



**Dyson to
speak at FCC
Page 3**



**Candidates
Forum
Page 6**



Rampage

Fresno City College

Volume CXV, edition 6

Since 1949

April 16, 2008

Film Fest at the Tower

**Fresno Filmworks
led by FCC
instructor**

by Joseph Boone
Rampage Reporter

On Friday night, the bright, familiar pink and white lights of the Tower Theatre will shine. Moviegoers will flock inside to find the historic theatre temporarily converted into a massive movie theatre. Projectors will shine movies never-before-seen by Fresno residents.

And had it not been for the hard work of John Moses, Fresno City College film instructor and president of Fresno Filmworks, the movies shown this weekend would have probably never reached Fresno residents.

Ian Porteous, a second-year Cell and Molecular Biology major at FCC, said he had attended a Fresno Filmworks presentation about a year ago and found it very enlightening. He attended one of Fresno Filmwork's viewings held on the second Friday of each month.

He watched a showing of *Army of Shadows*, a film noir classic. The film detailed the French resistance during WWII. "It was nice and bleak," Porteous said. Roger Ebert hailed it as "the best foreign film of the year" in 2006.

But this Friday's viewing brings something especially unique. Independent films from nine different countries will captivate attendees as Fresno Filmworks celebrates its fourth annual Fresno Film Festival. The festival runs April 18-20 and features a variety of films.

"We try to have as much diversity as we can in terms of style and genre and, within the limits of 29 programs, even national origin," Moses said. He described the festival as "a venue with a difference."

The festival opens with the French film *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly*, a movie that received dozens of major awards

See "Filmworks Celebrates," page 3

Asian American Month



Fresno City Council President Blong Xiong spoke to FCC students about his humble beginnings and his role in the community on. Photo by Joseph Rios

First Hmong City Councilman talks politics

by Cynthia Moreno
Views Editor

Blong Xiong is half an hour away from giving a speech to Fresno City College students. He walks in through the doors of the student lounge, nervously glancing around the room to see if his presence is recognizable by those expecting him. A crowd of administrators greets him; he smiles candidly, exuding a demeanor that transcends an aura of humbleness, curiosity and comfort.

It is no surprise that Xiong's

win in the 2006 Fresno City Council election made him one of the most notable Asian American figures in the state of California and the entire country, but more importantly, in Fresno, California.

Xiong became the first Hmong-American to be elected to a city council seat, holding the highest position: president. To date, there are only three Hmong-Americans that hold political positions in the country.

With two years of presidency under his belt, he expects the next two years to be just as enterprising. Xiong has made his

tory: his footsteps trace a successful journey to America.

He is a refugee from Thailand who came to settle in America for "survival" at the tender age of five. He landed in the Midwest, where he lived for the majority of his life and where he was college educated, earning a degree in Business Administration.

He left the Midwest in 1991 and moved to California, where he prefers to remain. He earned a masters degree in Business Administration and began working as the associate director of the Fresno Center for New Americans:

a non-profit organization that integrates immigrants, refugees, or "new Americans" into American society by assisting them with housing, education, and employment.

"We have all the money in the world here in America, and yet, we can't provide any services to those who need it, and I felt that this needed to change," Blong said.

He said what touched him the most was being able to see the impact he was making for those he worked. "When you work

See "Language" page 5

Asian-American Month promises multitudes

by Ivette Lopez
Rampage Reporter

Most Americans are familiar with Black History month in February, celebrating various African American icons such as Martin Luther King and Rosa Parks. But few know that April is Asian American Appreciation month.

During this month, people all over recognize Asian Americans around the globe, while keep-

ing various traditions alive within generations.

At Fresno City College, this event is celebrated with a multitude of activities the entire student body can enjoy.

Opening day was March 31, which kicked off the festivities on campus. Among the activities planned for the month include Internments, Game Shows in the Student Lounge, an Asian and Gay Panel and even an Martial Arts workshop.

One of the activities which took place on Monday, April 7 at the FCC Student Lounge was the Student Film Festival, where presenters encouraged students to create a video with an Asian-inspired theme.

Students who missed the Film Festival, can still time for you to engage in fun Asian activities for the duration of this month. According to Glover, the biggest event to come will take place on Saturday, April 26th at FCC where culture,

traditions and different people will come together to display an Asian extravaganza.

Among the agenda lies a celebration of martial arts, performances by the Polynesian Club of Fresno, a Cultural Village displaying things from artwork to Chinese calligraphy, and other activities such as origami, storytelling and of course lots of food for the entire family to enjoy.

Two entries, "The Black See "Community" page 5

Rampage honored at state conference

RAMPAGE
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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.

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by Pedro Quintana
Rampage Reporter

The Fresno City College Rampage reporters won several awards at the Journalism Association of Community Colleges Convention which took place in Los Angeles from April 3 to 6 .

Over 55 community colleges attended the convention which was held at the Wilshire Grand Hotel.

The following reporters won awards: Cody Gless, Shirley Nakagawa, and Francine Ramos won second place in Enterprise Story/Series; they were also awarded general excellence in newspaper writing.

Carrie Gunther and Joseph Rios won fourth place in the enterprise story/series with the Hillary Clinton story that was published last semester.

Out of 55 community colleges, only 15 received the General Excellence award. The Rampage was one of the 15 that received this award. The general

excellence award is based on the content, layout, and balance of issues covered. The Rampage staff was very excited for this important honor they received of the JACC annual convention.

“I think it’s a combination of what we are working towards,” said Rampage advisor Dympna Ugwu-Oju. “It shows that our students are learning to balance good judgement and excellent layout.”

Ife-Chudeni Oputa won fourth place on her opinion piece on racism. Joseph Rios won first place in the sports feature photo.

Of this award, Rios said, “I’m not a photographer; at least I don’t think so. It was a complete surprise to me.” Rios also won Honorable mention in the Bring-In advertisement category.

The JACC brought a new competition to the state convention called Team Feature 2.0 which had three students from each school participate in multimedia reporting of a story in LA.

The reporters were sent to



Special to the Rampage
From Left: Cynthia Moreno, Jeannie Batey, Joseph Rios, Joseph Boone, Dympna Ugwu-Oju, Alexis Abrahamson, Pedro Quintana at the Wilshire Grand Hotel.

Olivera street. There, they found an amazing story about an artist with amazing cultural paintings.

They spent all of that Friday investigating the multimedia project. They pieced together piece through the night and competed Saturday morning.

At the JACC banquet, the top three productions were shown.

The one by Rampage reporters was the first video to be previewed. The team glowed with excitement. Jeannie Batey, Cynthia Moreno, and Joseph Rios took one

big prize in this category.

Rampage adviser Dympna Ugwu-oju was elected president of Northern California(Norcal) Branch of JACC.

In the board of directors, she will serve as the vice-president of the JACC. Rampage reporter Pedro Quintana was also elected president of Nor-Cal, student branch.

The Rampage students celebrated the recognition they received at the JACC convention. Ugwu-oju said, “ We can only go up, the sky is the limit for us.”

Allergies poke the noses of valley residents

by Jeannie Batey
Rampage Reporter

There’s a menace floating about the valley and at Fresno City College. The menace is allergies. One minute a student will be talking to a friend, the next, they are sneezing and rubbing their eyes.

The body immediately responds when it encounters an allergic reaction to a foreign protein, better known as an allergen.

FCC’s nurse and health service coordinator, Linda Albright, says that after the body has been exposed to foreign protein, it sets up a response, which is called a histamine response.

According to the glossary of allergy terms on the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA)’s website, histamine is “a chemical released by cells that causes nearby tissues to become swollen and inflamed.”

Nurse Albright said, “The histamine response is a puffy, tissue response. So it makes your eyes water and your nose feel congested.”

She added, “The proteins in the air or the dirt that makes contact with the skin and are inhaled react to your body. And it causes an allergic reaction in their breathing system.”

The histamine response is all too familiar to FCC student Brittany Poncelet. She says, “My allergy problem begins the moment I get out of bed.”

Poncelet has plastic covers on her pillowcase to help control dust mites and that her method to avoid a sneeze attack is “being outside and inside an even amount and taking antihistamine.”

AAFA’s glossary defined antihistamine as a “class of medications used to block the action of histamines in the body and prevent the symptoms of an allergic reaction.”

For those hoping for a cure from this menace, know that there are no cures for allergies. Allergies can only be suppressed with the right prevention and treatment.

That is a tough task for those living in the central valley. Most who live in the Fresno area

suffer from allergies.

Nurse Albright described the valley’s air as “The worst in the world.” She also said, “If you live in Fresno long enough, you’ll probably have at least mild allergies.”

Some have to change their entire lifestyle to adapt to the allergy weather. According to the AAFA, an estimated 50 million Americans suffer from all types of allergies.

That’s one in five Americans. FCC student David Piercey says he has allergies, but he never found them to have a big effect.

“I mostly sneeze and have watery eyes. No big deal,” he said. Piercey has lived in the valley for years.

Albright said, “Everybody is different. It isn’t like the measles; it’s a reaction of your body to its environment.”

Classifieds

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Michael Eric Dyson, scholar to visit FCC



Michael Eric Dyson

Google Images

Filmworks celebrates seven years of exhibition

One film highlights Fresno

Continued from page 1

worldwide but failed to make it to Fresno. The film tells the true story of Jean-Dominique Bauby, the successful editor of French Elle, who believes he is living his life to its fullest when a sudden stroke leaves him in a life-altered state.

The program in its entirety includes six feature-length films and 23 shorts. Seven of the films, including one feature, have a connection to the central San Joaquin Valley.

Hotel Fresno is one of those films. It runs as part of Sunday's 2 p.m. shorts program and is directed by Fresno's own Teresa Flores. The film takes the viewer on a short tour through Fresno while exploring the lives of the overlooked.

Attendees, festival pass holders, and visiting filmmakers may attend the opening night reception at the movie's conclusion. The reception includes a Mediterranean feast, champagne, and dessert. Scats On The Sly, a local swing band, will provide entertainment.

Collaborations in an effort to create Fresno Filmworks occurred in 2001 and by March the next year, it presented its first showing at the Fresno Art Museum. "We did that for three months and the audiences were so large that we needed to find a bigger venue," Moses said.

Three months later, Fresno Filmworks began showing from the Tower Theatre, a move that dramatically increased both its costs and audience. Six years later, the decision has proved itself prudent. Viewings have been held every second Friday of the month since.

4, 1968: Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Death and How It Changed America."

What makes Dyson's appearance at FCC significant is the timing; it's the 40th anniversary of Dr.King's death and the country is in the middle of a historical presidential election, where for the first time in American history, a black man or woman can become president.

According to Gurdeep Sihota, Director of College Activities, Eric Dyson's visit to FCC has been an option for a while.

"I wanted him to visit the campus," said Bernard Navarro, American Indian Studies instructor said "he was high on my list."

"He's a brilliant speaker and very intelligent. His scholarship has inspired me," Navarro also said.

Navarro added that Eric Dyson is a fearless leader and for whom he has a lot of respect for his scholarship.

Although his appearance in the coming weeks is anticipated and welcomed, there are still many mixed feelings.

Nursing major, Amanda Cummings said, more promotion of the event needs to be more evident.

Another FCC student suggests that more signs and information can be posted around the campus.

"I hope his talk raises important questions about race and other touchy topics," said Navarro "I hope a dialogue takes place on campus."

According to Navarro Dyson's speech will be approximately an hour long; afterwards, he will field questions from the audience.

"His approach to issues is accessible to everyone," said Navarro "He's a community person,"

"He does raise questions, but he does it without being offensive," continued Navarro. "He's controversial though."

Navarro said Dyson isn't a speaker who speaks to a specific group of people.

"He's willing to speak to the masses," Navarro said. "He's speaks for the people."

ernment is response to Hurricane Katrina.

Dyson recently criticized Bill Cosby over comments the iconic comedian made in a 2004 speech.

Cosby had stated that -urban poor blacks add to the social and economic tribulations that affect them.

Cosby went on to state African American men in the poorest of communities aren't taking responsibility for the care of their families and community.

He condemned Cosby's comments by calling it abuse of the "Afristocracy" or well-to-do in the black community upon the poor blacks.

In 2005, Dyson published "Is Bill Cosby Right?: Or Has the Black Middle Class Lost Its Minds?" A more lengthy examination of the "Afristocracy" versus the "Ghettocracy" (the urban poor blacks)

Dyson has taught at DePaul University, Chicago Theological Seminary, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Columbia University and Brown University, before going to the University of Pennsylvania in 2003; there he was the Avalon Professor of Humanities.

On July 3, 2007 Georgetown University announced the appointment of Dyson as University Professor. He teaches theology, English, and African American studies.

According to an article on explore.georgetown.edu, Georgetown University Provost James J.O'Donnell was quoted as saying, "Professor Dyson is an intellectual leader in society and academia."

"At Georgetown we look forward to his continued societal impact and anticipate the contributions he will make to enhance our vibrant academic community," the quote continued.

Dyson is an accomplished, award-winning author as well. He has published over 16 books. His latest book is called "April

by Eddie Ortiz

Rampage Reporter

"Race, politics and class in the 21st century" will be the topic of discussion when Michael Eric Dyson, African American writer, radio host and professor at Georgetown University, visits Fresno City College's gym on Friday, April 25, 2008.

Dyson is a prominent scholar, preacher and best-selling

Dyson will speak at the FCC gym on April 25

author.

His public speech focuses on race, religion, pop culture and other contemporary issues in the African-American community.

Dyson is no stranger to controversy, whether it's putting spotlight on the class conflict in the African American community or exposing the failures of the gov-

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Sign up in the College Activities Office (next to Cafeteria)

Dakota Draconi: Voice of the Abused

by John Esquivel
Rampage Reporter

Every year, thousands of abuse cases are reported. Statistics show that an average of 102 children are abused almost every hour.

This adds up to 3.3 million children that are abused annually. Many people do not even know how close to home these types of abuse can be because most people are not outspoken about the abuse they may be experiencing.

One woman in particular, Dakota Draconi, is out to change the cycle. Draconi was a victim of abuse as a child that eventually led to abuse in her own marriage. Today, she is giving presentations (through her organization Breaking the Silence) on stopping violence on children and those in relationships.

Dakota Draconi's childhood in the public eye was very typical. Her family went to church every Sunday. Her mother was also a Sunday school teacher and leader of the local PTA.

At school, she also served as the lunchroom lady. However, Dakota knew that she took some of these roles to keep tabs on her and her siblings. For example, the reason why her mother took up the job in the lunchroom was so she could keep watch of how much food she ate.

Her mother's control did not stop or begin there. As a toddler, she was forced to throw up her food and eventually learned how to do so on command.

She was also born into a prostitution ring, where at a very early age her parents taught her how to pleasure. In kindergarten, her mother was paid by strangers to come into their home and have sex with Dakota. She claims that this type of abuse is worse than neglect.

When she looked for help, no one was there on her side. At the age of eight, she was asked by a church member if she was being abused.

She confessed some of the abuse that was taking place at home and the church member called a social worker. Dakota was then interviewed for an hour and a half and confessed to all the abuse that was taking place at home. However, she had no emotion when she spoke. This was in part because Dakota was under the assumption that the lifestyle that she lived at home was a normal one.

Due to her lack of emotion when explaining graphic details, the social worker did not believe a word she said. She was called an attention seeker and her parents were notified by the social worker of what she had exposed.

Later that night, she was nearly beaten half to death by her parents. They chipped off a piece of her tailbone which led to complications she is still dealing with even today.

At the age of fourteen, Dakota ran away from home and lived in Napa as

a prostitute. She suffered from anorexic bulimia and had a drug/alcohol problem. Dakota was still under the impression that the way she was treated was part of a normal lifestyle. She stayed on the streets until she was eighteen.

She was then bought by a man who eventually married her. The man who she was about to marry had previously abused her as a child. She had children with this man and they witnessed the abuse that was going on.

She believed that the abuse was alright as long as he did not touch their children. She later realized that he was setting a horrible example on how women should be treated. The marriage lasted for nine years and she had many suicidal thoughts. She would have rather been dead at that point.

With the help from a therapist, she realized that she had to leave the marriage and get away from the situation. Her therapist informed her that a mother who is not around is much better than a dead mother.

Under the guidance of the Marjaree Mason Center and her therapist, she hopped on a bus to Tucson. It was here where she spent seven months on the streets followed by another nine months homeless in Fresno. She had lost everything including her own family. She then began the battle of getting her life back in order and gaining custody of her children.

She realized that her children were now being abused by their father. She called the police and CPS and had the father arrested. Once he was in criminal court, he received three years of informal probation.

The judge acknowledged the abuse but claimed that at least he had not abandoned them. Dakota, her therapist, and the child therapist in the case fought against the verdict. Through her dedication and perseverance, she was able to get her children back.

Today, she is living with her three children and educating many on breaking the cycle of child abuse. The organization she has founded, Breaking the Silence, is a non-profit organization dedicated to raising public awareness of child abuse.

At first, she was speaking to classes about her life with Multiple Personality Disorder. She eventually branched out to her life and how she dealt with the physical abuse. It ultimately formed into the organization that it is today. She has also participated in local politics in order to fix loopholes that keep the cycle going.

Dakota's life may not be something that everyone likes to hear, but the fact is that it is a reality. She is a woman that overcame the obstacles when most people would give up.

Through her story, you begin to realize the many factors that come into play when dealing with abuse. Her main objective is to make others aware of the ongoing child abuse in this country, but she is an example of how anyone can overcome anything.

Language, culture became hurdles for Xiong

Continued from page 1

for a non-profit, there is no such thing as responsibility. You do whatever you can to provide for the constituents in your community," he said.

His political career emerged by mere coincidence, but was not a spontaneous decision. He admits that being a political figure is both demanding and difficult; not a 9 to 5 job. It requires enormous time, effort and daily commitment, at all times, 24/7. Xiong has taken his political achievement in strides, using an approach that he considers to be the most effective and valuable as a direct result of his life experiences. "There is a difference between talking about a community and actually serving it, living it, and being it," he said. Xiong serves one of the most diverse districts in California with approximately 70,000 residents and a relatively small Hmong community.

Much of Blong's upbringing took place in diverse communities. During his youth, he lived in neighborhoods where his family was the only Hmong in town. He lived in the ghettos. His family was on welfare. Years later, denuded him to a predominantly African American community where he was able to identify with the peoples struggles and constant battles being waged against poverty.

His life in "all white" communities exposed the naivete he once held towards the existence of racism in America and the reality of its detrimental impact on society. With Latinos, he was able to relate in terms of socio-economic status and class. Both immigrants and farm laborers, the only thing that separated the two cultures were language and food.

It was this background that provided a foundation for Xiong's strong family values and hard-work ethic, of which he describes being "to a fault".

This value system is being integrated into his political endeavors. "Because I have always been a community activist and advocate, it hasn't been difficult to address issues that are important to the community," Xiong said. "I've addressed issues in rising

utility rates, infrastructure, traffic jams and public safety."

Most importantly, Xiong tries not to worry about people's expectations of his work. "I try to make the best decisions I can make and do not make promises that I can't keep. I look at all the issues that the city of Fresno is facing." Xiong describes his role as a political figure to be important. "I want people to understand that the role and the real message behind the position that I hold is public service. It is important for the community to understand, that in essence, I am a public servant."

Thus far, Xiong has tackled issues in the pubic with an approach he coins "community grassroots politics" which basically aims at serving a diverse community: one of color and poverty. Although humbled to be a part of FCC's Asian American month, he states that Asian-Americans are as diverse as the population and he is only representative of a piece of that population. "I think the key is to integrate the diversity present, within the Asian American community- its what I try and do," Xiong said.

Xiong recognizes the importance of having the right mindset in order to run for a political office. "You have to have strong, hard core values because you have to ask yourself at what cost are you willing to negotiate your values in order to win? [For office].

The issues must fit the individual running for office. He encourages students to become engaged and involved in their communities whether civically or politically. "I think voting is the American thing to do, especially for refugees or immigrants: it should be even more important to them to vote because of the lack of opportunity to do so back home. To engage is key."

Xiong leaves FCC students a clear message on politics and serving a diverse community: "What is American to me- is that this country allows us to give back. What is America? The ability for us to give back the best of our culture, the best of our ethnicity, the best of what we do and that is why this country is the best country in the world, hands down."

Community Event April 26

Continued from page 1

Propaganda" and "Crazy Asian Parents," were submitted by FCC students Jonathan Echols and Matt Miranda. First, the students had to submit their entries to Dr. John Moses for evaluation. Their they were able to screen their short five-minute films for the small audience gathered at the lounge.

Before showing his film, "The Black Propaganda," the Miranda simply said, "I want you all to be the judge of my film. Basically this is going to play at a big film festival in L.A."

In his film, Miranda proved his cinematic skills while portraying a man being tortured by two other men in a sort of suspense thriller. Although the film wasn't finished, the intense scenes had the audience at the edge of their seats.

Echols film, "Crazy Asian Parents" follows a young boy and his very strict parents. After seeing a single B+ on his


report card, the young boy's furiously parents ground the boy and lecture him. After showing the parents rage, Echols went on to show how the film was made and how much fun the cast enjoyed filming.

"The film festival is not only educational, it's something that they [the students] like doing," said Mai Lee Glover, one of the judges and directors of Asian American Month. According to Glover, the film festival isn't so much about winning or losing, but more about the experience. The students are, however, judged in these areas: effort, technique, and audience appeal. The judges, which included John Moses, Otto Lewis, Janice Wong and Glover then deliberated and gave feedback to the students. No winner was announced at the festival as some of the judges were not present.

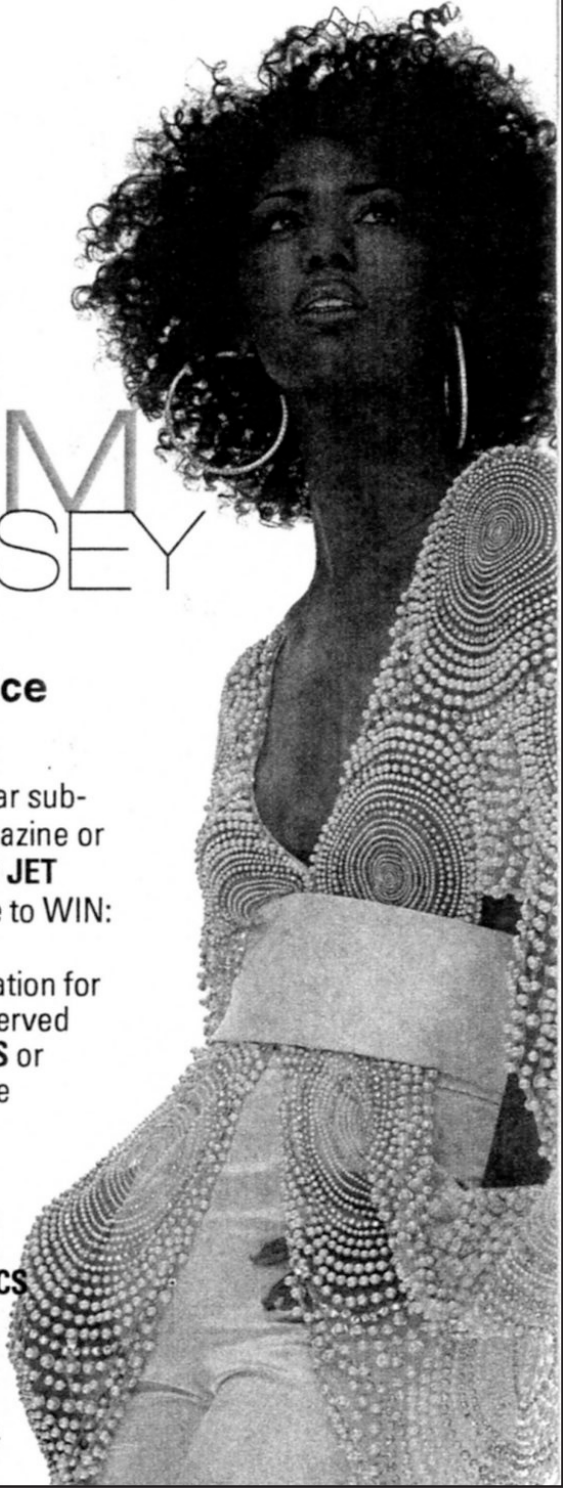
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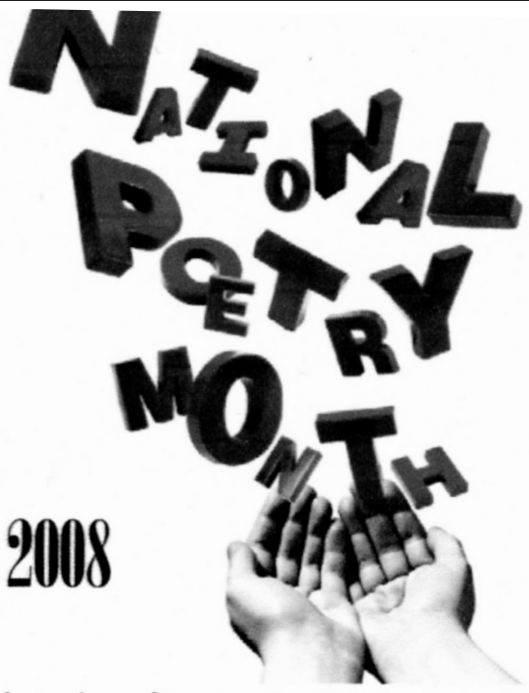
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Fresno Mayoral Candidates Partake in On-Campus Forum

by Adrine Avanesyan

Rampage Reporter

On April 10 at 11 a.m., Fresno City College students, faculty and members of the community, gathered at the FCC theatre to witness a special moment in Fresno history, a forum hosting the 2008 mayoral candidates.

The election, which will be held on June 3, 2008, will be Fresno’s first open race in years. The candidate who wins will replace Mayor Alan Autry, whose term has expired.

The Mayoral Candidates Forum was presented by FCC’s Political Science Department, the Associated student Government, and the College Activities Office. Nine out of the 11 candidates for Mayor were in attendance, missing from the forum were Ashley Swearingen and James Boswell.

The forum was organized by Mark Trezza from the Political Science Department and

moderated by Dr. Sarbjit Johal. Trezza said that what they hoped to achieve from the forum was to raise awareness that there is an election on June 3 for mayor and to give students a sense of who the candidates are and some of their priorities.

The candidates were seated on both sides of a podium, where Dr. Johal asked the candidates on his left and right, a set of questions that were solicited from political science students from Sarah Velasquez’s class.

In opening remarks, each candidate gave the audience a sense of why they were running for mayor of Fresno.

Attorney and candidate Tom Boyajian said, “I am running for mayor because I have the experience, the vision and the passion for Fresno City.”

Boyajian also said that the five major issues in Fresno are poverty, unemployment, quality of life, transportation, and finding

jobs in this community.

City Council member Mike Dages said that he was running for mayor because, “the next mayor of this community needs to have business experience and government experience.” He also pointed out that he understood how to make a payroll and balance a budget during these tough economic times.

City Council member Jerry Duncan said, “I am running for mayor for one simple reason, I want to fix what is broken and improve this city.”

Duncan also stated that he had 29 pages of specific objectives that would make Fresno safer, more livable, and create better prosperity for everyone.

Jeff Eben, a lifelong educator, said, “I want the city of Fresno to believe in a future that is bigger than we can see for ourselves today, with the same power and hope that I had as an educator, I have as a leader.”

Eben said that the mayor’s

office needed leadership and that he would provide the initiative to make people believe.

Moreover, Ignacio Garibay, a realtor, said that he was running for mayor because Fresno needs someone to be the ears of the community. He said, “I want to represent you guys.”

Businesswoman and candidate Barbara Hunt said, “I went to City Hall, worked there for a long time, saw the way the situation was going and I said no; I do not want my kids out there dying on drugs, no jobs, rent is too high, PG&E too high, education is failing, school prices are too much.” Hunt spoke very passionately, saying that she was there because of the people.

Henry Monreal, a Fresno Police Specialist, said that he was running for mayor not because crime was his top concern but because, “Neighborhoods where people live,” His slogan is that Fresno needs family wage jobs.

Council member Henry T. Perea started with, “I believe that this city is ready for a change, this city is ready for some progressive action and I believe; this city is ready to clean its air, to diversify its economy, and to make public safety a continued priority at city hall.”

He said that one of his goals was to make sure that the residents of Fresno do not have to go outside of Fresno to find employment.

Doug Vagim, a member of the Fresno County Board of Supervisors, said, “There is a 900 pound guerilla sitting in the other room and that is a huge mounting debt that is going to be on your backs that you are going to be towing around.”

Vagim said that he wanted to make sure that this debt did not affect future generations.

After opening remarks, Dr. Johal asked the candidates: What their plans were to revitalize downtown Fresno?

Article continues below



Photo by Chris Alaniz

From Left: Doug Vagim, Henry Perea, Henry Monreal, Barbara Hunt, Ignacio Garabay, moderator Dr. Sarbjit Johal, Jeff Eben, Jerry Duncan, Mike Dages, and James Boswell.

Vagim said that one of the main things that should be done with downtown Fresno is to get off the backs of young entrepreneurs who want to do something with the place.

He criticized the layer of governance that these entrepreneurs have to deal with.

Perea said, “We need to provide an opportunity for people who want to live that urban lifestyle.”

He pointed out downtown Fresno needs entertainment, mixed housing and opportunities for everyone. Monreal said that until downtown Fresno is thought of as a neighborhood, nothing is going to happen down there.

The next question was: How are you planning to reduce gang violence in Fresno? Jeff Eben said he would focus on drug treatment, educational opportunities, and job training.

Duncan stated he would take a different approach by adding 150 police officers over the next four years. To this response, there seemed to be a sign of disapproval from an audience member.

Mike Dages declared, “It is cheaper to educate than it is to

incarcerate.” There seemed to be a consensus among the candidates that education and job opportunities were key to reducing gangs in Fresno.

As the candidates got use to the structure of the forum, the questions kept coming.

The next question was: What are your plans to improve conditions for Fresno’s homeless population? Vagim suggested that most homeless people had a drug problem and mental health needs. He said that the state should not pull back health care funding.

He said, “I do not care what we do or how many houses and shacks we put up there, those people are free spirits.” Candidate Hunt’s response to that same question seemed to be a sort of counter attack on Vagim’s answer.

Hunt said, with passion, “These people are not drug addicts, crazy or mentally retarded, they are just people like everybody else in here is going to be if they do not pay their rent for two months.”

Henry Monreal said that there are a lot of vacant buildings in downtown that can be used to provide housing for homeless people. Ignacio Garibay simply

put it as, “Everybody needs a second chance.”

Henry Perea made an important point regarding this issue. He said that there are a lot of people who are actually working and are homeless because they do not have jobs that pays them well enough to afford housing.

It became clear that FCC Political Science students had come up with some well thought out and important questions. Dr. Johal asked: How would you improve public transportation in Fresno?

Tom Boyajian said that a comprehensive transportation system was needed, one that would enable people to go from Fresno to Clovis without the bus constantly stopping.

Duncan presented an interesting idea. He said that providing Wi-Fi wireless technology on buses, where people can go on the internet, check emails, and do their work on their way home, would encourage the use of public transportation.

Boyajian said that Fresno need to diversify our public transportation by perhaps looking at light rail transit.

The question regarding

public transportation was naturally followed by the following question how each candidate would you work with other state and federal authorities to reduce pollution in Fresno?

Barbara Hunt said, “I will go to Sacramento and get into Governor Schwarzenegger’s office with a plan.” Perea proposed that four things need to be done to reduce pollution: convert fleets into clean natural and liquid gas, increase the use of renewable energy, invest in greater public transportation, and more green building.

Garibay said that he would make sure that there will be no fees for planting a tree in ones back yard. Vagim said that other districts, like the Bay Area, need to put some of the same controls on their pollution mechanisms that we have. That they should not be able to dump all their dirty air on us and avoid all the regulations.

The final question was: What do you believe is the proper use of eminent domain in the city of Fresno?

Mike Dages said that he did not support eminent domain where property is taken from an

individual and handed over to a developer. Eben said, “There is a proper use of eminent domain, it would only be used after all possible resources have been exhausted.” Duncan said that the one time that eminent domain was used was at the request of the property owner because the financial benefits were appealing.

By the end of the forum, each candidate had presented the audience with a clear vision of why they should vote for them. As Mark Trezza said, “If your vote ever matters in pure numbers, it is at the local level.” The forum went very smoothly and both the candidates and FCC students got a lot out of it.

The candidates were able to present themselves and their stance on important issues affecting the city of Fresno, to the people who would go to the voting booths on June 3.

FCC students got the opportunity to see what the future of Fresno would look like when one of these candidates wins the election for mayor. As the audience piled out of the FCC theatre, there was an air of awareness surround them.

Planting the seeds of a movement

by Deshad Cato

Rampage Reporter

It started in the Bronx.

A Jamaican born Disc Jockey by the name of Clive Campbell, aka Kool Herc, plant the seeds that would become a worldwide phenomenon.

1520 Sedgwick Avenue, where Kool Herc started spinning records would later become to be known as “The Birthplace of Hip Hop” and artists like Grandmaster Flash, Kurtis Blow and Sugarhill Gang would take the fresh new art form and help bring it to national prominence.

Fans of Hip Hop know this story. Now, a new story has started to take root.

Just like the black, white and Latin communities before it the Asian communities is starting to come into prominence in the Hip Hop world, albeit slowly.

In every facet of Hip Hop, from the music to the clothing, the Asian community is staking its claim and carving out their own place in Hip Hop history.

If you want to look at where the Asian community has had the greatest impact on music you need look no further than on the production side.

One half of possibly this generation’s most popular produc-

tion teams is of Filipino decent.

Chad Hugo makes up one half of the hugely successful duo the Neptune’s, and although Pharrell Williams plays more as the face for the duo Chad is every bit of instrumental as Skateboard P...literally.

Chad plays most of the instruments for the drumbeats and melodies that Pharrell comes up with.

Another prolific producer who has worked with some of the biggest names in Hip Hop is DJ Baby Yu.

Known throughout the industry as “The Remix Kid” Yu has worked with the likes of Kanye West, Talib Kweli, Busta Rhymes and Fabulous. Yu, has been working for 10 years now.

He is known for his work on the mix tap and club scene, He performs all over the word for sold out crowds.

Dj Honda is by far one of the most loved and respected Djs, no matter the ethnicity. Honda started out in Tokyo where he would become one of the most revered and respected Djs rising sun, working with artists like Mos Def, Fat Joe, The Beatnuts, Redman, and Gangstarr.

Producing the music isn’t where it stops. Asian MCs are gaining some traction as well. The most successful thus far is Jin. Jin



Clive Campbell; aka Kool Herc

Google Images

is the first Asian American rapper to be signed to a major record company. Jin got his start battling in his hometown of Miami.

He also made a name for himself on BET’s “106 and Park”. He’s signed to the Ruff Ryder label and release his first album “The Rest Is History”.

Jin would ultimately leave the Ruff Ryder label; he remained on good terms with the label.

He has since released four albums and is working on his sixth, album entitled “Birthday, Funerals,

and Everything in Between.” Jin is currently on tour and continues to dominate on the battle scene.

Other artists such as LS, Shogunna, Rook, Giant Panda, Chan, Young Mac, the Teriyaki Boyz, the Far East Movement and Roy Kim all have broken through to gain, albeit minimal, exposure on the music scene.

Chalk it up to record companies not knowing how to market Asian MCs, or maybe the supposed lack of interest in Asian MCs has led to the stifling of many talented artists.

Even Jin, who is considered one of the best MCs working today, only sold about two hundred thousand copies of his first album.

Clothing companies, on the other hand, have shown major growth. A Bathing Ape (or BAPE) is a Japanese clothing company founded by Tomoaki “Nigo” Nagao in 1993.

According to Nigo, the name “A Bathing Ape” is short for a Japanese saying “bathing in lukewarm water.”

Japanese people typically have long daily baths. Bathing in luke warm water is to over indulge. This is, ironically, a reference to the laziness of the younger generation of Japanese, the brands own customers.

In January 2005, Pharrell Williams helped Nigo launch the first “Bathing Ape” store in New York. Artists such as Lil Wayne, Jin, Kanye West, Jermain Dupri, N.E.R.D, The Beastie Boys, and even actor/comedian Robin Williams rocks BAPE.

Hip Hop, started as an elite club for black youth to voicing their concerns, joys and sorrows. has now become the world’s voice. Words like “b-boy,” “flowing”, and “breakdancing” have become part of the universal language that connects all black, white, latino and Asian.

Music breaks through language barrier

by Jeannie Batey

Rampage Reporter

The Taste of Chaos Tour has been growing in popularity since it started in 2005. The tour went international right away and traveled all the way to Japan.

This year the tour brought three Japanese bands; D’espairsRay, The Underneath, and MUCC. Which held their own in an American venue.

To start off the Asian band D’espairsRay is dark and borderline schizophrenic. The vocalist, Hizumi, has a vocal range that varies from a soft rhythmic howl to sounding close to an unhinged demon.

The band is hot and when you meet the members in person they are humble and full of smiles.

During their set, D’espairsRay played songs from their US released album ‘MIRROR.’

Songs such as DAMNED, TRICKSTAR and SIXTY NINE had the Sacramento crowd roaring despite the language barrier.

It was an electrifying performance from start to finish, despite being bombarded by fans that



D’espairsRay: ZERO (bass) Tsukasa (drums) Hizumi (vocals) and Karyu (guitar.)

Google Images

were only there to see Avenged Sevenfold and Atreyu play.

A fan of the band who went by the nickname “Keiko” said that “The band kicks a--. It’s about time they get their name out there.”

The Asian bands were

crudely heckled during the event; people could be heard saying, “Learn English or die.” Every move one of the Asian bands made was looked at under a microscope, so each band had to really bring it.

In an interview with the band conducted by the JRock Revolution staff, the guitarist Karyu said, “It’s different in every place. There have been places where they have embraced us and places where they don’t respond

at all, like the Detroit show. We were the first band on the main stage, not everyone had gotten into the venue, so not too many people saw us.”

D’espairsRay held their own even their name strengthens their goal to make it big worldwide. The band name can be described like transcending through a feeling of despair by seeing the ray of light.

Every song this band creates speaks about feverish nightmares they overcame and having no pain left to feel. Gorgeous vocals and sound are matched with beautiful lyrics.

Soon, the barrier of language will be smashed away. Little by little this band brings a new sound and a new culture to listen to and enjoy.

Americans will have to open their ears to a different language. Japanese rock bands are getting closer and closer to becoming American mainstream rock and there is no end in sight.

Check out the bands Myspace at:

<http://www.myspace.com/despairsray>
<http://www.myspace.com/underneathjapan>
<http://www.myspace.com/muccofficial>

Jonny Dubowski Shows FCC How To Go Green

by Cody Gless

Entertainment Editor

Jonny Dubowski and *Rock 'n' Renew* hit Fresno City College march 25th to promote sustainability and the welfare of the worlds natural resources.

"Touring for years and seeking more economic ways to travel," said Jonny Dubowski is what caused him turn an eye to more eco-friendly forms of transportation as well as the promotion of sustainability.

Born in New Jersey and Raised in New York, dubowski has had vast amounts of experience in both performing and networking with other musicians.

From packing shows at the legendary concert hall CBGB, (Country, Blue Grass and Blues) who has been responsible for booking several legends including The Ramones and The Dead Boys to more recently, opening for alternative rock legends, Everclear, Dubowski is not lacking in the experience with the ways of the road.

Dubowski with his band *Jonny Lives* has toured with the likes of Everclear, The Shins, and The Fountains of Wayne, The Kaiser Chiefs, Debbie Harry, Modest Mouse and even headline rappers Snoop Dogg and The Wu Tang Clan.

Working with many of the bands previously mentioned, Dubowski Developed a plan to help promote sustainability and green "peace" among college students. The plan that Jonny titled Rock 'n' Renew teamed up with the NRDC (Na-

tional Resources Defense Council) as well as *itsournature.org* and is responsible for touring hundreds of college campuses a year, attempting to show students that "it's not that difficult to collectively contribute to a greater good."

To further explain Rock 'n' Renew, Dubowski said it is "a non-profit organization that focuses on helping businesses, activists, artists and musicians live and act in sustainable ways.

The connection between the

health of culture and the health of the planet, we use music, art and science to generate excitement about green solutions as we custom-design eco-blueprints for schools, businesses, and communities.

Through rock shows, festivals, lectures, installations and other programs," he said Some of Rock 'n' Renew's efforts include "helping inner-city kids find mentoring as well as union jobs and helping promote holistic cleansing". Several of the programs that Rock 'n' Renew provides

for inner-city youth include architecture, landscape design, education as well as helping fund youth field trips and ecology projects.

"Rock 'n Renew has brought the message of sustainability to over 100,000 people since its inception in 2006, with events in New York, London, Stockholm, Madrid, Belgium, Barcelona, LA, Atlanta, and other cities. Since the end of 2007, Rock 'n Renew has interacted with over half a million people around the world."

-rocknrenew.com



photo by Blake Gollmer

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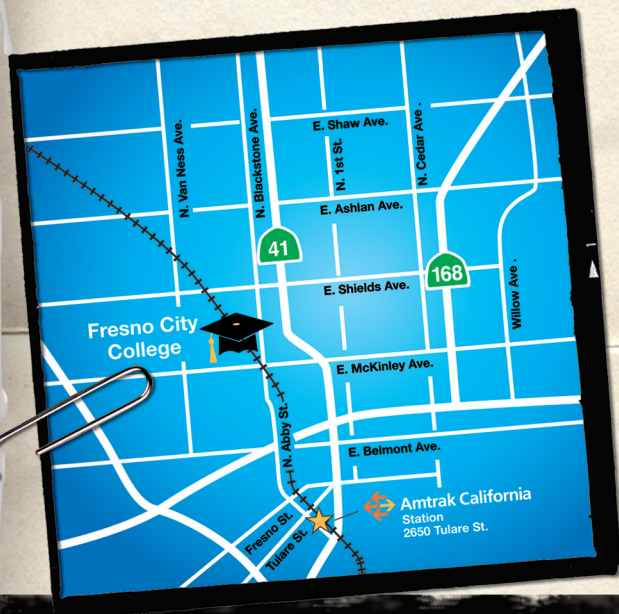
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5 Legendary Asian Films: Spanning The Decades

by Ramiro Gudino

Rampage Reporter

1. Shaolin Soccer

2001 Hong Kong

Trying to inspire people to practice martial arts, Kung Fu master Sing is met with rejection despite various strategies; people don't believe that his traditional art has anyplace in their lives.

After witnessing a frustrated Sing kick a beer can with incredible force, ex-soccer star Fung urges him to try soccer.

After convincing former fellow-students who have moved into various professions to return to their training, Sing forms a team coached by Fung.

As the team competes in an elite tournament, their skills in martial arts earn them recognition, culminating in a final game pitting Team Shaolin's traditional martial art training against Team Evil's steroid enhanced tactics.

With comedic dance routines to persuade crowds, stadium damaging kicks utilized players, and Tai Chi baking techniques developed by the love interest, this 2001 Hong Kong comedy will be appreciated by anyone who enjoyed Basketball and Dodgeball.

3. Battle Royale

2000 Japan

At the turn of the millennium, Japanese society began breaking down as unemployment and poverty rose. Disenfranchised, the youth began to rebel, disrespecting authority and ignoring school.

Afraid of the younger generation, adults pass the Millennium Educational Reform Act - AKA: The BR Act (referred to as the Battle Royale act). The BR Act calls for problem classes to be put in a national lottery.

The class chosen is taken to a designated site and forced to participate in Battle Royale. As one class embarks on a school trip, they fall asleep on bus.

When they wake up, they realize they



Google images

4. Final Fantasy Advent Children

2005 Japan

Advent Children is a full length-animated film based on a 1997 play station game Final Fantasy VII. This game is a favorite of many Final Fantasy fans.

It's been two years since Sephiroth, a man who nearly succeeded in for world wide destruction, was defeated.

Three brothers, all flawed clones of Sephiroth, are trying to succeed where the original failed.

Fans of the game series will appreciate this CGI movie, it expands the already vast world presented in ff7.

I recommend anyone play the game before watching this as very little of past events are explained but referenced heavily.

struction and loss of life.

After researchers study the sites, they determine that the monster is a creature that was exposed to radiation from the atomic bombings of the recent war.

As further attacks are anticipated, measures are taken to kill the creature but fail.

A scientist believes he has a method to combat the monster, but is reluctant to allow his current research on oxygen dissolution, fearing that it would be used unethically as a weapon against people once the creature was stopped.

Godzilla is an iconic monster that spawned a genre of giant monster movies and this movie is the one that started it all. Do yourself a favor and find the original instead of the Americanized release.

The movie plays on fears of (then) recent atomic bombings and questions the ethical applications of technology.



2. Kung Fu Hustle

Hong Kong 2004

In a city run by axe wielding mobsters only slums are ignored, as the residents don't have enough money to interest the Axe Gang.

Pig sty alley is one such neighborhood, until Sing, a luckless wannabe, tries to impersonate the gang leader bringing the anger of the gang on the slum. As residents defend their homes, Sing has to decide which side he really wants to be on.

This film parodies and acknowledges the aspects of Chinese wuxia genre. Wuxia stories feature skilled martial artists with strong codes of ethics or chivalry.

In this film it leads to scenes with wire-assisted showdowns between good and evil. Incorporating slapstick humor reminiscent of Chuck Avery (including a foot chase that would make Wile E. Coyote proud) this movie is a fun experience.

have been collared and forced into Battle Royale by a former teacher. A video explains the situation.

They are on a deserted island and have three days to win the battle royale. The only way to win is to be the last survivor. If time runs out, and a clear winner isn't selected; they all lose.

The movie follows how the students cope with the various situations some attempt to reason with their adult captors, some try to circumvent the trial, others embrace the inhumanity of the situation.

Not for the squeamish; this movie tackles themes of youth violence, questions of humanity, and motives during extreme stress.

Dark and graphic at times, this movie handles delicate issues, with care while without being too gory. You'll like this if you liked Hostel or Saw.

5. Godzilla

1954 Japan

A couple of boats being attacked in Tokyo bay is all the warning people have before a towering monster attacks the Japanese coast. Though brief, encounters with the legendary creature Godzilla are marked by widespread de-



CAMPUS VOICES

Slipping into a Recession: Coping with Credit Card Debt and a Slow Economy...

Q: How many credit cards do you own?
How much do you owe?

by Eddie Ortiz

Rampage Reporter

Q: How is the current economy
affecting you?



"I spend a lot on gas now"
~Meng Moua~
Art



"It hasn't really affected me"
~Sukhee Basetti~
Pre-Medicine



*"I pay \$50 for gas now. The
gas prices have gone way
up."*
~Miguel Sosa~
General Education



*"I pay a lot for everything
now. Not enough money to do
anything."*
~Teresa Massiner~
Sociology



"I spend a lot on gas"
~Kenneth Hedrington~
Business Administration



*"Five cards. I owe more or
less a thousand dollars."*
~Jeannette Miller~
Victimology



*"I have three credit cards and
two debit cards. I owe close to
\$800.00 on them"*
~Debbie Andrews~
Sociology



*"I have two credit cards. I
owe \$250.00."*
~Freddy Cortez~
Electric Engineering



"I have no credit cards"
~Cynthia Guillen~
Sociology



*"I have two credit cards. I
owe nothing because I pay
them off."*
~Ben Ventura~
Sociology

Opinion

Toss the Toxic Friends

Types of Toxic Friends

by Alexis Abrahamson
Rampage Reporter

Talk of relationships can always turn into a touchy subject for most. Many arguments start by having to defend who we associate ourselves with. The people we allow into our inner circle have a major impact on who we are and who we become in the future.

This is why friends and family tend to pry into our personal and social lives, not just because they may be nosy, but because they truly care about whom we have around that could influence us. It is a natural reaction to start talking or to doing certain things the people around us are doing.

With that said, it is important that we keep a tab on the friendships that need to be given the heave ho, and the ones into which we should put a little extra effort. A friendship with someone is always a two way street, but we cannot forget that we can close that road any time we want.

Most college students work and study consistently. If you have friends that seem to constantly start arguments and then leave you to clean up the mess, they add to your burdens instead of helping you through them. What is the purpose of having them around? Why would anyone want someone in their life to create more stress? Life is stressful enough. In the end, you should know what is best for you. Unless you enjoy chaos, it's time to move on.

It is always much more simplistic analyzing our friends and families relationships rather than our own. If it is so easy to weed out who you think should not be in other peoples' lives, why is it such a personal struggle to come to our own realizations?

How many times have you seen friends or family attach themselves to the worst person this side of Saddam Hussein? Everybody knows the person is pond scum except your friend.

"So when this terrible supposed friend finally turns on them, he or she is stunned, betrayed and utterly bewildered. Psychoanalysts make a fortune treating such naïve people," wrote Bill O'Reilly in his book, "Who's Looking Out for You."

1. The Selfish Friend

This is the friend that you can be on the phone with for an hour and a half talking only about themselves. The one that never offers to pitch in for gas or booze, but is always willing to hitch a ride in your car and feels free to having drinks on your dime. These types of friends are not much fun to be around to begin with. Why would you waste your time with them? If they don't care about you, don't bother with them.

2. The Backstabber:

Nothing hurts worse than hearing about your friends or family talking smack on you. The best thing to do is never confide anything on them anymore and keep to yourself. If the people you are around turn into more of a Judas than a friend, it is time to tell those babies, "Hasta la vista."

3. The Downer:

Having to focus on other people's problems more than your own is a major no no. The main reason for this is that you are not their therapist. If they aren't paying you, don't feel obliged to listen. When you ask how someone's day is, you shouldn't have to hear all their woes and groans. That is what their mommas are for. Why should you have to be their personal cheerleader and try to get their spirits up? Go find some more positive people.

4. The Leecher:

Having a friend that calls you fifteen times a day and leaves you twenty text messages telling you to call them back is annoying. These friends are basically acting like a needy three-year-old with a cell phone. One friend should not be taking that much time out of your day. It keeps you from developing new relationships with other people. Either tell your friends to cool it or just show them what it is like to really not call them back.

5. The Pathological Liar:

These are the friends that feel the need to lie about everything. In the beginning, it is easy to look over, but eventually they will start lying about you. Keep them away and never invest much into these types.



The Rampage

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IRON MAN
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on April 29th.**

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MAHEDACAR
CHAM-CHAM-CHAM
CHAM
FEVERISHLY

The first 10 people with correct answers will receive an \$1000 cash prize paid May 1st.

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College Students Face Huge Credit Card Debt



by Pedro Quintana
Rampage Reporter

College students face debt.

When we turn eighteen, we become excited about the independence we receive, along with the right to vote and privilege to buy cigarettes. We don't realize the amount of letters filling our mail boxes from major credit cards companies who target young, naive college students, peer pressuring them to sign up for credit cards with high interest rates.

Students are facing major credit card debt and cannot pay the full amount of their debts, barely making ends meet by only being able to pay the minimum amount that is required from the credit card companies every month.

The average undergraduate has over \$2,200 in credit card debt. Grad students have a credit card debt of about \$5,800. Many college students remain in

debt with thousands of dollars piled onto high interest credit cards.

The average student loan debt of students for a public, four-year university is around \$26,119. For a student attending a private four-year university is about \$29,000.

Statistics show that two out of five students will have bad credit by the time they reach the age of thirty.

Gerri Detweiler, an education advisor for debt counseling of America stated that more than 75 percent of undergraduates begin their college school year with a credit card with high interest and that students are clueless as to the mess they are getting themselves into.

"These students exceed their credit limit and don't make payments. They're slammed with over-limit and late fees. The longer these youngsters wait to pay their cards off, the worse it gets."

She also said that credit card companies with high interest rates will not work with their clients: their only interest is to get their money.

Millions of college students across the nation acquire credit cards each fall as the semester begins, but don't have a good understanding of how they work.

Fresno City College student Carol Castillo said that she feels that the credit cards companies tricked her into a credit card with hidden interest rates and other fees not made

clear by the credit card company.

"Well, now I am in trouble and owe over \$3,000 and am facing major credit card debt" Castillo said.

A statistics poll showed that over 80 percent of students feel that they were lured into bad credit card deals as a result of wanting quick money to afford many, if not all, of the expenses that are associated with obtaining an education.

A third year student that did not

want to be identified stated that she was over \$15,000 in debt. With a car payment, school, bills and a baby on the way, she has dug a hole with major debt.

"I do not have a job and I have a baby on the way. It is really stressful because my financial income is Cal-works and financial aid. I really don't know what I am going to do with my baby when it is born in July."

She said that she got her first credit card when she was seventeen years old from her mother. At first, she knew how to manage her money, but when she got laid off she did not know how to pay it off.

The credit bills started to increase in interest fees, and after a few months, she couldn't pay it anymore. Now, she gets creditors calling her every day.

"I think that if I can go and do it all over again, I would have not gotten pregnant, and definitely not taken a credit card"

Stressed FCC students on campus have said they regret ever having to get a credit card. Many said that they never read the small print in the contracts.

Many college students get credit cards and don't know how to use them.

College students are facing debt and digging themselves into a hole that they can not get themselves out of. We need to get college students informed about the consequences related to failure to pay credit cards and how to repair their credit.



Recession hurts Students

by Pedro Quintana
Rampage Reporter

After several years of prosperity, is the U.S. economy slipping into a recession?

There's been a lot of talk about a possible recession starting in late 2007 and early 2008 — and for good reason. The declining value of the dollar globally, the country's slumping housing market and the subprime mortgage crisis have all sparked fears among economists that we should, indeed, be anticipating a possible recession. This could have a huge impact on the class of 2008.

Economists aren't in full agreement as to the causes of recession. Some believe the current slowdown may, at best, be a mild and brief recession, while others claim we're in the thick of one.

According to the Associated Press, billionaire Warren Buffett said that the U.S. economy is essentially in a recession, even if it hasn't met the "technical" definition of one yet.

"A recession is defined by a group of economists, who sit down and decide whether or not we have a recession. It is always decided after a recession has occurred" said local economist, Jerry Ayerza.

"What it means, in practice for people, is that it's pretty tough to get a job. People are getting laid off, salary increases aren't very good — these are real problems."

According to Ayerza, if we wind up

in a recession or are blissfully unaware that we are in one, then the housing slumber is the likely cause.

"People bought houses they couldn't afford; investors speculated on property; condominium developers built properties that there was no demand for" he said. "The real problems in the economy now are that things were too good to be true."

Recessions, Ayerza said, can last anywhere from six to 18 months. It's dur-

ing this time that firms stop hiring people and the unemployment rate soars. But there is a silver lining: "The economy and the country have always been stronger than recessions. The prospects for that continue to be good."

"The average [college graduate] comes out of school with about \$20,000 in college debt, and if you're not really addressing that by letting the mail pile up, you're really going to find yourself in a pickle when the credit reporting agencies have you delinquent."

ing this time that firms stop hiring people and the unemployment rate soars. But there is a silver lining: "The economy and the country have always been stronger than recessions. The prospects for that continue to be good."

According to Ayerza, there is a stigma attached to young people living at home. However, it is better to live with family in order to have time to find the best job possible.

"The young people who are graduating in May and hopefully entering the workforce in the fall, can expect a couple of

things to happen," said Ayerza, who believes that more graduating students, frustrated by a fruitless job hunt, will be applying for graduate programs. "It's going to be a lot harder for them to get credit. We really ran when it comes to credit in the last decade or so, particularly in the last few years, because you had a lot of young people who had no credit history or financial skills. These students got credit cards and insane housing loans...really taking on a lot of debt because

we were in a boom market and it was easy to do. You can't expect to run up credit card debt and not have consequences for you".
"The other thing is, it's a lot more important now that you're credit worthy in the long term, and that your credit score stays very high. You have to be a lot more careful than in the past about making sure that you are really credit worthy," Ayerza said, adding that those who'll be entering the workforce this summer and fall will likely start at lower salaries and receive fewer benefits than those who'd graduated just last year.

"That particularly pertains to people with student loans. The average [college graduate] comes out of school with about \$20,000 in college debt, and if you're not really addressing that by letting the mail pile up, you're really going to find yourself in a pickle when the credit reporting agencies have you delinquent."

So what does this all mean for college seniors?

"The immediate problems are going to be for people who are looking for jobs, for people who are trying to buy houses and people who are trying to do the sorts of things we normally do as Americans," Mayer said. "I think a lot of those things are going to be harder."

Ayerza doesn't foresee anything going down in terms of prices. Food, he said, will likely be more expensive. Same goes for gas. Rent will decrease, but pay raises will be few and far between. There will also be fewer jobs available and more people job hunting. Times could be tough for a while.

"I think young people need to have some perspective, which is pretty hard to do when you're 21 and you want to get going with your life and career," Ayerza said.

"Recognize that you are going to be working for 40 years and at the rate our government is going, it could be longer than that."

"I think it's a good thing for young people to try and use this crisis we are facing as an opportunity to explore different things. If you can't get the job you wanted in one field, try something different. See how you like it. Maybe you'll like it, maybe you'll go back and do what it is you want to do."



Fresno City College

SPRING 2008 GRADUATION CEREMONIES



COMMENCEMENT SCHEDULE

Certificate Recognition Ceremony

Saturday, May 10, 2008 – Tower Theatre
2:00 p.m.

Honors Recognition Ceremony

Saturday, May 10, 2007 – Tower Theatre
5:00 p.m.

Commencement Rehearsal

Thursday, May 15, 2008 – Selland Arena
4:00 p.m.

Commencement Ceremony

Friday, May 16, 2008 – Selland Arena
7:30 p.m.

For more information, go to: www.fresnocitycollege.edu



Photo by Chris Alaniz
The view from outside Dympna Ugwu-Oju's office on Monday morning.

Rampage Advisor's office vandalized

An unidentified vandal threw a ceramic pot through the window of Dympna Ugwu-Oju's office last Sunday night. The pot cut a basketball-sized hole and sent spider-web like cracks throughout the glass. College personnel placed a large piece of plywood on the inside on Monday afternoon. No arrests have been made.

Martin, Mahogany highlight Jazz Fest

by Deshad Cato
Rampage Reporter

Jazz, one of the most revered and loved musical art forms around the world has inspired more artists and musical art forms than possibly any other musical art form in the history of American music.

Jazz has, from its early 20th century inception, helped to generate a variety of subgenres, from New Orleans Dixieland dating from the early 1910s, big band-style swing from the 1930s and 1940s, bebop from the mid-1940s, a variety of Latin-jazz fusions such as Afro-Cuban and Brazilian jazz from the 1950s and 1960s, jazz-rock fusion from the 1970s and later developments such as acid jazz.

Artist such as Miles Davis, Ella Fitzgerald, Thelonious Monk, Billie Holiday, John Coltrane, Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, and Dizzy Gillespie and many other musicians and singers have become Jazz legends heralded by fans from all over the world.

In honor of the sounds and inspirations behind Jazz April is being heralded as Jazz month, and to help celebrate Fresno City College is bringing a whose who to the Fresno City College theatre.

On Thursday April 3, over two dozen high school jazz ensembles performed on the FCC, with a special awards concert with the FMCMEA Honor Jazz Bands and the Fresno City College Jazz Ensemble, featuring special guest trombonist Andy Martin.

Andy Martin is truly a world-class jazz musician. His sparkling bebop lines and consummate musicianship make him equally at home on the stage or in the studio.

He maintains a busy schedule in L.A. in bands led by Jack Sheldon, Louis Bellson, and Quincy Jones, among others.

Martin has long been one of L.A.'s first call trombonists for commercial recordings, television and motion pictures, and live theater.

He has contributed on albums for many popular artists, including the Pussycat Dolls, Coldplay, and Michael Buble. His television credits include major awards shows like the Grammy's, the Emmys, and the Academy Awards.

On April 4th, 2008 Fresno City College brought acclaimed jazz vocalist Kevin Mahogany to fill the FCC Auditorium with beautiful music to continue the

festivities.
As a student at Baker University, Mahogany performed with various instrumental and vocal ensembles and formed his own vocal jazz choir.

After graduating, he returned to his roots in Kansas City, attracting a huge following throughout the 1980s. Kevin has now started his own label, "Mahogany Jazz," and has two projects scheduled for release: "Kevin Mahogany Big Band" and "To Johnny Hartman," a tribute to the vocalist of the 1940-70's who helped popularize jazz and swing.

With eleven CD's as a leader, and quite a few as a sideman, Kevin has proved to be the quintessential jazz vocalist.

Newsweek describes him as "the standout jazz vocalist of his generation." New Yorker magazine writer Whitney Balliet writes, "There is little Mahogany cannot do."

Both performers gave rousing performances earning standing ovations on both nights.

One can only wonder how FCC can hope to top the performances that they managed to secure for this years Jazz month. One things for sure, it'll be a joy to watch them try.

fresnocitycollege Rampage

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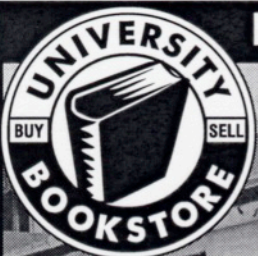
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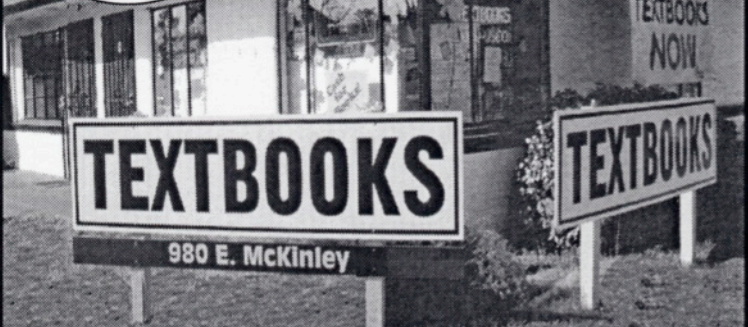
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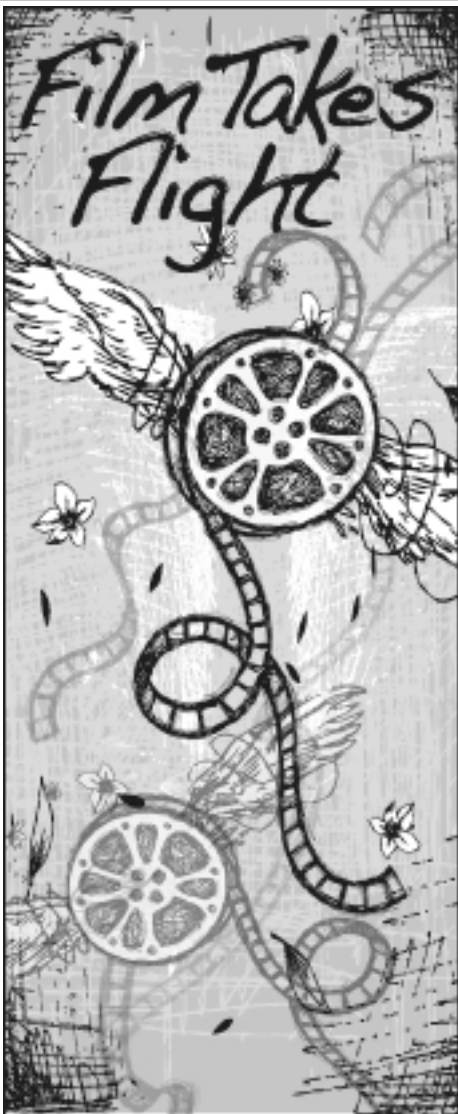
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Photo by Joseph Rios

‘Teatro Campesino’ carries tradition of rattling cages

As part of the events intended to celebrate Cesar Chavez day, College Activities brought “Teatro Campesino” to the FCC Theatre. In the days of the fruit boycotts led by the United Farm Workers and Chavez, traveling troops of actors would use satirical plays to garner support from farmworkers and fruit pickers.



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Hopeful Suffering

Fresno Poet Remembered

By: Joseph Rios

Andres Montoya lost a battle with leukemia nearly ten years ago. He was a hulk of an ice-worker who left this earth with his songs unpublished. He never reaped the fruits of his labor. He never heard the critical acclaim or felt the welcoming embrace of a whole generation of poets that continue to be inspired by his work. Maybe it was his way of getting the last word.

Throughout his life, he fought just about everything. He rebelled, revolted and yet, he loved. He shared warm whispers of encouragement along with caustic cries of contempt.

He was a poet of great convictions and great contradictions.

He howled in the face of poverty, crime, death, and injustice while he rejoiced in redemption, hope, and faith.

It was his truncated life and all-telling voice as a poet that brought together the likes of Pulitzer Prize winner Phillip Levine, American Book Award winner Tim Z. Hernandez, and a host of prominent writers together for the

a first look at Andres' forthcoming book, "Pakatelas."

Contributors to the April issue, friends, family, and lovers of Andres' work joined to celebrate the launch of the new issue on April 10.

The night of poetry reading and story telling was one to be remembered.

"You self-righteous, hypocritical little s**t!" said Andres' younger brother Maceo in front of a crowded hall at Arte Americas. It was one of his older brother's favorite insults to use when the two were arguing, he explained.

The phrase brought on waves of nostalgia for those who knew Andres best. His father, Malaquias Montoya, sat front-row, stage-left and laughed as he remembered his late son's rebellious tendencies and his eloquent tongue.

The Montoyas are a family of artists, a bloodline of expressionists. Malaquias, with his hard, weathered skin like cracked Fresno soil was one of the first to paint the face of the Chicano.

He himself, bares the visage of a *campesino*, a farm-laborer. He wears worn, dusty soft-leather boots and a wide sun-shielding hat. A peppered, broom-like mustache sweeps over his upper lip and his hands are hard and callous like the souls he puts on canvas.

Maceo, a young Yale and Columbia-educated author and painter, spoke of his older brother with the same contradictions

Andres employed in his American Book Award-winning poetry.

He spoke of loss and love, hope and despair, anger and joy. Above all, he expressed a profound longing for his big brother.

After almost 10 years, he and many in the audience were still wrestling with Andres' premature departure. Their faces told the tale.

"I cry for him often," Maceo wrote in "Moments Lost" which appears in the current issue of *In the Grove*. "For our loss, for the incomprehensibility of his death, still, after all these years, as raw as the day of his sickness...as raw as the days and months following his death when I was unprepared to deal with his absence. I am still unprepared."

Presenters recalled his laughter, his faith, and gregarious nature. Teresa Tarazi, also an FCC English instructor, remembers and misses her good friend from college. She misses the afternoons they spent painting and writing poetry.

Andres' former English professors at Fresno State, Levine and Corrinne Clegg Hales, recalled his outspoken voice in the classroom and his often-outlandish antics.

"It was difficult being his 'teacher,' as he seemed to think it absurd that poetry could be taught," wrote Garrett Hongo in a selection from *In the Grove*. "Yet, he learned, and so did I."

It was a unique congregation of creative minds. Accomplished

In the Grove

An Homage to Andrés Montoya

Guest Edited by Daniel Chacón

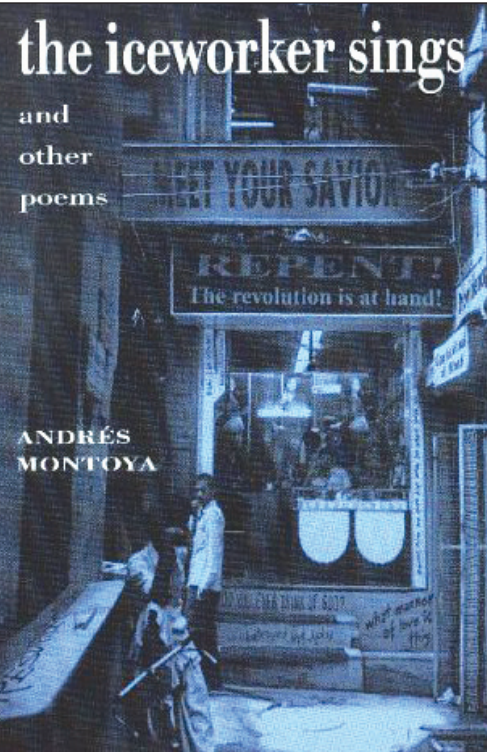


Spring 2008

Pakatelas

Above: The cover of the April issue of In the Grove. The contents is dedicated to the late poet and former Fresno City College English professor Andres Montoya. His father Malaquias provided the artwork for the cover. Lee Herrick, FCC instructor and author of "This Many Miles From Desire," is the founding publisher of the journal.

Right: Montoya's American Book Award-winning book of poetry, "The Iceworker Sings."



Copies of *In the Grove* can be purchased at inthegrove.net

April issue of *In the Grove*.

The Valley-based journal, founded by Fresno City College English instructor Lee Herrick, was the first to publish Andres' now famous poem, "The Iceworker Sings."

That poem was published posthumously in the eponymous book.

Before Andres' death he gave the rights to his second unpublished manuscript to his best friend, Daniel Chacon.

In The Grove now has the repeat pleasure of giving the world

painters, a Pulitzer Prize winner, and American Book Award Winners shared the stage with Puente students and up and coming poets. They all had one thing in common: Andres.

"That was a magical night," said Chacon.

There was a looming presence throughout the room. Friends of Andres say he was there that night. Herrick, publisher of *In the Grove*, and Augustine F. Porras, long-time friend of Andres, recounted a similar story from a few years back.

Chacon was speaking at an event in San Diego. It was there Porras and Herrick met for the first

time. Suddenly, as if by a stroke of providence, a group of birds burst into the room and perched on the chair next to the podium.

"I don't want to romanticize it or anything, but that's what happened," Herrick said. Porras nodded in agreement. "That was Andres," they agreed.

Within the walls of that crowded, standing room only quarter of Arte Americas people remembered, celebrated, and mourned the death of a poet that, most agree, never saw his potential realized.

Andres died, indeed, as John Keats wrote, "Like a sick Eagle looking at the sky."