



THE

# RUNNER



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY BAKERSFIELD

Vol. 33, No. 6

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October 24, 2007

## CSUB says farewell to Mike Stepanovich

By Erica Juarez  
Staff Writer

Mike Stepanovich, director of Public Relations, has decided to depart and see what Bakersfield College has to offer him. He spent 11 years at CSUB.

Colleagues and friends gave Stepanovich a going-away party at the Doré Theater on campus Wednesday, Oct. 17. He was joined by his wife Carol Stepanovich.

Stepanovich is originally from Paso Robles, Ca. He received his Bachelor's Degree in English and minored in History at the Sacramento State University. He was originally an Engineering major, but decided he and calculus did not get along.

"I flipped a coin and it came up heads and that's when I realized English was it," said Stepanovich.

Stepanovich received his Masters Degree at CSUB in Public Administration.

He taught journalism, wine appreciation and wine history, which he will continue to do at B.C.

He also worked in Journalism for 24 years and moved on to CSUB where he attained the title Director of Public Relations Affairs.

He will also carry that title at B.C.

After being a native from Paso Robles and spending some time in Sacramento, he then moved to Bakersfield.

He saw Bakersfield as the big city.

Stepanovich contends new challenges and opportunities were gained and will continue to be found at B.C.



Erica Juarez/Runner

Mike Stepanovich enjoying his going away party with a colleague.

"I was not looking to leave CSUB but the opportunity came up," said Stepanovich.

Kathy Carpenter, Administrative Support Counselor for CSUB's Business Majors, said, "I hate to see him leave. He is well known in

the community it's a shame we didn't take advantage of his abilities here."

Stepanovich is known as being an energetic, fun, good sense of humor, getting things done and passionate about wine kind of guy. He was always involved with the school.

His colleagues commented on his passion for wine. Carpenter points out that he participates a lot in fundraisers for students such as the Party in the Park Jazz Festival. Stepanovich has professional connections with many wine industries. He gets a lot of vendors to donate wine and uses it for fundraisers. The money is used for the alumni and the campus.

Pierre Igoa, web design specialist at CSUB, said, "Mike sends letters to the Bakersfield Wine Society always saying, In 'Vino Veritas,' which means in wine there is truth."

Wine is Stepanovich's passion. He loves it and loves to talk about it.

There is a school advisor from Sacramento University that Stepanovich went to visit not to long ago and whom he will never forget. He said to him how he was a tough guy and he never got an A but he got something much more valuable—an education.

"Stepanovich will be missed," said Carpenter.

Igoa's farewell words to Stepanovich were "Bonum vinum laetificat cer hominis, good wine gladdens a person's heart." What he referred to that was "for his love of wine he will enjoy life much fuller. I am happy for him that he's leaving but sad that he's leaving."

## Grad Fair

By Nathan Campbell  
Editor-in-Chief

Last Friday, curious students wandered into the Stockdale Room for a glance at booths for the various graduate programs on campus. The event, promoted by the Career Development Center's Jane Evarian, gave students a look at options for continuing their education at CSUB.

Representatives from the various graduate programs on campus were on hand to discuss their programs with interested students.

Students interested in attending graduate school at CSUB should begin their application process now if they have not already. With application deadlines approaching, students should be working to accumulate all the required documents for applying. This typically includes a written statement, letters of recommendation, standardized test scores, resume and transcripts from all colleges or universities attended by the applicant.

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## Graduate programs

## 'Disabled Development' drawings at Madigan Gallery

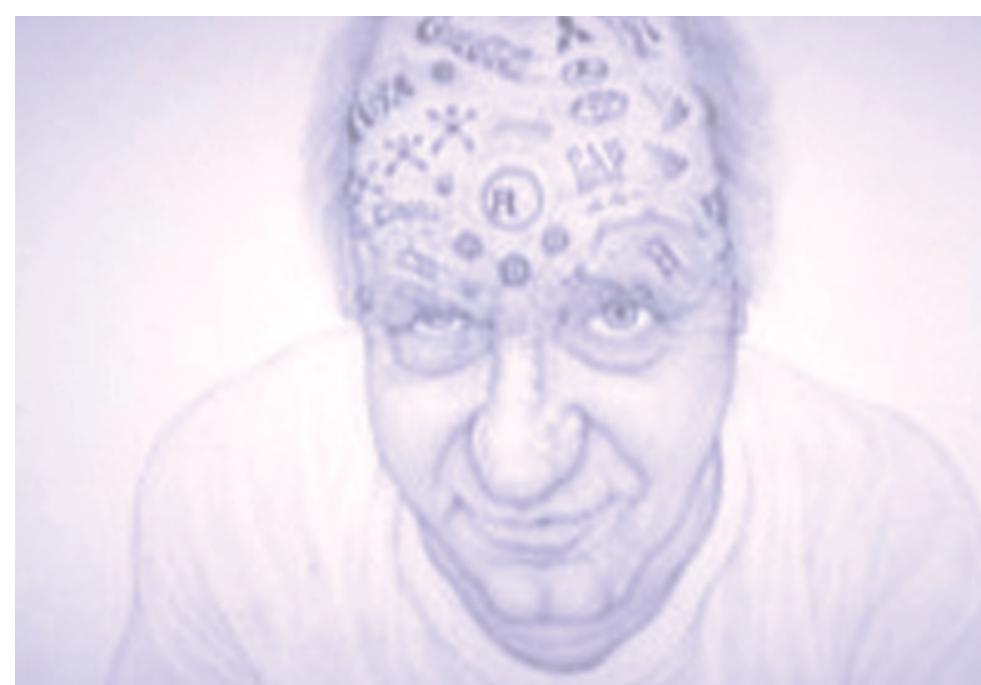
By Eman M. Shurbaji  
Features Editor

The Todd Madigan Gallery will be featuring the 'Disabled Development', series of drawings by Bill Amundson from October 18 to December 1. The drawings consist of mostly two subjects: himself and suburban, chain store and chain restaurant landscape. His work is usually in plain black pencil on paper, though he does also use colored pencil. Some of his work in the gallery combines the use of both media.

Amundson humorously critiques corporate logos by using the human body as a landscape in some of his drawings. Sometimes, his own body is used as a 'hapless billboard for corporate cultures'.

The drawings often have funny logos or words inscribed on the main caricatures. The theme is self-identity engulfed in consumerist culture.

His works appears to be capturing the true American scene with a bit of humor and an outlandish look at reality, though many may argue that his drawings truly represent the American consumer. According to Amundson, the consumer is caught in a never-ending tale of retail franchises, interstate travel, SUVs and cell phones.



Courtesy of Todd Madigan Gallery

"Branded Man" is one of the pieces in the exhibit.

Amundson's drawings allow for a critical look at how Americans have come to view themselves as, perhaps, followers of the mass media and with lassitude. He even knocks fun at fast food chains and their effect on the health of the general population.

Amundson is a Denver-based artist who works in the "Suburban Regionalist" mode.

Although a native of Wisconsin, he settled in Colorado in 1978, and spends a lot of time on the road in search of artistic subject matter.

The Todd Madigan Gallery is featuring the exhibit through December 1. Admission is free and interested persons may also view <http://www.csub.edu/art/gallery/present.html> for more information.

## Forum on Iran

A public forum entitled "Iran - U.S. Relations: Compromise or Confrontation?" will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 30, at 6 p.m. in California State University Bakersfield's Student Union Multipurpose Room.

The two primary issues to be presented at the forum will be whether the U.S. should engage or confront Iran in the Middle East. The forum will feature Nathan Gonzalez and Bahram Moshiri.

Gonzalez is an Iran specialist and founder of NationandState.org, an open-source foreign policy think tank. He also wrote "Engaging Iran: The rise of a Middle East powerhouse and America's strategic choice." In 2002, Gonzalez received recognition from the University of California, Los Angeles for his research on Iraq, through which he predicted that a U.S. invasion would bring about massive sectarian strife, pervasive anti-Americanism in Iraq, and a stronger Iran. He has also published several academic papers, and blogs on the topic

of U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East.

Moshiri is a scholar of Iranian history and culture, and author of "From Athens to Hiroshima." In this piece he explores the phenomenon of atomic physics and the implications of its disastrous effects on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Moshiri holds degrees in material science and chemical engineering from the Catholic University of America. Because of his passion for Iranian history and culture, he continued extensive studies in these domains as well.

KGET Channel 17 anchor/reporter Kiyoshi Tomono will act as moderator. The forum is sponsored by CSUB's Global Affairs Club, the Economics and Political Science departments, and Associated Students Inc. The forum is free and open to the public. There is free parking in lots L and K and light refreshments will be served.

Courtesy of CSUB Public Information

## THE RUNNER

Volume XXXIII, Issue 6

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Letters to the Editor are encouraged; however, they must be signed and verified to be considered for publication and should be no more than 300 words in length. All letters may be edited for clarity and length.

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## Penn State professor visits CSUB, showcases films

By Emily Shapiro  
Assistant News Editor

Filmmaker Lyn Elliot visited campus two weeks ago and offered a free screening of some of her films to all CSUB students and faculty. Her presentation titled "Short Films and the single girl; Alternative filmmaking and the Alternative Exhibition," drew in a mixed crowd of students and faculty.

She is a professor of filmmaking at Pennsylvania State University.

Her films included "Fish With No Cigar," "Mild People In Aggressive T-Shirts," "Know What You Mean," "Once," "Cat Fight," "The Boy In The Air" and "Cars Will Make You Free."

The presentation was spent discussing some of her techniques in filmmaking, which included deadpanning, and the small use of music in her films.

"Cat Fight" was a short film that drew in the most laughs from the audience. It was a tale of a couple who tried to make up but didn't.

It opens with a woman bringing a bottle of wine over, which the boyfriend does not appreciate, because it's red wine. Then while the man is putting the final touches on the meal in the kitchen, the woman starts to pet his cat, when all of a sudden its tail falls off.

What follows is a series of misguided attempts to try to reattach the tail. When that doesn't work she hides it in her back pocket.

The boyfriend comes in, sees the cat and freaks out. He starts looking for the tail while the woman peruses his book collection, all the while trying to ignore

him.

He finally finds the tail in her pocket and confronts her about it.

She apologizes and he being incensed, asks her to leave.

For this film she changed the cliché of the woman being the shrew, to the man, being the antagonist. After the laughter finally subsided, Elliot continued on to her next film titled "Once."

This was different from all of her other shorts because it was filmed in black and white. The film centers on a woman who considers when to act inappropriately.

These thoughts are symbolized by poker chips, of which she collects. She always waits and waits for the appropriate time to use them, but that time never comes.

On this character Elliot said this, "She's a character who over thinks things."

Another film "Know What You Mean" is filmed in color, and focuses on a man's use of language that women try to decode.

For example he says, "I hope it doesn't come back to bite me in the face." She takes this phrase literally.

The viewer is bombarded with an image of a man who is bitten in the face, making people laugh at how ridiculous some of the phrases are. The woman responds with "I know what you mean."

"Mild People In Aggressive T-Shirts," was a film that illustrated how ridiculous some of our human tendencies are. It opens with a man in a supermarket slouched down with a shirt that reads

"You Suck."

He asks an employee about a sale, and when told that the sale ended a week earlier he dejectedly replies, "Oh, I got the wrong day" and moves on.

Another man wears a shirt that says, "I'll be nicer, if you be smarter" who almost gets run over by a bus, when he steps off a curb, without paying attention. He is saved by a lady who pulls him back who says, "Hey, watch it."

"Mild People In Aggressive T-Shirts," amused me the most. It illustrates the truth of people in general who tend to project a certain image, but on the inside are the complete opposites.

Elliot explained that this film is a companion piece to "Once."

After the film shorts a question and answer session was held.

One question dealt with her budget to which she replied that her cheapest movie made was \$5 dollars.

Her animated film ("Fish With No Cigar") was \$4,000 dollars, because she had to buy her collaboration out. She is able to receive some grants from her university for her films.

Another question was why she uses film instead of video.

"I like the look of super 16 mm film. Film still has quality that video doesn't have," said Elliott

As far as editing is concerned Elliot uses a desktop editing system.

When someone asked about varying themes, she let out a small laugh.

"Well I've never had a woman student make a gangsta film," Elliott said, and a roar of laughter followed this from the crowd.

According to Elliot, men's literature is universal, while women's lit is chic lit. The idea being that a man's lit is for everyone, while chic lit is just for chics.

"If you make something honest, truthful and sincere, people will latch onto it," said Elliott.

For Elliott music is something that is not necessarily needed, "Putting music into a short film cheapens it, emotion should already be in the film," said Elliott.

In terms of descriptions for her films, "I tend to make pessimistic comedies where at the end people are falling apart, not together," said Elliott.

Structure and style are very important elements of filmmaking. "My movies tend to be presentational. For example, Once is a slideshow," said Elliott. According to Elliott she has what she calls, "a Sesame Street influence." Her inspirations for short filmmaking include films from Jane Campion, Mark Osborne, and Shell White.

Like most filmmakers, she has her concerns, "I sometimes feel like I'm making the same film over and over," Elliott said.

For students who would like to take a stab at short films, Elliott had this advice to give.

"Try and go to film festivals that specialize in short films. Take classes," said Elliott.

Finally she gave out this advice for future filmmakers.

"Trust that you have something to say, and try to avoid clichés," said Elliott.

## Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

First off all I am wondering when professional sports became part of our newspaper, I'd like to read about CSUB sports. I don't need a wrap up of the football I watched during the weekend and read about Monday in the Californian.

Second, I was very offended by the editorial ran last week. As a parent, you send your child to school in hopes that they will be safe, especially at a major university. The tragedy in all of this is these stu-

dents and faculty did not purposely place themselves in harm's way.

The American government has aided many countries with billions of dollars, unfortunately it is spent at their discretion and not ours. And finally, another amendment has been grossly misinterpreted, the second. If you have read it correctly, it gives Americans the right to bear arms in order to form a state militia. This was established in order for states to defend themselves in event of either foreign invasion, or by the Federal government.

Oh yeah and isn't it hypocritical to accuse the media of using it's outlets for their own agendas and then use our school paper for your own?

P.S. the New York Yankees were just valued at \$1.8 billion. How many freaking people would that feed?

Sincerely,  
Jason Friedly  
CSUB SeniorDELANO UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT  
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## Cal State San Bernardino professor speaks at CSUB about linguistics

By Jenica Kent  
Staff Writer

Sigma Tau Delta and the English department launched their Lectures in language and linguistics with Dr. Rong Chen on Wednesday, October 17.

This was the first of many speakers that will be hosted here on campus by Sigma Tau Delta and the English department.

Their goal is to further the development of linguistic studies here at CSUB.

There will be a new speaker each quarter on a different topic regarding linguistics.

The crowd that gathered in the December Reading Room of the Walter Stern Library grew quiet as the professor took his spot at the podium and began his lecture on The History of Linguistics as a Discipline.

Dr. Chen's lecture began with the definition of linguistics. He went on to discuss how the study began by introducing some of the fathers of linguistics like Franz Boas. Chen also discussed concepts, such as theme and rhyme.

He reviewed how linguistics has changed through time and how it is perceived now.

"I learned a lot about the history of Linguistics. The whole presentation was very interesting," said sophomore Paloma Ochoa, who was attentively listening to the speech that evening.

Dr. Chen's use of humor

throughout his presentation kept the audience hooked on his every word. His passion for the subject was what made the lecture so appealing.

"There is such little knowledge of Linguistics," said Dr. Chen when asked why he chose to speak on the history of linguistics as a discipline.

Dr. Chen's goal was to show his audience the diversity within the study of Linguistics because most people just think of linguistics as the study of language when, in reality, it is much more than that.

He wanted to educate his audience that the idea of linguistics as just a study of language is a large misconception and he wanted to correct that by providing as much information he could in his lecture.

"Speaking with students is a rewarding experience for me because it is what I love to do, but I also want to encourage people to become more interested in linguistics, maybe take a few courses and see what it is really about," said Dr. Chen.

Chen is currently a Chair of English and a professor at Cal State University San Bernardino.

He received his Bachelor's Degree in China, his Masters from Lancaster University in the U.K. and his doctorate from Ball State University here in the U.S. He has also published two books and written more than 20 articles.

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# The Starting Lineup

**This Week on the starting line up: Kobe and those other guys in Los Angeles**

By Phillip Barnett  
Sports Editor

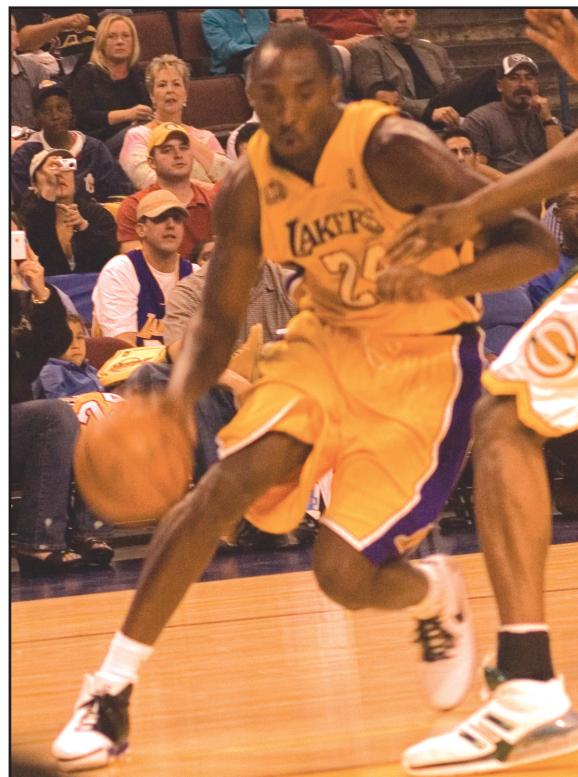
"I would certainly listen. At any time, I think you have to do that with anybody. It's just part of the game, to listen to somebody who has a dissatisfied player that you think is going to fit. You can't keep too many loyalties. You've got to look at it as a business. He looks at it the same way I look at it."

- Jerry Buss

Those words spread from the tips of one journalist's fingers to the internet just over a week ago and just like that, the Lakers are on everyone's minds, again. Could the Lakers owner really be considering trade offers from other franchises? In the grand scheme of things, the answer looks like its yes.

Those words represent just a small portion of the thespian change in the tone of the organization since the Lakers' media day, a day when everything seemed peachy. Kobe showed up, all smiles and told reporters he was ready to play. It was convincing enough that, after media day, you didn't really hear much about the Lakers in the news. This, in it self seemed crazy until Buss shot out those words heard around the basketball world.

In the wake of everything going on in Lakerland, everyone wondered if Bryant would show up in Bakersfield to play in the Lakers exhibition game.



Juan Torres/ The Runner

**Kobe or not, the Lakers still have to play..**

each added 19, while second year guard Jordan Farmar shot 80 percent from the field.

"I tend not to think in basketball terms that many years down the road because things change so dramatically, but he could test the waters at that point," Buss said speaking on the idea of Bryant playing elsewhere. "If he still is in that frame of mind, then hopefully we can do a sign-and-trade and get some comparable talent. I would like to think that we win between now and then so that it doesn't come up."

Not only is Buss hearing offers now, but it could almost sound

The Lakers won the game by 20, with Bryant scoring 16 of his 20 points in the third quarter.

Brian Cook and Andrew Bynum

like he wants to get rid of the superstar that has added so many dollars to his bank account. Hypothetical trade deals started

popping up all over sports related websites. Every NBA columnist on ESPN.com offered their intake on the most-likely deals for the Lakers departure with Bryant, even suggesting that we, as readers, go to the trade machine and check out how it could happen ourselves.

We have to remember, it was Buss, more than anyone else in the organization that wanted to get rid of Shaq. It wasn't because of the money, it wasn't the big man's conditioning, it was because Shaq publicly criticized the Lakers owner. Buss has thin skin, he is not a man to be messed with, and Bryant's announcement to every other radio show early summer may have broke

Buss' skin.

After Buss' comments, fans started hearing reports about Bryant skipping practice to rest his legs. Two days in a row. Three days in a row. Following his third missed practice there were reports of Bryant cleaning out his locker and leaving the Lakers facilities. Every journalist seemed poised to write their "Bryant is no-longer a Laker" article, only to learn that the story would have to wait another day, at the very least, when it turned out that the league's top shooting guard just cleaned out his locker and also showed up for

the Lakers 20 point victory over Seattle in Bakersfield.

Bryant has now pissed off Jerry Buss, Tex Winter (the Lakers assistant coach who wanted Bryant to speak out about team personnel, but was disappointed in the way he did it), and now Phil Jackson, who has been playing Billy Hoyle to Bryant's Sidney Deane throughout this whole ordeal, by sitting out practices.

Still, there were doubts leading to Thursday night's preseason game in Bakersfield. No one really knew if Bryant was going to suit up, or even travel with the team, except for Bryant himself. Number 24 did suit up and played a great game to say the least, but still left reporters wondering after his post game interview.

Bryant was asked if he was still on the Lakers roster by the time the season started, would he be ready to play and responded saying, "Yeah, you know, no matter where I'm at I'm ready to play. That has no affect on me whatsoever." The comment left so much to be gathered but was not touched upon the rest of the interview.

The bottom line is the Lakers still have a basketball team, whether or not Bryant is on it. Jackson is working on making Buss happy with a more up-tempo offense while keeping the basic concepts of the triangle. They still have to improve on the defensive end of the floor and they need to hit open shots. The



Juan Torres/ The Runner

**Second year point guard Jordan Farmar shot well from the field Thursday night.**

other guys, you know, the ones not named Bryant, just need to concentrate on playing basketball.

"We have to just play. We can't worry about the negative things," said rookie guard Jarvis Crittenton. "We can't worry about the things we can't change and just worry about the things we can, and that's how we play individually and as a team with the people that are on the floor."

However, they still don't know who is going to be on the floor. Chris Mihm and Kwame Brown played limited minutes because they still aren't 100 percent and Lamar Odom didn't play at all because he is still nursing that shoulder injury. And, of course, the team still isn't sure if Bryant has played his last regular season game as a Laker yet.

The front runners in the "Bryant Sweepstakes" have to be Chicago and Dallas, even though

there have been reports of Mark Cuban saying that Mavericks all-star, Dirk Nowitzki, is untouchable. Dallas still has a lot of talent they could give up for Bryant.?

The Bulls, on the other hand, seems to finally be coming into their own as an elite team in the league. They have drafted well and now have a nice young core of athletes they might not want to give up just yet. I can't imagine John Paxson trading any of them for at least another year to give the young guys one more shot at doing it with the talent they currently have.

This wild ride that is the Lakers seems to never end, whether it be Bryant, Jerry Buss, Buss' feuding children (Jeanie and Jim), Phil Jackson or one of those other guys. Lakers fans are in for one hell of a season, lets hope they're ready for it.?

## From Belgium to Bakersfield

By Ashley M. Sizemore  
Staff Writer

Freshman Oscar Coppieters had lived in Antwerp, Belgium his whole life until he recently moved to Bakersfield, CA, to play soccer for CSUB.

The 18-year-old has been playing soccer since he was about five years old. Coppieters' main position is center midfield.

"I practiced every day and played at least two games on the weekends for years," said Coppieters.

The soccer player has played for many teams but one that stands out is Belgium's national team.

Coppieters was recruited by CSUB's head coach Simon Tobin

"They had asked if I wanted to play men's soccer," said Coppieters, "I saw it as something new."

Coppieters also went on to say, "I had to take this chance, otherwise I would have regretted for the rest of my life."

The Belgium native can fluently speak three languages.

"Mainly, I speak Dutch, but also French and English. My mom is Spanish so a little of that, and also a little of German," said Coppieters.

The soccer player traded in his Red Devils jersey for a white and blue Roadrunner one. His jersey number is 10. He stands at 5 feet, 11 inches and is approximately 153 pounds.

Coppieters lived in Antwerp for 20 years. Antwerp is in the Dutch part of



Oscar Coppieters moving the ball up-field in a match versus Washington.

According to CSUB's athletic website, [www.gorunners.com](http://www.gorunners.com), Coppieters gave the Roadrunners its first winning goal in seven outings.

Coppieters and the rest of the soccer team have traveled to Ohio, Virginia, Las Vegas, Oregon, and all over California.

There are also other freshmen on the soccer team who are from Europe as

well.

Defenders Anthon Snygg is from Boras, Sweden, and Peter Carlson is from Gothenburg, Sweden.

At home, Coppieters left behind his parents, friends, and 17-year-old brother.

"One thing I do miss a lot is my family," said Coppieters.

The freshman still talks to his family through the internet and telephone.

Being a student at CSUB, Coppieters is taking classes that appeal to him. His major is philosophy.

"I like it a lot," said Coppieters, "It interests me."

The soccer player has noticed some differences between the two countries, but he says that one in particular is the food. He prefers Belgium food as opposed to the many convenient fast food restaurants.

"My mom's food is better than any burger place," said Coppieters.

Coppieters' day consists of occasional class, practice and then home.

Even then he's still playing soccer. To avoid

eating out, Coppieters cooks his meals and sticks to fruits and vegetables as snacks.

Another main difference is the weather and environment change.

"In Belgium, it's always cold, rainy and windy," said Coppieters, "In California it's sunny."

Coppieters also went on to say that he likes the weather change.



Emily Shapiro/ The Runner

**A CSUB swimmer races to the finish line.**

## Alumni meet a blast

By Emily Shapiro  
Assistant News Editor

On Saturday the men and women Roadrunners swam against the Roadrunners! Once again it was time for the alumni swim meet at the Hillman Aquatic Center. This event has been held at CSUB for many years as a chance to invite new and old Roadrunners to mingle and catch up on old times.

Although cloudy skies loomed over the stadium, the weather could not dampen the atmosphere, which was filled with the boisterous cheers of new and alumnaus Roadrunners who took turns competing against each other.

The event included ten races including the 200 medley relay, the 50 back, the 100 Individual Medley and the 50 fly. The

event was then followed by a water polo match and a lunch that was provided to all the attendees.

"It's good, it's always good to see old friends," said Roadrunner alumnus Rasmus Jensen, a '94 graduate who earned his bachelor's in Business Administration and a '97 M.B.A. when asked of his opinion on this event.

New Roadrunner Chase Kreitler, a junior, said "It was great seeing all the alumni and the people that have paved the road before us. We look forward to carrying on CSUB's swim team's tradition of excellence into Division I."

Women's coach Pat Skehan summed it up best, "This is my favorite day of the year. It's exciting to see them all grown up, it's the best networking on campus."