

THE RUNNER



California State University, Bakersfield

Since 1975

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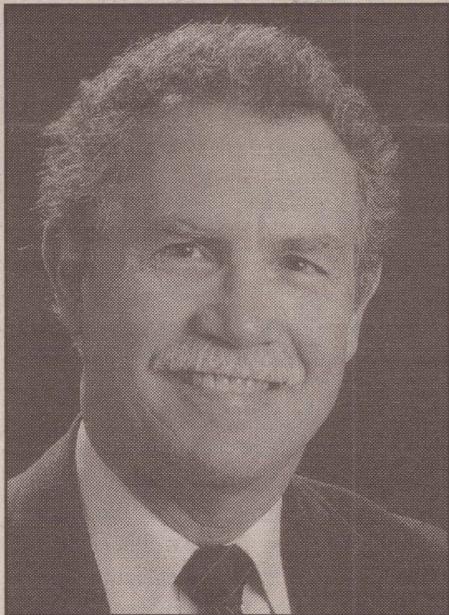
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Wednesday, June 4, 2003

President set to step down after 21 years

By REY FLORES
Staff Writer

Tomas A. Arciniega, CSUB's third president, announced Monday he would be retiring from his position. Arciniega, who has held the position since July 1983, feels it's time to move on.



Arciniega

"I've been here 20 years," said Arciniega. "The average stay of a president is about six or seven years."

He plans to leave office July 1, 2004.

Relating to students has been a vital part of the president's tenure.

Ricardo Salinas, current ASI president, has spent three years working closely with Arciniega.

"He's always been there to answer any questions of mine with students' needs," said Salinas.

"His door has always been open and if he wasn't there, he would get back to me within a couple of hours or a day."

Arciniega's stay, however, has not been without its share of controversy. In May 1998, Arciniega proposed to move his offices to the fourth floor of the Walter Stiern Library. The plan drew opposition from

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CSUB going to the birds

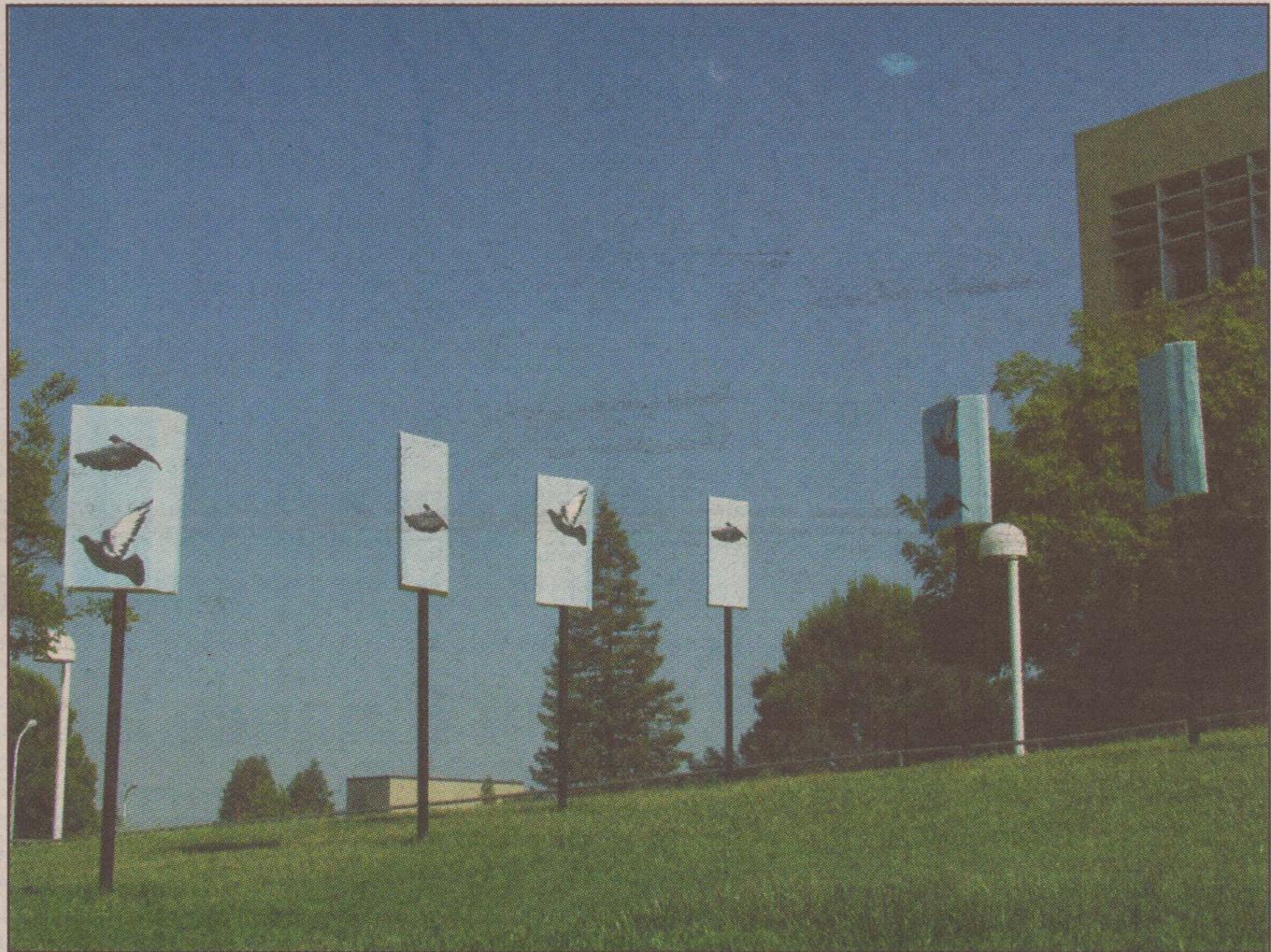


photo by Fabian Grateroles

CSUB visiting artist Kristie Lippire's piece allowed art students the opportunity to interact with a working artist. The display features several wind-propelled blocks adorned with pictures of birds. The display will remain in front of the Walter W. Stiern Library for six months to one year.

CSUB appoints first woman top cop

By MONICA MCGEE
Staff Writer

Claudia Ann Fivecoat, 50, and former commander for the Kern County Sheriff's Department, is the new Chief of Police at CSUB.

Fivecoat will be heading dispatching services, parking, transportation, security and the Community Service Officer Program.

Fivecoat took her new post Tuesday, and she was busy sprinting around campus like a true roadrunner.

Her first day was filled with internal meetings and information intake -- which heightened her awareness of the challenges involved with campus life.



Fivecoat

CSUB administrator Michael Neal and Chair of the Criminal Justice Department Robert Fong were on the interviewing committee, and they're excited to have Fivecoat on campus.

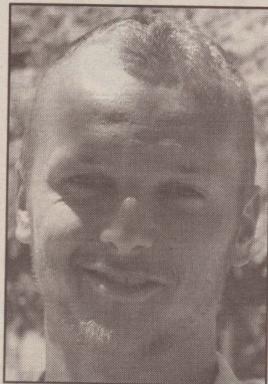
"When we interviewed her she was just superb in every angle," said Fong. "She is articulate, intelligent and what impressed me most was her vision for the department."

Fong had the opportunity to work with Fivecoat at the Sheriff's Department when she was commander.

"She is well qualified," said Neal. "She is a graduate from Cal State, she knows the campus well, and we are sure she will

See CHIEF, page 3

Sunny and strange: visiting student expresses views on America



By RASMUS STÆRKE
Staff Writer

The famous anthropologist Clifford Geertz once said in order to understand a culture the observer must view it as totally different from his own.

Last September when I first came from Denmark (what some in

Bakersfield might consider the other side of the world), I had a set of expectations of how America would be.

I knew America was "the land of the free and the home of the brave," the guardian of democracy, and, to a person who comes from a country with only 5 million citizens, big.

It turned out I was wrong on all accounts.

My first clue I was wrong came one of my first days after arriving in Bakersfield.

This "land of the free" didn't allow me to drink my beer outside, even though, as I argued, the heat was overwhelming and a cool beer might cool me down.

Where I come from we hardly ever have sunshine and if we are lucky enough we might get a few days during the summer with temperatures around 90 degrees. When they finally come, we appreciate them enough to savor every moment, and what is more delightful than having a beer with one's friends in the

sunshine?

But not in America, or at least at the CSUB dorms; we had to stay inside, enjoying our freedom.

My impression of America as "home of the brave" was also dealt a severe blow when I saw pictures in the newspapers showing people completely covering their houses in plastic and depleting the nation's stores of their duct tape.

That didn't seem too brave to me. But then again, maybe I was just being naïve.

Where I come from America is considered the policeman of the world. Americans like to call themselves the "guardians of democracy." Maybe I've misunderstood the term democracy — didn't American occupying forces in Iraq outlaw the Baath Party and aren't they choosing the new leaders of Iraq by themselves right now? Is that American democracy?

But then again, what do I know of democracy, coming from a country the *Bakersfield Californian* last year called "socialist."

America is big, bigger than a simple Dane can possibly grasp. This impression of America also changed when I came to Bakersfield.

I realized America is just as small as Denmark. That is, if you spend all your time in Bakersfield.

Bakersfield, this city in the middle of the desert, which most Americans didn't understand why I had chosen to come to, came to be my home away from home.

To a person from the high north this almost eternal state of summer is wonderful, a fact that seems to elude natives, not appreciating what they have.

In the end, what most surprised me most were the American people.

Despite coming from the other side of the world I found people in America are exactly like people in

Denmark, or Europe for that matter, maybe even France.

We don't have as many guns back home, that's true, but the peoples are the same.

So in the end I am proud to say there are no better ambassadors for America than my American friends.

When I return to Denmark later this month I'll leave with an overwhelmingly good impression of America, not because of invasions of foreign countries or duct tape, but because of the American people.

The Communications Department congratulates Jo Lanelle Hart on being named the Outstanding Graduating Senior for the department

V.P. of Finance bids ASi farewell



Fletcher

Dear Editor,

For the past five years I have had the privilege of being able to serve and fight for the students on this campus. It has been a great honor to work with the students as well as faculty, staff, and administrators, but due to things beyond my control I will not be back next year to serve the students. I would like to thank everyone who sup-

ported me throughout my years in ASI and as the Vice President of Finance. I would also like to thank everyone who supported me throughout my election campaign. It was very humbling to know that everyone on the main campus at CSUB trusted, respected, and allowed me to continue working for them even though the Antelope Valley students did not feel the same way. This has been a very challenging year and I definitely could not have gotten through it without the support of CSUB.

I hope that everyone has a great summer and good luck in everything that you do in the future, and for those of you who are graduating congratulations!!!!!!

Dorina L. Fletcher, Vice President of Finance Associated Students, Inc.

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Money management the focus of new class at CSUB

By RONALD JODO
Staff Writer

At least the gladiators of ancient Rome were given ample training before being tossed in with Caesar's lions. College students, on the other hand, are tossed into the cut-throat world of money without basic training on financial management; then comes the innocent question, why are college students in so much debt?

"Sometimes people assume that you should know about these things," said

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do a great job for us."

Fivecoat says she is ready to accept the challenges because of her love for CSUB and law enforcement.

"After retiring from the Sheriff's department after 25 years, I wanted a change in my career, but I still wanted to be in the law enforcement field," said Fivecoat. "I applied for the position because I absolutely love Cal State Bakersfield, and I'm a graduate from here, and it just seemed like a wonderful opportunity."

Fivecoat is the lone survivor of a lengthy application process which began late September last year. There was a nationwide search to fill the position. Her interviews and evaluations led Fivecoat to the final running -- she was one of the top three candidates to receive the final interview call.

"Besides my application that I turned in, I had to go through several background checks, medical and psychiatric evaluations," said Fivecoat. "It was approximately two weeks ago when I was offered and accepted the po-

sition."

Heidi Oxford, administrative analyst at the School of Business and Public Administration (BPA).

In answering the call to teach college students how to better manage their money, CSUB is introducing Finance 100, a class geared towards educating students on money matters such as credit card debts.

"It's going to cover everything from how to manage your credit card, health and life insurance, various retirement programs, banking services, student loans, and balancing a budget," said Sharon Moody, an

adjunct finance professor. "It covers a whole spectrum of budgeting."

The class will be launched this coming Fall quarter and will target the entire campus community.

"It's going to be experimental learning and it's open to everyone. We'll start out by how you spend your money," said Moody. "We are going to track what we do with our money and then do a budgeting exercise."

But some might wonder why there must be a course to teach students what could

instead be taught by a few bruises and bumps by life, the most stern, yet effective tutor.

"It's going to help because personal bankruptcies are at an all time high due to lack of money management skills," said Moody.

The class will count for five credit hours and will be taught during the day for the upcoming quarter.

According to Moody, a good financial brush and floss will do the pocket book wonders.

See FINANCE, page 5

CSUB finally welcomes new Student Union director

By TONI DE ROSA
Staff Writer

The search for a new director of CSUB's Student Union has been a long process, a process that has taken almost three years. Casting a net from the Pacific to the Atlantic has snared a director at last, though.

And so Matt Ducatt, formerly of Frostburg State University, Frostburg, Maryland, is on his way to Bakersfield, towing worldly possessions, his wife and young child. The cross-country trek gives Ducatt plenty of time to dream up ideas to transform the Union into the living room of the campus, as he explained in his interview several months ago.

Attempts to reach Ducatt during his current cross-country relocation were unsuccessful, but staffers of the Union are enthusiastic in singing his praises.

Ray Moore, interim director for the Student Union, is pleased to be able to resume his retirement, which was interrupted three years ago by the call of duty and his allegiance to CSUB.

Moore isn't new to the campus, since he was CSUB's first athletic business manager in 1971.

"Ducatt was the most qualified of all the candidates. He's warm, friendly, and very open," Moore said.

And best of all, Moore said, the new director has patience, an attribute much needed when dealing with the many audi-

ences a Student Union has.

"The job sure takes a lot of patience," he said. But it was Ducatt's extensive experience in student life that led the interview panel at CSUB to place him at the top of their list of candidates.

"It's exciting to have Ducatt on board, with CSUB being able to capitalize on his experience and expertise," Assistant Vice President for Student Life Bill Perry said. "Ducatt has experience with a campus much like the size of CSUB, but with more student residents."

Frostburg has 4,200 undergraduates and 900 graduates, while CSUB recorded its largest number of students last fall, at slightly more than 7,000.

Ducatt begins duties at CSUB June 9, so he should be arriving on campus just in time to enjoy the beginning of Bakersfield's scorching summer days.

The students who will work closely with Ducatt are anxious to begin the task of making the Student Union the centerpiece of the campus.

"We've needed a full-time director for years," said Roger Eagleton, the current chairman of the Student Union Board of Directors, and the next Associated Students, Inc. president. He's served on the ASI for two years.

"One of my goals as an ASI member for the past two years was to make sure we got a permanent, full-time director out

here, and we finally did." Eagleton said proudly.

His advice to Ducatt? Involve the students in reformatting the image of the Student Union. That's what they want most

of all.

"I would advise him to make sure the students are involved with the decision-making process," Eagleton said.

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Underwater adventure 'Finding Nemo' splashes into theaters

By JASON GUTIERREZ
Entertainment Editor

Under the sea lies a whole new world unfamiliar to all land dwellers. This world is much like ours because sea creatures go to school, have family and friends, but what they don't have is the ability to breathe air like we do.

Academy Award-winning creators of "Toy Story," "A Bug's Life," and "Monsters, Inc." have created a new, universally-loved film by both parents and children of all ages. "Finding Nemo" is a computer-animated story that will touch the inner child in adults and have everyone laughing out loud.

Although this film might come across as a kids-only kind of movie, think again. The humor and jokes might make the younger audience laugh because what they see on the screen is funny, but it makes the adult audience laugh out loud right along with them.

The story is about a Clown Fish named Nemo who happens to become separated from his father, Marlin. Scuba divers capture Nemo, and Marlin is determined to find his missing son no matter what dangers lie in wait for him in the vast, deep blue sea.



Crush and Squirt guide Marlin and Dory down the Eastern Australian current.

During his desperate hunt for his son, Marlin faces many dangers and discovers some unexpected and unusual friends. He comes across a friendly yet extremely forgetful Blue Fish named Dory, a group of fish-friendly sharks, a jungle of poisonous jellyfish, and a laid-back sea turtle named Crush and his offspring, Squirt. Together Marlin and Dory venture off to Sydney, Australia where Nemo has been taken and placed inside a salt-water aquarium in a dentist's office. When Marlin and Dory reach Sydney, they have to depend on their good luck to get Nemo

out of the tank and back into the sea. This was a delightful movie to see, even though the wait in line was about an hour during extremely hot weather.

This movie is not going to be a floundering flop at the box offices. The voices of comedic actors Ellen DeGeneres and Albert Brooks bring the small and lovable computer-generated characters to life with intense personalities.

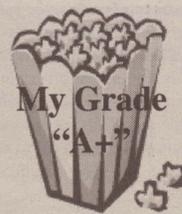
Brooks lends his voice to the Clown Fish character, Marlin. Marlin, Nemo's dad and is neurotic and overprotective. He doesn't want to let his son grow up, so he keeps

him within arm's,er fin's length. DeGeneres is the voice of Dory, a goofy, happy-go-lucky Blue Fish suffering from short-term memory loss. Willem Dafoe lends his voice to the character Gill, who meets Nemo in the fish tank; Gill was wrongfully extracted from the sea and has been devising a way out of the fish tank ever since.

This is a great movie for people of all ages who want to escape the heat for 101 minutes and laugh a little -- well, laugh out loud a lot.

Pixar has created yet another family-friendly computer-animated film while adding an all-star cast to voices to bring their memorable characters to life.

The film is rated G, but I rate this film with a sturdy A+.



Floetry mixes their poetic soul with spoken word

By MONICA MCGEE
Staff Writer

Every now and then it is possible to purchase a CD you can listen to from the first to the last track without disappointments in between.

Two women from London, England have made this moment possible. Marsha Ambrosious, 25, singer-songwriter, and Natalie Stewart, 24, emcee and songwriter are taking the music industry by storm with their unique and original sound of neo-soul music and poetry, hence the name Floetry.

Without much promotion from their record label Dream Works, Floetry still managed to become successful songwriters and musical artist.

Floetry quickly outgrew the London performance circuit and found themselves fishing in a bigger pond by coming to America.

The duo, who now live in Philadelphia, have written songs for Rhythm and Blues (R&B)/Pop singers Michael Jackson, Glenn Lewis, Faith Evans and Brandy as well as Neo-soul artist' Jill Scott and Bilal.

Floetry's number one priority is to show the world who they are by continuing to put floeticism, their creative form of artistry, in to everything they do.

These multititled women released their debut album Floetic on October 1, 2002 and sold over a half a million copies.

Floetic, the album, ranked seventh on the top 20 Billboard R&B charts last week holding strong after 33



Floetry

weeks.

The first single off the album, also entitled Floetic, received major airplay on the radio and music video programs.

Floetry has been nominated for two BET (Black Entertainment Television) Awards for Best Group and Best New Artist, which will take place June 24 at the Kodak Theatre.

There will be no track skipping on this CD, because every song will have you swaying your head from side to side, snapping your fingers, and tapping you feet.

The 16 tracks on the CD discuss everything from love to love lost, the saddest day to the

happiest moment, and the ideal mate to the I don't ever want to see you again kind of mate.

My favorite tracks on the album include "Getting Late," "Say Yes," "Headache," and "If I was a Bird." Most of the songs on the album have a slow tempo, but are perfect for an evening of relaxation, exercising, or background music while studying.

Floetry is currently on tour with R&B sensation India Arie. Their next performance will be on June 7 in the Pennsylvania to pay tribute to the music from the movies of Spike Lee, Film Producer and Director.

Floetry is already in gear to complete their second album sometime this summer. I could only hope the second album is as enjoyable as the first.

I give Floetry's fusion of neo-soul and poetry a solid A.

Last cup of jazz this quarter

The CSUB Jazz program is bringing both the Cal State Jazz Singers and Big Band together for a concert this Friday, June 6 in the Dore Theatre.

The eight-voice Jazz Singers will perform a set that ranges from the Beatles "Eleanor Rigby" and "In My Life" to jazz standards "Night and Day" and "The Lady Is A Tramp".

The group will make a second appearance to join the big band to close the concert with the New York Voices' version of the Bennie Goodman classic "Sing, Sing, Sing". The second half of the program will feature the 21-member jazz ensemble in performances of some of the best contemporary big band jazz, including and arrangement of Pat Metheny's music by Mike Curnow.

In addition, the program includes Oliver Nelson's "Stolen Moments" and selections from the Stan Kenton Orchestra. The music begins at 8 p.m. this Friday in the Dore Theatre. Admission is \$8, and students/seniors are \$5.



Mini-corps guides teachers of tomorrow

By PETER F. FARRIS
Staff Writer

For six years, the CSUB Mini-Corps Club has been encouraging students to further their education so they can lead the way for a brighter future as teachers.

According to first-year Mini-Corps Club adviser and coordinator Rocio Muñoz, the club is not well established.

"We're less of a club, and more of a program for students who are considering education or liberal studies as a major," said Muñoz.

There will be a June training for Mini-Corps students, in which the members are housed, fed, and given a roommate.

The training will be this weekend at Cal State Stanislaus, in Turlock.

Attending the training will be two guest speakers; 2002 National Teacher of the Year, Chauncey Veatch, and acclaimed author, Jo Guzman.

Mini-Corps Club Treasurer Virginia Garrido, 21, says the group has met, but not in the typical club meetings, to discuss events and projects.

There are approximately 27 members in the Mini-Corps program at CSUB. This past December the group got together to get to know one another better.

"We have had lunch and workshops where we worked and associated with one another," said Garrido. "We went to Mauricio's Restaurant and had a gift exchange."

Last Saturday, club members served food at former club member Beatrice Ortega's wedding. Ortega paid \$300 to the Mini-Corps program for their services which helped give money to the club.

The program uses the money that they raise from car washes and other events to use on fun field trips like amusement parks. In the past the club visited Magic Mountain and Sea World. Besides going out of town on fun trips, the program also invites guest speakers to come and speak about different topics related to the professional world.

"The speakers we invite are former Mini-Corps employees who are now teachers, principals, or they worked in the field of education," said Miguel Dominguez, 23. "They have the degree in Liberal Studies, but do not work as teachers; they work in other programs like Region Five: Migrant Education, and counseling for children at all levels-- K-12."

According to the CSUB Mini-Corps manual, the California Mini-Corps School-Year Program was created in 1974. Its school-year programs progressed from the Mini-Corps Summer Program. The idea came for the program of individuals from a rural-migrant background to work not only in summer schools, but also during a regular school year.

For more information on how to join or get involved, contact Muñoz at 664-2429, or get information off the Mini-Corp database at www.bcoe.org/default/

Students chart their travels together

By PETER F. FARRIS
Staff Writer

For two years, the CSUB Travel Club has been working to give students the chance to take trips to game shows and even tropical getaways.

According to Travel Club adviser Tommy Holiwell, a computer lab manager, he is strictly an adviser and helps approve club events, activities and makes sure everything within the Travel Club complies with the school's policies.

"I don't do anything except for assisting the club president with her club programs or ideas," said Holiwell. "I make sure that whatever club program or idea she tries to do, complies with the campus policies."

Holiwell has been Travel Club adviser for only five months.

"The club hasn't done much to my knowledge this quarter," said Holiwell of any events or activities the Travel Club might be planning this quarter.

Travel Club President Carla Grubb, 19 and a junior, says her duties are choosing trips the Travel Club members can go on as well as promotion for the club.

"We don't have anymore activities planned for this quarter since the end of the school year is a few weeks away," said Grubb. "We are planning a 'Price Is Right' trip in the Fall and Winter quarter, and a trip to Cancun for Spring Break 2004."

The Travel Club was started in 2001 after Grubb and her friends noticed there wasn't a travel club at CSUB and most colleges do have some sort of club like that.

"We wanted a club that would give us the opportunity to go on fun trips in college," said Grubb.

There are 10 members in the Travel Club. Membership doesn't cost students a penny, unless they plan on going on a trip. All trips are paid for by the club members individually.

Some benefits in being in the club include discounted trip prices, while the non-members pay the full amount for their travel expenses.

"It's a percentage that we all agree on and choose to pay," said Grubb.

Travel Club members get other CSUB students involved by encouraging their interest in travel.

"We get people interested by participating in Club Day at CSUB, as well as putting up posters, and telling people about the trips," said Grubb.

The Travel Club members talk about trips, which they would like to go on and different ways to fund raise.

"I like to travel and hang out with my friends," said Grubb. So it is no wonder that she is the mastermind behind CSUB's first Travel Club.

Travel Club meetings are every Tuesday at 1 p.m., in the Green Room of the Student Union.

For more information on how to join or get involved, contact Grubb at 205-4340.

Thanks for reading the *Runner!*
Good luck during finals and
have a safe and sane summer!



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"You know how you were taught how to brush your teeth? Well now we're gonna teach you how to manage your money," she said resolutely.

"I think that it's a class that every student could benefit from. It deals with issues that aren't taught to you," said Kathy Carpenter, coordinator at BPA.

In fact, Carpenter has so much confidence in the class' potential that she plans on joining some of the lectures.

"I'm gonna at least sit in on some of the sessions. I think it would be a good class for staff to participate in," she said. "Maybe we could get her to develop some one-day workshops for the staff."

"Plastic money" may be a spender's paradise, but it has turned out to be a nightmare for debtors and creditors alike. This is especially true for college students, who all too often do not comprehend that interest rates and late charges add up to quite a dent on the old credit line.

"It's a great freshman course because when you come on campus as a freshman, everyone wants to give you a credit card," said Moody.

In the youth market, being the most lucrative, it's not surprising to find credit card companies targeting college students; talk about investing in the future.

"There used to be people on campus signing students up for credit cards," said Carpenter. "They've pretty much shut down on campus, which I'm happy to see."

Teaching students how to evade debts is a task that needs a special operative. Not necessarily 007, but something in that neighborhood.

"I've a Ph.D. in Accounting, an MBA in Business with

a concentration in Finance, and I've done financial planning for quite a number of years," said Moody. "My husband is also a finance professor and I have children, whom I have taught to manage their finances."

In addition to impressive credentials, Moody boasts a solid vote of confidence from her students.

"The students love her and just rave about her as a professor. She's very passionate and knowledgeable," said Carpenter. "She knows what she's talking about."

Like a forest fire, Moody's good reputation proliferates. "I've heard a lot of students enjoy her classes and she is very open to questions," said Oxford.

Moody's inspiration for the class springs from her role as a teacher, and concern for the youth.

"It's something I've a great interest in," said Moody. "I hate to see these young people get into financial difficulty."

The class is yet to be launched but there has already been good feedback on both its outlook as well as its good intentions.

"I'm getting very good feedback. The dean, the school. They are all very excited about it," said Moody.

If the class registers a resounding track record, it may be elevated to General Education status.

This class may well be just what the auditor ordered, because as we all know, money seems to have a magical ability to disappear at will.

"If you don't know how to manage money, it goes down the drain," said Oxford. "The class will pay for itself in the long-run."



Classifieds

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students who protested in front of his offices. Many believed a president should not occupy the library, which had been funded by public and private money.

It's not only CSUB students who have spoken out against Arciniega. Two years ago, when he changed the CSUB handbook, which is a code of laws that the campus goes by, the Academic Senate, which made is up of faculty members, was distraught because they were not consulted before the change.

The situation got heated enough that the Cal State Chancellor's Office was notified and talk of a recall was in the works. The Chancellor's office soon after sent a consultant to smooth over the relationship between faculty staff and Arciniega.

"For the last year and half our relationship with Arciniega has been great," describes Jess Deegan, a Psychology professor and a member of the Academic Sen-

ate. "It's very sad to see him go."

Thomas R. Martinez, assistant to the president for seven years, knows Arciniega as a good man, and remembers what CSUB was before him.

"I use to use the library here (CSUB) back in 1980 and be here seven days a week," describes Martinez. "I got to see Cal State back then and how it used to be empty on weekends. Then, (when Arciniega started) I began to notice the programs that started to show up, like for reading, sports, summer programs, and programs for incoming freshman. He's really made Cal State what it is today."

Martinez looks over to Arciniega who sits across the table from him. "He doesn't know this," says Martinez. "But I would have worked free from him." They both laugh.

"That's too bad, I didn't know that," replies Arciniega.

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Past and present Runner staff bids adieu to longtime adviser

By DIANA GREENLEE
News Editor

If each word costs a nickel, and you only have \$20 to write a story — you have to choose your words pretty carefully. A strange analogy, but gospel to a reporter. And CSUB Runner Adviser Judith Pratt has been passing it on to her Runner reporters for the last 14 years.

But next quarter Pratt won't be there to tell them.

She's been named interim chair of Communications and will be on the tenure track in September. Therefore, she's planning to devote more of her time to teaching, research and writing. As adviser, Pratt has ushered countless student journalists into professional careers. Her student reporters have scattered like dandelions, taking root in the media, public relations, education and various other fields. But they share a common thread: the memory of a teacher who cared enough to teach to the highest standards and expect the best while offering encouragement and moral support every step of the way.

Communications Professor and freelance writer Stef Donev was a reentry student in 1993; he wrote only one article for the Runner, but it garnered the Press Club Features award. Donev said Pratt helped him navigate school, and "get back into the academic mode." He said he believes Pratt's put a lot of her soul into *The Runner*, and it shows.

"It's a very draining thing to do, but she has done a heck of a job," he said. "One

of the reasons it is so draining is because she's willing to put in all the extra effort — above and beyond the contract call."

Pratt has a history of exceeding minimum requirements, and she expects her students to do the same. She is a strict taskmistress, but always with her students' best interest at heart.

Bakersfield Californian Staff Writer Steve Mayer was an English major headed toward a teaching career in the mid-90s when he met Pratt at a seminar at CSUB. He'd never worked on a high school or college newspaper, but had published work in *Bakersfield Panache* magazine; Pratt invited him to join *The Runner* staff.

"On her advice I signed up as a staffer on *The Runner*," Mayer said. "And after the first day I was pretty much hooked."

Mayer ended up co-managing *The Runner*.

The reporter said Pratt tries to make *The Runner* as close to the real thing as possible so student reporters, photographers and editors don't get a rude shock when they enter the work force.

"When some editor who's working on a deadline says, 'this isn't going to work — fix it,' or 'this lead is not appropriate,' or 'this is editorializing,' or 'this is not grammatically correct—I don't understand what you are saying here,' you don't have time to be offended. Maybe you can be offended later," said Mayer. "But right now fix it and move on. There's always another story. It's a newspaper. They're going to be wrapping their fish in it on Tuesday — or lining their birdcages with it — you have to keep it in perspective, and Judith is good at keeping things in perspective."

Mayer said he believes theory and academic study are an important part of the process, but if students can't end up with careers or some way to transfer their knowledge and abilities to real world applications then "it's hard to tell exactly what your education is all about." He said Pratt's real strength lies in her ability to help students find jobs.

"That's where she's really, really strong," he said.

"Stronger than any instructor I've ever had."

In addition to his

duties at the *Bakersfield Californian*, Mayer writes a monthly wine column for *Décor & Style* magazine and teaches Comm 311 Feature Writing at CSUB. But after graduation Mayer applied for internships and got no offers. However, rather mysteriously the hand of fate reached in and he got a call from the *Bakersfield Californian*. Mayer has always suspected Pratt's intervention.

"Judith is one of those rare, rare individuals who finds ways to get people jobs, to get people scholarships, to move people into a place where they can use their skills in the workplace," said Mayer. "I don't think a lot of instructors think that far ahead for their students. They are their students for those 10 weeks and then they are gone. And maybe I'm simplifying it a little bit — I'm sure many, many professors develop relationships with good students and find ways of helping them beyond the 10 weeks of the given quarter, but Judith just excels at it. She finds people who can go places and helps them get there."

Mayer admits Pratt's tough at times, but she is just as quick to dish out well-earned praise as criticism. And she's not afraid to ruffle feathers.

"At times she'll speak her mind," said Mayer. "It's called courage."

East Bakersfield High School Teacher Elise Palos, a 1998 CSUB graduate, spent five quarters on *The Runner* — several as the copy editor. Palos said after having worked on the Bakersfield College newspaper she found *The Runner* a refreshing change.

"BC was so structured," said Palos. "Judith let us make our own mistakes and then ripped us a new one."

After graduation Palos worked in public relations, but then switched to teaching. She's found Pratt's sound lessons and advice have well prepared her to face challenges in her career.

"She is very practical — she didn't sugar coat anything about journalism or public relations," said Palos. "I learned a lot from Judith."

Bakersfield Californian City Editor Bob Christie said he wouldn't be in the position he is today if not for Pratt. He says he believes she cares more about her students than most professors; Pratt provided the attention and exposure he needed to flourish in his career.

"She leaned on me hard," he said. "I think she knew I really wanted to do this. She wasn't going to let me leave her class until I learned how to do my job."

Christie said that he left *The Runner* with a solid foundation, and he went to work for the *Californian* right after he graduated in 1995. He's been their City Editor for three years. *Bakersfield Californian* Ag Reporter Marylee Shrider has similar praise for Pratt.

"I honestly don't think I'd be a reporter were it not for my mentor, Judith Pratt,"

she said.

Shrider said a good word from Pratt to a *Californian* editor got her foot in the door, but what she learned from Pratt kept her there.

"The reporting skills I developed under her guidance, as a staff writer with *The Runner*, proved invaluable during my first years at *The Californian*," she said. "I am forever grateful for Judith and her dedication to her craft and her students."

Public Relations Coordinator for the Kern County SPCA Lana Fain took Pratt's news reporting class in 1991 just before she graduated. She recalled Pratt being critical of her news stories and telling her the writing was "too flowery."

"She said they were puff-pieces and not actual reporting," said Fain. "She said I wasn't writing hard news."

Fain said after a while Judith quit writing "puff-fluff" on her papers, but expressed her commentary in a more artistic way.

"She would simply draw a flower on my paper," said Fain. "And I knew what she meant."

Fain said Pratt has a good sense of humor, and she liked to joke around in class, but she always had control.

"You just don't push the woman very far," said Fain. "Something flashes in her eyes and you knew everybody better shut-up."

Fain said Pratt was always supportive of students; helping them find scholarships, internships, jobs or just giving emotional support. She provided a great deal of the latter during a traumatic time in Fain's life.

"My last quarter my sister died, and it was extremely difficult," said Fain. "The kind words and understanding helped me get through."

Californian Entertainment and Pop Culture Writer Chris Page cut his teeth writing CD reviews for the *Runner* in 1999 and 2000. He said he remembers Pratt having a very hands-off approach — staying in the background until she was needed.

"She was kind of like the sage you could go to," said Page.

He fondly remembers her slightly conspicuous Canadian accent rubbing off on him, affectionately adding, "Of all my professors she was the one that I really wanted to have a beer with — but I wasn't old enough."

Pratt has made significant contributions as *Runner* adviser, and her presence will be sorely missed. She has shown her students unwavering dedication; giving them encouragement, praise or a swift kick in the pants when appropriate.

Her shoes will be tough to fill.

Mayer's voice echoed many when he said, "I wish her luck and good fortune...it's a loss for *The Runner* initially, but it's time for her to try something new."

