

The Rampage Asks Students:

"What woman has been the most inspirational or influential in your life?"

**Movie Review**

Teenage Mutant Ninja
Turtles III

**Comics Column**

Spencer Green, Wolfbane
and Trippin'

THE FRESNO CITY COLLEGE

RAMPAGE



April 1, 1993

Volume 54, Issue 5

News Notes

► Art Conference

Careers in the arts will be featured at a Leadership in the Arts conference on Saturday, April 3 at the Fresno Memorial Auditorium.

The conference is designed to give high school and college age art students an overview of artistic careers with workshops on everything from graphic arts and architecture to fine arts and illustration. An individual review of student work will also be included.

The conference is sponsored by Arte Américas. The registration fee is \$25, which includes admission to all workshops, lunch, a special reception for visiting artists and an evening performance of Latin jazz music. Registration Fee scholarships are available. For more information call Arte Américas at 226-2623.

► Career Week

Career Week at FCC will be held April 25-30. Divisions ranging from Health, Arts, and Sciences department to the Business department will each have one of two three hour sessions per day to give students information regarding career opportunities in their areas of interest.

Career Week will culminate on April 30 in a job fair with 50 to 60 employers on campus.

Debbie Akaida, Associate Dean of Counseling, who is taking part in putting together the events, gave some advice to interested students.

"If they want a job, they should dress the part," she said, adding that students looking for full time employment should have a decent resume and be prepared.

► Blood Drive

Students are encouraged to give blood at a blood drive on Thursday, April 15 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Staff Dining Room.

Donors should be at least 17 years old, weigh more than 110 pounds and be in good health. Donors should eat a healthy meal before donating.

For more information, contact Jun Sayong at 224-2900.

► Showcase '93

Showcase '93 takes place April 16, 1993 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. As one of the many activities, representatives of the FCC Job Placement Services will be there to give you tips on how to search for the perfect summer job.

There will be a booth manned by the Services staff members, according to Ruth Tarver of Job Placement Services. There will be continuous videos about interviewing techniques, resume writing and other skills needed for a successful job search. There will be handouts available on these skills as well as information on the upcoming Job Fair during the week of April 26 to 30.

Other activities include computer demonstrations of GM ASEP and Ford ASSET, a Civil War encampment, and a talent show. Food will be sold by the various campus clubs, but the popcorn will be free. The clubs will also provide information about their activities.

The Rampage office will be open, and staff members will be available to answer questions.

Attending high school students, as well as current students, will receive information on admissions, counseling and financial aid.

► UC Central Valley

The decision on the future of the local UC campus will be made following a visit to the sites by UC President Jack Peltason in April, according to Jean Barlow of the technical committee.

March 31 is the deadline for the property site agreements for the possible sites which include Yosemite Lakes near Merced, Table Mountain near Madera, and the Academy site near Fresno. Peltason will be visiting the sites on April 7 and 8. At an alumni function on the April 8 he will talk about the future of the project.

Environmental impact reports will be done on each of the three sites if money can be allocated for them. Barlow is unsure how the budget problems will affect the progress of the project.

Regents will make the final decision on the sites and budget considerations at a meeting in May.

\$1.4 Million bookstore addition to proceed despite budget woes

by James Todd
Rampage Reporter

FCC is preparing to build an addition to the bookstore which will include a cafe at a total anticipated cost of about \$1.4 million.

The administration dismissed claims of inappropriate use of the bookstore's profits at a time of cuts in other areas of the budget, most notably certain classes.

Dr. Arthur Ellish, FCC's Dean of Instruction, outlined the position of the administration:

"I'm from the old school, when it was the student's responsibility to get the books," he said. "It's every bit as responsible to renovate the bookstore as it is to redo a student center."

The recently completed student center cost \$150,000.

Ellish said that the money could not be saved to act as a hedge against a probably gloomy community college budget situation.

"That money is from the en-

terprise funds, and is controlled partly by the District, the Board, and various entities on campus," elaborated Chancellor of the State Center Community College District Bill Stewart "There's never a good time. We started working on this two years ago, and it's spent all this time in the planning stage."

"The dollars are there that are out of the bookstore account that can't be spent for registration or for classes."

Facing the prospect of skyrocketing student registration fees next semester, some students feel it's not so much the lack of ability to spend on classes as much as the lack of will.

One student government official, who declined to be identified, commented, "It seems to me the administration is looking to have a fancy place where they can take their friends to lunch."

"All this is being done on the backs of the students. In this age of fee increases and budget cuts, can

we afford this course of reckless spending?"

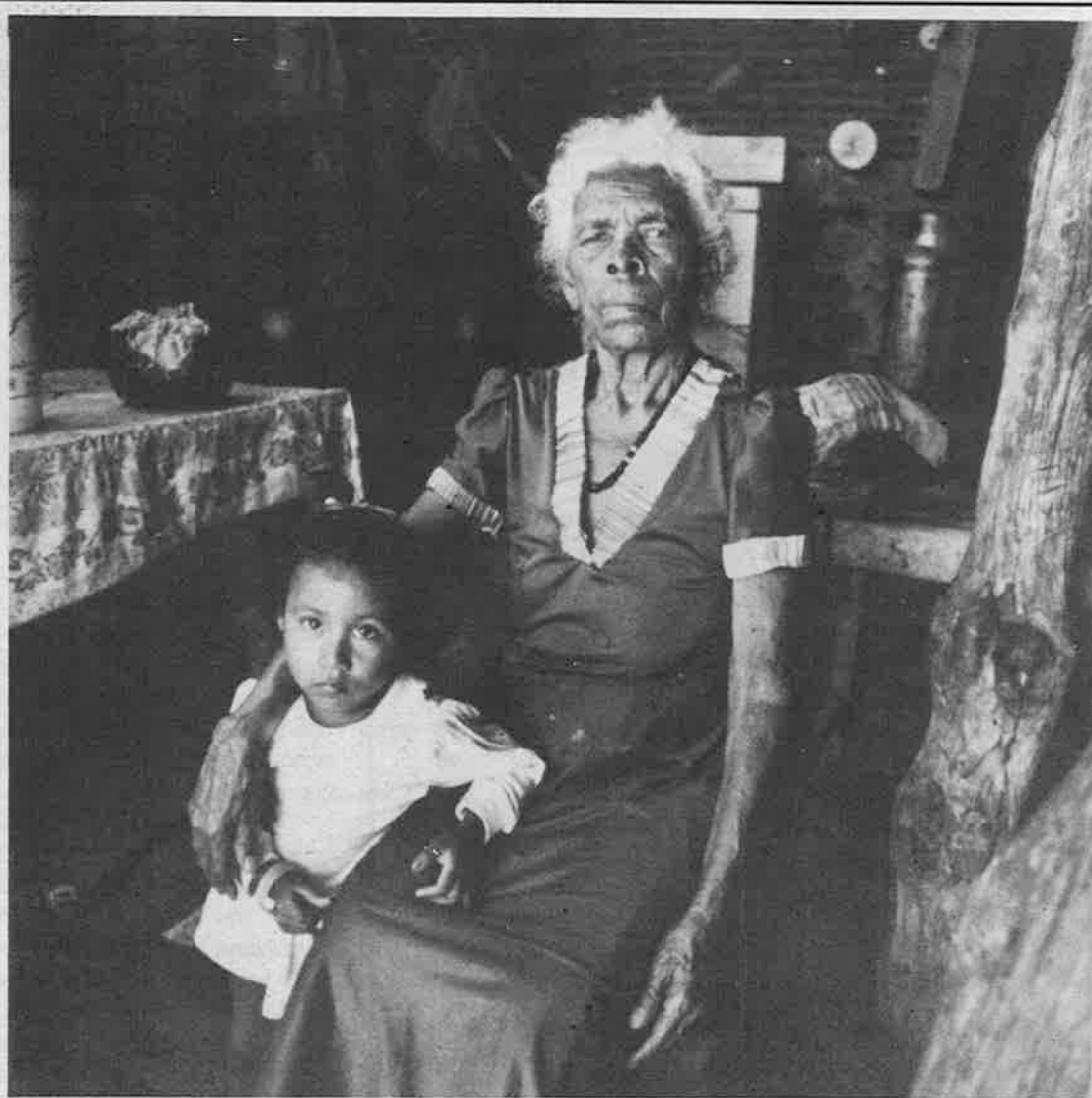
Nika Shoemaker, president of the Pan African Student Union, was already upset about the loss of the old student lounge. She said the new facility is not large enough to suit her club's activities, which include dances and stage use.

Concerning the bookstore addition, she said, shaking her head, "Bookstore reserves should be used for something else."

According to Dick Cleland, FCC's business manager, the money for this new addition will come out of reserve profits from the bookstore. Once this project is completed, the bookstore's reserve fund will have spent over \$2.6 million in the past eight years alone.

This figure includes annual cocurricular expenditures, a \$550,000 all-weather track at Ratcliff stadium, and the bookstore addition.

Cleland said that construction may begin around September 1.



Tony Gleaton's photography exhibit, *Africa's Legacy in Mexico*, can be seen in the Art Space Gallery through April 11. See the back page for related stories.

EDITORIAL

They want to control what you can and cannot watch

by Steven Sauer
Managing Editor

Recently the people of Fresno were assaulted by one of the most blatant promotions of censorship to appear in recent years.

A full page ad appeared on the back of the Sunday comics on March 21 that proclaimed in huge letters, "We Are Outraged! And We're Not Going To Put Up With It Any Longer!"

The ad then proceeded to place the blame for all of America's social problems on the entertainment industry.

They claimed that the entertainment industry is the cause of teenage pregnancy, unwed mothers, violence and crime.

Place blame where it belongs

It's time for us to place the blame where it really belongs: the people who refuse to take responsibility for the poor upbringing of their children by trying to place the blame elsewhere.

When parents refuse to honestly discuss sex with their children before the children become sexually active, and then complain about teen pregnancies, they are acting irresponsibly.

When parents use drugs (nicotine, alcohol, etc.) around their

children and think nothing of it, they are acting irresponsibly.

When parents use profanity in front of their children and then complain when their children use the same words, they are acting irresponsibly.

The number one influence on children is their parents. If the parents set a good example and instill basic values in their children, no amount of viewing of adult films or listening to suggestive music will change them.

If the children do not have basic values, maybe it's time to look at the upbringing.

They want to control us

The people who have written the ad are desperate to place the blame elsewhere. If they didn't, they might have to accept some responsibility themselves.

They are therefore trying to tell us what we can and cannot watch and listen to.

They want movies to be "wholesome family entertainment," citing some mythical golden age when all movies were family-oriented.

If it doesn't fit their standards, simply not seeing it isn't enough for them. They don't want you to be able to see it, either.

To these people I say, "If you

don't like what you see, don't go watch it. If you don't like what you hear, don't listen to it."

Nowhere does it say that they must watch the movies they don't like, or listen to the music that offends them.

Yet, if these people have their way, many of the best films ever would not be seen. Any film dealing with crime would not be allowed, including such classics as the *Godfather* movies, and in recent years such films as the *Untouchables* or *Good Fellas*. Any film with sexual situations in it would be forbidden, so you can toss out a number of other good films. And God forbid that anyone should happen to use foul language.

As for music, the type of songs that these people are objecting to were called "ribald" songs in centuries past. This type of song has been sung for longer than our country has existed. Blaming it for the social conditions now is ignorant as well as foolish.

Stop the censorship

"Spare us the censorship lecture," these people say. This means one of two things: either they don't think what they propose is censorship, in which case they are even more ignorant than they would seem at first, or they know it is



censorship, and don't care, which means that they are against one of the basic principles on which our country is based: freedom of expression.

Either way, their position must be opposed, before they manage to institute the same kind of censorship that flourished in Nazi Germany and Stalin's Russia.

Make your voice heard, before these people silence your voice forever.

EDITORIAL

Administration spends while students suffer

by James Todd
Rampage Reporter

FCC students are facing harder times than ever before in this age of "downsizing", and they promise to get worse before they get better.

With Governor Wilson proposing a \$30 per unit fee hike, fewer classes being offered, and ever greater numbers of would-be students competing for shrinking registration space, next semester

looks bleak for those of us barely getting by as it is.

You would think that somebody forgot to tell the administration about it.

With reasons (or excuses, if you like) such as "needed modernization", "long-term benefits", "better variety of food", FCC's administrators are gleefully anticipating the planned bookstore addition and cafe.

Students probably would be,

too, if it wasn't for the fact that, through bookstore profits, their money is picking up the \$1.4 million tab for the addition. Plus, when it's completed they are also expected to spend more of their money to make the cafe a success.

Don't get me wrong. It would definitely be nice to have a better place to eat on campus than the cafeteria. But, hey, what's wrong with Wendy's?

My point is, those people who come to FCC every day to sit behind large oak desks are beginning to get as out of touch with students as those people who go to Sacramento to sit behind probably very similar desks.

Students are facing a crisis aimed at them from the state. The administration could have tried to help us out, but instead they decided to sit down to lunch.

Corrections:
Last Issue in the article on 3 on-3 basketball, the person referred to as "Harris" is Paula Harris, from Intramural Sports.
The debate team placed in the four-year division, not the two-year division as was written last issue.

THE RAMPAGE

Fresno City College • 1101 East University Avenue • Fresno, CA 93741
Editorial (209) 442-8262 • Advertising (209) 442-8263

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Whitney Brown

MANAGING EDITOR

Steven Sauer

PHOTO EDITOR

Lisa Dorman-Koop

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Marc Aminian

REPORTERS & PHOTOGRAPHERS

Alexander Asher

Jill Korynasz

Alan Aubry

Mary Sorensen Hays

Jeff Connelly

James Todd

ADVISOR

Dr. Harry Kennedy

Comments and editorial opinions expressed in the *Rampage* are those of the writers or independent staff members and do not necessarily represent the position of Fresno City College, its administration, student government, or the State Center Community College District.

Letters to the Editor

I just finished reading the March 17th edition of the Rampage and it left a sour taste in my mouth. All in the same issue I read about fees going up and classes being cut. It seems like we, the students, are paying more for less.

With the fees also going up at the U.C. level, more and more students are going to be starting their higher education at the community college level. This means more students are going to be wanting seats in classes that are already full.

This brings me to the fourteen weeks drop deadline. It was proposed to shorten the deadline to eight weeks. Eight weeks is being too generous. Allowing the student until the 14th week to decide whether or not he or she wants to finish the class is wrong.

It takes a commitment to go to college and a student needs to be serious about his studies, get the grades and move on. A student should have a pretty good idea how much work is going to be involved in a class going in to it. The way it is now, we can wait the 14th week and say, "Oh well, I'm not getting the grade I want, I'll drop the class and take it again next semester with an

easier instructor," even though it's probably the grade the student earned. This means there is one less seat for another student who wants and needs the class. It seems to me that the money spent for someone to take up space for 14 weeks while they make up their mind is money that could be spent elsewhere, like to help reduce fees.

— Paul Temple

I recently stumbled upon a discrepancy of a kind most ironic. On March 3, 1993, The Rampage printed an article entitled "Down and out on the streets of Fresno."

This article presented statistics in order to support its premise that homelessness is widespread, and is "becoming an epidemic." In order for the article to provoke those ever-so-warm feelings of sympathy and understanding, they have to convince their readers that most homeless people are hard working individuals who, having been cast aside by the cruel waters of economic hardship, are only marginally able to survive by the depending on the kindness of others.

Enter a man identified only as

Jim. A photograph depicts him standing near a busy Fresno street, gently stroking the matted fur of a dog, Ewok.

In the article, Jim says he loves his job and that standing on the islands of busy streets, asking for food or money and hoping that people are kind is all he can do to survive. The overall impression is that Jim is an honest person.

Well, perhaps Jim is not as honest as he appears. At least, not in the Rampage.

Five days later, Jim resurfaced in an article in the Fresno Bee. Students of FCC read with dismay that Jim Psalmond is a heroin addict. True, he is homeless, and he did lose his job, but he admittedly "lives on drugs alone."

Jim has his own problems, which he is apparently responsible for. However, the Rampage, in its enthusiasm to present the political acceptable side of the homeless debate, failed to recognize the fact that the money of well-intentioned readers may be going to something other than food or clothes. Instead of helping a homeless man live, readers may be helping him die.

— M.F. Zamora

Many colleges are raising their admission standards

by John Williams
College Press Service

College admissions are expected to be more competitive than ever through the year 2000 as budget cutbacks, grade inflation in high school and an increasing student population force universities to raise academic standards for incoming students.

Many high school and community college students are now faced with having to make hard—and perhaps more realistic—decisions about where they want to go to school and what they want to major in because many university systems are being more selective.

"The market is setting admissions standards. In the old days, we had so much room that we could adjust for the people. Now we're telling students they could be admitted to the state university system somewhere. We don't say they will get their first choice of college or program," said Pat Riordan, spokesman for the Florida Board of Regents.

Several state university systems, including Arizona, Oklahoma and Wisconsin, are either studying or have increased admissions standards. Additionally, many states are creating a flagship university, where one designated university has higher standards than the others, making it that much more difficult for students to enter.

One such example, Riordan said, is the University of Florida in Gainesville. The average entering freshman has a 1,200 SAT score and a 3.78 grade point average, while the average state admissions standard is a 900 on the SAT and a 2.5 grade point average. And the standards could rise, he said.

Florida has nine public universities with approximately 190,000 students, and state officials expect the student population to rise to 240,000 by the year 2000. At one time, students in Florida's 28 community colleges were guaranteed admission to the university of their choice; now they may not get into the school they want and are forced to attend a second or third choice.

Individual universities are also raising standards. One example is Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, which has pro-

posed increased minimum requirements that could go into effect in January 1994. The current standards have existed at least 20 years, said Clifford Gillespie, dean of admission and records.

"The low standards cause me some concern, and also our faculty," he said. "It's a perception probably that just about anyone can get in here. Our faculty thought it was time and the administration thought it was time to make a change."

The current minimum requirements include a 2.0 grade point average and a 19 on the ACT. The school is proposing to increase the minimum standards in three categories: an honors admission with a 3.5 grade point average or a 26 ACT; regular admissions with a 2.8 grade point average or a 20 on the ACT; or a review by committee for students who have a 2.0-2.79 grade point average and a 17 through 19 on the ACT.

Gillespie said that grade inflation both in high schools and college has made the current 2.0 grade point average "hit a low floor. We have not kept up with what is perceived as grade inflation. During the permissive grades of the '70's, you could get a C without doing anything. We are seeing a lot of high school students who can't do college work."

There are currently 16,677 undergraduate and graduate students enrolled at MTSU, and that figure is growing by about 1,000 students a year.

"We have more and more people aspiring to go to college. The population of the college bound is expanding," Gillespie said. "There are more poorly prepared students, so schools are dipping down into the lower levels. Many schools are going lower, near the bottom, for students who aren't better prepared for the college experience."

Frank Burnett, director of the National Association of College Admission Counselors in Alexandria, VA., said that colleges and universities are trying to respond to the national demand for educational reform and increased standards.

"There are some people in the education community who believe colleges and universities have been

challenged adequately by the reform movement," Burnett said. "Highly selective institutions never changed a bit. The moderately and least selective schools probably have to re-examine admission criteria. The dynamics are extremely volatile. Some of the formulas and paths that were in place five and seven years ago are antiquated."

John Hamming, a spokesman with the association, said budget cutbacks have forced public universities and colleges to be choosy about the students they accept. "In general, states have decided to decrease the amount of spending. In the last two years, there has been an absolute dollar decline," he said. "Universities are being squeezed by a bad economy."

With less money and more demand for space, schools are looking at ways to maintain programs, and one way is to toughen admission standards. An expected mini "baby boom" should hit colleges in 1995, officials said, and that will put even more strain on many schools.

There are approximately 15.3 million students who are currently attending college this academic year, according to The Chronicle of Higher Education, and that

number is expected to increase consistently through 2000. Hamming said that some schools are not examining their roles or reforming admissions requirements. And, because of higher requirements, many schools are reporting that applications are rising. What this means, however, is that students are applying to more schools in hopes that they will be accepted to at least one institution and will be able to get financial aid.

"There is application inflation. Some people are saying that applications are up, but there is nothing to suggest a remarkable rise of applications," Hamming said. "The job market is bad, kids are thinking about going to work, and think, 'Gee, I'm going to go to college.' They should have known this their junior year of high school so they could prepare. And we have academically talented people filling out more applications."

The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education found that a large percentage of students were dropping out of the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University. A study found that the students were not academically prepared for university study, so a plan was enacted to increase ad-

mission standards. Fall 1992 was the final phase-in period of increased standards that began to be enacted in 1988.

Incoming students now have to have a minimum ACT score of 21 or a GPA and class ranking that puts the student in the top one-half of the graduating high school class. The other entrance path is that the student have a 3.0 GPA and be in the top one-third of the senior class.

"By establishing standards to strive for, students would be better prepared for collegiate challenges," said Jeanie Edney, spokeswoman for the Oklahoma regents. "Before, we had the highest dropout rate and the lowest graduation rate in the Big Eight. The long-term goal is to increase graduation rates and decrease dropouts."

So what's a high school or community college student to do?

"Study, study, study," said Riordan, with the Florida Board of Regents. "Take a practice SAT test. Get test-taking skills maximized. Develop extracurricular records so it appears that this is someone who is interested in life. Academically, get As and Bs. Without a record like that, students will be in competition with people who look more attractive."

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April is Alcohol Awareness Month

by Mary Sorenson Hays
Rampage Reporter

April is National Alcoholism Awareness Month. The emphasis this year is being placed on young people who drink and drive, said Ashley Dick, Executive Director of the Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Council.

The Council is hoping to place a coffin near Shaw and Blackstone with a marker going up every 22 minutes representing each alcohol-related death and a colored marker going up every three hours for the alcohol-related death of a teenager. This activity will go on for 24 hours beginning at 5 p.m. Wednesday, April 7.

A basketball game has been scheduled for Friday, April 23

between players from the Oakland Raiders, Denver Broncos, Los Angeles Rams and San Francisco 49ers. The event will be held at Fresno City College and tickets will be \$10. Prior to the game on Thursday and Friday, the players will be visiting area schools to give drug free messages to students.

Dick feels that contracts between parents and teenagers can be important. This involves the parents signing a contract to the effect that they will pick up the youth any time day or night should a problem with alcohol occur without negative consequences. The student agrees to make the call after determining if they or the person they are riding with has been consuming alcohol.

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Roving Reporter: What woman has been the most inspirational or influential in your life?



Hiroko Tomono
Liberal Arts Major — My mother. She taught me a few things: to respect people and be honest, to study hard, and to work towards world peace.



Amy Cribbs
Business Administration Major — My mom because she has her master's degree and she inspired me to go to school. She has come back to school to get her art degree so she can change careers.



Hong Vong
Radiology Major — A woman I respect is a scientist, Madame Curie. Now, in America I would say that Hillary Clinton is a woman that is looked up to because of her intelligence.



Denise Reta
Early Child Education Major — My twin sister. We've been really close. She's kept encouraging me through all my difficult times.



Gina Johnson
Child Development Major — My best friend, Jeana Herron. She's the reason that I'm here today in college.

Photos by Lisa Dorman-Koop

Voicemail is being installed at Fresno City College

by Jeff Connelly
Rampage Reporter

It's frustrating when you need to get ahold of a teacher to let them know why you missed class, or to find out if any assignments were given, especially if they are part-time instructors who don't have an office, much less a phone.

These problems are on their way to being solved by FCC's new voice mail system.

The system, which became operational at the beginning of March, is, in effect, a mass answering machine. In the event that the staff member, or their secretary aren't available, the "mailbox" takes the message.

"Each office will have at least one box for the general public," says Kathy Bonilla of the Public Information Office. "Different people, like associate deans, will have private mailboxes for access by the president."

The goal is to increase service to students and the community. It is not intended to be a substitute for a real person answering the phone, but it allows some form of communication where often none was possible before. It is definitely

a better alternative than getting no answer at all or not having anywhere to call.

"Once people get used to it, they'll see what an asset it is to this campus," Bonilla says hopefully. "Students and the community will always have an opportunity to leave a message."

To use the system, call (209) 265-5760 from a touch-tone phone.

The call will be answered by an automated voice, instructing you to enter the extension number that you want to reach and press the # button.

If you don't know the number you need, you can enter the last name of the person and if that person has a "mailbox" it will connect you to their recorded message.

If you don't know the number and the person is not in the system, you will not be able to leave a message.

Your best bet in this case would be to ask your instructors ahead of time what the extension number is for their department, so you will be prepared if and when you do need to call.

Student Trustee Franco begins his term

by Alexander Asher
Rampage Reporter

Newly elected student trustee Efrain Franco doesn't know how to do his job.

"I'm still learning about this job from members of the A.S. and administration officials," Franco

President makes drop decision

FCC President Brice Harris finally made his decision on the drop deadline on Tuesday afternoon.

Dr. Harris recommended at his President's Cabinet meeting that the drop deadline date be moved forward to nine weeks from 14 weeks.

This recommendation will be forwarded to the Board of Trustees, who will make the final decision.

Especially upset by his decision were members of the Student Senate, who had voted the week before to protest any decision earlier than 12 weeks.

Student Senator John Roberts said that the student government is gearing up for a confrontation with the administration on the issue.

"This means war," said Roberts.

said. "The guidelines for Student Trustee are kind of vague in terms of how and what to do."

The Student Trustee is a liaison between the State Center Community College District and the students of FCC, Franco explained.

"I'm there to represent students on Board decisions, policies, and programs they want to implement on campus," Franco said.

Franco, a member of the Mexican-American Student Society and Alpha Gamma Sigma, became interested in student government as a result of the fee increases last fall.

"No one made a complaint or even a whimper when the fees were raised," Franco said. "I wanted to get involved, or possibly do something to change the situation."

Franco also wants better access

to school facilities for students.

"Night students need to have access to scantrons and miscellaneous supplies," Franco said. "I had one student in a class who was looking for a scantron at 7:30 and the bookstore was closed. Why can't there be a little miscellaneous office supply in the cafeteria or library where students who need scantrons, pencils, or pens can go over and purchase them? They wouldn't have to rely on the bookstore."

To help meet his goals, Franco wants to conduct polls, meet with forum classes, and have a booth by the fountain to address students' concerns.

"I want to have a big banner saying 'your Student Trustee — if you have a gripe, come tell me about it,'" Franco said.

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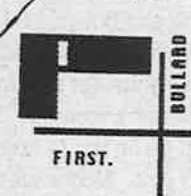
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Is seeing still believing?

by Alexander Asher
Rampage Reporter

Electronic still photography began in the 1960s as part of NASA's effort to enhance deep space photos from Ranger 7. Now, it's the new photo class on campus and the only course of its kind in the San Joaquin Valley.

The new course allows students to do the type of Kodak Photovision work of turning video frames into pictures with IBM or Macintosh computers. And students don't have to be photography or computer majors to do the work.

"They don't even need a camera," said Ray Arth, instructor of the electronic still photography class. "Our purpose here is not to make this course a picture taking class. It's a computer imaging class for any person who wants total control of their pictures."

Electronic still photography is a process in which an image on film or video is transferred to a computer through the use of scanners or video digitizers. Once on computers, image manipulation may be used to improve the quality of a picture, transfer video images onto paper (as newspapers did with photographs during the Persian Gulf war), combine several pictures into one, change the color of a picture, etc. After

manipulation the image is output to either paper or film.

"With this type of technology a student can take one of those old coffee stained family shots from 40 years ago and repair it," Arth said. "You wouldn't even need a negative."

Electronic still photography can also be used in a realm of visual communication careers.

"It can be used by photographers who are going into fine art photography, industrial photography, photojournalism, medical photography, and advertising," said photographer and electronic still photography student Marc Aminian. "But it can also be used for trashy supermarket tabloids."

Arth agrees.

"The camera represents truth to a lot of people and when they see a picture, they view it as truth," Arth said. "Now, a picture can be taken and altered and be virtually undetectable. Elec-tronic still photography doesn't allow unethical people to do things they couldn't do before, but it makes them a lot faster and less detectable."

**Have a good
Spring Break!**

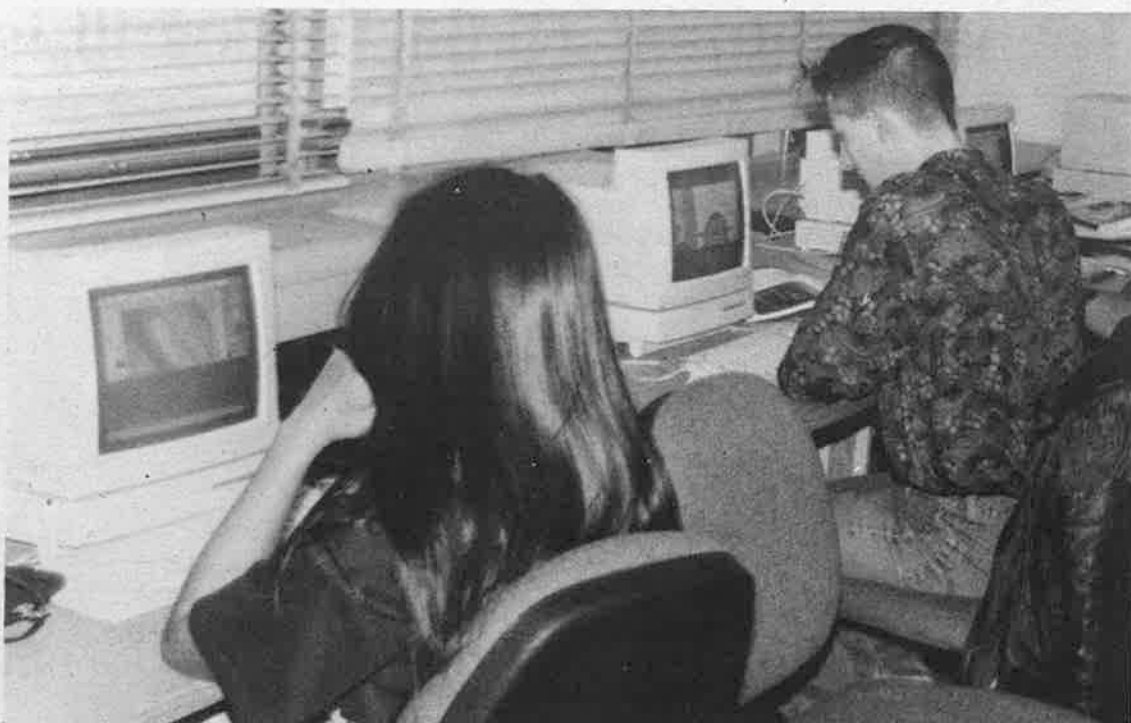


photo by Lisa Dorman-Koop

Students in the Electronic Still Photography class work at the computers on a drawing project

President Harris to trade places with student

by Greg Stobbe
Contributing Writer

FCC President Brice Harris will trade places with an FCC student on April 1 as the prize in a drawing by Phi Theta Kappa.

The announcement about the role-switching prize came from Phi

Theta Kappa's Inter-Club Council (ICC) representative Larry Peer at an ICC meeting two weeks ago.

President Harris will attend the winning student's classes while the student attends to presidential duties.

Tickets were on sale March 22-29 for \$1 in the fountain area.

Proceeds will add to Phi Theta Kappa's fund and help promote their Showcase booth on April 16.

Showcase, the sixth annual open house, will present FCC clubs to high school students invited to the FCC campus. Many ICC clubs will be highlighting their activities and programs.

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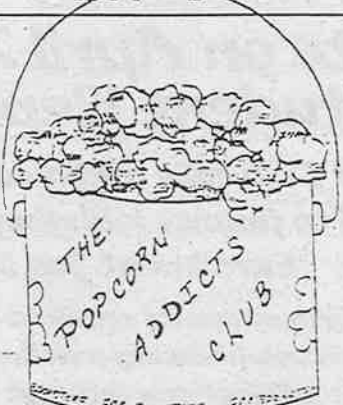
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WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY ALAN SHAPIRO

OPENS APRIL 2

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles III is a good movie for kids

by Steven Sauer
Managing Editor

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles III: The Turtles Are Back... in Time is an amusing bit of fluff, and may be a good way to get kids out of your hair for a couple of hours.

The third movie in the *Turtles* series, based on the comic books by Kevin Eastman and Peter Laird, *Turtles III* follows the four ninja turtles as they use a magic scepter to go back in time and space to feudal Japan to rescue their friend April O'Neil.

While there they must fight bad guys, attempt to invent pizza, and face a few moral dilemmas while trying to find April and return to the modern world.

Overall, the acting is acceptable, with the only really memorable performance coming from Stuart Wilson as Captain Dirk Walker, a mercenary English trader

who has dealings with the other major villain of the film, Lord Norinaga (Sab Shimono). Wilson has good screen presence, and is believable in his role.

What lifts this film above most of the other child-oriented action films is the authenticity of the Feudal Japanese part of the film.

Other than the fact that everyone knows how to speak English, instead of only the ones who deal with the few English traders allowed in Japan, the film is very faithful to history.

Japanese historian James Matsumoto was brought in as a technical advisor to ensure the authenticity of the Japan segments, and it shows in the quality of the film.

The film for the most part is a series of fights with a few bits of characterization thrown in between them, but the film-makers know that their main audience is young



Donatello, Raphael, and Leonardo examine the magic scepter that has the power to transport them through time in *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles III*

Bad Manners at the Cadillac Club

On Sunday, March 29th, the Ska band Bad Manners played to an enthusiastic crowd at the Cadillac Club.

Ska music developed in Jamaica during the late 50s and early 60s and later evolved into Reggae. There is a "big band" sound in Ska music due to the use of brass instruments.

The most influential band in Ska is the Skatallites, who were the first band to play Ska. The term for this type of music was derived from their name. Buster Bloodvessel, the lead singer for Bad Manners, said, "They [the Skatallites] really have done an amazing amount of work for Ska."

From there it moved to England and became popular among the youth at that time. Since then many popular groups, such as The Police and Onigo Boingo, have used the Ska style in their music. Now, said Buster, Ska seems to be becoming more popular once again.

Buster has been with Bad Manners since they first formed 16 years ago. Their show Sunday was a superb example of what a Ska show is all about.

Buster is a sight to behold. He is between 35 and 45 years old, with a shiny bald head, a

rather imposing stature, and a tongue more active and flexible than anyone since Gene Simmons.

In one of the numbers, he pays a loving homage to his stately "bowl full of jelly", kindly referring to it as "my fatty", all the while caressing it fondly and shaking it wildly.

Buster kept the crowd at a high energy level throughout the whole show. After the initial set, lasting about 45 minutes, was over, the crowd coaxed the band back out to the stage with cries of, "You fat bastard!"

One thing observed by a virgin Ska viewer was the difference in the dancing atmosphere at this show compared to more mainstream dancing environments.

At nightclubs, it is only acceptable to be dancing in mixed couples. At a Ska show, everyone was dancing — in any kind of grouping imaginable. It was a very free atmosphere and a lot of fun.

Bad Manners is touring throughout the United States, and Europe. According to Buster, the band might return to Fresno in September, at the end of their current tour. But they definitely plan to return during their next world tour within two years.

Buster said that he plans to keep performing "till I drop dead."

boys, and pace the film accordingly.

The action sequences were fairly well done, and the actors playing the turtles were competent with their weapons.

For anyone who has nothing better to do, or wants to have somewhere to bring the kids, *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles III* is an OK movie. The best bet, though, is to wait for it to come out

on home video, or at the cheap seats at Manchester.

Rating: 6★s out of 10
Rated PG (Violence)

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The Comics Column

Spencer Green



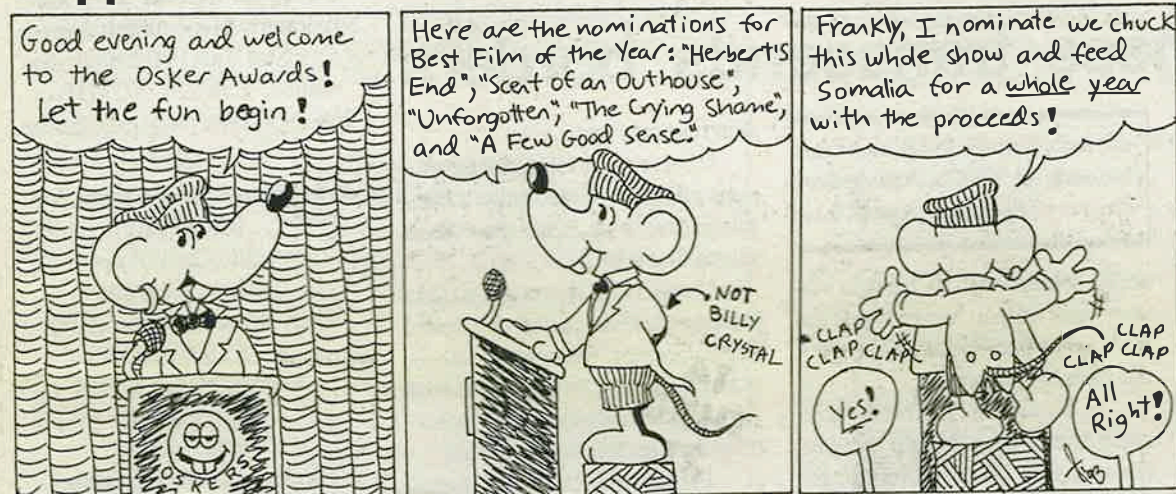
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by Charles

What the Butler Saw was a fun trip through the 60s

by Mary Sorenson Hays
Rampage Reporter

"What the Butler Saw" by Joe Orton was a delightfully funny look at England during the sexual revolution of the 60s.

Don't look for Shakespeare here, it's more like "Three's Company", only R rated. The only cast members who kept their clothes on were the two psychiatrists, but there was no nudity.

The whole story is based on the thwarted attempt of Dr. Prentice (Brian Morton) to seduce Miss Barclay (Robin Harvey) who has come to apply for a secretarial position. When Mrs. Prentice (Kimberly Helms) arrives unexpectedly, Dr. Prentice tries to cover up his misdeed. For the rest of the play, the plot takes so many turns it is difficult to summarize.

Brian Morton as Dr. Prentice was the epitome of the strait-laced upper class Englishman right down to his accent.

Robin Harvey as Miss Barclay had more of a Cockney accent and was generously endowed, playing the "dumb blonde" to perfection.

Kimberly Helms as Dr. Prentice's nymphomaniac wife stole the show with her antics, rubbing her body against whatever male or piece of furniture that was available.

D. J. Risenhoover played medical inspector, Dr. Rance, as a believable nerd who manipulated the situations to his own interpretations, making you wonder if he shouldn't be the one residing in the asylum.

Vince LoForti played the bellboy, Nicholas Beckett, as a gullible blackmailer determined to do what was necessary to win the secretarial position, even to donning Mrs. Prentice's dress.

Jim Lopez played Sergeant Match, the Bobbie who acted more like a keystone cop, the perfect foil for all the characters to play off of. They all carried off the intricate plot and constant entrances and exits with near perfect timing, leading to lots of laughs from the audience.

There were a few minor glitches involving traveling clothing that disappeared and reappeared elsewhere, like the Mrs. Prentice's pink belt which was missing when she put on the dress, but was on when she returned from a left exit.

Speaking as a person who grew up in this era, it was a fun trip down memory lane, beginning with the montage of 60s music down to the empire-waist dresses and bouffant hairdos. (Did we really look that strange then?) I only have one question: where was the butler?

48 channels and there's still nothin' on

by Jeff Connelly
Rampage Reporter

Continental Cablevision's new channels are inching their way across Fresno — it's probably the only expansion in Fresno going from north to south, not the way around.

The new channels are the American Movie Classics, Comedy Central, Country Music Television, Entertainment Television, Black Entertainment Television, The Learning Channel, The Weather Channel, C-SPAN 2 and the Movie Channel.

The other additions are CNBC, which currently shares time with Prime Ticket on 29, and another pay-per-view-channel.

The Movie Channel is a premium channel, so it isn't part of the basic service. The advantage is that it costs less than other premium channels — \$6.95 a month instead of the usual \$10 — and it doesn't have the tendency to repeat the same movies over and over like HBO.

C-SPAN 2 is kind of like "Hudson Hawk 2" — a sequel to something that just wasn't all that popular in the first place. C-SPAN can be interesting enough, sure, but two channels of it?

Talking about the weather has become a metaphor for mindlessness, and now there's a full channel of it. The Weather Channel: all the weather, all the time. Just remember that the anchorpeople need to work just like you and me.

The Learning Channel is pretty much on the same level as the Discovery Channel: not the best place for escapist entertainment. On the other hand, it's not completely boring. Aside from regular educational programming (including the eternally fascinating Connections series) it actually shows medical operations complete with gory close-ups, definitely not for those with weak stomachs.

Entertainment Television, or E!, is like an inverted CNN: fluff entertainment news with occasional forays into more serious matters. E! is self-described as "The People Magazine of cable." Why not? Everyone loves fluff: movie previews, celebrity interviews, behind-the-scenes looks at TV shows and movies, even a daily digest of talk shows.

E!'s coverage of the Academy Awards was as comprehensive as it gets, as well as that of the Woody Allen/Mia Farrow scandal (a somewhat dubious achievement). We're not talking

Edward R. Murrow-league journalism, but it can be quite addictive.

Black Entertainment Television, or BET, is a much needed shift in gears, a channel devoted to black popular culture. Much of the programming is music, but it also features movies, comedy, sports, interviews and even a game show or two.

Country Music Television is 24 hours a day of country music videos. Weather Channel, anyone?

American Movie Classics, or AMC, is one of the few basic cable services to be completely commercial-free. This is probably because most of the movies are out of copyright, which means that they can be shown for free. Unlike the other all-movie channels, however, AMC has a live host and a sense of ambiance.

Comedy has been called the new rock and roll, and Comedy Central is the new MTV. Like music, there's a lot of bad comedy out there (watch any given night of A&E's "An Evening at the Improv"), but Comedy Central gets the best of the best. The channel's shining triumph is Mystery Science Theater 3000. The gist of the show is a man and two robots watch really, really bad movies and crack jokes. This brief description doesn't do it justice whatsoever, believe me. Before long MST3000 will join The Simpsons and David Letterman as required hip viewing.

That show alone could justify the Comedy Central's existence, but it has an abundance of great programming. Saturday Night Live is on every night, as well as the Canadian troupe The Kids in the Hall and the British improvisational show Whose Line is it Anyway?, which has to be seen to be believed.

Ironically, commercials for cable channels not offered by Continental are shown, so you might be watching E! and see a commercial for the Science Fiction Channel or the Cartoon Network. Though Continental currently has no plans to add any more channels that those listed above, by all means call and tell them if you're interested in others.

Unfortunately, neither the Fresno Bee nor TV guide carry listings for any of the new channels, so except for the woefully inadequate "Prevue Guide," you're pretty much in the dark about what's on. This will hopefully be rectified by the time the expansion is complete.

Read the
Rampage
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Gleaton's exhibit portrays Mexico's forgotten heritage

by Alexander Asher
Rampage Reporter

A young man embraces his younger sister. He is her security in an insecure world. He is her provider in an impoverished society. He provides direction when there is none. He is her loved one.

The Faces of My Loved Ones is one of the 52 pictures in the Africa's Legacy in Mexico exhibit currently on display in the FCC Art Space Gallery.

In these images photographer Tony Gleaton shows "we all have beauty, we all have dignity, and it can be seen if people want to show us in that light."

Through his pictures, Gleaton tells the story of Mexico's forgotten: the Costeños, descendants of African slaves. The uniqueness of the story is not just in the telling, but how it is told.

Gleaton's photographs are simple shots depicting the everyday lives of the Costeños: A son hugging his father, a priest listening to members of his parish, a girl re-

membering the death of her father, a woman in front of her chicken stand.

Through the Costeños, Gleaton tells the stories of all people.

"There are some differences, but we're basically just humans with the same set of emotions," Gleaton said. "Sometimes we make a lot more of our differences than there really are."

In The Embrace of Memory, Gleaton tells a universal story of hope and pain with a simple photograph of a young girl hugging her grandmother. The old woman has her eyes closed.

"I think the old lady has her eyes closed because she hopes the child won't ever have to put up with the suffering and loneliness she had to," reflects Spanish instructor Carmen Elgorriaga. "I see a lot of loneliness in these pictures. A lot of dignity and a lot of loneliness."

Loneliness, dignity, despair, hope. These emotions are what Gleaton tries to convey to people.

And he doesn't mind manipulating the people in the photographs to convey those emotions.

"Pictures themselves lie unless put into context," Gleaton said. "What I do is take little bitty lies to tell a greater truth; to tell the story I want to tell."

However, Gleaton doesn't impose on the people whose story he wants to tell.

"I hate it when someone comes up to me and takes my picture without asking," Gleaton told the audience during his slide/lecture presentation in the FCC Theatre on March 22. "I would always ask someone if I could take their picture and if he would say no, I'd say cool and we would go have a beer."

Gleaton's relationship with the Costeños help explain why they look directly into his camera. Gleaton spent five years in getting to know these people.

For Gleaton, who has gone on to do projects in Central America, and is heading for another in South America, looking back on these pictures is like a homecoming.



Las Caras de Mis Amados, (the faces of my loved ones), can be seen in the FCC Art Space Gallery until April 11.

Tony Gleaton's uniqueness transcends borders

by Alexander Asher
Rampage Reporter

He took a bus to Fresno instead of an airplane because it cost less. He wore a T-shirt, jeans, and high tops to his art reception. He complained about the cafeteria's meatloaf while talking to Kehinde Solwazi's African studies class. He dimmed the lights in the theatre so teachers could not force students to take notes during his slide/lecture presentation in the FCC Theatre.

And he told a story about a part of humanity, a part no one knew existed; he became "an advocate for people who die every day." In doing so, he told us more about ourselves.

Tony Gleaton spent five years in Mexico photographing the Costeños, the descendants of African slaves living in the states of Oaxaca, Guerrero, and Veracruz.

"The good thing about these pictures is they show that these people exist," Gleaton said. "My job was to show them. Everyone

else's job is to decide what relevance these pictures have there and here."

A collection of 52 black and white pictures comprise the Smithsonian Institute's Africa's Legacy in Mexico exhibit. The people depicted in these photographs are the isolated and neglected of Mexican society.

These are people Gleaton can relate to.

"I have dealt with racism and prejudice as we experience it here [in the U.S.] and how the Costeños experience it, but these images stand for much more than our experience," Gleaton said. "They stand for the universal construct where people try to define other people and deny them what should be theirs."

Gleaton's reluctance to define people is one reason he refuses to label the Costeños African-Americans or African-Mexicans.

"We have a really large American mindset about defining what an African-American is," Gleaton said. "We grew up in a

Africa's Legacy in Mexico can be seen at FCC's Art Space Gallery through April 11.

social system with its basis in slavery, and if you were 1 percent black you were black. That's not the case in Mexico.

In Mexico, 52 different racial categories separate the people, Gleaton said. These racial categories stem from the various mixtures of the indigenous peoples of Mexico, the Spanish Conquistadores, the African slaves brought to Mexico by the Spanish, and various Asian peoples who came to Mexico while the Spanish were importing goods from its colonies in the Pacific via Mexico.

These various racial mixtures have led to complex racial attitudes in Mexico.

"Costeños are individuals," Gleaton said. "Some of them might feel they are black and part of the African diaspora (the forced migration of African slaves to the New World), others of the same

skin hue may not.

"There are no simple explanations of how people view themselves and why they view themselves that way."

However, throughout his journeys in Mexico and the United States Gleaton has seen the negation of anything having to do with Africa. "It connotes with something less acceptable," he said.

Through his photos, Gleaton hopes to change this perception.

"I have tried to work toward manifesting a new sort of icon for what beauty, family, and strength may be," Gleaton said. "One that is inclusive rather than exclusive."

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