



SINCE 1975

THE RUNNER



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY BAKERSFIELD

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Sept. 24, 2008

Financial aid delayed for many students

By Michelle Ramos
Staff Writer

As students returned for Fall Quarter many had the same unanswered questions, "Where is my money? How will I pay for my books? Will I be dropped from my classes?" It seems as though the Financial Aid office has been unusually slow processing applications and getting students their money.

Could Gov. Schwarzenegger's decision to cut nearly 10,000 part-time state employees and reduce pay for about 150,000 more full time employees to the federal minimum wage of \$6.55 per hour be to blame?

According to the Sacramento Bee, this may be the case. On July 24 and again on September 12, John Ortiz, a writer for the Sacramento Bee stated, "The most common temporary seasonal workers are assistant examination proctors, student assistants [and] seasonal clerks."

However Ron Radney, director of the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships, believes this is not entirely true. "We will not receive any Cal Grant funds until a state budget is signed," he said during an interview. He blames it on the executive order made by the governor to withhold payouts for Cal Grant recipients until a budget is signed. However, President Mitchell has decided to use reserve funds to pay CSUB CalGrants.

Radney also believes that students aren't getting their financial aid documents in on time and correctly. "We have been bombarded with thousands of documents submitted by students just weeks before fall quarter begins, and we simply cannot keep up with the demand during this peak period ... as of right now we still have 1,900 students



Michelle Ramos/The Runner

Financial Aid has seen a number of complaints with some students wondering where their funds are.

with missing documents," he said. With the implementation of PeopleSoft, more communications are being sent to student's preferred e-mail address, which they provided on the CSU Mentor application. So, it is important for students to update their contact information if their e-mail or other vital information has changed. He believes that many students are not checking to make sure their applications have been submitted correctly. Also, about 40 percent of applicants are subject to Government verification, which can delay the process even longer.

I asked Cynthia Runyon, a fifth year recipient and full time credential student, if it is always like this at the start of fall quarter. She said, "No, it was never like this. [My application] was definitely on time. Deadline is March 2, and I did it in

January." Cynthia even checked to make sure her documents were filed correctly. After still not receiving her money she began to call the office, e-mailed her counselor and even went in person to figure out what the problem was.

"It took me 3 months to get through to their toll free number and they told me because of budget cuts they are short staffed...they need to be held responsible for returning emails and phone calls, that is their job and what they are there for."

I asked Levinia Sfetcu, a full time student, what her experience was like this quarter. She stated, "I tried calling the financial aid office before I found out that they had stopped answering their phones. I was confused at why the phones were always busy. I then tried e-mailing the office but got no

response. My financial aid is crucial for my living here in Bakersfield. I get no help from family so financial aid pays for everything; rent, food, bills and any other school expenses."

Radney explained that last year, 5,200 students were awarded some type of Financial Aid. He said that, "We try to return calls and emails within one day. Our peak time is during Fall Quarter. We have 4 incoming phone lines, 3 full time staff, seven counselors (reviewing hundreds of documents per day, and certifying an average of 20 files per day per counselor). There is just not enough staff. We are doing the best we can. There is one person dedicated solely to answering phones."

I asked Radney what students could do in the meantime. He said, "We have extended office hours for

the first two weeks, and we are issuing book vouchers for students whose application is processing." He also assured me that students would not be dropped from their classes.

However, Sfetcu said, "I found out about the book vouchers a few days ago but wasn't eligible to receive one because my financial aid would be paid out this week and the vouchers are reserved for those who are having their financial aid paid a week later."

So what is the financial aid office doing to address these issues? Radney said that a focus group of about 12 students is meeting with the Provost to figure out problems students are having with the Financial Aid process and in the next few weeks the Financial Aid office will be implementing new phone software to improve effectiveness in delivering information to callers. There is also a survey that students can fill out and voice their concerns at: <http://www.csub.edu/finaid/survey.shtml>.

In a post-interview e-mail, Radney said:

"On 7/31/08, Governor Schwarzenegger signed Executive Order S-09-08 prohibiting the payment of Cal Grant funds to California colleges and universities until a State budget is signed. On 8/21/08, a CSU Chancellor's Office memorandum was issued directing campuses to treat the State University Fee paid by Cal Grants as a receivable so that financially-needy students would not be asked to pay the State University Fee in cash from their own resources. However, the memorandum discouraged campuses from disbursing cash for non-fee expenses covered by the Cal Grant B stipend in absence of a state budget.

Continued on page 5

Big names may soon be seen at CSUB

By Hillary Haenes
Staff Writer

Big name music artists such as Alicia Keys or John Mayer could be headlining a concert at CSUB. The Associated Student Inc. of the 2008-2009 school year have set several long and short-term goals that everyone on campus may find beneficial. One of these goals is the concert at the end of the year known as "The Show."

"The idea is to bring CSUB students together on an annual basis and have it become a tradition for Alumni to revisit the campus for years to come. We're building our budget upwards, at least in the upwards of \$80,000," said ASI President Carlos Ortiz.

The money for this year's show will come from ASI assets, but in the following years, ASI might consider a referendum to build it into their ASB fee. The ASI fee is currently \$13 and may be increased by a few extra dollars to raise money for the concert.

"We have these number of assets, let's get this show going ... I don't think that we can ask the students for any more money until they realize or see what is happening with the money. Also, I don't think they will have a problem paying if they knew they would get a free concert at the end of the year by one of their favorite artists," explained Ortiz.

By the middle or end of October ASI is aiming to find the artist(s) who will perform at the end of the year. The goal is to create a top-10 list of popular artists that the CSUB students can vote to decide their candidate(s) who will perform for the school. ASI also plans to contact local bands of the community who are interested in opening for the top artist(s).

"It is not ASI picking the artists, it is the students who vote on the artists that will represent the students," said ASI Vice President of Legislative Affairs Stephen Muchinyi.

CSUB students not only will be able to vote and make a difference on the artists they choose for the concert, but vote for the 2008 United States Presidential Elections. In mid October, a voter registration drive will be held for CSUB students.

"In the next couple of weeks there will be a voter quorum that will be held in the Multi-Purpose Room, Student Union and DDH so we can get Obama and McCain representatives out to talk to the students to encourage people to vote," said Muchinyi.

The long-term goals of ASI are the establishment of two buildings on campus solely for the students. The first building is an Associated Students building that will act as a student union, which can be used for any event.

"This would be just a student hall so that only the students, clubs and organizations could all come and hold their meetings there. They don't ever have to worry about going to individual spots on campus. We hope to eventually lead student activities in that building," said



Runner File Photo

Other big names such as The Used may be coming to CSUB

Ortiz.

The other building, according to the goals of the ASI outline, states "ASI looks to the funding of is a multi-cultural center where all CSUB students of different races, backgrounds and cultures can interact with one another as one cohesive campus brought together by unity."

Aside from the ASI goals, ASI donates money to all clubs and organizations on campus. It has been this way for the past 5 or 6 years. At the beginning of each school year, there is \$40,000 available. The limit is placed at \$3,000 a year or \$1,000 a quarter per club or organization.

"Obviously we couldn't give that to every club or organization, but some ask for more and some ask for less. The process by which you go about getting your application for the funds for those clubs and organizations is by the website under club funding that is handled by our VP of finance," stated Ortiz.

Continued on page 2

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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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Big names may soon be seen at CSUB

(continued from Page 1)

For those of you who haven't noticed the exciting new feature that made its debut in the Spring Quarter of last year is the new LED sign outside of the Student Union. This sign will help notify students of upcoming events that ASI has planned throughout the year.

"It is free to all clubs and organizations to post their activities on," informed Vice President Ali Zaniyal.

Ortiz added, "We plan on investing in two or more so that they are at all the entrances of the campus near Parking Lot E, which includes the entrance off of Camino Media and the main entrance by the Doré Theatre."

With an innovative way of communication from the LED sign and the officers pushing for more student involvement, ASI is looking to have a full board this year. The stack of applications on the president's desk is also an indication that ASI reaching out to students to get them involved is successful.

"We haven't had a full board for almost 4 or 5 years. There are people actually fighting for the positions of being a board member and that is awesome because they want to have a student voice," said an enthusiastic Ortiz.

For those of you interested in joining ASI, there are a few requirements that must be satisfied in order to qualify to become a member. First and foremost, to become an executive officer, 18 units at CSUB must be completed. Second, more than nine units must be taken per quarter to be an Executive Officer or Board Member. Third, a student needs to have a minimum of a 2.5 GPA. Lastly, the officials will review the applications and invite student(s) to their board meetings where the student(s) give a presentation as to why they want to get involved in ASI. Applications are available in the ASI office or online at www.csub.edu/asi.

Freshman class is here

By Korisha Hamblet
Staff Writer

The freshman class of 2008 is large in number and in strength.

In his August monthly update, President Mitchell wrote, "All come filled with the promise of a future made brighter by a university education."

There are currently 2,025 freshmen enrolled at CSUB. That is roughly 1/3 of our University's total number of students.

"There will be many changes in enrollment between now [the second day] and the 15th day of classes which is Census Day," according to Sue Wallace. Of the 2,025 we have 952 newly admitted freshmen, and the other 1073 students fall into one of two categories: transfer students or second year freshmen. Whatever the case may be, our freshman class is taking over.

Kern County students are not doing poorly at all themselves. Currently, as of September, out of 2,025, 1,540 of our large freshman class were in fact Kern County high school graduates and/or residents, leaving fewer than 600 from into different states and cities in California.

For the new students who arrived there are a number of successful programs to help them begin their road to success. Some of the programs include, but are not limited to, EOP which offers the Summer Bridge program, Title V, and CAMP, College Assistant Migrant



Ashley Sizemore/Runner

Freshmen get an introduction to CSUB at Convocation.

Program. All of these programs are available to help those trying to get into school, who are currently in school, or those needing assistance.

One of the programs, Summer Bridge, is well known on campus for giving freshmen a preview of what college is about and easing the transition from childhood to adulthood. Adrianna Sixtos, a Summer Bridge Coordinator and EOP Academic Adviser sums

the program up by saying "It's a stepping stone toward starting their success in their college career."

This year 166 of the freshman class came through Summer Bridge, have nine units of credit, and a lot of useful knowledge to help them begin.

President Mitchell as well as the rest of the faculty and staff have high expectations of what the freshmen can bring to CSUB.

Annual luau attracts students

By Bryson Paul
Staff Writer

As the new school year begins, a luau is the perfect way to prepare students for what ASI has in store for the campus. A luau is a traditional Hawaiian ceremony that celebrates new beginnings and has been adapted by the CSUB's ASI as an event for the new fall term.

The first week of school is always hard on everyone, especially when adjusting to new surroundings. For new students, there is meeting new people, spending ridiculous amounts of money on books and instant homework. A luau is a traditional festival that gives students, new and old, the opportunity to socialize with familiar faces and introduce themselves new ones. ASI took full advantage of the opportunity to introduce themselves to new students as free food and drinks were the highlight of this year's festivities.

The annual CSUB luau took place in front of the Student Union building last Friday. ASI came dressed for the occasion wearing trademark Hawaiian attire such as, leis and grass skirts. A large crowd of students came out to early and ate plentifully as all the food and drinks were free. Plenty of socializing took place from the diverse variety of students who were new to the CSUB campus, many were new athletes, from out of town and returning upper classmen arrived in a timely fashion. Well into the evening the event had a pleasant turnout of school spirit. Mid-way


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CSUB Internship Fair
9/24 @ 10-1pmwww.nminternship.com

CAREER CORNER

Welcome to the CSUB *Career Corner*, a monthly article to help you with all things related to career development! Each month you will find tips on a variety of issues from choosing a major to how to best present yourself when talking to a potential employer. We'll also offer you advice about selecting and applying to graduate programs. So, what can we share with you this month? Our Career Calendar! Check out what's happening this term -

PART TIME JOB & INTERNSHIP FAIR

DATE: 9/24/08 TIME: 10:00 am - 1:00 pm LOCATION: Runner Café Quad

Resume Development Workshop

Date & Time: 10/1/08, 5:00 PM Location: Career Development Center

BUSINESS & PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION MIXER

DATE: 10/08/08 TIME: 5:00 - 7:00 pm LOCATION: Student Union

What's Your Major Workshop

Date & Time: 10/22/08, 5:00 PM
Location: Career Development Center

FEAR FACTOR - We dare YOU!

DATE: 10/30/08 TIME: 5:00 - 7:00 pm LOCATION: Student Union

Graduate School Preparation Workshop

Date & Time: 11/3/08, 5:00 PM
Location: Career Development Center

GRADUATE SCHOOL FAIR

DATE: 11/10/08 TIME: 10:00 am-1:00 pm LOCATION: Runner Café Quad

Job Search Essentials Workshop

Date & Time: 11/18/08, 5:00 PM
Location: Career Development Center

What's Next - Graduation to Career Workshop

Date & Time: 12/2/08, 5:00 PM
Location: Career Development CenterWe've got your career needs covered!
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- Check out Event Details at www.csub.edu/cdc
- Use **RunnerLink** to check out jobs and events, view campus visits by Companies that want to hire YOU, and schedule on-campus interviews at www.csub.edu/cdc
- Schedule an appointment by calling 654-3033 or send an email to career@csub.edu



Slaughter named new Communications Department Chair

By Danica Asbridge
Staff Writer

Becoming the chair of a department is definitely a long and difficult process. It includes an initial interview, a vote from the department and approvals from the Dean, Provost and the President. Once all that is over, the hard part comes!

Professor Mary Slaughter went through all this to become the new Communication Department's Chair, and she says, "I am happy to be here."

What does being the Chair actually mean? The responsibilities of the position include: helping students in the department, meeting with the Dean to find solutions to problems

and meeting with the Provost. "Also," she adds, "doing anything to help the faculty so that they can focus on being the great teachers that they are."

Professor Slaughter has a few goals just for the beginning of the new school year. "I hope to centralize a lot of the things that we do in the department." She also mentioned, although it is not finalized yet, an online newsletter that would go out to all the Communication students. "It should have updates about majors and upcoming events..." She hopes that it will be ready to go by October.

Professor Slaughter says, "I had a long road to becoming a professor." She has tried being

a chef, a Pre-Med student and she has worked in the film industry.

Her film credits include many experimental films. One, in particular, was called "The Vineyard," in which she worked as the Second Director.

"I basically communicated between the different departments - the makeup, the actors, cameramen, the director - it actually prepared me a lot for this job," she said.

Slaughter says, "I want to be of service," and that is the main reason why she wanted to become chair.

When asked for advice for incoming freshmen, she said, "Think about the big picture in terms of what you want your experience to

be. Start thinking now so that you're poised to take the next step by the time of graduation."

The easiest way to do that is to forge relationships with your professors, and that is good advice for any student in any stage of their education. She said, "I want to point out that teachers want to be mentors, they want visits and to help in anyway they can. That's why most of us became professors."

Professor Slaughter welcomes any Communications students who have questions or any students who might be interested in Journalism, the Media Arts and/or Public Relations. And she looks forward to your visit.

Oasis Center open for business

By Emily Shapiro
Features Editor

Have you ever had to write a paper for a subject that you knew absolutely nothing about? Do you need help in researching? Have you ever wished that someone could help tutor you in Physics, Accounting, or Biology?

Then wish no more, for the solution is right here on campus.

The Oasis Tutoring Center provides these services and much more. Known as the Oasis, the center has recently expanded its location and is open for business.

The Center offers help in the following programs, Writing/English, Physics, Philosophy/Logic, Accounting/Business, Biology/Chemistry, Psychology/APA, Religious Studies, Business and French.

The Oasis started out small with a few tutors, and "has grown like crazy over the years," said Kaye Falconer -- the Oasis Tutor Coordinator.

According to Falconer the new center has more space and more tutors, which "makes it



Two signs welcome students to the new Oasis tutoring Center.

Emily Shapiro/The Runner

more comfortable, and the new location also provides easier access for the students."

The new room is located in the Administration East Room 105, right next door to the Title V office (old location). The operating hours are Monday-Thurs 8 a.m.-8 p.m, Friday from 8 a.m.-2 p.m, Saturday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and Sunday 1 p.m.-5

p.m.

According to Falconer, the center also offers help in math, though this location is found in the Science III building Room 208. These operating hours are Monday-Thursday 8 a.m.-8 p.m, Friday 8 a.m.-3 p.m, Saturday 11 a.m.-4 p.m and Sunday from 1 p.m.-6 p.m.

According to Falconer the Oasis Center is federally funded through Title V grant money, is free to all students and operates on a drop in basis. The operation of the center is easy enough, "The students come in, sign in, a tutor greets them, and then the tutor gets them started," said Falconer. The tutors are all fellow CSUB students.

The offerings of the Oasis are varied and abundant, "We can help them in any stage from research to polishing a draft," said Carlos Castillo Jr. a CSUB student and tutor.

Another tutor is Taylor Lowery.

A familiar face in the Oasis, Lowery specializes in Writing and English, "Skillful writing is an ability that would help people throughout their entire lives and I would like to know that I helped people achieve that," said Lowery as he explained what he hoped to gain from his experience.

He also has one great tidbit of advice for students, "Don't hesitate to ask for whatever help you need."

International Students Club for all

By Perla Madrid
Staff Writer

It's time to hit the books and hit the clubs, the campus clubs to be exact. This quarter, the International Student's Club is back and ready to launch. They don't have a flashy bulletin displayed on the walls of the Dorothy Donohoe Hall, but they've got lots

and promote cultural awareness.

There has been a common misconception, that to be a member of the ISC, one needs to be from another country. Not true. According to Karen Ziegler, the clubs' adviser, the only existing requirement is to be an active member, not only participating when convenient, i.e., trips. "...at different points I thought about getting involved in the ISC

Americans who participated, two of them were from different cultural backgrounds, they had a really great time!" says Ziegler.

CSUB psychology student, Liliana Soto, is one of many with that false impression, "It's very interesting to find out, and the fact that it's not only for international students makes me want to join."

The clubs history of activities have included two major trips to San Diego and to the coast for a tour of Hearst Castle. The club also holds an annual international dinner featuring cuisines from students' home countries, a fashion show of their native dress, and international music.

The ISC is uniquely identified by its member's enthusiasm for an experience of a lifetime, Ziegler explains, "I think our students are a very fun bunch. They're only here for a limited time, so they want to maximize their experience. They generally are not in clubs that just sit around waiting for things to happen to them, otherwise they're going to leave here and not have the experience they wanted. They are a very active club."

Not many plans have been made with regards to the club's schedule for the upcoming quarter; however, the club would like to



Photo courtesy of www.myspace.com/csubisc
Students show off some of their creations during the 2008 annual International Dinner.

hold a logo contest to help develop an image that will represent them.

Currently the ISC does not have a president, but is looking forward to finding one. The club officers will regulate the meetings, held in the Student Union Blue Room. For those interested in joining the International Student's Club, make sure to contact the club's adviser, Karen Ziegler at csubisc@csub.edu. A friendly reminder that college life is more than attending class and driving home. The ISC is much more than an opportunity to make friends; it's an opportunity to show CSUB and the world's diversity.



Photo courtesy of www.myspace.com/csubisc
The ISC poses for a group photo while attending an ice skating trip.

to offer club hunters. For over 24 years, the International Students Club (ISC) has attempted to engage and motivate students on campus to become active in leadership

before I was ever involved in this department and I thought, well, it probably really is just for international students and that's not necessarily true. Last year we had a couple of

**Compiled By Ashley
Sizemore
Entertainment Editor**

Heroes premiered Monday September 22. In the NBC Season 3 promo, it emphasizes a good vs. evil theme

and we also see changes, new alliances and also enemies.

By changes we see that Kristen Bell returns to season 3, however, she will not be a regular. In the promo we see Angela Petrelli aiding Sylar, who could be a family member.

Ugly Betty Season 3 premieres September 25 on ABC. We left the season with triangles. Betty needed to make up her mind about either going to Rome with Gio or accept Henry's marriage proposal.

Grey's Anatomy Season 5 starts Thursday, Sept 25 on

ABC.

We ironically left with many dramatic beginnings. Izzie and Alex began a ‘physical’ relationship. Lexi kissed George. Callie was sleeping with McSteamy which made Erica Hahn jealous. Hahn finally got the nerve to make a move on Callie.

In the promo, we see Christina take a love interest in a military doctor.

Lost ended the fourth season with six of them rescued but they have to lie to protect the other 20-30 survivors still on the island-but the mystery is that the island disappears.

Unfortunately, *Lost* will not premier until January. However, in the upcoming season Faraday might have survived, but his notebook



multiple time periods and perspectives.

According to SpoilerFix.com, The CW's hottest show **Gossip Girl** aired Monday, September 22. This season we can see some new faces, locations and relationships. Actor Wallace Shawn comes in to star as Cyrus. Cyrus is the father to Aaron. We will eventually see Cyrus marry Blair's mother Eleanor. A new face who will be in for an episode is gold medalist Nastia Liukin as As for locations, Fashion week will be held and also Yale.

**Reviewed By
Nathan Campbell
Runner Online Editor**

Food Quality: 7/10
Affordability: 2/10

Minute Grill and Kabob House is a new restaurant close to campus with a menu of Mediterranean style cuisine. Located in the old Prime Cut storefront at Stockdale Highway and Gosford, Minute Grill is the perfect distance to campus for a quick bite between classes.

The restaurant's menu is limited with a few different pita sandwiches, salads and kabob plates to choose from. Most of the entrées are just variations of the same plate, but with your choice of meat - you can choose from chicken, beef and lamb. The menu seemed quite undeveloped and a bit mismatched. Pita sandwich combinations come with fries and no other options. The restaurant also offers a hot Italian sub sandwich, which seemed out of place on the relatively homogeneous menu. My dining companion and I ordered the Italian sub and the Chicken Pita sandwich. The Chicken Pita came with sautéed onions and peppers, feta cheese, chicken and a side of tzatziki served on a grilled slice of pita bread.



The Italian sub came topped with grilled onion and pepper, mozzarella cheese, and au jus served on a garlic butter roll. In addition to the sandwiches, I ordered a side

was on hand to take orders and man the grill. During the off-peak hour that I came in, it took easily half an hour to receive my food with only one order ahead

of stuffed grape leaves.

The food came out fairly delicious. The chicken was grilled to perfection, the vegetables were cooked just the right amount and the tzatziki added a pleasant kick to contrast with the otherwise mellow flavors. The Italian sub was also surprisingly good. The garlic butter roll was definitely the highlight of the entrée. Sadly, the above sums up about all of the good qualities the Minute Grill possesses. The stuffed grape leaves were almost certainly from a can, and the fries were nothing to brag about.

The sluggish service gives the restaurant a sense of irony - only one employee

of me. In addition to the poor service, the food is prohibitively expensive. The bulk of the meals range between the \$9 to \$12 mark making it a very costly lunch-time excursion. The dining area, while relatively clean and well kept, was bland and boring and lacked any sort of character. The Minute Grill is one lunch option that I will not find hard to pass up. The price and lack of variety easily outweigh the quality of the food. If you're looking for a place with good Mediterranean food, do yourself a favor and try Flame and Skewers instead.

By Lavinia Sfetcu
Staff Writer

The Dome will be bringing the ultimate music fix to Bakersfield in the month of September. If you enjoy a nice mosh pit, head banging until your head is ready to explode or just swaying to a nice acoustic sound, the Dome will have something for everyone. With the Dome's spacious stadium seating and large floor, anyone can enjoy their favorite bands or group.

Los Angeles' own Katsumoto can satisfy your thirst for out-of-this-world rock when they perform at the Dome on Thursday, September 25th. Just coming off their newly released album titled "Burn Em' Down Wipe Em' Out," Katsumoto provides an

unforgettable performance where you can't help but want to shove the person next to you; but in a good way! Screeching vocals and amazing guitar solos will send giant chills down your spine. Bands also in the lineup include Letlive, The Truth of a Liar, Vlad Athur, N/A and Astraea.

For a complete turn-around of events, Sin City's own The Cab visits The Dome on Friday, September 26th. With The Cab's catchy guitar riffs and melodic vocals, this show will get everyone on their feet and dancing. Making a complete California tour, the Cab will surely draw a large crowd in Bakersfield. Bands also touring with the Cab are This Providence, Rocket To the Moon and Hey Monday. Bringing the dark side to

Bakersfield, Las Vegas' Dreddmaster comes to the Dome on Saturday, September 27th. Concert posters expressing the show as "Busting Hell Wide Open" is a very accurate portrayal of what will be expected of the show. Dreddmaster dominates the death metal sound with unpredictable pitch changes and low growls. Dreddmaster also includes an unique sound of jazz brass and classical strings. Joining Dreddmaster at the show will be bands such as Epicedium, Drainage X, Gleiphir and Altercation.

For more information on ticket prices and upcoming shows at The Dome, visit www.vallitix.com or www.myspace.com/thebak-ersfielddome.

By Celia Kelly, Staff Writer

This Week, The Runner asked, “What Band(s) would you like to see perform at CSUB?”



Sammy McFadden
Business, Soph:
“... I want to see a R&B group... early ‘90s because now a days the R&B singers don’t know much.



Natasha Weatherspoon, Master's Program:
 "I would like to see someone in the Neo-Soul group. Someone like Dwele or Guapale."



Omar Tejan,
Business, Junior:
“Pitbull because I
want a major
dance party.”



Alonzo Agurrie, Math, Senior: "Prince with George Clinton and the P-Funk Band because I want to get a little erotic city going on."

FMA awakens after an absence of over 15 years

By Eman Shurbaji
Special to The Runner

Like most people, Dr. Mahdy Elhusseiny loves to hear the words, “money, honey.”

Everyone loves money, but his reasons are different.

Elhusseiny is the new adviser for the Financial Management Association (FMA) on campus. He has helped revamp the group after an absence of over 15 years as a crucial organization for finance majors.

“All majors are welcome: economics, business, accounting. But the club is very, very important for finance majors,” said Elhusseiny.

Elhusseiny stressed that the club allows for career development for finance students by giving them the means to network and buff-up their resumes. FMA also gives students the chance to meet with the local community businesses and travel to some of the largest cities of financial significance in the world.

For example, last year FMA members took a trip to San Francisco. While in the area, they visited the Pacific Stock Exchange, Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, Bank



The FMA members pose for a photo while at Cisco in San Francisco.

photo courtesy of Mahdy Elhusseiny

of America, Barclays, TD Ameritrade and Cisco. They had to dress in formal and professional attire as they met with officials during the four-day trip. Students were also given an opportunity to explore the city on their own.

“The San Francisco trip was good, and we have a plan for a next one soon,” said Elhusseiny.

Indeed, there are many plans for FMA during this academic year. In addition to engaging finance students, there are plans of having one major activity during each quarter. Such venues are aimed at the greater community as well; bankers, real estate agents and people in

insurance may be invited to join a panel of speakers. Last year, a seminar regarding the current state of real estate in Bakersfield and the local area was held at the Business Development Center on campus.

Neeraj Rama, now a graduated senior, was instrumental in putting together the real estate event and remains a viable aid to Elhusseiny and the FMA. Having taken a leadership role last year, he knows the importance of uniting students at CSUB.

“There are 25 members and the club has maintained a low profile for the past years,” said Rama.

He also stressed that the

FMA and studying finance at CSUB are both rewarding experiences: smaller classes, an AACSB graduate school with respect to the school of business, and of course, the new faculty adviser, Elhussieny.

Rama went on to say that during the trip to San Francisco, officials at Cisco were impressed with the students’ keen interest.

For this very reason, Elhusseiny has many plans for the FMA. Among the initial goals is to have students complete resumes to be posted on the FMA website and for handing out to companies and organizations. Raising money is also a concern,

though he has managed to get some from a variety of sources, including \$2,000 from the School of Business at CSUB.

Elhusseiny brings with him two years of FMA leadership from when he was a professor at the University of South Dakota. While there, he led the FMA into its fourth and fifth consecutive years as superior chapters under the FMA umbrella organization. To be designated superior chapter is a great honor; only a handful is selected out of thousands of chapters nationwide. This is the overlapping goal of the FMA this year.

While at USD, Elhusseiny put together a trip giving stu-

dents the opportunity to meet with Warren Buffet, currently the wealthiest man in the world. Although an extraordinary experience, this was one of many students at USD were able to experience.

A trip to New York and the East Coast was one such trip. The standout destination was going to Pitney Bowes. Pitney Bowes is a Fortune 500 company and number one provider of postage meters, mail equipment, mailing software, and other mainstream solutions that allow companies to improve business communication. A similar trip is in the making for CSUB students as well.

Elhusseiny hopes the accomplishments in South Dakota will be echoed at CSUB. Goals such as being a distinguished chapter and engaging students are only the beginning.

“FMA will have a presence on campus and will give our students the edge,” said Elhusseiny.

Membership to join the FMA is open to CSUB students, and a \$25 membership fee applies. For more information, contact Elhusseiny or visit <http://www.csub.edu/fma>.



photos by Joseph White/ The Runner

Last Friday CSUB students, faculty and staff enjoyed a lecture titled "The Unheard Voice of Law from an Often Heard Text: A New Rendition of Bartolomé de las Casas' Brevísima Relación de la Destrucción de las Indias," from the University of Oregon's David Orique. The lecture was on Bartolomé de las Casas, who was a advocate of human rights in the 16th Century.

Administrator addresses financial aid situation

(Cont. from Page 1)

“Based on President Mitchell’s strong commitment to our students and our community, he has decided that CSUB will not reduce the amount of available aid to our neediest students just weeks before our fall quarter begins. He will instead utilize campus funds to temporarily support the disbursement of Cal Grant fees and stipends as scheduled. Student Financial Services will therefore treat the estimated \$1.2 million in Cal Grant fee disbursements for the fall quarter as a receivable, and AVP Wade will transfer university funds to temporarily cover the estimated \$750,000 in Cal Grant stipend disbursements for the fall quarter. As soon as a State budget is signed, the campus will then process its Cal Grant records with the California Student Aid Commission for reimbursement.

“Here are some financial aid statistics ... that discuss the disbursement of aid to our students:

“As of 9/15/08, we had awarded aid to almost 6,600 students who had applied for admission to CSUB. Of these students, approximately 5,200 were enrolled in at least 1 unit, and 4,984 were enrolled at least half-time (which is required for minimum aid eligibility). Of these students, we disbursed \$9.3

million to 3,060 students on-time. We still had 1,673 students who were enrolled but were missing one or more documents needed to complete their financial aid file. And, we had 251 students whose files were in the process of being reviewed by their financial aid counselor, waiting on corrections to their FAFSA data, have academic progress issues, or waiting on secondary citizenship verification by the Department of Homeland Security. We are also working in a new PeopleSoft Student database system, that has required significant coordination with the Records Office in correcting some of the legacy data that was imported from the old Banner system. As of 9/19/08, we have disbursed almost \$10.9 million to 3,528 students.

“To assist students whose aid has been delayed due to required corrections and/or processing time frames, we have Book Vouchers available in our office. Additionally, there are a limited amount of Emergency Loan funds (up to \$250) available through the Student Financial Services Office.

“Students can really help by: (1) submitting the documents required to complete their financial aid file in a timely fashion; (2) keeping their preferred e-mail and contact information up-to-date via their MyCSUB account; (3) check-

ing their e-mail regularly for important communications from our office; (4) reading financial aid communications thoroughly, not just scanning them for a dollar amount; (5) periodically reviewing our web page at www.csub.edu/finaid for important information and Tips for Financial Aid Success; and (6) asking our Counselors for assistance when completing their renewal FAFSA to reduce or eliminate corrections made later during the verification process.”

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photo courtesy of www.csub.edu

Construction for the new field has begun on the southwest part of campus.

CSUB and Bakersfield Blaze to share baseball field

By Oscar Lozoya
Staff Writer

CSUB and the city of Bakersfield may be partnering up to keep Minor League Baseball in Bakersfield and provide a stadium for our new Division I team.

On September 11, CSUB President Dr. Horace Mitchell met with the mayor of Bakersfield, vice mayor and the city manager in regards to a joint baseball facility. As it stands right now, CSUB’s Division I team will start in February of 2009. What was once just a new practice facility being developed on the southwest part of campus will also be the playing field for the upcoming season. Tom Hardt, a local developer and CSUB alum, is funding the field.

“We made the decision to install some seating in what was initially going to be just a practice facility so it’s really going to be a practice, training and playing facility,” Mitchell said.

The idea to play at Sam Lynn Park was not

very attractive because it’s such an old stadium and not very well kept. Dr. Mitchell has expressed he does not want this to be the team’s permanent playing field but hopes to eventually develop a true Division I stadium as already drafted in CSUB’s Master Plan. The problem is the funding to pay for the new stadium. According to Dr. Mitchell the University does not have resources able to be put into the proposed ballpark. “We are still waiting for a partner and the most likely partner would be the city.”

This meeting came shortly after the announcement that the Blaze will be playing in Bakersfield one more season. The California League has threatened to yank the Blaze out of Bakersfield unless the city provides a new stadium or their current ballpark (Sam Lynn) is dramatically revamped. With a joint venture, CSUB and the city of Bakersfield could both benefit. CSUB could get a stadium for their Baseball Program and The City of Bakersfield could benefit

by keeping minor league baseball in the city. If the plan is not implemented in time, and the Blaze are forced to leave, the idea of the California League bringing in another team to Bakersfield without a new stadium is very unlikely.

CSUB already has land on campus allocated for a new stadium approved by the board of trustees. With this contribution the city could save up to 15 million dollars in land acquisition in comparison to a downtown location. The price range to build a stadium specifically for Division I Baseball would cost roughly \$10-12 million. As a joint use facility that could accommodate a minor league team the cost could run closer to \$30.

Students are excited about what this partnership can do for not only life on campus but around the city. “It will help foster school spirit among students and give opportunities to form a bridge between the community and campus,” Ashlea Ward said, a CSUB senior and former CSUB softball

player.

Though not directly tied, according to Dr. Mitchell, the addition of a new stadium can not only enhance the athletic program but also academics. “By having a Division I athletics added to the other things we are doing ... that enhances the quality of the student experience we are able to attract a larger number of students. The State’s allocation of resources is based almost entirely on enrollment growth and so without [it] we don’t get the academic resources we need to develop new academic programs.”

The next step is for the mayor to bring up the issue to the city council. After the meeting, if the city decides they do have the resources, the question is whether they want to use them for the development of a new ballpark. Dr. Mitchell did not say when the next meeting with members of the city would be.



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