

The Runner

California State University, Bakersfield

Vol. 36, No. 15

www.csub.edu/runner

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Classrooms and ammonia don't mix

By Emmanuel Price
Staff Writer

Approximately 200 students were locked outside of their classes when high levels of ammonia triggered the alarm system on Feb. 22 around 5 p.m., according to students on the scene. The alarms went off and were heard around the campus.

According to the science students, the chemistry lab has this problem once a year, and it is believed that the vents in the classes are not suitable for the lab testing.

"This happens about every year. The chemistry lab uses ammonia; the ammonia causes the alarms to go off acting as if smoke is in the air. Classes were canceled



Stephanie Mahinan/The Runner
The Science II building room 278 chemistry lab, which is believed to be the source of an evacuation on Feb. 22 due high levels of ammonia.

because of it," said Tyler Nelson, geology major.

Nelson calls the occurrence an "annual event."

"Last time the hood vents in the chemistry lab were not working properly which triggered the alarms, and stu-

dents were locked out for hours at the end of the day," said geology major Sarah Haggard.

Three fire trucks arrived and four firefighters walked into the Science II building. Julio Blanco, the School of

Natural Science and Mathematics dean, stood by the building with Lt. Jack Rutledge, as an electrician worked in the electrical room.

Students were allowed back into the building around 6:45 p.m. The students got their belongings but the alarm continued to ring.

"We were unable to determine any chemicals or hazardous material. We will try to determine why the alarm went off. The room was evacuated and aired out. We are unable to confirm the exact cause at the moment," said Bakersfield City Fire Chief Garth Milam.

"It was a fire alarm, and that is all. It turned out to be nothing," said Rutledge.

'Beyond the Veil' tackles controversial issues, debunks myths about Muslim faith

By Anne Stephens
Staff Writer

The Muslim Student Association gathered together in the Student Union on Feb. 23 to answer questions from the public while also putting an end to the confusion of Muslim women being oppressed.

But what started out as simple questions soon turned into more controversial topics. Some of the topics that were talked about were women's rights in the Muslim community, marriage, conversion, hate killing, cultural issues around the world, and – perhaps the most controversial – the attack on the World Trade Center.

When members of the audience asked questions regarding the attack of 9/11, Hena Zuberi expressed to the audience



Mark Nessia/The Runner
Fauzia Shah

Beyond the Veil allowed audience members to ask questions to a panel of Islamic women. The questions ranged from women's rights to honor killings.

how she was hurting just as died that day. My pain is no less because she's gone than anyone else's whose father or brother was on ground zero that day.

"That day was one of the worst days of our lives as Americans," said Zuberi. "It didn't just affect those 3,000 people that died. One of my best friends from college was in that plane. She was Muslim, her husband was Muslim, she was pregnant with a baby, and she

died that day. My pain is no less because she's gone than anyone else's whose father or brother was on ground zero that day.

"To me, they are just as horrendous as they are to you."

Zuberi also gave her opinion on the controversial topic of the mosque that was supposed to be built near ground zero.

"The term 'ground zero mosque' is a total misleading term. There is no mosque on ground zero. This community center, as they're calling it now, is several street blocks away," said Zuberi.

She continued to say that she believed if the mosque being built near ground zero was going to cause other people pain, then it should be moved.

Another controversial topic was about the hate killings going on all over the world in the name of Islam. All of the Muslim women who were speaking at the event showed their concern but also wanted to set the record straight. Fauzia Shah, the first woman to speak, told the audience what the Muslim religion thinks of murder.

"Killing is not allowed in

[See VEIL, Page 4]

PRSSA holds fundraiser

By Eloy Vieyra
Staff Writer

The Public Relations Student Society of America club of CSUB held an event at Hour Glass on Feb. 22. The purpose of the event was for PRSSA to recruit more members and also raise money. Fifteen percent of the profits for the night were donated to the club. The special night included drink specials and cheap tacos.

The event wasn't only for PRSSA to raise funds, but also for the CSUB community to interact with the club

[See PRSSA, Page 4]

Campus Images

Brady Cabe/The Runner

Students hold signs in protest to the rising price of education. More photos on Page 6

Seven-day weather forecast
According to weather.com



Wednesday
Hi: 67
Lo: 49
Precip. 30%



Thursday
Hi: 65
Lo: 44
Precip. 10%



Friday
Hi: 66
Lo: 45
Precip. 10%



Saturday
Hi: 69
Lo: 47
Precip. 10%



Sunday
Hi: 63
Lo: 46
Precip. 20%



Monday
Hi: 61
Lo: 39
Precip. 30%



Tuesday
Hi: 62
Lo: 39
Precip. 10%



Baseball improves to 5-2 after sweep of the University of Washington. Page 8

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Mark Nessia/
The Runner

since 1997 and is the winningest coach in CSUB volleyball history. When he collected a victory over UC Davis in October of 2002, he passed Dave Rubio. He finishes as one of only six coaches at CSUB with more than 200 wins while wearing the blue and gold.

CSUB was Price's second school coming to the Central Valley after coaching Cal State Northridge where he compiled a record of 194-158 from 1986-1997, which makes him as the winningest coach for men's volleyball for the Matadors. During his time at Northridge, Price – coaching the men's team – took a national power at the Division I level and kept them in the upper echelon. His Matador teams finished in the top-10 in eight of his seasons.

Price has been the volleyball coach for the 'Runners

League of Dreams presents opportunities for disabled children

By Sara Gunn
Staff Writer

that we have here in Bakersfield.

"A lot of people don't know about it yet."

"It is currently the only program in all of Kern County that offers these kinds of experiences for children with special needs," said senior physical education and kinesiology major Faith Perry.

"League of Dreams offers basketball in the fall and baseball in the spring," she said.

With baseball season beginning March 13, the League is looking for volunteers and sponsors. They are also hosting a charity gala on March 19 at Garces Memorial High School to raise money to finish their 4,000-square-foot wheelchair-accessible Abilities Field at Fruitvale-Norris Park.

Tickets for the gala are available now for \$200 by calling 377-1700 or by emailing info@ourleagueofdreams.com.

Kids in the League are assisted by "angels," volunteers who help them on the

[See LEAGUE, Page 4]

RUNNER ON THE STREET

By Brady Cabe, Staff Photographer, and Derek Bato, Web & Opinions Editor

This week, The Runner asked, "Who is your idol? Why?"



Trae Gilmartin
Junior,
Communications

"Batman, he uses materials on hand to accomplish miraculous feats."



Megan Black
Sophomore,
Nursing

"I don't even know, because I don't idolize anybody. It's not something I've ever done."



Brian Wheeler
Freshman,
Chemistry

"Nobody really, I don't focus on trying to imitate anyone else."



Theresa Perezchica
Graduate,
Public
Administration

"I don't have an idol because I think you can learn a lot from everybody not just one person."

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The Green Gazer #16 By Derek Bato & Victor Maldonado

Pretentious shock jock



Fighting the true #1 threat to American youth.

False idols and unimportant people

By Baleria Aguirre
Staff writer

It seems that all students do is read magazines or watch reality shows. They look up to them and use their phrases or actions. For example, "T-Shirt time" became a popular phrase among young people due to reality shows.

People nowadays look up to so-called reality TV celebrities; they see and like the fame and money and want to be like them.

Brianda Martinez, a freshman, said, "I watch those shows when I don't have

anything else to watch but the truth is I don't even know where half of the people in the shows come from. It's as if normal people just decide one day to make a reality show and then all of a sudden they become known."

Students are watching "Jersey Shore," and a lot of reality TV episodes. Elva Ayon, a senior, said, "Every Thursday night I find myself watching 'Jersey Shore.' The show is so addicting I can't miss an episode with all the crazy stuff the girls and guys in the house do."

There are many reality

shows on television about celebrity figures' lives: "Keeping Up with the Kardashians," "Holly's World," "Khloe and Kourtney Take Miami" and "The Hills" to name a few.

There is no point to watching television shows it's obvious that what we see is acted and has to get attention to have good ratings for the show. In order to stay on the air, they need to act out what people want to see.

Stephanie Ortiz, a junior, mentions, "I don't like watching those realities shows, I find them boring and fake. 'Keeping Up with

the Kardashians,' for example, who are they what to they do. They only got fame because of their reality show; if it weren't for their reality show they would be nobodies. People give them fame by watching their television shows."

A lot of people today try and be what they are not. They see pop stars and try and be like them by dressing up and trying to have what they have. They need to understand that they went a long way to get what they have now and have power and money.

It is good to have expecta-

tions and work hard to get what pop stars are wearing, but it is much easier for them to obtain what they have; they have the money to easily buy what they need.

So-called reality TV celebrities would be no one if it weren't for all the people who keep watching their shows.

Reality TV actors are normal people like everyone else who just get their fame from being seen on a reality show acting to the public's desires.

CSUB ain't got no soul

By Rogelio Alvarado
Staff Writer

Please join me on the walk across a lonely, boring and silent place where human existence is rare. This sounds like an invitation to the desert, right?

No, actually it is the atmosphere that the campus life on CSUB has!

On a daily basis all the sounds heard are mainly of birds chirping and cars driving around. It seems like this school has no soul. It is supposed to be fun and comfortable, but at the same time about class and study time. Do not get me wrong, there are fund-raisers, protests, and sports games, but not everyone goes to them. If a protest takes place there are not many students to support the event to grab enough attention and make an impact.

Individuals need to take a break and enjoy their day. This university is an excellent place to study, but there needs to be more activities every day to lighten up the atmosphere into a thrilling one with loud music, free food and socialization.

Where is Rowdy, the ASI members and the countless clubs involved in the community? Have you ever thought about who is responsible for this problem? No fingers are being pointed at anybody – it is a matter of knowing the passion and contribution these groups can demonstrate.

Luis Ayala, a freshman and history major, said, "When I was in high school it was more fun when teachers talked about college – it seemed like paradise, but here at Cal State it really feels like a cemetery."

With all due respect it is understandable that many students have to go to class and then to work, or have back-to-back classes, which does not leave them time to participate when activities take place on campus. Friday is the most abandoned day of the whole week – it feels like a holiday when there are no classes – and on Mondays, everyone is half asleep in class.

So is CSUB a place for students who just do not care at all?

The answer is no! CSUB is a great university, but it

lacks energy and charisma. This should be a campus that can distinguish itself from the rest of them with activities and events. Certainly there are dances like this past homecoming dance, basketball games like CSUB versus Fresno State and talent shows at Wahoo's, but the point is that students do not think about attending due to disinterest.

Melanie Blake, a junior and sociology major, said: "I really make an effort to go to all the activities that take place but they get dull after half an hour of being there. I am starting to not go and just spend time doing homework or playing poker."

I believe one of the many problems is that increasing tuition affects everyone with a big impact economically. Knowing that tuition is so high, students begin to build up negative thoughts and feelings toward their education. For now we shall let the silence continue, because the only chance of revival is the spring time that brings back sunshine, liveliness and positive attitudes to CSUB.

The Dispatch

Spring safety tips

By Justin Gildner,
Sergeant
CSUB Police Department

As spring approaches and the weather begins to change, so do the ways we go about our day to day business here at CSUB. The better weather invites us to get out and be active. But the changing weather should not be an excuse for letting your guard down and providing criminals easy access to your belongings!

- Remember your car windows! When you are driving to campus on one of the nice weather days with your windows rolled down instead of the A/C, remember to roll them back before you head to class. Having open windows on your vehicle is an open invitation for criminals to grab and go!

- Remember your dorm/office windows! Just as driving with your car

windows down on a nice day is enjoyable, having the window to your dorm or office can also be perfect this time of year. Just remember when you are preparing to leave, close and lock your doors and windows.

- Keep the volume down on the iPod! The warmer weather may even make you want to get outside and go for a run. When running alone at night, please remember to run on well lit paths. Please keep the volume low on your iPod while you are running day or night. Louder volumes can prevent you from hearing other people or oncoming traffic from behind.

Whatever the season, we here at the CSUB Police Department want to remind you to be safe and report any and all suspicious activity immediately.

Be Safe.

The not-so-miserable Bakersfield

By Zachary Gonzalez
Staff Writer

Bakersfield is miserable, but not that miserable.

Forbes Magazine, a nationally recognized and heavily referenced publication, recently ranked Bakersfield No. 20 on a list of America's top 20 most miserable cities. Its reasoning: poor education. Whilst some might say this reason is a problem, it does not seem to match up to the other cities ranked on the list who have terrible crime rates and almost unlivable poverty circumstances.

The aforementioned publication says that 15 percent of Bakersfield's residents hold a college degree and 70 percent have a high school diploma. Both of these statistics rank more than 10 percent lower than the country's average of 28 percent with a college degree and 85 percent with a high school diploma, according to Forbes. These numbers may shock the majority of the United States.

Taking into consideration Bakersfield's location, though, these numbers do not surprise the city's population. The city is located in the middle of one of the most prosperous agricultural areas in the United States. For this reason alone, many do not come to this area of California for the educational benefits, but for the work this

area provides.

Briana Munoz-Flores, who was born in Bakersfield, said her family two generations before her moved to Bakersfield for the promise of working on farms.

"It is a farmer's town, both with farm workers and farm owners," she said. "My family did not receive formal education because they had to work in the fields to provide income for themselves and food for the rest of the country."

Munoz-Flores graduated from East Bakersfield High School and currently attends University of California, Los Angeles where she is studying music. When she was a child, her father moved her and the rest of their family to Santa Barbara, so that he could attain his college degree. Once he graduated University of California, Santa Barbara, the family moved back to Bakersfield. Munoz-Flores said this is a rarity and believes this could skew education statistics for this area.

"People that go to college outside of Bakersfield usually don't come back; don't plan to stay in Bakersfield," she said. "I do not plan to move back not because I don't love it (Bakersfield) but simply because my career aspirations (in the music industry) take me elsewhere."

Bakersfield is not the place to be if you wish to excel outside the

walls of the San Joaquin Valley. Sure, there are quality post-high school establishments such as Bakersfield College, and our home Cal State, Bakersfield, but the likelihood of leaving a town like Bakersfield post-college is slim. Bakersfield, and the colleges it produces, is a self-sustaining ecosystem. The majority of college graduates who attend college in Bakersfield do not leave the city because their earned education allows them to work comfortably in this city. Those who leave, though, quickly learn that more opportunities are available elsewhere.

Looking away from Forbes' education statistics, Bakersfield has a lot of positive qualities that are often overlooked nationally. As mentioned, Bakersfield produces a lot of agriculture. But aside from that, Bakersfield is rich in its own culture and pride. The city is also a hot spot for those looking to raise a family in a city with a small-town feel.

JoAnne Brinkley moved her family to Bakersfield from Tulare County. She said she was shocked to realize the city was far more impressive when it came to schools, shopping and family living. Since living in Bakersfield, Brinkley has raised a family of college graduates. She, though, saw the opportunities outside of the city and made sure her kids went to

school out of town.

"I have no regrets; it was an eye-opener to see the way people are so nice and helpful here," she said. "Yes, I made my kids go to college away, but they love coming home, and one stayed."

Munoz-Flores said the people of Bakersfield are rich in pride and tradition. This, she believes, is a positive attribute to the overall attitude of Bakersfield. Munoz-Flores, who comes from a Hispanic family, said the mix of cultures is something that has taught Bakersfield's citizens to accept one another.

"We [Latino citizens] take a lot of pride in our Latino heritage and flaunt it every chance we get," she said. "We reflect the mixture of the farm workers within our city. People from Bakersfield tend to have a wider understanding of different classes and how different people live."

As a person who has lived in Bakersfield from birth, I can say this city does not provide the fun activities of a bigger city. I hold the opinion that this city has a tendency to be ignorant to the rest of the world. I can attest to the terrible summer weather. I believe this city does not provide the opportunities and resources necessary to reach my own life goals. I cannot believe, though, that Bakersfield is one of America's worst. Perhaps this is the little ounce of pride I have in my

birthplace. Regardless, these farm-town roots have not produced a miserable life in myself. If anything, Bakersfield's "miserable" qualities have inspired me to best that I can be.

As for education, I received my high school diploma. I am in college.

I do not believe receiving your higher education in Bakersfield is a bad idea. College is a case-by-case situation. Depending on the person, some schools are good and some are not. I attend CSUB because, like many others, I financially could not start elsewhere. I do have aspirations that can only be attained outside of Bakersfield, and do plan to act accordingly. But getting my start here is a comfortable way to prepare myself for an educational future.

And seeing as our colleges are filled to capacity and growing immensely, I believe these institutions will continue to provide a quality education to those who attend them. No, they will not be able to give the opportunities and experiences of schools in Los Angeles, New York or other more influential areas of the country, but they will provide an education nonetheless. The statistics will soon change, and hey -- at least Bakersfield isn't the first on Forbes' miserable list.

The Dispatch

What is suspicious behavior?

By Justin Gildner, Sergeant
CSUB Police Department

Community members are encouraged to report suspicious behavior. Sometimes, a person may not know what constitutes suspicious behavior. A general rule of thumb is that anyone who acts unusual or anything that is out of the ordinary should be considered suspicious. Examples of suspicious behavior/activity include:

- Unusual noises, including screaming, sounds of fighting, or illegal activity;

- People in and/or around buildings or areas who do not appear to be conducting legitimate business;

- Unauthorized people in restricted areas;

- People who follow immediately behind others into card-access areas or buildings while the door is open;

- People driving vehicles slowly and aimlessly around campus or parking lots and, at night, without their lights on;

- People sitting in vehicles for extended periods of time;

- People who change their behavior when they notice that they have been detected;

- People dressed inappropriately for the weather or occasion, i.e., coat on when the temperature is warm;

- People abandoning parcels or other items in unusual locations (i.e. in the lobby or in the elevator).

When reporting suspicious behavior or circumstances to UPD Dispatch (x2111) include as much of the following information as possible:

- WHO? Identify yourself. Describe who you feel is involved in suspicious activity.

- WHAT? Describe the suspicious activity. Indicate if there is an immediate threat to persons nearby or to responding officers (such as the presence of weapons, hazardous materials, etc.)?

- WHEN? Indicate if the activity is in progress. Give the time(s) that the activities occurred.

- WHERE? Give your location, the location of the suspicious activity, and the location of the suspect(s).

- WHY? Indicate why the activity is suspicious to you. If known, tell what might be the target of the activity.

- HOW? Describe how the suspicious act(s) were carried out including methods or techniques.

- Please include any other information that would aid the responders.

- Weapons?

IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING! It's our combined effort that keeps our campus community as safe as it can be.

Be safe.

Letter to the Editor

Vehicle vandalized

My car recently got vandalized in Parking Lot E. This happened on Wednesday, Feb. 24, anywhere from 6 p.m. to 8:40 p.m. As a result I have to pay my deductible for my insurance, which is not cheap.

I would appreciate any information from anyone that might have seen this happen. I encourage you to call the campus police with any information at 654-2111.

I really encourage a program where we come forward with any suspicious activity, that way everyone watches out for everyone and this becomes a safer campus.

- A student

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For updates, postings and surveys to help us report on the news you care about.

IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING! It's our combined effort that keeps our campus community as safe as it can be.

Be safe.

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Beyond the Veil addresses misconceptions and women's rights in Islam

[VEIL, from Page 1]

Islam as such of what your describing ... it is only when you are attacked is when you are allowed to defend yourself," said Shah.

Another speaker, Halima Khalid, also spoke regarding this topic, explaining that when you see hate killing going on, it is not a part of the religion, but instead a direct result of the culture that those people are living in.

Shah added: "How do you know if something is cultural or if it's religion? You go to the source, the Qur'an."

Many questions that came from the audience were geared toward women's rights in a marriage, and whether or not Muslim women were allowed to be physically abused.

Khalid explained that a man is never allowed to beat his wife and there is also an emphasis on affection and love regarding marriage found in the Qur'an. So if there are problems in the marriage, the couples are supposed to talk about the issues rather than turn to physical fights.

"A man does not have the right to beat his wife. The rules of Islam are, when you have problems with your wife first you have to talk to her; you have to remind her of God, you have to talk to her nicely," said Khalid.

Paris Alshaif, a senior reli-



Mark Nessia/The Runner

Jesus Padilla, right, expresses his opinions during Beyond the Veil held Feb. 23 in the Multi-Purpose Room. The event aimed to demystify misconceptions about Islam and women's rights.

gious studies and art major, was at the event as a member of the Muslim Student Association. She briefly said what the Qur'an has to say about women's rights in the Muslim religion.

"We want to show everybody what the religion really says about Muslim women, because in Islam women and men have equal rights. There not the same rights but they are equal rights and we want to show what their rights are. The men, they do have that higher power, but it doesn't mean he can treat the women badly," said Alshaif.

One of the speakers, Anna Garcia, was a previous Catholic who later converted to Muslim. She first addressed how the media has now portrayed Muslim

women.

"There is a lot of negativity coming from the media, whether it be newspaper or TV. ... About a year after 9/11 happened, all I knew about Islam was that it was negative, it was bad, it was hatred, it was fear, it was violence. That's all I knew because that's all the TV was telling me," said Garcia.

Garcia also expressed to the audience the challenges of converting to the Muslim religion when coming from a Hispanic background.

"For a long time I was scared because here I come from a Mexican Catholic family, and I didn't know what they were going to say or how they were going to look at me. What I originally thought the religion was, it

wasn't."

Garcia briefly broke down during the event while telling the audience how she knew when it was the right moment for her to convert.

"She (her teacher) said, when you die no one is going with you. Not your family, not your friends. All the stuff that was holding me back, they're not going with me when I die. I'll be judged alone and that scared me because the only thing holding me back was my family. So I converted that night and it was the best thing I could have done for myself."

Jesus Padilla, a postgraduate student gave his opinion about the event.

"I liked it, but it just got too deep into 9/11 and I think the whole thing was for them to



Mark Nessia/The Runner

Anna Garcia wipes away tears as she talks about her conversion to Islam Feb. 23 in the Multi-Purpose Room.



Mark Nessia/The Runner

The panel consisted of five Muslim women of different backgrounds, experiences and ethnicities. Each panelist answered a question about Islam as well as questions from audience members.

get away from the stigma placed upon the Muslim people," said Padilla.

"Especially the women because they have this whole connotation that their oppressed, or belittled.

"They want to let people know that they're like normal women, and they have equal rights. But it got just a little too political. I think as a whole they presented themselves well ... it was very

insightful."

Wendy Hale, a junior political science major, said how she felt about the event.

"It got a little controversial. It's good to just get a general understanding of Islam, because there's so much negativity in the media with the way Islam treats women. But I think the most important point to take away from this was that you have to separate culture from Islam."

Taco Tuesday fundraiser first of many events for PRSSA

[PRSSA, from Page 1]

and have a good time. The fundraiser is the first of many upcoming events for PRSSA.

PRSSA president Eddie Gonzalez said, "We hope to invite the CSUB community to future events we want to host on campus in the spring, including the public relations panel planned for early May."

PRSSA membership is open to any CSUB students from any major. Gonzalez encourages those who are interested to come to their meetings that are held on Mondays at 4 p.m. in Science III room 213.

The club's Taco Tuesday event began at 4 p.m. and ran until closing. The turnout was small, but those who attended the event benefited from the drink specials and the \$2 tacos. PRSSA wanted people to come out and take some time out of school to relax and have a fun night. Taco Tuesday wasn't only for having fun, but also for students and faculty to meet outside of class and network with others they might not be able to speak with during school hours.

PRSSA stresses the importance of networking. Creating relationships is vital for

public relation officials. The club also promotes networking and encourages others to reach out and create relationships that could possibly help with careers in the future. Marc Johns, a CSUB student and PRSSA member, commented on his experiences with PRSSA: "I have met so many new people through participating in PRSSA events. These types of events can help people connect with others outside of class."

The main focus of the event was all about networking. According to PRSSA, networking with the right people can make or break someone's career. The ability to create these positive relationships is essential for those who choose careers that depend on interacting with others.

Gonzalez asks students to help support the PRSSA chapter in the future. The chapter hopes to put together a concert and raise funds for a non-profit organization. Keep an eye out for fliers about all the upcoming events; PRSSA can also be found on Facebook.

CSUB student-athletes help give the gift of sports

[LEAGUE, from Page 1]

field with anything they may need from movement to batting to pitching and catching. Perry is one such volunteer.

"CSUB has some student athletes volunteering as angels. Not only do I think the athletes will have a huge impact on the children's lives by helping to give them an opportunity to be the star, but I also believe when the athletes help these children they too will be inspired," Perry said.

Students aren't the only angels. According to Gutierrez, many parents and siblings of League athletes volunteer to assist on the field as well as coach. Alternatively, they are welcome to just sit in the stands and watch the games.

"I'm fortunate to have a lot of parental

involvement," he said. "I have a parent committee that helps me and they give me their thoughts and ideas as to how we can improve the League."

While they are not the first such organization in Bakersfield, the League enjoys better community involvement and longevity than many who have previously attempted to provide alternative sports leagues.

"We are currently about to start the fifth year of League of Dreams and I feel so lucky to be able to help out with this amazing opportunity for these very special children," said Perry.

Anyone interested in volunteering, sponsoring the organization, or registering a child to play can visit www.ourleagueofdreams.com.

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Bette and Boo's twisted marriage

By Christina Ramos
Staff Writer

"The Marriage of Bette and Boo" was performed in the Doré Arena Theatre multiple times this past weekend. A small ensemble made up the cast that performed the play in a small, intimate setting with no set or costume changes.

I've seen a lot of plays before but this one has got to be one of the strangest. It was filled with dark humor; such as when a rather uncaring doctor walks out ever so slowly to deliver a baby to wait-

ing parents only to drop it on the floor and reply "It's dead." Or when a woman wishes she could have 100 dead babies to shove down her husband's throat to shut him up. Other strange aspects included "furniture" that was shaped like a sperm and egg. I'm not too sure I understand why it had to look like that and I thought I just had a dirty mind but clearly that was the intent. This play was very bizarre because all of the characters had deep-pitted issues.

Such as the youngest girl in the play Emily, who apologizes for things that aren't even her fault

and then she'll dwell on it even after she has been forgiven multiple times. Also one of the married women, Soot, was oblivious of her husband's mental abuse most of the time; she just chalked it up to him "teasing" her. The two main characters Bette and Boo got married just because it seemed right to; they weren't even in love really. In fact the only character who actually appeared normal to me was Bette's father, Paul, whom the audience couldn't understand because it seems he had suffered a stroke.

I'm not too sure what the theme of the play is or what exactly the meaning behind it was. Perhaps the moral of the play was to "be thankful for what you have" because Bette is always talking about having lots of children. She has one son first and then ends up giving birth to four stillborn. The woman kept trying and trying even though her babies were dropping dead left and right, and her son who was alive was being neglected. I don't know maybe I just didn't read into the play hard enough but the "start-and-stop" style of the play made it rather

difficult to figure out what time period of the story we were in because it would jump around a lot.

Although the play was difficult to understand the actors and actresses all did their part in putting on a great show. The doctor and Paul were my favorite characters even though they only spoke or appeared a few times. Because, call me a sadist if you must, but that doctor coming out and beckoning the father over only to shake the dead baby by his ear and say, "It's dead," then drop it on the floor is just too funny.

Rhythm, rhyme and poetry

By Rhianna Taylor
Managing Editor

Wahoo's saw a packed house for CSUB's first ever Poetry Slam on Monday night.

Students of various styles and skill levels were encouraged to sign up and read poetry that they or others had written. All topics were allowed; poets were not censored from using explicit language or talking about sex, violence, politics or race. Many works expressed the positive and negative feelings associated with love and relationships.

Anysa Saleh, a senior majoring in psychology and art, read her original poem about her frustrations with people's ignorance about her ethnicity.

A few lines of her poem

expressed it well: "Is she Arab? Is she Indian? Really what's the difference, anyway? Many have asked, many have wondered, but what difference would the answer make? Blood, flesh and bones, a body holding my soul, never tame but well in control."

She got a round of applause – or rather, snaps – when she finished. She said that she has done open mics before and was happy that CSUB was finally hosting one.

"It's been really awesome," she said. "I'm really glad they put this together. Students don't usually have things to look forward to – or at least anything creative."

To set the mood for the evening, students turned off the televisions, dimmed all

of the lights except for the ones surrounding the stage, put on music to play between readers, pushed aside table condiments to replace them with electric candles, and brought in additional seating.

The atmosphere in the room was relaxed as audience members were respectfully quiet during presentations, applauding after every poet, and were very encouraging.

For example, when one student was reciting a poem from memory and faltered a few times, many audience members gave applause and cheered him on as he started over.

Poetry Slam was presented by the Student Union and co-sponsored by Student Involvement and Leadership. As the hosts announced at the start of the event, it also featured CSUB Housing and the Omega Psi Phi fraternity, the latter of which had members cheering and hollering at the mention of their name. The first 50 students to show were offered free tacos from Wahoo's. The event was

scheduled to go from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and by 6:45 so many people had shown up that it was standing room only. Halfway through the show, students were asked to only read one poem because there was such a full roster.

Co-hosts Angelo Lapuz and Akadius Asby were excited to see such a large turnout. Lapuz, who is a senior business major and acting program manager for the Student Union, said he had no regrets about the event, "I didn't expect it to be this packed," he said.

With the high level of participation in mind, Lapuz added that the Student Union will definitely plan on having another Poetry Slam next quarter.



Mark Nessia/The Runner
Junior English major James Penarejo reads "The Princess and the Jokers and Jesters," a poem he wrote himself, during Poetry Slam Feb. 28 at Wahoo's.

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK

MARCH 2 WED	MARCH 3 THURS	MARCH 4 FRI	MARCH 5 SAT	MARCH 6 SUN	MARCH 7 MON	MARCH 8 TUES
Egypt: What Now? 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm Location: Runner Bookstore Muslim Students Association Meetings 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Location: DDH E107 Baseball vs. Valparaiso 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm Location: Hardt Field Experience Matters! Internship & Volunteering Workshop 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm Location: Cafeteria/Office Building, Room 102	CAMP - Student Conference: Orosi High School 9:00 am - 1:00 pm Location: DDH 106E, 101E, 101G Federal Reserve Symposium 5:30 pm - 9:00 pm Location: CSUB Student Union Multipurpose Room	Student Research Competition 8:00 am - 2:00 pm Location: CSUB Dezember Leadership Development Center Kaibigan Meetings 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm Location: DDH GJ102 Winter Chamber Music Concert 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm Location: CSUB Dore Theatre	TEAS Testing - Nursing Department 8:00 am - 12:00 pm Location: SCI III Rm 239 16th Annual Casino Night and Auction Starts at 5:30 pm Location: Icardo Center CSUB Concert Band 7:30 pm - 10:00 pm Location: CSUB Dore Theatre	CSUB Singers Winter Concert 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm Location: CSUB Doré Theatre	Greek Council Meetings 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm Location: EDUC 12	Softball vs. Utah State 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Location: Roadrunner Softball Complex Softball vs. Utah State 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm Location: Runner Softball Complex International Women's Day Dinner 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm Location: Seven Oaks Country Club

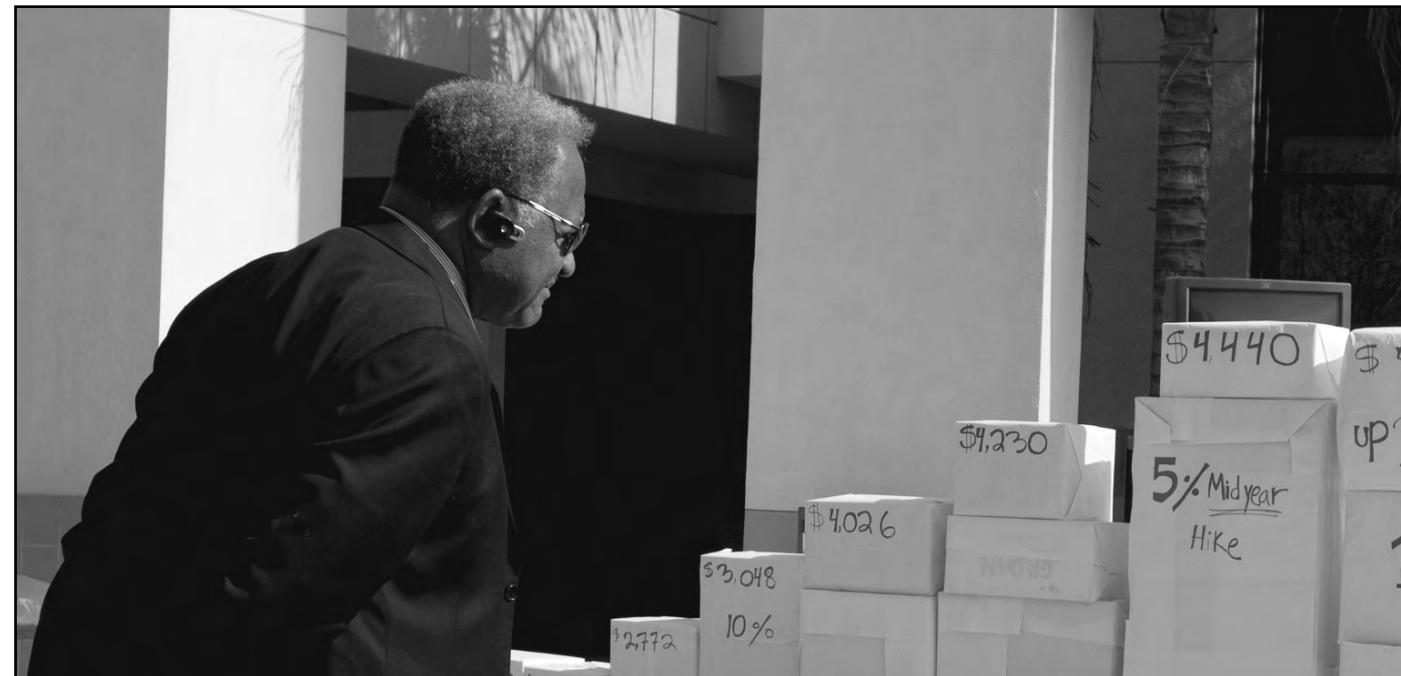
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Space is limited and going fast!

Check out our website, updated weekly at:
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Brady Cabe/The Runner
Students protest fee increases at a rally held on CSUB's campus Feb. 23.



Brady Cabe/The Runner
CSUB President Horace Mitchell looks on as CSUB students protest his salary hikes and our increases in tuition over time.

Beyond the Veil comes to CSUB to set the record straight about society's view of the world of Islam and Islamic traditions



Taylor Gombos/The Runner
Anna Garcia gets emotional while explaining how she converted to Islam.



Taylor Gombos/The Runner
Hena Zuberi answers a question from an audience member during Beyond The Veil Feb 23.

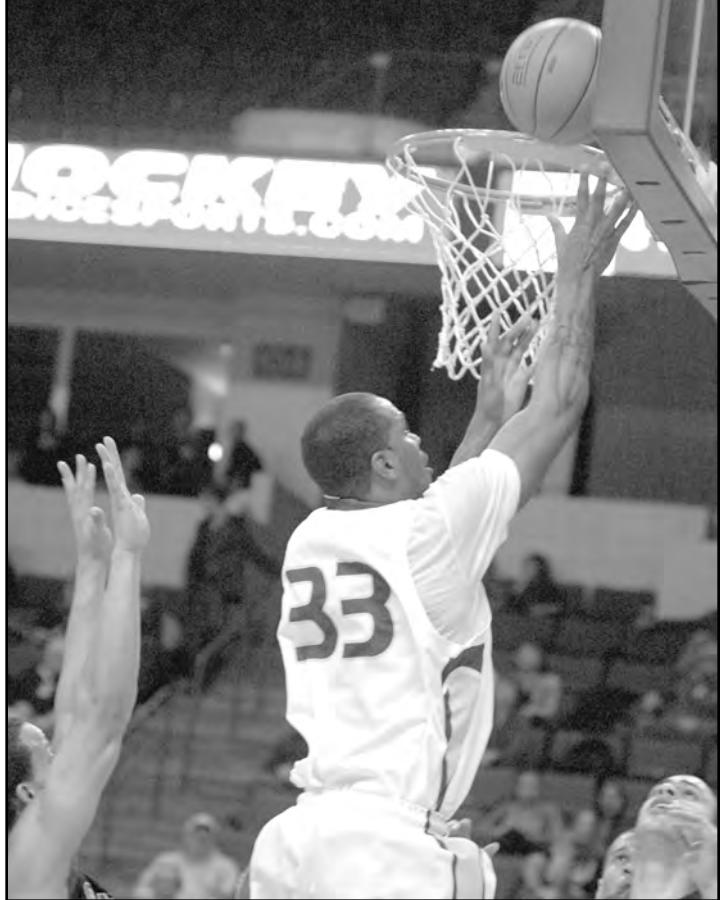
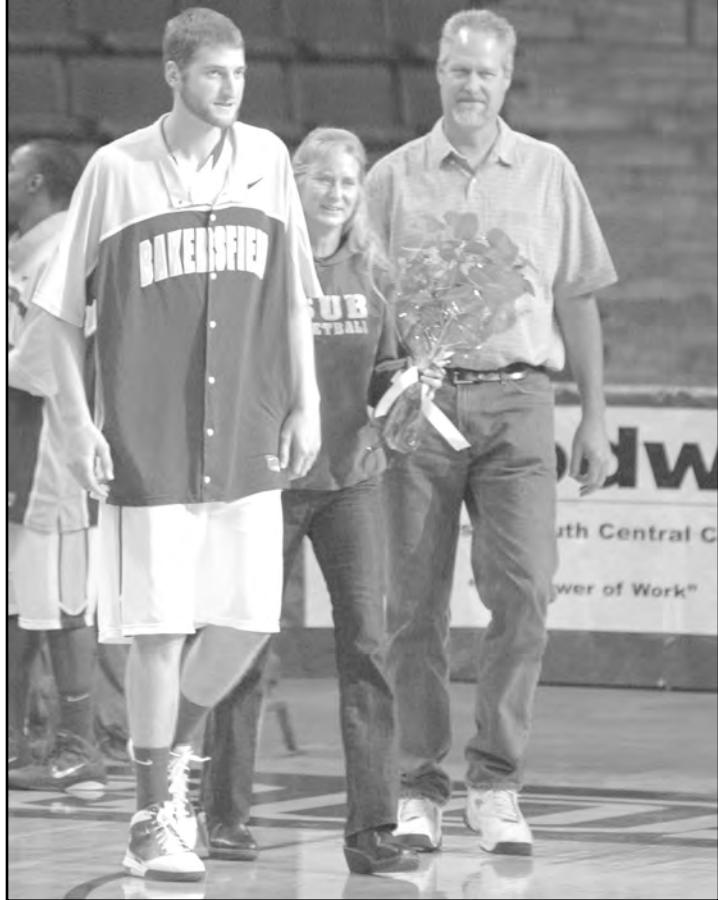


Mark Nessia/The Runner
Hena Zuberi answers a question regarding Islam.



Mark Nessia/The Runner
A standing-room-only crowd gathers in the Student Union Multi-Purpose room to listen to the panel speak about Islam.

'Runners lose on senior night



Photos by Taylor Gombos/The Runner

Left: Senior guard Donavan Bragg puts up a shot against Seattle University Feb. 26.

Center: Senior center Cory Brown walks with his parents to center court before his last home game as a 'Runner.'

Right: Junior Rashad Savage goes up for a layup against Seattle University.

By Steven Gaede
Staff Writer

The CSUB men's basketball team got dismantled on senior night by the Seattle Red Hawks 73-54 on Feb. 26, at Rabobank Arena.

Saturday night's game at the Rabobank Arena marked a three-game home losing streak, the second largest attendance (2579) at the Rabobank Arena this year, and the last time the 'Runners will set foot on the Rabobank court; they are moving back to the Icardo Center for their next season.

CSUB won the opening tip, but the Red Hawks were able to get a layup for the first points of the night. Senior guard Donavan Bragg responded shortly after by sinking the first 3-pointer on the night.

The 'Runners played well the first nine minutes, but they were not able to keep up the intensity throughout the whole game. CSUB's largest lead of the night was nine, and it came off of a layup by junior forward Rashad Savage at the 14:08 mark during the first half. The Hawks were able to reacquire the lead by going on a 19-5 run in the final 11:42 of the first half.

"Disappointing. We started out well. We made some shots

and had good tempo and good presence defensively," coach Keith Brown said.

Despite a valiant performance by Bragg, he could not get the win for the 'Runners on senior night. Bragg went 6-for-17 on the night and managed to lead the 'Runners in total points scored. He tallied 17 points by the end of the night and managed to come up with four rebounds and two assists in his 35 minutes of playtime. Senior center Cory Brown did not have a ton of points, but he chipped in on the 'Runners ball movement and he was able to convert on his only shot of the night for three points.

"It was a good crowd; unfortunately, we did not hold up our end of the bargain and finish off strong," said Bragg.

Neither team could seem to get the ball to go down the first half - there were 44 total rebounds. Bragg led CSUB in total points the first half with seven points. Returning junior guard Alex Johnson could not get into his groove the first half; he went 0-for-4 from 3-point range. As a team, the 'Runners shot 25 percent during the opening half, while the Hawks shot 33.3 percent.

"We just got a little stagnant offensively, we did not have a whole lot of ball movement or people movement," Cory Brown said regarding the last 11 minutes of the first half.

The Hawks came into the second half up by nine and they would fall one point short of tripling this lead at one point during the half. Johnson could not get into a rhythm the second half; he went 1 of 5 from behind the line; his field goal percentage on the night was 25 percent. CSUB was able to score the first points of the half thanks to a layup by freshman guard Ivan Matip, but CSUB's deficit would only grow over time.

Seattle reached its largest lead of the night (26) when sophomore forward Chad Rasmussen converted on a 3-pointer at 4:59. CSUB ended the night by going on a 9-2 run, but it was too late.

Rasmussen was clearly the best player on the court Saturday night. He led the game with 24 points in his 33 minutes on the court; he went 8-for-10 from 3-point range. Senior forward Alex Jones contributed to Seattle's attack by scoring 12 points and by coming up with nine rebounds.

With the loss, CSUB's record is now 10-17 and Seattle's record improves to 12-17. The loss also brings CSUB's losing streak up to six.

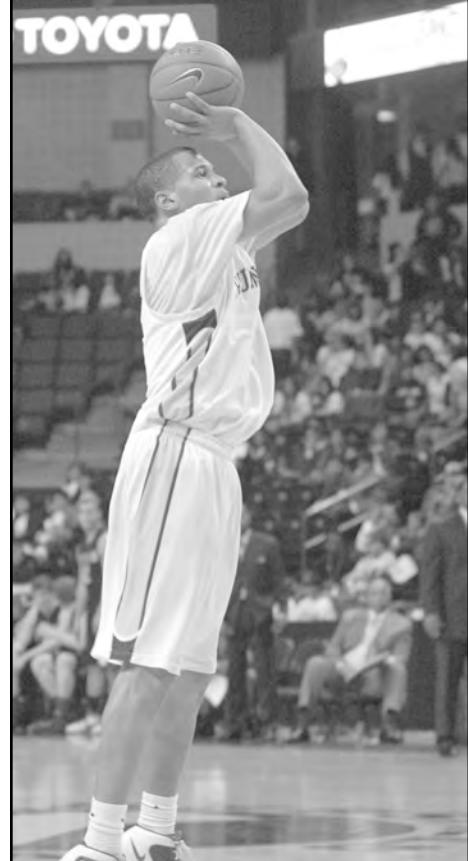
"It has been a rough stretch," Brown said.

CSUB will play Gonzaga University on Feb. 28 and then play Boise State on Mar. 2 to end the season.

In photos: CSUB sports



Taylor Gombos/The Runner



Taylor Gombos/The Runner



Mark Nessia/The Runner



Brady Cabe/The Runner

Clockwise from top left: Freshman Tyonna Outland drives past a Northridge defender.

Donavan Bragg shoots on senior night against Seattle University.

Junior catcher Jeremy Rodriguez reacts as he steps on home plate to give the 'Runners the lead over Washington State Feb. 18 at Hardt Field.

CSUB's Tyonna Outland (44) goes up for a shot against SIU-Edwardsville's Allyssa Decker Feb. 26 in the Icardo Center.

The men's baseball team looks on to support their teammates against Washington University.



Mark Nessia/The Runner



Manny Beltran/The Runner



Mark Nessia/The Runner



Brady Cabe/The Runner

Left: Freshman shortstop Oscar Sanay tags out Washington State's Cody Bartlett.
 Center: University of Washington's Spencer Rogers, left, gets hit with the ball while diving back to second base as shortstop Tyler Shryock awaits the throw.
 Right: Junior Mick Gaston slides home during CSUB's victory over San Francisco University.

Baseball wins four straight, improves to 5-2

By Manny Beltran
 Sports Editor

After a slow start to the season, the CSUB baseball team improved to 5-2.

The 'Runners have a four-game win streak after defeating the University of San Francisco and sweeping a three-game series against the University of Washington.

The three-game sweep of the Huskies seemed to put all the components together for the 'Runners. Dominant pitching and big hits were the reason the 'Runners outscored Washington 23-9 combined in all three games.

CSUB opened up the three-game series Feb. 25 on Hardt Field and sent junior college transfer Tommy Hoenshell to the mound. The 'Runners took an early 2-0 lead to the bottom of the second inning when freshman Tyler Shryock hit a double that brought in DC Legg and

Mick Gaston. Then in the bottom of the third the 'Runners added three more runs to pad their lead to 5-1 after the Huskies scored a run in the top of the third.

The Huskies came back to pull within one run after six innings. In the top of the eighth, with runners on first and second and one out, the Huskies looked to tie or take the lead, but Hoenshell got out of trouble by getting the next batter to fly out and getting a strikeout to end the Washington threat.

Junior Martin Medina moved from first base to the pitching mound to close out Washington in the ninth inning.

Junior lefthander Jonathan Montoya pitched a complete game in the second meeting of the series and allowed just four hits in the 11-1 victory. CSUB came out swinging the first inning, scoring three runs with RBIs by Medina,

Oscar Sanay and Gaston. From that point Montoya kept the Huskies scoreless through six innings as the 'Runners piled on eight more runs.

It was more of the same to start the third game for the 'Runners as senior pitcher Mike McCarthy pitched six strong innings and left with the 'Runners up 4-0. In the seventh inning Medina took over on the mound but found himself in trouble giving up two earned runs and two unearned off an error by third baseman DC Legg.

In the bottom of the seventh Medina helped his own cause by hitting a single that would bring in Kevin Younger to regain the lead. A sacrifice fly by Sanay added another run in the inning to give the 'Runners a 6-4 advantage. An RBI by Andrew Letourneau put CSUB up 7-4 and Medina was able to strike out the

final two batters to end the series against Washington with a sweep.

"Today was a challenge for us especially against a Pac-10 team. To get a sweep against them is big for our program. Mike pitched a hell of a game and I let the team down a little bit and that's my fault, but I tightened it up and got the win," said Medina.

The victory over USF is the first win against them in four tries. CSUB had lost the previous three meetings against them including two last season by the scores of 2-0 and 3-0, but this year's team looked to change things. Junior pitcher Brandon Van Dam pitched five solid innings allowing just four hits and no runs as took a 2-0 lead into the sixth.

USF scored a run in the top of the sixth before the 'Runners added four more runs in the bottom of the seventh.

enth and eighth to put the game out of reach. From that point it was up to the relievers to make sure that there wouldn't be any USF comeback.

"The bullpen really shut the door today; I threw up five zeros and the bullpen came in and got the job done," said Van Dam.

The 'Runners opened the season with a three-game series against Washington State on Feb. 18. Washington State took two of the three games against CSUB, but all were close contests.

In the first game Hoenshell took the 4-2 loss as he gave up just eight hits and three runs in eight innings pitched, but the CSUB bats couldn't convert as they left seven runners on base.

The CSUB bats came to life in the second game of the series as the 'Runners posted eight runs in the bottom of the second started off by a

home run blast by Gaston that opened up the flood gates. Catcher Jeremy Rodriguez and Sanay had RBIs in the inning as well as Gaston as he saw his second at bat in the inning. Legg also homered in the inning.

Washington State kept chipping away at the CSUB lead and was down 11-10 in the ninth but Medina came in and was able to get the save after striking out two in the ninth.

In the last game of the series Washington State took a 4-3 victory over the 'Runners. A three-run fourth inning put CSUB up 3-1, but it wasn't enough as Washington State scored three runs of their own in the top of the seventh inning to take a 4-3 lead. The score stayed that way as Letourneau grounded into a double play to end the game in the ninth inning.

'Runners crush Matadors in annual 'Pink Zone' game

By Chris Davis
 Staff Writer

The CSUB women's basketball team did their part on Wednesday night to combat breast cancer with the annual "Pink Zone" game; in the process, they eradicated the Matadors from Cal State Northridge 71-46.

The game was personal for at least one 'Runner – junior Kristine Herman has had breast cancer hit her family twice.

"This game really meant a lot to me because both of my grandmas have suffered from breast cancer," said Herman after the game. "So I came into the game thinking about them. I'm glad we had a game to help to both support and help the fight for breast cancer."

Sophomore Amber Williams echoed those same thoughts.

"We loved the fact that we were able to support all of the women that had survived breast cancer," she said.

Each starter from both teams was introduced and then escorted a breast cancer survivor to center court where pictures were taken prior to the game.

As far as the game is concerned, the 'Runners (17-11) scored the first three points on a Nikki Leon bomb. But then Northridge went on a 13-6 run over the next 11 minutes to take their largest lead at 13-9 with 8:39 remaining in the first half.

At that point the 'Runners took the game over.

Over the final eight minutes of the first half, CSUB went on a 26-9 run to take a 35-22 lead at halftime.

The second half was the 'Runners putting it in cruise control as they outscored the Matadors by 12.

"We generated a lot of our offense off of our defense in the second half," head coach Tim La Kose said after the game.

"Turnovers were the key."

The win improved the program's record when holding their opponent under 60 points to 90-0.

"Whenever we hold a team under 60, we're pretty good," La Kose said.



When it gets to this time in the season – the 'Runners only have two games left – it is time to start looking at postseason tournaments.

This win over the Matadors on paper looks like it might be hurtful to the team's chances, after all Northridge is now 4-23. But when you look at the smaller picture, which the NCAA tournament committee usually does, this was a really good win.

"They won three of the last four, and they just beat the top team in the Big West," La Kose said.

The team and the nation will find out on March 15, one day after the men's tournament field is announced, if the 'Runners will be in the "big dance" or not.

Male Athlete of the Week



Above: CSUB guard Kristine Herman shoots over CSUN's Anna Simmons Feb. 23 in the Icardo Center.
 Right: CSUB guard Breana Fields drives past CSUN's Haley White.

Freshman second baseman Oscar Sanay went for a combined 6 of 16 with five RBIs and three runs scored against the University of San Francisco and University of Washington. Sanay went 1 for 4 with two RBIs in a 6-2 win over USF Feb. 21, and went 5 for 12 over the three-game series against Washington, including a 3 for 3, two RBI performance in the final contest.



Courtesy of Sports Information

Female Athlete of the Week

Junior right fielder Ashley Nahale went 4 for 7 with four runs scored in the Roadrunners' first two wins over the season. Nahale went 2 for 3 with one run scored in a 5-3 win over Idaho State and followed that up with a 2 for 4 outing with three runs scored in a 9-7 win over Weber State. The 'Runners host double-headers against Utah State March 8 and 9, with the first pitch set for 1 p.m. both days.