

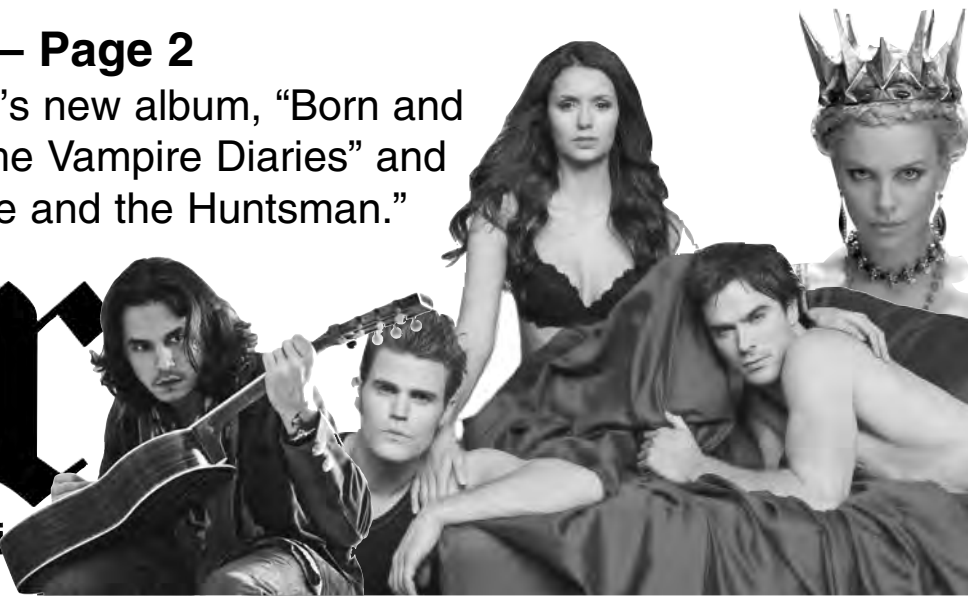
The Runner

June 6, 2012

California State University Bakersfield

Reviews! – Page 2

John Mayer's new album, "Born and Raised," "The Vampire Diaries" and "Snow White and the Huntsman."



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Chancellor Reed retires amidst controversy



News Brief – Runner Staff

CSU Chancellor Charles Reed has announced his pending retirement, saying in a press release that during his tenure "over the past decade and a half, the CSU has emerged as a national leader in providing access and support to students"

The California Faculty Association, the teachers union, offered a different take on Reed's term as chancellor saying in a press release: "... Reed has presided of an era of unprecedented turmoil in the California State University system. The CSU has seen devastating budget cuts, and students have borne much of the burden – student fees have

more than quadrupled since 2002."

A dozen students recently protested Reed and the CSU Board of Trustees with a short-term hunger strike. Adding to the mix, major metropolitan media have been reporting on what has been described as questionable spending by the Reed administration.

Mitchell mulls trigger cuts

By Russell Ming
Senior Staff Writer

"By 2025, California will have one million fewer highly skilled workers needed to fill available jobs at that time. Those jobs will simply leave California, thus further eroding our economic base," said CSUB President Horace Mitchell, referring to a study done by the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC), which projected its statistics based on the past few years' trend of the California's budgets. The study's prediction is directly attributed to the state's slicing its higher education obligation.

On May 22, Mitchell held his eighth budget forum since 2009. The reason to convene was the same as the other meetings – state budget reduction to the CSU system – but this time Mitchell offered no solution; instead he opened the door to voices for new suggestions while showing CSUB's responses of the past.

In November, a state tax hike will be voted on. If rejected by voters, which Mitchell anticipates as highly probable, it will trigger a \$200 million cut to the budget. CSUB will lose \$4.2 million of its reliance on the state, and the CSU system will then have lost 39 percent of its state support.

Over the past four years, CSUB has seen a \$15 million reduction of state aid. The CSU system was dealt cuts three times in 2011 which, when all added together, account for a \$750 million budget decrease.

Mitchell mentioned that November's cut could not be solved as the past cuts. "Doing that this time is not the way to achieve results that relate to long term viability of the university to achieve its mission and vision," he said.

The past remedies Mitchell referred to were a ten percent tuition increase in 2010 to anticipate 2011 cuts and in 2011, a twelve percent tuition increase. Accompanying the rise of costs, students go to more compacted classrooms due to

[See CUT, Page 4]

Math major in Moscow for Fall Quarter

By Steven Gaede
Sports Editor

For students entering their senior year, some might think, "Only one more year to go," and not put 100 percent into their studies but junior math major Robert Bassett is going to be partaking in a prestigious math institution in Moscow, Russia, during the Fall Quarter of 2012.

The Math in Moscow program is quite prestigious as it offers admitted students a once-in-a-lifetime experience at the Independent University of Moscow. Moscow is not going to be a cakewalk for Bassett, as the program is going to present many challenges, one of which is the language barrier.

"I imagine it will be frustrating at first, but that I will get used to it. In addition to my math classes, I am also taking a Russian language course, and I hope that will help me some," Bassett said.

"My worst nightmare would be not being able to read the signs for men's and women's restrooms!" he said.

Putting jokes aside, Bassett is excited to travel abroad, strengthening his résumé and learning about Russian culture. Bassett's time in Russia will primarily be spent taking classes (28 being offered), which are not as accessible at CSUB, alongside students from various continents.

"I will have the opportuni-

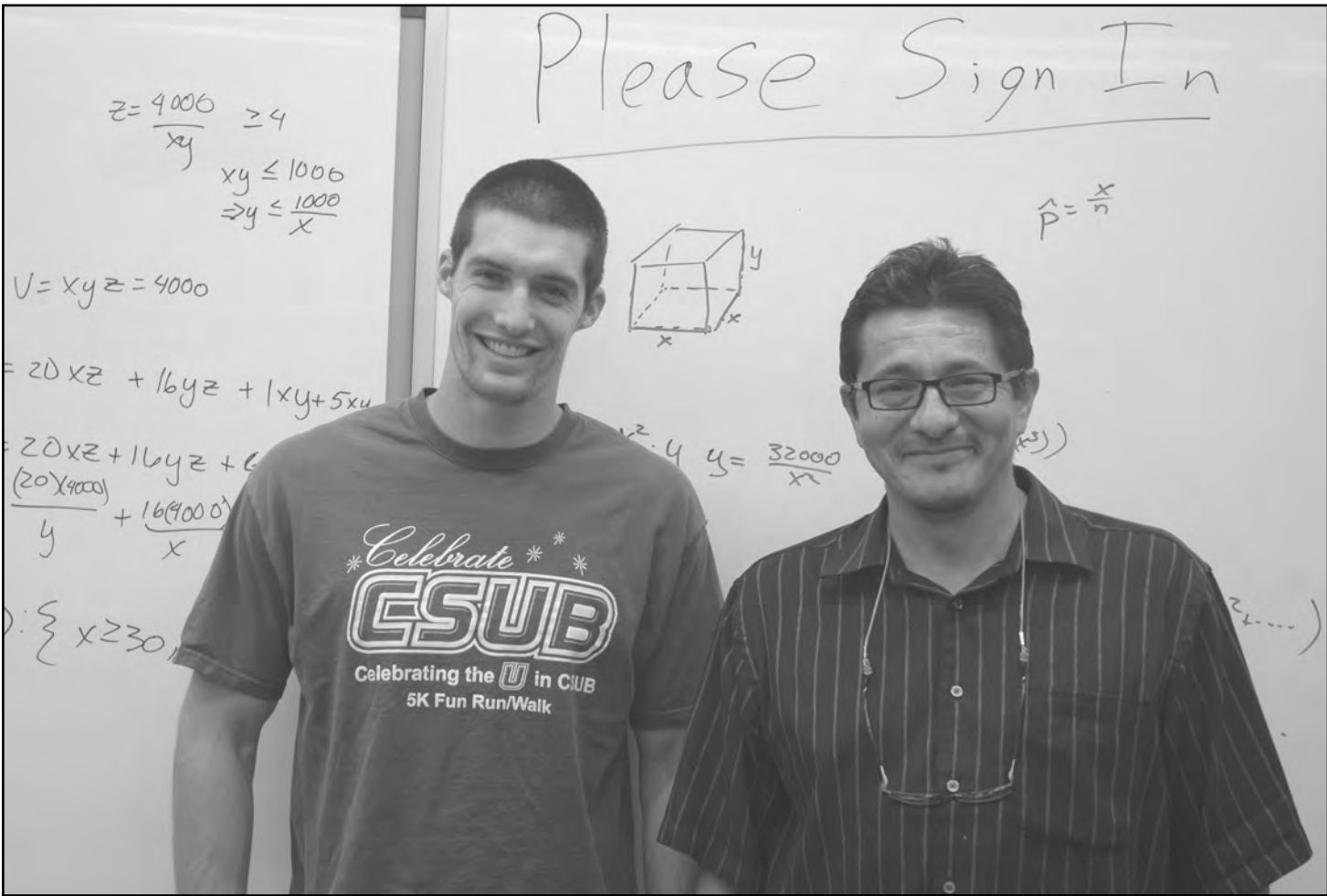
ty to study with some of the most competitive math students from around the world, and also learn mathematics in the Russian style, which, though I don't know much about it, I hear is pretty intense," Bassett said.

"I imagine the emphasis of the program will be on solving problems yourself, instead of just being told the results. This aspect of the program will give me the chance to come up with original solutions to problems, and as such develop me into a better mathematician," he said.

"I'm really excited about the chance to take a topology course there. The Math in Moscow program has a topology sequence and, though CSUB does not have a topology course, I independently studied one this quarter, and hope to learn more about this specific subset of mathematics while I'm there."

The lowest level classes being offered in Moscow are on par with senior level courses, while the more advanced classes are good

[See MOSCOW, Page 4]]



Robert Bassett (left) poses with Dr. Javier Trigos (right), who convinced Bassett to apply for the Math in Moscow program for the Fall Quarter.

Steven Gaede/The Runner

Seven-day
weather forecast
According to weather.com

Wednesday
Hi: 80
Lo: 58
Precip. 0%

Thursday
Hi: 87
Lo: 61
Precip. 0%

Friday
Hi: 89
Lo: 65
Precip. 0%

Saturday
Hi: 86
Lo: 61
Precip. 0%

Sunday
Hi: 89
Lo: 63
Precip. 0%

Monday
Hi: 92
Lo: 65
Precip. 0%

Tuesday
Hi: 94
Lo: 66
Precip. 0%

THE RUNNER

Volume XXXVII, Issue 24

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‘Snow White’: Not the fairytale you remember

By Nadia Wehbe
Staff Writer

For those of you who are skeptical about seeing “Snow White and the Huntsman” because you didn’t like the original fairytale or that you dread seeing Kristen Stewart, you have no reason to hesitate. “Snow White and the Huntsman” is an overall fantastic movie that even Kristen Stewart’s awkward mannerisms couldn’t ruin.

The movie has an exceptional cast which includes Charlize Theron who plays the evil Queen Ravenna and the enchanting Chris Hemsworth, who plays the alcoholic huntsman.

“Hemsworth, in a considerably less showy role than that of Thor, Norse god of thunder, is armed with an impressive range and sensitivity that seems instinctual. In other words, the guy’s a natural,” according to David Blaustein at abcnews.go.com.

Theron was also marvelous in her role. She was absolutely evil and managed to nail the role as a psychopath who is obsessed with beauty and youth. I especially enjoyed the part where Ravenna gets upset with her brother Finn, who is played by Sam Spruell. That scene was so great to me because Theron’s talent allowed her to stretch from anger to insanity to softness all in about two minutes.

Because Stewart is one of the main characters in the film, there is no way I can get around talking about her. Don’t get me wrong, I have nothing personal against Kristen Stewart, except all of the



Photo courtesy of honolulupulse.com

unnecessary sounds that she makes when she talks. I don’t know if it was the British accent that she had to use or the fact that she wasn’t playing the forever stuttering and clumsy Bella that I’ve seen in “Twilight,” but she managed to do quite well in playing the pure of heart Snow White and there were no unnecessary sounds or weird hand wringing.

The scenery was dramatic. If it wasn’t a scene with contrasting white and black, it was a scene with remarkable colors. “This is a movie that is built from the ground up for maximum visual impact – the sewage that Snow White must swim through is wretched, the rock-hewn castle seems hand-carved out of the cliffs, the mythical white stag in a forest, lush with bewitching flora and fauna, is otherworldly to behold,” according to Betsy Sharkey at latimes.com.

The similarities of this movie to the original Snow White included a poison apple, an evil queen, dwarves, and a dark and scary forest. That’s where the similarities end. This movie takes Snow White from being a naïve little damsel who cleans and cooks for seven dwarves to a powerful young girl who is taught how to kill by the huntsman and who overcomes death by the help of an unexpected twist in the plot.

The one difference that outshines all the other differences in this movie is that the original Snow White was mainly about Snow White’s journey and the evil queen’s quest for beauty. However, “Snow White and the Huntsman” spends time with all of the characters and doesn’t focus too long on any of them.

The Queen is now a fierce woman who is obsessed with power and whose remarkable powers help stop her from becoming old. The Huntsman is a man who has lost his wife and learns to forgive himself and Snow White is a girl whose life was filled with darkness but she managed to overcome that and realize her true destiny.

Get sucked into the ‘Vampire Diaries’

By Athena Skapinakis
Staff Writer

Long ago, there was a time when vampires didn’t sparkle in the sunlight or frolic in meadows. There was a time when they were dark creatures who killed, maimed and enchanted their prey. And there was blood. Lots of blood.

Then “Twilight” came along, sparkled the hell out of you and gave you this ridiculous idea that vampires are really just sensitive, misunderstood creatures that want to fit in with their high school peers in an effort to regain humanity.

A new age has dawned, my friends. Your search for life’s purpose ends now. The CW’s most popular show, “The Vampire Diaries,” brings back the classic dark and brooding vampire. There’s drama, killing and death, plot twists you never saw coming, love triangles, shocking scandals, unique lore and mythology, history, blood and more than you can ever imagine! Granted, the pilot is a little cheesy-tastic, but after a few episodes, you’ll become irrevocably addicted.

Before you roll your eyes and think to your self, “Oh, another ‘Twilight’ rip-off,” guess again – “The Vampire Diaries” is truly one of the best shows television currently has to offer. Yes, that’s a daring declaration to make, but keep reading and you’ll understand why.

The show follows 17-year-old Elena Gilbert and the drastic turn her life takes when she meets Stefan Salvatore, a 162-year-old mass of vampire hunk. The two become an item quickly, but their lives become chaotic when Stefan’s brother, Damon, comes to town. The habañero-hot Damon Salvatore is the anti-hero, the baddie you’ll find sadistically charming. His purpose seems to be ruining Stefan’s life while he continues his search for their ex-lover and Elena’s doppelganger ancestor, Katherine, but Damon doesn’t stay a villain for the entire series. He eventually becomes an ally to Elena as malicious antagonists appear to wreak havoc upon the town of Mystic Falls. He’s especially helpful when Stefan returns to his sinister Ripper ways and shows his darker side, which puts Elena in quite the conundrum, because she discovers that Damon is also in love with her.

She must make a choice between the two brothers, thus creating one of the most of steamy love triangles anyone could ever wish for. With the help of her witchy best friend Bonnie, the ever faithful ex-boyfriend Matt, kiddy-pool-shallow Caroline, douchey werewolf Tyler, and brother Jeremy, Elena triumphs over most the evil that threatens her and her town – and trust me, she deals with a great deal of evil ranging from revenge-seeking tomb vampires, a doppelganger curse, rogue witches, spirits eager to return to the physical world, and the original vampire, Klaus, who is bent on enslaving humanity with his army of hybrid vampire-were-wolves.

Instead of centering on high school life, this show revolves all around the town’s history, which dates back to the Civil War Era in the 1860s. It’s actually pretty fascinating. There are several flashbacks depicting the time when vampires first came to Mystic Falls and when the Salvatore brothers were first turned. With excellent costume design, the show was able to produce several other flashbacks

as well from the 1920s, the 1930s, the arrival of the Vikings in America and others.

The costume design isn’t all that’s astonishingly great. The acting and character development are phenomenal as well as the script, complete with witty dialogue. Damon’s snarky dialogue is especially notable. Ian Somerhalder has Damon’s dark humor down to a fine art, while every other actor is either devastatingly handsome or absolutely beautiful.

There’s delicious eye candy for everyone.

“The Vampire Diaries” is coming into its fourth season and is expected to return in September 2012. Fans have incredibly huge expectations for this season, but that’s all I can say without dropping a huge spoiler. You’ll just have to watch it from the beginning. If you have Netflix, you’re in luck as well, or you can likely catch a re-run when the show airs on the CW Thursdays at 8 p.m. Get sucked in!

John Mayer: ‘Born and Raised’

By Ashley Zaragoza
Managing Editor

After a two-year hiatus from record making due to granuloma (a nodule near the vocal cords) and some self-reflecting to do, John Mayer released his fifth album “Born and Raised” Tuesday May 22. As an avid Mayer fan, I was anxious to hear his twist on folk music, or any new material from “the Mayer” for that matter. Much to my satisfaction this album is his best work since Continuum, and the lyrics are the most honest of Mayer’s to date.

Just three days before its release Mayer held a candid, half hour interview with National Public Radio (NPR). Entitled “John Mayer: Restoring an Image and an Instrument” Mayer opened up about the album, life over the past two years and the future of his music career.

“The way that I wrote this record was by singing,” said Mayer. “I didn’t sit down and compose this on a piece of paper. This was composed into a microphone.”

“I think the record’s conversational because it’s not as much of a thought out, me penning a song on a piece of paper. It’s me talking into a microphone, expressing myself at that moment that I heard the chords play.”

During his NPR interview he also tapped into some of his deepest issues and confessed: “I remember losing the complexity of the art that I was actually brought into the scope of people’s worldview to make. [...] The salient problem was that I saw anything I wanted to do as a road worth taking as if I was this excep-

tion to every rule. The world domination part of my life is over.”

Over the 2010-2011 year Mayer became infamous for his highly controversial magazine interviews and tweets. “I think when you hear the record, you’ll happily trade reading tweets for hearing



Photo courtesy of pdodd.com

music that I think will last a lot longer,” said Mayer.

His new mode of recording making has earned Mayer a beautifully introspective set of 12 songs. The album kicks off with “Queen of California” about a journey from East to West, and appears symbolic of Mayer’s psychological journey over the past couple of years. It is the “lyrical and musical locus,” as Mayer calls it, of the album. The steel guitar sound and upbeat music make this a great addition to a summer playlist. With its growing popularity, it will likely be the next single from the album.

The second track “The Age of Worry” is an uplifting two minutes, 38 seconds of the message: “Smile in the age of worry.” With music reminiscent of Mumford & Sons, and self-affirming lyrics, this track offers an optimistic point of view to the album.

The remainder of the album is much more intimate, telling stories of specific situations, like that in “Walt Grace’s

Submarine Test, 1967.” This track opens with trumpet and guitar duet, and tells the chilling story of a man who is unhappy with life and sails away on his “homemade, fan blade, one-man submarine” to Tokyo.

Two tracks that everyone needs to listen to are “Born

and Raised” and “A Face to Call Home.” The self-titled “Born and Raised” incorporates the lap steel guitar with beautiful harmonies, and serves as a warning to take life day by day “Cause one of these days you’ll be born and raised and it all comes on without warning.” “A Face to Call Home” is the 11th track on the album, and Mayer pulls you in for one last incredible musical experience with this song. Mayer has written many a love song, but nothing quite like “A Face to Call Home.” If falling in love had a sound, it would be this song.

“Born and Raised” has landed on top of the Billboard 200 charts, and is projected to stay there for awhile. Mayer fans might be disappointed to know that he will not be able to tour until this time next year, but he has plans to record another album this summer. “At 34, I feel like I’m approaching something that I need to capitalize as a writer.”

Brains of Bakersfield persevere 100 questions

By Cache' Cantrell
Staff Writer

Flaming Toxic Trivia Monkeys, Gray Matter Envy, and Empty Space Cadets were just a few of the teams ready to put their minds to work on Saturday night.

The familiar faces of CSUB faculty and staff, as well as members of communities near and far, gathered together in teams of 10 at most to battle it out at the seventh annual Brains of Bakersfield.

The main event, hosted by soccer Head Coach Simon Tobin, consisted of 10 rounds with 10 questions in each round. Topics ranged from sports to art, literature, and science.

A picture round was also orchestrated. A cut out of the school mascot, the roadrunner, was passed out to teams as a lifeline. Teams had one chance to double their points with the roadrunner before a round of their choice, excluding the music round.

In honor of the 2012 Games, questions and answers revolved around the Olympics. For example, round one was the topic of geography

and the answers were places the Olympics have been held in the past.

As Tobin revealed the answers

subsequent to each round, both “Woohoo!” and “Aww!” were heard from the contestants, exposing which teams got the answer

correct and the teams who did not. Following the fifth round, participants had a chance to rest their minds and refuel with dinner from

Frugatti’s Italian Eatery while listening to some tunes and seeing where they stood on the score-board.

The raffle gave contenders an additional opportunity to go home a winner. Prizes consisted of a Chilean soccer jersey, CSUB soccer t-shirts, and the soccer ball played in the first NCAA soccer game and signed by the men’s soccer team.

Going into the final round, Empty Space Cadets, The Paper Cups, Gray Matter Envy, Flaming Toxic Trivia Monkeys, and Los Fantasticos took first through fifth place.

After much anticipation for the final count, team Gray Matter Envy, by three points, won it all with a final score of 101.

Empty Space Cadets, The Paper Cups, and Flaming Toxic Monkeys trailed behind in second through fourth place.

The evening concluded in congratulations and pictures of the victorious team in their “Brains of Bakersfield Champions” t-shirts.



Gray Matter Envy after their victorious win, in their champion T-shirts. Back row, left to right: Emerson Case, Mark Olsen, Steven Gamboa, John Tarjan, Jeanne Harrie, Stephen Campagna-Pinto; front row, left to right: Adam Dobbins, Janice Gillespie, Miriam Raub Vivian, and Brian Lamb.

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Professor Brian McNamara Professor McNamara’s commitment to his students in and out of the classroom is commendable. A true teacher, his ability to communicate and engage students, as well as his work on-campus and in the community, defines CSUB excellence.

Staff CSUB Athletic Director Jeff Konya has exhibited the ability to connect with students while simultaneously driving change for CSUB's athletic program. His desire for improvement and his personal work ethic are emblematic of CSUB excellence.

Student Organization Rotaract Club In only a short time the Rotaract Club has devoted great effort and energy in improving CSUB and its surrounding community. For their many events and the impact they have had on Bakersfield, we congratulate them on their commitment to CSUB excellence.

Check out The Runner on Facebook: www.facebook.com/runnerssub

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Solar panels, vegetable gardens and bicycles!

By Jess Richardson
Staff Writer

Don't be surprised if someone asks you if those are space pants you're wearing, because chances are good after a quarter of cycling to campus, your butt will be out of this world. You can thank Evelyn Young for that beautiful rear side development. Her dedication to the green cause has been uncompromising – instrumental in Recycle Mania, e-waste collection and disposal campaigns on campus as well as helping get those weird, slanted car shade covers in the Roadrunner parking lot. Those are actually solar panels, and she and her green team show no signs of slowing down.

Big plans reveal the implementation of dedicating patches of land to become on-campus gardens available for real use, growing real food that you can really eat. If the thought of meandering over to the garden to pick a fresh tomato for lunch seems too idyllic, think again.

A huge and daunting issue the initiative is trying to address is the overuse of vehicles by students, faculty and staff. But

you say to yourself, 'there are so many good reasons to drive a car to school': They finally made a tiny new parking lot on the north side of campus, gas prices are sky freaking high, and the air quality in the valley is sparkling clean. Wait, what?

The university is also working with Kern Council of Governments and Golden Empire Transit to expand the bike share program the community and to increase public transit schedules to the university. GET's short-range transit plan ... includes rapid routes and a new end-of-line terminal to be located on the CSUB campus with bus shelters, a bike storage facility, and an electric car charging station. The university also is enhancing its rideshare program.

So it just might be time to put down that credit card that you're constantly swiping at the pump and do something nice for yourself instead. The benefits of biking are physically fantastic as well as cost effective. What college student wouldn't like to slim down, tone up, build stamina and save money all at once?

"Our goal is to make alternate transportation so attractive,

convenient, safe, and enjoyable that vehicle use becomes a second or even third choice for transportation," Young said.

If you've given any thought about switching from four wheels to two, but don't have the cash to invest, you're in luck.

Get ready to put your money where your mouth is, because these free bikes are coming to an electronic bike-rack near you. CSUB has partnered with Bike Bakersfield, PG&E and local bicycle shops to develop CSUB Cycles, a campus-wide bike share program.

While it's still in the planning stages, when complete the program will provide 50 bicycles in self-serve, electronic bike racks on the campus that students, staff and faculty can borrow to make short trips on and off campus.

But if your dog or grandma were run over by a bike when you were a child, you're probably alone. But don't let an irrational hatred for cycling discourage you from participating in the awesome movement. Several other plans are in the works alongside the bike share program to make our campus a shining beacon of sustainability.



Ally Jones/The Runner
Local band, Velorio, plays at the CSUB Jazz Festival on May 11.



Ally Jones/The Runner
Alvaro Caceres plays guitar with his band, Velorio, on May 11 at the CSUB Jazz Festival.



Ally Jones/The Runner
Jason Blakely plays drums with Velorio at the CSUB Jazz Festival.

Local band is playing Sacto

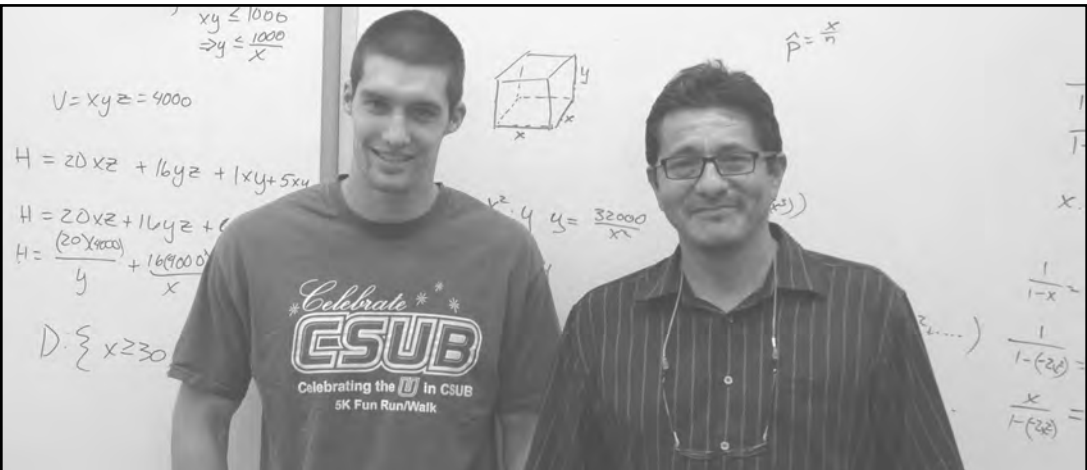
By Ally Jones
Staff Writer

Local band, Velorio, has been entertaining crowds in Bakersfield since 2007. The band, established by Ben Gomez, Alvaro Caceres and Eric Powers, plays a form of alternative rock with a Latin influence.

Performing in both Spanish and English, Velorio has included Jason Blakely and Adrien Nevarez into the band. Their stage presence is inviting and music is full of passion which often causes their crowds to dance. The mixture of Latin percussion and rock guitar works as an amazing formula. Velorio now travels around California performing for many audiences.

Though still unsigned, the band's musical skill alludes to a very promising career. On Saturday, June 9, Velorio will be in Sacramento opening for Salvador Santana and Colores at Cesar Chavez Park.

From Bakersfield to Moscow: a mathematician's transition



Steven Gaede/The Runner
Dr. Javier Trigos encouraged Robert Bassett to apply to the Math in Moscow program

[MOSCOW, from Page 1] indicators of the workload and difficulty that graduate school is going to present.

"I hope the mathematical diversity and rigor that the program embodies will help me get into some of the top [grad] schools from around the country, but I will have to wait until next year to see," said Bassett.

While the difficulty may be amped up in Russia, the classes are going to be structured similarly to science classes with a required lab at CSUB.

"Courses consist of two hours of lecture, followed immediately by a problem solving session. Also, we will be taking weekend excursions to different places around Russia," Bassett said.

Originally applying to the program, Bassett did not think he was going to be selected but one of his professors urged him to apply.

"One of the only reasons I applied to the program was due to the encouragement I received from Dr. Javier Trigos, the mathematics department chair. He told me that he thought I was a competitive applicant for the program, and that I would have the chance to mature as a young man and as a mathematician," Bassett said. "Simply out of respect for Dr. Trigos's recommendation, I applied, and sure am glad that I did."

Regarding being accepted, Bassett was "stunned" and still wonders what made him stick out from other applicants.

In addition to Bassett, 12 other applicants were admitted for the fall term, adding to the program's prestige. Bassett is happy with the small number of students, saying, "There is no greater resource in education than access to

your instructor."

Despite the numerous opportunities Moscow offers, the program will have some negative aspects. Bassett talked about the things he will miss the most: "My family and friends. My mom is an amazing cook, and I will definitely miss having a home-cooked dinner and a family to eat it with."

The luxury of having a home-cooked meal might be lost but the program is presenting an opportunity for Bassett to not only represent himself, but his family and his school.

"I'm proud to represent CSUB. As the first CSUB student to be admitted to the program, I am committed to studying hard and doing well, so that I can show people from around the world what students from CSUB are capable of," said Bassett.

Bassett is not going to be taking this program on by himself, as students who are capable of speaking English are going to be showing him the ropes of the IUM campus and the city. Moving about the city is going to offer Bassett a foreign mode of transportation, as he usually rides his bike to and from school.

"Everything will be by the metro and I will have to take the metro each day to get from my dorms to school," said Bassett.

The Math in Moscow program is going to present many difficulties, yet Bassett is ecstatic about the opportunity. Thinking that he would not be admitted to the program originally, Bassett offered some advice to other students who are looking to apply to a program, saying, "Try it anyway. The worse thing that can happen is a 'no,' so students do not have much to lose."

University students giving more for less

[MITCHELL from Page 1] faculty layoffs, which means less emphasis for individual student needs. Basically, students are paying more for less.

"Clearly one aspect of this has to do with where the state's priorities are," said Mitchell.

According to the PPIC report, higher education has seen a 9 percent reduction in the state's budget over the past ten years, while the state's correctional services' budget has grown 26% despite only a single percent growth in prison population.

November, it seems, will dawn bold decisions for the administrators of CSUB. "We have to assume things will not be as they have been," Mitchell said.

How dramatic should we expect? With every cut doled out the state's commitment to higher education becomes less and less of a priority. The CSU becomes more independent from the state but, at the same time, more dependent upon students' tuitions to fill the gap left by the state.

Administrators' salaries remain the same or are raised, but faculty is laid-off.

Mitchell stated he will not release CSUB's response to the November cuts until it is definite there are November cuts. He did say there will be change and discourse with all concerned to form the nature of that change.

But wait, aren't we talking about education?

The picture we should have of school is a teacher in front of a room of students, but right now we picture a university president addressing a room filled of reporters, unraveling a scroll to detail faculty lay-offs and increased student fees. The students are on the edge of their seats, biting their lips and crackling paper in clinched fists, but not in a lecture, rather in fear of a university's president financial verdict.

As Mr. Mitchell put it reviewing the looming changes, "[The] options that can address the trigger are all difficult and require sacrifices."

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