Day of awareness goes unnoticed

By Christian Beltran
The Collegian

In the midst of African People’s History Month, one nationally recognized day passed with little attention.

National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day celebrated its 10th anniversary on Feb. 7. The absence of events comes after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that one in 500 students are infected with HIV.

Tynisha Johnson, 21, a social work major, said she was unaware of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. “I would figure there would be some type of special event to promote awareness on campus,” Johnson said. “I guess not.”

According to a study presented at the International AIDS Conference in 2004, “a lack of awareness of HIV/AIDS by university students in the U.S. gives reason for concern that an attitude of indifference or complacency is pervasive throughout college campuses.”

The study concluded that new educational methods are needed to educate students to improve their awareness about the HIV pandemic.

The Fresno State Student Health Center offers confidential HIV testing and counseling, but activities promoting AIDS awareness are scarce and programs geared toward HIV-infected students are nonexistent.

Mark Campbell, the former HIV case manager at University Medical Center in Fresno, said even though only a few college students tested positive for HIV in 2008, most of those infected dropped out of school due to major depression and psychological distress.

“It is pretty devastating to see how HIV affects the lives of those who do not expect to contract it,” Campbell said. “The absence of events are never sufficient.”

According to Resolution No. 06-119, a Fresno County Board of Supervisors document, National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is a “national effort to mobilize community-based organizations and stakeholders involved in HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment.”

See AWARENESS, Page 6

Library celebrates one year and 1 million

By Aaron Warn
The Collegian

The Fresno State library staff will host an event next week celebrating the one-year anniversary of the opening of the Henry Madden Library.

The library celebrated another milestone, with Amanda Tang, a junior nursing major, becoming the one-millionth patron. Associate dean of library services David Tyckoson presented the 1 millionth patron, junior nursing major Amanda Tang, with a gift basket.

Tyckoson said the library has proven to be popular.

“Two things,” Tyckoson said. “We’ve built a facility where students and teachers want to be. And it also says the campus was lacking such a facility in previous years.”

Tyckoson said the biggest complaint among students is that the library is not available to them enough.

“We’re not open as much as we want to be.” Tyckoson said. “Hopefully, our budget will allow us to extend the hours in the near future.”

Tyckoson said the money used to pay for the one-year celebration came from private donors, and not from any of the library service funds.

Susan Christensen, executive assistant to the dean of the library, said the dedication of the staff and improved services deserve credit for the increase in popularity. She said there are three times as many study stations in the new library than there were in the old facility, and the addition of Starbucks has attracted many more students and faculty. She also mentioned that the option for students to rent laptops has been extremely helpful.

“All of these factors just make the library more exciting and the destination of choice on campus,” Christensen said.

The one-year anniversary celebration will be held at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 24 on the second floor of the library.
Thoughts for a pious campus

Sathya Sai Baba is a religious guru from India who has been sharing his spiritual guidance for over 50 years. He claims to be the reincarnation of 19th Century miracle worker Sai Baba of Shirdi and will be reborn for the third and last time as Prema Sai Baba. His devotees accept this claim.

There have been hundreds of contemporaneous eyewitness accounts of the many miracles Sai Baba has performed, including materializing rainbows and portraits of Jesus with the wave of his hand, healing the sick and many others. Even some who reject his divinity, accept the validity of these miracles.

He claims all the prayers in the world go through him, the first and only true avatar. While most Sai Baba devotees are natives of southern India and are of Hindu orientation, he has converted many non-Hindus from Europe and even the United States.

These accounts are quite compelling. If one has doubts, they can take comfort in knowing there are more than one million Sai Baba devotees. The $1,200 plane ticket is a small price to pay for the privilege of being in his presence of a true avatar.

However, it is not the man, but rather his obscurity and irrelevance to the presence of a true avatar. Not ever hearing of Sai Baba is necessarily reflect the views of the staff or university.

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Yawn pong

A game played by tired people. In short, one person yawns and then the other person does. Should the original yawner yawn twice before the second person yawns once, player one has one point.

Source: UrbanDictionary.com
The Herbalist

Nestled in between Cuca’s Mexican restaurant and Paris café in Chinatown lies the Tekshing Herb Center. The combination of dried fruits, roots and insects may sound unappetizing, however, the contents of this historic building is anything but bland.

Owner Sen C. Hopper has called 909 F Street home for more than 20 years. "I've been open longer than Welty's been president," Hopper said, followed by a contagious laugh.

The herb house features an assortment of teas and remedies bought wholesale from China and San Francisco. These products help detoxify the body as well as provide relaxation and extract impurities. According to Hopper, a common solution for clearing skin is cooking dried beetles above 100 degrees for more than 10 minutes.

The shop is flavored with a freewheeling atmosphere. Virginia native, Margaret Bowen, calls Chinatown home as well. "I've lived in Chinatown for eight years and have eaten so many egg rolls that I've turned Chinese, huh?" Bowen said to Hopper at full volume.

As the owner locked up shop, a woman by the name of Shadow entered, listing her current needs for all to hear. What were those needs? "A ride to Oakland, food and d***."

By John Esquivel and Danielle Gilbert

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As a baby, I would sit on my grandmother’s lap as she would read people’s cards after Sunday mass."
— Rudy Alderette, The Goth Psychic

A Tarot card reading can help offer advice in one’s life such as: what relationships are working verses those which aren’t, what doors are going to open and which shall remain closed.

The Goth Psychic begins readings by asking one to divide the stack of cards and select 15 using your “unconscious” hand (opposite from your writing hand.) Various pictures expose information with the flip of each card: The Hanged Man, The High Priestess, Wheel Of Fortune, etc. He explains how each card is linked together and how they can play out in one’s life.

While Alderette appreciates the local support, he has come across some who only want to make money. He has seen people give thousands of dollars to “psychics” who give wrong information just to make money. The Goth Psychic hopes he can give the profession a good name by offering quality readings.

By John Esquivel and Danielle Gilbert

A DIFFERENT PATH:
Portraits of unusual occupations

By John Esquivel and Danielle Gilbert

The Clerk

As a sweaty, red-faced man sporting a fanny pack entered the store, two elderly women stood at the register with toys in hand. "You better clear out my underwear drawer before I die, I don't want my sister finding this," announced one of the women.

Next in line was a gentleman dressed in all white who appeared to have just clocked out of work. However, all he had was a straight face despite jokes from “Thelma and Louise” and a hand full of DVDs—Although no photography was allowed and Suzie’s Adult Superstore staff was unavailable for comment, the conversations and body language of the customers within the walls of the adult superstore said it all.
The Armenian Genocide occurred nearly a century ago, but the Armenian Studies Program is making sure Fresno State students and the Fresno community are still aware of what happened. Dr. Abraham Terian was chosen by the Armenian studies program to raise awareness of the tragic event through a series of lectures and a three-unit course.

Terian was selected to be the eighth Henry S. Kazanjian Kazan Visiting Professor, a position that was created in 1999 to keep students informed about the Armenian Genocide.

"The donor, Mr. Henry Kazan, wanted to establish a position at Fresno State, where the Armenian Genocide would always be taught," Barlow Der Mugrdechian, the coordinator of the Armenian studies program and director of the Center for Armenian studies at Fresno State said.

The endowment created for this position allows the Armenian studies program to invite an internationally recognized scholar, in contemporary Armenian affairs, to Fresno State for one semester each year, Der Mugrdechian said.

Der Mugrdechian said he hired Terian for the position because his breadth of knowledge and experience made him an ideal candidate.

"The Armenian studies program does an international search for the position," Der Mugrdechian said. "Dr. Terian is well qualified for the position.

Dr. Terian is a recognized authority on Hellenistic Judaism, Early Christianity and Armenian studies, and has published extensively in these fields. He has an undergraduate degree in history and biblical languages, a graduate degree in archaeology and history of antiquity and a doctoral degree in theology, specializing in Christian origins.

Terian said he is proud to take on the role of the visiting professor and collaborate with the Armenian studies program.

By Tara Albert
The Collegian

Visit Professor discusses Armenian history, heritage

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Dr. Abraham Terian and his wife, Dr. Sara Kärkkäinen, currently live in Fresno. Terian was born in Jaffa, Israel and raised in Jerusalem. They have three children and four grandchildren.

See TERIAN, Page 6
TERIAN: Remaining lectures held March 11 and April 29

CONTINUED from page 5

“...is an honor to be the eighth Henry S. Khanzadian Kazan Visiting Professor, and to be a part of the long-standing Armenian studies program at Fresno State,” Terian said.

As the visiting professor, Terian will present three public lectures on the Armenian Genocide, the first of which, “Armenian Identity and the Genocide,” was held on Wednesday. The lecture was about the history of Armenian people and Armenian Christianity, focusing on how the Armenian Genocide has influenced people today. Terian will discuss the ways the Armenian Genocide has impeded Armenian people’s heritage and language.

All of Terian’s lectures are free and open to the public. He is also teaching a class, ARMS1207. Literature and the Armenian Genocide, on Monday nights. The class explores Armenian literature immediately before and after and the Genocide.Terian said he has been enjoying Fresno State, and that the students have made the biggest impact on him. “I am impressed by the Fresno State students,” he said. “They seem to be studious, dutiful and respectful.”

LA PORTA also said he is thrilled that Terian was selected to be this year’s visiting professor. “I think it’s wonderful that we have Terian here,” La Porta said. “He brings with him a wealth of experience.”

La Porta has known Terian for several years through various conferences and from teaching a few classes at St. Nersess Armenian Seminary in New York, where Terian was the professor of Armenian Patristics and Early Christianity as well as former academic dean. He said Terian is very approachable and easy to talk to. “He is a friendly person and always willing to help out,” La Porta said.

La Porta said he is anticipating Terian’s next two lectures. “I am really looking forward to the next lectures and how he is going to develop on what he previously talked about,” La Porta said.

AWARENESS: The rate of AIDS diagnosis in Fresno is 10.9 cases per 100,000 people, as of 2007

CONTINUED from page 1

HIV-focused events in Fresno are supposed to follow the docu- ment’s objective.

The Fresno County Department of Public Health provides free, rapid HIV testing at Saint's Rest Baptist Church located at 1356 E. Reverend Chesteriggins Ave.

La Porta said he became infected with the virus that causes AIDS as a 27-year-old student at Fresno City College. “I thought HIV was a disease that only affected drug addicts, gays and prostitutes,” Ibarra said. “I did use condoms, but I wasn’t careful enough to pre- vent getting infected,” Ibarra said. “I wish there would have been someone to remind me of the cost of ignoring safe-sex techniques.”

Ibarra invited recently diag- nosed students to join support groups and seek help within their community. “There is help out there. HIV is not a death sentence,” Ibarra said.
Bulldog Game Day

Fresno State Bulldogs (21-5, 12-0 WAC) vs. Nevada Wolf Pack (15-11, 9-3 WAC)

Radio: KMJ-AM 580

Breakdown: Bulldogs

The Fresno State women’s basketball team will look to continue to extend its school record to 13 straight wins on Saturday’s Pink Zone Night as they take on the Nevada Wolf Pack at the Save Mart Center.

The Dogs defeated Nevada in last month’s Western Athletic Conference contest in a well-rounded 75-66 game.

Head coach Adrian Wiggins saw five of his players score in double figures in the Jan. 21 matchup, anchored by Jaleesa Ross’ 20 points, 18 coming from 3-pointers. Ross is averaging 18.3 points-per-game for the 21-5 Bulldogs who have not lost to a WAC opponent since falling in a March 2, 2009 game to Louisiana Tech.

The Dogs defense will be key Saturday after the last meeting with the Wolf Pack, where they forced 20 turnovers and held as much as a 17-point lead at one point.

Senior forward Joh-Teena Filipe also had a big game against the Wolf Pack last month, tying her career-high with 16 points.

Breakdown: Wolf Pack

The Wolf Pack come in ranked second in the Western Athletic Conference, behind only Fresno State, with a 9-3 conference record and a 15-11 overall record.

Nevada looks to post its first win over the Bulldogs since January 15, 2007, when they took home a seven-point victory. If Nevada wins Saturday, it will have tied a school record for conference wins with 10.

Three players average at least 10 points per game for the Pack, led by junior college transfer guard Tahnee Robinson’s 15.9 scoring average. Head coach Jane Albright’s squad is coming off a 20-point victory over Hawai’i in its own “Pink Game,” winning 76-56 on 40.1 percent shooting.

Nevada’s strength is on the boards where the Pack’s 41.0 rebound average is 5.9 more than their 2009-10 opponents. Forward Kayla Williams leads the Wolf Pack in that category with 7.2 rebounds per game.

Player to watch: Jaleesa Ross, Guard

Ross is just three 3-point field goals away from breaking Lindsay (Logan) Ogden’s school record of 272 made.
Who will take “Best of the West?”

The Bulldogs go head to head with tough competitors in this year’s tournament

By Lailand Oberschulte

The Fresno State equestrian team has the chance to prove that they are the “Best of the West” again at this season’s tournament.

The annual Best of the West tournament will be hosted at the Fresno State equestrian center Feb. 20 and 21.

This year, the Bulldogs will be competing against Texas Christian University, University of Tennessee at Martin and Sacred Heart University of Connecticut. The team has won all of its previous tournaments.

Rebecca Malmo, head coach of the equestrian team, said the tournament stemmed from the desire to showcase the smaller schools in National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I equestrian.

Malmo said that the tournament was originally called “Best Little Tournament in the West.”

This is the fourth year the tournament has taken place and Malmo said it will soon grow even larger. With the team competing against schools that have taken multiple national championships, the level of competition is rising.

“We have seen exponential improvement in our girls, and I feel they are ready,” Malmo said.

Over the years the tournament has turned into quite a production. “It has become our signature event and our booster group, The Saddle Club, has given us a huge support base,” Malmo said.

There will be tri-tip sandwiches for sale, as well as T-shirts and a large silent auction to help raise money for the team.

Two key riders in this year’s tournament are Lisa Wells and Keri Blackledge. Both are senior captains, with Blackledge ranked in the top 10 and Wells leading the team and nation at number one in the NCAA.

Wells, the English over fences captain, said this is her fourth year riding in the tournament. “Every year is a great experience and two days full of opportunities to put in the best ride possible,” Wells said.

Wells will also represent Fresno State at the National Championships on April 15 through 18 in Waco, Texas. “This will be my fourth year going to nationals and we’re very excited,” Wells said.

Keri Blackledge is the senior horsemanship captain and has ridden on the team for four years. Blackledge is excited about the tournament and said the team is very competitive. "Texas Christian University, Sacred Heart and University of Tennessee at Martin will definitely be competitive but I feel that our team is the strongest it has been in a long time and we will do very well in the tournament,” Blackledge said.

Blackledge said they have won the tournament in the past and has confidence they can do it again. “It’s a really fun show. Although it’s always a pretty long weekend, it’s the show that I look forward to the most all year long,” Blackledge said.

Bulldogs take the field

By Vongni Yang

Head coach Mike Batesole is taking note of Pat Hill’s scheduling philosophy – playing a tough non-conference schedule before starting Western Athletic Conference (WAC) play.

The Fresno State baseball team will open up the 2010 season with a four-game series against Big-12 powerhouse Nebraska Friday at 6:05 p.m. at Beiden Field.

Traditionally a contender in the Big 12, Nebraska has made three trips to the College World Series this decade. In 2001, 2002 and 2005. Nebraska has also made eight appearances in the NCAA Tournament during the decade.

Nebraska returns four starters including All-Big 12 senior first baseman Tyler Farst. Farst led the Cornerhuskers with a .333 batting average while hitting three home runs and 36 RBIs in 2009. He also led the team in hits, doubles and runs scored with 36. Also returning for the ‘Huskers will be senior outfielder Adam Bailey. The senior hit a team-leading 12 home runs and a team-best 50 RBIs while batting .325 during the ’09 season. The ‘Huskers also returned five of their top six pitchers from the previous year.

Nebraska will look to an early test for the Dogs. The Fresno State baseball team will also play three Pac-10 programs as part of their non-conference schedule. The Dogs will travel to Seattle in late February to take part in a three-game series against the University of Washington Huskies.

The ‘Dogs then play host as they take on the Oregon Ducks in a four-game series at Beiden Field.

The team ends their play against the Pac-10 with a trip to Berkeley, Calif., as they go head-to-head with the Bears.

The ‘Dogs will also be playing two ranked opponents this year in non-conference play Cal State Fullerton and Cal State-San Diego are both ranked in the USA Today/ESPN Top 25 coaches’ preseason poll at No. 3 and No. 25 respectively.

The ‘Dogs are scheduled to play the ranked teams in the San Diego State Invitational which also includes San Francisco State and San Diego State – who ended the Dogs ’09 season.

The team will continue its tough non-conference schedule as they face off against regional power and Big West foe Cal Poly.

The ‘Dogs will travel to Cal Poly in March and the Mustangs will be making two return trips to Beiden Field in April and May. Cal Poly received three votes in the coaches’ preseason poll.

Rounding out the non-conference schedule will be four games against Cal State Bakersfield, a four-game series against Loyola Marymount, two three-game series with UC Davis and Dallas Baptist and a home game against Santa Clara.

Coach Batesole said the tough non-conference schedule will prepare the team to do well in conference play.

Who will take “Best of the West?”

The Bulldogs go head to head with tough competitors in this year’s tournament

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