



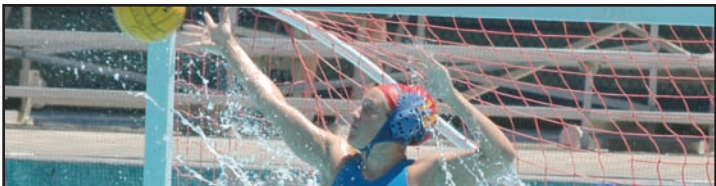
Photo courtesy of myrtlebeachalternatives.com

Lifehouse talked about their tour with Daughtry. See interview on Page 3.



Photo courtesy of dailycal.org

Is California getting a high speed railway system? See story on Page 4.



Mark Nessia/The Runner

Women's Water Polo hosted the WWPA tournament at the Hillman Aquatics Center. See more on Page 6.

May 5, 2010

THE RUNNER

California State University, Bakersfield

Vol. 35, No. 21

www.csub.edu/runner

FREE One copy per person of each edition is free. Additional copies 50 cents each.

Being the voice of the students

By Stephanie Chavez
Staff Writer
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When students want a change on campus who do we look to to make the change?

When students need a break from studying and want a little fun who's planning the events?

When students have something to say who do we look to voice our opinion?

The answer to those questions is simple, we look to our Associated Students, Inc. to get the job done.

It is their job to make sure our demands as students are being met. And as the school year is wrapping up, the time comes to vote for new ASI officers.

There are many students who have stepped up and would like the privilege to be the voice for their fellow students for the next academic year. As the application period for ASI is now closed, there are nine students who feel they are the right person for the job.

The 2010 candidates are as follows: for President: Chad Ott and Stephen Muchinyi.

For executive vice president: Zandre Asogue, Alisha Flores, and Ahmad Rafah. For VP of External Affairs: Michael Pawloski and Jesus Perez. For VP of Finance: Erika Madrigal. For VP of Programming: Nancy Solis. For Natural Science & Mathematics: Gurjit Gill and Navdeep Kaur. For Upper Division Director: Ail Kumar, Toni Staib, Eduardo Vargas. Humanities & Social Science: Lauren Goodsi and Evabelen Ventura. Business & Public Administration Director: Juan Soto. Director of General Studies: Michael Magana. And for Lower Division Director: Saul Lewis.

With so many positions and so many candidates how can we make sure to vote for the right one? Can we trust what a poster says or judge by how many they have posted? Do we vote for someone with experience or maybe try someone new? There are so many important decisions students must make when voting. Criminal Justice major and candidate Perez is hoping students remember his campaign slogan "experience you can trust" when voting.

[See ASI, Page 4]



Stephanie Chavez/The Runner

From left to right: Jesus Perez, Evabelen Ventura, Erika Madrigal, Zandre Azogue, Ahmad Rafah and Stephen Muchinyi.

Straight from the Horace's mouth

Photo and Story By
Derek Bato
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been caused entirely by the reduction in state support of the university," said Mitchell, being sure to

in turn affects the number of students who are able to receive them. Mitchell said there are some benefits to emerge from the switch as well.

"(The transition to D-I) improves the quality of the student experience for the athletics department to face more established teams," said Mitchell.

Facing better teams is meant to get more students interested in

enrolling at the university. Mitchell said, "This year we have our highest enrollment ever."

That is countered by the [See PRESIDENT, Page 5]



We recently sat down with the university president to talk about various issues concerning our campus head on, on the cool Tuesday morning of April 27.

Many students have speculated that if it was not for the transition to Division I our university would be better off, budget-wise. Could this change have

contributed or even caused our financial troubles?

University President Dr. Horace Mitchell said, "(that is) not true."

"The budget situation has

emphasize the word: "entirely."

Mitchell went on to explain that the raising student fees have increased the cost of athletic scholarships, which

Who's to blame for violent video games?

By Ashton Summers
Staff Writer
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Are violent video games really a big deal?

The State of California thinks so.

The video game industry has been fighting California's attempts to ban the sale or rental of violent video games to minors.

"California's law, written by state Sen. Leland Yee (D-San Francisco) and signed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, never took affect after it was passed in 2005. It was immediately challenged and overturned by the U.S. District Court and later the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals," wrote Variety's editing manager Ted Johnson in the recent April 26 issue of Variety.

The law that was passed in 2005 requires that violent games be labeled "18" along with the prohibition for retailers to sell or rent these games to minors or otherwise face a \$1,000 fine for each offense.

Current state Attorney General Jerry Brown — who is running on the democratic ticket



Photo courtesy of ps3maven.com

"God of War" is considered a violent game. It has rating of M for Mature.

for Governor of California in 2010 has co-authored a 15-page petition dated May 18, 2009 with current Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

The petition challenges the decision made by the Ninth Circuit Court.

Naturally, the video game industry wants to see the same protections as the film, music and book industry under the First Amendment.

"The law has never taken effect because of [See GAMES, Page X]

Layoffs to come: No more furloughs in the fall

By Ian Nemeschy
Assistant Editor
yoda4pres@aol.com

The upcoming school year looks grim for the staff and faculty of California State University Bakersfield, and, therefore, also for students.

According to CSUB President, Horace Mitchell, CSUB is currently under funded by \$6.4 million, with a net operating budget of \$67.1 million and operating cost, including salaries and maintenance, of \$73.5 million.

"Unfortunately, there's been no decisions on furloughs," said Mitchell of the fall quarter.

"The only way we can have furloughs is if the unions vote to have furloughs as an alternative to layoffs," said Mitchell, who has taken a ten percent pay reduction. "Without furloughs, layoffs are necessary."

Mitchell said that "no departments are being eliminated," but added, "there will be an emphasis on facilitating graduation," which could mean that courses with low student enrollment, or those that

don't assist the majority of graduating students, could be dropped.

Bruce Hartsell, president of the CSUB Chapter of the California Faculty Association, said: "For the faculty to have furloughs would require collective bargaining between the California Faculty Association and the administrations of the CSU. Neither party has introduced furloughs as a bargaining issue at this time, and I don't expect that either party will. Layoffs, however, are likely."

"It is reasonable to predict that about 10 percent more full-time-

equivalent faculty will be cut, since the administration is assuming that there will be no furloughs, which are supposed to save about 10 percent. But no one knows how many layoffs there will be until all of the budget issues are settled - and that could take many months," said Hartsell.

"In the fall of 2006, 484 faculty members had teaching jobs at CSUB. In the fall of 2009, 369 faculty members had teaching jobs at CSUB, despite an increase of enrollment from 7,711 to 8,003 across the same years," said

Hartsell.

Those faculty members were contracted, and their contracts were not renewed. They were not technically "laid off."

Hartsell said that lecturers are most likely to be laid off, with tenure-track faculty members being the second most likely, and tenured professors being the least likely, but did not know which departments were likely to most effected.

"As a result of CFA efforts, the governor has, for the first time in [See LAYOFFS, Page 4]

RUNNER ON THE STREET

By Lauren Ogle, Photo Editor, and Breanna Cooper, Staff Writer

This week, The Runner asked, "What traits make a good ASI candidate?"



Herlinda Alcala
Junior, Kinesiology

"Someone who is reliable and responsible and does not only talk about what they are suppose to do."



Kayln Valentine,
Freshman

"They have to be responsible and they also have to be very aware of the issues that are going on on-campus."



Tyree Boyd-pates
Junior

"Someone who is trustworthy and first priority is others, and someone who is extremely selfless in their endeavors. "



Alvaro Garcia
Senior, Sociology

"Someone who is honest and cares about the CSUB students."

THE RUNNER

Volume XXXV, Issue 21

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The Green Gazer on violent video games



Regulating children and digital violence

By Kat Haas
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The Supreme Court has agreed to hear California's argument that video games depicting violence toward people should not be constitutionally protected. The court will review a Federal Appeals court decision that struck down a state law to ban the sale of violent video games to minors. An overturn in the court's current standing would allow states the right to ban violent video games if they so choose.

Many people think that violent video games have a direct negative effect on youth aggression.

It seems hard to believe that video games are what make a high school and college student go and slaughter their classmates. If anything, shouldn't the mental stability of the student be taken into consideration: the quality of their home and their school life.

From the mailman shooting up the post office to a displeased customer flying a plane into a company's building, unhappy and unstable people



Photo courtesy of blog.mediafreaks.com

Gunning down cops in the hit game Grand Theft Auto 4.

ple have been committing acts of violence for longer than just a few decades.

A high school student, although young, is no different.

There may be a link between violent games and violent people but

the link does not appear to be that violent video games make people violent but that persons prone to violence enjoy violent games.

A possible unforeseen consequence of banning such games for adults who are prone to violence might be

the elimination of an outlet for these players' aggression. Many, without an outlet, may become pent-up, their aggression releasing itself in a violent way in the real world with some real consequences. Regulation might only add to the problem of violence throughout the U.S.

Now parents will always protect their children if they feel they must but the need to regulate video games by law seems a little extreme for this matter. If a parent is seeing negative effects of violent gaming on their child and truly wants to protect their child, isn't the most sensible choice they could make to remove the game from their child's possession.

Our government is already overburdened by a thousand different issues, at some point responsibility for our lives must be taken. Parents, not the state, play the most vital role in a child's life. If a parent cannot take the time to find out what kind of a game their child is playing or if behavioral problems are developing because of the game, maybe the problem is not the game, but the parent.

CSU Bakersfield PRSSA welcomes 2010, 2011 executive board

The California State University, Bakersfield Chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) announced the results of its 2010 executive board elections. The 2010-2011 CSUB PRSSA officers are:

President – Eddie Gonzalez
Vice President – Janea Everrett
Associate VP, Social Media – Racella De Guia
Public Relations Director – Michelle Lujan
President's Liaison to Antelope Valley – Kevin Kramer
Secretary – Jessica McGoldrick
Historian - Blanca Martinez

The Chapter's first election exceeded its expectations. Seventy-five percent of the Chapter's membership voted by either paper ballot or e-mail.

The position of Treasurer is still available. Chapter members interested in this position are asked to contact Becky Reese at their earliest convenience.

"I could not be more pleased with the results of our Chapter's first election," says Chapter President Becky Reese. "It will be emotional for me to step down in June, but I take comfort from knowing our new executive board is more than capable to lead the Chapter."

CSUB PRSSA is dedicated to meeting the goals and initiatives set forward by the Society by committing to cultivating and building a strong membership of young men and women.

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Opinion



Welcome to the Runner Online

Lifeshouse: Life on the road

By Olivia Duncan
Entertainment Editor
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The very successful band, Lifeshouse, is back on the road again and this time with former American Idol contestant, Chris Daughtry. They continued their nationwide tour with a stop at Rabobank Arena on May 4. The band, Cavo, also joined the stage as an opening act for these two rock powerhouses.

In a recent phone interview with Bryce Soderberg, bassist for Lifeshouse, he answered a variety of questions with quite a response.

Q: What is life on the road like?
A: It's great right now. We are on the road with Daughtry, we have known them for a couple years and the comradery is great. It's almost like we are in summer camp, we have barbecues and it's just a lot of fun. Right now we have a few off days in San Diego, so we get to go to our homes in Los Angeles and have a few days rest.

Q: Chris Daughtry described Lifeshouse as "one of the best bands we have toured with," how would you describe what it is like touring with Chris Daughtry and his band?
A: That is a great compliment coming from such an entertainer. He has a natural talent, a great band, and we have a lot of fun. There is a lot of mutual respect between the bands and actually on this tour Jason and Chris get to sing a song together, which makes for a great show.

Q: The band has had great success for about 10 years now, what is the secret?
A: We always tell younger bands that the key secret to success is being close friends with the people you tour with. We all get along really well and know what pushes each other buttons and how to work together. It makes for longevity.

Q: Your current single "Halfway Gone" is 27th on the charts, what is it like having a single in the Top 40?
A: It's an awesome feeling. We put this record out feel-

ing as though we had made a record that we liked ourselves and at the same time wanted other people to enjoy it as well.

Q: How has the band evolved from the first CD until now?
A: We just didn't want to recreate the same record over and over. We wanted to progress with the band and get better everyday. Our live shows are our main focus right now since we are on tour. We are really proud of how much better we have gotten, both in the studio and on tour.

Q: What was going through your mind when you heard your first song on the radio?
A: We were driving in a van and we literally almost crashed. Obviously hearing yourself on the radio is an ego booster.

Q: Prior to joining Lifeshouse, what were you doing?
A: I have always been connected and playing with a bunch of different bands. One of my first jobs was as an online pharmaceuticals rep and one drug they were selling was Viagra, so I always joke with people and say I was a Viagra peddler.

Q: When did you realize you had reached stardom?
A: We never think of it as stardom, we keep ourselves in check and always try to reach a higher goal. We just try to raise the bar as we go along, but the fans definitely help.

Q: Who are some of your musical inspirations?
A: I have always been into classic rock legends such as; Led Zeppelin, The Who, and The Beatles. I am also big on the Seattle scene with bands like Nirvana and Smashing Pumpkins. Right now the band is listening to a lot of Top 40, Tom Petty, and Bruce Springsteen.

Q: What is the craziest thing you have ever received from a fan?
A: Actually a fan once adopted Jason a three-toed sloth in his name. As for me, one time a fan had me sign an inhaler, which I thought was weird.

Students share opinion on the violence of video games

[Games, from Page 1]
lower court rulings. But a decision from the high court that sides with California could impact a major source of revenue for the industry, since many of the titles targeted by the law are among its biggest sellers," wrote Chris Morris in the April 27, 2010 issue of Variety.

Page two of Brown's petition refers to the California Civil Code sections 1746-1746.5. It defines a violent video game as something that depicts "killing, maiming, dismembering, or sexually assaulting an image of a human being in a way that is patently offensive and lacks literary, artistic, political or scientific value for a minor."

Brown's petition states on page six that: The Ginsberg Standard should apply to extremely violent material that is sold to minors, just as it does to sexual material.

GINSBERG v. NEW YORK, 390 U.S. 629 (1968) was issued after an operator of a convenience store was convicted of selling pornography to a 16-year-old boy.

Brown's petition would not prohibit a minor's parent or guardian from purchasing or renting the violent games.

A GameStop employee whose name cannot be mentioned due to corporate policy said that the law would really make no difference in their business, because the current industry regulations already prevent minors from purchasing violent games.

Many students at CSUB had similar opinions on the issue.

"There is a reason why the industries try to police themselves so that government doesn't police them. That's why they make these rules such as the rating system," said Kevin Ketipuan.

"In general, I think we should just keep boundaries, like where the system is at right now," said Danny Tsai.



Photo courtesy of wordpress.com

Grand Theft Auto features nudity and violence.

Many students felt that the current industry rating system of E for Everyone, T for Teen 13+, and M for Mature 17+, worked just fine and that the decision should come from the parents.

"Even when I was 14, my mom still bought me 'Grand Theft Auto,' it's the same thing," said Richard Matthews.

Grand Theft Auto has an M rating.

"The rating is out there so no one can really complain," said Sociology Major and avid gamer Leila Miss.

Miss plays Role Playing Games (RPG) and fighting games like Mortal Kombat and she does not feel that they have made her a violent person at all. Miss felt strongly that parents should be the ones looking out for their children, not the State.

"They blame it on Marilyn and the heroine and where are the parents at," said Miss as she quoted lyrics from Eminem.

"If your kid can't see the difference between a video game and real life, you have more issues than a video game," said Alonzo Aguirre, senior in mathe-

matics.

"If the parents don't want to protect their children, then that's the real problem," said Miss.

"If you know your kid's are going to act on it, then don't let them play it," said Justin Brownlow.

Professors of Psychology and Communications at both CSUB and UCLA were contacted about the current petition, and whether or not violent games have a direct effect on minors.

Many of them felt that they did not have sufficient knowledge to talk about the issue, or did not respond.

The petition left some scratching their heads and wondering, "What's the point?"

"It's pretty much stupid. It's a video game," said Aguirre

"What's more important, child hunger or poverty? I mean please, video games?"

For more information, the link to Brown's petition is:
http://ag.ca.gov/cms_attachments/press/pdfs/n1906_brown_petition.pdf

A 'Date' you'll never forget

By Ashley Sizemore
Editor-in-Chief
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Photo courtesy of blogspot.com



We see it all the time.

These couples meet, they go through the honeymoon stage and then once that's over they get boring. Let's face it...they can't all be Lily and Marshall from "How I Met Your Mother."

That's exactly what we see in Twentieth Century Fox's "Date Night" starring Steve Carrell (The Office, Evan Almighty) and Tina Fey (Baby Mama and Saturday Night Live).

"Date Night" centers on the married life of Phil and Claire Foster. He's in finance and she's



a real estate agent. They have two kids and once a week they get a babysitter and have date night. Date night has become so common that they let the spice slip from their relationship. Claire who wants to have that feeling again inspires her husband to shake things up where

they unethically take someone's reservation, which ultimately leads them into trouble.

The film offers loads of comedy including a scene where both Fey and Carrell have to pole dance for the District Attorney.

The obvious cliché jokes did make us laugh even though we knew they were coming.

Another bad thing to the movie was Ray Liotta.

Liotta has had some good roles in good movies in the past, but he was given a bad role in an adequate movie.

His face makeup was horrible and he totally overacted his part as the local gangster.

Overall, "Date Night" would make for a good date night.

I give the film two out of five stars.

Editors' current video games



**Ashley Sizemore,
Editor-in-Chief**

I'm not greatest at video games but I love me some Spyro.



**Melissa Villagomez,
Features**

Kingdom Hearts. "It's Disney and Final Fantasy combined."



**Mark Nessia,
Managing Editor**

Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2
"If I don't play, the terrorists win."



**Racella De Guia,
News**

NBA Live and Nazi Zombies
"Don't get me started"



**Lauren Ogle,
Photos**

Monsters vs. Aliens
"It's the only game I could ever finish."



**Olivia Duncan,
Entertainment**

Monkey Ball
"Because it's been my favorite since I was little."



**Manny Beltran,
Sports**

God of War 3
"I want to complete the trilogy and I heard the graphics are amazing."



**Derek Bato,
Web and Opinions**

Super Street Fighter IV
"Gotta train for the Anime Expo '10 arcade tournament this summer."

High-speed rail to provide fast recovery to economy

By Miguel A. Ceja
Staff Writer
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Student travel across the state is about to get a whole lot faster, at least in the near future.

A Federal grant of approximately \$2.5 billion toward the California Department of Transportation and the California High-Speed Rail Authority is set to begin the foundations for a high-speed rail system that will stretch from San Diego to San Francisco, and construction is expected to be well under way within the next few years.

On Jan. 28 of this year, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger issued a statement emphasizing the importance of the system for California, posted on cahighspeedrail.ca.gov.

“Thanks to our leading high-speed rail plan and the Obama Administration’s investment, we will be able to create jobs, stimulate our economy and be home to the first true high-speed rail system to break ground in the nation,” Schwarzenegger said.

According to the California High-Speed Rail Authority, construction of the system will create approximately 150,000 construction jobs and 450,000 permanent jobs as well as a higher appeal toward a greater number of users.

The project is even better news for future students across the state of California, who currently experience a long journey when



Photo courtesy of ethanolplug.com

An artist depiction of the proposed California high-speed rail.

they visit their hometowns. Currently, students resort to travel by car, bus or the current Amtrak system, but these forms will soon seem like tortoises to the hare, the hare being the high-speed rail system.

Jazmin Morales, a freshman at University of California, Los Angeles explained one of these long journeys.

When asked about her form of transportation home, the Delano resident said: “It usually takes three and a half to four hours. I really don’t particularly enjoy taking the Amtrak home because it takes a long time and the ride is usually cold and long and on

the brink of unbearable. Sometimes there are some really creepy people who take it also. But the fact remains, it’s the only way I can get home from Westwood and it’s pretty cheap.”

Many California students currently face tricky situations when having to travel, and a high-speed rail could increase the overall will for students to travel, due to a fast, efficient ride.

Rene Velazquez, a first-year UC Merced Student would jump at the chance to travel on the high-speed rail. The proposed Nuclear Engineering Major is “fascinated”

by the systems which currently exist in Japan and throughout the European Union. Velazquez explained that he currently plans his visits home a week in advance, and due to the banning of freshman parking on campus, and his limited funds, he prefers to get picked up by a family member to be taken home for a weekend.

“I typically wait two hours for them to show up, and it’s a two hour ride back home. I carpool with other students when I can, but it still takes a long time. I don’t mind it until Saturday comes and goes and I have to pack and be heading back by Sunday morning,” said Velazquez.

Future projections explain the train system to transport a traveler from Los Angeles to San Francisco in 2.5 hours, and although the system does have a “creepy people” guarantee, it does mean more family time for students as they travel back and forth from their hometowns to their current campus.

Bethany Mayorga, a first-year student at California State University, Bakersfield explained the plus side to this future system.

“With the crazy life styles of Californians, we needed something that can bring us from one place to the other in a short amount of time. The Amtrak is a good way to travel, but it’s not that much faster than driving a car. Yes you skip traffic, but things like this are needed. It is about time that society has brought this idea to us and we are going to have amazing results with happy travelers,” she said.

Layoffs could potentially replace furloughs in fall

[LAYOFFS, from Page 1]

recent California history acknowledged the importance of funding higher education, and has publicly promised to approve a state budget only if it includes increased funding for higher education,” said Hartsell.

Of CSU students’ efforts to raise government awareness, Hartsell said, “Their participation in the March fourth rallies across the state is one example of how students can continue to make funding for CSUB a priority with our legislators.”

CSU staff are also affected by the CSU budget crisis, according to Ray Finnell, president of the CSUB chapter of the CSU Employees Union, which represents roughly 16,000 employees statewide, and 300 at CSUB, working in positions such as custodial, health, administrative and technical support.

About 300 CSU staff members have received layoff notices, and five temporary employees at CSUB will lose their positions this May.

“Some of us believe the layoffs being implemented now are pre-emptory and based on assumptions that the budget next year will be worse than this year,” said Finnell.

Most CSUEU members voted for two furlough days per month, resulting in a 10 percent pay reduction.

“The layoffs we’re seeing now are just a drop in the bucket compared to what we would have suffered had we rejected furloughs,” said Finnell.

Local CSUEU members have proposed a voluntary work time reduction program to the administration to save funds, and hopefully jobs.

Finnell said, “Gov. Schwarzenegger proposed restoration of \$305 million in state funding to the CSU in his January budget.”

The proposal’s success depends on a May 14 revision, which depends on budget projections and politics. Much could still happen after the “May revise,” in Sacramento, to eliminate proposed funding, as happened two years ago.

“Thus far, the chancellor’s office is apparently modeling the 2010-2011 budget as if no funding will be restored from state sources. They have also indicated they will not be offering furloughs as a means of dealing with budget shortfalls” said Finnell. “They could do an about-face and offer furloughs again, depending on how the

experts gauge the budget to be developing.”

Of the budget situation, which involves best guessing and 11th hour changes, Finnell said: “This affects everyone in the system, but most of all, the students. The best advice I can give is for everyone to contact their representatives in the legislature ... Tell the decision-makers that California’s economic, intellectual, and cultural future is in higher education and that to keep paying off, adequate investments must be made now and continued in perpetuity.”

Tenured English professor Andrew Troup voted for furloughs, and said “I think they’re a good idea. I support furloughs, if they can prevent layoffs.”

“A furlough is a lot better than a pay reduction. We maintain our salary level,” said Troup, explaining that after furloughs end, faculty salaries will return to their pre budget crisis level, with pay reductions that might not happen.

Troup said his vote was atypical for tenured faculty, because they are the least likely to be laid off, adding, “Tenured faculty can be laid off, but the situation would have to be dire for that. I’d

hate to see some one get booted. We would have to do extra work.”

Troup did add though, that many faculty members’ workloads have increased, because enrollment also has, but course offerings have

not.

Educational professor Augustine Garcia did not vote for furloughs.

“I do not believe that our students should receive less than our full attention. In my opinion, faculty furloughs

are not reasonable, due to the nature of our work, rather, they are just an excuse to cut our pay and that of our staff,” said Garcia. “Our graduate program and others in the school of education are dying due to the hiring freeze.”

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ASI elections just around the corner

[ASI, from Page 1]

Many candidates are running for re-election but we do have some new students ready to make a difference.

Freshman Saul Lewis said, “I know I’m the right person for the positions as the voice for undergraduates.”

To be eligible for an ASI position students must have at least a 2.5 GPA, be available to work two hours in the ASI office, and set time aside to make weekly Friday meetings and sub-committee meetings.

Dedication is key to be in ASI.

“I have the experience needed for ASI. I am an advocate for the students. I have lobbied for students rights in Sacramento,” said Perez.

“I find students needs and from that I learn how I can become a better director,” said Ventura.

“I am here to bring a better ASI that truly represents its students not just through programming and funding, but also through advocacy. I am here to make sure that ASI strives to accomplish its mission statement and represent the students’ voice in every aspect of CSUB,” said

Azogue.

Some of the candidates could not make a brief statement due to prior engagements.

Elections will be held on Tuesday, May 11, through Thursday, May 15.

Students are asked to watch for their preferred email they have listed on MyCSUB to receive updated notices on elections.

This year voting is just an easy click away. Don’t forget to vote for the decision for a better CSUB is in our hands.

Documenting history ‘from the ground up’

By Mark Nessia
Managing Editor
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When Julian Wilson attended California State University, Bakersfield, he could stand in the middle of the campus, look south and see all the way to the Grapevine. There was nothing blocking his line of sight – no Edwards Cinemas; nothing.

In addition to that, there was no history – something that bothered Wilson the most.

“When I came to school here, there was no history of the school to look at,” said Wilson, who earned his bachelor’s degree in fine art in 1991.

From that point on, Wilson took it upon himself to return and document the history of his alma mater. His first video was on the history of the school, going all the way back to when President Ronald Regan did the groundbreaking on April 11, 1969. That was in 2006, during the first Celebrate CSUB.

From there, Wilson would go on to follow CSUB’s transition to Division I in “The First Season,” following the ups and downs of the men’s and women’s basketball teams during their first year as a Division I program.

“The president of the university was 100 percent for it,” Wilson said. “He immediately saw the vision once I presented it to him of what this could mean down the road for the university historically.”

But the biggest concern regarding the project was the expense.

“That’s understandable because it’s like that with everything we do,” Wilson said. “I removed that expense by doing it as a donation.”

Using his own money to fund the project, Wilson traveled with the men’s and women’s basketball teams, regardless of where they were playing. He felt that the school, students and community should not be deprived of a piece of history that can “withstand the test of time – something that people will always be inspired by.”

“Those are the types of stories that I like to do,” Wilson said.

Wilson’s latest project provides him yet another chance to document CSUB history. But this time, he will be there from the very beginning.

Wilson is documenting the start of the CSUB baseball team, from the inaugural season to when the team becomes tournament eligible in 2011. He recently finished the documentary on the inaugural season titled “From the Ground Up.”

“The primary inspiration for this was this was not only a brand-new team here on campus, but this was a brand-new team in collegiate athletics,” Wilson said. “Normally, when a team starts out, they don’t always start at Division I – they’ll start at Division II, Division III, and work their way up.

“With all these guys being brand-new, it’s going to be interesting to see how they handle it. They didn’t know each other, they’re coming from all different parts of the country just meeting each other for the first time, and one of the biggest things about baseball is how long a team plays together – that’s what makes them good.”

The players and coaches on the team were all for the idea.

“I think it’s awesome because it’s going to be something we’re going to remember forever and this program is going to want to remember as the beginning,” said senior

pitcher Erik Draxton, who pitched the program’s first win. “You always want to remember where you start and what you built off of.”

Draxton said the main reason he came to play for CSUB was the opportunity to be the first to accomplish something in school history. He said accomplishments are always going to be there, but to be able to say you’re the first one to do it is something special.

With Wilson’s documentary, there will be visual proof of such accomplishments.

However, Wilson said there was a “significant difference” between the two athletic documentaries.

With men’s and women’s basketball, there was already history established. With baseball, there is no history.

“Whatever those guys did last year, that’s the history of the baseball program at CSUB,” Wilson said. “That was my primary motivation for this baseball team: capture this history now.”

And history was captured within Wilson’s documentary. From the ribbon cutting at Hardt Field during the inaugural game, to winning the series against defending national champion Fresno State, to defeating the University of Nebraska on national television, “From the Ground Up” captured what fans may not have had the opportunity to witness.

“There was a lot of stuff that went into it that we didn’t see go into it,” said senior shortstop Kyle Richardson, who hit the first-ever home run at Hardt Field. “To see all the other stuff that he went out of his way to do was really interesting.”

Richardson said he has never been a part of something that was the first ever. He said this was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and something he will cherish forever.

But the process has not been easy for Wilson.

He spent the majority of his time by himself, frequenting various hotels and airports. Although he was always alone, he said he never felt alone.

When Wilson would break down video, it was like he was still with the team. When he listened to the interviews, it was as if the players were talking to him.

“I was always left with my thought, my motivation and what I thought I wanted to do to support this particular team – these guys

and these coaches,” Wilson said. “That was on my mind all the time.”

Wilson has also set aside other projects in order to do the documentary. Wilson’s company, Nu Dawn Productions, currently has two full-length feature film scripts that are sit-

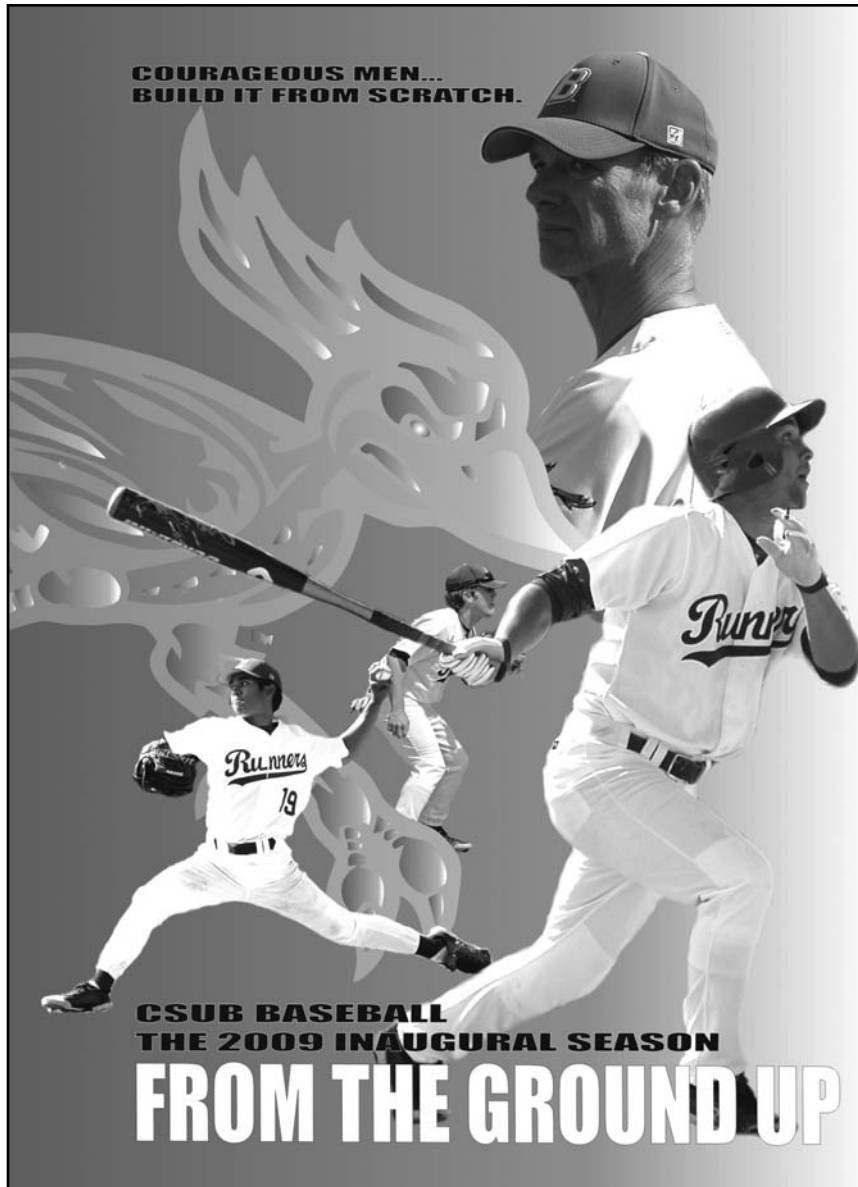


Photo courtesy of Julian Wilson

The cover of Julian Wilson’s Documentary “From the Ground Up.”

ting on hold until the baseball team concludes its 2011 season – its first season of postseason eligibility.

One of the projects is a science fiction film. It is a picture of what the future could possibly be like if civilization continues to go in the same direction it is currently going in. But Wilson stresses it is not a “shoot ‘em up.”

“I’m really looking forward to doing that because there’s been a lot of stuff out there with those types of stories, but it’s nothing like I’m envisioning,” Wilson said. “I know that when I put it out, people are going to look at it and say, ‘I never thought of that.’ I’m really excited about that, but it’s on hold until [the documentary is finished].”

Wilson said there were several occasions where he was overwhelmed, but not once did he consider “throwing in the towel.” He did not want to let the student-athletes down.

“When I started doing what I was doing for them, I immediately put myself in their shoes,” he said. “I wore their shoes throughout the entire project.

“In other words, I was always them, so there was no way that I’m going to pull this camera away and do that to myself. There was no way I was going to do that to myself, so I’m not going to do it to them.”

Wilson said the reason he was able to go through with the documentary was because he would see how hard the coaches and student-athletes worked. He thought to himself, “How can I not take the time to capture what they do for everybody else?”

“The time, the sacrifice is well worth it,”

Wilson said. “I really want these projects to stand as an example to the other students that you don’t have to be limited in what you want to do.

“There’s always a way for you to do those things that you aspire to do. There’s a way to get it done if you genuinely, truly in your heart want to get it done. You can do anything you want to do.”

Through the process of documenting history, Wilson has developed very close relationships with the players and coaches.

“I love Julian,” sophomore catcher Jeremy Rodriguez said. “He’s a guy that everyone on the team loves to have around. He brings a special vibe to the team.”

Richardson said the team feels comfortable around Wilson and that they have become good friends with him.

Wilson gave copies of “From the Ground Up” to the players and coaches after he completed it. The documentary was well-received.

“I liked it,” said assistant coach Jody Robinson on behalf of head coach Bill Kernen. “It’s not done because he’s hoping to keep it going for this year and the next year when we’re NCAA eligible. Hopefully we play well enough and [are] able to get into the tournament.”

Kernen was out recruiting and could not be reached for comment.

Rodriguez said the documentary is something he can show his kids 20 years from now as proof that he was part of history. Draxton said the documentary is going to make the community grow.

“As I’ve heard, Bakersfield is a big baseball community and they build off baseball,” Draxton said. “I feel like starting this program is going to open up what this school does at the D-I level in a bigger emphasis, as in playing on the national level. I don’t think the school’s really had something to push them in that direction.”

This was what Wilson envisioned when he took on the project.

As an alumnus, he felt that what makes the university strong are the students that come back to help the university grow and prosper in a direction that it is trying to grow. He said that it would be easier to donate a certain amount of money every year or volunteer during a campus event – acknowledging that such things are needed year-round – but he felt there was more he could do; he knew there was more he could do.

“I wanted to make sure that if I did come back to do something, that it was the best thing that I could do,” Wilson said.

Because Wilson’s documentary was a donation to the school, it is up to the university to decide what to do with it.

“I hope they sell [“The First Season and “From the Ground Up”] in a package, because they’re both history of the school – just put it for sale,” Wilson said. “It’ll sell forever because you’re always going to have a new group of people that come to the school.”

Through his donations to the school, Wilson tried to pass a message on the current student body:

“When you graduate, just give it some consideration to, when you come back, see if there’s anything that you can do to help, remembering that you were once a student and there was an alum that came back that probably did something to help you get through your education.”

President discusses pressing issues facing CSUB

[PRESIDENT, from Page 1]

statement that “next year we are mandated by the state budget to reduce enrollment by 6 percent,” said Mitchell.

When will this all balance out? When will we see all the benefits from switching to Division I?

Mitchell said: “We need to get into our conference. Preferably Big West. By being in a conference we would reduce travel costs and reduce the time students have to take away from class. The university reclassification process, to Division I, will end on June 30, until then the school is not eligible to receive funding from the NCAA.”

The next big topic we discussed with Mitchell was the potential upcoming switch to the semester system – focusing on cost.

Mitchell said that there are two big costs

to be considered. The first being the conversion of the Peoplesoft system, the computer system used to manage things like classes and schedules on a server. The other major cost being the time the faculty will have to spend to redesign their courses, involving substitutes to teach some courses while the others restructure.

Could this switch effect enrollment negatively? How long until it pays off?

Mitchell said: “Historically when switching either way (quarter-semester) there is a reduction in enrollment.

“Now would be the right time to do so since we’re required to reduce enrollment already. No decision has been made either way.

“Once the decision has been made, it will take two years to fully implement. So many other things are going on right now, maybe

we should delay this particular action.”

Rumors of a communications building, parking lot, and radio/tv station should be shut down right now. Mitchell said of those rumors, “there are no plans for any of those things just mentioned.”

“There are definite plans for student housing,” said Mitchell.

As the budget situation got worse, it made the university unable to continue with plans to fix up some new dorms for the students. There has been no official decision yet, but as for when we might see new dorms, Mitchell said, “theoretically, two years. Fall, 2012 would be reasonable. No guarantees.”

Where does our university president stand on the most controversial item on the state’s upcoming November ballot?

In regards to legalizing marijuana use to

people over the age of 21, Mitchell said, “I would be in opposition to it. I don’t see the social benefits. The positives would not outweigh the negatives.”

Despite our varying beliefs on right, wrong, who should get what and who should get cut, Mitchell would like the students to know: “We are in a very uncertain time in terms of the state’s condition. Right now the CSU system is putting up the money for all the paychecks for the staff for the next two months. The plan is that the state will reimburse us without interest when additional revenue comes in. If this goes on, individual campuses will have to cover payroll and dip into reserves.”

Summing up our troubles, Mitchell said, “we are trying to have stability in our campus at a time of state financial crisis for a time undetermined.”

Women’s water polo places third in WWPA tournament



Mark Nessia/ The Runner

Above: Kaitlin Torres takes a shot against Colorado St.
Below: Megan Pezzolla attempts to block a shot against Santa Clara



By Manny Beltran
Sports Editor
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This year the Western Water Polo Association tournament was held at CSUB with the Roadrunners looking to make some noise in the tournament.

The No. 4-seeded CSUB women’s water polo team started the first round of the tournament with an 8-4 victory against the No. 5-seeded Santa Clara Broncos.

Freshman goalie Megan Pezzolla came through for the ’Runners in a big way blocking 14 shots while allow just four goals. Pezzolla earned a spot on the WWPA Honorable Mention list as well as the WWPA All-Freshman team.

With Pezzolla limiting Santa Clara’s offense the ’Runners went on the attack.

Second Team All-WWPA member Kaitlin Torres had a hat trick and fellow WWPA All-Freshman Team member Jessica Browning pitched in with two goals.

In their second round match up against No. 1-seeded Loyola Marymount the ’Runners were unable to stop LMU’s offense as they lost 18-5.

LMU took an early 4-0 lead in the first quarter of the match but the ’Runners responded with three goals from First Team All-WWPA member senior Alyson Moss in second quarter to bring the ’Runners within two points at 3-5.

Moss was named to the All-Tournament first team, while Torres earned second-team honors.

Unfortunately, in the second half of the match, the ’Runners were unable to handle the constant offensive pressure as LMU put up seven more goals in the third while Moss added one more goal to her total.

Senior driver Brittany Berry added a goal in the fourth but by that time the game was out of reach.

In their final game of the season the ’Runners battled Colorado State for third place in the tournament.

For Berry, besides the game being the last of her water polo career, it was special because her younger sister Kallie Berry –Second Team All-WWPA member – plays for Colorado State.

Head coach Jason Gall knew heading into the match that it would be a hard-fought game.

“We know it was going to be a tough game. [Colorado] was playing really well this weekend,” said Gall.

In the first half, the Berry sisters scored two goals each for their respective teams and the close match was all knotted up at four heading into half-time.

In the third quarter, the ’Runners were able to regain the lead with the help of goals from Torres, Browning and senior Becky Seelos.

With the score 7-5 heading into the final quarter, the stage was set for a tight, dramatic finish.

Colorado State’s Aspen Rapp scored a goal to bring the score to 7-6 and with just 49 seconds left in the game. Kallie scored to tie the game.

Now it was the ’Runners’ turn to respond and it came with four seconds remaining as Torres was able to get a shot past Colorado’s goalie to put the ’Runners up for good.

“It was a good way to put away the season. We wanted to win it for the seniors since it was their last game,” said Torres.

Now that Brittany’s collegiate water polo career is done she has another accomplishment to add to her list, even if it is just sibling bragging rights.

“I’m so excited because I got to beat my sister. I’ve only had the opportunity to play her twice so winning in our last game was exciting.”

“We really accomplished a lot this year. I’m really proud of our girls.”
– Head coach
Jason Gall

Male Athlete of the Week



Courtesy of Sports Information

Freshman Dayshan Ragans won both events he competed in helping lead the ’Runners to a nine-victory performance at the Fresno State Dual May 1. Ragans recorded season-highs in the discus (167-10) and the shot put (50-09.25) to end his first collegiate season. The ’Runners will be eligible for NCAA Division I Championship qualification marks next season.

Female Athlete of the Week



Courtesy of Sports Information

Sophomore driver Kaitlin Torres scored five goals in the WWPA Championship Tournament including the game winning goal in the final seconds of the game against Colorado St. for third place in the tournament. Torres finished the season with 69 goals and averaged 2.03 goals a game. Torres was named to the All-WWPA Second Team and helped the women’s water polo team to a 16-19 overall record and 8-3 in the WWPA.

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Are you an analytical, organized, self-motivated, computer-literate graduate or soon-to-be graduate?

Administrative Services Coordinator I/II

- Interested in a multi-faceted position that includes budgeting, financial analysis and a wide range of administrative functions?
- Looking for a professional position that can lead toward a great career?
- Interested in a competitive salary and excellent benefits?
- Find out what the Kern County Water Agency has to offer.
- Bachelor’s degree and one (1) year of experience in administrative and/ or budgetary analysis or accounting in an office setting required. Completion of three (3) Public or Business Administration Master’s level courses with a grade of C or better may be substituted for experience.

To obtain more information on this career opportunity, contact the CSUB Center for Community Engagement and Career Education by 5:00 PM on May 12, 2010 or contact Christina Wagstaffe at 634-1474.



Kern County Water Agency

Upcoming Home Games

Women’s Softball

Sat, May 8 vs. Saint Mary’s College @ 12 & 2 p.m.
Sun, May 9 vs. Saint Mary’s College @ 12 & 2 p.m.

Men’s Baseball

Fri, May 14 vs. Pacific @ 3 p.m.
Sat, May 15 vs. Pacific @ 1 p.m.
Sun, May 16 vs. Pacific @ 1 p.m.

Men’s Soccer

Sat, May 8 vs. Cal State L.A. @ 7 p.m.