



Rampage

Fresno City College

Volume CX Edition 7

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Beating the stress of finals

by Tawana Morgan
Rampage Reporter

Christmas is near and finals are looming.

The holiday season can be the last straw for students who have the potential for depression. However help is near: Fresno City College offers Psychological Services free of charge to its students.

The psychological service is staffed by a licensed clinical psychologist with assisting doctoral interns and/or psychological trainees. Confidentiality is strictly maintained and records are not part of your academic file.

The program at FCC is designed to meet mental health needs and offers assistance in a number of areas, including personal growth, crisis resolution, daily living problems, relationship and family issues and a support network (for students with more serious emotional disorders).

There is a maximum of eight sessions during the student's first year of services. Any currently enrolled student or staff member is eligible for services.

Depression is defined as when one experiences fatigue, recurrent thoughts of death, feeling empty, or depressed consecutively over a two-week period, according to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Disorders.

Taking care of yourself is the key.

Recognize that getting enough sleep and eating healthy will help you cope.

see Services, Page 3

Phi Theta Kappa spearheads book drive

by Victoria McLoughlin
Rampage Reporter

Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), FCC's honor society, has received an overwhelming response to their "Books for Africa" initiative. PTK is currently storing approximately 250 textbooks for schools in Africa, many of which were donated by science, social science and En-

glish faculty.

"Books for Africa" was spearheaded by Phi Theta Kappa president Heather Lara and Historian Phyllis Bessenaire, as well as heavily supported by FCC President Dr. Doffoney. The project is intended to curb a desperate shortage of textbooks in African schools by sending as many

new or nearly new textbooks as possible to schools in need.

"We're really happy to be offering help like this," Phi Theta Kappa President Heather Lara said.

"A lot of schools in Africa share only one book per class, that's a sad fact we can do something about."

Substantial donations

from the tutorial center, science and social science departments have made a big impact on PTK's progress, according to PTK president Heather Lara.

"We're so grateful to the instructors who have taken this project into their hearts," Lara said. "Teachers of the social sciences provided us with

see Books, Page 4

Art's second chance



Photo by Robin Vallentyne

A mural by FCC student Jessica Hanna covers a wall on the Art/Home Economics building. This is Hanna's second mural.

by Clare Godinho
Rampage Reporter

For Jessica Hanna, aspiring student-artist at Fresno City College, freedom of expression is at hand.

Her original artwork was painted over by her

FCC student sees the writing on the wall

teacher in October, when a disagreement surfaced regarding some mural assignment requirements. Jessica was given another chance at artistic freedom in the form of her own mural which is located on the south wall of

the second floor of the FCC art/home economics building.

Just completed over the Thanksgiving holiday, Hanna's new mural depicts a man and woman dancing on one side amid a swirl of

bright colors. On the hem of the woman's skirt is the message, "Love to laugh, laugh to live, live to love."

"Everyone wants to be in love," says Hanna, "they want a partner."

see Mural, Page 5

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'Canyon Suite', by FCC's own

by Clare Godinho
Rampage Reporter

"Frequented by fickle lovers and lonesome cowboys," Canyon Suite is another exciting theatrical performance that students and faculty at FCC can look forward to.

Scheduled to perform on Dec. 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, and 10 at 7:30 p.m., with a special scholarship benefit performance on Dec. 4 at 7:30 p.m. There will also be a matinee show on Dec. 10 at 2:00 p.m.

It is written by Fresno City's own Chuck Erven, who is an FCC Theater instructor, and is directed by guest artist Brad Myers, from CSU, Fresno, Theater Dept.

The play consists of

three short plays, which are laced together in a way where relationships of different backgrounds and character types intermingle in strange and exciting situations, and demonstrate the different parameters of love and loss.

Canyon Suite is an out-of-the-way hotel at the northern part of the Grand Canyon, and audience members can expect to see both a comedic and serious approach to the writing of this play.

Erven got his story idea from some married friends who met while on a 14 day rafting trip. Each was married to another spouse at the time, and the couple managed to have an affair throughout the course of

their stay at the hotel.

They eventually left their spouses, and married each other.

Things like this happen all the time, right? It does, in the wonderful world of performing arts and stage dramatics.

This story of the two lovers stuck with Erven as time went on, as he would occasionally toss it around as an idea for a play. The thought would finally become reality when he realized it would fit under the play structure he was going after, which was to portray

three different stories, all taking part in the same room.

Each play is different both plot-wise and stylistically. The first play is told by dialogue between two people. The second play is a series of three monologues, all connected by a single incident, which also ties into the first play. The third wraps it all together, in an extremely compelling way.

Erven plans to do an event called Teasers, which is a series of ten-minute plays written by students at FCC in

the spring. He has been at FCC for six years where he has written three plays.

"The play is funny and dramatic. It's kind of a hybrid thing," Erven said. "It's written by faculty here, and directed by Myers from Fresno State, and we use Fresno City and Fresno State actors, so we're all pulling it together. I think the audience will find the show is effective in many ways."

see Page 6 for more information about Charles Erven

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Winter concert events

Date	Event	Location	Time
Dec. 2	Woodwind Choir	Recital Hall	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 3	FCC Choir w/ Fresno Philharmonic	Saroyan Theater	8:00 p.m.
Dec. 4	FCC Choir w/ Fresno Philharmonic	Saroyan Theater	2:30 pm
Dec. 4	Community Concert Band	Tower Theater	3:00 & 7:30
Dec. 5	Piano Recital	Recital Hall	7:30 pm
Dec. 6	Brass/Percussion	FCC Theater	7:30 pm
Dec. 7	Concert Band	FCC Theater	7:30 pm
Dec. 8	String Ensemble	Recital Hall	5:00 pm
Dec. 8	Jazz Ensemble	FCC Theater	7:30 pm
Dec. 9	Student Recital	Recital Hall	1:00 pm
Dec. 9	Choral Holiday Concert	St. Therese Church	7:30 pm
Dec. 12	Voice Recital	Recital Hall	7:30pm
Dec. 12	Jazz Composers Orchestra	Roger Rocka's	8:00 pm



Rampage

RAMPAGE

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Christmas at the Met

Hollywood's "Golden Age" the theme for Christmas
With the Stars at this year's 24th annual celebration

by lowercase P. Jenkins
Rampage Reporter

For the first time in over two decades, Christmas at the Met will not be held at the Fresno Metropolitan Museum.

The Met is currently undergoing renovation, so the 24th Annual Christmas at the Met: Christmas With the Stars (Dec. 3-18) will be held at the Banker's Ballroom, which is located in the Security Bank Building on Fulton Mall.

Christmas With the Stars will be open to the public in traditional fashion on Dec. 18 from 11:00 a.m. to 5 p.m., and regular museum admission will apply.

The theme this year is Hollywood's Golden Age, and displays will be presented inside the vintage style ballroom.

Displays will include the Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers Tree, which is meant to make fans feel nostalgic for the days the two of them could mesmerize a crowd on the big screen.

Also, a pair of trees will pay homage to former glamour girls Marilyn Monroe and Grace Kelly.

There will be a Shirley Temple Tree, which will feature magazine covers and original photos of the young dancing actress that delighted audiences in her black and white films.

Wreaths will commemorate productions such as "The King and I", "The Sting", "Out of Africa", and "The Last Emperor". The "Out of Africa" wreath was decorated with items that were collected in Kenya.

There will be a total of seven different events during this year's Christmas at the Met.



Fresno Metropolitan Museum
A display from a previous Christmas With the Stars.

The *Legends of Hollywood Holiday Gala* will be held on Dec. 3 at 6:30 p.m. It is a black tie affair, and guests will enter on a red carpet to simulate a Hollywood premiere.

Dinner will be served in the spirit of a traditional Oscar party. Tickets for the event are \$150, but include admission for *Le Chocolat: A Taste of Chocolate After Party*, which will be held later that evening.

Le Chocolat desert treat features chocolate mar-

tinis, chocolate milkshakes, chocolate truffles, and chocolate cakes. It directly follows the *Legends of Hollywood Holiday Gala* at 9:30 p.m. Price of admission for *Le Chocolat* alone is \$50, but includes a performance by The Essence.

The next day, at 2 p.m., *Tea at Tiffany's* will begin with a theme of "all things Tiffany," including Tiffany boxes and pearls. Hot tea and delectable tea sandwiches will be served; tickets cost \$30 per person.

The *Miracle Brunch on 34th St.* will be held a week after *Tea at Tiffany's*. This particular event will be aimed at children, as kids will have an opportunity to inform Santa of all their Christmas desires. Tickets for adults are \$30 each; tickets for children are \$15.

Students from the 5th-8th grades will have a chance to enjoy themselves as well. On Dec. 12, 5th and 6th graders will have their

Junior Gala from 6:30-9:00 p.m. The following day, 7th and 8th graders get their *Gala* starting at 6:30 p.m. as well.

From Dec. 12-16, the *Luncheons of Rodeo Drive* will be held, continuing the Met tradition, and the aforementioned *Christmas With the Stars* finishes the event on Dec. 18.

The event will feature the work of over 50 of the valley's most talented designers.

Services: Tutor center also available

continued from
Page 1

Keep focus and once it's through, take some time to reflect the highs and lows of the semester. Make a list of academic and social accomplishments.

In addition you may want to meet with your professor to help gain insights into successfully finishing the class.

Learn from experiences, good and bad, and ask you're self what you want to accomplish next semester or this semester. Most of all, don't cram for final exams.

The keys to beating "holiday blues" are organizing your schedule, not being late for exams, bringing a spare No. 2 pencil, organizing notes, and for math and science exams, bring a calcu-

lator if it is allowable.

One more thing, don't forget about the tutoring services available. Simply go to the tutorial center with your FCC Student I.D. or library card and sign up.

Tutoring is available on a walk-in basis and conducted in small groups. The tutors are available for a variety of subjects.

The Psychological Services office is located above Yoshino's in room 216. To make an appointment call (559) 442-4600.

Office hours are Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-8 p.m., Friday, 8 a.m.-12 p.m., and Saturday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. The Tutorial Center is east of the main library in room LI-134. The hours are Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-8 p.m., Friday, 8 a.m.-12 p.m., and Saturday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Pamela's Kitchen

by Pamela Matthews-Thomas

CHOCALATE CHIP PIE

Ingredients:

- 1 unbaked 9-inch (4-cup volume) Deep dish pie shell*
- 2 large eggs
- 1/2 cup all purpose flour
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1 cup (6 oz.) NESTLE TOLL HOUSE Semi-Sweet

Chocolate Morsels

- 1 cup chopped nuts
- Sweetened whipped cream or Ice cream (optional)

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 325 (F)
 2. Beat eggs in large mixer bowl on high speed until foamy. Beat in flour, granulated sugar and brown sugar. Beat in butter. Stir in morsels and nuts. Spoon in to pie shell.
 3. Bake for 55 to 60 minutes or until knife inserted halfway between outside edge and center comes out clean. Cool on wire rack. Serve warm with whipped cream.
- Serves 8.

* If using flozen pie shell, use deep-dish style, thawed completely. Bake on baking sheet; increase baking time slightly

*Make a great pie for the holiday or for any time of the year. It's like eating a big chocolate chip cookie in a pie form.

Books: Faculty comes together to help African students

books, as did Rosemary Waters of microbiology and Robb Culp of Chemistry. We're really grateful to Nanci Squier-Beem who donated an enormous number of books from her own personal collection."

Squier-Beem said that she had been looking for an initiative like Books for Africa for a long time before she became aware of Phi Theta Kappa's work. For the last three semesters Squier-Beem has worked for the Tutorial Center.

Prior to this, since 1989, she worked as an English instructor.

"[Instructors] acquire a lot of books over time and the best thing to do is pass them on to something like this... the need is so great"

The contributions are also suspected to inspire further support from students and faculty.

"A lot of people now know our plans and it seems like we could exceed our goal of 800 textbooks by the end of the semester," Phi Theta Kappa presi-

dent Lara said.

It is widely understood that books are difficult to sell when school ends. If an instructor shifts to a different textbook for the new semester, the former book

will be rejected when students attempt to sell it back to stores.

"If we all brought our textbooks to the Tutorial Center rather than stacking them up at home, we could make

huge difference to the lives and education of African students." Lara said.

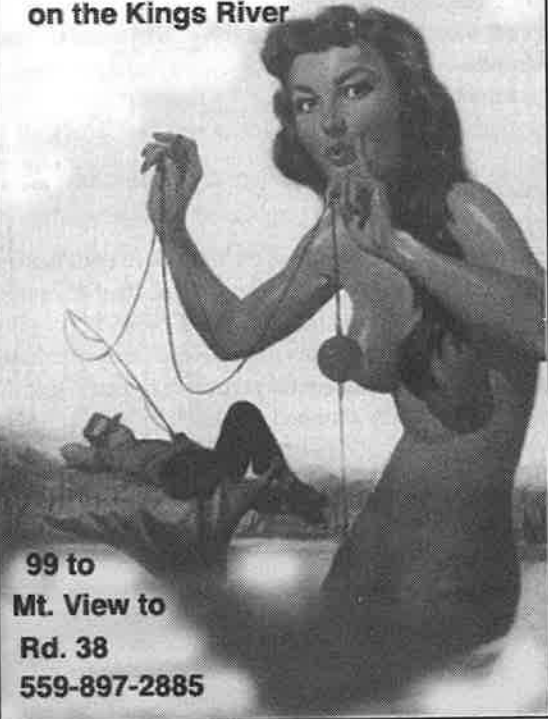
Textbooks can be donated to the Tutorial Center until 8 p.m. Monday 12 December.



Photo by Robin Valentyne

Donated books stack up, already 250 strong.

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Mural: Artist says other students' work just as important

continued from Page 1

Hanna touched on the importance of sharing life with someone you care about.

The patch of yellow against the patch of purple reflects her views of the light of love, and the dark and dramatic colors symbolize the evils of the real world. Parts of her painting are more balanced, depicting a ying-yang-styled approach.

There is also a darker,

more serious part of life however, that Hanna wants to convey, in the form of a political message located on the opposite side of the dancers in her mural.

In a sea of chaotic colors, and brutal brush strokes, appear the

words, "To be sovereign is to be free of external control; to be autonomous. To be controlled is to be subjugated, slaves of the system

of corporate capitalism and consumption. Know that it is your freedoms that corporations capitalize upon, and your liberties they consume."

"This isn't a personal message towards the administration at all. This is just something I was thinking about," said

be happy with what I did. I'm just trying to stay true to my own artistic expression. I don't know what people are going to say about this. Hopefully they'll like it, and not object too much to me."

Even though Hanna put in over 20 hours and spent over 200 dollars, in her acrylic-based mural, she admits there are other murals on campus that have a lot more meaning than her own.

"I actually want to discuss some of the other murals, because I think they are more important."

Hanna points out another mural in particular, which she feels is an expression of personal grief over the loss of a loved one.

"This (mural), which is located downstairs on the east wall of the art/home economics building, is more important than what I painted. Lots of people are experiencing this kind of grief globally. This is something that couldn't have been prevented."

"It is a greater expression of what people feel than what they think."

"In the end," Hanna said, "her mural captures raw emotional expression of the grievance over the loss of life, which is something that everyone will touch at some point in their existence, and that's what art is all about."

"We're told about this American dream, where we can have everything, but if you barely have enough to get by, how are you to change your status and place in life?" --Jessica Hanna

Hanna, who is a single mother of three, and is struggling to find balance at the mercy of a government system that offers the bare minimum required for survival.

"We want that finite life of happiness and joy, but yet we have all this stuff going on in the government that's way bigger than us, that can really take away from how we live on an already small level. We're told about this American dream, where we can have everything, but if you barely have enough to get by, how are you to change your status and place in life?"

"It's not Norman Rockwell."

Hanna's statement on one level, also addresses the idea of who we are, and how we get to the place that we want to achieve.

"I'm really grateful that the administration gave me a lot of leeway, and I'm not sure if they're going to



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Charles Erven: on writing

by Victoria McLoughlin
Rampage Reporter

Some know Charles (Chuck) Erven as an acting instructor, others know him as a director. But this semester Erven will make his mark as a playwright at FCC. For those unfamiliar with his previous work such as Glynn's Crossing and Paiting Landscapes, Canyon Suite will serve as an ideal introduction to Erven's writing talents.

Canyon Suite is described as "a play in three scenes" and was first performed as a staged reading earlier this year. At this time, it was evaluated by Bill Wollack, past national playwrighting chair, Region 8, KCACTF.

A long time has passed since Erven first set to work on Canyon Suite but he recalls his inspiration vividly. The first part of the play was based on the experience of two friends who met while rafting in the Grand Canyon.

"They had an affair, [got] a cheap motel, hung out," Erven said. "And figured out what they were going to do now they were madly in lust with each other.....that idea stuck with me, I don't know why....."

But for Erven, the idea was the easy part. His first draft took three months to write, but Canyon Suite took approximately a year to complete.

"The whole thing is constant deconstruction.....you keep this, you keep that...you re-write.....eventually it comes together," Erven said.

Though Erven confessed that he had abandoned lengthy projects in the past, he was adamant that Canyon Suite was destined to be completed.

"Something in there is making you want to write it, want to fix it," Erven said of projects like Canyon Suite which inextricably begged to be written and re-written.

Erven argued that constructive feedback is a large part of his success with plays such

as Canyon Suite. Erven showed first drafts to trusted peers such as Wollack.

"He's a great critic," Erven said. "He's the type of guy who really lays it out for you."

For Erven, such criticism helped not only to iron out story and character-based kinks, it also inspired him to work harder and more devotedly.

"As soon as I began to realize 'he gets it', it was exciting," Erven said.

But Erven warned that choosing one's critics carefully is vital, and advised writers to resist showing drafts to as many people as possible.

"A lot of people make that mistake," Erven said. "They write their first play and think 'I have to show this to everyone, it's so good.....then it gets [negative] feedback or no feedback and they don't write anymore.'"

So who else helps Erven hone his craft?

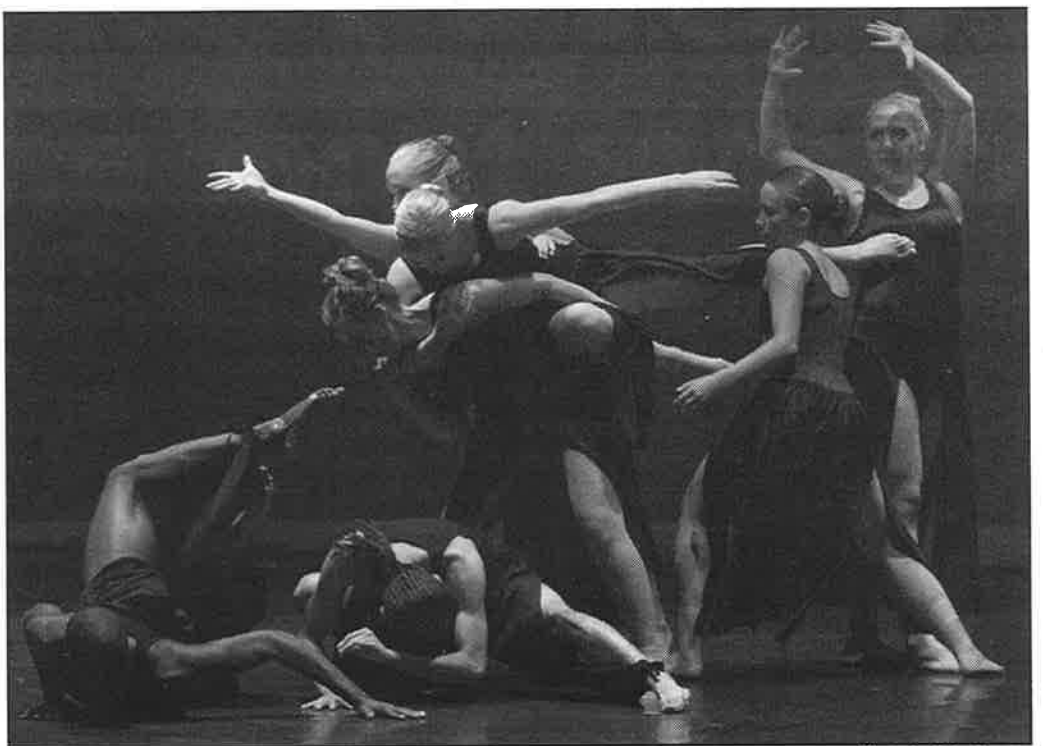
"I have about 10 people that I'm working with [and trust]," Erven said. This small playwrighting community is one Erven now refers to as his "tribe". Members, each of whom live in California, send work to one another for informal critique.

But the best way to perfect a play, in Erven's opinion, is to keep writing. He recalled with great affection one conference which he attended in the midst of a few play-related worries. Erven chose to skip the conference in order to work exclusively on Canyon Suite.

For Erven, working in solitude and wrestling style and structural demons is not a daunting concept.

"That's what I like to do," Erven said. "I would rather do that than anything else in the world."

Erven's unflinching passion is paralleled only by his dedication to his work. He has sent Canyon Suite to numerous theaters in the hope that it will be produced on a larger scale.



Photos by Daisy Rosas

Fresno City College students perform during a dress rehearsal Nov. 28 of "Breaking Ground".

Dancing the night away

by Clare Godinho
Rampage Reporter

The Fresno City College Theater Arts & Dance Department is going out of the final semester of 2005 with a bang.

Breaking Ground is set to be performed Dec. 1, 2, 3 at 7:30 p.m., Dec. 3, 4 at 2:00 p.m., and there will be a special scholarship benefit performance on Dec. 3, at 7:30 p.m. at the Fresno City College main theater stage.

Stephanie Powell,

dance instructor and artistic director, has a wide variety of modern dance lined up for all to enjoy, choreographed by both faculty and students alike.

Guest performances will be provided by UDT. The Selah Dance Company performs on Friday and Sunday, and is owned by Jacquelyn Clark, who is a former student of Powell. Altered Modalities, which is a local company, will perform on Thursday. Saturday's shows will have Robert Henry Johnson, from

San Francisco, who will perform a duet with Powell. The University Dance Theater from Fresno State will perform as well.

Powell has an impressive background of dance experience, which was obtained through her education from both Bakersfield and the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in New York.

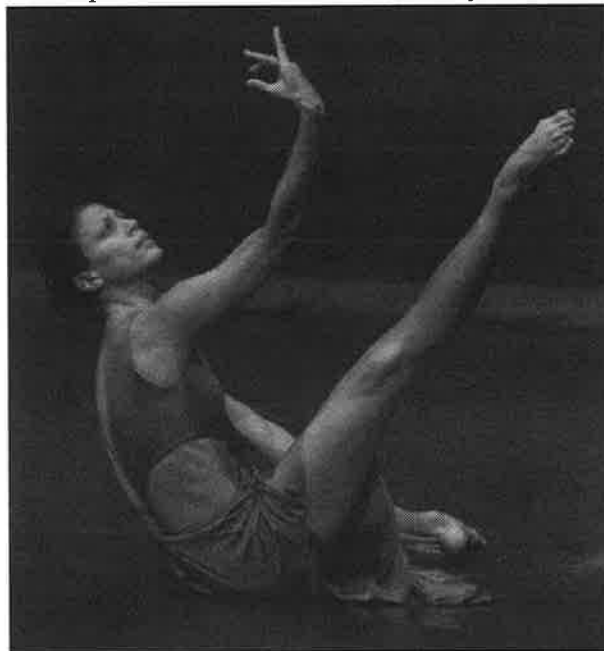
She believes it is important to bring together a show that encompasses all aspects of style and ethnicities from the area.

"We bring that element of quality performing. We have a little bit of everything," said Powell.

Audience members can expect to witness exciting modern dance sets that have been choreographed by both FCC faculty and students alike.

Breaking Ground will be performed on the main stage in the Theater Arts Building, and all are encouraged to attend.

"Support us. Buy our tickets," says Powell. "Bring a friend who doesn't typically come to events like this. You'll be pleasantly surprised. There's more talent in this city than people are aware of."



Dance Instructor and Artistic Director Stephanie Powell rehearses a solo piece.

Back for a second go 'round

Vance Walberg's squad won't go undefeated but a title repeat isn't out of the picture

By David Witte
Rampage Reporter

Fresno City College basketball coach Vance Walberg holds a 107-7 record early in his fourth season at FCC.

His Rams are 7-2 this season, after taking third place in the Palomar Tournament in San Diego with a 99-88 victory over L.A. Trade Tech.

FCC's first loss of the season came in a rematch of last year's state championship game against San Bernardino. San Bernardino won the rematch 106-100.

"[It was] very disappointing," Walberg said. "If you lose and play your best or play the way you want to play, you can half handle it. We got out-toughed that game."

"I think that's one of our biggest weaknesses, we're just not as tough as we need to

be."

The Rams' second loss of the season came against the San Diego All-Stars in the Palomar Tournament. FCC and the All-Stars each had 20 turnovers, a rarity for the Rams, and guard Anthony Zuniga fouled out.

"It's part of life," Walberg said. "You'd love to win everything, but it's just the way it went, and it's going to happen again."

The loss to San Bernardino was FCC's first in over a year, ending a 35-game winning streak which included the state championship. At 34-0, the Rams were the first team to go undefeated in California junior college basketball since the sixties.

"Last year we kind of had a swagger about ourselves," Walberg said. "Just the loose balls that we've lost, that wouldn't have happened last year, at least not at the rate

that it's happening this year.

"Very few teams go undefeated. We were the first one in 35 years, and who know if it's another 35 before the next one does it."

The Rams rebounded from the loss to the All-Stars with the victory over L.A. Trade Tech. Sophomore guard Keena Payton led the attack with 23 points, followed by 14 by Adrian Sanchez.

On the weekend of Dec. 1-3, FCC travels to Sacramento to play in the American River Tournament.

"You got West Valley, Santa Rosa, Yuba, Shasta, West Hills and ourselves," Walberg said. Probably six of the top 15 teams in the North at this tournament.

"It's going to give us a good indication of where we stand."

See Basketball
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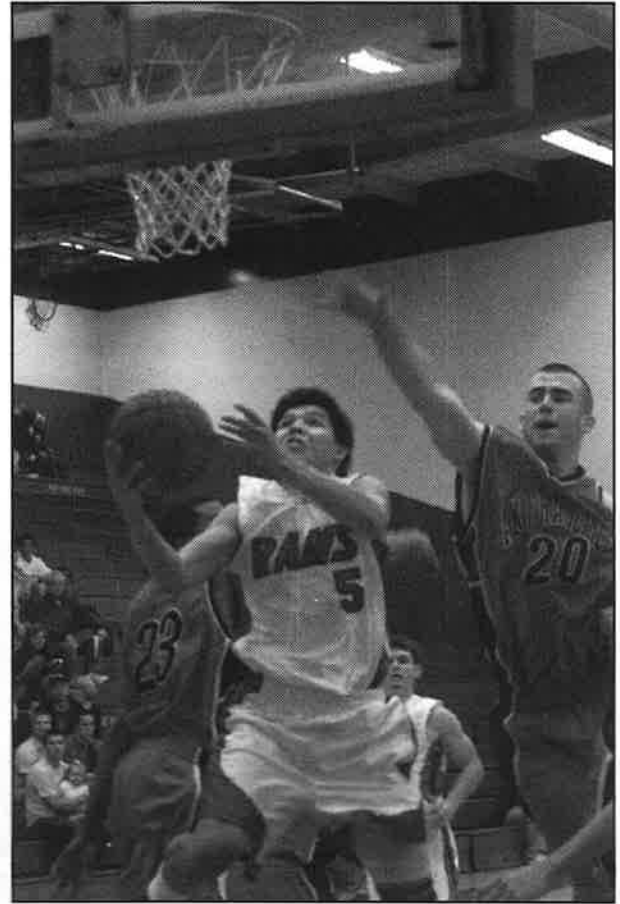


Photo By Jennifer Schmidt

Anthony Zuniga (5) drives past two C.C.S.F. defenders on the way to the basket during the FCC/Reedley tournament on Nov. 18. FCC opens regular season play on Jan. 4

Setting up for a post season run

Volleyball team finishes the season and faces a tough task ahead in the playoffs

By Matt T. Mendes
Rampage Reporter

The Fresno City College women's volleyball team ended the regular season with two straight victories over Columbia College on Nov. 14 and 16 to finish second in Central Valley Conference play behind Taft College.

The Rams were in position to take first place in the CVC after defeating Taft on the road and handing Reedley College a loss in the FCC gymnasium, but they fell victim to Porterville College on

Nov. 11.

FCC finished the regular season with a very respectable overall record of 18-6, and an even more impressive league record of 14-2.

Five Rams ended the CVC season in the top 25 in kills, with Megan Roehl being highest on the list at #12 with 3.03 kills per game. The four other FCC players on the list were as follows: #15 Lauren Storey (2.69 kills per game); #18 Katie Franz (2.47); #21 Jaimie Rose Walberg (2.16 kills per game); and #25 Elisabeth Long (1.82 kills per game).

FCC standout sopho-

more setter Katie Kachadurian finished the season with an incredible 10.8 assists per game.

The top 25 list for digs is filled with Fresno City players; the Rams have a total of seven players, with Michele Gutierrez a third place with a 5.08 per game average.

Now the Rams will have to travel to Cupertino to battle De Anza College tonight at 7:00 p.m. De Anza is seeded at seeded seventh, and Fresno is seeded tenth.

The California Community College state championships will be held Dec. 9-11 in Selland Arena.

To get there, the Rams would have to beat De Anza and, most likely, play another road game in the second round.

Should the Rams manage to beat De Anza and make it to the second round, their opponent is almost sure to be the #2 seed, Sacramento, who come into the 2005 Northern California Regional playoffs with a 22-3 overall record.

Having somewhat of a home court advantage during the state championships would be huge for Fresno City, who won seven of eight games at the FCC gymnasium during the regular season—

six of those seven home victories were three-game sweeps.

Not to say that the Rams have been unspectacular away from their home court. The road game against two-time defending CVC champion Taft (15-1), was another win for FCC by way of the broom (the Rams won three games to zero).

Taft College is seeded fourth in the playoffs, and they play #13 seed Siskiyou (7-7), at home. If Fresno City and Taft do face off again this season, it would be in the state championship match in Fresno.

Suffering a heartbreaking loss

FCC's men's and women's soccer teams go down in defeat at home to West Valley Vikings.

By Quinn Robinson
Sports Editor

Utter disbelief.

Words couldn't even begin to describe the feeling after the No. 1 seeded women's team for FCC fell in the second round against West Valley 1-0 after penalty kicks.

It only got worse as the Rams men's team took to the field shortly after against, you guessed it, West Valley. They too fell victim to and upset in the same exact fashion. A 1-0 loss after penalty kicks.

"The game went pretty similar to how I thought it would," said FCC men's coach Eric Solberg. "We knew it was really hard to get in behind their defense. Our plan was to get second chances at the net. We actually had a couple opportunities to do so. We were just in the wrong place at the wrong time."

FCC had a tough time getting into a rhythm against a West Valley (14-4-5) team that only allowed 11 goals in 23 games this season. No matter what scheme the offense tried or who they found open up field, FCC just couldn't gain enough momentum to garner that one big play they needed to escape with the win.

"All year long we've been a very hard working team," said West Valley head coach Gaspar Silveira. "We've always managed to keep ourselves in the game. We get a lot of guys behind

the ball and the players worked tremendously hard on both sides of the ball. We knew as the time wore on the better our chances were at a victory."

Vikings GK Mario

"Fresno's been a very good team throughout the course of the year. We played them at home early in the season and that was a battle itself. The ball bounced our way there and we got a goal and were

come at the end wasn't what he'd hoped for, Solberg was happy with the way his team performed throughout the year but was disappointed to see it end the way it did because he felt they had just

was in our favor, but in a way this was a bad match-up for anybody.

"We told our team this was going to be a 1-0 game and you just hope you don't give up the goal and we didn't.

"We had a couple opportunities in where we had a chance or didn't put the ball away and that's the difference in a game like this. This game was exactly what I thought it would be, but I just thought we would score and they wouldn't be able to get back in the game. We had chances we just couldn't capitalize on them."

In the earlier game, the women's team was coming off a remarkable season in which they had a record of 18-1-3 heading into post season with the No. 1 seed in the NorCal Regional.

The Rams struggled early against their first round opponent Los Medanos before putting away their counterpart 2-0 in front of a home crowd on Nov. 19.

"Los Medanos came out and really pressured us in the beginning," said coach Oliver Germond. "It was a good start for playoffs because nothing's going to be easy."

Germond's statement after round one was right on the money.

In round two of the NorCal Regionals, the Rams took on the Vikings from West Valley.

The No.1 vs. No. 8 meeting proved to be a very physical and demanding

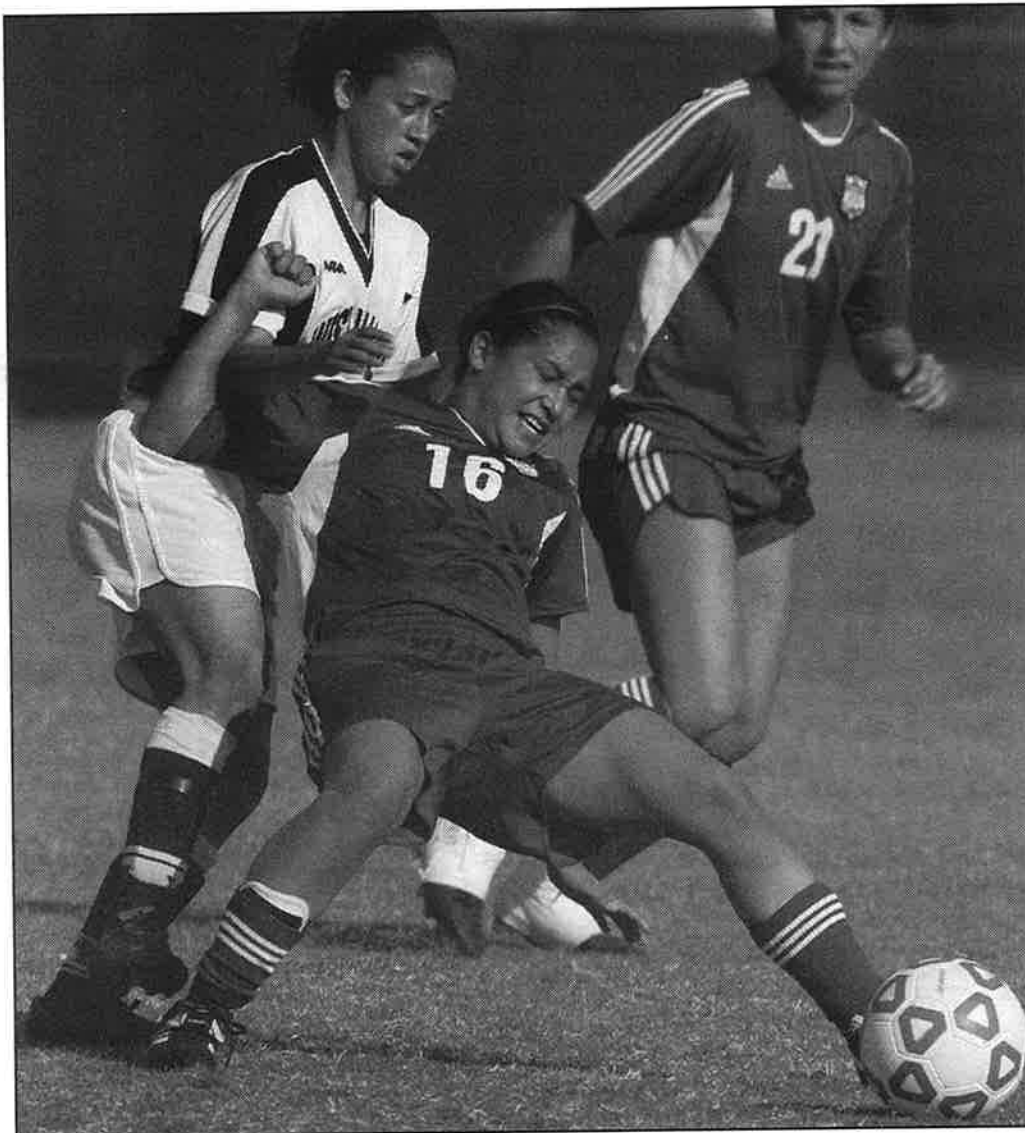


Photo by Daisy Rosas

Two point takedown: Cece Mendiola gets pushed to the ground by West Valley defender as they jockey for position during the second round playoff game at Fresno City College on Nov. 22.

Obeso played all 120 minutes for West Valley while denying the FCC offense with great saves throughout the game.

"There's always a chance," said Silveira.

able to hold on. I knew coming into today that this was going to be a low scoring game if any goals were scored because both teams are very good."

Although the out-

started to play to their capability.

"Our team had a really good year," said Solberg. "The unfortunate thing was that I think we were peaking right now. I think everything

**See Soccer
Page 9**

Women's golf secures another CVC title

Rams take third in state playoffs while Freshman Tiffany Derksen takes league MVP honors

By Quinn Robinson
Sports Editor

The Fresno City College women's golf had another exceptional year on the links this year as they took the title once again as Central Valley Conference champions.

Coming into her seventh season as head coach things looked a little bleak for Rhonda Williams and the Rams. Williams only had one returning player from the '04 squad and three on the team FCC prepared to defend their conference crown.

"It was kind of hard to say because we had trouble finding a full team," said Wil-

liams. "We were struggling to get golfers as late as the first week of school. Once we got the team together we thought we could do pretty well. There were some other teams like Sac City and Sierra College from the north and Modesto in our conference were very tough and we weren't sure how we would stack up against them."

Williams managed to get another team together however and in result FCC racked up another conference title on their way to a second straight third place finish in the state championship which was held this year at Riverside Country Club in Fresno.

Freshman Tiffany

Derksen who was the Rams No.1 golfer throughout the year, was named Central Valley Conference Most Valuable Player and also was the top medalist at the NorCal tournament up in...

"It was great," said Williams. "It's exciting anytime that you have anyone on your team that excels individually as well as helping the team."

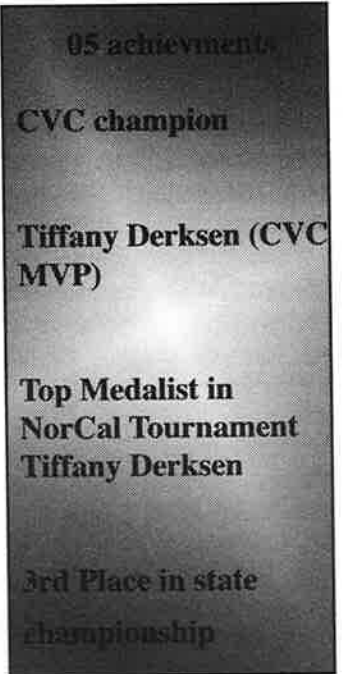
Williams also explained the importance of having a returning player such as Elicia Gonzales on the team.

"She was very valuable," said Williams. "She scored for us all the time and

she knew what the competition was like. We won our conference last year, we won NorCals last year and finished third in the state. [Elicia] knew what it took to play at that level as an individual and as a team so that helped us a lot."

As the squad wrapped up another great season, Williams is extremely optimistic about next season.

"Right now we're counting on five players returning for next season," said Williams. "We should get a couple high school golfers that are interested in coming here next year so it looks good for us."



Soccer: Rams go home in the second round of the NorCal Regional

Continued from page 8

challenge for both teams as they gave their all through 120 minutes of soccer and were still unable to determine a winner. Subsequently the teams went into penalty kicks where five players from each squad would square off to decide who would advance to the third round of the playoffs.

Rams GK Sabrina Lawrence did what she's done all season, stop shots when it mattered the most and FCC found itself out to a quick 2-0 advantage with just three shots separating them from the third round of the NorCal Regional.

The Vikings showed that they still had

a little fight left in them and with the help from the cross-bars on the defensive side, West Valley all of a sudden found themselves leading the penalty kick shootout 4-3.

The Rams were down to their final shot of staying alive in the post season but it wasn't meant to be.

The final shot skipped past Lawrence as the the West Valley Vikings jumped in jubilation while FCC players hunched over on the ground and watched in disbelief as others headed over to console their goalkeeper.

FCC finished the season at 20-2-3 and was ranked as high as No. 2 in the nation behind Long Beach City College. The final rankings of the year come out on Dec. 12

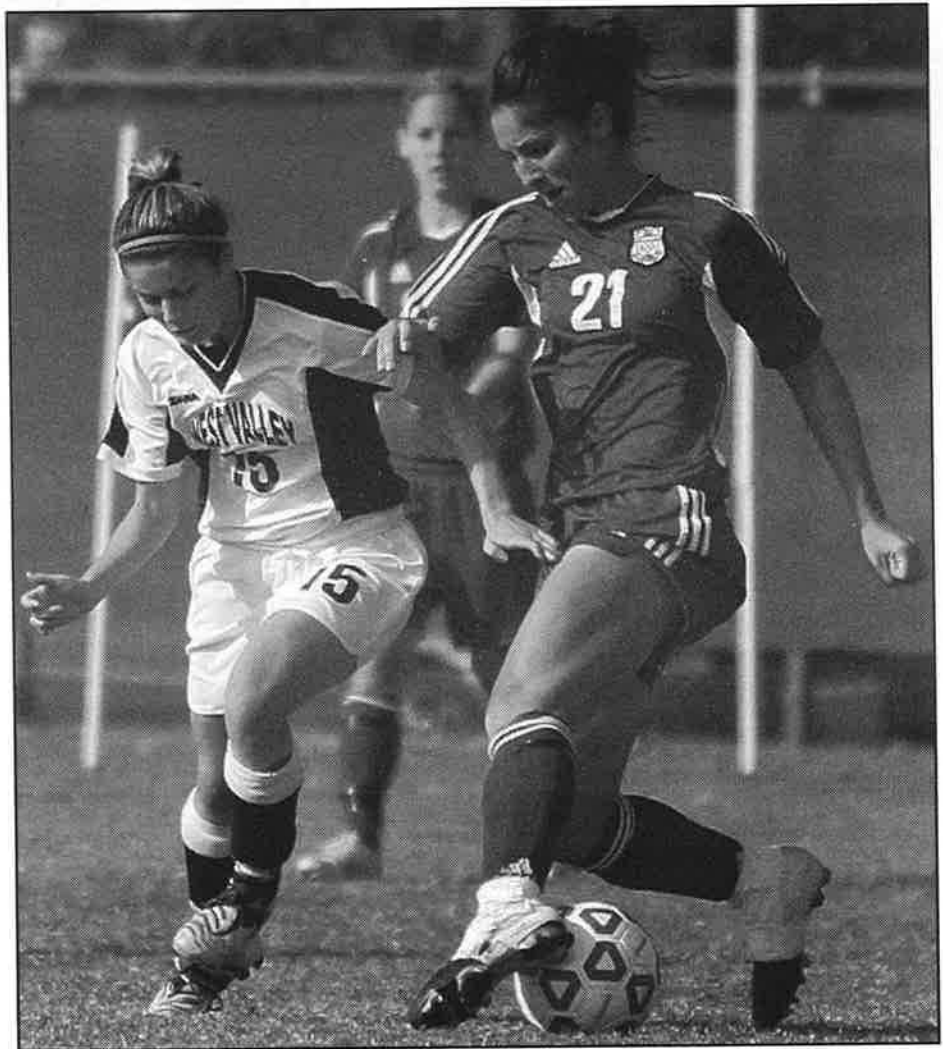
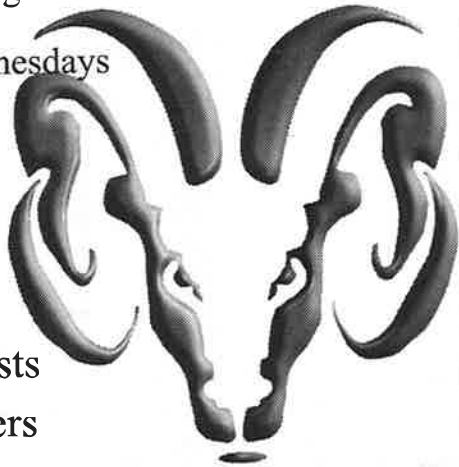


Photo by Daisy Rosas
Rams defender Brittany Hasbrouck fights off West Valley's Kara Feria (15) to take control of the ball for FCC.

Do you
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you can do better?
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best shot.

Join the Rampage
 Journalism 5
 Mondays, Wednesdays
 11-11:50 a.m.

- Writers
- Illustrators
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- Graphic artists
- Photographers



Basketball: Rams start season 7-2



Photo by Daisy Rosas

Tyson Parker (31) drives to the hoop against CCSF defender in the Fresno/Reedley Tournament.

continued from Page 7

This year's team consists of more than half new players, which is common in junior college. The team also has a new assistant coach in Tony Amundsen, who coached at Central High School last year.

"It's always good to have another very good coach," Walberg said. "And he's definitely a very good coach. He's played for me in high school, he's coached with me over at Clovis West, he knows the expectations."

The Rams play in the American River Tournament and three others, before starting the conference season at home against Columbia College.

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Views

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November 30, 2005

The most wonderful time

October 31, 11.59 p.m. -- Time to get out the Christmas lights!

Could I please digest my turkey before Christmas? Thank you.



Jacob Wiens

"It's the most wonderful time of the year.

With the kids jingle belling,
And everyone telling you,
'Be of good cheer,'

It's the most wonderful time of the year!"

There you have it -- lyrics to one of the most popular Christmas songs of all time. And I agree with it wholeheartedly. I absolutely adore this time of year! I strongly believe that the festivities should begin Midnight on November 1. Celebrate Halloween, eat your candy, put on the Christmas music and get out the decorations!

I am not saying to forget Thanksgiving all together, but there is nothing wrong with incorporating the Christmas festivities with the season of giving thanks. Eat your turkey, watch "Home Alone" (a Christmas classic!), and enjoy the tree it took you 16 hours to put up.

As the man of the house, I put out more than enough energy to get the

house ready for the holiday season. The effort to put up the lights, put together the artificial tree, and help hang wreaths and mistletoe around the house deserves more than a couple of weeks of enjoyment. If I am going to spend an entire weekend untangling lights, then I want those lights to be enjoyed by my family and neighbors for as long as possible.

Putting aside the effort it takes to make the house look like the North Pole, Christmas is supposed to be a happy time! Why not relish in this happiness for as long as we can? I think the majority of our wonderful Valley residents are happier during the holidays. Sure, it gets a little stressful. But the stress mostly comes from procrastination; waiting to do all the shopping until the last possible moment. If you take advantage of the entire month of December, you can spread the shopping out, in turn, spreading out that stress!

As someone who spent the last few years residing in Orange County, I must say that Christmas is a great way to eliminate some of the dreariness that comes with Fresno winters. Our winters here are, well, pretty depressing. The cold, fog, and gloom are enough to bring anyone down a notch.

So, let Christmas bring the cheer it is meant to bring for as long as possible. Happiness is contagious! Get in the mood; pass it along. You might just be making someone's day a little brighter.



Eddie Ortiz

I don't know about you, but I am tired of going to stores and seeing Christmas stuff already being displayed in the middle of October. Every year it seems to be getting worse.

The holidays are passing by faster and faster each year. To solve this problem we need to slow down. No more Christmas until December. That is when the Christmas season begins, right? Well, actually it starts the day after Thanksgiving, but what does the last week of November mean anyway?

So, what happened to the Christmas season being celebrated in the month of December? This craze of having Christmas decorations cover our stores in November seems more like retailers stuffing Christmas down our throats. So much to the point of where we cough up our wallets in the process of buying meaningless products that will be junk in two years when they come back "bigger and better".

I don't care how good the sales are, no one with a functioning brain is going to wake up at 3 a.m. to buy pre-

sents for a bunch of brats. I think it is important to celebrate the holidays, but stores are trying to make us believe that the way to happiness during the holiday season is through overpriced material items.

Christmas can be more stressful than enjoyable, everyone knows that. Love is sometimes lost in the craze to get the next big thing that hits the store's shelves.

The best thing about Christmas to me is finding that one gift. It might not be the most expensive gift, or the gift that has everyone drooling. I am in college, remember? But the gift I get means so much more than anything money can buy because I have put time and effort into thinking about what that person would really want, rather than just following the lines of drones that call themselves human and get what everyone else is getting. I love celebrating the meaning behind Christmas, which is the birth of Jesus Christ. Christmas is about friends and family coming together; singing carols and eating food that you wish would taste that good all year. What is most important about Christmas: it is a time for giving, not receiving.

If we would all take a step back and just think about what Christmas truly means to each and every one of us then maybe this time of year will not be so hectic. And then I can probably digest my turkey without getting a stomachache, thank you!

Campus Voices

by Eddie Ortiz, photos by Robin Vallentyn

Do you think Christmas starts early?



Amanda Garcia
Criminology

"I think it does. I work at Gottschalk's and we started setting up for Christmas in October."



Leticia Sanchez
Dance

"Yeah I do. I think it starts after Thanksgiving."



Jonathan Holland
Drama

"Well, for me it does. I'm getting a car for Christmas."



Tiffany Hogle
Photography

"Yeah, I think they promote it too early."



Eden Gebreab
Fashion

"Yes. My Mom already started shopping and so did I."

How FCC should spend its money

Financial advice for the school from a bum



Matt T. Mendez

It is getting close to the end of the semester, and since this is the last issue of the Rampage, I figured I'd lend some helpful advice to Ned Doffoney, Tom Crowe, Groundskeeper Willie or whoever it is that handles the fiscal obligations of Fresno City College.

I have spent many hours compiling this list of suggestions for how you should spend your money, and I think you should take them seriously.

Warning: These suggestions are not to be taken seriously.

10. There have been times this semester in which I have wanted to walk from the bookstore to the health building, only to be reminded of the new multi-million dollar passway that was built this summer.

Needless to say, I had to alter my pre-scheduled walking path; therefore, you must get rid of the new passage way and go back to the way it used to be. I care not about the cost; I just want a school – and a path to class – that supports my laziness.

Oh yeah, the new walkway should be made better, safer, and more accessible to my many needs. I thank you.

9. Round up all the money that the school's vending machines have stolen from me and build another library. I am serious, too many times I have gotten my hopes up expecting an ice cold beverage, only to walk away lonely and broke.

Those things were either secretly intended to rob students of their money, or that little Hamburglar character is on FCC's campus lurking inside our soda machines. Except, he is stealing coins instead of hamburgers. Eh. What?

8. Hire more campus police. This is somewhat of a large campus, and at night, it is not very safe for the

ladies – and I only want what's best for the ladies.

7. Do something about that arcade, man. I understand it is not a top priority, but walking into the Fresno City game room is like stepping back into 1986. Why is Ms. Pac-Man still in there? That game can be played on any respectable cell phone, and it is not entertaining enough to convince us to keep plugging quarters into it after the first few games.

Sell everything in that room except for the pool table and use the money to buy one or two (or five) more recent arcade games. I am sure that stupid dancing game would be popular enough to plug some extra money into the school budget.

6. We need more counselors.

think I could still get my money.

I felt like Mr. Magoo the entire five minutes I stood there making a fruitless effort to obtain my money.

4. Be more lenient with distributing financial aid to students. If the state determines the criteria for FASFA eligibility, which I am sure it does, just give us cash under the table. We won't mind.

3. Build a small jailhouse where the new bungalow buildings are, for the campus thieves that pray on students' car radios and personal possessions.

It should be one of those old-school jailhouses, containing only one cell and an incompetent security guard with a big ring of keys on his waistband, just so the inmates have a chance

the library, because there are entirely too many people using the school's computers to go on Myspace. It may not seem like a big deal now – it is the end of the semester, so there are not that many students around – but wait until the beginning of next semester.

The next time I go to the library for research only to see eight of ten computers being occupied with students on Myspace, I am going to find a way to ruin it for everybody. It is absolutely ridiculous; this is a school, not a breeding ground for the electronically sociable.

I have a Myspace membership too, but there are more important things than checking to see if I have gotten any new picture comments or unread messages. People who spend their time in the library on Myspace while there is a student with real work waiting to get on a computer need not apply for school in the first place – period. Get a clue.

Which reminds me, I haven't checked my Myspace mail lately. See ya next semester.

Before I Forget:

It seems in my last column I made the mistake of saying the vice president's chief of staff was indicted on charges of revealing a covert agent's identity. I received an anonymous letter in the mail urging me to check my facts, because he was actually indicted on charges of obstruction of justice, perjury, and making a false statement under oath.

I was wrong, and you, kind reader, were absolutely right. I am glad, however, that the correction to my mistake only bolstered my point that the Bush administration is crooked. Instead of breaking one law, the man (Libby) broke three, and we still do not know who first spilled the beans on Plame's identity.

Thanks a bunch, helpful stranger, and a Merry Christmas to you too.



Illustration by David Witte

As is being waiting in that office with the rest of the students who need guidance, all of whom I am sure have more important things to do. At least put Ms. Pac-Man in there for us, I bet it would make a lot more money in the counselor waiting room than in the game room.

5. The ATM by the bookstore is an antediluvian piece of junk. In September, I tried to take money out of my account from a blank screen that was somehow making noises, and made me

to escape.

2. Get some new one-day parking permit machines – ones that accept all coins, not just quarters. It is inconvenient and almost impossible to run to the gas station and get four quarters for a dollar bill while attempting to get to class on time. And there is always that god-awful orange BNSF train that seems to take 10 minutes every time it passes by.

1. Buy more computers for

Don't fake to impress

Do you want to hang out with people impressed by fake fronts? Look for friends confident with who they are!



Nigel Wojtak

We all live to impress. Whether it is family, friends, co-workers, lovers, or just plain ol' society, we all want good things to be said about ourselves.

Clothing is just one of the many things that we use to "hide" ourselves from others. Yes, clothing can be a way to express ourselves but the expressive part of it can quickly be erased with

trends. Sequins are in; no, now it is chunky jewelry; no, now it is Puma shoes, it has all of us sucked in one time or another. Is it just trendy or does it have a hidden meaning?

What if you wear, listen to, dance, like or talk the same as everyone else around you? Is that you or is it the lying you? We mask our true selves with Cosmopolitan articles and MTV notions. Sure, someone had to start those trends, so it may be *their* true self.

If you are looking a certain way but inside screaming to be in a different light you may be lying to yourself and ultimately to everyone around you.

There might be confusion inside yourself, so you are acting a certain way to impress the people around you and fit in wherever you reside. Most people, I hope, dress, listen, write, speak, believe and react just the way they want to. That is who they are and what gives

them substance. But are we being truthful to the world around us or are we just scared about the repercussions of stepping out of the box?

I had a friend, still do, from back home, actually my neighbor since we shared a back yard. On the outside, he was perfect. Great body, nice height, gorgeous hair and a smile that could make you melt. I found myself staring at him a lot, not because I was interested in him, he just had features that really caught your eye. Every piece of clothing he owned was Abercrombie, Hollister or athletic wear. He always presented himself, whether it was at school, games or even in our backyard. But I knew something about him that a lot of other people had no idea about.

He was genuine, intelligent, **very** concerned about looks yet a hippie at heart. Can you imagine an Abercrombie model type guy with the soul of a tree-

hugging hippie? I loved that about him. What I did not love is how he hid himself from everyone. He would always play the dumb jock with a pretty face card and never the intellectual soul that only a few of us discovered. I knew he was hiding his true self, he told me; but why, we would never know. It was as much of a mystery to him as it was to me. Was he lying and putting a front on for the world because he was scared of his true self? He should not have been and that is my point.

We all fall into the rut to impress when we should be able to impress the world in a different way. Instead of lying to the world and impressing with how well we can keep up with trends more people should use their intelligence, charisma, humor and soul to impress the people around them. Don't hide who you are behind some label, express yourself with substance.

Misrepresenting Jesus



Mike Read

I initially hate most of what I write.

I usually run to my special lady friend for a word of insight or editorial remark while wondering why I take the time to write when I feel like drinking acid.

I sit down to write an article, struggle to pump out 1000 words or so, feel proud of myself when I do, go to the bathroom to empty my bladder, come back and re-read my words. I lower my head in defeat as my brain processes the stream of disjointed sentences, I then proceed to question my existence, direction in life, brain chemistry, etcetera, while wondering how I could have written something so lame.

I delete and start over.

Usually I send the end prod-

uct off last minute, wishing I had a few more hours to refine it. That degree of incompleteness drives me crazy.

My connection to this little story was going to be something quite simple. Jesus created us with the purpose of having a relationship of love with him. To walk with him is one of the most exciting and fulfilling things you can ever do.

I think my purpose in writing this semester has fallen in this spectrum, in a small degree. Personally, this semester has been of unlimited worth because of my involvement with the Rampage.

Knowing this and acting upon it will fulfill your life with something that will solve the rest of your life, that being God Himself.

My heart discovered this roughly two years ago and testifies to it passionately.

I am pretty sure I aggravated some people this semester, which I have yet to determine for good or bad. I am actually pretty sure this one guy wants to face-stomp me... But in regards to the Christian masses I have some thoughts on how we have been communicating what we believe.

I heard about this guy who

read all of Shakespeare's writings in one year. When he finished and took a step back, he most noticed the nature in each of the created characters. Each, he said, seemed to have a grand sense of his or her own destiny. Each person acted and moved with the understanding of their destiny in the utmost fervor and intensity.

I see this as the proper mindset of a Christian.

Being a Christian is more than reading The Bible and going into a building on Sundays. It is more than a series of tips and techniques to navigate life. It is more than learning doctrine, applying principles, and being nice.

Being a Christian is to walk in an intimate relationship with the God who created you.

This is why He made you.

"Gandhi was a remarkable man, so was Latsu, Confucius, or Thomas Jefferson. They all had principles for a better life. But only Christianity can teach you to walk with God."

Change the content of some Christians lives and any cult could do this. It is scary to remember what Jesus said to the people who went around doing all kinds of Christian things:

"Then I will tell them plainly, I never knew you."

I feel like the Crusades, George Bush, and the people I used to get hammered with are the people who are most seen by the rest of the masses representing Jesus' name.

People, myself included, get in the way of Jesus, but that is not his fault.

To finally relate this, I understand why some people are disgruntled toward Christianity. I see why there has not been a profound impact on our surrounding world, why you do not see God move, namely because His people are not moving.

Something very special is happening within the small fellowship I live in. I think we are learning what it means to be a Christian. I think we are beginning to know His voice and understand His will for our lives. I think this is happening elsewhere and I think one day you will see.

I am not sure if it is going to change the world, but my prayers are that one day you will know what it is to be a disciple of Christ, that you will know what loving Jesus can do to you, and know what He did for every single person walking the earth.

Reviews

November 30, 2005

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HOROSCOPES

David Witte

(in his final horoscope-related appearance)

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

While most people's deaths are calm and pointless, yours will be violent, fiery, and pointless.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

You will be attacked by a wild lion, but he will not eat you because of your high saturated fat content.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

Two ships will collide in the Pacific, killing 27 people, and your shipment of silk hats will be destroyed.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

Someone will break into your car and steal \$1.82 worth of change.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

You will quit your job and move away to work for a company called "Brainwashers, Inc." for reasons you're not entirely sure of.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Your fly ball at a local softball game will ignite a controversy over the definitions of fair or foul when it brings down a low-flying Boeing 707 directly over the foul line.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

The stars reveal that the best time to tell your boyfriend you're cheating on him is at the shooting range. Of course, Libra has been wrong before.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Scorpio is on vacation in the Bahamas. His intern, Beavis, will provide this week's horoscope: Uh, like, do something, and stuff.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Your long-term memory loss will cause great difficulty.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Your successful skydiving career will come to a sudden halt when — you guessed it — you are attacked by a group of flesh-eating squirrels.

AQUARIUS (Jan 20-Feb. 18)

An outlaw biker gang known as "The Hell's Fairies" will beat the crap out of you and redecorate your living room.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

All horoscope workers are on strike until our wages and benefits equal those of fortune cookie makers.

Get 'Hypnotized'



Matthew T. Mendez

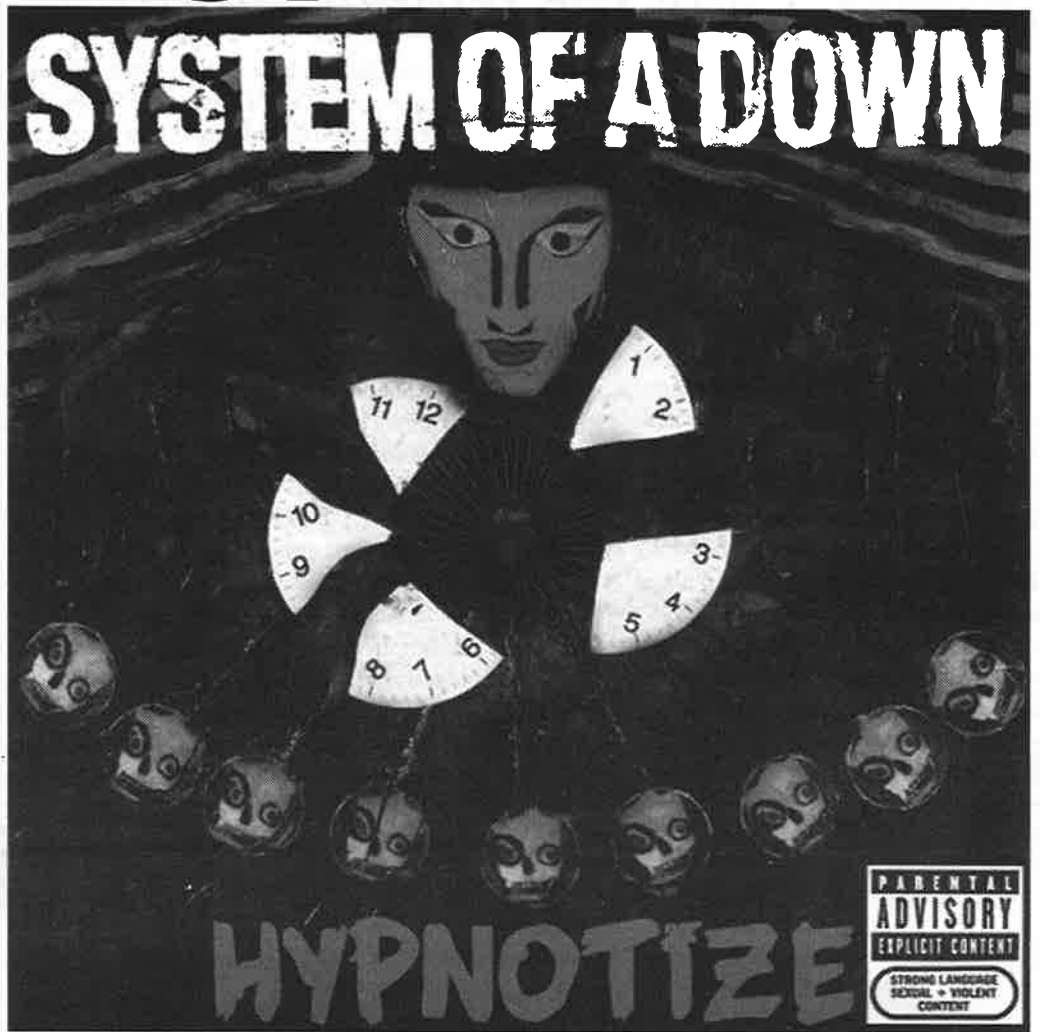
With *Hypnotize*, perhaps System of a Down's most politically driven album to date, the band drifts even further away from the restless sound that characterized them in the earlier days of their career.

Hypnotize is unlike any of System's previous albums. There are similarities between this album and *Mezmerize*, the band's most recently released full-length album, but that's only because both albums were made at the same time. In *Mezmerize*, lead guitarist Daron Malakian became more of a vocal contributor, but on *Hypnotize*, it's almost like he's the lead singer.

The album starts off with "Attack," a song that could be considered the closest thing to a soundtrack for Iraq. "Was the philosophy of displaced minds the bombings of all homes and villages," is just one of lead singer Serj Tankian's many inquiries.

Not to be out done by Tankian and Malakian, the band member who really steps up to the plate on *Hypnotize* is drummer John Dolmayan, whose contribution is most prominently felt on "Holy Mountains." The entire record seems to revolve around "Mountains," and at five minutes and 30 seconds, it's obviously the album's most impressive song.

"Kill Rock N' Roll" and "Hypnotize," the two songs SOAD played while performing at the SaveMart Center, are perfect illustrations of the band's sudden transformation.



Much more melodic than in the past, especially with Malakian stepping up with lead vocals in some songs, the change can be quite unnerving for long-time System of a Down fans.

To further intensify the paranoia for my fellow System fans, if "Lonely Day" ever becomes an official single, I think System of a Down as we know them will cease to exist. It's one of those songs that even Grandma would sing along to.

Hypnotize still provides plenty of the heavy stuff. One of the album's strongest songs, "Tentative," is vintage System of a Down: speed metal mixed with an overwhelming dose of satire. In true Serj fashion, Tankian tunefully whispers, "Where do you expect us to go when the bombs fall?"

This album even con-

tains one of System of a Down's weirdest songs ever composed, "U-Fig." There is a noticeable loss of hard core influence in *Hypnotize*, but also a rather drastic increase in social awareness by the band, if that is possible.

The final track, "Soldier Side," is the second half of the first song off of *Mezmerize*. This version is more than an acoustic solo for Malakian, but more like a heavier duet by the band's two singers. It's the perfect way to end what Entertainment Weekly called 2005's most anticipated album.

As far as musical variety is concerned, *Hypnotize* is in a league of its own. One half of the album is nothing but heavy metal energy, provided by Tankian; the other half of the album is somewhat of a harmonic euphony, courtesy of

Malakian. Both sounds are spread out perfectly throughout each song.

My personal favorite track is "Vicinity of Obscurity," which is the only song that Tankian wrote by himself. Tankian's sole presence shows in the off-the-wall lyrics, "Banana banana banana banana terra cotta pie!"

I can deal with the softening of their sound as long as they continue to pack more of the political aspect to their music into each album. However, I did get an email from one of my closest System friends wanting me to send a message: "Tell Daron to shut the hell up."

I'd have to agree. To System of a Down fans, Serj is already the homie, we don't need any new friends.



Seckundary Edukashun

David Witte



Local Christmas events

compiled by Eddie Ortiz

What: A Christmas Carol
When: now through Dec. 23
Where: 2nd Space Theater, 928 E. Olive ave.
Thursdays @ 8:30 p.m., Fridays & Saturdays @ 2 p.m.
How much: \$13-15
What: Holiday Show
When: now through Dec. 18
Where: Art Stand Gallery, Highway 180 and Frankwood Avenue/Minkler
How much: ? Call 336-2614
What: Christmas with the stars
When: Dec. 3 through Dec. 18
Where: Fresno Metropolitan Mu-

seum
 Banker's Ballroom on the Fulton Mall 1060 Fulton Mall between Tulare and Fresno Street
To the public: Dec 18 from 11a.m. to 5 p.m.
What: Miracle Brunch on 34th Sstreet
Where: Fresno Metropolitan Museum
when: Dec. 11, 11:30 a.m.
Tickets: Adults: \$30 per person
Children under 12: \$ 15 per person
what: Junior Gala
 Dec. 12 (5th and 6th grade) 6:30-9:00 p.m.
 Dec. 13 (7th and 8th Grade) 6:30-9:00 p.m.

where: Fresno Metropolitan Museum
What: Grand Opening of Village @ the Magic of Music Holiday Festival
When: Dec 3; 7-10pm
Where: Fashlon Fair Mall
Ticket: Free
 Fresno and Clovis Area Children will perform, while you enjoy Hors d'oeuvres, hot chocolate, and much more.
What: Photos with Santa
When: Nov. 19-Dec. 24
Mon.-Sat., 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Sun., 11a.m.-6 p.m.
Where: Sierra Vista Mall
What: Star Tree
When: Nov. 25-Dec. 20, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.
Where: Sierra Vista Mall @

Gottschalk's Court
What: Toys for Tots
When: Nov. 25-Dec.15, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.
Where: Sierra Vista Mall
What: Toys for Tots Marathon
When: Dec. 2-Dec. 4
 Dec. 2, 5 a.m.-5 p.m.
 Dec. 3, 9 a.m.-9 p.m.
 Dec. 4, 9 a.m.-9 p.m.
where: Sierra Vista Mall, JoJo Lopez and Mr. Clean of the Y-101 Morning Zoo will broadcast their morning show live from 5 a.m.-10 a.m. Friday Dec. 3 @ Mervyn's Court.
What: Breakfast with Santa
When: Sat., Dec. 10, 8 a.m.-10 a.m.
Where: Sierra Vista Mall
Tickets: \$4.00 per person
 Children 1 and under - free

Places to go for Christmas



Rocio Angulo

You can go anywhere you would like for Christmas, but sometimes it has to be somewhere special.

Christmas is all about family gatherings and opening gifts with each other. You might consider going out with your family and visiting your grandparents.

A great place to spend Christmas is Tahoe, a place where it snows and it's beautiful.

The other option would be Mexico. That's where I'm going. People love to get together there and go to Ensenada. During Christmas, you see a lot of

people from here going to visit and getting on the cruise they have down there.

The food is great and they have a Papa's and Beer that's very fun to hang out with. They also have tons of little shops like Hussong's and a starbucks as well.

The other place in Mexico that would be great to go and have fun with your friends or family would be Puerto Vallarta. Puerto Vallarta is pretty far down south, but it's incredibly fun. It has beautiful Hotels and hundreds of restaurants and clubs to go to. It's not that expensive during December.

You can go on boat rides and the weather is excellent: in December it's hot! You have the best people there that treat you right and it has the best shops. There are boat trips in the morning and in the evening on a pirate ship, and it has little cars that you can rent to get to wherever you

would like.

The other place that I've always wanted to go during Christmas was Disneyland. I've heard that it was beautiful and they have the nicest parade there during Christmas.

They also decorate the whole amusement park just for Christmas. They make it so beautiful and thousands of people go on Christmas just because of the way Disneyland looks that day. This year it's going to be Disneyland's 50th anniversary, so everything is going to be in gold.

Incredible places like these will blow your mind away, and you will not want to come back. So, enjoy your vacation and well see you guys back next semester. Enjoy!

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'Goblet of Fire', another Harry Potter hit



Eddie Ortiz

Ladies and gentlemen grab your Nimbus 2000 and head towards the theatres, because Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire is here. The highly anticipated fourth installment of popular Harry Potter books, has hit theatres and this time darker and more complex than ever.

Goblet of Fire follows the famous boy-wizard Harry Potter, as he enters his fourth year at Hogwarts. This year Hogwarts welcomes foreign exchange students from France, Russia, and other countries, for Hogwarts' annual Tri-Wizard Tournament. As the three names are picked from the goblet of fire, Harry's name is mysteriously picked. Who entered Harry's name is a mystery. Unable to disqualify himself, Harry is forced to become the fourth and youngest champion of Tri-Wizard history. Not only does Harry have to face fire-spitting dragons, the evil Lord Voldemort (Ralph Fiennes), but he also faces for the first time in his life, puppy love. He has the pressure of asking his first crush Cho Chang, to Hogwarts

Yule Ball. The Tri-Wizard is one challenge for Harry, but going through puberty is another.

This Harry Potter has a little bit of everything for everyone. For the kids, one heck of a rollercoaster ride. The sinister storyline and intense special effects and stunts, make this the edgiest Potter film yet. It's the first Potter film to earn a Pg-13 rating, so if your little one is nightmare-prone, go see Chicken Little. For adults, this is a two-hour long mystical getaway, not to mention a wicked performance from Fiennes.

Overall this a brilliant film; the

best out of the Potter films so far. Mike Newell (Director) gives this film a real British boarding school feel, he also avoids little subplots, well not all; the feud between Harry and Ron was played long, but it was an important story line, but he cuts to the point. This film has dazzling and astonishing special effects.

This film is also full of depth, especially towards the end, when a major death takes place, the reaction and emotion is real and raw and maybe tear-shedding. There are also great cast additions; including Ralph Fiennes as the evil Lord Voldemort, Miranda

Richardson as pushy journalist Rita Sketter, and Brendan Gleeson as eccentric Mad Eye Moody, the new defense against the dark arts professor. The performances by Daniel Radcliffe (Harry Potter), Emma Watson (Hermione Granger), and Rupert Grint (Oion Weasley), are strong and show they have grown into their roles, so all the jibber-jabber that is spoken seems authentic and genuine. If you're looking to see a film that's a mix of horror, action/adventure, romance, drama, and comedy, go see Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire.

Rent's due



Jacob Wiens

The wait is finally over! The movie version of Jonathan Larson's Pulitzer Prize winning play "Rent" has hit the big screen.

Why are you squirming? Please stop squirming.

Maybe you are thinking, "There's no way I can sit through a movie based on the lives of gay people singing their way through life with AIDS!" Well try and be a little more open-minded, or else you might miss out on a great piece of cinematic greatness. That's right! I said it, and it deserves to be titled- Cinematic Greatness. "Rent" is not only a treat for the eyes and ears, but for the soul.

Broadway's original cast of "Rent" (with the exception of the absolutely beautiful Rosario Dawson) reprises their roles of 8 friends struggling with

their everyday battles, such as drug abuse, AIDS, and possible eviction. The story shows equality in its views of the relationships between gay couples and straight couples. The story is truly about the power of love; the kind of love that changes the way you think, breathe, and function as a human being. The characters sing their way through their difficult lives. If you allow yourself to take this journey with them, you will feel their pain in your gut.

Don't let the music scare you off. The Tony Award winning music is definitely the magic of the movie. It tugs on your heart strings and slaps you in the face all at once. It is beautiful, raw, and addictive. Don't be surprised if you

go straight to the record store to buy the soundtrack.

This satisfying rendition of a Broadway classic not only shows the true grittiness of New York City, but of life in general. It is really a glorious powerhouse of a movie with the greatest and simplest life lessons. Enjoy it. Really, enjoy it. Don't think of it as a "gay" movie. Think of it as a part of American culture. Educate yourself.

And remember- don't do drugs!

Rent

Cast: Rosario Dawson, Taye Diggs, Wilson Jermaine Heredia, Idina Menzel, Anthony Rapp
director: Chris Columbus
Rating: PG-13 for drug use, language and sexual elements



Sony Pictures

Rosario Dawson (right) and Adam Pascal star in the movie production "Rent".

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