conservative. Many of their beliefs and policies, such as protecting the right to life, upholding traditional marriage and family values can be considered conservative. Source: www.usiap.org

What is the Peace and Freedom party?

The party promotes social and economic justice, true democracy, peace, full employment, racial and ethnic equality, environmentalism, feminism, socialism, gay rights, workers' rights, and labor unions through co-operation rather than competition. Is the Peace and Freedom

party liberal or conservative?

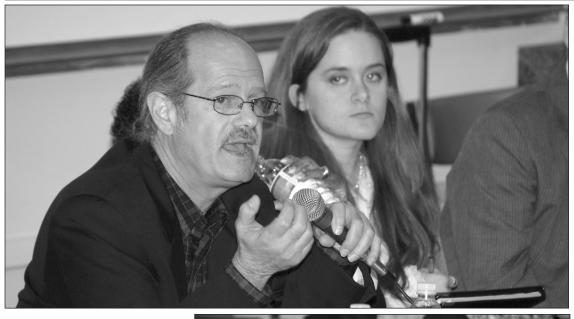
Since 1974, the Peace and Freedom Party platform has been feminist and socialist. Its understanding of socialism includes a socialist economy, where industries, financial institutions, and natural resources are owned by the people as a whole and democratically managed by the people who work in them and use them.

Source: www.peaceandfreedom.org

against the American people. He believed that eliminating taxation was the answer to the health care

Another representative arguing for the elimination of taxes was David Schmidt, representative for Republican candidate Mike Huckabee.

Schmidt said that Huckabee was for the Fair Tax, which would eliminate all income tax, corporate



Above: Stuart Weil, representing Rudy Giuliani, delivers his openining statement at the Candidate Forum on Jan 13.

Right: A Libertarian supporter listens as the forum proceeds.

Photos by Blake Gollmer



Clinton, McCain reps bore crowd

Continued from page 14

tax, social security tax and put all that onto a single consumption tax. With this fair tax system, we would be taxed 23 percent for every dollar that we spend.

Phillies called for an end to the \$9 trillion grandchild tax - the national debt. He said, "We spent the money, we sent the bill to kids who have not even been born yet."

As an array of topics was being thrown on the table and the discussion grew even more intense, Bill informed us that the actual forum was about to begin. In the midst of the discussions of the Iraq war and health care, everyone had forgotten that the real forum had not even begun.

The representatives and the candidates took their seats in a vertical arrangement of tables facing an auditorium of FCC students, faculty, and members of the community.

Moderator Kehinde Solwazi, an African American Studies instructor at FCC opened the floor to debate.

During the debate, much of the same issues discussed during the interviews were debated. One of the key moments of the forum was when Becker from the Gloria E. La Riva campaign accused Republican candidate Ron Paul of being a racist.

At this comment a woman from the audience stood up and shouted, "Ron Paul is the only patriot!"

Dezi Woods-Jones, representative for Barack Obama seemed to know how to rouse the crowd with her great speaking skills.

On the other hand, Brian Forrest who was representing John McCain seemed to bore the crowd by answering every question strictly from note cards.

All of the representatives and the candidates took their turns introducing themselves and their platforms.

It seemed that the majority of the audience members were independent party supporters.

There were a lot of cheers and praises shouted out for Republican candidate Ron Paul. It was interesting that most of the major candidates like McCain, Hillary, and Giuliani did not get much of a reaction from the audience.

Toward the last hour of the forum, audience members were allowed to ask questions.

The representatives that seemed to be well versed on their candidates were Wayte for Ron Paul, Will Tranquilli for Dennis Kucinich, Woods-Jones for Obama, and Becker for Gloria E. La Riva, Phillies, Grundmann, and Alexander represented themselves

Audience frustration seemed to grow towards Clinton representative Jennifer Reimer who seemed to be thrown off by most questions.

Dennis Kucinich supporter Kelly Borkert was frustrated by Reimer's inability to answer some fundamental questions.

When Kelly asked Reimer about Clinton's connection to Wal-Mart, Reimer's response was that she would have to get more information and get back to him. It seemed to Reimer's response to many other questions was the

As the forum came to an end, everyone seemed to appreciate the opportunity that Fresno City College and the sociology department had given the students and members of the community.

This forum also gave the third party candidates, who are often overlooked, an opportunity to voice their opinions and show the voters what they have to offer.

One member of the audience was Teresa Patterson, Executive Director of Public and Legislative Relations for the State Center Community College Distict. She said that she was attending the forum not as a representative for the district but as an undecided voter. Patterson also said that the forum was, "fantastic."

ASG offers loans to cover the cost of books

by Ivette Lopez Rampage Reporter

How do you buy books for classes after you have maxed out your financial aid availability or your check hasn't come in yet?

What if your boss doesn't pay you until the following week but you need your books now? For those lucky 70 students that received the Associated Student Government book loan, their stress was alleviated a bit for the first weeks of the semester.

Funded by the ASG at Fresno City College, the ASG student book loan is a monetary loan of \$100 made available each semester on a first come, first serve basis.

Although all the loans have been given out for this spring 2008, students can apply at the end of this semester for the following term if they are enrolled in at least 9 units, are in good standing with an overall GPA of 2.0, and have a current student ID from the school.

College Activities then re-

views the funds available, and gives out as many loans as their funds allow.

Each student is given a credit of \$100.00 at the bookstore within 48 hours after approval for the loan, and the individual can simply head directly to purchase books without having to cash a check.

"I think this that [the ASG book loan] is great. It's a positive offer that the ASG is giving between paychecks and financial aid," said College Activities representative MayLee Glover.

However, the ASG student book loan is still a loan, therefore all students who received one this semester must pay the school back no later than March 7.

Those who receive financial aid can make arrangements to simply deduct the cost to pay back the loan directly from their next check. Students interested are asked to visit College Activities to apply for this loan for the semesters to come.

Construction Management



at San Joaquin Valley College!

SJVC has the training you need to prepare for an exciting career in today's residential and commercial construction industry.

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sjvc.edu

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PROPOSITION Gift? Or Curse?

by Pedro Quintana Rampage Reporter

California Voters have a very important decision to make on Feb 5, 2008. Californians are voting for the Presidential Candidate, also Propositions. There are seven propositions in the ballot. For community college students the one that stands out is proposition 92.

Proposition 92 is a measure that will make major changes to the state of the California constitution and to the state laws relating to the California's Community Colleges.

Proposition 92's main goals are to change the current minimum education funding requirement into two separate account funds, one for the K-12 grade schools and one for all Community Colleges.

"High school teachers care about what happens to our students after they graduate," high school teacher Josh Pechthalt, vice-president of United Teachers Los Angeles said on the propents website. "UTLA supports Proposition 92 because it keeps K-12 funding guarantees in place while ensuring a baseline of support for community colleges. Prop 92 is the Prop 98 for community colleges. It's a win-win for K-12 and community colleges."

Opponents of the proposition are saying that 92 comes at a bad time. It will lower the cost of units for community colleges but will leave the state short changed from revenues, it is not what California needs at the moment. It is unnecessary due to the California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Proposition 92 stands to lower the cost of education fees from \$20.00 to \$15.00 per unit. It will also put a hold on states authority to increase fee levels in the future years.

California has the lowest community college cost per units in the nation. Many feel that this is proposition is unnecessary to the state. According to the state legislative analyst about one fourth of community college students pay no education fees at all. They also found that 52 percent of the full-time California community college students have their fees waived due to financial need.

The Californian for Fair Education Funding is opposing Proposition 92. They say it will bring in no new funds into the state, but will continue to drain \$ 70 million per year from K-14 funding in the future.

The organization says this will only put the state a giant step backwards on funding for Califor-

nia schools.

Proposition 92 will call for nearly a billion dollars in new spending in the first three years, but includes no way to pay for this expenditure, opponents say.

Politicians will have to come up with ways to decide to get the funds for Proposition 92. Universities fear that the legislature could get it from the California State University and University of California systems.

The UC newsroom says "Students planning to transfer to a UC or a CSU could end up paying for the proposition 92 in the future".

Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez said "Proposition 92 while it is well-intended, it does not help us achieve our goal of ensuring all students have a chance to go to college," said Nunez. "Prop 92 does nothing to help low-income students with costs at all and the flawed financing approach to Proposition 92 could negatively impact students who seek to continue their education at a four year university."

Brandy Nikaido, a UC-

spokesperson said that the UC's strongly support California's community colleges. They are an important partner in the state's higher educational system. The UC depends on the transfer functions for nearly a third of it undergraduate students. Still, all segments of california's are funded adequately and this proposition stands to endanger that, they said.

The UC board of regents opposed Proposition 92 because the initiative could lock up more of the state budgets, leaving less state general fund money available for discreationary purposes, including programs such as UC and guarantees or mandates.

David A. Sanchez the President of the California Teachers Association says "Proposition 92 is not what it seems. It would cause more problems than it could ever solve. The question before voters is not whether community colleges are important. We are all strong supporters of our community college system. Instead, the real question is whether California can afford to lock a huge new spending mandate."

Quick Reference Guide

Establishes independent community college districts and Board of Governors. Funding for K-12 and 13-14 separate. Sets fees at \$15/unit and limits future increases. Increased state spending on K-14 averaging about \$300 million annually. potential loss in community college student fee revenues of about \$70 million annually.

What Your Vote Means

Yes: Existing K-14 funding formula will replaced with separate formulas for K-12 and community colleges. Community College fees will drop from \$20 per unit to \$15 per unit and various changes will be made to the state level community college governing board.

No: Existing laws regarding community college funding, fees, and governence whould be unchanged

Pro: Proposition 92 does not raise taxes. It lowers community college fees to \$15 a unit, limits future fee increases, and stabilizes funding. When the Legislature doubled community college fees, 305,000 fewer Californians enrolled.

Con: 92 is not what it seems. It locks huge new spending into California's Constitution with no way to pay for it, which could result in new taxes or cuts to critical programs, including K-12 schools.

Top 5 Tips for Newbies

Nurse's Office

If you checked your registration receipt thoroughly, you may have noticed an additional \$17.00 fee. This fee covers all student health care for the semester, and is one of the top ten recourses offered on campus at no additional cost. The nurses station has moved from the bungalows into the student services building next to the web room, #112. On their website they list services such as hearing, vision, and blood pressure screening, as well as pregnancy tests.

OFFICE HOURS: M-TH 8a.m. - 5p.m. (closed 12-1p.m.daily) Fri 8a.m. - 4p.m. (closed 12-1p.m. daily)

Psych Services

Dr Brian Olowude is the clinical psychologist and supervisor of the five clinicians available to students at no cost. Students can "Be tested for anxiety, relationship problems, and receive anger management," said Linda "It's short term problem solving therapy and not meant to replace other therapy's students may be receiving from a private mental health facility." Although six sessions are available, Albright said that most students resolve their problems by the third visit, and session are provided in a separate office located above the bookstore by the Rampage office, in room 216. For an appointment call Health Services 442-8268

3 Escort Service

Now, before anyone gets too excited, this is a police escort service for students who would like to be walked to their car safely - not a dating service. This idea was originally

This idea was originally geared for the night students and students are advised to make their request before class ends.

"It's a good idea to call a little ahead of time so that if the officer is busy, your not waiting too long," advised Lt. Richard Gaines of the Campus Police Dept. "There are signs posted and the number is on the phones pretty much in every class," said Gains in regard to requesting an escort.

Campus Police 442-8201

Free Internet

Free Internet Wireless network is available in many buildings and everywhere outside, said Network Coordinator, Harry Zalis. "All that is required of the student is that they have an antivirus software on their computer with a definition that is up to date" he added.

The buildings that receive the network inside are the library, Businesses Ed, the cafeteria, and the forum hall. Students can study outside in the grass area and outside the cafeteria. A map of locations are on blackboard. (www.blackboard.fresnocitycollege.edu).

If you have problems connecting, see the tutorial lab.

Looking for a job? Shawn

Henderson, Coordinator of Employment Resource center said that over 2,557 community businesses seek to employ college students At FCC.

"There are over 5,000 openings available on our web site,"said Henerson. "Over 1,000 jobs are being recruited by the IRS alone."

The employment resource center is located in the library building, room 147.
Log on to: www.jobs.fresnocity-college.edu.

Got a tip? Send it to the Rampage: rampage-editor@fresnocitycollege.edu