

THE RUNNER

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COLD CASE

Who killed Bianca Jackson?

An in-depth look at the only homicide at CSUB

By Esteban Ramirez
Special to The Runner

It has been almost seven years since gunshots rang out at CSU Bakersfield, killing 18-year-old Bianca Janae Jackson.

“I just remember her brother Jose Jackson, Jr. running out back to the [hospital] lobby and screaming, ‘she is fucking dead,’” said Ridgeview High alumna and friend Nicole Guillen. “Police had to restrain him, and we all just kind of broke down.”

A small party, which quickly got out of hand, turned into the only homicide in CSUB’s 47-year history.

Jackson was neither a student at CSUB nor the target of the gunfire.

She was trying to leave the party when, Bakersfield police say, a gang attempted to shoot a rival gang and Jackson was struck by a stray bullet.

“She had her whole life ahead of her,” said Veronica Aguayo, Jackson’s mother, “and it was just taken from her.”

Her shooter still hasn’t been caught.

This case remains open but has since ran cold.

Dark October night

A small office Halloween party hosted by now-defunct CSUB club Black Young Starz was scheduled for the late hours of Oct. 21, 2010.

As Black Young Starz made final preparations for the party in the Administration East building and behind a water tower near Parking Lot F, Jackson and some of her closest friends were making their own plans.

She was originally planning on going to the movies with her best friend Krystal Gardea.

Meanwhile, her other friend, Brylin Hadrian, was coming back to Bakersfield from Sacramento State and made plans to go to the party at CSUB.

Hadrian was told about the party by another friend. She and other friends told Jackson. At first, Jackson was hesitant about going but then she changed her mind.

Jackson went to the party with high school friend Victor Donis and a few other friends, and Hadrian met them later.

They weren’t the only ones who found out about the party. The event was scheduled to have around 40 people but word spread through social media and more than 100 showed up.

Despite the overcrowded attendance inside the Administration East building and at the



Bianca Jackson and her father Jose take a photo after her graduation from Ridgeview High School in June 2010. Bianca died on Oct. 22, 2010.

small area behind the tower, the party continued.

Jackson and her friends made their way to CSUB just before 9 p.m.

Gardea said Jackson was excited about her costume for the Halloween party. She dressed as a pirate.

The party had a haunted house theme and there was dancing. Hadrian said no alcohol was served.

“It was good, clean fun,” she said.

Jackson and her friends were enjoying the party and dancing, but around 9 p.m. fights started breaking out.

University Police Chief Marty Williamson said a minor disturbance was reported just after 9 p.m., but campus police handled the situation. After UPD had left the scene for the first time, officers returned for a report of more disturbances.

Another fight reportedly started at 11:20 p.m., and campus police once again stopped it.

After that fight, Donis said he started feeling tension at the party, so he decided to leave.

He asked Jackson if she wanted to go or stay, and she decided to stay with Hadrian and their other friends.

As the party was winding down, Hadrian wanted to change shoes, so they went out to Hadrian’s car.

On their way back into the party, Hadrian noticed four men drive by in a Land Cruiser. Jackson and Hadrian returned

to the party, and that’s when chaos ensued.

“All these fights started breaking out,” Hadrian said. “There was one fight and then another fight and then another fight. It was like madness.”

Chief Marty Williamson said UPD officers didn’t stop the party because they were waiting for a lieutenant to arrive on scene and manage the situation before dispersing the crowd.

Hadrian said they made their way to the parking lot, and Jackson told her she wanted to leave.

As they were standing by Hadrian’s car, the Land Cruiser drove by again.

“I just had this feeling in my gut, and I said to her, ‘I think someone has a gun,’” said Hadrian.

Just then, at 11:39 p.m., the gunfire started.

Three shots were fired.

Hadrian ducked as Jackson pushed her forward to run away and avoid the gunfire. Hadrian said Jackson said “dude,” so Hadrian looked back. Jackson was looking at the sky holding her stomach with both hands.

“I’m looking at her in shock but then I realized something happened to her,” Hadrian said.

Jackson was struck by one of the bullets as the shooter and his accomplices fled in the vehicle.

Jackson put her hand on the car and then onto Hadrian before slumping down to the ground.

Photo courtesy of Veronica Aguayo

“I watched the life drain from her eyes,” Hadrian said.

Once Jackson was on the ground, her head began turning side to side and her body was convulsing, Hadrian said.

Hadrian started yelling for help, and that’s when campus security arrived on scene.

They called 9-1-1 and an ambulance quickly took Jackson to Kern Medical Center.

While Hadrian was being held at CSUB to be questioned, she called Jackson’s family to notify them of what happened.

“I got a phone call from my son that she had been shot,” said Veronica Aguayo, Jackson’s mother. “After that, it was just shock. It’s hard to believe because you think they can be somewhere safe, but evidently, nowhere is safe.”

Family and friends hoped she would pull through, but the gunshot wound was deadly, piercing her lungs.

Jackson was pronounced dead at 12:20 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 22, 2010.

“It was really hard because you are not prepared for something like that,” Aguayo said. “We kept praying, ‘please be OK,’ and then to find out she wasn’t and we couldn’t even see her, it was so hard.”

CSUB President Horace Mitchell, who was at home at the time, was informed of the shooting and made his way onto campus.

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SPEAKER

CSUB says yes to Milo Yiannopoulos

By Christopher Mateo
Editor-in-Chief

CSU Bakersfield will welcome Milo Yiannopoulos on campus, but now it is in the College Republicans’ hands to confirm or cancel the event by Friday, Sept. 29.

In a statement released on their Instagram page on Sept. 25, the College Republicans stated, “while we do not endorse everything that Mr. Yiannopoulos believes and says, we do endorse wholeheartedly his right, and the right of every other human being, to Free Speech. And it is a right we believe is worth standing up for.”

The statement focused on the importance of fighting for freedom of speech and explaining the reasoning behind why the College Republicans are trying to bring Yiannopoulos to campus.

The event surfaced after a reserved date appeared on CSUB’s events calendar, describing the speaker as a controversial speaker.

On Sept. 20, a letter written by William Becker Jr., president and CEO of Freedom X on behalf of the College Republicans, stated that if CSUB did not allow Milo Yiannopoulos to speak on campus, the College Republicans will sue CSUB.

On Sept. 22, University Counsel Chelsea Epps sent a response on behalf of CSUB stating, “Assuming your client complies with University policies and process, your client may host its event on October 25 — and has never been told otherwise.”

CSUB granted the College Republicans an extension to allow the organization enough time comply with the Non-Instructional Events Policy.

According to the Events Policy, the use of a facility on campus is restricted for commercial use, meaning the College Republicans will not be able to sell tickets to cover Yiannopoulos’ \$20,000 fee. According to CSUB’s letter, “If your client does not, at this time, have the funds to pay Mr. Yiannopoulos’ \$20,000 fee, the Office of Student Involvement will work with your client to find a suitable alternate date for the Yiannopoulos Event.”

In the Instagram post, the College Republicans stated, “there is no doubt that Milo does offend people, says things that are deemed by others to be mean, cruel, or offensive.”

Yiannopoulos is notorious for speaking against feminism. He mostly speaks at colleges where



Photo from Milo Yiannopoulos’ Facebook
Milo Yiannopoulos is a conservative and conservative public speaker.

he is often met with protests due to his conservative views. He recently made headlines after a video surfaced of him condoning sexual relations between a man and boys as young as 13 years old.

“We encourage you to attend this event and further exercise your Free Speech rights and pose questions, engage in civil dialogue, respectfully challenge opinions to which you do not understand or do not agree with,” stated the College Republicans in their Instagram post.

However, as of writing this article, the event has not been confirmed by either College Republicans or by CSUB.

Adviser to the College Republicans and management and marketing assistant professor Jeremy Woods, stated in an email “no comment.”

One student listed as a member of the College Republicans, Spencer Cordova, was contacted but has not responded.

“There has only been talk, there is nothing firm, there is no contract,” said Director of Public Affairs and Communication Michael Lukens.

Some students think this type of messages should not be expressed at a college campus that has a diverse student body.

“Overall, I don’t think he should speak at CSUB,” said Charlie Cerino, CSUB student. “This is a campus about all students not just a certain group.”

Some students think it is good to see different points of view.

“Since this school has such a diverse population of students there will be many point of views,” said senior economics major Nicholas Cortez. “Since we don’t have many controversial speakers coming to campus, it will be interesting to see the reactions.”

For continuing coverage on this story read therunneronline.com

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COLD CASE

Jackson impacts many in short life

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“It was really unfortunate that she was killed,” Mitchell said. “The shooting was between rival gangs, and Bianca Jackson was an innocent victim caught in the crossfire.”

Who was Bianca Jackson?
The words “forever in our hearts” and “beloved daughter and sister” read on a gravestone at Greenlawn Southwest Mortuary on Panama Lane to honor and remember Bianca Jackson’s life.

But for family and friends, these words aren’t enough to describe who Bianca was.

“She was loving and outgoing,” Aguayo said.

“She was the funniest person I ever met,” Hadrian said. “I think about Kevin Hart in a woman’s body and that was her. Everything she did was funny.”

“She was more than my best friend,” Gardea said. “She always made me feel that everything is going to work out and that everything is possible. She was the light in my dark tunnels.”

Bianca was born Sept. 26, 1992 in San Diego.

She was the youngest daughter of Jose Jackson and Veronica Aguayo and was the sister of Brittany Jackson, Jose Jackson, Jr., and Robert Jackson.

They were a military family, moving constantly before finally settling in Bakersfield.

Aguayo said Bianca was a good daughter, who never gave her problems.

Jose Jackson said his daughter never wanted anyone to be sad and would go out of her way to make them happy.

Her gravestone also shows an image of Bianca, which she drew herself.

“She was a really good artist,” said Ginger Booker, CSUB alumna and Bianca’s friend. “She’d paint, she would draw and she would rap, too.”

Bianca made rap videos with friends and family and posted them on Myspace. She rapped with friends in the back of the school bus.

She took graphic design classes at the Regional Occupational Center while she was at Ridgeview High School.

Bianca graduated from Ridgeview High in June 2010 and was getting ready for the next chapter in her life — going off to cosmetology school.

Aguayo said her daughter was considering going to the

Milan Institute of Cosmetology in Bakersfield but because she was not yet 18 years old, she was not able to register.

She never got a chance to apply after turning 18. On Oct. 30, 2010, a memorial service for Bianca was held at Kern Christian Center on Gosford Road. It was then when Jose Jackson saw the impact his daughter had in her short life. He said they had to constantly move the venue of the service because so many of her friends were calling to attend.

Their initial expected attendance was 100, but over 1,500 people showed up to the service to pay their respects.

“It was just a testimony to the kind of young lady she was and who she was going to be,” he said. “She was going to touch a lot of people, and I was just amazed by how many people just turned out.”

“She always made me feel that everything is going to work out and that everything is possible. She was the light in my dark tunnels.”

Krystal Gardea, Bianca’s best friend

Early investigation

In the wake of the deadly shooting, multiple officers from the Bakersfield Police Department worked the case.

BPD Sergeant and Public Information Officer Ryan Kroeker said officers interviewed everyone who had information regarding the case, including Hadrian. She was taken to the station for questioning, where she gave a statement.

Detectives showed her a lineup of possible suspects, but she couldn’t identify any person who was directly involved in the shooting.

Police continued to follow leads, looking for the people responsible for Jackson’s death, eventually telling Hadrian they thought it was gang-related.

“We know about a lot of people who were there we believe are affiliated with a street gang,” Kroeker said.

Kroeker said BPD believes they know which gangs were involved but doesn’t want to release their names so the gangs



Bianca Jackson’s friend Brylin Hadrian embraces two people after the shooting at Parking Lot F at CSUB’s campus.

don’t get any more notoriety.

Hadrian said former detective and current district attorney investigator Dennis Murphy told her the gangs, which were thought to be responsible, were the Eastside Crips and Country Boy Crips.

Murphy declined to be interviewed for this story.

Wesley Davis, president and founder of The Wendale Davis Foundation, who reached out to the family following the shooting and works with BPD on gang outreach, said he also has heard those were the gangs involved.

Just hours following the shooting, BPD was able to identify two men suspected of being involved through various witness interviews.

Two suspects

BPD arrested Christopher Lee Miller and Jonathan Darnell Bell on Friday, Oct. 22, 2010 on obstruction charges. They were booked on murder charges the following day.

Witnesses told BPD that they thought Miller and Bell were involved in the shooting, but two days later Miller and Bell were released due to insufficient evidence.

Two other people were brought in for questioning that Monday when Bell and Miller were released.

At the time, 20-year-old Jamal Phillips and 17-year-old Marlon Burch were questioned but then later released.

Jose Jackson said other gang members visited him following the shooting, asking if the family wanted them to look into who was responsible.

They returned and gave him



A gravesite is in place to honor Bianca Jackson at Greenlawn Southwest Memorial on Panama Lane.

two names: Jamal Phillips and Marlon Burch.

They said they didn’t know who the driver was, according to Jose Jackson.

Jose Jackson, who never had been a part of any gang, visited Phillips and Burch at their homes. He said he tried to talk to Phillips, who was with his grandmother at the time, but he wouldn’t come out of the house.

Jose Jackson called the police, but an officer told him to leave and give the information to the investigating detective.

He talked to Murphy, but Jose Jackson said he was told BPD had to release Phillips and Burch because they didn’t have an eyewitness who was willing to testify.

Jose Jackson, who was in the Army for 24 years, said he feels the system has not worked out in his daughter’s case.

“I feel the process has failed, but I still have to obey the law and be here for my family and not be up for double murder,” he said.

Kroeker said BPD didn’t have enough evidence on either man for the district attorney to prosecute them.

Court records show Phillips was convicted for participating in a street gang back in August 2009.

Burch was a juvenile during the shooting so any priors are not available on the court’s records.

However, since the shooting, he has had multiple felonies and misdemeanors.

He has been convicted seven times, including five times for disorderly conduct.

On Aug. 10, 2017, he was arrested for violating parole. Interview requests were sent to Burch on Aug. 13 and Sept. 5, but he declined to be interviewed both times.

He was released from the downtown jail on Sept. 25.

Case runs cold

BPD continued questioning people suspected of being involved or people who may know who was involved, but lack of information kept the case from being solved.

It remains open, but this is now considered a cold case.

Kroeker said some people did come forward to say everything they knew but not everyone did.

“The fact that other people who aren’t responsible for it... refuse to tell us anything, is difficult because Ms. Jackson was innocent,” Kroeker said. “She didn’t deserve this.”

For over six years now, this case hasn’t seen any new leads.

Hadrian said about a year after the shooting she tried to call the detective on the case with more information she remembered, but she never got a response.

Aguayo said the last time BPD had reached out to her regarding the incident was in early

2011.

Jose Jackson said it hurts they didn’t receive any help from CSUB.

“They didn’t take any responsibility for it, which was very difficult for us to understand,” he said.

He said he wished they brought more awareness about what happened.

After the shooting, CSUB changed its procedures for holding events, promoting events on social media and campus security.

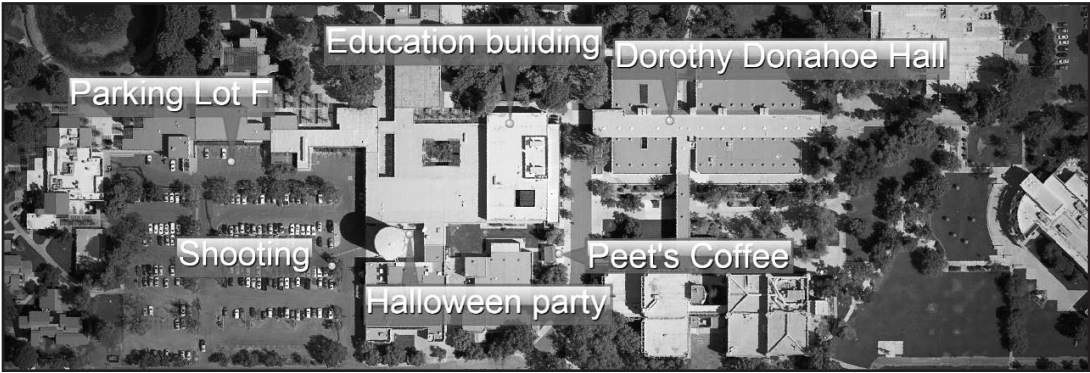
Mitchell said CSUB is still there for the family if they have any questions or want to talk about what happened.

BPD said there is a \$5,000 Secret Witness reward for anyone with information which leads to an arrest and filing of a complaint against any suspects.

If anyone has any information regarding this case, they are asked to call BPD at 327-7111 or the Secret Witness line at 322-4040.

Esteban Ramirez is a CSU Bakersfield alumnus and a former staff member of The Runner. He started researching and conducting interviews for this story before he graduated in May 2017.

This three-part story is the product of six months of reporting and over 20 interviews.



Bianca Jackson was shot and killed at Parking Lot F, near the Education Building.

ONLINE

This is part one of a three-part series regarding this cold case. Lookout for part two and three on therunneronline.com to find out how this shooting changed the CSUB campus and the learn more about the current investigation of the case.

THE RUNNER

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Send letters to therunner.online@gmail.com. All letters must be signed and verified and be no more than 300 words in length. Letters may be edited for clarity and length.

ABOUT

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ASI

Student life and the plans ahead

By Mario Hernandez
Reporter

The academic senate considered changing the maximum amount of units from 19 to 16. Executive Vice President Precious Nwaoha attended the meeting with a subcommittee of the Academic Senate. Anything more than 16 units and the student would have to petition for it. CSUB’s current maximum units stand at 19. “ASI board will take out a resolution to keep it at 19 units” said Nwaoha.

The ASI board recommended to keep the maximum amount of units at 19. The recommendation has been passed on to the academic senate. The academic senate will determine the maximum amount of units at CSUB.

“One, they wanted unification in the catalog and the computer systems. Two, they believed there was a lot of academic load on the students, and so they wanted to take that load off of students and it was 16 before and they wanted to take it back,” said Nwaoha. Students had their opinions on the topic, and many disagreed with the change.

“This change is unlikely to affect me, but the possibility of affecting me in creating a schedule for future semesters that is something I’m against,” said Tyler Nadon, a sophomore majoring in chemistry.



Photo by Simer Khurana/The Runner
Mohammed Cook, Vice President of Campus Life, talked about the upcoming semester, and plans to bring more to the campus to have more interactions with students.

Paulina Ackerman, a sophomore majoring in bio-tech, said it should be left to the individual.

“I’m taking 18 units right now. It is a heavy load, but if you could personally handle it, I don’t know why not. It’s upon the individual to decide what they could take,” said Ackerman.

Ackerman said, “I would have to petition my junior and senior year in order to graduate in 4 years for the graduation plan they made for me.”

Wendy Melendez, director of Community Outreach asked for funds to reduce the cost in hosting a Runner Dance Marathon. The event will be held Oct. 21 from 7 a.m.–7 p.m. and anyone over the age of 18 is

welcome. Runner Dance Marathon is a movement dedicated to Ryan White, who was diagnosed with AIDS following a blood transfusion at age 13. Ryan passed away in April 1990, a month before his high school graduation. The event now has more than 12 participating universities and continues to grow. “We are asking students to register two days prior to the event, and it’s a mandatory donation of \$20. We want to give students a chance to raise the money for the entry. Many students arrive the day of the event and would pay \$20 to enter. This is not a fee of entrance it’s a donation and all the money raised goes towards the cause,” said Melendez.

DINING

Mixed reviews on the Runner Grille

By Ola Iduma
Reporter

The CSUB Runner Grille opened this semester as an all you can eat buffet with breakfast, lunch and dinner served during various hours. An entrance fee is charged at every meal to have access to the buffet.

There are affordable on-campus meal plans for all CSUB students, and they are required for the resident students. The Runner Grill is also open to faculty, staff and guests.

Last semester, the Runner Cafe was an a la carte system, not a buffet system. With food options like the Runner Grill, Sbarro, Sandwich Shack, and sushi.

Tolani Bidja, a nursing major at CSUB, said, “I don’t like the new system. I wish it wasn’t changed. For one thing, it encourages people to just keep eating, even when they are not hungry, and that’s gluttony.”

Some students are more concerned about the entrance price. Sophomore Ibidunni Adebisi, 19, said, “I am an on-campus resident, so a meal plan is required for me. If this wasn’t so, I might be spending about \$30 cash on food in a day, and I wouldn’t like that.”

Junie Luei, 20, said, “I go to the cafe occasionally, because it is more expensive now than last semester. I went more fre-



Andrew Paradez/The Runner
CSUB students wait in line in Runner Grille to serve themselves lunch.

quently last semester. I eat off campus most of the time.”

The Runner Grille serves vegetables, fresh fruits, whole grain foods, lean proteins and low or non-fat dairy options. There are also a variety of vegetarian or vegan choices to choose from.

An engineering major at CSUB, Stacy McLoue, 22, enjoys eating at the Runner Grill. “I love the food that is served in the cafe. For an all you can eat buffet, I think the money charged is an okay deal. I mean, it could be cheaper by a dollar or two, but the food is good and I like to eat there,” said McLoue.

For CSUB student Chase Peckwell, 23, the food choices in the dining hall are healthier than they were last semester. “There’s rice, baked potatoes, pasta, meat, and vegetables. Those are healthier food choices

than what we used to have at the cafe, spring 2017,” said Peckwell.

Grille Hours and Prices	
7:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	\$8.49
11a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	\$9.49
5 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	\$10.49

HISPANIC HERITAGE

SEPTEMBER 15 - OCTOBER 15

OCT 2ND

LOTería LUNES

12-1PM | STOCKDALE ROOM

ENJOY ELOTES, HORCHATA, AND PLAY LOTERIA TO WIN PRIZES!

OCT 3RD

TALKING TO ACTION: "ART, PEDAGOGY, AND ACTIVISM IN THE AMERICAS"

5:30PM | VISUAL ARTS 103

DISCUSSION PRESENTED BY THE LATINA/O FACULTY STAFF ASSOCIATION

FEATURING DR. BILL KELLEY

OCT 7TH

HISPANIC EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIP FUND AND RECEPTION

6:30PM | DORÉ THEATRE

OCT 12TH

CULTURAL CELEBRATION

11AM | STOCKDALE ROOM

CULTURAL OUTFIT CONTEST, FREE LUNCH & CHURROS, AND BREAKING OF THE PINATA!

EXTRA EVENTS:

MOTIVATIONAL MONDAYS: WITH PAN DULCE (MEXICAN SWEET BREAD)

OCTOBER 9TH | 9AM | SU LOBBY

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LUNCH WITH OUR LEADERS

HAVE QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, OR SUGGESTIONS FOR CSUB?

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2017

STUDENT UNION, MPR | 12PM

PRIDE WEEK

OCTOBER 9 - 13 2017

<p>MON 10/09</p> <p>11:30AM – 1:30PM</p> <p>RED BRICK ROAD</p> <p>LGBTQ+ KICKOFF AND RESOURCE FAIR</p>	<p>TUE 10/10</p> <p>2PM – 4PM</p> <p>STOCKDALE ROOM</p> <p>MEET & GREET MIXER & SOCIAL</p> <p>GHOULS, GOODIES, AND GAMES</p>	<p>WED 10/11</p> <p>6PM</p> <p>STOCKDALE ROOM</p> <p>ALLY RALLY</p> <p>WHAT IT MEANS TO BE AN ALLY FOR THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY</p>
<p>THUR 10/12</p> <p>7PM</p> <p>STOCKDALE ROOM</p> <p>EXPRESSION NIGHTS</p> <p>"COMING OUT STORIES" SIGN UP AT THE CAMPUS PROGRAMMING OFFICE OR EMAIL CAMPUSPROG@CSUB.EDU</p>	<p>FRI 10/13</p> <p>7PM</p> <p>ALUMNI PARK</p> <p>MOVIE NIGHT "HOCUS POCUS"</p> <p>FEEL FREE TO BRING BLANKETS OR CHAIRS FOR THE GRASS!</p>	<p>THUR 10/19</p> <p>7PM</p> <p>ICARDO CENTER</p> <p>PRIDE VOLLEYBALL GAME</p> <p>BONUS EVENT</p> <p>CONTACT CSUB ATHLETICS AT 661-654-BLUE OR TICKETS@CSUB.EDU FOR TICKETS. GROUP DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE!</p>

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CITY OF INMATES

CONQUEST, REBELLION, AND THE RISE OF HUMAN CAGING IN LOS ANGELES. 1771-1965

KELLY LYTLE HERNÁNDEZ

Kelly Lytle Hernández will be on campus speaking about her book: City of Inmates

Dezember Reading Room, Walter W. Stiern Library

Friday, October 6, 2017, 3 p.m.

This event is co-sponsored by CSUB's Department of History, the Walter W. Stiern Library, and the Kegley Institute of Ethics

KEGLEY INSTITUTE OF ETHICS

CAMPUS

New remedy for removal of remediation

By Sonia Lemus
Assistant News Editor

Since the CSU Chancellor’s Office announced the end of remediation on Aug. 3, CSU Bakersfield has been working on a plan to tackle the new implementation.

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Jenny Zorn said there is currently a task force in place that includes the English, math, sociology and psychology departments. The task force has been working to provide a plan in response to Executive Order 1110, which eliminates remedial courses and entrance exams.

Remedial courses are math and English courses that

students must take if they are not yet at college level math or English.

“The task force has been working since the beginning of classes this fall,” said Zorn.

The plan is to give support to the students who will be placed into collegiate level courses.

“Support can be a mixture of things: tutoring, supplemental instruction, co-requisite classes,” said Zorn.

Supplemental instruction can be an additional class following the scheduled class in which instruction would be provided to students that are not yet at the collegiate level, explained Zorn.

Kinesiology major Mitchell Woodbury spoke about his

own experience with passing a calculus class.

“Having supplemental instruction isn’t a bad thing. I took the supplementary course, worked hard and passed,” said Woodbury.

Students are familiar with prerequisite courses, which are basic courses that students are required to take before they enroll in certain upper division courses. Co-requisite courses are similar to taking the prerequisite courses and the upper division course at the same time said Zorn.

“We are also working with high schools, so that they are preparing students so that they can be ready to take college level courses,” said Zorn.

Instead of entrance exams, CSUB will now look for a combination of SAT and AP test scores, and GPA said Zorn.

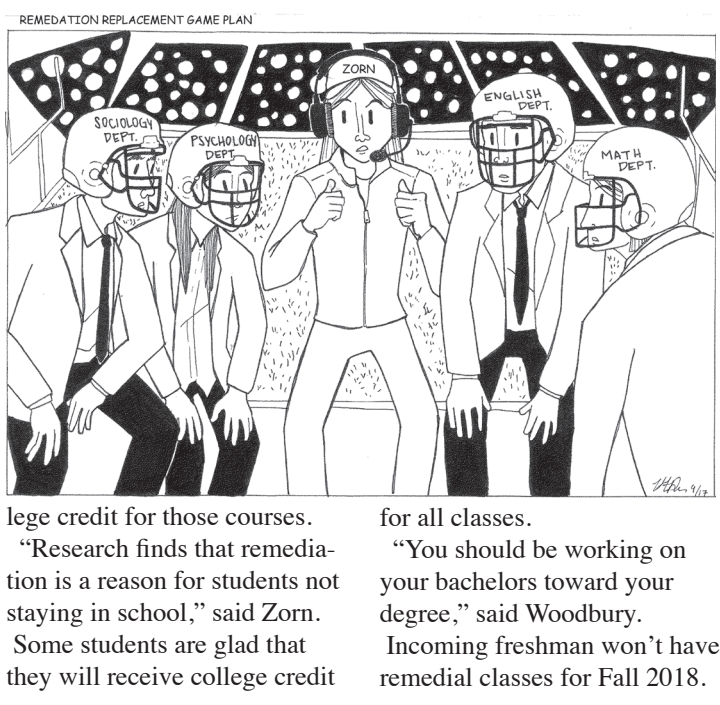
CSUB’s plan will be finalized by this semester.

“We have to have it done before this term, the reason is we have those courses in the catalog and have the curriculum planned out,” said Zorn.

Students say they are glad the school is working on a plan to help future students.

“It sounds like a good idea in the long run. It will help other students in the future,” said child, adolescent, and family studies major, Sandra Mejia.

Zorn said, one of the reasons remediation was cancelled was that students didn’t receive col-



lege credit for those courses.

“Research finds that remediation is a reason for students not staying in school,” said Zorn.

Some students are glad that they will receive college credit for all classes.

“You should be working on your bachelors toward your degree,” said Woodbury.

Incoming freshman won’t have remedial classes for Fall 2018.

COMMUNITY

California offers aid for recent global disasters

By Alexis Redding
Reporter

Since August, residents and several businesses in Bakersfield, California have been assisting those affected by the natural disasters Hurricane Harvey, Hurricane Irma, Hurricane Maria, and the Mexico City earthquake.

Hurricane Harvey hit Texas and Louisiana on Aug. 25. Then, on Sept. 10, Hurricane Irma in Florida, and Hurricane Maria followed and devastated Puerto Rico before moving on to the Turks and Caicos.

Another addition to the natural disaster season was the Central Mexico earthquake.

According to a CNN news ex-

cerpt from Sept. 20, by Nicole Chavez, the earthquake echoed the Mexico City earthquake from 1985 by occurring on its anniversary.

Staff and volunteers from Red Cross and partnering companies have traveled to help hurricane victims in their communities.

Due to the abundance of donations and services, necessities and health services are provided to those suffering from the storms.

Meghan Lara, CSU Bakersfield sociology major, said she started working for Red Cross at the right time and that it is very rewarding.

“It goes to show how important it is to pay attention to

science,” said Lara.

Megin Hughes, disaster program manager, said more than 3,200 Red Cross volunteers sent to devastated sites and about 2.5 million meals have been sent to devastated sites.

“Larger disasters put a spotlight on need,” said Hughes. She manages the central California region of Red Cross in Bakersfield.

“Natural disasters bring the community together,” said Lara.

Local establishments have been accepting donations from customers towards relief.

On Sept. 21, local fitness retail company Sole 2 Soul Sports along with sponsors Pair and Marotta, La Rosa, and

Bakersfield Track Club raised over \$3,000 for hurricane and earthquake relief.

Volunteers and employees participated in a 4k mile run for more relief support.

Sysco Food firm, The Broken Yolk Café, Bolthaus Properties and Wallace & Smith raised over \$13,000 on Sept. 8 for Hurricane Harvey.

Donations went to the American Red Cross for the victims living at the Houston Convention Center.

Other companies including Flood Ministries, PG&E, Salvation Army, Lowes, Home Depot, and Walmart have collaborated with the Central Valley Red Cross to help collect donations from the public.



Simmer Khurana/The Runner

A volunteer sorts through paperwork and makes phone calls in support of Red Cross.

Customers are given the option to donate funds during their visits.

If you would like to donate to any of the disasters, please visit <https://www.redcross.org/donate/donation> or visit any local Red Cross or the participating company locations mentioned above.

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GO ROADRUNNERS!

What's Happening
Around Campus

September/October

27 Wild Kern: Poetry and Photography:
Gallery will be up until Oct.10
WS Library

27-29 Best Week Ever:
7:30 a.m.-10:00 p.m.
SU MPR

30 RowdyCon 5K:
6 a.m.- 9 a.m.
Starts at the SRC

RowdyCon '17 Stage & Vendor Expo:
10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
SRC, SU, and DDH

3 Visiting Artist Lecture Series: Matt Johnson
5 p.m.
Visual Arts Bldg

4 Lunch with our Leaders:
12 p.m. - 1 p.m.
SU MPR

5 Faculty Lecture Series: Denise Dawkins, Nursing
4 p.m - 5 p.m.
SCI III 213

6 History Forum Event
Speaker Dr. Kelly Lyte Hernández:
3 p.m.
Dezember Reading Rm.

10 Library Exhibit: Enriques Journey by Don Bartletti
Gallery will be up until Dec. 19
WS Library

Walter Presents:
Between Two World's
Speaker Don Bartletti
6 p.m.
Dezember Reading Rm.

11 Fall Blood Drive:
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
SU Runner Park & SU Lounge

Fab Lab Hours:
Open to All: Engineering Complex I, Bldg 83
Monday: Closed
Tuesday: 2:30 p.m.- 7 p.m.
Wednesday:10 a.m.- 7 p.m.
Thursday: 2:30 p.m.- 7 p.m.
Friday: 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Sunday: Closed

Calendar sponsored by NSME, Student Union, School of Arts of Humanities, and the Walter Stiern Library. To be included, please contact efitzpatrick@csub.edu.

CAMPUS

Dreamers look to the future with uncertainty

By Karin Patiño
Reporter

On Sept. 5, the Justice Department announced the plan to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program and in turn is giving Congress six months to save the policy. Many people in the country are affected by the decision and several university students face uncertainty on where this goes from here.

Francisco Morales, 21, is studying kinesiology at CSU Bakersfield and is a DACA student. Morales moved to the United States from Mexico at the age of 10. He shared how DACA paves a path of opportunities for many people. “DACA is a way of life in which I’m able to actually work and provide for my family. It gives me the privilege of doing things such as opening a business and being able to go to school. DACA is just like a support in which I can pursue



Karin Patiño/The Runner
Russeet Romero

my dreams,” said Morales. Russeet Romero, 24, is about to receive her bachelor’s degree in criminal justice at CSUB. She moved to the U.S. at the age of 5. She shared similar feelings about how DACA equals opportunity for those who wish nothing more than to succeed in life. “All I’m asking for is an opportunity. I want the opportunity to be a juvenile counselor. To help our criminal justice system... I’m here because my parents had a dream of having kids who are going to succeed in the country that is known to be the land of opportunity. I’m here to fulfill why my parents

brought me. All their work and sacrifices, it’s a lot, and I am beyond thankful to be here,” said Romero. However, the decision to end DACA has put a halt on future plans. “I don’t even know what to feel. Just anger, sadness. It’s a combination of emotions because I’m not doing anything wrong. I follow the law and pay my taxes. I do what it takes to succeed in school. I work and I play sports. I just really want to open my business and provide for my family. It’s just common goals so the fact that they’re going to cancel the program shatters everything. Shatters every goal that I have. But I have hope something will be done,” said Morales. “At first it was like, ‘Oh, shoot. Now what?’ kind of thing. It’s a bit scary, the uncertainty, but everyone is being proactive. And people that do have DACA are like, ‘Well, we’re not going to be



Simer Khurana/The Runner
Francisco Morales

quiet now,’ and so now it’s more hopeful that everyone is not going to let that happen,” said Paula Silva, 21, child and adolescent and family studies major at CSUB. Silva moved from Mexico to the U.S. when she was three years old. “It was pretty devastating. But overall what I know today from his decision is that I am not going to stop fighting. I’m not just going to leave and stay quiet. I’m going to fight for this because I, myself, am a human, and I have rights. The support that we’ve received is amazing. The fact that our friends are standing for us, our professors,

our schools. I think that is amazing because it shows us that even though we felt alone for so long, we truly aren’t alone,” said Romero. The announcement of DACA ending brought concern to many and begs a very important question: why was this decided when it seems like the decision will cause more harm than good? “We have potential doctors, potential lawyers, potential paramedics, potential firemen. Right now we have teachers who are DACA. We have nurses. People who are working in the police. And not to mention people who have bought homes, myself included. So if you take DACA away, then our economy is going to drop because you’re going to have all these properties that are now vacant. We have jobs that would be lost. We pay taxes, so there won’t be any more money from DACA,” said Romero. Romero shared that CSUB



Simer Khurana/The Runner
Paula Silva

will have a United Now for Immigrant Rights club soon. “In 2013, the club was done, until now. We’re reviving it. We just started but we will have meetings soon. Anyone can join,” said Romero. The fate of the DACA program still seems up in the air. “When Trump announced that it was ending, he said he would give Congress six months to figure it out,” said Silva. “Then last I heard on the news that if in six months Congress doesn’t do anything, he’ll step in. So, who knows what he’s doing.”

CAMPUS LIFE

Upcoming pride week celebration

By Chantel Vargas
Reporter

Pride Week starts on Oct. 9 with the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Kickoff and Resource Fair. On Oct. 10, there will be a Meet & Greet Mixer & Social. The Ally Rally will be on Oct. 11. Expression Nights follows on Oct. 12. Spend your Friday the 13th watching Disney’s “Hocus Pocus,” and finally enjoy a bonus event on Oct. 19, the Pride Volleyball Game. The LGBTQ+ Kickoff and Resource Fair will take place on the red brick road from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Students can expect many organizations including the Gay & Lesbian Center of Bakersfield and possibly Planned Parenthood. Cristian Flores, who is a senior English major at CSU Bakersfield and the program assistant at the Gay & Lesbian Center of Bakersfield, will also be at the Resource Fair and will be handing out pamphlets about their counseling services and event calendars. “We have events at our center as well as our administrative offices that we host,” said Flores. Specific events include support groups, book clubs, game days, movie nights and karaoke nights. The Meet & Greet Mixer & Social will be in the Stockdale

Room from 2-4 p.m. This event will give people the opportunity to meet CSUB staff and faculty that are also part of the LGBTQ+ community. In an interview with the LGBTQ+ co-chair, Matthew McClellan said, “We are going to have games, snacks and fun. I think it is important to know that you have people to turn to.” This is the eighth Annual Ally Rally currently led by Yvonne Ortiz-Bush, assistant professor in educational counseling. In previous years, the Annual Ally Rallies were panels led by Anne Duran, who discussed why the Ally Rally began, why it is important to the campus, and a Q&A segment with different members of the community. This year, they are changing that so that the Ally Rally can be more interactive with the participants. Expression Nights will be in the Stockdale Room at 7 p.m. All are welcome to come listen to the emotional “Coming Out Stories.” “Hearing stories where students struggle with family and religious acceptance and seeing them working through their struggles, coming out and living their life is inspiring. Everybody has their own struggles and we cannot say someone else because we are not in their position, and we do not know

what they are feeling,” McClellan said. Movie Night will begin at 7 p.m. at Alumni Park. Watch Disney’s “Hocus Pocus” directed by Kenny Ortega, who is best known for directing “High School Musical” and “Descendants.” “All events are free and open to anybody who wants to participate. I fully believe that we cannot argue for inclusivity if we are willing to exclude people from our own group. Everybody is welcomed just as long as nobody is hateful” said McClellan. Bring blankets or chairs and snacks; however, popcorn will be provided. Invite your friends and spend Friday the 13th lighting the black flame candle and watching the Sanderson Sisters try to become immortal. Ashlee Bowen, a sophomore psychology major said, “These events help bring people together. Gay people and straight people love Hocus Pocus!” Giovana Melo is the director of volleyball and was interested in doing a Pride Volleyball Game. The game is a bonus event and begins at 7 p.m. in the Icardo Center. There will be jerseys made specially for the game. “That is the whole point of pride. Come together, meet the community, and have a good time,” said McClellan. The Rainbow Run 5k planned

for Oct. 14 has unfortunately been canceled but will be rescheduled in the spring. For more information please email Matthew McClellan at mmccllellan1@csub.edu.

Pride Week Schedule

Mon, Oct. 9

11:30a.m. - 1:30p.m.

Red Brick Road

LGBTQ + Kickoff and Resource Fair

Tue, Oct. 10

2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Stockdale Room

Meet and Greet Mixer and Social

Wed, Oct. 11

6 p.m.

Stockdale Room

Ally Rally

Thu, Oct. 12

7 p.m.

Stockdale Room

Expression Nights

Fri, Oct. 13

7 p.m.

Alumni Park

Movie Night

“Hocus Pocus”

Thu, Oct. 19

7 p.m.

Icardo Center

Pride Volleyball Game

CULTURE

CSUB celebrates Hispanic heritage

By Todd Banker
Freelance Reporter

CSU Bakersfield continues celebrating National Hispanic Heritage Month and events on campus are scheduled through Oct. 12. Hispanic Heritage Month started on Sept. 15 at CSUB and had students lined up at the student union patio for free Fuego Tacos. A Mariachi band played during the event creating a festive atmosphere for the attendees. A round table discussion on Sept. 26 featured “What DACA Means For Our Students.” Oct. 2 features Loteria Lunes from 12-1 p.m. in the Stockdale Room. Oct. 3 will be “Talking to Action: Art Pedagogy and the Activism in the Americas” at 5:30 p.m. in Visual Arts 103. Oct. 7 the Doré Theatre will hold the Hispanic Excellence Scholarship Fund and Reception at 6:30 p.m. CSUB will wrap up the festivities on Oct. 12 with a cultural celebration in the Stockdale room at 11 a.m. Hispanic Heritage Month gives all CSUB cultures an opportunity to reflect on how Hispanics and Latinos have shaped the United States as we

know it. CSUB students will have the opportunity to experience everything from food, music and discussions relating to the culture. CSUB and the Bakersfield community has a large Hispanic population. CSUB Coordinator Afaf Aldhulay said CSUB’s Hispanic population was taken into consideration when planning the events. Hispanic Heritage Month has already seen some hardships, such as the DACA decision. These troubled times are nothing new for Hispanics in the United States. In the past, Hispanics have faced challenges such as labor issues and segregation. “The struggles and the sacrifices others have made allow the conditions for people like me to strive,” said CSUB political science professor Dirk Michael Horn. Students at CSUB have many thoughts about what Hispanic heritage means to them personally. Melissa Garcia, a freshman liberal studies major said, “I feel that Hispanic music is what carries the culture.” Freshman philosophy major Teresa Aiello said that Hispanic Heritage Month can clear stereotypes and allow people to experience other cultures.

GUEST SPEAKER

Retired professor discusses fake news

By Allison Lechman
Reporter

There is a creature that has been around for many years, and it takes different forms. This villain is manipulating and feeding on unsuspecting victims. This creature’s name is better known as fake news. One person that will not become a victim is Christopher Meyers, retired professor of philosophy at CSU Bakersfield and former director of the Kegley Institute of Ethics. Meyers was a guest host on the talk radio program, “Philosophy Talk.” This program is where philosophers talk about a wide variety of issues from morality to pop culture. Fake news was the main topic discussed between Meyers and the other philosophers. “When it comes to the state of truth and public discourse, these really are the worst of times,” said Josh Landy, co-host of “Philosophy Talk” and a professor at Stanford Univer-

sity. Lying politicians and fake news are not new. Ken Taylor, co-host of “Philosophy Talk” and professor of philosophy at Stanford University reminds Landy that people in power are not always honest. This can be traced back to the “Greek flourishing of democracy, aspiring power mongrels back then, would go study with the sophist. Sophists were professional liars,” said Taylor. Dishonesty has not only been within politics, but has been within the news media as well. “Folks worry that we are in a particularly bad period for news media, not so much for the legacy sites [Like the LA Times and Washington Post], but because there is so much false information out there,” said Meyers. News media is lingering farther and farther away from political objectivity and political neutrality. “If you look back through the history of journalism, that

appeal to political neutrality is relatively recent and relatively short lived. The original papers were very partisan. They represented the political parties [they supported] and many of them were just unbelievably nasty... in their critiques of one another and the opposing politicians,” said Meyers. News media’s best defense against the beast is to keep feeding the public the accurate and truthful information they need. So, what can the news media and news consumers be doing differently to kill the creature infamously named fake news? News media organizations must be, “recommitting to that part of the journalistic endeavor and worrying less about profit, just enough to sustain the business model,” said Meyers. The creature’s main victims, news consumers, must be more proactive. “They don’t know there are other ways of thinking about these same stories. That’s partly

a fault of education, we’re not doing a good enough job of teaching critical diverse thinking,” said Meyers. “Some of it is that the politics have become, at least superficially, so polarized that it’s scary. If I feel comfortable in my belief system turning on somebody who’s going to challenge that, that makes me uncomfortable and creates that kind of dissonance, so it’s easy to avoid,” said Meyers. “What I hope is that this, and I generously call it a ‘political experiment’ with President Trump, forces people to realize we got to be more careful,” said Meyers. Consumers have the right to choose their own news source, but keep in mind not all of it may be fact. There may even be a third party trying to persuade the public. Stay informed, but don’t let this creature fool you. Be sure to check multiple news sources before forming an opinion.

The Runner Online

Watch a multimedia report on campus dining by reporter Sandy Ornelas at therunneronline.com

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PROFILE

Hazing victim McClanahan moves on

By Veronica Morley
Features Editor

"They kept assuring me that, every night that I was gonna get these things when we were done. And then I was at my house and I just collapsed, and my disk, my L2L3, was shattered." Six years after his hospitalization, Brent McClanahan II, a CSU Bakersfield graduate, is finally sharing how he recovered when his Greek Life dream became a nightmare.

"After everything happened and I was injured, it was kind of like I had to start my life all over again," said McClanahan.

According to McClanahan, the District Attorney, alongside Bakersfield Police Department, filed a criminal lawsuit immediately in 2011 and named students: Deandra Horn, Ryan Nichols, and Philemon Lamont Norris. Ryan and Nichols pleaded no contest to misdemeanor charges of hazing and Horn pleaded no contest to misdemeanor charges of battery and received three years' probation and time served.

McClanahan was 24 years old, and a single father of two, when he moved back in with his parents and started school at CSUB in 2010. He decided to pledge Kappa Alpha Psi in March of 2011, a fraternity his father had been a member of. Kappa Alpha Psi was unsanctioned at the time and McClanahan, along with other pledges, were hoping to create enough membership to reestablish the chapter.

"The reason why I joined and wanted to be a part of the fraternity was because my father was a Kappa and I'm a Kappa, and it was my child-

hood dream to always be a Kappa," said McClanahan.

McClanahan stated that at the time of his pledging process, there were already multiple fraternities and sororities that were sanctioned by the university. Kappa Alpha Psi was just one of a few black fraternities that was trying to gain momentum at the time.

"There were many crazy things happening in my life and it just got to the point where I just needed to belong to something," said McClanahan.

When the pledges were offered the opportunity to pledge Kappa Alpha Psi, McClanahan felt at the time that if they did not "want to be real" then the other brothers of the fraternity would not respect them as a fellow Kappa.

"So in order for you to get respect, you have to be hazed...I mean from getting hit with whips, canes, paddles," said McClanahan.

In April 2011, McClanahan, 25 at the time, returned to his parents' home where he collapsed and was hospitalized after an initiation evening with the fraternity. He sustained herniated and ruptured discs which left him paralyzed from the waist down. He has undergone rehabilitation for his legs and has regained use of them over time. He said he still experiences drop leg, bladder control issues, and may not be able to father any more children.

McClanahan said that his beatings not only left him with severe physical injuries and costly medical bills, but psychological trauma as well. He said he has suffered from depression, night terrors, and PTSD due to his experience.

When McClanahan was in the hospital his fraternity big brother, and fellow pledges, visited to ask him if he was still interested in continuing the initiation process. His response was, "Look at me. I'm in the hospital." and that's when it just clicked like, "what the hell am I doing here?"

According to McClanahan, the medical expenses and psychological damages became so burdensome that he reached out to the California Victim Compensation Board to help him. However, the board rejected his application stating he did not qualify as a victim because he "kept going back to be hazed," he said.

"So I said to them, 'Let me ask you a question. Do you say the same thing to a woman who is in a domestic violence abuse but keeps going back to her husband that keeps beating her?'...They didn't answer my question," said McClanahan.

After McClanahan was denied financial assistance by the state he decided to file a lawsuit against the fraternity to help cover his medical expenses.

McClanahan began discussion about filing a lawsuit against Kappa Alpha Psi in 2012.

According to him, the next year was spent discussing how to file the suit. In 2013, McClanahan filed a civil lawsuit against Kappa Alpha Psi Inc. in Los Angeles County Superior Court. During the lawsuit, allegations arose against McClanahan's father being aware of his son's beatings and injuries before the night his son was hospitalized. McClanahan rebukes these allegations saying that his father "was heartbroken when he found out" about the



Veronica Morley/The Runner

Brent McClanahan II talked at CSUB about his life and his experience with Kappa Alpha Psi.

hazing that had ensued.

In August of 2014, McClanahan said the yearlong litigation resulted in a settlement. He received \$2 million from the fraternities' insurance. He has used it to settle his medical expenses, including his back surgery that had cost \$250,000.

McClanahan has also decided to use his experience to benefit others. He continued his education and graduated from CSUB with a degree in history. He said he is unsure of what he plans to do, but he would like to work in a field where he can continue to share what he has learned from his experience. He considers teaching or even continuing his education, getting a master's degree, and becoming a college professor.

"I really feel like that's another big issue too, is we don't have enough adults telling these students what to look out

for," said McClanahan.

At the end of 2013, McClanahan was introduced to film director Byron Hurt who has directed documentaries such as: "If Five-O Shoots," "I Am a Man: Black Masculinity in America," and just finished "Hazing: How Badly do you Want in?" which will feature McClanahan and his story. The film is expected to be released at the end of 2017 and will feature scenes at CSUB with McClanahan.

"It's like I'm trying to figure out the social psychology of how one becomes a part of a group and like why, as a society, we have the people who want to be a part of a group," said McClanahan.

McClanahan said he was grateful for the work he did with Hurt on the film. He feels that being a part of that film helped him to process his anger

and depression at the time. He is grateful for the manner in which CSUB President Horace Mitchell responded to the case. He said that the physical abuse they endured never occurred on campus and he has never felt that CSUB was at fault for his ordeal.

McClanahan continues to advocate for victims rights and safety. He feels he is just "an ordinary guy trying to make a difference." He hopes to understand more the psychology of needing to belong, even if it means enduring beatings.

"We need to have a dialect with administration and students."

McClanahan offered his solution, "And they need to come together and have these conversations. And I feel like us doing this hazing thing is a start."



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Fun for all at the Kern County Fair

Bakersfield entertained once again by music, food, and rides

PHOTOS BY JARAD MANN



Fairgoers enjoy the thrills of the Vertigo ride as others wait in line while gazing at the sky at the Kern County Fair on Sept. 23.



The Beverly Belles, an Andrews Sisters inspired vintage trio, perform modern hits on Sept. 23 on the Main Stage at the Kern County Fair.



Candy Apples are just one of the delicious treats available along the midway at the Kern County Fair.



Thousands of Kern County residents make their way through Butler Amusements Magical Midway at the Kern County Fair on Saturday Sept. 23.



The Zipper is always a popular carnival attraction at the Kern County Fair. Many riders waited for the ride on Sept. 23.



Fairgoers believe they are performing as Bruno Mars through the power of hypnosis at the Kern County Fair on Sept. 23.



Riders scream and gasp as they rotate around the circular track on the "Fire Ball" at the Kern County Fairgrounds on Sept. 23.

By Alee Gonzalez

Khalil Reed, 23
Kinesiology



"If his speech represents more hatred than peace and positivity, then I don't think it should be on our campus. Universities should represent diversity, and him downgrading that wouldn't create a good vibe on campus."

Andrea Arreola, 19
Biology



"I hope it wouldn't go into violence, which freedom of speech usually tends to end up in when it's so controversial. It's my first year here and it's a really good campus so it'd be really unfortunate if something like that were to happen."

Javier Contreras, 18
Biology



“People can hear and form their opinions about him for themselves. They’ll be able to critique him by his merit. I’d prefer to listen to him and have a good reason not to like him, so I can accurately critique him without rumors.”

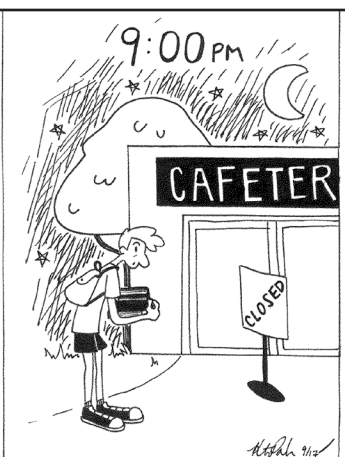
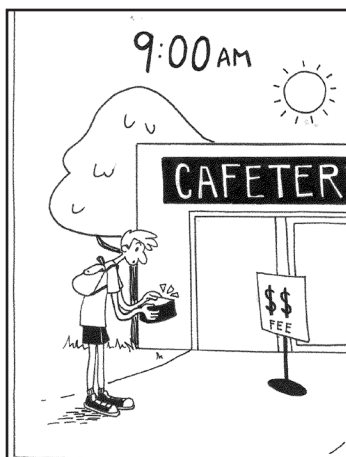
Janet Gonzalez, 20
Psychology



"I think it's his right to speak, but it's controversial because a lot of people don't agree with his ideas. I think the campus should have an online survey asking students if they want him to speak or not."

The majority of students, especially those who live in the

The construction inside, is set to be done by mid-October, and hopefully by then the atmosphere will improve.



Some CSU Bakersfield students questioned whether it is a



On Friday, Sept. 22 at a rally in Alabama, Trump said,

Although Yiannopoulos is viewed by some as controversial speaker, he does bring a different point of view and has every right to express it.

See the other three stories on
Yiannopoulos on
therunneronline.com



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CROSS-COUNTRY

Valdez races toward future beyond CSUB

By Vincent Perez
Assisant Sports Editor

Angel Valdez, 21, only began running competitively at 15. In the past two seasons, the CSU Bakersfield senior has solidified herself as the No. 1 runner on the women’s cross-country team.

Valdez, a graduate of East Bakersfield High School, most recently broke her own time in the 5-kilometer race for CSUB. Her time, 18:18.2 at the Fresno Invitational Sept. 2, surpassed her previous record time, 18:40.4 at last season’s Western Athletic Conference Championships.

Valdez holds the 5k record at CSUB, yet still strives for more.

“I’ve had a dream where I ran 17:52,” said Valdez. “I’ve met my goals and surpassed them so I have to make new ones. I want to break 18 minutes in the 5k.”

Valdez is expected to break the 18-minute mark this season, according to Director of Track & Field and Cross-Country Marcia Mansur-Wentworth.

Family keeps Valdez moving, especially her sibling.

Her brother, Moses, inspires Valdez. Moses was on the track and field team at East High School, so she joined. Moses later joined the Navy and returned to Bakersfield recently.

“My brother helps me keep my pace. He’s been back for two years and he wants to run the Bakersfield marathon.”

Moses did not run competi-

tively after high school, but the two run together to this day. Valdez has other aspirations than running.

Valdez, a mathematics major, said she wants to teach high school math and coach cross country, leading to coach collegiate cross country. Valdez will receive her teaching credential next year.

Since Valdez’s sophomore year at CSUB in 2015, she has led the women’s cross-country team in times and in leadership.

Mansur-Wentworth is grateful for Valdez.

“Angel has become one of the best leaders I’ve had in my 20 years of coaching,” said Mansur-Wentworth. “She will be one of those incredible, special people because I’ve seen how hard she works.”

Mansur-Wentworth added that Valdez has done a great job managing to keep everything together with so much on her plate. She also praised her for her dependability and leadership.

“She has tremendous enthusiasm. The other women respect and admire her. They want to do it too, because she came in with fairly modest credentials for a Division I athlete and made herself competitive over the last two years.”

Valdez has kept a busy schedule and still succeeds academically.

This past summer, Valdez married Joshua Christiansen. She holds a 3.89 GPA. Valdez’s time on the cross-country team will end this year.

“I’ve grown a lot. Academically, athletically and personally because of the opportunities I got here,” said Valdez.

Valdez was overcome with emotion and was moved to tears when she explained what she’ll miss most.

“I can’t even think about leaving. Being part of a team and competing; I love competing,” said Valdez. “I’ll miss being part of a team, being a leader and mentoring my teammates.”

Recruiting Valdez was no easy task for Mansur-Wentworth. She tried numerous times in 2014 to reach Valdez but was not able to due to the changing of athletic directors at East High School.

Valdez had an epiphany minutes after her high school graduation.

“I literally joined the team on a whim. I just graduated high school. I had coach’s [Mansur-Wentworth] number in my phone but I hadn’t called her yet. I hadn’t decided.”

A few minutes later, Valdez made that call and told Mansur-Wentworth that she wanted to run for CSUB.

Valdez originally planned to attend Bakersfield College and transfer elsewhere. A late registration changed that and Valdez became an integral part of CSUB athletics.

“Everything kind of fell into place. It was meant for me to be here,” said Valdez. “Thank God, I made that call.”

Her teammates are thankful she did, as well.

Redshirt-senior teammate and



Simer Khurana/The Runner
Angel Valdez, runs near the Student Recreation Center on Sept. 21. Valdez was named Western Athletic Conference Women’s Cross-Country Athlete of The Week for Sept. 4-10.

best friend, Ariana Mariscal, 22, said, “She has an amazing attitude and she spreads that to everyone else.”

Mariscal said that Valdez keeps her teammates accountable for their actions and that if they’re working hard one day, then not the next, Valdez will talk to them privately. Selflessness is key in cross-country and Mariscal explained Valdez’s intentions.

“She’s out here for herself and for the team,” said Mariscal. “This is a team setting and something that she cares about.”

Both seniors, Mariscal and Valdez’s time together will end at CSUB this season.

Valdez said, “I’m going to miss every aspect. Waking up early in the morning and arriving together, training. We’re doing this together and we’re going through pain and obstacles. I’m going to miss that.”

But, Mariscal is not the only teammate Valdez has influenced.

Paradise Pelzer, 19, a sophomore, explained how she will miss talking to her as often as she did.

“She’s done so much to keep me motivated,” said Pelzer. “It’s hard changing coach to coach, from high school to college. She took me under and helped me where I needed to be. She’s keeping me honest.”

Valdez and the CSUB women’s cross-country team will compete next at The Mustang Challenge in Santa Clarita, California, Sept. 30 and The Bronco Invitational in Santa Clara, California, Oct. 14. The WAC Championships are Oct. 28, in Englewood, Colorado.

WOMEN’S SOCCER

Roadrunners drop fourth straight, fall to 5-7 on season



Scot Swan/The Runner
CSUB freshman midfielder Jeenna Bostrom attempts to clear the ball out of CSUB territory during Sunday night’s game. It was her first start of the season.

By Victor Rodriguez
Reporter

The CSU Bakersfield women’s soccer team fell in the final game of its non-conference schedule with a 3-1 loss against the UC Riverside Highlanders on Sep. 24 at the Main Soccer Field.

The Roadrunners dropped to 5-7 and have lost their last four games.

“We felt we could get above .500 or .500 in non-conference but we just fell short of that goal,” said CSUB Head Coach Gary Curneen. “We’re at a stage where we need to take it to phase two in level of stepping up against good teams and phase two in terms of what if the other teams does this, what are we going to do?”

The Highlanders (3-7-2) jumped out to an early lead. UC Riverside scored its first goal only three minutes into the game.

At the 2:15 minute mark, the Highlanders’ senior forward Ashley Webb buried a cross from the right side into the left side of the net. Junior forward Nerisse Bugho assisted on the play.

Webb also assisted the second goal as she crossed the ball from the right side to junior midfielder Quincey Quezada at the 22:32 mark of the first half.

“That was just a bad 45 minutes and I would give a lot of credit to Riverside in terms of their preparation,” said Curneen. “They tried to put us into certain areas and then hit us on the counterattack very, very well.”

The Highlanders’ took a 3-0 lead when junior midfielder Madeline Feist took a shot after a short pass from a corner kick at the 32:39 mark. Freshman defender Makenna Herrero was credited with the assist.

The lone goal for the Roadrunners was scored by soph-

omore midfielder Sophie Freeman. She managed to get a header into the back of the net off a free kick from junior midfielder Sabrina Delgado.

“It’s my first goal of the season so it was a relief more than anything,” said Freeman. “It would have been better if we would have come out with a win.”

The Highlanders outshot the Roadrunners 18-10.

CSUB failed to attempt a corner in the loss.

Up next, CSUB is scheduled to travel to Las Cruces, New Mexico to take on New Mexico State University at 2 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 6. On Sunday, Oct. 8, the Roadrunners will take on the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, at 11 a.m. in Edinburg, Texas.

The next home game for CSUB is scheduled for Friday, Oct. 13 at 7 p.m. against the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

VOLLEYBALL

CSUB sweeps first road trip of conference play



Scot Swan/The Runner
Junior outside hitter Briannah Mariner and redshirt-senior middle blocker Sydney Haynes go up to block a kill attempt against Fresno State on Sept. 12 in the Icardo Center.

By Peter Castillo
Sports Editor

The CSU Bakersfield volleyball team swept its first road trip of its Western Athletic Conference schedule, while only dropping one set over the weekend.

On Thursday, Sept. 21, the Roadrunners defeated Chicago State University, 3-1 in Chicago, Illinois.

The two teams split the first two sets of the match, which were tightly contested.

In the first set, the Cougars led 24-22 at one point. CSUB went on a 5-1 run to close out the set, 27-25.

Chicago State won the second set, 25-23 and never trailed during the frame.

The Cougars held a 15-6 lead at one point, but the Roadrunners went on a 17-9 run to creep with one point of Chicago State before the Cougars were able to put them away

with their next score.

CSUB then went on to win the third set, 25-17.

The set was tied 5-5 when the Roadrunners used a 13-3 run to pull away from Chicago State.

In the fourth set, CSUB won 25-20 and led from wire-to-wire.

“I am happy we were able to come out of difficult situations through the game and get the win,” said CSUB Director of Volleyball Giovana Melo, according to gorunners.com. “We were still very inconsistent. We missed a lot of serves.”

Freshman outside hitter Desiree Suhkov led the Roadrunners with 13 kills.

Redshirt-senior Haylee Roberts chipped in with 12 kills and two blocks. She currently leads the team with 155 kills on the season.

Senior libero/setter Emily Lopes added 28 digs in the win.

On Saturday, Sept. 23, CSUB traveled to take on the Univer-

sity of Missouri-Kansas City.

The Roadrunners swept UMKC in straight sets, defeating the Kangaroos 25-18, 25-22 and 25-14. CSUB never trailed in the third set.

“That was the most consistent we have been all season,” said Melo, according to gorunners.com. “We were very patient in every aspect.”

Redshirt-senior Sydney Haynes paced CSUB with 11 kills.

Senior setter Fabiana Andrade and redshirt-sophomore setter Sidney Wicks each totaled 20 assists and 11 digs.

The Roadrunners improved to 8-8 overall and 2-0 in WAC play.

Up next, CSUB is scheduled for a two-game home stand. Thursday, Sept. 28, the Roadrunners will take on Seattle University at 7 p.m. On Saturday, Sept. 30, CSUB will take on Utah Valley University at noon.

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