



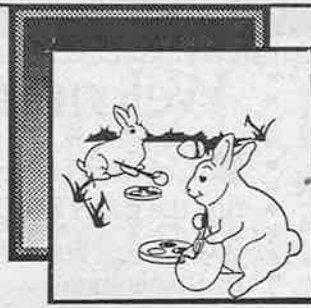
Jake's exhibit now open in the FCC art department gallery

Page 2



Lets Go Bowling blows the roof off Club Fred

Page 4



Easter Symbols - their origins may surprise you

Page 6

Celebrating

Our

49th

Year

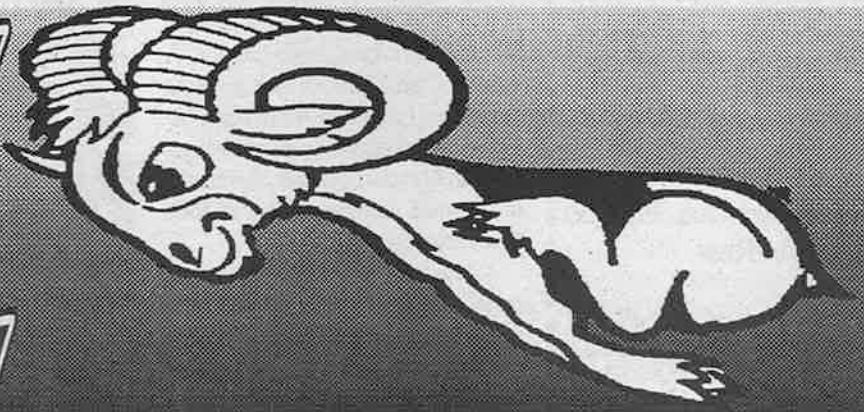
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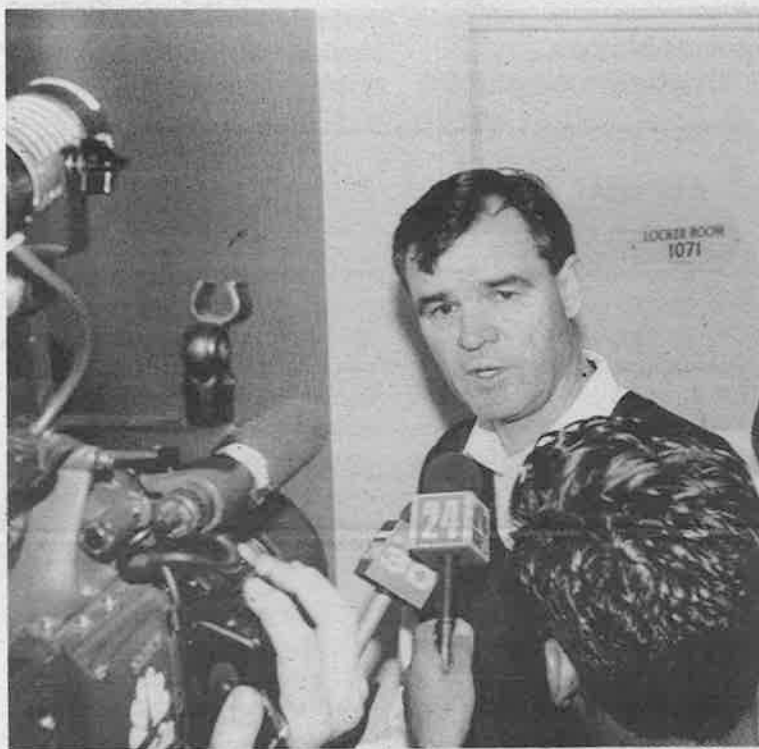


Photo by Don Davis
Newly appointed BYU Coach Steve Cleveland meets the press following his final game at FCC. The Rams lost to Los Angeles City College 77-65.

Cleveland goes to BYU

■ Rams men's basketball coach Steve Cleveland to be head coach at BYU
By Allen Coleman

As the top ranked FCC Rams Men's Basketball team prepared to contend in the State Championship at San Jose Event Center this past weekend, a call from Salt Lake City Utah announced that Ram 7 year head coach Steve Cleveland had been considered for the head coaching job at BYU University. Cleveland was later selected to head the BYU Men's Basketball team.

Although in his final game as a Ram mentor, in which his team was gunned down on Friday night by LA City College in 77-65 shoot out, It seemed as if someone had rubbed a "genie" in a magic lamp

when Coach Cleveland and the Rams suddenly disappeared in a cloud of smoke and headed back to Fresno. This probably wasn't the note Cleveland necessarily wanted to go out on, however a 1997 CVC Conference Championship, a season record of 31-4, a 157-77 over-all record at FCC, and men's Coach of the year for 1997 is certainly worth some merit and consideration.

Coach Cleveland has also coached some marquee players to include such top performers as All-State Guard T.J. Atkins, a local player from Clovis West High School, and swing guard Kerrie Baker who both attend the University of North Texas. Other names in Ram Basketball history who have been effected by Cleveland are; forward Claude Walker who attends

Fair-leigh Dickinson University located in Teaneck New Jersey, and guard Lamar Westberry who attends the University Of Hawaii in Honolulu, and also this year's All State Guard and forward Ron Sellaize.

After all, life will go on in "Ram Country" next season and the sounds of basketballs, foot steps, and roaring crowds will continue to echo in the Fresno City College Gymnasium, but Cleveland's ghostly presence may still be felt among many returning Ram players and loyal fans.

Nevertheless, Cleveland will have to take the bull by the horns as he heads out to Utah in his first season as head Coach of a 1997 cellar BYU Basketball team. Due to institutional administrative outgoing procedures, Coach Steve Cleveland was not available for comment.

Students persuade administration to amend planned transfer fees

■ Fees for refunds of fees-paid to be discussed April 1.
By Rima Patterson

"Nothing is a done deal," said Student Body President Cary Catalano when he learned of new fees being implemented and old ones being raised last February. Catalano urged students to, "take an active roll in helping their student representatives change or ammend this policy," and it worked.

As reported in the Feb. 26 issue

1, 1997.

On March 5, an Inter College or Intra District Communication read:

"Based upon feedback from the students and a more thorough review of this issue, it has been determined that a revision will be made to establish the new fees as follows:

1. The first two transcripts shall be provided at no charge.

2. After issuance of two transcripts, the next transcript requested shall cost \$4. If additional transcripts are requested at the same time, the

The biggest reasons for the ammendment in the policy was "the combination of Cary and the students presenting some good issues about the number of transcripts sent out by students and taking a look at what is being charged locally at Fresno State," said Vice Cancellor of Business John Sharpe.

No change has been made in the implementation of a fee for refunds of fees paid and none is forseen at this time. Although a formal research study on the need for this fee has not

fund. In addition to these costs, Sharpe feels that the biggest cost incurred is to the students and faculty when it comes to many students 'reserving' places in a class that they may or may not attend.

Had these changes not been made, the student senate had prepared a resolution proposal to be presented on March 6. The resolution highlighted Title 5, Section 51025 which states that "Students shall be provided an opportunity to participate in formulation and development

have spoken to the students first. "It is not our intent to surprise people."

Regarding the policy being issued without student knowledge, Catalano says, "We are all human, we all make mistakes. We're allowed to make those mistakes as long as we are willing to own up to them."

The refund fee will be adressed again at a board meeting on April 1, but if no change is made, Catalano reminds the students that, "We have achieved two of our three goals. 1. Guaranteeing future student consul-

Petitions for ASG office elections now available, due April 11

■ President Pro-tempore to be elected, not appointed.
Courtesy of ASG

Once again it's time for the students of Fresno City College to decide who will represent them in the Student Government for the 1997-98 academic year. Petitions for office are available and will be due April 11.

The minimum qualifications for holding a student government position are: a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA, at least 6 currently registered units, and possession of a Student Body Card.

This year an additional office will be up for election. With the new Constitution for the Student Government, it requires that the President Pro-Tempore (ICC President) be

elected, not appointed as done in the past. This is an opportunity for clubs to elect their own Chair of the Inter-Club Council.

For more information on qualifications, job responsibilities and the election process, contact the College Activities Office at 265-5711, or any representative in the ASG office at 442-8275.

INSIDE

► Pg 2 CAMPUS NEWS: Crime continues on the FCC campus; see this week's police log

► Pg 4 ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT: "Musical Comedy Murders of 1940" now showing at FCC

► Pg 5 SPORTS: See quotes from Steve and Casey Cleveland on coaching move to BYU

► Pg 6 EDITORIAL: Two editors give their opinions on gay marriages

Federal Work-study

Student Assistant-
Social Sciences Division
Office: Art Amaro 442-
4600 ext. 8129

Student Assistant-
Developmental Educa-
tion And Honors Susan S.
Liberty 442-4600 ext.
8147

Student Aide- Fit-
ness Center Mon.-Fri. 12-
1, ask for Russ

Art Gallery Aide-
Susan S. Liberty 442-
4600 ext. 8147

Student Aide- Job
Placement Office- Please
apply in person Student
Services Bldg. Room
202D

Welcome to Jake's visual feast; Art Space Gallery review

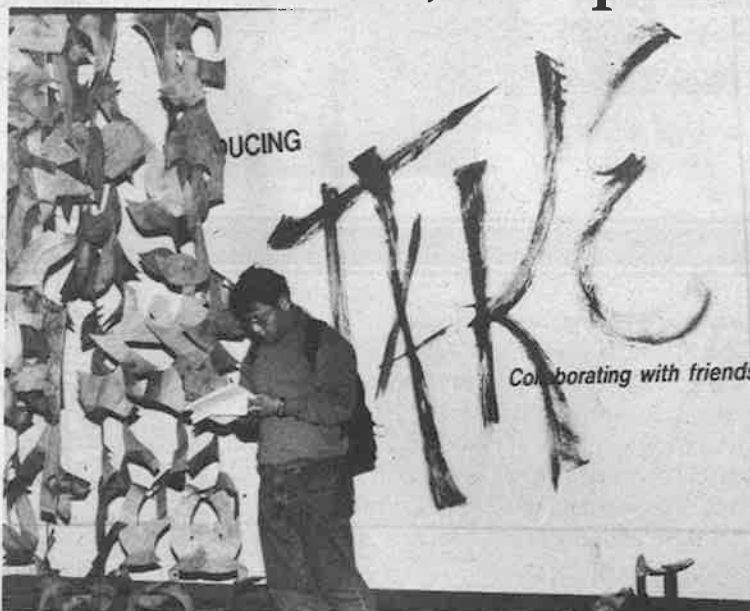
■ Colorful collaboration
fills the gallery and your
senses

By Debbie Irwin

The unique exhibition gracing the campus art gallery at present is brought to FCC by Jacqueline Elliott (Jake). She is the new Print Making and 2 Dimensional Art instructor. A new FCC art instructor is required to present an exhibit in Art Space Gallery within their first year of instruction. This show however, represents itself much more as a labor of love than requirement.

Jake has prepared an artistic collaboration with herself and various local and FCC artists. These talents treat one to a truly sensory experience. The entire space is part of the display, from the brilliantly colored flags attached to the ceiling to the design printed rugs walked upon. The nature feel is intense and captivating.

Flowing down from the ceiling to the floor are long swirls of paper cut-outs. They are painted on one side with harmonious primary and



Colorful shapes float and reflect shadows of different values on the walls.

secondary color groups; on the other side they have charcoal sketches, full of texture. The created effect is that of several kelp-like groups which cast great shadows on the white walls. There are fans blowing the flags and swirls changing the shadows effectively. The floor is a garden of printed paper flower groups, tree bark, positive/negative and colorfully

Photo by Maria Betancourt

printed rugs. Stick people wear printed tee shirts with oceanic designs.

This interactive exhibit reflects life including a darkside. In one area the wall is grayish and has a sample of flowers and kelp-like swirls only in gray and dark tones.

The gallery is sectioned off with

a paper curtain through which one can walk to a room that has information on the process, and about the contributing artists. Jake has included her students as well as notable local artists.

Her 2 Dimensional Art classes contributed to the brilliant dyed ceiling flags and painted some of the floating kelp shapes. This was done in a lesson format on combinations of harmonious and complimentary colors. Former art students sketched the charcoal textures on the reverse side.

Located in the side room are samples and examples of each process. There are molds of the brightly colored paper flowers. Also displayed are various printed cloth samples highlighting the print making process, which is Jake's specialty.

Contributing local artists include: Margaret Hudson, Gwynn S. Phillips, Frankie Powell, David Hernandez and Daniel Giles Ball. Jake said of her co-workers, "I am extremely grateful that my new friends had the courage to work with an unknown ego quantity."

California Chicano News Media Association presents The 1997 Annual Joel Garcia Memorial

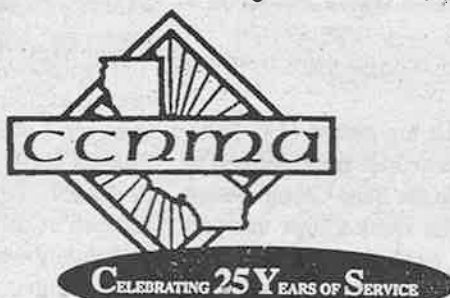
Scholarship Competition

QUALIFICATIONS:

Must be a student of Latino descent.
Proof of pursuit of degree and career in the field of Journalism or Communications at a two- or four- year university (e.g. transcripts and clip pings or tapes.) Must be a California Resident or a student attending school in California.

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE:

From you Journalism, Communications or English Instructor or call CCNMA at (213) 743-2440 or write to CCNMA/The Joel Garcia Memorial Scholarship USC, School of Journalism 3716 S. Hope St., Rm #301 Los Angeles, CA 90007
DEADLINE: April 4, 1997



AWARDS BASED ON:

Financial Need
Commitment to a career in Journalism
Scholastic achievement
Community awareness
Awards vary from \$250 - \$2,000

Fresno State University Day

The annual Fresno State Day will be held on the Fresno City College campus on Wednesday, April 9, from 9:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. It will take place in the College Mall, near the central fountain area. This activity, sponsored by the Fresno State Outreach Services Office and the FCC Transfer Center, traditionally attracts many students and is one of the Transfer Center's biggest events of the year.

More than 50 faculty and staff members from a variety of Fresno State academic departments and Student Services programs will be available to talk to students and

provide them with informational materials. Past FSU participants have included representatives from schools of engineering, agriculture, business, health and social work, social sciences, education, arts and humanities and from the offices of admissions, financial aid, international students, re-entry, EOP&S and DSP&S.

Students planning to transfer in the future are encouraged to gather transfer information from Student Services and specific programs at FSU.

This week in Rampage history.....

Honest student returns 15 cents

■ A look back at Rampage news of the past

Compiled by Ryan LaMar

20 YEARS AGO as reported on March 24, 1977: On March 15, around 3:25 p.m. an FCC student was assaulted while in the Language Arts building. The student entered the restroom where a CSUF student walked in on her and demanded a kiss. When the assaulter realized he had drawn blood from her mouth, he fled the scene. Later that same day he came to the SCCCD office and confessed, and it was discovered he had

been drinking heavily.

25 YEARS AGO as reported on March 23, 1972: A state-wide campaign to decriminalize possession of small amounts of marijuana is seeking 333,000 petition signatures to place a proposal on the ballot. So far about 300 FCC students have signed.

A former student was given 15 cents too much after a purchase in the cafeteria last semester, and recently returned the change. In a letter to the Finance Office, the ex-Ram said she returned the change because she was

"trying to live a Christian life."

40 YEARS AGO as reported on March 21, 1957: The Rampage announces that according to state law students under 21 years of age, desiring to get the free Salk Polio vaccinations, must have their parents' or guardians' permission.

45 YEARS AGO as reported on March 20, 1952: Miss Virginia Currie of the Fresno County Tuberculosis Association showed a film to Mrs. Hazel Pedersen's hygiene class last week, and accompanied it with a speech about tuberculosis.

Police Log

March 10: Emergency phone #3 was activated by a female caller, claiming that two male adults were chasing her and threatened to kill her. One of the suspects, a Hispanic male, was armed with a handgun. The victim was not a student. The case was turned over to the Fresno Police Department.

March 10: A student witnessed an attempted vehicle burglary. The witness saw the suspect trying to get

into a vehicle, and scared the suspect away. The owner of the vehicle was informed, and the area was checked with negative results.

• **March 11:** A suspect was seen by an officer, attempting to cut a bike lock with boltcutters. When approached, the suspect threw the boltcutters at the officer and attempted to flee the scene. The officer used pepper spray to subdue him, and proceeded to make an arrest.

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Views expressed on the Rampage Opinion page are those of the writers, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the students, administration or the State Center Community College District. Letters to the editor are a part of the public forum available to all readers of the Rampage. Letters must be signed and are subject to editing for style, grammar, libel and length. Mail letters to the above address, or deliver in person to the Rampage production office.

The Rampage is a member of the Journalism Association of Community Colleges.

Rampage Weekly

contact us at
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1101 E. University,
Fresno, CA 93741
Your involvement
and input is
important to
us.....

Debt Watch

As of Tuesday, March 18th at 7:18 a.m., the national debt was:

\$5,362,540,051,854.93.
Each citizens share was \$20,091.03. The debt is growing by \$711 million per day
Debt Watch is a contribution from SIFE

Setting it straight

The March 5 issue of the Rampage offered information on Summer Camp counseling jobs. The phone number given was inaccurate. The actual number is (765) 342-8456.



THE MUSICAL COMEDY MURDERS REVIEW



Actors in the scene from left to right, Amanda Maples as Chorus Girl/Naval Intelligence Officer Nikki Crandall, Sonny Kalifornia as Elsa Wenzel/Dieter Wenzel, Lynna Isler as Elsa Von Grossenknueten, Jason Bathauer as Eddie McCuen, and Tim Birch as Ken DeLaMaize.

Photo By Ted Valverde

■ In the mold of *Arsenic and Old Lace*, theatre department's play is a classic hit
By Ryan LaMar

The FCC Theatre and Dance Department is operating in full swing, debuting the semester with John Bishop's *The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940*.

The setting takes place in the den of the Grossenknueten Mansion in Chappaqua, New York during a dense December blizzard. Elsa Von Grossenknueten, the proprietress, has invited the team responsible in the creation of a recent Broadway flop to come together with a fresh cast to work on a new musical. The original musical was doomed by the linked deaths of three chorus girls, and it is soon discovered this one is destined for a similar fate with the arrival of the "Stage Door Slasher." But is it really him?

What makes this a triumphal comedy and not a pathetic attempt is the superb performance of the cast. All of the actors feed off each other's energy to create a vibe that is fluent in motion, giving their characters conviction.

This is led by the dynamical laughable roles of Jason Bathauer, Eddie McCuen and Laura Mayes as Bernice Roth.

Complementing the well-rehearsed cast is a stage set that is elegant and designed with precise detail-work and has an intricate array of well-blended secret passages. This helps develop the play, making the macabre comical and allowing the subterfuge to become complex and confusing, yet hysterical.

Unlike many other plays from academe, this contains the complete package with competent directing, choice casting, meticulous stage and costume designs, persuasive acting and an interesting story line, but it is far from perfect. Though trivial in relevance to the play, it is noticeable that some of the props used are the more-recent, evolved versions that are significantly different from the ones around over fifty years ago. Also, in the first run the actors' pace was slow in the beginning and their stamina was dwindling by the end of Act II, but their performance is currently much tighter and stronger. The last shows can be seen at 2:00 p.m. on March 20 and 7:30 p.m. on March 20, 21 and 22.

ATTN. COLLEGE BANDS:

The Rampage Weekly is searching for college bands for an upcoming pull-out section packed with band bios and snapshots. The only requirement is that one band member be a student at FCC. The Rampage will also review the shows and demos of college bands. To have your band featured in the Rampage, contact the Entertainment Editor at 442-8263 or drop by the office above the bookstore.

Free Radio 104.5 accepting demos to play on the air

Free Radio 104.5, in an effort to promote college bands and the local music scene, is accepting local demos to be played on the air. To have demos considered, drop them off at Rainbow Sound and Drum or Charlie Daniel's Music.

Poets Association Reading

Thursday, Apr. 3, 7:30 p.m. (doors open at 7 p.m.), reading by Dennis Schmitz who is the author of six collections of poetry, most recently "About Night: Selected and New Poems" (1993). He has taught at California State University, Sacramento, since 1966.

Every Thursday there is a light luncheon in the Cafe from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., catered by gorgeous foods.



Photo by Linda Burgin

Radio Bilingue hosted its 15th annual "Viva el Mariachi!" Festival March 15 and 16. The two-day festival featured some of the most unique and renowned Mariachi bands in the world. An enthusiastic, multi-ethnic audience of more than 6,000 attended the performance at Selland Arena, Sunday. A showcase of local Mariachi bands and Folkloric Dancers opened the festival in spectacular fashion. Pictured above and celebrating their 100th anniversary, the world famous Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlan from Mexico City, displayed world class musicianship, receiving half-a-dozen standing ovations. Mariachi Los Camperos de Nati Cano (best known for accompanying Linda Ronstadt), and Mariachi Sol de Acapulco also performed superbly.

Local bands rock Club Fred

■ Let's Go Bowling plays to a packed house

By Amy Klassen-Cox

The Tower District was jumping when the sounds of Spyne and Let's Go Bowling filled Club Fred and spilled out into the street last Friday night. Spyne got the show going with two intensely energetic sets. Their playing was tight, and the vocals were impressive. The only drawback to the opening act was that they sounded just a little too much like their influences, namely Rage Against The Machine and Cypress Hill. Even though they lacked huge amounts of creative originality, Spyne did manage to do what opening acts are supposed to do, they got the party started.

For those who stuck around until 11 p.m. for Let's Go Bowling to finally take the stage, it was worth it. They were able to capture the raw energy that small venues tend to produce and rip through two stomping

sets of straight ska. Their horn section was flawless as usual, the keyboards were just too perfected for human consumption, and the rhythm section plowed along faithfully behind keeping it all together.

What these local boys do well is come together at every performance to become a single unit producing great music. When they play, it is hard to imagine the band playing without any of the members. They all seem to pour themselves into their performances, and that is why they have such a huge following. Their crowd favorites such as "Rude 69" illustrate how in touch the band is with their audience.

This show was a rarity in that it showcased two wonderfully talented local bands. Both bands had their own fans in attendance, and even though the two musical styles were as different as night and day, neither band failed to please the packed house. Both bands are worth a second look.



Let's Go Bowling's horn section is just one part of the talented band.

Photo By Joe Senneway

Rams leave their souls on the court; fall to Los Angeles at State semi-finals

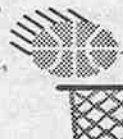


Friday's leading scorer Darnell McCoy shoots for two as trailers Cory Powell (FCC) and Carlos Hinds (L.A.) close in.

Photo By Don Davis

■ FCC manhandled against a bigger L.A. squad

By Scott A. Mayes and Don Davis



MEN'S BASKETBALL

Steve Cleveland has officially closed the final chapter of his Fresno City College career. Last Friday his men's team lost an emotional contest to Los Angeles City College at the state championships in San Jose. The team reached the final four before being ousted by L.A. City College for the second time this season, this game a 77-65 defeat.

In the game, reserve player Darnell McCoy came off the bench to lead the Rams with 19 points. Forward Carlos Hinds of Los Angeles led all scorers with 20 points. The Rams were simply outplayed in this one. The Cubs of Los Angeles outrebounded FCC by a 48-32 margin. With the rebounding so lopsided, the Rams were forced to make the outside shot. Unfortunately, that didn't happen either.

The Cubs shot 49% for the game while the Rams shot only 34%. FCC shot 24% in the second half while trying to maintain a 6 point halftime lead.

Cleveland, speaking in a post-game press conference, talked about the depth of his team: "Playing only 6 or 7 kids all year, we didn't have the depth we needed... Maybe I should

have given Casey more minutes to rest Mike and Rafer and utilize Casey's shooting."

The team finished at 31-4 finishing at the state's final four bowing out one game shy of the championship bout. The losses came against Merritt, Porterville and twice against Los Angeles. All Cleveland left on the table was a conference championship and the second best men's basketball season in the history of Fresno City College.

As Cleveland packs his bags en route to BYU, many questions remain unanswered. For starters, who will teach his classes the rest of the semester? And the big question: Who will fill his monstrous shoes?

Clutch performer Cory Powell has his preference in assistant coach Heath Schroyer. "If there's anything I can say for him to be the head coach, I'm going to have to say it. I don't want a new coach coming in whose going to change everything. If we keep Coach Schroyer, we won't miss a tick." Powell and guard Michael Garrett are rumored to be going to BYU according to Fresno Bee sports columnist Bill McEwen. Cleveland said he had no reason to believe that either player would not return to FCC next season.

When Cleveland emerged from the locker room following the game he said the team was shedding hard-fought tears. "I told them it's going to hurt. It's going to hurt for a long time... I told them that what they did for Fresno, the community and the college is something that I'll remember for a long time."

In the tournament's first game, Fresno held on to beat Cuesta 80-77. In the game, the Rams placed five players in double figures. Rafer Alston led the way with 25 points despite scoring only eight in the loss to Los Angeles while hitting two of

thirteen shots. Michael Garrett, Powell and McCoy were the only Rams to score in double figures during both games. Garrett scored 13 in the first game and 15 in the second. Powell came up with 10 points in each game. McCoy, although not a starter, scored 11 against Cuesta and led the team with 19 points against Los Angeles.

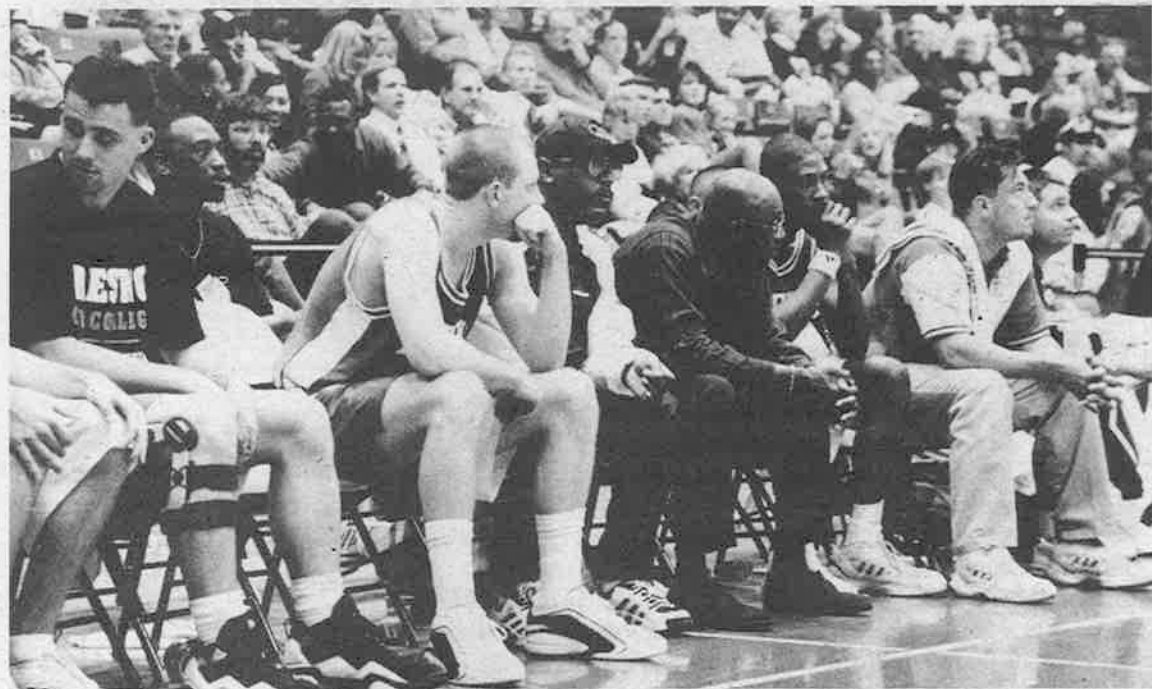
This team should lose four players next year for certain. Larry Abney and Rafer Alston will make their way to Fresno State. Ron Selleaze and Darnell McCoy are both sophomores. The question marks then would be Casey Cleveland and the rumored freshman transfers, Powell and Garrett. Casey Cleveland will be gone on his mission with the mormon church, thus it appears his days at Fresno City College are numbered.

Cleveland (Casey) told the Rampage he would end up at BYU after his mission. "Whether I play or not (at BYU), I don't think it really matters right now. I'll just deal with that later."

Assuming Powell and Garrett return, the Rams would return a nucleus of 3 post players in Nick French, Johnny Davis and Tim Hurt. On the perimeter, a solid mix of Cory Powell, Garrett and Edwyn Malone will be back.

The coaching position will include a long extensive search. The successor will inherit tradition, and a winning program while Cleveland will inherit a 1-25 program full of one thing: questions. Cleveland will pack his bags and prepare his family for the journey with three things tucked away in his briefcase: a winning attitude, an unstoppable desire and a city providing the cheers.

A special thanks to Don Davis who gave of his time, money and energy to cover the Championships.



Long faces characterize the Fresno bench in the closing minutes of the Ram loss to Los Angeles

Photo By Don Davis

HE SAID IT

"There's not a lot you can say to a 19-20 year old kid who's in there crying. There's nothing I can say that's going to make them feel better right now. They know how I feel about them. I told them I loved them. We got together and I gave them a hug."

STEVE CLEVELAND --ON HIS TEAM'S SEASON ENDING LOSS

"I guess he's got to move on just like everyone else."

CASEY CLEVELAND--ON HIS DAD'S NEW JOB AT BYU

"I need to bring closure to what I'm doing here at FCC. I just need a good night's sleep... I suspect I could work 24 hours a day for the next month and not do everything I need to do. I plan on staying in Fresno for a couple of days to make sure all the kids are properly taken care of and everything is situated for academics."

STEVE CLEVELAND--ON HIS UPCOMING AGENDA

RAM RESULTS AND SPORTS CALENDAR

BASEBALL

3/11 FCC 5, MERCED 3
3/13 FCC 6, PORTERVILLE 5
3/15 FCC 20, WEST HILLS 4
this week 3/20 vs. Taft 2:30p.m.
3/22 vs. Kings River 1p.m.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS
3/13 FCC 80, CUESTA 77
3/14 LOS ANGELES 77, FCC 65

MEN'S GOLF

3/11 KINGS RIVER 392, MODESTO 394, C.O.S. 397, FCC 403, COLUMBIA 409
3/13 MODESTO 394, KINGS RIVER 396, C.O.S. 403, FCC 409, COLUMBIA 430
this week 3/20 at Columbia 12:30p.m.

MEN'S TENNIS

3/11 FCC 8, MODESTO 1
this week 3/20 at Chabot 2p.m.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

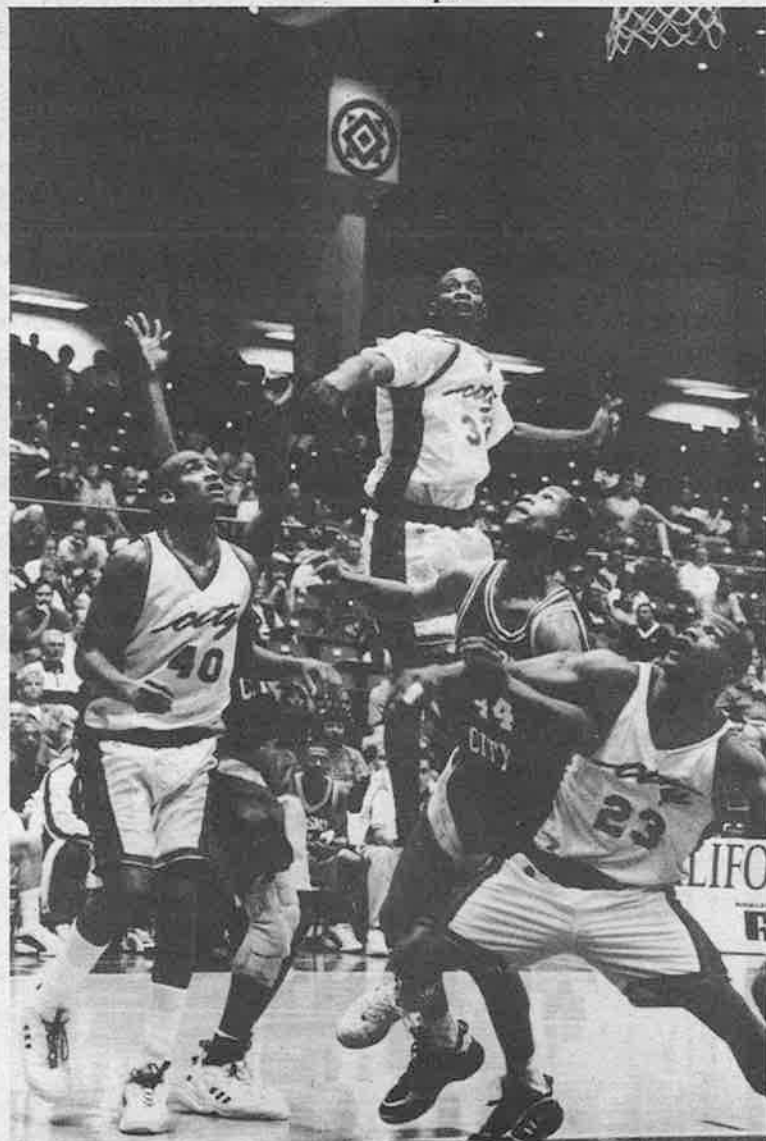
3/11 FCC 7, MODESTO 2

SOFTBALL

3/13 MODESTO 4, FCC 3
OHLONE TOURNAMENT
3/15 FCC 13, DEANZA 0
3/15 FCC 3, REDWOODS 1
3/15 FCC 6, VENTURA 0
this week 3/20 away 3p.m.
3/22-23 away TBA

TRACK

this week-at Salinas 2p.m.



All-CVC most valuable player Ron Selleaze fights for space which could not be found last weekend.

Photo By Don Davis

Editorial - Should gays legally marry?

Point

By Amy Klassen-Cox

For quite some time now there has been a debate over whether gays and lesbians should be allowed the same rights as heterosexuals when it comes to marriage and all of the applicable laws that apply to marriage and divorce. Cases have been taken to court, but currently homosexual couples are not allowed the same legal recognition of couplehood that heterosexuals enjoy.

Many may be against this for no other reason than that they feel that it goes against their religious beliefs. Everyone is entitled to believe as they see fit, so why should a presumably close-minded group be able to force their beliefs on those that do not share them? This goes against the principal of freedom of religion, even though homosexuality is not a religion. So what is homosexuality? Is it a disgusting perversion that the truly wicked choose? Not according to several intensive research studies that show evidence of a genetic factor linked to sexual preference. So with the religious and moral issue out of the way, we can progress past an argument of personal values and get down to what is really the issue: legal benefits.

Contrary to stereotypes held by

some people, many homosexuals settle down in life-long companion type relationships. They go through the same ups and downs as heterosexual couples and have the same commitments to each other. Many go through marriage ceremonies to affirm their feelings for each other with special vows, even though that marriage is not legally recognized. The problems that so many of these same-sex couples run into comes when their mate needs health care, but their health coverage only covers legal spouses and their children. And what happens if their mate dies? Unless there is a specific insurance policy naming that mate as a beneficiary, that mate is not entitled to any survivors benefits such as a military pension, etc. due to the fact that no marriage certificate exists. And what happens when the couple splits up after fifteen years of living together, making investments together and possibly owning real estate together? The laws that pertain to opposite sex marriages do not pertain to these cases, and if the split is bitter, they may likely have to battle it out in court. These cases are a waste of time for our justices to have to decide and would be over and done with a lot quicker if same-sex marriages were legal.

The fight to legalize same-sex marriages is not a horrendous plot to pervert our society into something that it

is not. Homosexuals simply desire the same human rights and benefits that the rest of the public enjoys and often takes for granted. When we discriminated against minorities and didn't allow them into the white neighborhoods, we called it racism. When we placed that glass ceiling that women weren't able to penetrate in the work force, we called that sexism. The sad thing is, we still do these things to homosexuals and we don't even have a word for it. They are not asking us to accept them into our homes with open arms and joyous hearts, just the same rights that are already afforded to the rest of the nation and denied to them.

I will always be able to marry the man of my dreams and know that if one of us is working, our family will be covered under their health insurance. I know that if I get married and then divorced in the state of California, we get to split everything in half. I just wish that everyone could have these certainties so that they would have one less thing to worry about while putting up with all of the close-minded individuals who distort the Bible and use it to excuse hateful thoughts and actions. Doesn't it say somewhere that we are supposed to hate the sin but love the sinner? Looks like it is easier said than done.

Resolution

By Ryan LaMar

The debate about whether or not the U.S. Government should allow same-sex oriented unions is irritating and tiresome considering it could have been resolved the moment it flared up like a hemorrhoid. The answer is simple: our government should continue to not recognize gay marriages.

The logic behind this is more complex than the resolution itself. Of course there are numerous passages in the bible that Christians and anti-gay rights supporters have effectively utilized in their agenda to deny marriage to homosexuals for scores of years. But this basis is irrelevant in legal matters.

Consider this: In 1962 the Supreme Court ruled in the case of *Engel v. Vitale* that official prayer composed for and/or by any government institution for the American people to recite, even voluntarily, is unconstitutional. The court's reasoning for this decision was that the First Amendment states,

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." This means that the government is to take a neutral stance in religious matters, neither endorsing any religion nor prohibiting the practice of any religion.

How does this relate to gay marriage? The First Amendment and the Supreme Court's decision in *Engel v. Vitale* have clearly defined that the church and state are separated and they are to remain that way. Marriage is a religious practice, and therefore should be abolished as a government institution. Once this is done, all marriages previously recognized by the government should be replaced by life-long, legally-binding contracts of partnership. These contracts to be known as "bindings" will abide by the same laws as marriage, but without any religious inclinations. With this common-law marriages will be absorbed and gay partners will enjoy the same status and legal privileges heterosexuals have long been benefiting from.

This includes parenting, a major concern we need not fret about.

Adoption agencies and child protection services whose standards are ample as they are, will have more stringent regulations to ensure the competence of both potential and current homosexual parents. And in the case of a failed "binding," a simple breach of contract will be declared and settled in court in the same manner divorces are dealt with now.

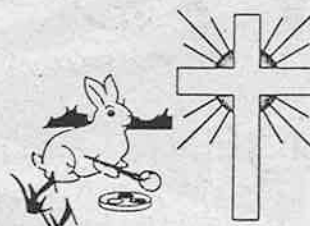
Mind you, this "binding" is a government solution and is not to deny the sanctity of marriage. All religions will be allowed to continue their marriage practices with the ability to set whatever standards appeal to them, even if these standards are discriminatory because marriage will be a non-essential religious supplement to the government institution of "binding."

This is a true separation of church and state, and the day the Supreme Court uses the First Amendment to ensure the severance of the two in regard to marriage is the day both sides of the gay marriage dispute emerge as victors.

Easter traditions, including the eggs are not all their cracked up to be

Pagan Festival of Fertility, or Resurrection Celebration?

By Leah Eddens



People the world over celebrate Easter as a generally Christian holiday. Without the death and resurrection of Christ, even Christmas would have no significant meaning. But where do all the traditions of Easter come from? For that matter, where did the name "Easter" come from? Here are some facts you may not have known about the origins of Easter, or as some would prefer to call it, Resurrection Day.

Many of the traditions of Easter, like those of many other religious holidays have been adopted by "Christians" from non-Christian religious rites and celebrations.

The name Easter is derived from the name of the Teutonic goddess Eostre, or Eastre the deity of the dawn and spring. She is said to have opened the gate of Valhalla, to release Baldur, the god of the sun, who was killed by an arrow, and condemned to spend half of each year in the lower regions. Eostre was "the pagan symbol of fertility" and festivals were held in April in her honor. The word Easter—first applied to this time of spring—was transferred to the day itself when the Saxons began to commemorate Christ's resurrection from the dead.

At first, Christians paid little attention of Easter until some Gentile converts began a celebration with garlands, processions and rejoicing, reminiscent of the pagan spring festivals.

It is speculated that Constantine the Great originated the Easter Parade by ordering the court to wear their finest garments to honor the feast day. Gradually many churches developed elaborate rituals; and the heathen time of rejoicing was easily transferred to one of celebration of the resurrection.

Puritans did not celebrate Easter because they abhorred all rituals.

There is an old belief that the sun dances on Easter morning.

It is said that at the first Easter sunrise service, in Herrnhut, Germany in 1732, some young men decided to go to the cemetery on Easter before dawn to sing hymns and meditate on Christ's resurrection.

Eggs have been regarded as a symbol of resurrection, however, egg as a life emblem is much older than Christianity. Eggs, go back to celebrations of spring, for they have the seeds of life, and represent the revival of fertility on the earth.

Eggs became a symbol of Easter when, as it was forbidden to eat them during Lent, they were served on Easter. In some districts of France it was believed that if one did not eat eggs on Easter, he would be bitten by a snake in the ensuing year. In medieval England, at Easter, priests blessed the eggs which were then eaten in thankfulness of the resurrection of our Lord.

The idea of the Easter bunny was begun in Germany. Rabbits, also a symbol of fertility were said to have laid the eggs in the grass where children had to search for them. In France children were told that the rabbit had to run to Rome to bring back the eggs.

The coloring of eggs dates back to early civilizations. All peoples dyed eggs, which were scarce, and ate them in the spring. Some reasons given for the coloring are: to suggest joy; to fulfill the longing for bright colors in the spring; to imitate the hues of the rora borealis; or to symbolize the stain of Christ's blood.

Egg rolling made its way to America when President James Madison's stepson, John Payne Todd told his mother, Dolly, that Egyptian children had rolled eggs against pyramids. So Dolly Madison allowed her children to start the pastime on the lawn of the Capitol building. It continued, except for the Civil War period, until the administration of President Hayes when officials decided it was ruining the grass. Mrs. Hayes saved the game by inviting the children to the White House lawn.

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Roving Reporter.....

"What are you doing for spring break?"



Chris Harris - I'm going to Florida with a D.J. friend of mine to do the Florida tourist thing.



Maria Rodriguez - I'm going to Cancun, Mexico to party!



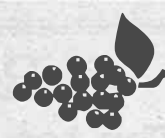
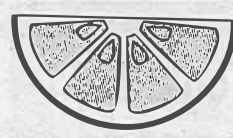
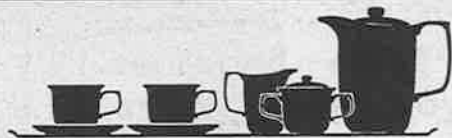
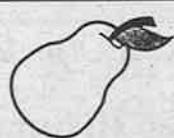
Juan Paz - I'm on my way to Mexico.



Melinda Lowe - I'm looking forward to staying home and relaxing.



Jose Cerda - I'm going to play baseball.

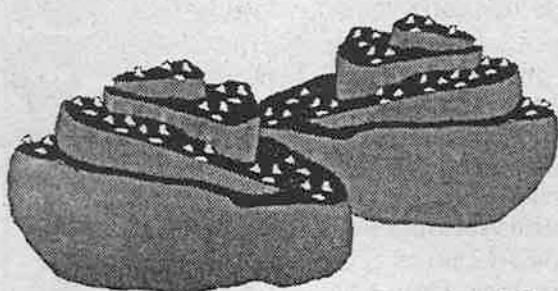


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26 Toppings From A - Z

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6. Paris..... Texas
5. Fort Slaughterdale, FL
4. Lake Titicaca (only because of the name)
3. Hell, Norway (I swear there's a place.)
2. Los Angeles, any time of the year
(Laugh! it's a joke!)
1. Napalm Springs

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you may have
missed

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veterinarian takes over

Child's stool great for
use in garen

Squad helps dog bite
victim

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Pieces of Life

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