



# Rampage

Vol. 39, No. 20

Friday, March 23, 1984

Fresno City College

## Board and council brainstorm on concerts

By Carlos Cordova

When two government bodies meet, they often can't decide on anything.

That's what happened when the State Center Community College District board of trustees and the Fresno City Council met earlier this week.

The two groups met to discuss what seemed to be matters of mutual concern. The first was the use of Ratcliffe Stadium for music events.

The board thought it might seek alternative sites to hold concerts. Fresno City College has come under fire from residents who live around the area of the stadium because of what the residents cited as excessive noise, parking, trash and behavior problems during the last three rock concerts held at the stadium.

Three rock concerts were held last year by Fresno City College to raise money for the Rally for Ratcliffe fundraising drive. The fundraiser will benefit the refurbishing of the stadium. Projected costs for the remodeling project are estimated at \$950,000. So far, \$350,000 has been raised.

Trustee Warren Kessler said he lives "in the immediate blast area" of the stadium. "Then I was the first to hear the after blast from the neighbors," said Kessler.

Council member Chris Peterson said he had experience staging concerts at Ratcliffe in 1976 and they had "minimal impact on the community."

Peterson argued that rock music is a certain form of entertainment that is a service to the community, just as tractor pulls are at the Fresno District Fairground.

"A solution of just moving concerts around is not a solution," said Peterson. "We need to consider all aspects of that service."

Councilwoman Karen Humphrey said she drove around the stadium during one of the concerts. "I found I would have been very unhappy if I was a neighbor," said Humphrey.

Humphrey said the problems "seem to be linked to rock concerts more than they would pop music." Humphrey suggested the college should seek a different audience.

Councilman Dale Doig said he was in favor of the college holding rock concerts. "If the college can make money off concerts then more power to them," said Doig.

Council member Joe Williams said he believed the city has a vested interest in the stadium whether it's monetary or not because of the aesthetic value of the stadium.

"I'm not opposed to rock concerts," said Williams, "I just think they haven't been handled right."

The board and council agreed to let their staffs handle the problems.

Meanwhile, as the weather warms up and the concert season fast approaches, the concert question remains as board President Les Thonesen put it "in limbo."

Next, the board asked the council for help in improving a strip of road at the Vocational Training Center. The Vocational Training Center is a part of the district.

The council said it would be a policy decision for the city to fix a street for another public institution.

James Martin, public works director, said "The city doesn't have the money to fix its streets either."

The council asked the board to follow the procedures private businesses use by filing for a waiver.

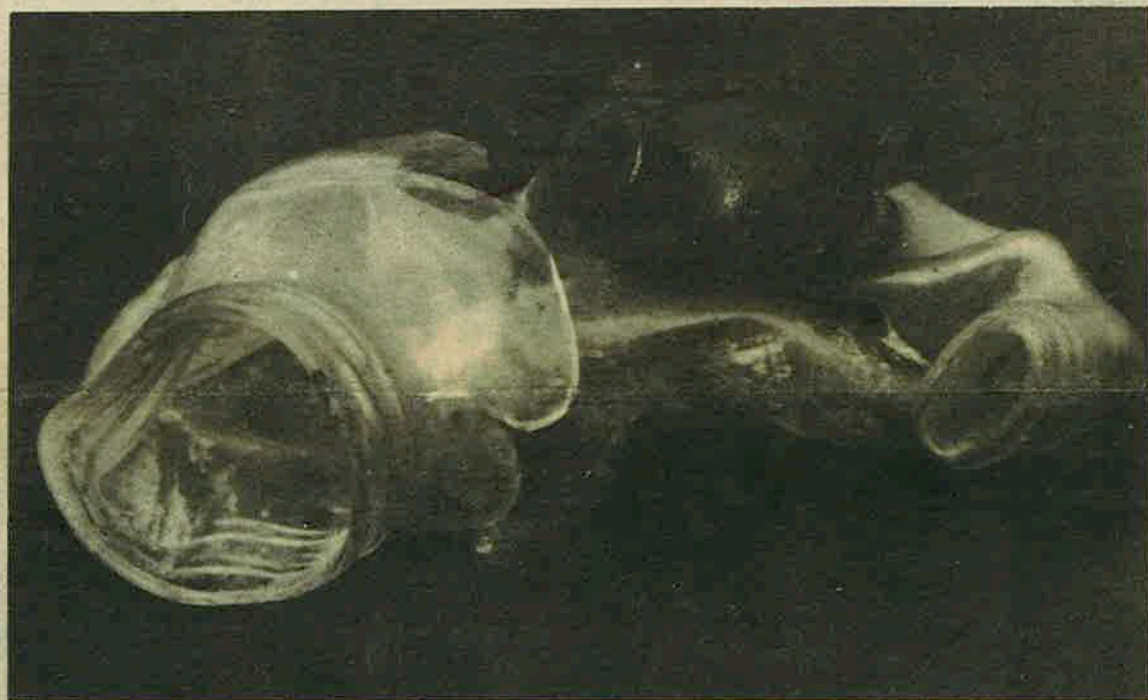
Finally, the council heard a report by Arthur Ellish, dean of instruction at Fresno City College, concerning the occupational and vocational capabilities of the college's students. The college is interested in develop-

ing internships with students and the city.

"We have the ability to bring on line what this community's businesses and industries need," said Ellish.

Council member Ted Wills, almost with disinterest, told Ellish to direct that information to the city manager.

Humphrey interjected, "The economics of our entire area is dependent on us working together."



Rampage/Bob Wright

The Rampage challenges our readers to entitle this photo. All entries, other than "Melted Bottles" will be judged by the editors of the Rampage and the top five winners will be announced in next week's issue.

Drop off entries at the Rampage office, building B-3.

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## Sosa stresses Latin American awareness

By Peter Cummings

Fresno City College students and instructors should increase their awareness of the activities of the Latin American Support Committee. That is the belief of FCC Sociology Professor Luis Sosa.

According to Sosa, LASC is a nationwide organization of concerned citizens from a significant array of socioeconomic and professional backgrounds who gather to inform themselves and others about conditions in Latin America, and the relationships between the U.S. Government and the governments of Latin American countries.

"The current task," said Sosa, "is to dissuade the U.S. Government from intervening militarily in the domestic affairs of El Salvador and Nicaragua." Sosa contends that although the support group keeps a watchful eye on all international events, their actions are directed at Latin

America only.

"The committee has sent qualified observers to Latin America," reports Sosa, "and they have brought back firsthand knowledge based on eyewitness accounts." Sosa asserts that the Fresno chapter of LASC has assembled a film series that depicts significant events in Latin America. They have also set up workshops for developing awareness of particular issues. Guest speakers have included Latin American Government officials, private-sector spokesmen, teachers, students, healthworkers, and union representatives.

The committee has sent spokesmen to Washington to lobby for their cause. So far, contends Sosa, they have received support from local representatives Tony Coehlo and Richard Lehman. Charles Pashayan, though, continues to support the

position of the Reagan Administration.

Sosa posits that an increasingly-important part of the educational process is for students of all backgrounds to become as informed as possible about the world affairs which have a profound effect on their lives. "Consider the billions of dollars spent by the U.S. Government to uphold an unpopular political regime that could be put to much better use for U.S. domestic needs such as hunger and education," said Sosa.

"Additionally," claims Sosa, "students should be alert to the potential of a military draft. FCC students may be called upon to fight in El Salvador just to protect American Business interests which depend on cheap labor for their survival."

Sosa asserts that he would like "instructors to become cogni-

zant of the conditions in our society, as well as internationally, so they can begin to use this information in their classes and other community activities."

Sosa contends that this has not been the case because, for example, he has received considerable "flack" from the FCC Administration, including an abnormally-high quantity of faculty reviews and several attempts to persuade him not to discuss controversial socioeconomic conditions with his students.

Sosa said that he and several members of the committee are supporting Jesse Jackson's campaign for President. "He's the only real alternative to Ronald Reagan," claimed Sosa.

Sosa also reports that LASC is a "grass roots" organization and receives no funding of any kind. The Fresno chapter has approximately 150 to 200 members.



## Editorial

### Suicidal teens cry out!

By Lois Everitt

"In this life, it is not difficult to die. It is more difficult to live."

From "The Savage God" by Sergie Esenn

American children of today have become the victims of overwhelming stress, born of rapid, bewildering social change and constantly rising expectations. Most young people cope with the problem. Some don't.

The suicide rate among teenagers nationwide has doubled in the past 10 years. In Fresno county, six teens killed themselves in 1980 and four took their lives in 1981.

Suicide in California is a major cause of death. More than 4,000 people died last year. For every death, there are six to nine attempts, and except for a few, most suicide victims want desperately to live.

Teenage suicide can take place anywhere. It doesn't matter if one lives in a large city or a small town. It doesn't even matter what rung of social ladder a person is on.

What does matter is that teenage suicide does occur. Usually the victim doesn't know any other way out.

Teenage Suicide is caused by many things, but the primary reason is depression. This condition normally is an emotional mixture of hopelessness and helplessness in dealing with life's problems.

People in such stressful situations often withdraw from society. They seem lonely and may cry often. They also lack an interest in normal activities.

Suicidal people will often show signs and give hints. They will cry out-sometimes so faintly that they are never heard.

They must be!

## Letter To The Editor

Dear Editor,

George Deukmejian's veto of AB1, the gay rights bill, marks a low point for civil rights in California, and in the United States as well. Perhaps one of the most ironic--or perhaps hypocritical--statement comes from Fresno's own Jim Patterson, who said we should "think about... (to) respond to homosexuals as people rather than as a political issue."

The sheer hypocrisy and ignorance contained in that statement enraged me last Wednesday morning. What does Patterson--an opponent of AB1--think the issue is? Gays are only demanding exactly that: to be treated as equals, as people. By denying passage of AB1, George Deukmejian continues the constant denial of millions of people the right to be safe and to be sure of having a job day-to-day. This is not a 'moral' issue in the sense that 'knee-jerk fundamentalists' such as H. L. Richardson and W. B. Timberlake claim it to be; it is an issue of discrimination and oppression of many million people.

Perhaps I should provide an illustration of the seriousness of homophobia and heterosexism for those who do not understand why such a legal provision is necessary.

Today I was in a heated argument over the veto of AB1. It was with three white, straight young men. I argued that allowing discrimination against gays should not be considered a political issue. To me it is analogous to discriminate against people after learning they have Irish or Japanese (or dare I say-Armenian?) blood; it is arbitrary, bigoted and ignorant. In a room of ten people, several perhaps sympathetic to AB1, no one else decried the vetoing of the bill.

I realized, unfortunately, that the social stigma against gays is so great that even the act of supporting civil rights legislation to ensure fair employment of gays is enough to draw into question one's own "respectability". I felt intimidated even in arguing for AB1, and I realize many other people are afraid even to talk about the issue. Imagine, then, the pressure upon gays who, more often than not, are in the closet and have little choice but to remain silent in the face of homophobic hatred and ignorance.

The people of California deserve better than this, and we should all realize the mistake George Deukmejian has made.

Lawrence Kay

## 'Endgame' vivid in prose

By Peter Cummings

It is a rare delight when a masterpiece on the stage presents itself just as vividly in prose. Such is the case with Samuel Beckett's *Endgame*. Beckett's work is concerned with the essence of mankind, who, having chosen his own destiny, is now doomed to live with it. The epitome of Beckett's talent lies in his manipulation of dialogue, equally effective whether spoken or printed.

Beckett was born and raised in the political and religious strife of 20th-century Dublin. His early literary development centered around the powerful, descriptive cynicism of James Joyce and the intensely-intimate phenomena-of-consciousness exhibited by Marcel Proust. He later settled in post-war Paris, encountering firsthand the doctrines posited by Jean-Paul Sartre and Albert Camus about the meaningless and arbitrary collection of processes of human existence frequently referred to as "existentialism." These influences were of profound importance in the life and work of Beckett.

First performed in London in 1957 as a one-act play, *Endgame*, the English translation of *Fin de Partie*, surfaced in print in 1958 as both seed and flower in the continuous development of the French Avant Garde method known as the Theatre of the Absurd.

In *Endgame*, the characters are the plot. There is neither protagonist nor antagonist, only the symbolism of absurdity. The two

major characters, Hamm and Clov, represent mankind and his situation. Nagg and Nell serve the less-active duties of the innocent (but necessarily guilty) bystanders who got in the way of the human race. They are ensconced in a dismal, gray room with no signs of life save these four occupants who share the last hours. It is probable that a major disaster has occurred recently, killing all other living things. It may well have been

tells himself that he would like to escape, but knows that there is no way out.

Nagg and Nell represent the social disproduct of progress, as well as Hamm's parents. Burdensome and no longer useful, they have been stashed in garbage bins that are just large enough such that they, too, cannot escape their predicament.

Beckett is skillful in displaying the emotional wares of his characters through, ironically, the use of bizarre, seemingly-meaningless dialogue to suggest the meaninglessness of language itself. His ambiguous yet vivid, sardonic descriptions imply, not assert, of the frailty and nobility of the final chapter of a culture that continues to eat away at itself in the name of divine providence and for the sake of history's judgment.

If *Endgame* shocks the reader, or simply provides him with something he can relate to, then Beckett will be satisfied.

The Evergreen Original paperback is available from Grove Press Inc. It usually retails for about \$2.50. It may be difficult to find, but will be well worth the effort.



caused by Hamm, for he knows too much about it.

Hamm is Beckett's interpretation of the human condition. He is blind, paralysed, helpless, impotent, bored, and cocky to the very end. He has proudly created his own situation; and now he must wallow in it. "You cried for night; it falls: now cry in darkness," writes Beckett, quoting a Baudelaire poem.

Clov is stuck by (in) the side of Hamm. He would like to separate himself from his absurd, outrageous existence, but he cannot. If he could break away from the system, go somewhere else, do something else, there would be hope. Clov has been sentenced to live with himself for as long as it takes. He

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Rampage/Terry Pierson

Aerobics-a nationwide craze has been at FCC for seven years. A new class session begins March 26 in the FCC Gym.  
Additional photos and story in next week's issue of the Rampage.

# Rampage

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The Associated Student Body is sponsoring a "Student Swap Meet" to be held March 28 in the Free Speech Area from 9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Anyone wanting to sell their personal items for extra cash is welcome. A.S.B. will issue 2 chairs and a table within an 8'x10' area per vender. The cost will be \$2.00 per table for non-A.S.B. card holders and free to all holders of A.S.B. cards. For more information contact the A.S.B. Office located above the Bookstore in room 205. The phone number is 442-4600, extension 8720.

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## That's 'showbiz'

By Carlos Cordova

We've all heard the cliché "There's no business like show business."

This month we get to learn what's fact and what's fiction about the show business industry.

Fresno City College's community services program is presenting a workshop in "The Business of Show Business" on Saturday, March 31 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The six-hour workshop is designed for aspiring actors, directors, playwrights, designers and technicians.

Gary Lahti, a professional actor based in Los Angeles and New York, will instruct the class. Lahti has worked in commercials, films, television, repertory, stock and dinner theatre, and off-broadway. In addition, he holds a master's degree in fine arts and has taught college acting and theatre courses.

Loreen Behrens, community services assistant, said the workshop is being sponsored jointly by the community services program and the theatre arts department. "We feel we have a lot of local talent that can

benefit from someone with theatre and television experience," said Behrens.

Tom Wright, chairman of the theatre arts department, said the workshop offers students a chance to hear from someone who has worked professionally. "It gives credence to what the instructors are teaching," said Wright. "We know what we are talking about, we have just never experienced it."

Behrens said the areas covered in the workshop will include: acting schools, private teachers, living arrangements, support groups and job opportunities.

The workshop will also help students prepare for interviews, auditions, screen tests and contracts. Students will learn which jobs to accept and which ones to turn down. Unions will also be covered.

"It can all be frightening," said Behrens. "If we can help them (students) along the way, then we have a privilege to help."

Community services classes are not part of the college's regular curriculum and charge a fee to cover costs. The class is \$25. The class will meet in the college recital hall.

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Rampage/Terry Piers

Down and out on second, but safe on first.

## Rams take runner-up

By Barbara Parks

Fresno City College's womens' team finished second in the Valley Taco Bell Softball Tournament last weekend.

The team compiled a 4-2 record, losing a pair of games to San Mateo.

Ace pitcher Liz Apodaca was a work horse for the Rams, hurling 40 innings during the weekend. She allowed only two earned runs in that time.

Apodaca was named to the All-Tournament team along with sophomore Diane Vakdovinos and freshman Cindy Bush.

The Rams will continue their tough pre-conference season Thursday when they meet seventh-ranked Cuesta College in San Luis Obispo.

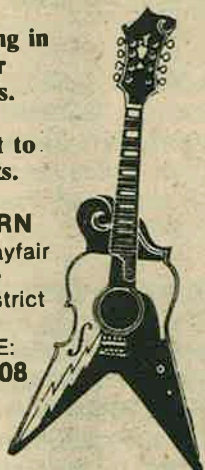
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