

Domestic dispute ends in shooting near CSUB campus, one dead



Police secure the scene of an accident on Stockdale Hwy across from CSUB on Sept. 19, 2019 where shots were fired and a person suffered self-inflicted gun shot wounds.

Mari Woodmansee/The Runner

By Mari Woodmansee
Reporter

One man is dead after a shooting last week across the street from CSUB on Stockdale Highway.

According to Sergeant Nathan McCauley of Bakersfield Police Department, at 6 p.m. Thursday,

Sept. 19, a domestic dispute ended with a car accident where multiple shots were then fired. McCauley said the shooter pursued his ex-girlfriend who was in a car with another passenger. The shooter rammed her car off the road in front of Insurica at 8500 Stockdale Highway.

He then shot multiple times into her vehicle, but nobody was hit. The shooter then turned the gun on himself. He was transported to a local hospital and he died this morning from his injuries. McCauley said no one else was injured in the incident.

Westbound traffic was

affected for more than three hours on Stockdale Highway between Gosford Road and East Don Hart Drive.

CSUB police also responded to the incident. At 7:24 p.m. CSUB Police Chief Marty Williamson sent out a campuswide email stating, "Earlier this

evening, the Bakersfield Police responded to an incident on Stockdale Highway across from campus. Some of our officers also responded and determined the campus was not in any danger. Therefore, no warning was issued."

Graduation now offered in the fall for CSUB students

By Andrea Rabago
Reporter

A new school year calls for new school traditions, and that is no difference here at CSU Bakersfield. This year, the school has decided to try something new and have three separate commencement ceremonies. One is in the fall and the other two ceremonies will take place in the spring. The first of the three will be the fall 2019 commencement, which will take place in December, and will be the first fall commencement to occur here at CSUB. After discussion among faculty, student leaders, and other officials, it was decided that having a fall ceremony would be a great addition. The event will consist of both a graduate hooding and undergraduate ceremony. In the spring, both ceremonies will be held separately.

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WASC team to make a visit to CSUB

By Alex Chapa-Kunz
News Editor

CSU Bakersfield is nearing the end of its reaccreditation process and will host a reaccreditation team from the Western Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC). WSCUC, more commonly referred to as WASC, utilizes peer review in order to assess that educational institutions continuously strive for improvement and are meeting the agreed upon standards to their students and the public.

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Additional security measures begin at Kern County Fair

By Briana Gutierrez
Multimedia Reporter

The Kern County Fair has arrived, which means fair rides and funnel cakes. Along with the new food vendors, guests can also expect to see rigorously enforced security both at the door and all throughout the fairgrounds. Due to recent events that have been going on throughout the country with shootings, fair organizers are doing everything they can to make sure all the attendees feel safe while they enjoy their time with family and friends.

“Kern County Fair Board of Directors have elected to install metal detection equipment at all three primary entrances,” according to a recent Kern County Fair press release. Fair officials are asking guests to not bring weapons or anything that can be perceived as a weapon to the fairgrounds.

“We are working with local Sheriff, Bakersfield Police Department and Emergency Services to make sure we deliver a 12-day event that is safe and secure,” stated Mike Olcott, CEO of the Kern County Fair.

“I feel like it’s fine. With all the school shootings [happening], I feel like even going to a small event someone can come and you just don’t know. They can try to shoot up the place,” shared psychology major Bertha Lopez. Lopez also said that the metal detectors make her feel safer, but she understands why the increase in security might be intimidating. She said while the inconvenience can be frustrating it is becoming the new normal, as people cannot go out without worrying about potential threats.

“This is a measure that needed to be done years ago after watching how easy it is for any individual to simply walk into

an event, school, or building with weapons and hurt numerous individuals,” said Bakersfield resident and annual fair attendee Destiny Cisneros. She went on to say these precautions insure people can enjoy themselves without fear, though she still tries to remain aware in public situations.

“These days you have you have to be cautious with everything and everyone, and prepare for the ‘what ifs.’ So, I’m looking forward to seeing if the extra security benefits the event,” Cisneros stated.

The Runner reached out to Janet Sanders, the Kern County Fair publicist, for more information, but she declined a full interview, stating they were “extremely swamped getting prepared for the fair” and that “attendees can expect to see a lot more security.” The fair began Wednesday, Sept. 18, and will go through Sept. 29.



Mari Woodmansee/The Runner

Kern County Fair-goers experience extra security measures during opening night on Sept. 18, 2019.

David Hogg, gun violence activist and Parkland shooting survivor, to give lecture at CSUB

By Jessica Wright
Assistant News Editor

CSU Bakersfield and the Kegley Institute of Ethics will host David Hogg during the spring semester. Hogg is an activist and a survivor of the school shooting that occurred Feb. 14, 2018 at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida.

One month after the shooting, Hogg became the co-founder of an activist campaign called March for Our Lives. Thousands of youths led a demonstration in Washington D.C., making

it one of the largest protests in the nation’s history. Hogg also co-wrote an activist book with his sister titled “Never Again: A New Generation Draws the Line,” published June 19, 2018.

“Hogg’s lecture [“Engage in the Change: Our Generation Must Own Democracy”] is focusing on youth engagement with democracy and activism, based in his own path and experience. I think this will be another great opportunity for coming together as a community for dialogue on pressing issues in our region and world,” wrote KIE Director

Michael Burroughs in an email.

With the event seven months away, students and other interested parties are already making their opinions regarding the lecture known on social media. This event has sparked a debate between conservative and liberal social media commenters.

While Burroughs has confirmed that Hogg will be a part of the 34th annual Charles W. Kegley Memorial Lecture, there has not been a confirmed date. However, the month has been set to April.

Fall graduation dates

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In an email, Commencement Office Associate Director Dina Ebeling said there is no exact number of students, staff, and faculty who might be participating. No emails have been sent to students or faculty yet, and typically are not until six weeks before the date of the ceremony.

Many students agree with the idea of having three separate ceremonies, which they believe will help relieve some of the chaos and stress that revolves around the spring commencement. Katherine Fiesta, kinesiology major, said she loved the idea of being able to celebrate with a fall ceremony, as well as the fact that fall commencement will not be outdoors in the hot sun. The only downside she sees in the ceremony is that she will not get to graduate with the rest of her friends during the spring 2020 commencement.

Another student who loved the idea of a fall ceremony is business alumna Eridanni Reyes. Reyes participated in the spring 2019 ceremony, and strongly believed the ceremony was a bit chaotic. She recalls there being very many families, the amount of time it took for people to find parking, and the long lines just to enter the venue. Reyes said she would have definitely opted to participate in a fall ceremony even if it meant limited family

members could attend.

For both students the pros certainly outweigh the cons.

Registration begins Oct. 28 and will close Nov. 15. Only fall 2019 graduates will be able to take part in this ceremony. Prior to registering for the fall commencement, students must have already submitted a grad check application and been approved to graduate in fall of 2019. Students who are eligible to register for the ceremony will receive a CSUB email with a registration link. It is strongly advised that students who have submitted a grad check but do not receive a registration email on Monday, Oct. 28, contact graduation@csub.edu or their grad check evaluator. The ceremony will take place on Wednesday, December 11th 2019, 7p.m. at the Rabobank Arena. There will be charge of \$10 for parking in the Arena's parking structure.

Each graduate will receive a total of eight tickets for the event, which will be distributed at the time of registration. For students who will be needing additional tickets, extras will be made available for students directly through email on Tuesday, Nov. 26 at 10 am. Cap and gown purchases will be open on Oct. 28 through Dec. 6 on campus at the CSUB bookstore.

WASC visits CSUB



First Last/The Runner

Debra Jackson speaks with The Runner about WASC Visit.

REACCRED, from page 1

“Our chief goals are to promote institutional engagement in issues of educational effectiveness and student learning, develop a culture of evidence that informs decision making, and foster active interchange among public and independent institutions” according to the WASC website.

CSUB was first accredited in 1970 and last received reaccreditation in February of 2012. It has been working toward renewing its accreditation since 2016. The multiyear process included the collection of over 550 documents, an extensive look at campus policies and initiatives, multiple open forums, and culminated in a 75-page institutional report submitted to WASC for review.

“This is all about continuous improvement, so we always want to strive to be better than we are. Not because we think we’re bad but because we’re always striving to be perfect right? And perfection is never attainable,” says Accreditation Liaison Officer Debra Jackson, PhD.

Jackson discussed how CSUB is always looking to improve as the student population continues to change and evolve. The accreditors look at how the campus operates and whether the campus is meeting its goals toward its students and community. The goal is not to do things for the accreditors, but to strive for campus success and the accreditation process ensures universities are held accountable.

“In the process of collecting all of those documents we also spent some time saying you know I thought this is who we are but these documents indicate this is who we are and how do we want to close the gap between those two things?” Jackson emphasized that while the process does influence change on campus it does so indirectly.

Initial feedback from WASC was received in May of this year and included seven commendations and six lines of inquiry which are the focus of the visit. The team will meet with 25 groups on campus and hold open sessions for students, faculty, and staff.

The goal is to gather more information on the lines of inquiry which include

assessment of undergraduate and graduate student learning, student success initiatives, general education, program review, faculty diversity, and strategic plan integration.

“They want to know, are students learning what they are hoping to learn, are they getting their needs met, are they achieving their goals and are they feeling supported here?” Jackson stated.

“I think CSUB is helping me as a student. There are a lot of amenities to take advantage of, like the student rec center, bike share, and the edible garden,” says junior Logan King, a philosophy major. He also says he is open to attending an open forum to share his view on ways the campus can meet the needs of individuals.

Success during the reaccreditation process is weighed by the length of time that the team gives between cycles. The maximum accreditation time available is 10 years with CSUB having received eight years in its last cycle.

The campus is hoping for a 10 year cycle this time around.

“That’s the culture that is really being built, all students, staff, and faculty you’re more than capable of creating things or impacting things and that is the message that we want to send out there” states ASI President Aaron Wan, who encourages all students to attend the upcoming open session and share their stories with the WASC team.

More information about the recommendations received and the lines of inquiry up for discussion during the WASC visit can be found at <https://www.csub.edu/wscuc/index.html>.

The open session for students will be on Tuesday Oct. 8, from 2:30-3:15 in the Student Union Multipurpose Room. Students who are unable to attend the open session, but would like to share their thoughts with the team can send a confidential email to csubak@wscuc.org during their visit. The exit meeting will be on Thursday Oct. 10 in DLCD 402 where the WASC team will present their findings. The exit meeting is open to the entire campus.

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Memorial honors CSUB student

By Sam Underwood
Editor-in-Chief

In a meeting room above McMurphy's Irish Pub in Bakersfield, a solemn crowd gathered on Sept. 9 to honor the memory and celebrate the life of Jason Rickett, former editor of alternative newspaper The Blackboard, and an integral person with the Bakersfield Burrito Project. A table with photos, memorabilia, and an old Underwood typewriter is the focal piece in the entryway. Next to the sign-in book on the table was a basket of green ribbons for attendees to wear to bring awareness to bipolar disorder. Rickett's remains were in a coffee can, just the way he wanted it.

Rickett was about to begin his senior year at CSU Bakersfield when his life

ended abruptly at the age of 49 by his own volition according to Legacy.com. Rickett was an English literature and language major who had a passion for linguistics and a desire to teach. I was following the same degree path, so I had taken many classes with Rickett and studied with him, talked about books, and had amazing discussions on the different ideas that are generated from literature. Last semester, we took History of the English Language together, and I have to say I wouldn't have done as well as I did without Rickett taking the time to explain linguistic terms and phonetic structures to me.

The memorial service began with a short eulogy by Reverend Kindra Hill, who shared about Rickett's life and how she knew him.

In her eulogy, Hill referred to Rickett as "a collector of introverts," as Rickett and Hill herself were self-proclaimed introverts, as were many others in attendance. At the end of the eulogy, everyone raised glasses of Johnny Walker scotch, a favorite of Rickett's, to toast him and his accomplishments.

After the cheer, friends and family began taking turns sharing stories and memories of Rickett, who had touched the lives of so many people in his various endeavors. Rickett's wife, Belinda Lopez Rickett, quietly listened to the numerous tales about Rickett before finally sharing her own.

Rickett was an avid writer, and the editor and primary writer of The Blackboard for many years. The Blackboard was an alternative newspaper that gave a liberal perspective to the primarily conservative Bakersfield area.

Beyond journalism, Rickett also published a collection of short fiction titled "A Thousand Points of Darkness." His second novel, "Just A Game," is being published posthumously. Copies of Rickett's books were placed on the table of memorabilia for attendees of the memorial to see.

At the memorial, Matthew Faulkner, a childhood friend of Rickett's, told a harrowing tale of Rickett standing up to bullies.

Faulkner addressed the gathering with a general message for everyone: "Jason never backed down. Keep doing what you're doing. Don't stop. Keep going and reach like Jason did."

Rickett was a key organizer of the Bakersfield Burrito Project along with his wife, who founded the organization in



Mari Woodmansee/The Runner
Matthew Faulkner, Jason Rickett's friend from high school, shares a memory at the memorial on Monday, Sept. 9, 2019 at McMurphy's Tavern in Bakersfield.

2009. Once a week without fail, volunteers make burritos to distribute all over Bakersfield to help feed the less fortunate. Rickett used his skill with writing to establish the Bakersfield Burrito Project as a nonprofit and acquire various grants to help support the organization.

The stories by friends and family slowly dissolved from sad remembrance to laughter as spirits rose among the crowd and fond memories were shared. It meant a lot to hear these stories. I got to learn about a whole other side of Rickett that I had not known. It was clear that Rickett touched many lives.

According to an obituary posted on legacy.com, Jason is survived by his wife, Belinda Lopez Rickett; stepchildren Leala R. Singleton, Michael V. Wells, Lance Cpl. Josephine C. Wells Ashley USMC and her husband John, his mother Lynn Marie Taylor, and brother Justin James Rickett. He is preceded in death by his father James (Jim) Baynham Rickett and brother Joshua Baynham Rickett.



Mari Woodmansee/The Runner

Guests listen to stories being shared at Jason Rickett's Memorial on Monday Sept.9,2019 at McMurphy's Tavern in Bakersfield.

From California to South Africa: A Biologist's dream

by Lauren Hill
Features Editor

With a dream of seeing CSU Bakersfield biology students receive a more hands-on study experience on a once in a lifetime type of journey, professors of biology, Anna Jacobsen and Brandon Pratt have received a \$99,994 National Science Foundation, NSF, Center of Research Excellence in Science and Technology, CREST, supplement grant. Jacobsen and Pratt created a project proposal in partnership with CREST and three South African supporters: Adam West, Karen Elser, and Casper Crouse.

This project allows students to use unique technology to examine woody plants and compare Mediterranean-type climate regions. To extend these studies even further, four graduate students, who are also CREST fellows, and four undergraduate students with an interest in the effects of drought on plants will receive the opportunity to travel to South Africa in the summer of 2020 to participate in this year's Mediterranean-type Ecosystems Conference, MEDECOS. Jacobsen says her current students are very excited for this potential opportunity. They will begin choosing the eight students in January of 2020.

A question that Jacobsen proposes to her

Biology students to consider is, "Where does the slice of research that you do fit into the entire globe?"

There are five places in the world that have a Mediterranean-type ecosystem: California, the Mediterranean Basin, South Australia, South Africa, and Chile. Drought in these areas is prevalent.

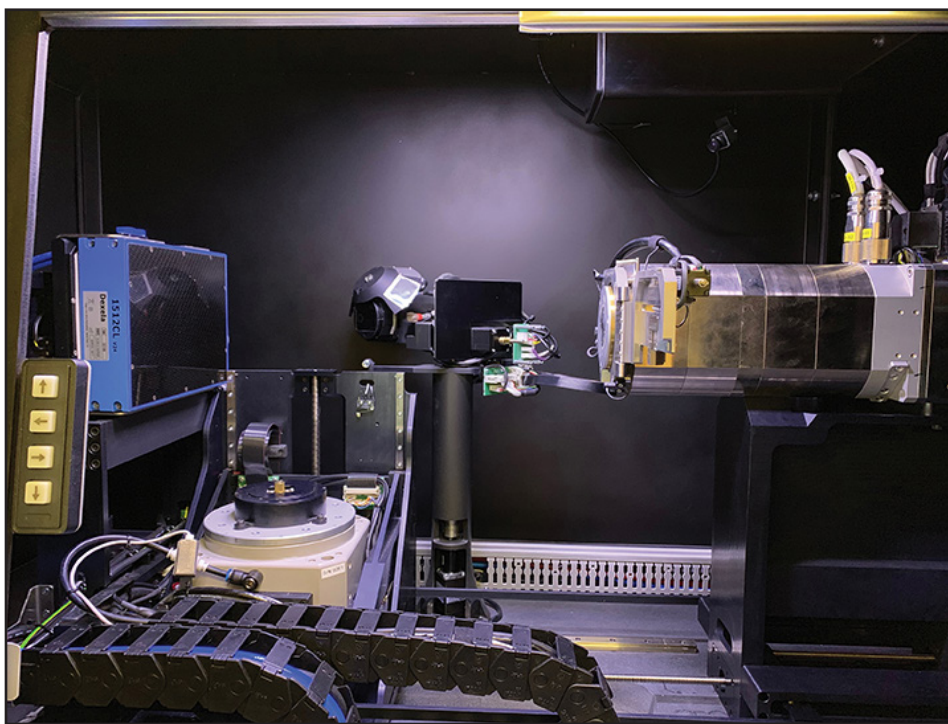
"Drought legacy effects leave long lasting clots. The only way for the plants to reconstruct is to grow new tissue" said Jacobsen.

Students will be studying these effects in California and then comparing them to the terrain in South Africa during MEDECOS.

Students at CSUB are exposed to some cutting-edge technology which will help to heighten their knowledge of the plants they analyze. In fall 2017, Pratt received a grant from the Department of Defense that brought a Micro CT scanner to campus. This scanner is used by geologists, archaeologists, biologists, and other students.

"The Micro CT is about the size of a minivan, and inside researchers will put the plants, and then beams are sent that deeply X-Ray the plant so that the individual analyzing can see what's going on inside the plant without cutting into it," said Jacobsen.

"The Micro CT that we have is the only one of its make and model that works in North America. Technically it's a Nano



Lauren Hill/The Runner

Inside view of Micro CT scanner located in the Science III building.

CT because it can operate on the Nanoscale," said Pratt. "This system is the only one that college students are getting to use, where they can gain expertise and experience in this type of technology."

Students from other CSUs, such as San Diego State University and CSU Long Beach, have traveled to CSUB to use

this technology, and students at CSUB in every department have the opportunity to use one of endless resources that help to formulate and cultivate their education experience.

Bright lights shine at Runner Nights



Tony Hernandez/The Runner

A group of CSUB students dance during the 5th annual Runners Night Carnival.



Tony Hernandez/The Runner

lyana Haggins, communications major and her boyfriend Matthew Phillips, natural science major play a game at the fifth annual Runner Nights Carnival.

By Sofia Martinez
Reporter

This year, the fifth annual Runner Nights was held on Friday, Sept. 13, 2019 from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Runner Nights is an event series that brings fun activities for CSU Bakersfield students and faculty members to campus. Promo Day on Sept. 9, 2019 previewed the foods available, attractions, rides, booths, and more.

Campus Programming Coordinator Afaf Aldhulay said there will be a variety of free food, from tacos to hot dogs, ice cream, kettle corn, frozen lemonades, agua frescas, and more. “We will have three large rides, a super slide, carnival multiplayer games, club booth activities, photo booth, face painting and temporary body art, dunk tank, and a few inflatable games. This year they included a new high-thrill ride and more inflatable, interactive games,” said Aldhulay.

About 2,000 people attended Runner Nights last year, and to speed up the process of entering the event, there was more security. There was also a DJ in the middle of the grass field who played for the night, and on the right-hand side were the four major attractions: a ferris wheel, gravity ride, slides, and a ‘Sizzler’ attraction. On the left-hand side there was smaller attractions, such as a dunk tank, a photo booth, a fortune teller, club tables, and more. The back had a variety of food available for everyone.

While people waiting in the line for the event to open, there was a test run on the gravity ride, and less than a minute into

the test, the gate of the ride swung open and started to hit against the control pa. Students in front of the line could faintly hear a group of students inside yelling at the operators to “stop the ride!” The ride was working fine after they removed the broken gate, and for the rest of the night nothing else went wrong.

Haley Zavala, a criminal justice major, said that she liked the upbeat music, and when the DJ played the “Cupid Shuffle” almost everyone got up to dance. “The food was pretty good. I loved the chicken and shrimp kabobs. The leapfrog game was fun, but it would have been nice to see more of challenging activities. They should have added a theme like a neon carnival or a decade theme where everyone would dress up!” said Zavala.

“I loved that they had a lot of activities, they didn’t just have a lot of rides,” said Valentina Pacheco, a junior and a human biology major. “I loved that they had a lot of activities, they didn’t just have a lot of rides, I like how they had a variety of games too. I was really hoping they would’ve brought back the ride that you’re caged in and it goes around in circles. Yesterday would have been actually the perfect day to have a theme since it fell right on Friday the 13th.”

Students enjoyed the night, going on the rides, dancing, eating the free food, and hanging out with friends. For Runner Nights in the spring semester, instead of multiple attractions there will only be one: an artist. The name of the artist will be revealed in the spring.

Grad student leader leaves oil field for higher education

By Audrey Tobola
Reporter

Associated Students Inc. has a new director of graduate students, Jason Baldwin. Although it’s only been three weeks, you might have met Baldwin or heard about him before because of his involvement in CSU Bakersfield student life. He was also secretary for Sigma Tau Delta English Honors Society, Director of Transfer Students for CSUB ASI, and Student Ambassador for CSUB Outreach Department.

Decades before coming to CSUB, Baldwin worked in the oil fields while raising his three children. He was always on call, never knowing where he would work or for how many days, and often times doing twelve hour shifts. The petroleum industry in Kern County began slowing down, and on the last day of 2015, the company he was working for dismissed him.

“I didn’t want to face that again,” Baldwin said. He was single and his three children were adults, so he could finally do what he really wanted to. On January 19, 2016, Baldwin enrolled at Taft College as a business major.

He transferred to CSUB in the fall of 2016 as a liberal studies major, but changed it a number of times before getting his bachelor’s in 2019 and starting his master’s degree in English, focusing on composition, few weeks ago. After all those years, Baldwin still perfectly remembers his first day at CSUB. He was terrified.

“I thought the campus was so big and thought there was so many students. And I was in a different age group. So I think it

was intimidating,” he said.

According to Baldwin, enrolling at CSUB was almost a new life. When he came to CSUB four years ago, he didn’t think he would be so involved in CSUB life. During his first semester, he was focused on getting his classes, finishing his degree and eventually, teaching. Studying literature, language and composition inspired him. According to Baldwin, it enlightened him to human nature. It encouraged him to stick his neck out, to get involved and discover new things.

“I thought it was a really great opportunity to work for Outreach, to work for the high school. Just working with so many people with the common goal of education,” Baldwin said.

Even though he knew he wanted to be a part of ASI government, applying was not easy.

“I think there is a lot of really smart people here, and to put my application and throw it in that pot with these people I admire greatly, I have tremendous respect for, that was intimidating,” said Baldwin.

Baldwin became the new director of Transfer Students from Sept. 2018 to May of 2019.

Over the summer of 2019, once he had been accepted to CSUB for the master’s program, he saw Aaron Wan, ASI president, in the Student Union. Wan asked him if he would be interested in applying for the open position. He applied and had an interview. According to Baldwin, he was so nervous, although no one else applied. He wanted so badly to represent these students. And, eventually, he got the position.

ASI’s executive vice-president Roxane Esparza was at Baldwin’s interview when he applied for the Director of Graduate Students position. According to her, Baldwin not only showed all the qualifications for the position, but also dedication and passion.

Wan was sure that Baldwin would be a great candidate for this position, which is why he suggested Baldwin apply for the job. Wan describes Baldwin as passionate, hard-working and helpful, just like Esparza. According to Wan, if Baldwin is given a specific task, he will get the job done. And it seems Baldwin takes his new position really seriously.

“He’s already helping all the graduate students, he has been contacting a lot of people, he sits on multiple committees, meetings, with a bunch of the administration, the staff, as well as the students. So I think he’s definitely going to do great in this position. I have no doubt,” Wan said.

Indeed, Baldwin already knows what he wants to do for graduate students as the new director.

“Students are pursuing their second level degree, but they want to go into specific jobs because of that degree, and so I would like to be able to find pathways and network within the community so we can hopefully do job fairs and find employers looking for master’s level and doctoral students. Make it easier for them to find a job,” he said.

Baldwin is well aware of the difficulties students face when they graduate and leave college. That’s why he wants to find a way to help graduate students.

“Just because you’re following your pas-



Alex Chapa Kunz/The Runner

Jason Baldwin, ASI director of graduate students.

sion, that doesn’t mean there is position in the real world waiting for you. So I want to try to find those positions in the real work for the students we have. They are working so hard, chasing their dreams,” Baldwin said.

Baldwin will graduate the master’s program in two years and aims to pursue a doctoral degree. He aspires to teach at CSUB, the place where he found his way of life, and where he was able to develop himself.

“I’m really happy. I don’t know if I’ve ever been so happy in my life,” Baldwin said.

CSUB kicks off Hispanic Heritage Month

By Ashley Balcaceres & Stephanie Williams
Reporters

It's that time of year again where all Hispanic and Latino cultures get to celebrate their background with various traditions from each country. Hispanic Heritage Month is a month long celebration from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15 when people all around the country recognize and celebrate the contributions that Hispanic and Latino people make to the United States.

Choosing the dates for this month long event is deliberate because many Latin American countries celebrate their independence days around this time. Sept. 15 for Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua, Sept. 16 for Mexico, Sept. 18 for Chile, and Sept. 21 for Belize.

These celebrations are not just to celebrate independence days, but to share and involve others in the Hispanic culture, and share the various unique traditions and practices of each

individual country.

"Nuestra vida," were the simple words Maria Palomares, a member of the CSUB student club MEChA, which stands for Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan, used when describing what Hispanic Heritage Months feels to her.

CSUB has celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month with month long activities since 2017. Now everyone has the chance to experience Latin culture at the events that are going to be happening all month long.

Iris Villalobos has lived in the United States her entire life, only visiting Mexico a few times a year. "This is an opportunity to experience and get a feel of my culture," says Villalobos.

Hispanic Heritage Month is not just for those who don't know about these cultures, but also for people living in the United States who miss the traditions of their cultures. This is an opportunity for Latinx-Americans to reconnect and share with their communities.

As part of the planned events, the play "Mariachi Girl," directed by Miguel Orozco, premiered Sept. 13 in the Dore Theater. The play is about the Mexican-American struggle with identity and cultural differences. A family daughter, Carmen, played by Elia Lopez, is going through the struggle of finding her Mexican identity in American culture. Her father, played by Juan Carlos Ozuna, feels he has already compromised his culture by coming to America and does not want to betray family tradition by letting his daughter be a mariachi. However, after hearing the voice of his daughter, his eyes are opened and he realizes all she wants is to be a part of her culture. The audience gave the play a standing ovation.

Another event was Nuestra Independencia on Sept. 17, hosted by the MEChA club on campus. The event had many activities that students participated in to get a taste of Hispanic culture. The event had various activities available



Ruuna Morisawa/The Runner

Students being served tacos in the Student Union on Sept. 16, 2019.

from different cultures like playing Loteria which is the Mexican version of American bingo. It plays on pictures instead of numbers and instead of stamping or placing balls on their numbers, they use beans as their pieces, and winners yell the word "Loteria!" instead of "Bingo!"

Other activities included painting pictures or making a Guatemalan worry doll. The worry doll

is something that Guatemalan children make when they are feeling worried or stressed about something. It can be placed on a bracelet, necklace, or keychain as a charm.

"This month feels like we are magnets for one another [...] no matter where we are in the world," says Angela Lopez Romo, the MEChA Historian and hostess of Nuestra Independencia.

MEChA and CSUB have a month-long list of activities and events that are not only a way to show the traditions and cultures of each Latin American country, but as a way to show that Latinx people are here. Brenda Raya-Guiterrez, a MEChA member, says that she "feels a sense of empowerment because you feel willing to step out of your comfort zone and say 'This is Us.'"

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CSU Bakersfield helps international students succeed in America

By Maria Hernandez
Reporter

The Friendship Partners Program helps international students to succeed academically. The program offers international students the opportunity to explore Bakersfield and other nearby cities. International students decide to come to CSU Bakersfield because they like what they see on the CSUB website.

The FPP was created more than 12

years ago. Each year International students that come to CSUB have the opportunity to travel to nearby cities. International students went to Avil and Pismo Beach on Saturday, Sept. 21, and for some of them, it was the first time they had been to a beach in their lives.

International students who come to CSUB are selected by their home university. The best way to apply is online. However, "only two students per University are selected to come to CSUB," said Yuri Sakamaki, Direc-

tor of International Student Success and American Language Institute. This means that those students that are selected are fortunate.

"International students are always traveling around the world, and many of the students who come to CSUB come for one semester," said Sakamaki. Many students chose CSUB because it is a small city and it is not expensive to live in this area. There are many stores and even a movie theater nearby, and students can travel on the bus or walk. Everything is close to campus.

International students meet in front of the Runner Café every Tuesday and Thursday from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. During that time, students learn different cultural things about America, such as current events and various holidays. International students come from different countries, like Japan, India, and Vietnam.

"When we say international it really is," said Bob Stewart, a member of the Friendship Partner Program. Many international students decide to come to an American university because they want to speak English better. Tuesday talk time helps students, "to talk and get into conversational situations [...]" First days, they come all shy, and by the time they leave most of them do pretty well," said Stewart.

International students practice their

English while they focus on their career goals. International students like to learn about the American culture, which is why they like to make new friends and learn more about how education in the United States works.

"I have a lot of American friends," said Roag Shailesh Patel, computer science major from the Class of 2022. He enjoys having the talk time because it "encourages your knowledge" said Patel. International students can also share their college experiences and learn from each other. Students gain more friends by communicating, and talk time is a great option to interact with new people.

"You get to talk to people from all over the world [who are] friendly and they are always happy to see you and they make you feel good," said Zia Xiong, a business administration major from the Class of 2020.

Some students decide to come to CSUB because it is a small university and offers a variety of programs. "CSUB was a good option for me, and it has a good business school," said Xiong. Many other students come because CSUB offers programs that help international students to succeed academically. When students succeed in school, they make a brighter future for themselves



Mari Woodmansee/The Runner

Event coordinators and International Students on campus gather around during talk time for fellowship on Sept. 3, 2019.

The Dream Center opening is long overdue



Illustration by Briana Hendrix /The Runner

By Jovana Espinoza
Opinion Writer

Even though I am thrilled about the upcoming Dream Center opening on the CSU Bakersfield campus, the time it took to establish this resource center for DACA and AB540 students, the California Assembly Bill 540 which allows undocumented students to qualify for in-state tuition, reflects the lack of open support from students.

UC Berkeley has stayed one step ahead of CSUB by providing its undocumented students “full-time mental health therapist and legal aid assistance, free for the estimated 500 or so undocumented students,” according to an EdSource.org article titled “Colleges expand services for undocumented

students as legislation seeks more,” by Larry Gordon.

Although our campus is also undergoing the process of opening a Dream Center to offer similar services to our undocumented population, I cannot help but question why it has taken this long—three to four years after Berkeley. Even Bakersfield College had a Dream Center two years ago to receive and help undocumented high school graduates—closer to Berkeley, leaving CSUB in the dust.

“CSUB should’ve had a space for undocumented students a long time ago. I guess it has taken a while because they thought there weren’t that many undocumented students to have their own space,” said Yoceline Aguilar, a

junior sociology major and former president of the UNIR (United Now for Immigrant Rights) club.

It could be argued that there were no students pushing for a Dream Center to make the school aware that one was needed in the first place.

However, Aguilar said she “went to the President’s Forum last fall semester,” representing UNIR and pushing for the center. There were a few students out there voicing their needs to the school.

Now that the center is here, another problem could arise from the

same lack of communication and open support from students.

“I like CSUB, but there is something about the vibe,” said Carlos Avendano, a transfer student, Spanish major and Dreamer. He went on to say that he wishes we could “prepare an

open Dream House for our future undocumented Roadrunners.”

An open Dream House is a great

way to start building community within CSUB. Hosting an event at the Dream Center would promote the center and give information about all the resources it pro-

“Forms of support come in all shapes and sizes...”

vides. Even people who are not undocumented could go and see what it really is about.

Andrea Guevara, political science major, junior, and current president of UNIR, said that she feels “safe enough” with the Dream Center on campus, but it has quite a way to go.

“A supportive environment, in which a student might choose to disclose [their status]” should be the ideal atmosphere schools should aim to create, as well as to “make yourself visible as an ally,” according to the article “Supporting Undocumented Students and Mixed-Status Families” by Bari Walsh, director of editorial strategy for the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Forms of support come in all shapes and sizes

and do not necessarily need to be expressed in impressive ways. For instance, showing up to the Dream House (if that ever happened) to learn more about it is a form of support. Even stopping by and offering a positive remark to the students or staff present can mean more than you think. Small gestures that seem insignificant can change a person’s day, week, or even their entire perspective.

CSUB is our home for most days of the week, and we need to make it as welcoming and comfortable as we possibly can for everyone. It is not enough to be quietly accepting of the Dream Center or of Dreamers, but rather must be visibly expressed to build trust and support for our students.

RUNNER ON THE STREET

Interview and Photos By: Mari Woodmansee

“What is your opinion on Canvas vs. Black Board?”

<div>Barbara Perez Undeclared</div> <div></div> <div><p>“I like Blackboard because everything is relatively accessible. Only down side is on the app, documents sometimes won’t upload.”</p></div>	<div>Dominio Balmer Kinesiology</div> <div></div> <div><p>“Blackboard is easier to use because it is easier to navigate the site.”</p></div>	<div>Stephanic Sevilla-Valencia Criminal Justice</div> <div></div> <div><p>“Blackboard is counterproductive and takes too much time for us to be looking stuff up due to the fact that it has previous courses there as well.”</p></div>	<div>Noe Garcia Communications</div> <div></div> <div><p>“Canvas is better because it is more clean and streamlined.”</p></div>
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Staff Editorial: CSUB needs to hire more counselors

By Runner Editorial Staff

This year at CSU Bakersfield we have seen an increase of 15% in the student population from last year. We are seeing the effect of this increase in things such as crowded parking, long waitlists for classes, and departments being moved to share space. However, there are more serious issues that students face. College is a stressful endeavor and many students feel the need to seek out therapy at the counseling center. Already this year counseling services at the health center are overbooked. In an article written by Audrey Tobola Escano, a reporter for The Runner, she cited data that said that the National Survey of Counseling Center Directors recommends a ratio of 1-to-1,500 counselor to student ratio. In a press

release by the administration before the semester began, CSUB reported that enrollment was at 11,380 this fall. That means with five full-time counselors on staff, at least two to three more are needed. Students trying to book an appointment are having to wait one to two weeks in order to see someone and regular appointments have been cut to four to six per semester. This is not acceptable. The mental health of the students attending CSUB should be just as important as the graduation rates. The administration insists on packing the school to a point beyond its capacity and the students, faculty, and staff are the ones who pay the price. Of course, there are meetings and committees being formed to address this situation at the speed that these committees move at, but while we wait, students

suffer. Before the beginning of the fall semester, President Lynnette Zelezny made a speech that assured all in attendance that the students would come first. In fact, the focal point of the much-anticipated strategic plan has been “students first.” It doesn’t feel that way. A significant amount of time this week has been devoted to active shooter training. While we appreciate the need for security measures to keep us safe, it is a reactive response to the potential mental crisis that could be avoided by a proactive stance on mental health care. It is time to stop discussing things in a meeting or with a committee and start taking applications, conducting interviews, hiring the counselors we need, and finding the space that the counseling center needs in order to best serve the student body.

Voice of the Students: Parking is an outrage

by Chelsea L. McDowell and Allie Page
CSUB Student Contributors

Recently, students, staff and faculty received a tone-deaf and terse email from University Police Department Chief Marty Williamson reinforcing the fact that parking is not permitted in the Marketplace shopping center across the street. He briefly mentioned that CSU Bakersfield parking was reaching maximum capacity, and instead of advocating for expanding parking or addressing the issue of capacity, he advised the campus community to take the bus or rideshare. Due to the luxury of designated parking spaces that campus leaders benefit from, Chief Williamson is out of touch with the dog-eat-dog, combat parking situation that not only students, but staff and faculty experience on a daily basis. Students aren’t parking at the Marketplace because they like to take a stroll before class in the heat of a Bakersfield summer. People are desperate for parking spaces and need to be near CSUB. This issue is not new. As the CSUB student body

continues to grow, the facilities do not support that growth. According to its website, CSUB sits on 375 acres of space, or over half a square mile. Much of this space consists of unused dirt lots, which could easily be converted to parking lots for students. Potential parking lot spaces exist west and south of the baseball fields, as well as the unused fields and dirt lots throughout campus. It appears that while CSUB leaders want to boast about the thriving population, they do not want to shell out the money or effort to accommodate it. Seemingly without reason, the school lacks willingness to develop its infrastructure. The buses, as Williamson may or may not know, are not a solution to the systemic problem of parking. Bakersfield bus schedules are inconvenient, and it can take hours to get to and from campus, especially for people further from Southwest Bakersfield. More time is wasted by waiting for buses and planning your day around the GET schedule... time that could be spent working at jobs, on homework, or something else productive. Not everyone has the


privilege of being dropped off at school either. Bakersfield is too spread out for walking longer distances to be viable, and bicycling to school can be inconvenient as well. Some may argue that limiting parking encourages students to drive less, and thus save the environment. However, being dropped off at school by a friend still uses gas, and people will actually burn more gas driving in circles scavenging for the last available parking spot. Let’s address the elephant in the room; parking permits are too expensive. Students already spend thousands on tuition and textbooks. Also, a parking permit does not guarantee a parking spot. If we can’t find a space half the time, the permit is not worth the exorbitant price. President Zelezny is always hyping up her campus community, saying students are [her] motivation. She seems to have her heart in the right place, and she should show her care by helping out with this pertinent issue for students, staff and faculty alike. It would be fascinating to watch how she tackles this campus-wide problem.

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Do you have an opinion you want to share? How do you feel about issues on campus? Send your letters to the editor for an opportunity to be published in The Runner opinions section. Let us be your voice. Send your letters to runner@csub.edu Letters are subject to editing.

The Runner athlete of the week: Niklas Körber

Becca Romo
Sports Editor

Originally from Berlin, Germany, Niklas Körber, senior forward for the CSU Bakersfield men’s soccer team scored himself the title of Athlete of the Week. He scored a goal against St. Mary’s in the 83rd minute of the game on Friday, Sept. 13th.

As a senior, Körber has had eight total goals scored so far since starting his collegiate athletic career at CSUB. He is still counting on scoring more before the season ends.

Körber began playing soccer at a very young age. By the age of five, he was on his first team.

“My dad put me into a club, and from there on I just continued playing,” he

said.

Playing soccer, also known as football in Germany, is very common for Körber and his family. His younger brother, Nils Körber, plays the position of goalkeeper for football club VfL Osnabrück.

He had a few surprising moments when first arriving to CSUB. “The rules are different here,” said Körber. He explains that the rules for playing soccer in the United States are different than in Germany.

What motivated Körber to continue playing soccer was being around his friends and having fun.

But not only was it all fun and games for Körber, he also enjoyed the competitive aspect of playing a sport. “Just to be able to compete and to win, I think

that was big for me,” he said.

One of his best moments playing soccer at CSUB was recently winning a game after a losing streak. He said it felt “pretty good” to win with his teammates. He is hoping for more monumental moments this season.

Richie Grant, head coach for men’s soccer, says that Körber is an outstanding performer. “Over the course of the season, he is really playing like a senior that has experience and looks like a man that wants the outcome to be different for our program,” said Grant.

Körber enjoys the friendships he has developed over the years with the past and current teammates he’s had. “We hang out with

each other, even though we see each other every day,” he said. Even now, he keeps in touch with a lot of his teammates who have already graduated.

Along with soccer, Körber is studying for a degree in psychology. Although he said he hopes to continue playing soccer after graduating, he finds psychology interesting, and hopes to combine sports and psychology in the future.

Körber knows the bitter-sweet feeling of it being his last season at CSUB, but he is hopeful about this season being great for him and his teammates. “Try to make the best of it with the team, and hopefully we are going to be successful together.”



Becca Romo/The Runner
Senior forward Nicklas Körber poses on the practice field after being named The Runner student athlete of the week on Sept. 19, 2019.

Swimming and Diving sets the bar for community service

By Dustin Tompkins
Sports Writer

Here at CSU Bakersfield, our student athletes strive for excellence. They are expected to perform not only in competition, but in the classroom as well. As difficult as it can be to manage their schedules, they all make time to go out and assist in the community in one way or another.

Ronald Waller, better known as “Doc,” coordinates the Runner Ready program for student athletes and is also in charge of logging their community service hours. Last year, Waller recorded 3,754 total hours volunteered by all athletic programs. He mentioned the Mothers Against Drunk Driving walk, which will take place at Riverwalk Park Sept. 28 at 7:30 a.m., as one of the upcoming events the athletes can get involved in. When asked which program stands out in terms of their community service efforts, Doc said, “Not to take anything away from any of the other programs, but the swim team does an unbelievable job.”

Junior swimmer Kris Rogic has many championship accolades in his young career. He is a transfer student from Croatia who has broken many CSUB records. He is also one of the leaders in community service activities for the swimming and diving program. When asked how he maintains with such a busy schedule, Rogic says, “You have to be on top of everything at all times, and our advisors help us with that.” His favorite community service activity is going to the local elementary schools and reading to the children. He also enjoys when the kids ask questions about college life and swimming. The program is always being contacted for volunteers, so there are constantly opportunities for them to help uplift the community.

Chris Hansen, Director of Swimming and Diving at CSUB, is currently in his 13th season as the team’s head coach. His office is lined with trophies won at the annual ROWDYs awards ceremony presented by the athletics department. Swimming and Diving are four-time repeat winners of the Rudy

Carvajal Community Service award, which is granted to the team with the most community service hours.

The program has won the award almost every year for the better part of a decade. Hansen states that their success creates competitiveness between the other athletic programs for the award. When asked why community service is so important to him and this program, Hansen said, “There was not a lot of energy around community service when I first started, so we made a conscious effort to improve that.” Not only are his efforts strengthening the community, but they are enriching the lives of his athletes as well.

Community service is more than just volunteering. It is sacrificing one’s personal time for the sake of bettering the city around us. The athlete volunteers are not getting paid for their time. They are setting a prime example of doing things without expecting anything in return. Their deeds do not go unnoticed, and they hope this can inspire others in the community to volunteer their time as well.



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Where is the love for women athletes?

Justin Davis
Opinions writer

As a member of the men’s basketball team at school, I am no stranger to full stands. Whether in the Icardo Center or when we compete in away arenas, the energy is always electric. In college or professional sports there is one common theme: The men’s side of athletics receives more attention and respect than the women’s. From the lack of supporters in the stands, to the “trolls” on social media accounts discrediting their accolades, women get the short end of the stick.

Just like men, women who make it to play college athletics or even become professionals are at the top of their specific sport.

So this begs the question: Why don’t women get as much love as the men?

When it comes to money, men and women aren’t even close, especially if you play a team sport.

“The top WNBA salary was \$117,500 last season, compared with \$37.4 million in the NBA. The team salary cap for the National Pro Fastpitch softball league is \$175,000; the Boston Red Sox will split \$227 million in 2019,” writes sports writer for Forbes Olivia Abrams in her article titled “Why Female Athletes Earn Less than Men Across Most Sports.”

It is common knowledge that the revenues don’t match when there is a comparison between men’s and women’s professional leagues. However, the way the women’s leagues are using the money is something that needs improvement. While men are flying on private planes, women are catching “red eye” flights and sitting in economy. As a 6’5” human being, I understand the frustration with that completely.

There is also a sense that men just don’t care to watch women play sports.

In her article “Why do fans ignore women’s pro sports?” Shira Springer of the Boston Globe writes, “It’s a familiar sight, with female preteens and teenagers often the default fan for women’s professional teams.” It is the same sight at the collegiate level, with most of the crowd consisting of the band, family members, and young girls that dragged their parents to the game because they look up to the women who are competing.

Women also have trouble with people, most of them being males who lack any athleticism, discrediting their abilities. For example, Liz Cambage, a member of the WNBA’s Las Vegas Aces, had to confront a man on Twitter who questioned her athletic ability in a picture she posted.

Aryana Harvey, a redshirt senior forward for CSUB Women’s Soccer, said seeing female athletes is intimidat-



ing to some men. “Long ago [men] created these standards and expectations that all females are supposed to be girly, cook, clean, and be housewives,” Harvey said. “But that changed a long time ago, and I really do think that scares some men out there.” I urge men, as well as women, who do not play sports to become more supportive and understanding of what these athletes



Becca Romo & Mari Woodmansee/The Runner
Redshirt Senior forward Aryana Harvey makes a pass against Eastern Washington University.

go through, because it is not easy. As someone who loves all types of sports, I can tell you that if you are only watching men’s athletics, you are missing out on passionate athletes who, in my opinion, are more skilled than most of the men play-

ing the exact same sport. The “Women can’t dunk. Women aren’t as fast and athletic” argument is tired and should be flushed out of everyone’s minds. Don’t just take my word for it, though. Go watch for yourself.

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Soccer Roundup: ‘Runners lose despite homefield advantages

WOMEN FALL TO SACRAMENTO STATE HORNETS

CSUB women’s soccer team lost 0-2 at home to the Sacramento State Hornets Sunday, Sept. 22. Bakersfield dropped to 5-4-1 on the season and 2-4 at Main Soccer Field. CSUB held Sacramento State to just three shots in the first period. The Roadrunner defense was in front of all three attacks the Hornets made but in the 39th minute Tiffany Miras was able to score after Bakersfield goalkeeper Andrea Neves had fallen to the ground out of the box. With a few opportunities for Bakersfield to score in the second half and a defensive effort that continued to stifle the Hornets offense it seemed like the Roadrunners would find an equalizing goal before time expired. In the 78th minute Miras won the fifty-fifty ball at the goal again and gave Sacramento State the insurance goal needed to seal the match.

CSUB returns home next weekend for a single contest against future Big West Conference opponent UC Santa Barbara. The Roadrunners are 1-1-1 against Big West schools this season.
-- From Gorunners.com

ST. MARY’S EDGES OUT CSUB MEN’S TEAM

After playing a heart-felt game, the Roadrunners come up short by one point scored in the 93rd minute of the game by St. Mary’s College of California. As their only home game for the month of September, the men’s soccer team hoped to come out with a win after breaking a losing streak with a win against Sacramento State at the beginning of September. The St. Mary’s Gaels lead the game in the beginning of the first half by scoring the first goal of the game in the 27th minute. The ‘Runners come back into the second half with dedication to score. They

do just that after the Gaels score their second goal in the second half. The team catches up as they score two goals back to back. Senior forward, Niklas Körber, scores CSU Bakersfield’s first goal in the 83rd minute. Ryan Goldsmith, senior forward, spares no time for another goal in the 85th minute of the game. The teams tie 2-2 leading up to the end of the game. The ‘Runners and Gaels go into overtime and within a few minutes St. Mary’s Anders Engbretsen scores a goal with minutes to spare before overtime ended. St. Mary’s continues their winning streak after defeating the CSUB men’s soccer team. “Our program [and] our team did a really good job of being prepared,” said CSUB head coach, Richie Grant. The men’s soccer team is set to play an away game at San Jose State on Saturday, Sept. 29 at 7 p.m.
-- By Becca Romo, Sports Editor

Runner Search

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HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

BELIZE
CULTURE
HERITAGE
INDEPENDENCE
MUSIC
SPAIN
CHILE
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HISPANIC
LATIN
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CURIOUS CASEY IN NEWS CONSUMPTION

BY ALEX TORRES

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