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CAMPUS

CSUB celebrates Black History Month

By Ileana Angulo
Staff Writer

On Friday, Jan. 31, the African American Student Union held the annual Black History Month kickoff in the Student Union Multipurpose Room at California State University, Bakersfield. The event began with Alyssa Simone Wiley singing the Black National Anthem. Everyone received a pamphlet with lyrics to sing along.

According to NewsOne.com, an online news source from a black perspective, the Black National Anthem originated with the poem "Lift Every Voice And Sing," written by James Weldon Johnson. The poem was performed in honor of Abraham Lincoln's birthday on February 12, 1900, and was

later set to music in 1905 by Johnson's brother John Rosamond.

"For many African Americans, singing the song was their way of showing patriotism and hope for the future, considering the extremity of racism they faced. Deep symbolism was found in its lyrics, allowing African Americans to politely speak against racial bias," according to the website.

The student group's purpose is to raise awareness of the black community. This is done through community service, study groups and an emphasis on education. This year the theme of the kickoff event was the '90s Hip-Hop Empowerment Movement.

"We welcome the community and CSUB students to gather in [See HISTORY, Page 3]



Rebecca Grant/The Runner

Daniel Alexander (left) and Michael Lyday play various hip-hop songs of the 90s for CSUB's kickoff of Black History Month.

CAMPUS

ASI talks website launch

Student meeting includes lesson in sensitivity toward those with disabilities

By Stephanie Cox
Staff Writer

Associated Students Inc. host speakers for a discussion on sensitivity to disability and regarding the re-launch of the California State University, Bakersfield website.

Janet Millar from the Counseling Center and Janice Clausen, Director of the Services for Students with Disabilities, spoke briefly with ASI about disabilities and how to be sensitive to others.

Millar said, "Be sensitive to what others have to deal with."

The next speaker in the ASI meeting was Colleen Dillaway, the Director of Public Affairs and Communication who spoke about the new website.

The re-launch was decided by administration in 2011, which a private firm was selected to form focus groups of faculty and students to build a better website.

Some guiding principals behind the website were for it to have a consistent look, clearly and visually branded with the CSUB logo, easy to navigate, and that would give users an immediate impression of what CSUB is.

"It's more clear," said graduate student Andrea Gonzalez, a 23-year-old sociology major. She believes that the best feature of the site is that "you can just go straight to anything."

Dillaway explained that the site will always be updating and fixing issues, and if students have issues, concerns, or comments they can click on the bottom right hand of the page where it says "site issues" and fill out a form that is directly sent to her and the IT crew for the website.

This means any broken links or inconsistencies that users find with the new website.

"I think [the website] is actually really good. There's a better, warmer environment," said ASI Vice President of Programming Savannah Andrews.

HOOPS

FOUR STRAIGHT WINS



Diana Olivares/The Runner

Above: Junior Tyonna Outland pushes her way past a University of Texas Pan-American defender on her way to the rim.

Right: Sophomore Alyssa Shannon drives toward the hoop to attempt a layup.

For more analysis on the women's victory over the University of Texas Pan-American, their four-game winning streak, as well as full standings of the first half of Western Athletic Conference play, turn to **PAGE 4**.



ARTS

'Opera Scenes' scores with audience

By Rachel Hill
Staff Writer

With steady breath and no evidence of nerves, students performed a selection from several operas in the CSUB Doré Theatre Friday, Jan. 31.

Stage Director Peggy Sears hosted the evening, introducing select pieces from "The Marriage of Figaro," "Susannah," "The Mikado" and "The Merry Widow."

Music Director Soo-Yeon Park Chang played the accompanying piano throughout the night.

Musical pieces by Mozart, Floyd, Sullivan and Lehár illustrated each scene, enhancing the changing moods from comedic to cheerless to carefree.

Andy Dare, 23, a senior majoring in liberal studies, attended the event for Music in the Elementary Classroom with music professor Dr. Rene Ferrell.

"I'm loving the show. The solo in the Susannah piece was really good. Sad, but really good. The Figaro scenes are all really funny, definitely a big tonal shift there," Dare said.

"Susannah" was performed by Ashten Smith with Robert Hamilton playing Blich. It was the somber piece of the night and the only one with origins in the United States. "The Marriage of Figaro" featured Tori Provencio, Robert Hamilton and Katherine Kiouses. Several of the vocals for "Figaro" were sang in Italian. These were translated for the audience on a screen above the stage.

Kathleen Murray, 57, who also attended, said the Japanese [See OPERA, Page 2]



Emily Cole/The Runner

Actresses Kristen Falls (left) and Tori Provencio (right) prepare to perform in CSUB Opera Theatre's production on Friday, Jan. 31, at the Doré Theatre.

Tattoos allow for self-expression

By Kristen Garza
Staff Writer

Many individuals with tattoos face the possibility of being judged for their body art.

Despite a gain in popularity over the last few decades, tattooed people continue to face a negative stigma.

For Bakersfield residents looking to express their individuality, they persist and stand by their body art.

People acquire tattoos for many reasons that are often sentimental.

Perhaps the portrait of a pet captures a time when that person was bullied or abused and the only acceptance they felt was from their pet.

It's possible that tattooed song lyrics or a Bible verse helps that person endure a divorce or gives them inspiration and power to persevere.

In some cases, survivors of cancer or other diseases seek out tattoos to remind them of their struggles and strengths.

Tattoos can stand as reminders of lost loved ones, as well.

Mandie Dixon, a 30-year-old stay-at-home mom, explained the origin of her lavender cancer ribbon tattoo.

"Every day it's a reminder to me to be thankful for the life that I have because

[my aunt] had to fight for hers," said Dixon.

The stories behind the works of art are often unique, emotional and interesting, but sadly the old adage of not judging a book by its cover is often forgotten in the case of tattoos.

Another unique perspective comes from Khristyn Webb, a 23-year-old senior biology major who is partial to her tattoo of an anime character.

"I was drawn to the character, Cheza, because she acts as the gateway to their heaven and salvation. I connect with that, although I'm not religious, part of me wants to know that there's something good at the end," Webb said.

For those who wear their art proudly, stares and whispers are easily ignored, whereas for others the negative attention is defeating.

"One time a lady came into a shop I worked at. I think she was trying to prove to her teenager that tattooed people were trashy. And she was condescending, presumptuous and treated me like I was the devil's concubine," said Karin Ackerman, a 42-year-old tattoo artist.

In the past, tattoos were most commonly found on sailors, coal-miners, gang members and convicts.



Emily Cole/The Runner
Khristyn Webb, a 23-year-old biology major, displays her tattoo of the anime character Cheza from "Wolf's Rain" on Jan. 29, 2014.

However, times have changed and ministry leaders, mothers, and doctors now have tattoos.

Josh Haidze, a 24-year-old apprentice

tattoo artist at Black Shamrock, said that he believes that media makes tattoos more acceptable.

"Exposure to marketing and trends in fashion and television are helping tattoos become more acceptable in today's society," said Haidze.

Body art is not a practice adopted within the last decade as most may believe.

Archaic tribes and cultures were adorning their bodies with tattoos for reasons such as religious protection, distinguishing royalty, enhancing features or even as a way of displaying their achievements in battle.

Tattoos then and now tend to serve a purpose rather than to be decorations.

"Those without tattoos judge those for having them, but those with tattoos don't judge those for not having them," said Haidze.

Like most things with a negative stigma in society, there will always be those who simply do not understand or refuse to accept body modifications.

Prejudice veils the tattooed culture and probably always will.

Fortunately, there are many popular and relatable tattooed people proving body art does not make a person sinister or intimidating but simply an individual who wears their art and stories proudly.

Campus celebrates hip-hop at Black History kickoff

[HISTORY, Page 1] the celebration of the African American community," said CSUB senior Kalyn Valentine.

Students and numerous guests gathered to commemorate inspiring hip-hop artists in the '90s. Hip-hop culture originated in the Bronx in New York City.

Artists such as Kurtis Blow, Ice Cube, Tupac and Lauryn Hill were important during the era.

Sophomore Jazmine Davis said, "I picked Lauryn Hill to present on because I felt she had a great impact on the '90s. With music people got to learn the evolution of hip-hop and how it affected the '90s."

Regardless of race everyone enjoyed the event.

Hannah Rodriguez said, "I heard about this event from my professor. I did not know what to expect. It was cool and different. I could relate because I knew a lot of the music."

During the event, applications to the Ernest W. Williams, Jr. Scholarship were given out.

Students are given the opportunity to earn up to \$1,000 for one academic quarter.

Karla Young encouraged graduating students to attend the Recognition Ceremony.

Every year, a ceremony is held to honor hard work and educational goals.

This year it will take place May 31 in the Student Recreation Center.

Unmarked skin symbolizes individualism

By Athena Skapinakis
Features Editor

According to a 2012 Harris Poll, one out of five Americans has at least one tattoo. More than 85 percent asserted that they don't regret their decision in getting a tattoo, 30 percent claimed it makes them feel sexy, 25 percent stated that they feel rebellious and 21 percent feel more attractive.

When taking these results into account, it is prevalent that tattoos are no longer just an identifying factor of ex-cons or lower class society but are expressions of identity, individuation and freedom. All of these are reasons why I will never get a tattoo.

I've entertained several ideas for tattoos such as my favorite Shakespearean quote, the iconic tri-force from "The Legend of Zelda" video game series, Star Trek-related symbols and other things I'm fond of, but I always came across the same problem: placement.

That's when I realized there isn't any area of my body I want a tattoo. I can never picture myself with one. It just isn't me.

As a 22-year-old woman, my identity is still in a state of development. I am indecisive, constantly changing, growing and discovering new things about myself. I cannot commit to any symbol to permanently place on my skin to define me or allow for me to be categorized by my peers. I feel that my values and actions are what define me, and that my choice of not getting a tattoo shapes my identity the same way as it does for someone who does choose to get one.

Maybe the purpose of a tattoo is to set oneself apart from others. It's a declaration of individualism. However, with tattoos becoming so common, I feel I am expressing my individuation by refusing to intentionally mark my skin. My identity is uniquely my own and inimitable. However, not everyone may have that same self-perception. Others do want to further set

themselves apart, and that is their choice to make, which brings me to my next point.

Many individuals get tattoos in order to exert control over one's own body. As a free thinking adult who is able to take any liberties that I choose to, I have opted to display my freedom by refusing to conform to what is considered popular amongst my peers. If I did get a tattoo, I would want it to have a special meaning to me. Not getting a tattoo is what has true significance for me. I like my skin unaltered by ink, and I express my freedom by maintaining so.

Every human being is different. We are diverse in the way we carry ourselves, think and live. Our dissimilarities make us exclusive and extraordinary. What is best for someone else may not be best for me and vice versa. There is no right or wrong in that, only a unique difference in personality or lifestyle choices, and that's what makes us individually remarkable. Even without a tattoo, I am anything but ordinary.

STUDENT AFFAIRS REPORT

A NIGHT UNDER THE STARS

Rolling out the Royal Blue Carpet for your 2014

HOMECOMING BALL

Friday Feb 28th 9pm-1am
Marriott Hotel
801 Frontin Ave.
Bakersfield, CA

Tickets at the cashier's window
\$5 student &
\$10 guest until Feb. 14th
(Prices go up after the 14th)

Applications for Homecoming Court in the Student Union

WAIT FOR IT:

Brown Bag Discussion

Mrs. Cara Jordan
Februday 13th Noon-1pm
In Stockdale Room

Student Union Dominoes Tournament

Februday 12th 6:00pm-8:00pm
in SU Lounge

Student Union Ping Pong Tournament

Rowdy's Restaurant
February 19th 10:00am

Thank you to all those who participated in the Campus Clean-up! Remember, Campus Clean-upare the 4th monday of every month!

Wed 2/5	Thur 2/6	Fri 2/7	Sat 2/8	Sun 2/9	Mon 2/10	Tue 2/11
Intership and Volunteer Fair 3-5pm in DDH 101E	Student Union Domines Tournament Sign Up in Student Union All Day	Blue and Gold Campus Spirit Day All Day	Women's Basketball 1pm Icardo Center Table Tennis Tournament In SRC- Noon	Men's Basketball Game 7:00pm at Rabobank	Indoor Soccer Sign Ups in SRC All Day	Homecoming court candidacy applications can be picked up in the Student Union!

'Runner Roundup

By Josh Bennett
Assistant Sports Editor

Men's Basketball: The men's basketball team finally picked up their second Western Athletic Conference win of the season, with a 72-64 win at Texas Pan-American, to split their weekend road trip. Redshirt-senior Issiah Grayson led the team with 27 points. They play at Grand Canyon on Saturday.

Baseball: The baseball team has been favored to win the Western Athletic Conference regular season by the conference's 10 head coaches. They received eight first-place votes in the preseason poll. They will be hosting a Hot Stove dinner, with keynote speaker, former Dodgers and Yankees pitcher Tommy John, on Saturday.

Wrestling: The wrestling team had five wrestlers place at the California Collegiate Open over the weekend, they also won at San Francisco State 24-12. They will

travel to Cal Baptist and No. 5 Oklahoma State next weekend.

Softball: The softball team was picked to finish fourth in the Western Athletic Conference by the conference's six head coaches in the preseason poll. They will host Pittsburgh in a doubleheader on Friday, before facing Texas A&M, Dayton, and UC Santa Barbara at the UC Santa Barbara tournament on Saturday and Sunday.

Water Polo: The water polo team split their games at the Cal Baptist Mini over the weekend. They beat Claremont Mudd Scripps, who is ranked No. 1 in Division III, 13-9, and lost to No. 9 San Diego State 14-6.

Track and Field: The men's and women's track and field team were at CSU Northridge on Saturday. Redshirt-junior and team captain Richard Maestre led the team with two individual victories in the 300m and 60m hurdles.



Diana Olivares/The Runner
Redshirt-junior guard Dajy Vines battles for a rebound with a Texas Pan-American player, Saturday at the Icardo Center.

'Runners on a Roll: Women's basketball wins four straight

The 'Runner women's basketball team has defied expectations and won four games in a row to claim second place in the Western Athletic Conference standings behind the Vandals of undefeated Idaho University.

By Nate Sanchez
Sports Editor

The Roadrunners capped off last week with an 82-74 victory against the University of Texas-Pan American Broncs on Saturday, Feb. 1 at the Icardo Center. Redshirt-junior guard Tyonna Outland led the charge offensively with 21 points, while sophomore forward Batabe Zempare recorded her second consecutive double-double.

"It's kinda mind-blowing," Zempare said. "I'm just glad I was able to do it. I couldn't do it without my teammates. I'm gonna go all-out even if it's not scoring; whatever it takes to win."

Zempare's offensive prowess has been at the forefront of the 'Runners' performance as of late, but the freshman's defense has drawn praise from her coaching staff. She recorded a new school record of 21 rebounds Saturday, 15 of which were on defense.

Keeping up with the Broncs made defense a difficult task for the 'Runners. The Broncs made good use of their speed, scoring 14 points off of fast breaks and drawing 21 fouls out of the Runners.

The 'Runners made use of speed of their own, scoring 52 points in the paint, 18 more than their opponents.

"It's a testament to how we play as a team," said sophomore guard Alyssa Shannon. "If one person gets beat, we preach defense. We match their athleticism by playing as a team."

With Saturday's victory over the Broncs, the 'Runners have recorded four wins in a row, skyrocketing them from the lower half of the conference standings to a more favorable second place spot.

The 'Runners now have sole possession of second place in the Western Athletic Conference standings, pushing the Broncs to a tie for third place behind Seattle University. Idaho University remains unbeaten as of Feb. 5, holding onto first place.

Ranked fifth by both coaches and media, the 'Runners' performance has far outdone their conference's expectations.

"My expectation is to come out here and battle and be one of the top two teams in this conference," Head Coach Greg McCall said. With all their recent success, the 'Runners are staying aloof about their newfound progress.

"Our big thing right now is not settling," said Outland. "As we progress into the season, we've been pulling together and making sure nobody takes breaks. We need everybody in order to be successful."

"We can't get caught up in the hype of having a little bit of success," said McCall. "I just want them to stay hungry and continue to not be satisfied."

Even so, the 'Runners have developed a swagger from their accomplishments. An almost-palpable intensity exudes from the 'Runners during this four-game stretch.

"Every time we step on the court we have a lot of trust in our teammates," said Shannon. "We know we're gonna win that game. We have to play that way so that the other team knows it's gonna be a battle."

The 'Runners will resume WAC play on Saturday, Feb. 8 at the Icardo Center, taking on the 'Lopes of Grand Canyon University at 1 p.m.



Diana Olivares/The Runner
Head Coach Greg McCall coaches the women's basketball team to a thrilling victory.

Idaho	8-0	15-7
Bakersfield	6-2	12-8
Texas-Pan American	5-3	11-10
Seattle U	5-3	10-11
Grand Canyon	4-4	15-6
New Mexico State	4-4	7-14
Kansas City	3-5	7-14
Utah Valley	1-7	4-17
Chicago State	0-8	3-18

Graphic from WACSports.com
Halfway through Western Athletic Conference play, the 'Runners currently sit in second place. The record on the right shows the overall record, while the record to the left shows the team's record in conference play.

Winter is coming: The Runner's sports guys take on the Olympics in Sochi

Sochi simply isn't safe for Americans or anyone else for that matter. It'll be a hostile environment for gays and a poisonous deathtrap for dogs.

By Nate Sanchez
Sports Editor

On Thursday, Feb. 6, the United States will send a record 230 athletes to Sochi in Russia to compete in the Winter Olympics. That's 230 athletes too many.

With as much talk as there was about boycotting the games, Americans didn't make their voice loud enough. The United States has no business in Sochi, even if that means proving a point to President Putin.

My main concern is safety. Fliers, handed out by police in Sochi around the local hotels, warn of possible terrorists who may be in the city.

I'm not sure about you, but a chance at a golden circle with a ribbon around my neck is worth risking getting killed in a terrorist attack.

These terrorists, known as "Black Widows," are suicide bombers affiliated with the Caucasus Emirate, an active militant Sufi nationalist organization.

According to Stanford University, the group aims to aid in global jihad. Yeah, they slipped past security at the Winter Olympics.

The image of one black widow in particular, known as Ruzanna Ibragimova, is all over the city on the aforementioned fliers, but Georgetown professor and student of regional militant groups Christopher Swift told ABC News that it's rare for these attacks to have only one operative.

So, there may be more terrorists operating in Sochi.

"Terrorist" is an ugly word as it is, but it gets a whole lot more frightening when it's paired with "more."

It's great that Sochi police is hunting these women down, but that's something you do preemptively.

The State department has warned against "wearing conspicuous Team USA clothing in non-accredited areas."

What?

That's basically like saying, "Hey, I know you're American. But don't look too much like an American or they'll kill you."

Oh yeah, also the in the bordering nation of Ukraine, the people are rioting, calling for their current president's resignation. The nation as a whole is, as former Ukrainian president Leonid Kravchuk says, "on the brink of civil war." Perfect. But don't worry! We're prepared.

Assistant sports editor Josh Bennett said that in a memo from CBS News on Jan. 20, it was mentioned that the U.S. military has transport planes on alert in addition to two Navy ships in the Black Sea just in case stuff goes down.

The U.S. shouldn't have to establish a military presence for games. It's a terrible allocation of resources.

Additionally, how can we as a country be expected to be taken

seriously as this "morally progressive pillar of justice" when we send athletes to compete for games overseen by a President who denies rights to gay people. President Obama has been more than vocal in his support for the LGBT community, until now. Why? Because our Olympians "are training hard" and "doing everything they can to succeed."

If you're an animal lover, get this: the local government,



Photo from mcwade.com
The Winter Olympics in Sochi are riddled with scandal, which raises the question: Should the U.S. really be a part of these games?

according to Charles Robinson of Yahoo Sports, is killing off stray dogs.

Now it seems animal rights have been added to the list of injustices perpetrated by our winter hosts.

Again, safety of the athletes is my top priority, as it should be for anyone. Regardless of where you stand on the gay rights debate, discrimination and hate is wrong.

Sprinkle the top of that with the hundreds of dead dogs lying dead in the streets and you ask yourself one question: why are we doing this again?

While Sochi has many problems going on, that should not scare away our Olympians from competing for their countries, and for their beliefs.

By Josh Bennett
Assistant Sports Editor

Sochi is obviously going through a tough time right now. There are threats of suicide bombers, controversy from the government concerning gay athletes, and the ongoing conflict in nearby Ukraine. Due to all of this, there has been talk on whether the U.S. should send their Olympians to sure conflict. I believe that the U.S. should still allow the athletes to go to Sochi for the Winter Olympics.

While some people, such as German President Joachim Gauck, have already decided on boycotting the games, due to the Russian government's violations of human rights, there has yet to be an entire country planning on a boycott. One person who opposes a boycott is President Obama.

"I do not think it is appropriate to boycott the Olympics. We have got a bunch of Americans who are training hard, who are doing everything they can to succeed, Obama said, despite being "offended" by Russia's policy on gay athletes, at a press

conference in August.

"One of the things I am looking forward to is maybe some gay or lesbian athletes bringing home the gold, silver or bronze," Obama said.

This does not mean, however, that the U.S. will be going into Sochi unprepared in case of an attack. According to a report by CBS News on Jan. 20, the U.S. military has plans to put transport planes, on alert, in surrounding European bases. They also will have two Navy ships docked in the Black Sea, in case evacuation is necessary.

Along with having evacuation plans, the Jan. 24 edition of the Wall Street Journal published and reviewed a memo sent out to U.S. by the U.S. Olympic Committee, regarding wearing USA clothing on the streets in Sochi.

"The U.S. Department of State has advised that wearing conspicuous Team USA clothing in non-accredited areas may put your personal safety at greater risk." The memo also stated the Olympians should enroll in a State Department traveler program to increase safety.

The Russian government is hunting down the Black Widow suicide bombers to ensure the safety of their Olympians and their games.

"The Russian authorities understand the stakes here. They understand that there are

potential threats that are out there," said Obama in an interview to CNN on Jan. 30. "We are coordinating with them. We've looked at their plans. I think we have a good sense of the security that they're putting in place to protect not only the athletes themselves, but also visitors there."

As far as the controversy surrounding gay athletes in Russia, the best form of protest is to show up and win rather than not show up. A similar situation occurred during the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, where Hitler was calling ethnic Africans inferior. U.S. runner Jesse Owens showed up and proved Hitler wrong by winning four gold medals at the event, the ultimate sign of protest and sticking it to someone else's poor opinion.

You cannot fight for your own beliefs sitting at home. Our olympians should want to go to Sochi, to not only win, but to fight for their own beliefs. If Russia doesn't want any gay athletes, then a gay athlete should show up and do their best and prove them wrong.

The Olympics are always a fun event to watch. Despite controversy surrounding the games, within them and outside of them, all the involved nations will ensure that the games happen safely and without a hitch.

Athlete of the Week

Following her record-setting performances last week, sophomore forward Batabe Zempare has earned Western Athletic Conference honors as their player of the week following her outstanding performances against New Mexico State and University of Texas-Pan American. She averaged 20 points with 19.5 rebounds per game en route to a 2-0 week.

Photo courtesy of CSUB Sports Information

