

Harry Potter Club  
- See page 2

SINCE 1975

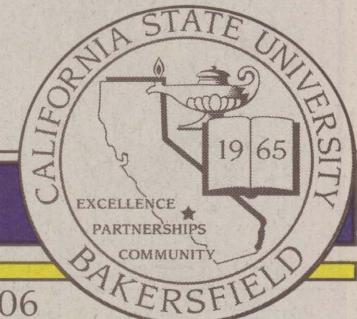
# THE RUNNER

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY BAKERSFIELD

Vol. 31, No. 11

www.csub.edu/runner

January 18, 2006



## Celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King

By Ty Cannon  
Staff Writer

As students, we all love a Monday when we do not have to show up to class. That wake up call at seven o'clock in the morning can wait until Tuesday.

However, as college students on a very diverse campus we should remember why we had an extra day to sleep in last weekend.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was born on Jan. 15, 1929 and tragically died on Apr. 4, 1968. During his life King may have done more for the civil rights movement than anyone before him, and nobody has done as much since.

According to nobelprize.org, "Between 1957 and 1968, King traveled over six million miles and spoke over twenty-five hundred times, appearing wherever there was injustice, protest and action." Amazingly, through all of the protests and marches and miles traveled, King stayed true to his vision of peaceful protest.

It is hard to imagine the time and energy that King devoted to the civil rights movement, not to mention the sacrifices that he made. Such a huge amount of travel put a strain on his family and his personal life, along with the opposition that he faced daily.

It was not uncommon for King to have threats made against his life. The Jan. 9 issue of Time Magazine states, "Assassination threats were constant, and King had always been haunted by premonitions of a premature death."

Dr. Elizabeth Jackson, a communications professor at CSUB, had the opportunity to see King speak when she was a young girl. King made a visit to South Central Los Angeles, which is where Jackson grew up, in the early 1960s. She remembered her father emphasizing to her that this man, King, had been shot and stabbed during his travels. Jackson admits that seeing King had a profound impact on her life.

"King was willing to make the ultimate sacrifice for the [Civil Rights] movement," Jackson said.

He did make the ultimate sacrifice.

In the spring of 1968 King was in Memphis, Tennessee to lead a protest for local sanitation workers who were working under unsafe conditions.

King was shot while standing on the balcony outside of his room at the Lorraine Motel.

The Jan. 9 Time Magazine article goes into the details of the final days of King's life. The article recalls the tragic moment of King's death:

"Solomon Jones, the volunteer chauffeur, called up to bring coats for a chilly night. There was no reply. Time on the balcony had turned lethal."

The scene is well documented: King's friends and fellow activists point to where the shot had come from. They try to aid King but to no avail—the world had lost one of its greatest civil rights leaders.

The recent three-day weekend was nice. But it is important that we do not take these holidays day for granted. Dr. Jackson agrees and hoped that we used Dr. Martin Luther King's holiday to reflect on the things that he did for civil rights.

It is men like King who make the world a better place for all of us to live.

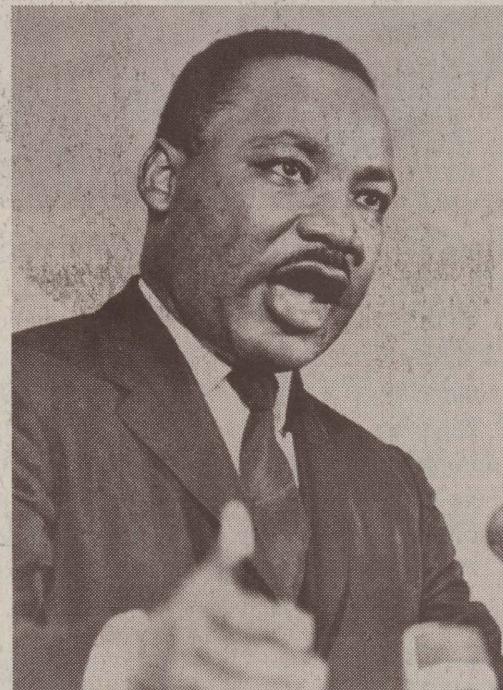


photo courtesy of americaslibrary.gov  
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

By Sandra Vicuna  
Assistant News Editor

Last week, new signs were unveiled at each parking lot surrounding CSUB. The signs reflect an ongoing effort to update CSUB.

"We entered into a program starting about a year ago to redo all the signage around campus," says Pat Jacobs, director of facilities management.

According to Jacobs, students and faculty who had been on campus for any length of time could find most buildings easily, but newer students and community members had trouble finding buildings.

"Over a course of six months, we designed a complete new signage program for Cal State Bakersfield that started with ADA required assessable signs," Jacobs said.

New campus signs were placed around campus to reflect newer buildings in an effort to help individuals find buildings. Directional signage was also created. Jacobs explained that they didn't place every building on the signage because too much text would have made it confusing.

"The intent was to make it so people new to campus, whether they are students or

whether they are public could get themselves around and get where they needed to go without getting lost," says Jacobs.

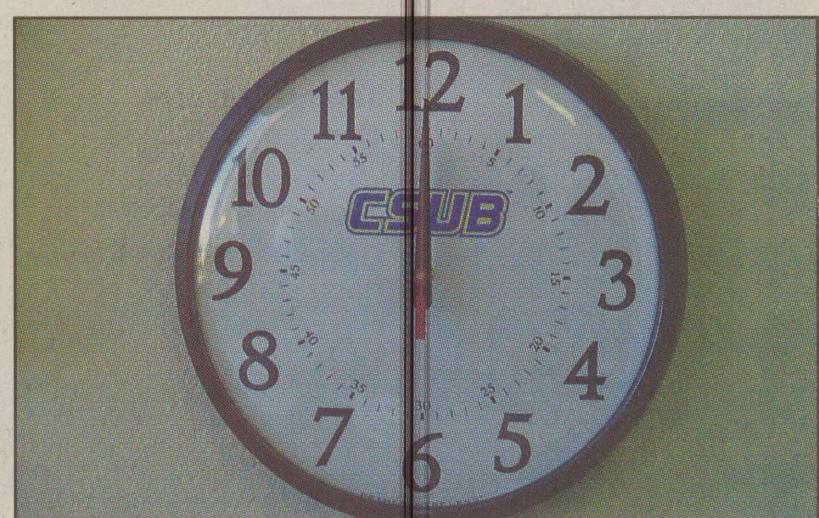
The signs cost around \$110,000 with approximately 90 to 100 signs of different sizes and shapes.

Along with the new parking signs, students should also be able to see some new clocks in some of their classrooms.

Students and professors have long complained about the time difference noted on campus clocks.

According to Jacobs, if an individual were to go into the classroom building and take eight clocks, they would find that each clock displayed a different time. Each time would then be off by around five minutes, which can mean some students are late when they really are on time.

"When we typically build buildings, we



Sandra Vicuna/The Runner  
New clocks, which will be synchronized via satellite, are being put up in buildings around campus

usually install a synchronized clock system, so that all those clocks are tied via a wired system to a centralized box," says Jacobs.

At the end of the day, the clocks would be resynchronized.

"The problem is, these mechanical synchronized clock systems in the old buildings were put in 1970, so they are now thirty-five years

See Clocks on pg. 2



Jason Friedly/The Runner  
The crowd goes wild for Runner basketball Friday night at Rabobank Arena.

## Pack the Stands night a huge Success

By Ariana Estrada  
Staff Writer

Friday night was the Fourth Annual Pack the Stands night at the Rabobank Arena for the men's and women's basketball games against San Francisco State. Pack the Stands turned out to be a success thanks to CSUB Athletics and the Kern County Independent Grocers Association Members. These sponsors took care of the tab allowing not only students, but the community a chance to come and see the game for free.

The attendance record was broken during the men's game that began at 7:30 p.m. The stands were packed with 6,248 fans, which surpassed the previous record set in Jan. 2004 of 6,230.

The students who attended had access to the Student Lounge, which was located at the visitors' side behind the basket. They caused a great distraction for the Gators, especially at the free throw line during the second period.

Not only was Pack the Stands a success, but so were both games for the Runner teams. The men's game started out slow, shooting 2-17 from the field, and allowing the Gators to gain a 12-point lead eight minutes into the game. At half time the score was tied 32-32, but a short jumper by Marlon Mitchell put the Runners in the lead for good at 50-48. They shot 64 percent in the second period extending the lead until the 12-point final margin of 77-65.

The women's game not only captured a victory against the Lady Gators, 96-67 but they also set a school record with 32 assists on their 39 field goals. Five of the Runners scored in double figures including forward Katie McElree with 23 points and junior forward Rhonda Johnson with 22 points. The Gators fought hard to gain the

lead coming within four points with 4:45 remaining in the

first half, but the Runners were just too much. This win for the Lady Runners extended their winning streak to nine straight, the second longest run in school history behind the 26 straight set by CSUB in 2002-03.

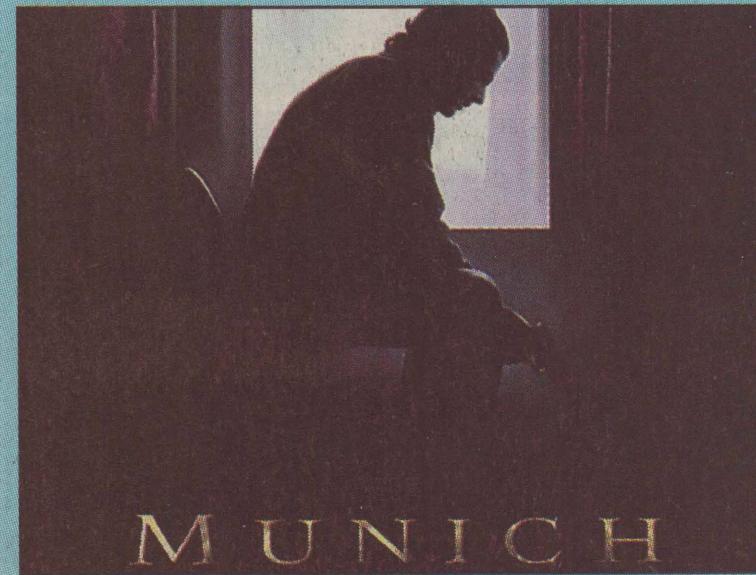
The basketball excitement didn't end on Friday, but continued on Saturday when the Runners faced Sonoma State. The women's team held onto a tie for first place in the CCAA with a 66-60 win over Sonoma. Johnson led the way with 16 points, six rebounds and a school record of eight blocked shots. The Runners gained an eight point lead midway into the first half, but the Seawolves came back to challenge the Runners, ending the first half in a tie at 31. The women held onto a short lead into the second half 45-44 with 8:51 remaining before going on a 12-0 run.

The men's game didn't go as well as the women's. The Seawolves gained a 19-point lead at 30-11 in the first 10 minutes of the game. Into the second half the Runners started grinding their way back to tie the game 60-60 with 9:55 left to play. The men took the lead on three separate occasions. The Runners were trailing 76-74, when Zack Grasmick grabbed an offensive rebound in traffic, floating a short jumper into the net creating a tie game with 12 seconds left. The hope of a comeback victory was in the hands of the Runners, but Page Dumont of Sonoma lobbed in a short jumper for the win over the Runners. The Runners had five-tenths of a second to comeback but a desperate shot from mid-court proved unsuccessful.

The men (8-4, 4-2 CCAA) and women (12-1, 5-1 CCAA) will be facing Cal State L.A. tonight at the Rabobank Arena. Women's tip-off is at 5:30 p.m. and the men's at 7:30 p.m.

## MUNICH REVIEW

- SEE PAGE 6 -



MUNICH



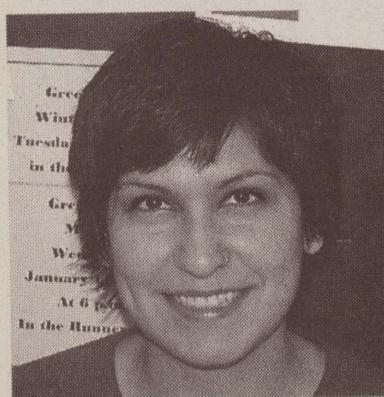
## Runner on the Street

By Isaac Rocha and Alexis Stokes

**This week The Runner asked:**  
What's your advice to students who have accumulated too much debt?

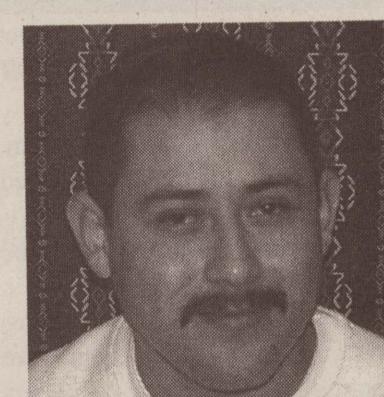
**Tammy Navarro**  
Senior, Psychology

"Consolidate all of your debt and get some really good counseling."



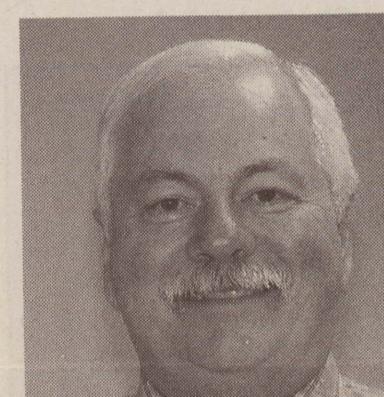
**Jesus Calderon**  
Senior, Psychology

"They should get padrinos for debt relief."



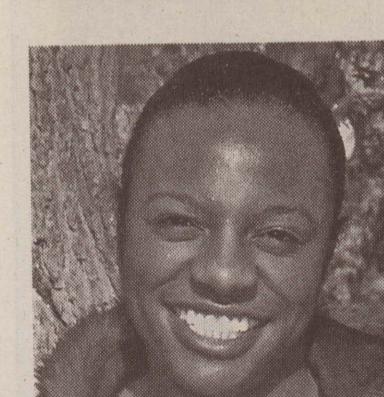
**John Casdorph**  
Associate Director of Financial Aid

"Cut back on expenses. The alternative is to work more so you don't have to borrow as much. Also, speed up the graduation process."



**Tiara Cox**  
Senior, Political Science and Communications

"Students can open up small cards like Macy's and be consistent with payments or they can learn to live within their means."



## THE RUNNER

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## Award-winning poet reads at CSUB

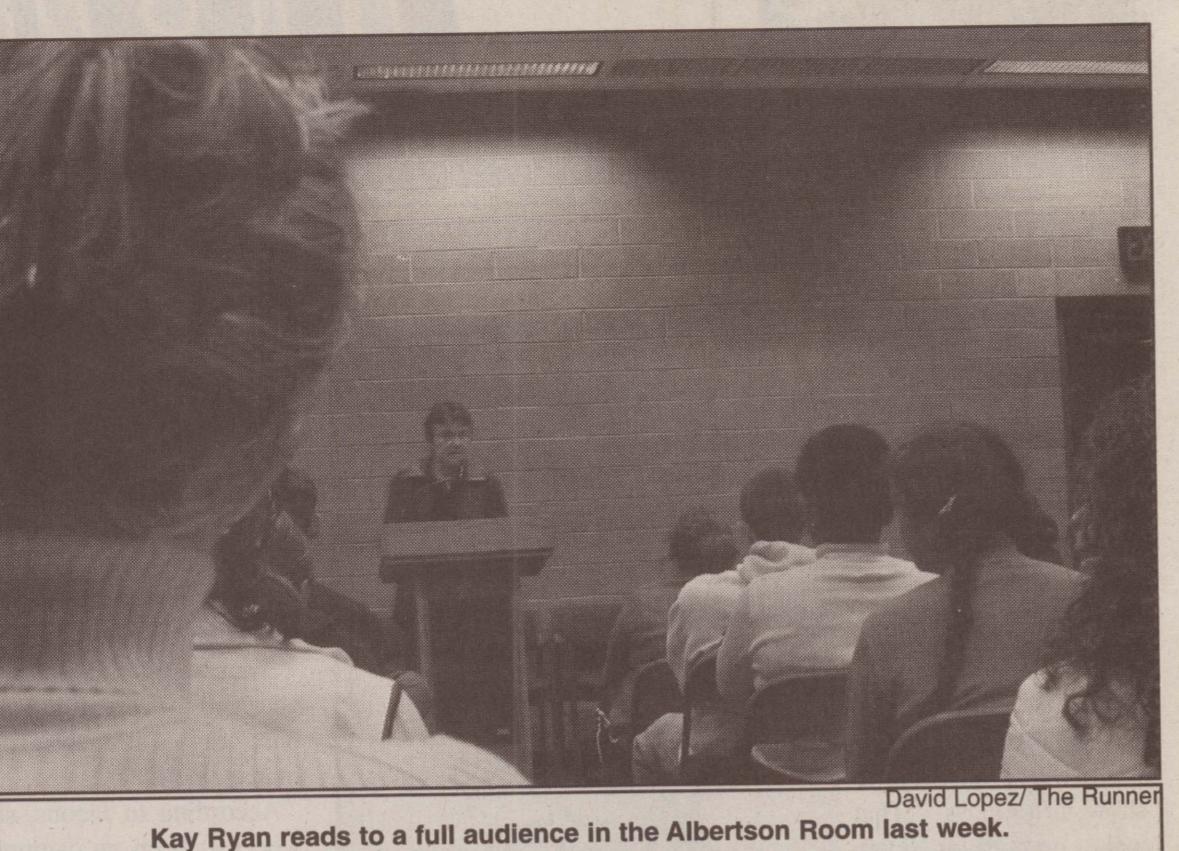
By David Lopez  
Staff Writer

Kay Ryan, an award winning writer and poet visited the campus to read some of her poetry. Ryan has published several books of poetry that include: "Dragon Acts to Dragon Ends," "Strangers Marked Metal," and "Elephant Rocks." Her work can be seen in the New Yorker, The Atlantic Monthly and The Pairs Review. Ryan has received three Pushcart Prizes, which is the most honored literary project in America, and a Guggenheim fellowship that is given to men and women who have already demonstrated exceptional capacity for productive scholarship or exceptional creative ability in the arts.

Ryan grew up in the San Joaquin Valley, and lived in Bakersfield as a child. After studying English at Antelope Community College, she continued to UCLA and UC Irvine.

The event was sponsored by Sigma Tau Delta, the Honor Society for the English Department. It gave an opportunity for students, faculty and the public to see and hear an award-winning writer, author read her work and gain some insight into the writers, perspective.

The event was informative and Ryan chose several that were important to her. During the reading, Ryan would interrupt to express why she used a specific word or phrase. With each reading Ryan would give some background information about what inspired her to write the specific piece. In some cases Ryan expressed what she felt at the time she wrote the piece.



Kay Ryan reads to a full audience in the Albertson Room last week.

As the event came to a close, the audience had an opportunity to ask Kay Ryan questions. The people at the reading also had a chance to get a signed copy of her new book.

There are very few events where students and the community have an opportunity to get to meet an award-winning writer, much less hear the author read his or her work and ask questions about the work.

"We hope to do this once a quarter," said Emerson Case, an advisor to Sigma Tau Delta.

## Students beware—credit cards can be risky

By Rosie Cruz  
Staff Writer

car payment, paying rent, and affording a life while going to school full time proves to be a challenge many students face.

But right when one feels he or she is about to collapse under the pressure, in the distance appears what seems to be an instant answer to many prayers – a credit card.

"Don't get a credit card unless you absolutely

lucrative dividends off of college students.

"Treat credit cards like real money," Plunkett said.

With a credit line of sometimes over a thousand dollars, it is easy to see how this could lead to financial irresponsibility. This is true because most businesses readily welcome and honor credit cards of many types.

"What usually happens is they [college students] get offered their first credit card and they don't realize that by not making monthly payments, they can ruin their credit," Cheek said.

Managing and controlling all expenses, even edit card usage, is key to reaching financial stability.

One of the most useful resources to teach you how to do this and more is the book "How to Be a Grown-Up" by Margaret Feinberg and Leif Oines. Feinberg and Oines suggest keeping all the receipts you accumulate and analyzing them to see where your money goes at the end of the month. They also suggest prioritizing how you will pay your bills every month.

And if all else fails there is the other option of living with mommy and daddy. And if that still doesn't work?

"Make sure you have a job or a rich dad," says senior Christ Braaten.

ly need it," advises freshman Shannon Green.

But the problem is that most students will sooner or later need one. Credit card companies know this and do not hesitate to make

Clocks continued from pg. 1

old. They don't make the parts for these old clock systems – the synchronized piece," says Jacobs.

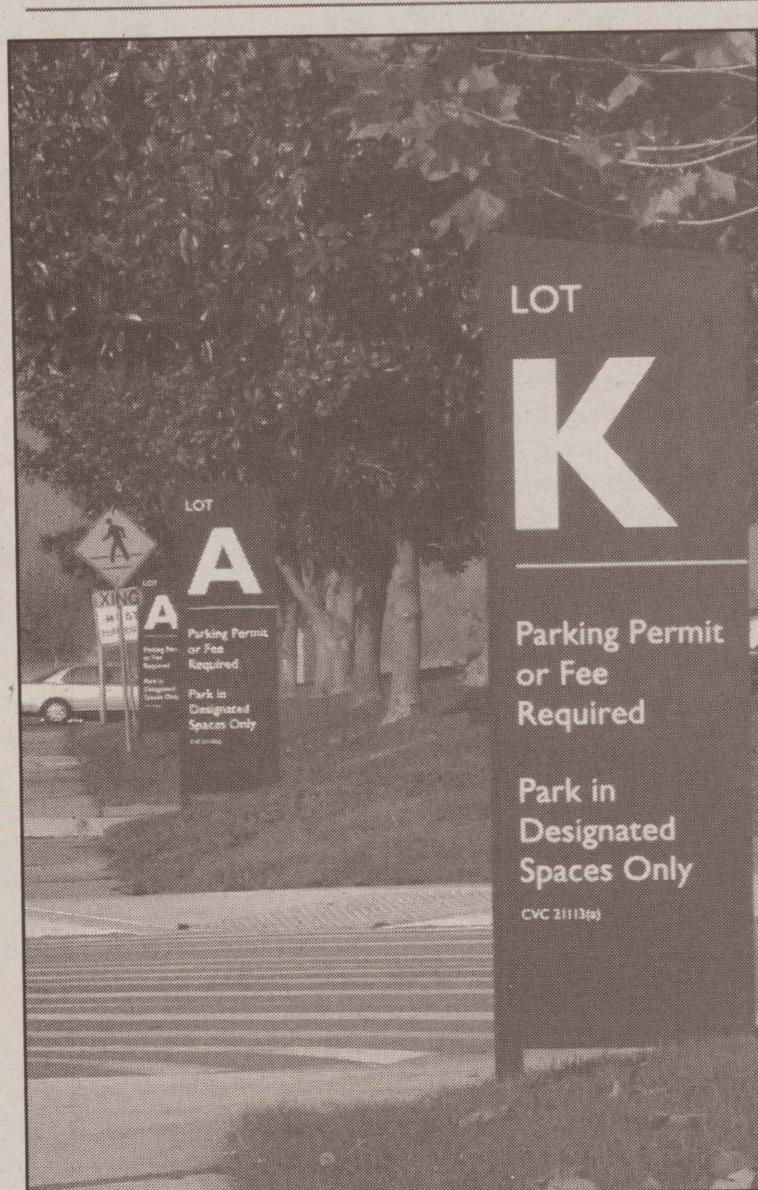
Jacobs realized that the problem couldn't be fixed with new parts and battery clocks wouldn't work either because the batteries wear out at different rates.

"We did some research and discovered there was some new technology where the newer clock systems are tied to a satellite GPS system that generates a pulse symbol about five times an hour," Jacobs said.

Not only did the systems seem to work better, but they were significantly cheaper. According to Jacobs, replacing the old clocks with a new mechanical synchronized clock system would have cost the university around \$250,000 for just two buildings, while replacing the system with the GPS technology cost around \$10,000.

The new clocks will be placed in DDH and the Classroom Building first. Jacobs stressed that classrooms and labs are the main focus and that later faculty offices and other places will receive clocks.

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Sandra Vicuna/The Runner  
New signs grace the CSUB campus

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## Features

January 18, 2006

## Harry Potter buffs unite in new club for Hogwarts scholars

By Ranjanpreet Nagra  
Staff Writer

During the past years, the fascinating world of Harry Potter has captured attention of young and old alike.

Now CSUB offers a class on Harry Potter. English Professor Cheryl Smith is teaching this class as part of passion courses being taught on campus. The title of the course is CSUB 103/303 "The World of Harry Potter" and the class meets every Wednesday from 12:30 to 1:30 in the Classroom Building.

Smith taught the class in the fall and is continuing on in the winter quarter. Last quarter 17 students were enrolled. This quarter the number is 30.

Last quarter, the students decided to read Book 4 because they wanted to end the class by seeing the movie, which we all did, and they wanted to continue this quarter with Book 5 and next quarter with Book 6", Smith said.

"I like the Harry Potter series because it opened my mind to reading", Grimes said.

There are also some club members who like Tolkien's Lord of the Rings series and like to talk about the similarities between the two series.

Students are planning to play Harry Potter edition of Scene-It DVD game, which has movie clips from the first three Harry Potter movies. In this game the players view the movie scenes and answer the questions from the game.

"The class is a fun way to explore some of the deeper text in a series that appeals to all ages," Smith said.

Students have to read the assigned chapter before class and bring one discussion question to class. They also have to take a quiz about the chapter they read from the book.

The class is worth two credits and will be taught next quarter also. Taking this course gives students an opportunity to earn two units while talking about something they love.

"We sit in a large circle, and although I facilitate the discussion, it is largely student driven. We often run out of time before we run out of discussion", Smith said.

After the success of the course in the fall, some students organized to make Hogwarts Honour Society, a new club on campus. The club started this quarter and the officers are still catching up with deciding on meeting days and fundraisers. More than 40 students have already signed up to join the club.

Monika Tincher, a freshman and Pre-Med is the president of the club. Cheryl Smith is the advisor and the secretary is Ryan Grimes, a freshman and English major.

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"The class

Right now at the  
Todd Madigan Gallery

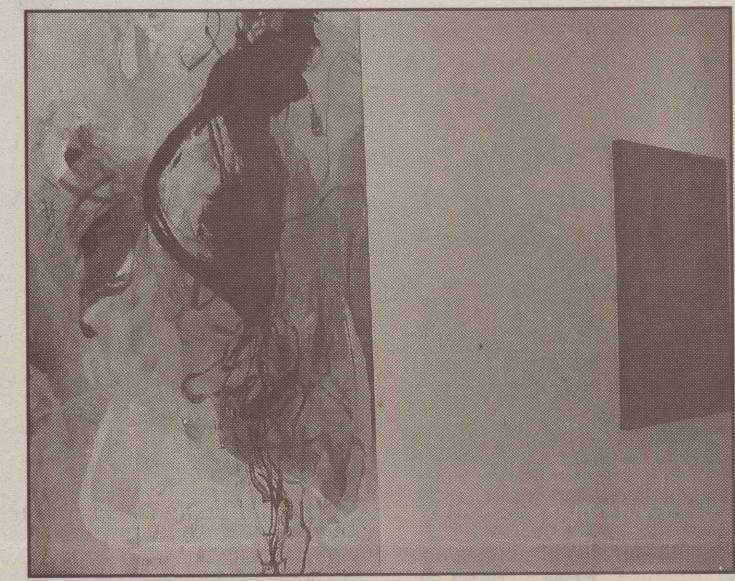


(Top) "Untitled" by Jon Nguyen

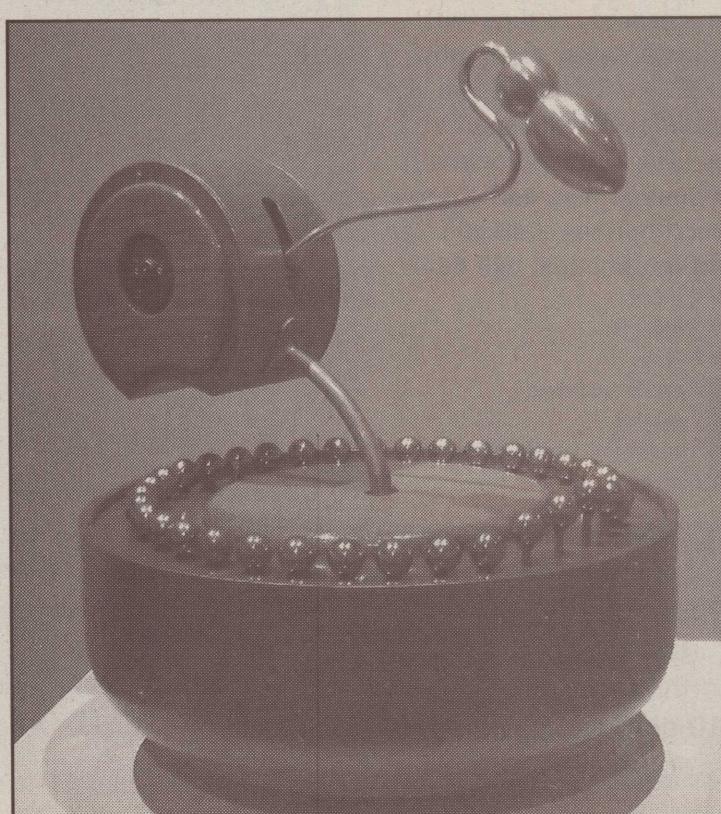
(Left) "Celebra #1" by Taraneh Mozaffarian.

(Bottom) "Fly High-3D Version" by Suguru Hirade

Photos by Evelyn Martin/The Runner



As part of an exchange with the L.A. Artcore Gallery, The Todd Madigan Gallery is currently displaying works from artists in Los Angeles. Several faculty members currently have their art displayed at The Brewery Annex Art



### Can You Answer This Question?



Question: You have been ill and have fallen behind in your classes. You want to ask your professor for an "incomplete," but you're not sure of her answer. You didn't see a doctor this time, but you have a doctor's excuse from a previous illness. You decide to alter the previous doctor's excuse and use it for the current situation. After all you were sick, weren't you?

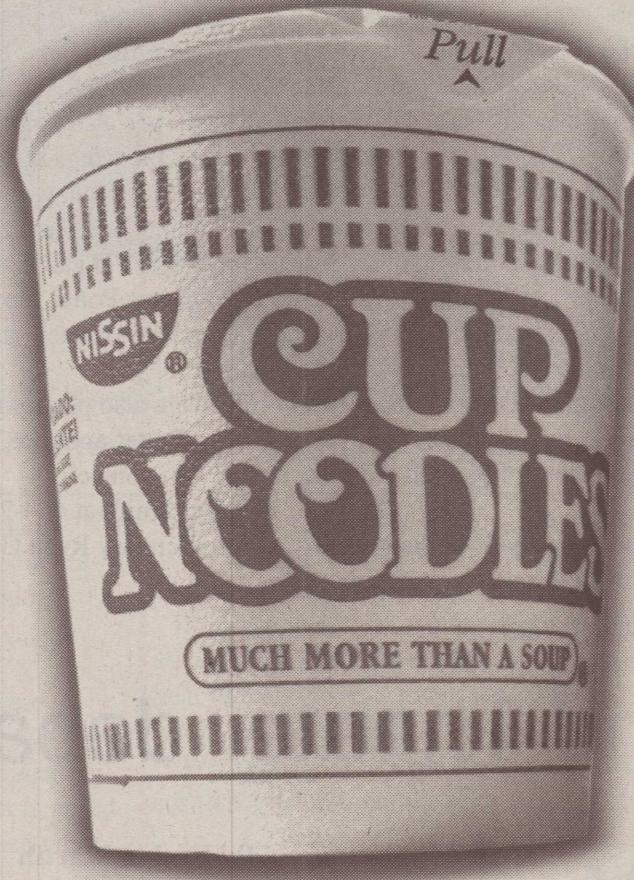
Answer: Not a good idea. Falsifying documents is dishonesty, whether or not the falsification supports "the truth." You stand a better chance of being caught. Talk to your professor, he or she may be able to offer suggestions or alternatives for relieving your situation.

This is part of a series of questions that will help clarify the meaning of academic integrity.

For more information contact the Judicial Affairs Office at 664-2260 or email at judicalaffairs@csub.edu

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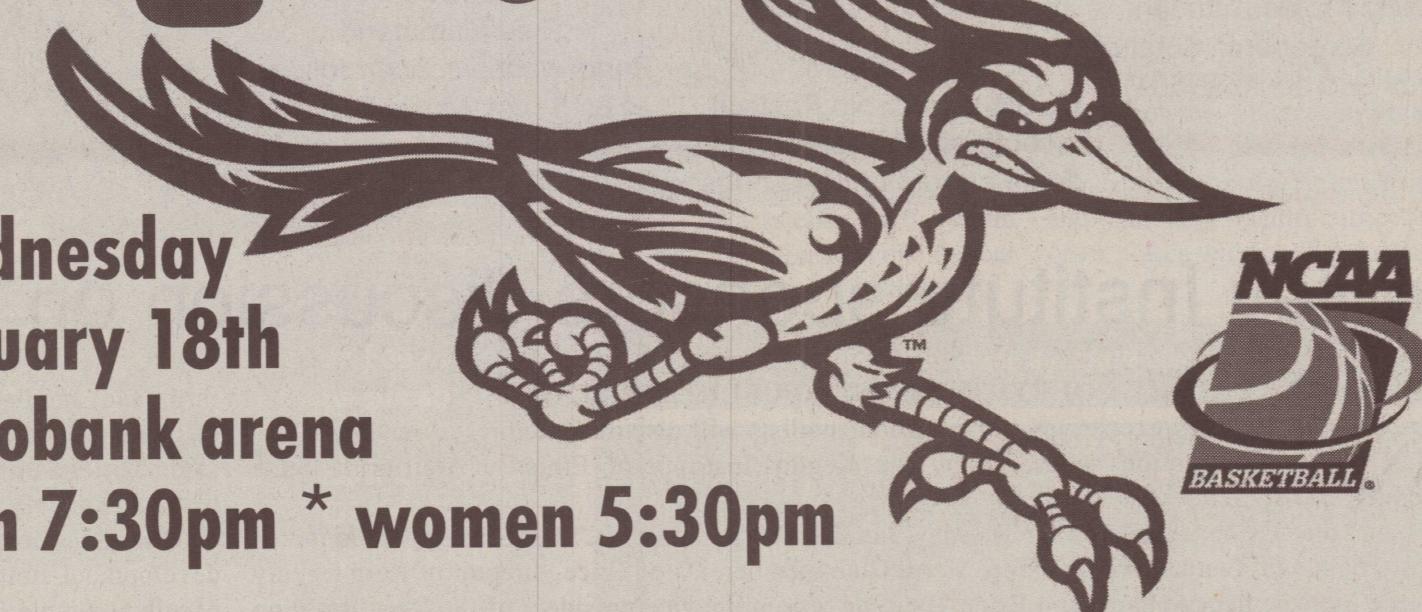
What to do Wednesday?

**GO TO** **CSU BAKERSFIELD BASKETBALL**

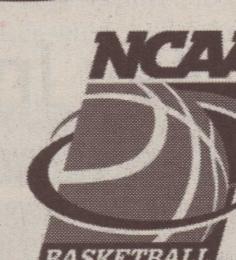
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**bring all your friends!**



wednesday  
january 18th  
rabobank arena  
men 7:30pm \* women 5:30pm



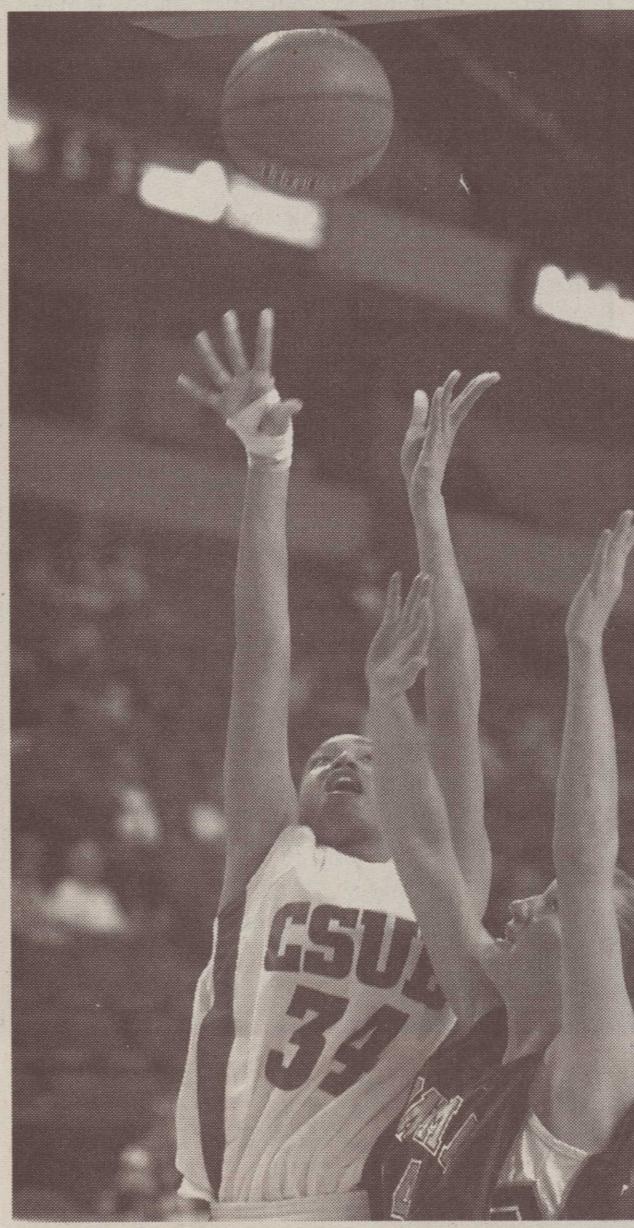
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## Sports

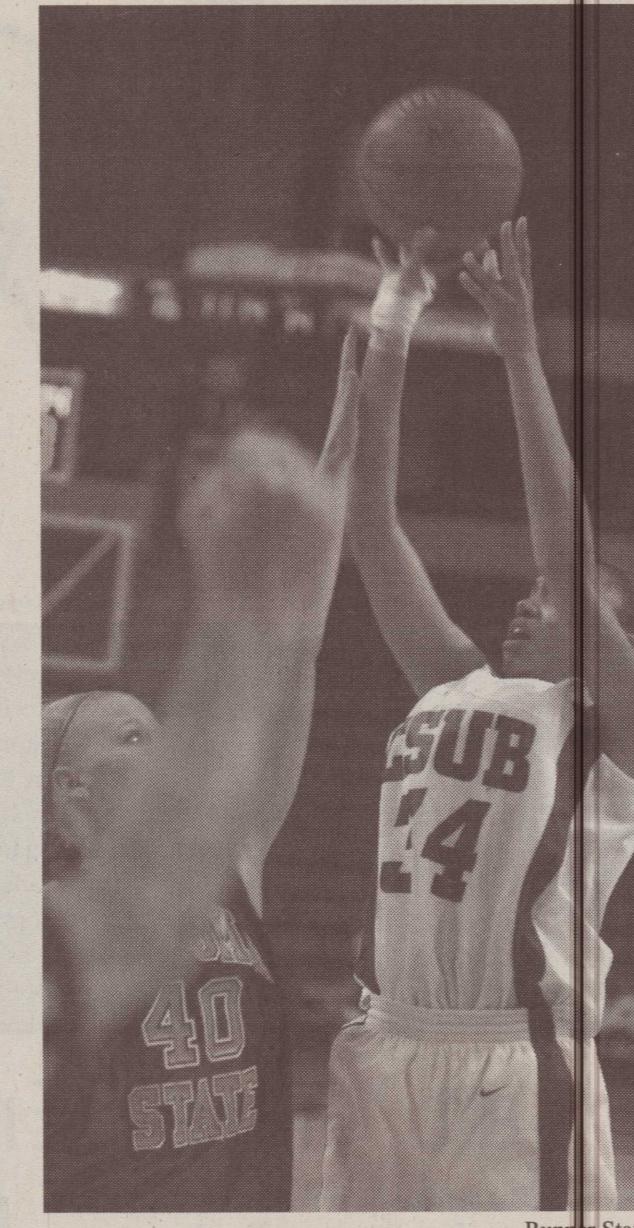
January 18, 2006

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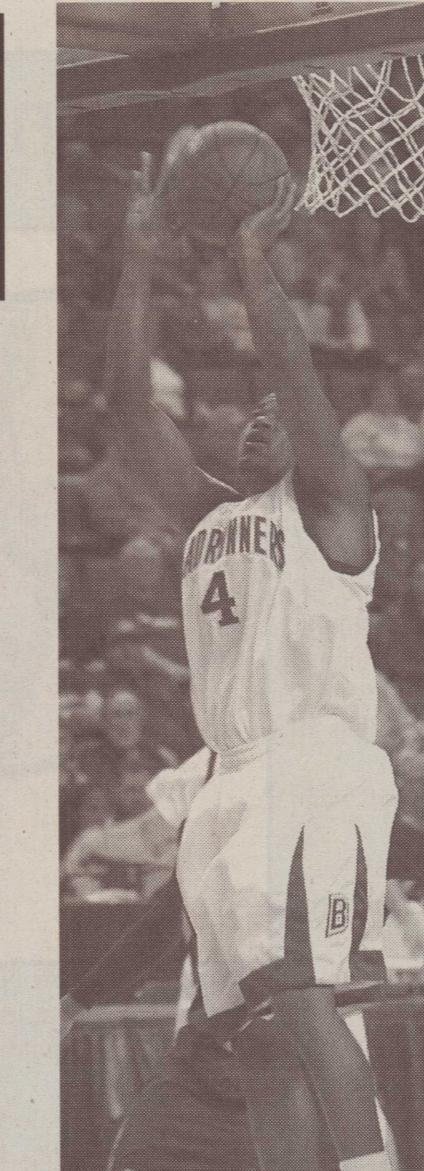
**CSUB's Rhonda Johnson named California  
Collegiate Athletic Association Women's  
Basketball Player of the Week**



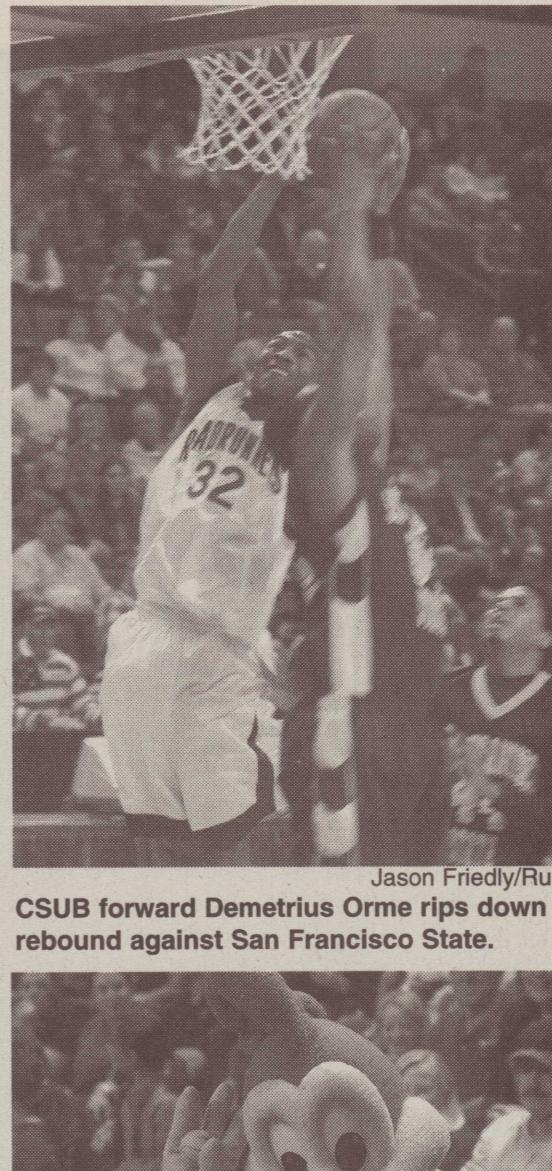
CSUB forward Rhonda Johnson (34) dominates in the paint over the weekend versus Sonoma State.



Runner Staff Photos



Jason Friedly/Runner  
CSUB forward Demetrious Orme rips down a rebound against San Francisco State.



Jason Friedly/Runner  
CSUB guard Randall Harding puts one in against San Francisco State.



Jason Friedly/Runner  
Rowdy the Roadrunner entertains the crowd at Pack The Stands Night

### Boilermakers stew Roadrunners

Press Releases and Statistics provided by CSUB Sports Information

The Cal State Bakersfield wrestling team suffered a disappointing dual meet loss Sunday afternoon, dropping a 25-16 decision to Purdue University at the Icardo Center, Sun. Jan. 15.

The Roadrunners may have lost more than just the dual, though, as senior Christian Arellano suffered an arm injury in a match that would've all but secured the meet. CSUB was forced to declare an injury default which turned out being at least a nine point swing in the Boilermakers favor.

Arellano, who was leading his 174-pound match with Nick Corpe by a 3-1 count midway through the second period, was just about to record another takedown when he suddenly rolled off Corpe holding his arm. The extent of his injury was not immediately clear and he will be evaluated by team physicians this week.

The Roadrunners opened the match with a big win by heavyweight Eric Parker. Leading 3-1 midway through the second period, Parker began to pull away, recording a takedown to go up 5-1, then adding two more in the third to win 10-4. He nearly added a third takedown which would have given him a major decision, but he was unable to finish it before the horn sounded to end the period.

CSUB then suffered three close losses by decision. In the 125-pound match, freshman Brandon Zoetewij jumped out to a quick 3-0 lead after escaping to start the second period. However, Purdue's Brandon Tucker scored a pair of takedowns to knot the score at four going into the final period. In the third, Tucker was able to get a takedown 20 seconds in to earn the victory.

The Roadrunners responded by winning three matches of their own. Senior Anthony Baza scored a major decision over Mark Powell at 149 pounds. That was followed by junior Drew East earning his first collegiate win with a 5-1 decision over Jake Murphy at 157 pounds.

Senior Brian Busby continued his hot streak with pin of John DeCeata at 165 pounds to give Bakersfield a 16-9 lead in the dual.

However, Arellano's injury gave Purdue six team points and was followed by a pair of decisive victories by Purdue for the final margin.

The Roadrunners move to 1-3 in duals this season while Purdue improves to 8-3 overall.

### USC proves to be too much for Runners

Press Release and Statistics provided by CSUB Sports Information

The Cal State Bakersfield men's swim team split a pair of duals, while the Roadrunner women fell to NCAA Division I nationally-ranked USC on Saturday at USC's McDonald's Swim Stadium.

The Bakersfield men downed the University of Pacific—the defending Big West Conference champs—by a 140-73 margin but fell to No. 9 USC 161-60. The women only swam against No. 11 USC, losing 195-42.

The Roadrunner men swam quite well against Pacific, winning 11 of 13 events between two schools but were blown out of the water by USC and its numerous Olympians.

Piotr Gogotek managed to win the 100 free in a quick time of :45.58. He also anchored the 400 free relay team that was just touched out by the Trojans to close out the meet.

Karol Zemier also had a strong day, placing third in the 200 IM in a provisional qualifying time of 1:56.94 and also placed third in the 200 backstroke in 1:54.75.

For the women, it was a little tougher as USC's combination of national and world champions dominated the meet. One of the bright spots of the Runners came on the diving board where Laura Lafranchise placed second on both boards, finishing just behind 2004 Olympic medalist Blythe Hartley. Lafranchise rolled up automatic qualifying times of 286.42 on the 1-meter and 372.25 on the 3-meter.

Newcomer Simone Swaneopel recorded a pair of "B" cuts, placing third in the 50 and 100 free. She swam close to the USC swimmers, finishing the 50 in :24.96 and in the 100 at :54.05. Merve Terzioglu also swam well, bettering her "B" cut time in the 200 breast by finishing third at 4:32.32.

The Cal State Bakersfield swim team returns to the Hillman Aquatics Center for a home dual against NCAA Division I foe UC Davis on Saturday at 1:30 p.m. The Roadrunners will be honoring their seniors in what is their last home dual meet of the season.

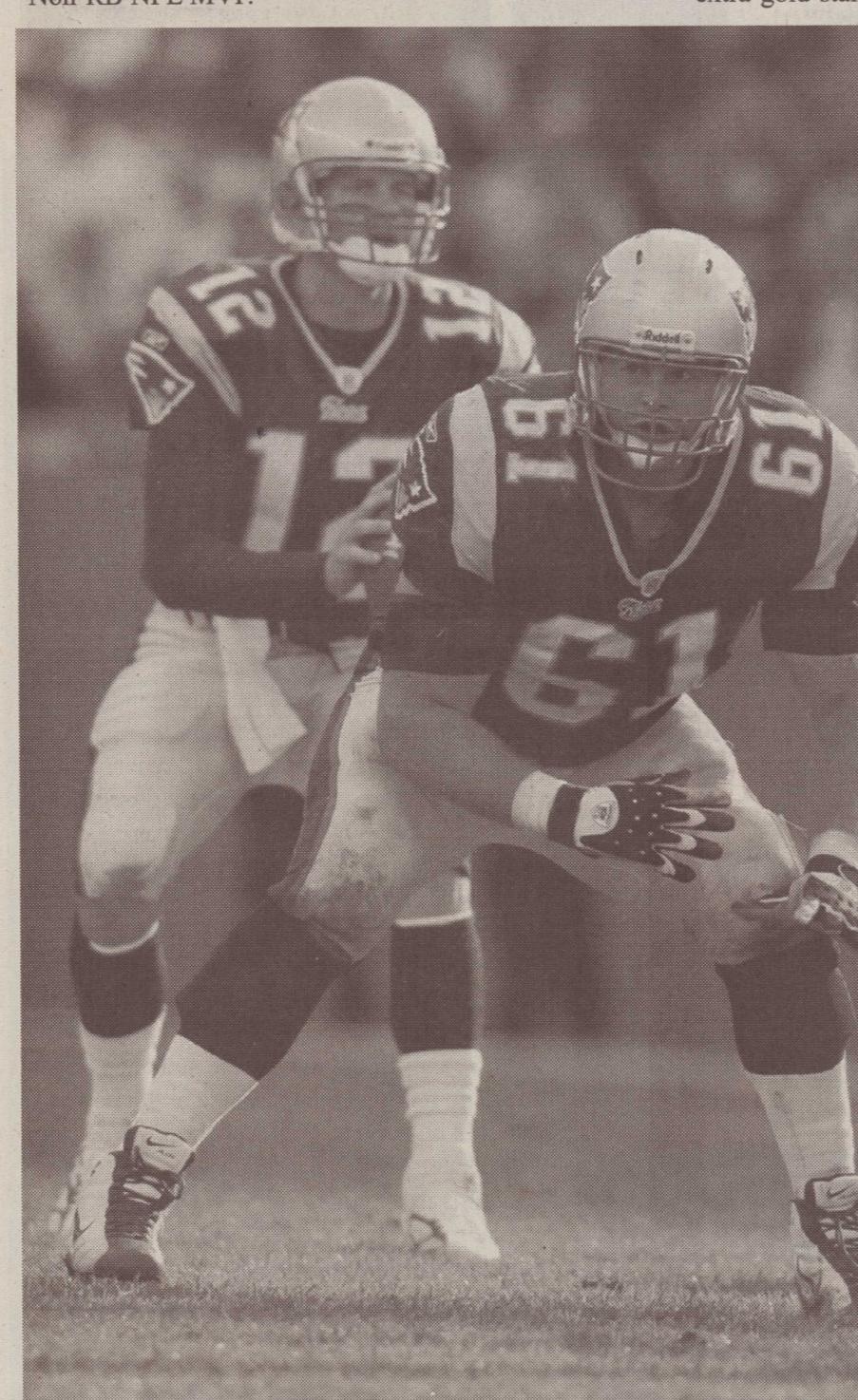


Photo courtesy of Sdhow.com  
Former Runner Wrestler Stephen Neal (61) blocks for two-time Super Bowl MVP Tom Brady (12).

## Staying close while far apart – the long distance relationship



By  
Bianca Gutierrez  
Wesley Coble  
Staff Writers



"Long distant relationships work, Wes seems to think otherwise!" - Bianca

Does distance matter when it comes to a relationship? Depending on the person a vast majority seem to think that engaging in a long distant relationship is apt to fail. Opinions from Bianca, who is currently in a long distant relationship, and Wes, who was in a failed long distance relationship, will hopefully inform you of what being in a distance relationship is all about.

**Wes:** Can you honestly tell me that when in a relationship while living in different cities actually works? I think not!

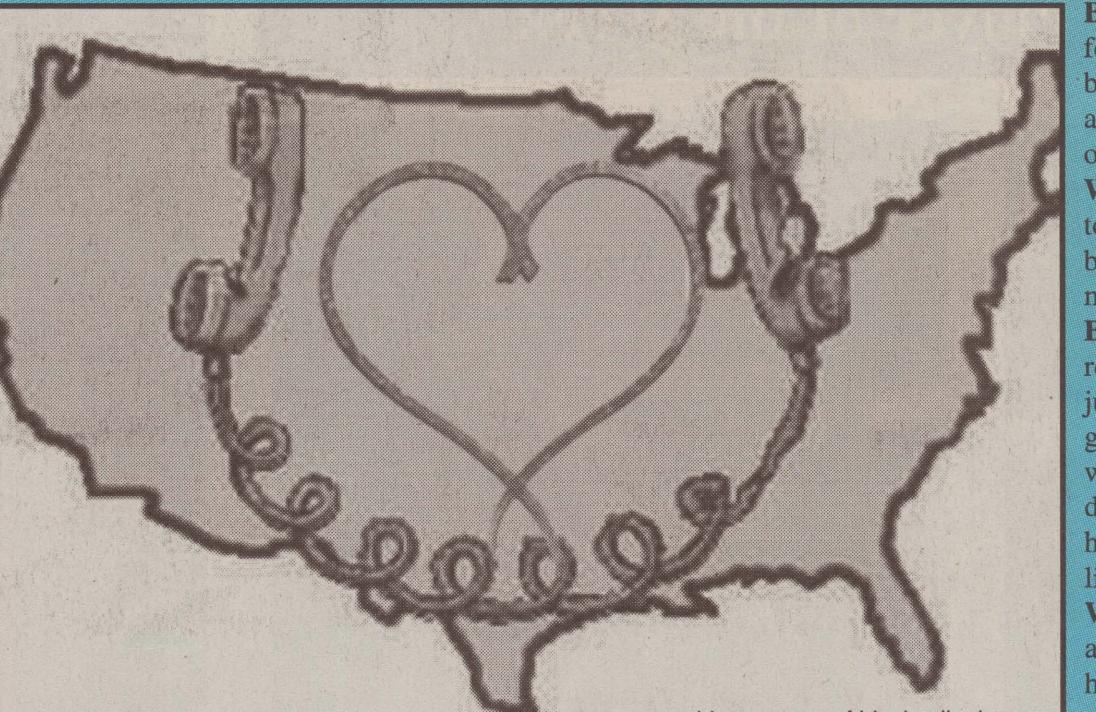
**Bianca:** Why is that Wes? Did some girl who lived in a different city or state break your lonely heart because she couldn't face the fact that she couldn't see you on a daily basis?

**Wes:** Wow! I can't believe you went there! Well, when it came to our long distance relationship, an effort was made and it didn't work out in the end.

**Bianca:** I'm currently in a relationship where my boyfriend lives 350 miles north of Bakersfield. We are making an effort to see each other and we're hoping this relationship works.

**Wes:** Well, you can always hope it will work, but small efforts will lead to failure. So, Bianca my question for you is how are those visits going? Do you get to see him much or is the relationship more like playing phone tag?

**Bianca:** That really hurts! Yes, I guess you can say that my rela-



graphic courtesy of blackcollegian.com

**Bianca:** I know, I'm not trying to make excuses for not being able to see him on a regular basis, but when all you have is weekends, there can be a time a point when your busy and just have other obligations.

**Wes:** Ok, I can understand that. But you do have to agree that distance can break relationship if both individuals don't make an honest effort in making it work.

**Bianca:** We do put the effort into making this relationship work. That is why I drove 350 miles just to see him...now isn't that something. I guess the only way to make any relationship work is to put effort in it, whether or not there is distance. Wes, you and your ex-girlfriend could have definitely worked out in the end; she only lived 100 miles away!

**Wes:** I completely agree with that and am probably just a bitter individual but to be completely honest, I think that I am touchy kind of guy who wants to see and hold my girlfriend at least a few times a week. So, in my eyes I can see how you and I are going to agree to disagree on this topic because we both come from different situations. Nonetheless, I hope that you and your man make it because you seem like you are both very dedicated to one another.

All in all, being in a relationship is going to take effort on both ends, regardless of the distance between the two. Now that you have read Bianca and Wes's opinions, take some of this in, maybe one day you made find your self in this tough situation because no one said it was going easy when it comes to being in a long distant relationship. Stay tuned!

## Art Club holds show at The Empty Space

By Kyle O'Connor  
Staff Writer

The Broken Heart group art show was a sight to see this past Saturday. Many artists from the CSUB Art club submitted their pieces to be on display and purchased.

The show was held at The Empty Space on Oak and Chester Lane. The exhibit was bustling with the artists showing off their work



"Terrible Lies" by Nyoka and T. Saunders

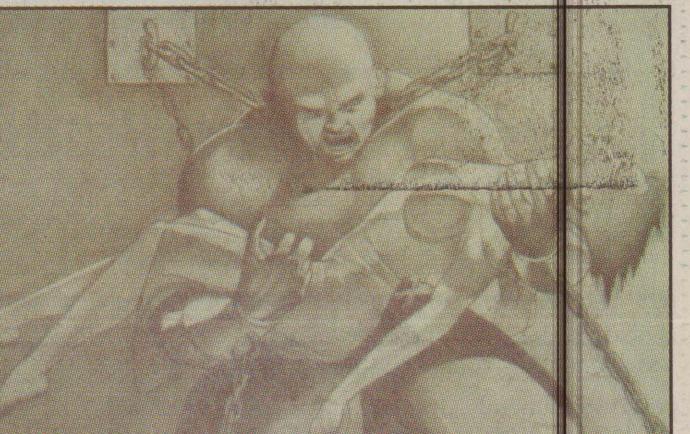
friends and fellow art connoisseurs. The theme of the exhibit depicts, love, loss, and the emotions that emerge from these two. The show features 45 pieces of work from 17 different artists.

One of the main works of art on display to caught a lot of attention. It is a collaboration between T. Saunders and Nyoka titled "Terrible Lie". The piece was named after a song by the popular band Nine Inch Nails. Saunders and Nyoka's collaboration were two separate

pieces that formed one piece of art. "It started out as a joke between friends" replied Saunders and Nyoka when asked what made them paint the pieces. The artists had the same artistic style and even incorporate themselves into the art using symbolism. The piece are very indicative of the personal styles of each artist. The most interesting facet about this entire art show is the raw emotion that is displayed which comes from within each artist. Many paintings or sketches depict a sense of loss or pain that brings out the emotion in the viewer.

Not all the art pieces were paintings or sketches. Some artists sculptures out of ordinary objects around the house. Many of the pieces on display were for sale. One article that was created by the curator of The Empty Space, A.S. Ashley, was on sale for \$750. The money made is split between the artists and The Empty Space.

If you're interested in seeing some fine art The Broken Heart art show will be open on Saturday, Feb. 21, from noon-7pm. Head over to The Empty Space and check it out if you have a taste for fine art work, courtesy of our talented friends from the Art Club.



Andy Gonzales, an artist featured at The Broken Heart Art show at The Empty Space, displays his drawings "Useless (above)" and "last Breath (right)." Kyle O'Connor/The Runner



## 'Munich' sheds light on Israeli, Palestinian conflict

By Beverly Weber  
Staff Writer

As the closing credits started to roll, not one soul moved. Everyone was staring at the screen as if there were more of the story to be told. My friends and I finally got out of our seats when the lights came up. As we walked out, the only words spoken were an intensified, "I'll see you tomorrow."

Steven Spielberg's new film "Munich," takes place after the events of the 1972 Munich Olympics, in which 11 Israeli athletes were held hostage and eventually killed. The story focuses on a young man named Avner (Eric Bana) who is hired to lead four others to kill the Palestinian agents responsible for the Munich tragedy. As the story progresses, we find that the task seems impossible because of the continual replacement of leaders that they have already taken out.

This sobering movie has no heroes or villains and the perpetual cycle of bloodshed shows no pretensions of slowing down at any point in the movie. With the amount of violence thrown at the viewer, the misperception of a happy ending may be predicted, however, that is hardly the outcome reached. Throughout the movie, viewers may expect to see a solution reached, but, as in real life, there has yet to be a solution to the hopeless cycle of violence.

The movie starts with authentic TV news footage of the terrorist kidnapping that cuts between Palestinian and Israeli living rooms.



Avner, played by Eric Bana, watches the news of the 1972 Munich Olympics.

Photo courtesy of rottentomatoes.com

hired assassins. They embodied all the characteristics of caring and compassionate individuals. As their world becomes less and less connected with the average person's reality, they become a part of an alternate world only known by those with little moral scope. The story ends as it began, with the final result of the terrorist attack.

Spielberg is known for great works and many elements in the movie are to the standards in which Spielberg films are expected.

Surprisingly, the character of Avner was a welcoming element in which we see Eric Bana's competency of evolving from a compassionate, loving father and husband to a disconnected, paranoid villain/victim. Eric Bana (Avner) has come a long way from playing The Incredible Hulk and Hector in Troy. In this movie, we see a transformation from novice to seasoned actor.

At one point in the movie, the audience questions who really is being hunted and who really should be hunted. Spielberg paints a picture of the Israelis and Palestinians being portrayed as victims in an equal light. We come to realize that the cycle of hatred has been passed on throughout time thus perpetuating the cycle of hatred for one another. The characters communicate that the hatred will never come to an end.