



THE UNNER

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Newsom signs bill ensuring access to abortion services on college campuses

By Alex Chapa-Kunz
News Editor

California Gov. Gavin Newsom signed SB 24, the College Student Right to Access Act, on Oct. 11, 2019. The act mandates that all California State University and University of California campus health centers provide access to medication abortions by Jan. 1 2023.

Medication abortion, more commonly referred to as “the abortion pill,” requires that two different medications be administered in the first 10 weeks of a pregnancy. The bill would require campus health centers to establish on-campus procedures for providing the service, and allows for the use of telehealth professionals.

Approximately 1,000 students from the UC and CSU campuses obtain abortions each month according to Daniel Grossman, professor and director of Advancing New Standards in Reproductive Health at UC San Francisco, during the April 2019 California Senate Education Committee vote.

“We estimate that as many as 500 medication abortions would be provided monthly on campus if student health centers offered this service,” Grossman stated.

SB 24 comes at a time when many states are rolling back accessibility, with nine states having passed partial bans in-

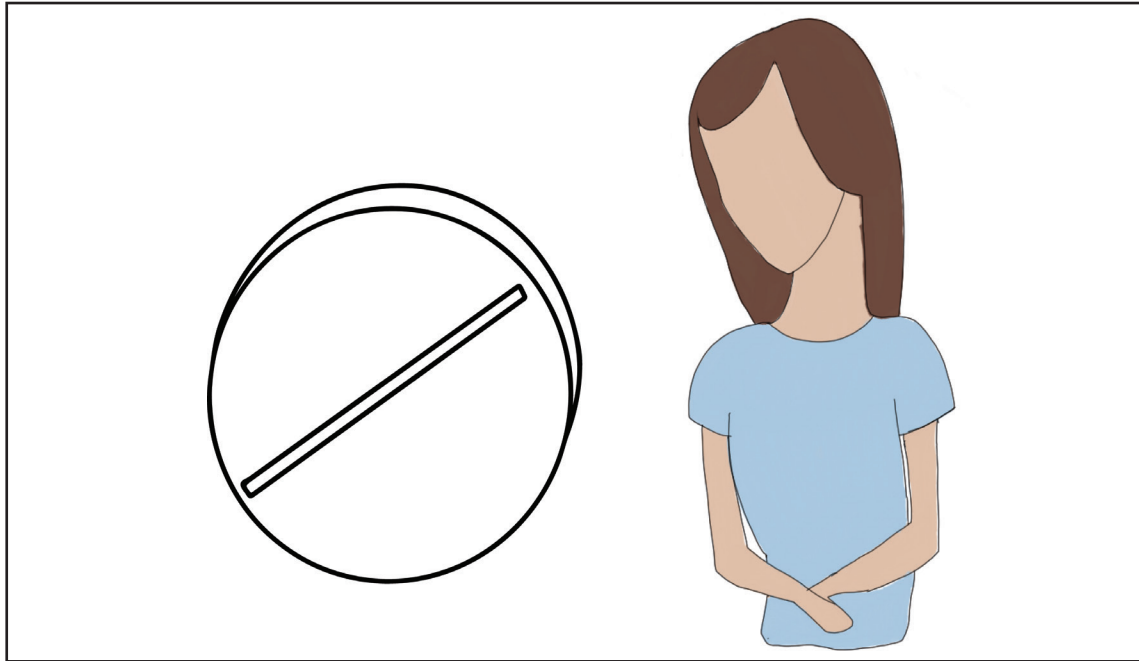


Illustration by Gabriela Lopez/The Runner

cluding the recently blocked Human Rights Protection Act from Alabama. Proponents of abortion restrictions hope that recently blocked bills will make their way to the Supreme Court’s docket, as the recent addition of Justice Brett Kavanaugh gives the court a conservative majority.

“As other states and the federal government go backward, restricting reproductive freedom, in California we are moving forward, expanding access and reaffirming a woman’s right to choose,” said Gov. Newsom in a press release.

The bill, sponsored by Sen. Connie Leyva, creates the Com-

mission on the Status of Women and Girls and the College Student Health Center Sexual and Reproductive Health Preparation Fund. The newly established commission will be responsible for providing \$200,000 to each CSU and UC campus health center. According to the wording of the bill, money for the fund will come from private sources and no campus or CSU general funds will be allowed to be repurposed. CSUB students currently pay \$326 a year for health services in their campus fees.

“By ensuring that abortion care is available on campus, college students will not have to choose

between delaying important medical care or having to travel long distances or miss classes or work,” Sen. Leyva said in a statement.

The CSU chancellor’s office is reviewing the bill before deciding the best way to implement SB 24 on each of the 23 CSU campuses. According to Erika Delamar, assistant director of CSUB’s Health Center, CSUB is hoping to have more clarity within the next couple of weeks if the review has been completed.

“The Chancellor’s Office says to wait as they review the guidelines of the law, so as of now the campuses are awaiting guid-

ance,” said Delamar, speaking with The Runner after attending a director’s conference for CSU health centers where they had planned to talk about the topic of SB 24.

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CSUB hosts Houchin Community Blood Bank donor drive

By Angie Saavedra
Reporter

Houchin Community Blood Bank has been providing safe blood supply for hospitals in the Kern County area for years. They are dedicated to saving lives and were here on campus at the Student Union’s Runner Park on Oct. 22. Students donating blood are helping their community by replenishing the blood supply. According to Houchin’s website, “[T]hey will be improving the lives of women with pregnancy complications, patients with severe trauma, blood disorders, and many medical and surgical procedures.”

“By us students donating blood, we help save beautiful lives,” said senior Louis Barriers. Barriers donates blood whenever he gets the chance. “Donating

blood makes me feel important. It makes me feel that I am doing my part in society by helping those who need it,” he said.

People who want to donate blood are encouraged to drink plenty of water and eat a full meal before donating by both Houchin Community Blood Bank and CSUB Athletics, sponsors of the blood drive, because water helps pump the donor’s veins, which gets their blood moving.

The process of donating blood starts out with registration. This is where donors use iPads to fill in their information. Photo identification is needed in order to qualify donors. Donors are then asked to fill out a questionnaire regarding their health, past medical issues, and medicines they are currently taking or have taken. Some questions regard

any tattoos or piercings they may have, and how recently they were done.

Emily Villegas, a senior, said she was disappointed when she found out she couldn’t donate because of a tongue piercing she got a few months ago. Villegas explained in order to donate, any piercings must be more than a year old in order to prevent slow-incubating diseases, such as HIV, from accidentally getting into the blood supply. As it was Villegas’ first time trying to donate, she was discouraged because she was looking forward to contributing to saving a life.

After filling out the questionnaire, donors are then subject to screening with nurses to ensure they are healthy enough to donate blood that day. Nurses check the donor’s blood pressure and iron levels, and make sure that



Stephanie Williams/The Runner

Marissa Machado, kinesiology major, finishes donating blood at the Houchin Blood Bank truck at CSUB on Oct 22.

they meet the weight requirement of at least 110 pounds. If the donor passes the health screening they are allowed to donate.

Students and faculty who decided to participate in the on-campus blood drive were given a free

Houchin Blood Bank t-shirt. If you missed the blood drive, you can stop by a Houchin Blood Bank and donate at either 5901 Truxtun Ave., or their new second location at 11515 Bolthouse Drive.

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CSUB launches new AskRowdy program

Pilot program causes confusion

Audrey Tobola-Esaño
Reporter

On October 1, 2019, some students received text messages about different topics from various unknown phone numbers. The messages did not specify who they were sent from and were inconsistent with their messaging, leaving students confused and worried about a potential scam. The Runner reached out to Faust Gorham, Associate Vice President for Administrative and Information Technology Services, who directed all questions to Jennifer Self, Director of Public Affairs and Communications at CSU Bakersfield.

According to Self, CSUB launched a new program called AskRowdy intended for all freshmen, sophomores and transfer students. She stated that this program currently affects around 5,000 students.

“AskRowdy is a service powered by artificial intelligence to help answer commonly asked questions for CSUB students,” Self said. AskRowdy is available 24/7 and will be accessible only through text messaging.

“Email serves the purpose when the content is lengthy and includes a lot of detail. Text allows for quick, short and concise communication. SMS also allows artificial intelligence to understand the questions and provide answers using its knowledge bank,” Self said.

AskRowdy has been entirely funded by a Title V Grant, a fed-

erally funded grant program that has the purpose of improving the higher education of Hispanic students in the United States.

According to Self, as the program requires a wide range of knowledge specific to CSUB, the team included contributing members from all areas on the campus: Vernon Harper, CSUB Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Lori Paris, management and marketing professor, Faust Gorham, and Vikash Lakhani, Associate Vice President for Student Success. Self said that the work for this project started in July 2019.

America Bustos, a psychology major sophomore and resident assistant, was really surprised when she first received a text from an unknown number. She wishes she had gotten an email with an explanation about what is AskRowdy before receiving a text so she would know who was behind it.

“I just got a message and it was really weird. Like, “Oh, this is me, just ask me questions,” Bustos said.

Kristyn Logan, a psychology major and transfer student also thought it was weird to receive a text from the university, and also wishes that she was informed with an email beforehand. A month after CSUB launched the program, Logan still has not received anything to tell her that the program is called AskRowdy, or what the purpose behind it is.

The initial text messages varied. While Bustos received a text tell-

ing her she can ask any questions she may have, Logan’s text more specifically discussed the FAFSA application. Other students, like Mary Larson, a transfer nursing student and resident assistant, have yet to receive any messages since the program launched on Oct. 1. According to Larson, the program doesn’t seem really consistent, considering not all students received the same texts, emails, and information.

Damian Lopez, a double major in psychology and communications, junior, and social media manager for The Runner, went to ITS for information after he received a text about the FAFSA application. Brian Chen, Director of ITS-Enterprise Application and Staff said students should only be getting messages if they ask the program a question.

Despite the confusion, some students agreed that this program is a good idea, although they will not all use AskRowdy.

“For me personally, it’s convenient. It’s more efficient and it can be more helpful and useful,” said Logan.

Bustos and Larson like the idea, but are not sure they will use it. They both prefer asking questions directly to people on campus rather than sending texts to AskRowdy.

Another issue presented is that although chatting with AskRowdy is free, messages and data rates may apply according to the program itself, so using the program may incur some costs for some students.

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David Hogg cancels lecture at CSUB

By Jessica Wright and Alex Chapa-Kunz
Reporters

David Hogg, a gun control activist and survivor of the school shooting in Parkland, Florida in 2018, has cancelled the planned visit to CSU Bakersfield according to a news release from CSUB Director of Public Affairs and Communications Jennifer Self.

The news release states that representatives for Hogg cited a conflict due to Hogg’s academic schedule as a freshman at Harvard which caused him to cancel all speaking commitments for the 2019-2020 academic year.

“We are disappointed that David won’t be able to join

us but, as part of an academic institution, we understand and respect his need to prioritize his educational responsibilities, we will find an excellent speaker for spring 2020 and look forward to continuing the tradition of the Charles W. Kegley Memorial Lecture Series,” said Michael Burroughs, director of the Kegley Institute of Ethics.

Hogg was scheduled to speak at the 34th Annual Charles W. Kegley Memorial Lecture Series in April of 2020. Past speakers have included Angela Davis, Former California Supreme Court Justice Cruz Reynoso, Cornel West, and many others.

According to a press release, Hogg wishes to express his appreciation for the opportunity.

Burroughs is working on finding a new speaker for the 2020 spring lecture.

As with the initial announcement, news of the cancellation caused disagreements on social media.

Joshua Henry, a commenter on the KGET news Facebook page, stated “Nobody wanted him here anyway that’s why”.

“Good nobody wants to hear what CNN told him to say anyway,” said Trisha Chapman on the same thread.

“Republicans believe in freedom of speech, until it’s on topics they don’t agree with. Who cares if this kid wanted to come here...” argued Angela Andrea.

ANTIGONE PERFORMANCE

CSUB theater program runs first production of the new school year

By **Lauren Hill**
Feature Editor

The writing of Sophokles was brought to life by CSUB Bakersfield students when the CSUB Music and Theatre Department ran its first production of the 2019-2020 school year, “Antigone,” directed by Dave Peterson.

“Antigone” is a play written by Sophokles that follows the story of a young girl as she walks through a decision that explores her own internal convictions. The translation performed was written by Canadian writer, Anne Carson. Carson’s new translation opened and performed in 2015 under the direction of Ivo Van Hove, following a contemporary style with French actress Juliette Binoche portraying Antigone in that debut.

In an interview with the Barbican Centre, Binoche said, “Because of Antigone’s strength and will and awareness and desire, I don’t think she can change the way she is. She has to be true to herself and her truth is changing the whole consciousness.”

The final performance of “Antigone” was a matinee performance on Sunday, Oct. 27. Many of the seats were filled with individuals of all ages, awaiting the moment when the actors would make their appearance. Onstage, there were two rail structures, a pile of sand, and the top of a



The cast of Antigone lines up for a final bow after the play’s final scene in the Dore Theatre on Oct 26.

car appearing to be buried underground.

As the theatre went to a black out, a set of curtains opened and exposed a beaten down, neoclassical architecture-style building complete with broken windows, a fallen pillar, and no door, later made known as Kreon’s palace at Thebes.

The first to come onstage were Avery Gibson, portraying Antigone, and Maya Blackstone, portraying the sister of Antigone, Ismene. The dialogue reveals

that Antigone’s uncle, the king Kreon, portrayed by Brian Purcell, has refused to bury her brother.

Antigone decides that it is her responsibility to make sure that her brother is buried, even if she has to do it herself. She believes that the laws on Earth are defying the laws of the ancient Greek gods.

In the following scene, a chorus of eight actors enters the stage and joins in telling

the poetic narrative with their cohesiveness and timely responses, often calling out in unison.

Gibson delivers a passionate encompassment of feminine independence and the urge to do right by those we love. Antigone stands her ground when called into question by Kreon after completing the burial, and is sentenced to death by being buried alive.

Kreon’s son Haimon, portrayed by Alberto Pelayo, was betrothed to Antigone and begins to question his father and the laws. The two exit the stage to then find in the next scene that Kreon has killed Haimon.

When Kreon’s wife, portrayed by Brianna Giselle Garcia, finds out this news she kills herself.

Kreon is left alone with three of his family dead, which he believes is by his own doing.

“Where can I look? Where can I turn? Everything I touch goes wrong,” the king laments.

Purcell ends the performance with the raw emotion of feeling helpless, as his character prays for his own death.

In the written performance program, director Dave Peterson remarked, “Sometimes there is a higher truth, and ignoring it will be devastating for every one of us.”

The Bakersfield Sound with Scott Bomar

By **Karin Patiño**
Reporter

Music producer and Nashville native Scott B. Bomar visited CSU Bakersfield on Tuesday, Oct. 15 to discuss his new book, “The Bakersfield Sound: Country Music Capital of The West, 1940-1974” in the Walter Stiern Library’s Dezember Reading Room.

To a room filled with country music fans both new and continuing, Bomar lectured about some of the Bakersfield country music greats who inspired him and his writing. The musicians that he spoke about included Bill Woods, Merle Haggard, Buck Owens, and Billy Mize.

Bomar grew up around the country music industry in Nashville, Tennessee, so he has always been familiar with and been a fan of artists like Buck Owens and Merle Haggard, among other west coast singers. After moving to Los Angeles in 2000 to pursue his music business career, he realized there was more to the west’s country music history than he realized, and specifically from the Bakersfield area.

Bomar began to collect any and all records he could find by artists from Bakersfield, both singles and LPs, and anything in between. Bomar said it didn’t matter if it was good or not. If it was Bakersfield related, he bought it.

While listening to all the sounds and nu-

ances that came from this city, Bomar knew early on he wanted to write a book all about it...until Bakersfield Californian columnist Robert Price unknowingly beat him to it. But this was not a problem. To differentiate himself from Price, according to Bomar, he decided to include music with the release of his book. “The Bakersfield Sound”

“I think the reason we have the term ‘Bakersfield sound’ is because it is a shorthand way of saying that something musically and culturally significant took root [...]”

Scott B. Bomar,
Music Producer

is part of a box set that Bomar has curated, with digitized versions of all his Bakersfield related records.

According to Bomar, he is proud to know



Author of “The Bakersfield Sound” Scott B. Bomar discusses country music of the west at the Dezember Reading Room on Tuesday, Oct 15, 2019.

that all these artists’ works have been preserved digitally forever, and his book has information about all the artists that are on it, both well-known and obscure. He guarantees that even die-hard country music fans are bound to find an artist or two they have not heard of before.

“There has always been variety in the sounds that have come from this town...

I think the reason we have the term ‘Bakersfield sound’ is because it is a shorthand way of saying that something musically and culturally significant took root and flowered in and around Bakersfield during a specific era that made a phenomenal impact on commercial country music,” said Bomar.

Remembering those lost to suicide

By Ashley Balcaceres
Reporter

As the sun goes down and the night begins to creep in, all one could see is a candlelit heart. Looking closer, they would see that each and every cup has a message for anyone willing to hear, provided by the various attendees of the event. Overlooking the heart is a quilt provided by Save A Life Today (SALT) that has a collage of photos of the ones who have committed suicide throughout recent years.

Remembering and honoring those who have lost their lives due to suicide and raising awareness for other mental health concerns is just one of the key messages discussed at the 6th Annual Candlelight Event hosted at CSU Bakersfield by the Counseling Center.

“Two roads diverged in a wood, and I - I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference.” A quote by poet Robert Frost that freshman Jaime Pacheco wrote on his cup in hopes that it would provide someone with strength.

The event was held from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. on the patio of the Student Union. It included free food, speakers from different departments on

and outside of campus, and an opportunity to light a candle in honor of those who are gone and those affected by loss. This event was not just a remembrance. It was also an attempt to spread awareness for suicide and other mental health concerns.

“Remembering. That is the big reason that we are here; to remember and to honor those folks. And to say, you know, that we still honor you,” says Eric Lord,

Remembering. That is the big reason that we are here; to remember and to honor those folks.

Eric Lord,
Clinical Social Worker

a Licensed Clinical Social Worker who works at the CSUB Counseling Center.

Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the United States, according to the American Foundation for Suicide

Prevention.

Ellen Eggert, a speaker from Kern Behavioral Health and Recovery Services, has been involved in this event since it first began six years ago. She said that anyone can be trained in suicide awareness, that you don’t need a license, you just need to care. She mentions that she hates to attend memorials like these, and she wishes that in the near future she won’t have to.

Everyone has the chance to save a life if they only would talk to one another instead of just passing each other by. People do not know that just saying a few nice things to a complete stranger can save them.

Anyone who needs help, or just someone to talk to, can call hotlines like the one provided by Kern Behavioral Health. When someone needs to talk and feels like no one will listen, they will.

Eggert mentions that there are some callers that just to want to vent to someone and she can be that someone.

SALT is an organization that is done by the community for the community. SALT is a volunteer organization whose profits stay in the community.

“Everything we do here is for our com-



Illustration by Lauren Hill/The Runner

munity,” states Eugene Frey, masters student in counseling psychology and SALT representative.

Various hotlines and departments are available for those affected by mental illness or suicidal thoughts. The Kern County Mental Health Hotline, also known as the 24-Hour Crisis Hotline, is 1-800-991-5272. The CSUB Counseling Center’s number is (661) 654-3366. They are located in Building 35. The Veteran’s Department at CSUB’s number is (661) 654-3557, and they are located in the Admissions and Records building. All of them are there willing to listen.



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Air Guard to land Blackhawk at CSUB

Student Veterans celebrated at campus event

By Maria Hernandez
Reporter

CSU Bakersfield is preparing an event to honor and celebrate veterans. Music, free food, a military vehicle display, and fun activities will continue the campus tradition of celebrating Veterans Day.

The Veterans Day celebration will take place in Runner Park near the Student Union on Thursday, Nov. 7, 2019. The event will start at 11:00 a. m. and last until 3:00 p.m. The celebration is open and free to all CSUB students and the public community.

This is the second year that CSUB will be hosting this event. The event is going to start with a ceremony and information about why it is so important to thank veterans.

“We are expecting at least 200 people, if not possibly maybe more,” said Veterans Success Center Coordinator Jaime Pacheco.

“Jessenia Mendoza, who is our Veterans Club president, is one of the drivers for the military vehicles that will be on campus,” said Pacheco.

All attendees will have the opportunity to take pictures with the Air Guards who will be visiting the CSUB campus.

“An Air Guard will be coming from Fresno with a Blackhawk [helicopter], and they will land at the campus field at

noon. There will be an opportunity for students to take a picture with the crew,” said Pacheco.

CSUB students can talk to service members and get information on what they do in the military. During the event, CSUB students can talk to service members and get information on what kind of jobs are available with the U.S. armed forces. Students will also have the opportunity to meet fellow Runners who are veterans, and learn how they can help support the veteran’s organization on campus.

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Veterans Day Celebration

Where: Runner Park

When: Thursday, Nov. 7, 2019

Time: 11:00 A.M.

How to relax during a stressful semester

Find your technique to relax and unwind

By Jovana Espinoza
Opinion Writer

The overwhelming stress caused by midterms, upcoming finals, and all sorts of assignments woven in between is difficult to overcome. In addition to the many resources and counseling CSU Bakersfield offers its students, there are other ways to decrease the emotional and mental strain that all students feel toward the end of the semester.

“Stress can. . . help you rise to meet challenges. It’s what keeps you on your toes during a presentation at work, sharpens your concentration. . . or drives you to study for an exam. . . But beyond a certain point, stress stops being helpful and starts causing major damage to your health, mood, productivity, relationships, and your quality of life,” according to Jeanne Segal, et al. in the Help-Guide.org article “Stress Symptoms, Signs, and Causes: Improving Your Ability to Handle Stress.”

Relaxing does not mean throwing homework aside and kicking back to binge-watch a Hulu or Netflix series. Doing this might create more stress in the long run. Completely ignoring the work that needs to be done for class might solve the immediate anxiety that we feel, but once the episode is over or the activity we have decided to undertake is completed, we remember the homework that has been stacking up.

“I meditate while listening to music to relax,” said Fransisco Mederos, 18, and biology major. He goes on to say that it is difficult to relax because you can’t help but think of everything that needs to get done.

For this reason, one of the best ways to relax during a time of great stress is by feeling prepared or productive before taking time for yourself. Working efficiently for an hour or two in the morning and then taking the rest of the day off helps with the stress, while getting some work done.

Time well spent will allow us to feel like we’ve earned the day off rather than creating more stress by simply ignoring our work.

Feeling more in control is another way to reduce stress and decrease

“I like to cook, sleep, watch Netflix, or try to do anything that’s self-care to relax. I try to be organized to not get overwhelmed.”

Skylar Thomas,
Psychology Student

the overwhelming anxiety our hectic lives have over our emotional state. Stress is a vicious cycle; we can get stressed over how much stress we are feeling. This perpet-

ual cycle is fueled by the feeling of loss of control. The feeling that we have no control is an illusion, however, because we do have certain control over our lives, and the best way to utilize that power can be by organizing and planning out our days and activities. I try to make a list at the start of every day so that homework assignments and study time slots do not overwhelm me. Every time I cross out an item from my list, I have this feeling of accomplishment and control of my time.

“I like to cook, sleep, watch Netflix, or try to do anything that’s self-care to relax. I try to be organized to not get overwhelmed,” said Skylar Thomas, 20, a junior and psychology major.

The most important (but difficult) way to keep stress levels low during a busy week or semester is to become self-reliant and count on ourselves to find relaxation. There are wonderful resources—like counseling—on campus to help students deal with the

strain of college life. There are also friends willing to hear you describe a tiresome day, but we cannot always count on others to make us feel better. It is equally important to look internally for motivation and peace.

“We all have our moments of stress, but you have to remember that all things pass,” said Brian Navarro, 18, a major in music.

When I feel overwhelmed and start to feel tension, I resort to self-talk to motivate myself and keep calm as soon as stress begins to weigh heavily on my shoulders. I’ve tried yoga and motivational YouTube videos to help with the stress, but self-talk and positive remarks have worked the best for me.

Everyone is different, so my technique might not work for everyone. Although it is extremely difficult to have an internal source of motivation and relaxation during a hectic time, developing this self-helping skill is worth a try.

Politics start now

The next election is one year away

By Cecilia Torres
Opinion Writer

Things are about to get more political, and as potential voters in the 2020 presidential election, we should already be tuning in.

The upcoming presidential election cycle has been talked about since the results of the 2016 election came in. With President Donald J. Trump – arguably the most controversial candidate, and now president, in recent history – up for reelection, it is all everyone is going to be talking about from now up until voting on Nov. 3, 2020.

While people have been tuning in to all the political drama, many are quickly losing interest in the constant coverage.

“Across every major demographic group, there is more exhaustion than excitement over seeing political content on social media,” wrote Monica Anderson and Dennis Quinn for the Pew Research Center survey. “46% of U.S. social media users say they are ‘worn out’ by political posts and discussions.”

It is understandable that people feel overwhelmed with the amount of attention the mainstream news media dedicates to politics. Although listening to political coverage is a guilty pleasure of mine, I have also felt the need to tune out from politics from time to time. Personally, the reason I stop paying attention to politics is because of the negativity and the very obvious bias seen in both liberal and conservative news outlets.

The election process only works when voters are informed and participating. It is not enough to just show up at the polls on Election Day. We have to start paying

attention now, approximately a year before voting.

“Prior to a general election, there is a selection process to determine which candidate will appear on the ballot for a given political party in the nationwide general election,” according to the website Vote Smart.

To get the results we want, we have to shape what happens from the beginning. Now is the time to show support for the candidate we want to see go up against Trump. Meaning, no matter how tired we are of politics, we have to listen to the debates and pay attention to the promises each candidate is making to the American people.

In 2016, Hillary Clinton won the Democratic nomination over Bernie Sanders. Although many people question if she secured the nomination fairly, the numbers were in her favor.

“Clinton won three of the first four contests. She won the entire South; the whole thing. She won most of the Northeast. (Sanders’ performed best in the upper Midwest and in states with caucuses, which are a better measure of the intensity of a candidate’s support than its breadth.) And she won the Democratic coalition of minorities and women – the people Democrats thought then and still believe they need to show up to win in November,” wrote Byron Wolf for CNN.

Given that the president is elected by the electoral college and not the American people, the best chance to make a difference is by picking the candidate that better represents the change we want to see.



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Blue & Gold

2019 SCRIMMAGE

By Dustin Tompkins
Sports Reporter

Fans were lined up at the front doors of the Icardo Center waiting for an opportunity to get the first look at the 2019-2020 'Runner men's and women's basketball teams.

While this was just intersquad scrimmage for both programs, there was no shortage of excitement at the event. Students, alumni, and fans of all ages came to support the teams before another year of competition kicks off.

This is an important year for both programs, as this is their last season competing in the Western Athletic Conference (WAC) before moving to the Big West conference.

The night began with the introduction of the women's basketball program. The lights went dark and the Jumbotron lit up the arena. One by one, the women came out on the court as they were introduced to the fans. After some motivation from the cheerleading squad, the game ensued, consisting of two five-minute halves.

The game was quite short, but gave the fans a glimpse of what to expect from next season.

After their game, the team had some fun with a three-point shootout competition. After the contest freshman point guard Lexus Green, a local athlete from Garces Memorial High School, said her focus is on helping bring a winning attitude to the program.

Green mentioned that helping to bring home the WAC championship

is her goal for the rest of the season.

The men's basketball introduction started right after in similar fashion. Each player had his own walkout song and got to dance their way to half court. After the players were introduced, head coach Rod Barnes

Moore sees himself as a model player looking to on a leadership role for the younger athletes, saying, "My role is to make my teammates better."

—Taze Moore,
Student Athlete

addressed the fans, explaining how the players work very hard on and off the court, and that this is just the beginning.

Another two five-minute halves started with what seemed like a Harlem Globetrotters game. Nearly every score was a slam dunk and all the players were getting involved.

This scrimmage was less competitive and more an opportunity for 'Runner athletes to showcase their talents for the fans. It is clear we have some incredibly talented athletes on our team this year.

Junior wing Justin McCall tallied

the most slam dunks in the contest. Even with the offensive power of the men's squad, McCall says the team must have a defensive mindset this season.

Much like the women's squad, there are aspirations to win the WAC championship. McCall's personal goal is to earn all-conference accolades, but winning the conference would be a much greater accomplishment.

Another athlete with a stellar performance in the outing was redshirt junior point guard/shooting guard Taze Moore. Much like McCall, Moore was dunking the ball left and right.

Moore sees himself as a model player looking to take on a leadership role for the younger athletes, saying, "My role is to make my teammates better." His personal goal for the season is to earn WAC player of the year or WAC defensive player of the year, but says the conference championship is important to everyone.

Both programs showed they have what it takes in order to win some games this year, but this season is about more than that. It is about putting CSU Bakersfield on the map and letting the Big West conference know what's coming next year.

The next home game for the men will be on Saturday, Nov. 9 at 7:30 p.m., where they will battle South Dakota State in the Icardo Center. The women's team will be traveling to Washington state for two contests before returning home to face Fresno Pacific on Sunday, Nov. 17 at 1 p.m.



Mari Woodmanseet/The Runner

Junior guard, De'Monte Buckingham going for a slam dunk during the Blue Gold event held on Tuesday Oct. 22 2019 in the Icardo Center.



Mari Woodmanseet/The Runner

Junior guard, Kate Tokuhara, tries to dribble the basketball around Senior, Dalis Jones, during the Blue Gold event held on Tuesday Oct. 22 2019 in the Icardo Center.

Women's soccer heads into WAC tournament after tough losses

By Elisa Fuentes
Sports Reporter

CSU Bakersfield women's soccer went up against Chicago State University in their seventh Western Athletic Conference game on Oct. 26. The Roadrunners are now 4-4 in the WAC and will be heading to Seattle, Washington for the WAC tournament.

They were 2-4 in the WAC going into the game against the Cougars, a team they've beat before. With the last two games ending in unfortunate losses on the road, a victory looked within grasp for their last home game of the regular season.

Their first loss came after a fierce fight against New Mexico State on Oct. 18 where both teams refused to back down. The game went into overtime, and in the fifth minute the Aggies managed to break the tension with a goal. After the Aggies won 1-0,

the 'Runners moved on to their next opponent.

The 'Runners faced University of Texas Rio Grande Valley on Oct. 20. Although this game ended in a loss as well, they still would not go down without a fight. They had sixteen shots and seven shots on goal, but none managed to hit the net. UTRGV was able to break through in the 57th minute with a goal, which led to a score of 1-0 in favor of the Vaqueros.

"We've had ups and downs, good games and bad games, but tonight we came out and had a good performance," said senior Sophie Freeman after looking back on the game against Chicago State.

During the first half of the game, the 'Runners had most of the possession, but the Cougars kept their defense in-check. When the second half came around on a corner kick, freshman Dana Neff set

up the ball for freshman Chelsea Duran who scored the first goal of the night in the 50th minute.

"This was a team we've been looking forward to get after, and there was that ambition to score where you just have to go. After the corner kick, after that perfect finish with the perfect contact on the ball, it was amazing," Duran said.

The next score of the game was by Freeman in the 63rd minute, giving the 'Runners a 2-0 lead over the Cougars. Not long after, senior Anesa Sasivarevic was up for corner kick that gave Duran a chance to assist freshman Giselle Michel in the third goal of the night. With time running out, the Cougars failed in their attempts to come back from the deficit. The game resulted in a 3-0 shutout.

"Tonight was Senior Night, but we had two freshmen scoring, which



Mari Woodmanseet/The Runner

Junior Eszter Toth tries to steal the soccer ball during the last home game on Saturday Oct. 26 2019 taking place on the CSUB main soccer field.

was huge," Freeman said of the night. She and the five other seniors on the women's team were recognized before the game, but it was not only that night

Freeman looked back on. "This whole year the freshmen have been stepping up and I'm really proud of them. It's bittersweet to be leaving,

but I know I'm leaving this program in good hands with Sebastian Vecchio, our coach, and all these newcomers coming in," Freeman said.

Naomi Osaka chooses Japanese citizenship over U.S.

By Justin Edler-Davis
Sports Writer

Two-time Grand Slam champion Naomi Osaka announced that she will give up her U.S. citizenship to represent Japan as the country hosts the 2020 Summer Olympics, which will be her Olympic debut.

This comes after her 22nd birthday, which serves as a deadline for dual-nationality citizens in Japan.

According to the CBS News article by Sophie Lewis titled Tennis star Naomi Osaka giving up U.S. citizenship to play for Japan in 2020 Tokyo Olympics, Osaka was born in Japan to a Japanese mother and Haitian father, but has lived in the United States since the age of three.

According to the Japan Times article written by Cory Baird and Sakura Murakami titled What does Japan's Nationality Act

really mean for its dual citizens?, the country's fuzzy law and "don't ask, don't tell attitude" leads some to question if she needed to give up her U.S. citizenship.

"While Japan's Nationality Act nominally forbids citizens from having more than one nationality, the 'choice' facing those with multiple nationalities is less clear-cut than many believe," the article says.

The article also states that if someone does not choose which citizenship to use, it is the equivalent of a breach of contract more than someone breaking the law.

The article quotes Yasuhiro Okuda, a law professor at Chuo University in Japan, about the lack of enforcement of the dual nationality law from the Justice Ministry in Japan.

"For athletes like Naomi Osaka, the newspapers write under the impression

that she must choose a nationality, but many people do not know that [the Justice Ministry] has never warned people [for not declaring one nationality]," Okuda said.

Since Osaka has chosen Japanese citizenship, her next step is to either provide proof that she has forfeited her non-Japanese nationality or to turn in a form to a local municipal office declaring her Japanese nationality, but there is no requirement to do so, meaning she can declare her nationality without legally giving up her U.S. citizenship. It is simply a formality.

With that, Osaka tells Japanese broadcaster NHK that it was a "special desire" of hers to choose Japanese citizenship.

"I think there's no other place that I'd rather play my first Olympics. I think that will be one of the most memorable things that ever

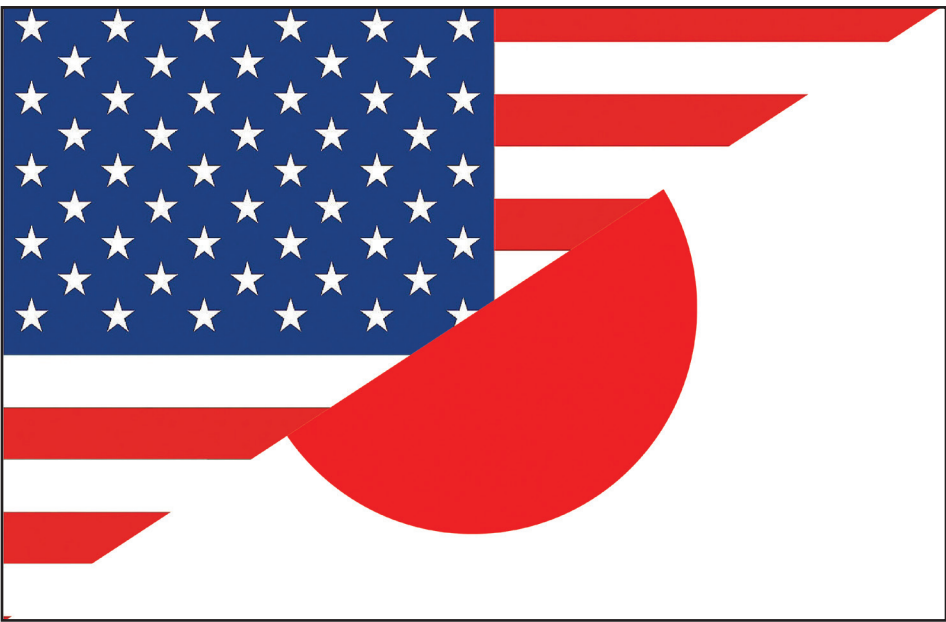


Illustration by Alex Torres/The Runner

happens to me," Osaka said.

A rising star who has climbed the ranks rapidly currently third in the WTA rankings after turning pro at the age of 16, Osaka won her first Grand Slam title at the 2018 U.S. Open beating Serena Williams, who is known as one of

the greatest tennis players of all time and is currently ranked ninth in the world.

She became the first Japanese player to ever win a Grand Slam singles championship. Her second title came at the 2019 Australian Open when she defeated Petra Kvitová, who is currently ranked

sixth in the world. Japan has never won a gold medal in tennis at the Summer Olympics and with Osaka's decision there is optimism that their fate will change.

The Summer Olympics will take place from July 24 to Aug. 9, 2020.

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