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The Runner

California State University, Bakersfield

Vol. 36, No. 14

www.csub.edu/runner

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free. Additional copies 50 cents each.

'Flip the Switch' turns on solar panels

By Steven Gaede
Staff Writer

CSUB and SunEdison LLC came together for the "Flip the Switch" event in Parking Lot E on the morning of Feb. 9. This event marked the activation of the 1.2-megawatt solar parking canopy located across parking lots "E" and "I."

The \$9.5 million project is being paid for by SunEdison; CSUB will not have to pay a cent for upfront costs of this project. Through CSUB's agreement with SunEdison, SunEdison will maintain the canopy for the next 20 years, while CSUB purchases all power SunEdison generates from the canopy at an agreed rate.

"CSU is responsible for buying



Brady Cabe/The Runner
CSUB President Horace Mitchell joins Ray Watson, Kern County's 4th District Supervisor, flipping the switch.

the power that the system generates, so there is no upfront capital cost to them. Basically, the power that it generates is being purchased at a rate that is less than what they would normally be purchasing from PG&E," said Matthew Dickey, the director of public sector and utility

sales for SunEdison. Before the official ceremony began, problems with the giant light bulb arose. The light switch was not working properly so an extension cord was run from the setup to a nearby outlet outside of Parking Lot "E." After this problem was tackled,

it was time for the ceremony.

President Horace Mitchell was the first person to the microphone, and he explained CSUB's goal of reducing its carbon footprint.

"We established a number of particular activities, and it committed us as a campus to reduce our carbon footprint by taking actions in four distinct areas. First was that we should purchase energy efficient appliances that are 'Energy Star'-certified. Purchase or provide at least 15 percent of our energy needs from renewable source – this is the excellent example of our effort in that regard. Build all construction to U.S. Green Building Council Leed Silver standard or excellent. And fourth, reduce waste by

[See SWITCH, Page 3]



Pablo Hernandez/The Runner
Erica Silva gets water during the 10k course during the 8th annual Valentine's Run Feb. 12.

Valentine's Run has huge turnout

By Jesus Cardenas
Staff Writer

More than 500 runners were breathing air that was filled with "love."

On Feb. 12, CSUB's PEAK Club hosted its 8th annual Valentine's Run. The event started at 9 a.m. in the Icardo Center. Participants were able to enter with a friend or a loved one to share the fun. The runners had the opportunity to choose between two race divisions – a 5k run or 10k run.

The entry fee for the run was \$20 for pre-registered participants, and on the run day there was a fee of \$23. Participants got a race T-shirt and were entered in a raffle as well.

During the registration hour, Cynthia Banuelos, a participant in the race, said, "I am running because I want to prove my friend wrong that I can run a 10k run."

Jeff Moffit, department chair for the PEAK Club, said, "This event is a fundraiser for the PEAK Club and the money is used to attend professional conferences."

Moffit mentioned that students from the club that attend the conference get in touch with their profession and they have an exposure in the field and learn from experts.

The 5k run started on the Icardo Center road and headed out the Science III building, then west the edge of campus and then north with one huge loop around campus back to the Icardo Center. The 10k run was the same as the 5k run but with a second loop around campus.

Most runners finished within an hour. Anna Frank, a female participant who obtained first in the 5k run, said, "It was a well thought out course and it felt great."

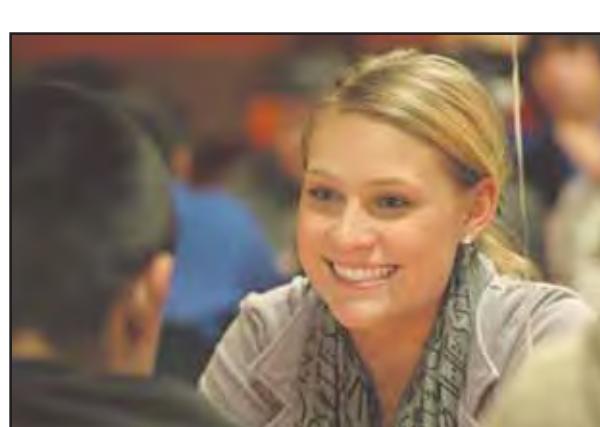
The top three finishers in each age group took part in the award ceremony. Not everyone could win a medal but participants had the chance to win something in the raffle.

According to the PEAK Club website, the Valentine's Run had exactly 520 registered runners. The weather was not a problem at all for the runners. If you want to check out all the results for this year's Valentine's Run check out www.valentinesrun.com.

If you missed the chance to participate in this event, the Bakersfield Track Club is hosting a 5k Half Marathon and a Kern River Trail Run. For more information visit www.bakersfieldtrackclub.com.



Stephanie Mahinan/The Runner
READY FOR THE CHALLENGE: CSUB baseball faces tough opposition in the 2011 season, including College World Series champion South Carolina and runner-up UCLA. Page 7



Adrianna Vega/The Runner
Emily Stites enjoys her time with her date during the speed-dating event Feb. 9 in the Dining Commons.

that they were already doing one so we decided to partner up," said Melissa Turner, a senior psychology major. "And our event is going

toward fundraising for Relay for Life so since we partnered up with them we decided we were going to do a couple drawings ... the

money for the pictures will also go to that."

Angelo Lapuz, a senior business major who helped put the speed dating together, said this was the third annual speed-dating event that the Student Union has held.

When reflecting on student's reactions to previous dating events, Lapuz said: "From what we are seeing as of now is an estimation of around 80 people tonight, which is doubling what we had last year. The only problem we have this year is we

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Love on the run: Speed dating comes to CSUB

By Anne Stephens
Staff Writer

Last Wednesday, more than 80 students signed up for the speed-dating event that was presented by the Student Union and Psychology Club located in the Dining Commons. The money raised during this event was given as donation to the Relay For Life organization, which helps cancer patients and their families.

"We got involved because we were actually trying to plan one of our own [speed-dating events] and we found

toward fundraising for Relay for Life so since we partnered up with them we decided we were going to do a couple drawings ... the



Brain Stew
Thirty-two five-member teams from 15 Kern County high schools invade the Dorothy Donahoe Hall as CSUB hosts the 19th annual Kern County Regional Science Bowl. Photos on Page 6



CSUB's Soo-Yeon Park Chang and special guest Geeta Novotny (pictured) perform in the Winter Faculty Recital. Page 5

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Seven-day weather forecast
According to weather.com
Wednesday Hi: 56 Lo: 37 Precip: 90%



Thursday Hi: 55 Lo: 37 Precip: 30%



Friday Hi: 60 Lo: 40 Precip: 70%



Saturday Hi: 55 Lo: 38 Precip: 90%



Sunday Hi: 58 Lo: 37 Precip: 10%



Monday Hi: 62 Lo: 39 Precip: 0%



Tuesday Hi: 58 Lo: 34 Precip: 10%

Pablo Hernandez/
The Runner

RUNNER ON THE STREET

By Rhianna Taylor, Managing Editor, and Mark Nessia, Editor-In-Chief

This week, The Runner asked, "What did you do for Valentine's Day?"



Chelsey Brown
Junior
Exercise Science

"I went to this group called Love Revolution."



Demarques Sanders
Criminal Justice
Sophomore

"I was at my bro house, celebrating his birthday."



Candace Nichols
PEAK/ Biology
Sophomore

"I went to track practice."



Carlos Tenorio
Criminal Justice
Freshman

"I went out to dinner at Chili's."

THE RUNNER

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Letters to the Editor are encouraged; however, they must be signed and verified to be considered for publication and should be no more than 300 words in length. All letters may be edited for clarity and length.

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The Green Gazer #15: By Victor Maldonado

Created by Derek Bato

Love at first sniff

Uh, do you mind not following me around so close? I already told you I'm not "holding" any pot, those are just my pheromones you're salivating over you weirdo.

Ivy smell pretty...



'The Dispatch'

By Justin Gildner
Sergeant, CSUB
Police Department

While thefts, and other unlawful activity continue at a relatively low rate in the dorms at CSUB, adhering to basic crime prevention advice will help you reduce risk to yourself and also discourage those who commit crime.

First, please respect the 'Golden Key' rule; do not let strangers or unauthorized people use, borrow, or possess your dorm keys. Second, make sure that you lock your door and windows when you leave your room. Even if you are only going to the bathroom, or are visiting a friend down the hall, you still should keep your door locked. Third, report all suspicious persons and activities to your residence director, or to UPD.

Being alert and using common sense are two of the best ways to prevent crime from happening to you and those around you in our housing community. Continued vigilance and watchfulness are necessary to help you avoid becoming a victim of crime. By taking a few simple precautions you can reduce risk to yourself and your fellow dorm residents.

Dorm Room Precautions

- Always lock the door behind you whenever you leave your room – even if just to go to the restroom.
- Close and lock your windows whenever you leave your room. Burglars have been known to break into rooms by entering open windows.
- IF YOUR WINDOW OR DOOR LOCKS DO NOT WORK, CALL YOUR RA.
- REPORT ALL SUSPICIOUS PERSONS AND ACTIVITIES TO UPD, (661) 654-2111.
- Keep your valuables, purse or wallet out of plain view from the window.
- Keep your curtains and blinds closed at night.
- Positively identify anyone at your front door before opening the door.
- Do not hide door keys outside and do not loan keys to anyone.

Help us make your experience as a CSUB dorm resident a fun and most importantly, a safe one!

Hasta la vista, Schwarzenegger!

By Rogelio Alvarado
Staff Writer

On Aug. 7, 2003 Arnold Schwarzenegger announced he was running for governor in a way true to his movie star persona. Seven years later, we have come to the end of the Schwarzenegger era.

So what did he accomplish? Where did he succeed and where did he fail? His tenure impacted the state and the job that Jerry Brown now inherits. Arnold claimed in 2003, "This election is not about replacing one man, it is not about replacing one party, it is about changing the whole political climate of this state."

Schwarzenegger sailed into office a star — the Hollywood action hero ready to take on Sacramento. He entered office immensely popular, but the screen play known as "California" had a few more twists and turns than expected.

On one hand, the governor can point to accomplishments in the area of the environment and political reform; on the other the daunting if not potentially disastrous state budget problem remains.

Students have strong opinions regarding this former governor.

Oscar Curiel, a sophomore and biology major, said: "Terminator did not do what he had promised, he should have kept body building and competing worldwide; he always baffled me with his accent. I think he spent more time at Lakers' games than in his office."

It is too soon to know what historians will say about the Schwarzenegger years. The expectations were high only because he set them so far above the ground during his campaign, thus creating fear among legislators and the capital community.

The 18-month period the spring of 2004 until the end of 2005 was the worst for

Arnold in his entire term. He had threatened the legislature with a ballot measure on workers compensation reform because if they did not act along with him in a favorable manner, so he got the signatures and they agreed and he won the decision. Yet, he took a rightward turn after that victory because he started campaigning only for Republicans and called Democrats "girly men" on the budget issue. Additionally, he praised George Bush on a prime-time speech — a guy who is hugely unpopular in California.

Typically when the names — Schwarzenegger and Bush — are brought up together, upset is a feeling that many people experience. Margaret Price a senior student and Sacramento resident who attends CSUB, said: "Up in Northern California right now many people are breathing easier now that Arnold's name and picture are not around the corner everywhere. It was absurd; I am glad this nightmare is over."

These events set the stage for him to find a way back into the center of attention, but it also took away some of his political powers. He placed his chips on the wrong table, he used them for things that diminished from what he might have been able to accomplish as a governor.

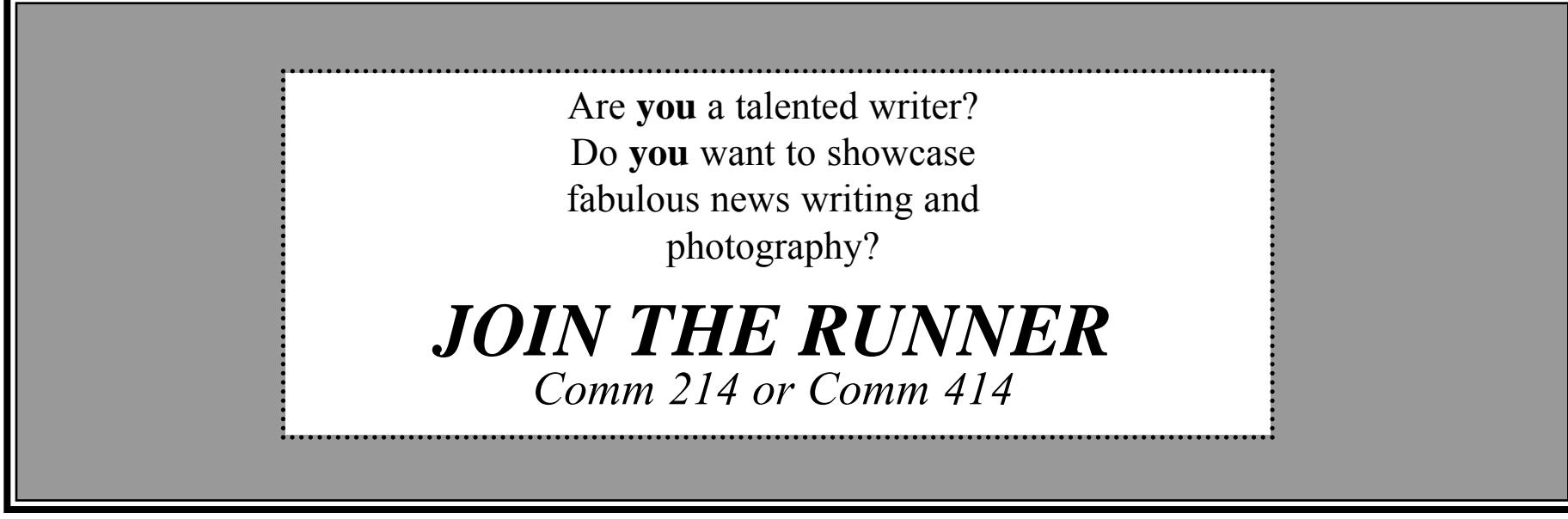
Overall, this former governor should have left way before he mixed up everything in California even more. Even now more people know him for his popular movies rather than as a politician. He served his time in politics, now it is time for his judgment days to see what he decides to do with his life. He will either continue to disappoint the public or fascinate the world with a great new movie to gain back popularity in a time where his options are terminated.

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CSUB furthers 'green' effort by turning on solar canopy

[SWITCH, from Page 1]
engaging in RecycleMania,"
Mitchell said.

The canopy will generate over 1.6 million kilowatt hours of clean energy in its first year of operation and will generate over 30 million over the 20-year agreement; this is enough energy to power more than 3,100 homes for one year. More than 30 million pounds of CO₂ will be offset over the 20-year agreement – the equivalent of planting 400,000 trees.

"This project, in and of itself, will reduce our carbon footprint of the campus by over 7 1/2 percent," assistant vice president for Facilities Management Pat Jacobs said.

"The solar panels have East-West orientation. This was designed by SunEdison to avoid the additional costs of re-orienting all the parking spaces," said Felix



Left: Rob Meszaros displays a drawing of the solar system, drawn by his daughter, as he emcees the "Flip the Switch" event.



Brady Cabe/The Runner

Right: A close-up of the switch and bulb used to illustrate the new solar system installed on campus.

Garcera, the director of Facilities Operations. "The difference between East-West orientation, and north-south orientation, is that east-west generates majority of its power between noon to 5:00 p.m., while North-South orientation generates majority of its power between 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.," Garcera added. The fixed canopy also pro-

vides shade for 550 parking spaces across lots "E" and "I." When summer comes around, these parking spots will be a hot commodity.

"Valley industries have spent \$40 billion over the last 20 years to reduce 80 percent of the air pollution in Kern County and the San Joaquin Valley," said Fourth District Supervisor Ray Watson. "We could elimi-

nate all of the industries in the valley, and still not be able to eliminate that other 20 percent or to even meet the federal air quality standards that we are going to have to meet. The remaining 20 percent is something that we are going to have to deal with. It comes from local sources over which we have no authority as an air district."

Once everyone was done explaining what went into the project and what will be the result of it, it was time to flip the switch. On the count of three, Mitchell and Watson flipped the switch, marking the official activation of the solar canopy.

CSUB may one day reach its goal of becoming carbon neutral, but ultimately, if it wants to reach the federal

air quality standards as a county, it will be up to local residents. Residents can help out by recycling, reducing their total household consumption, and raising "green" awareness.

"The school is looking at doing another half a megawatt, 500 project. That level of project will keep them under the California Net Metering regulations. Basically, if they get any higher than that they are giving power back occasionally to the grid for free," Dickey said.

The construction of the solar parking canopy has marked a big step toward CSUB's goal of becoming a green campus. As the years pass, CSUB will continue to build more green buildings and structures as the nonrenewable resources rise in price.

Speed dating increases in popularity, draws largest crowd yet

[DATE, from Page 1]
only ordered 80 strawberries."

Kevin Hoffer, a senior business administration major who was with the Student Union, explained how the event worked.

"People have signed up initially when we advertised the event and they come and check in. There is basically an open floor plan... where the girls will stay sitting and the guys will rotate every two minutes," he said. "They try to get to know each other and then they will say whether they're interested in the person. Then afterward we will put together all the matches."

Turner said the event was designed to accommodate all students regardless of their sexual or gender orientation. She went on to say how the



Adrianna Vega/The Runner

Emily Stites, Megan Wade and Diana Melgar enjoy their downtime before speed dating starts.

speed dating was not only for finding dates, but just making friends and getting to know people better.

Emily Stite, a junior who participated in the event,

said: "I met a lot of fun and interesting people that were from a lot of different places and some of them were really nice, and some of them were really shy, which made

it easy for me to take control and figure out who they are and what they do. And it was really funny because someone called me a ball buster. But I really liked figuring out what these people's goals were."

Stite went on to say how it was at times easier to ask off-topic questions that

weren't included on the paper given to the participants.

"It kind of broke the ice a little bit," she said.

Stite added, "One of the best things was that everyone gave you a handshake in the beginning when they were introducing themselves, so you could kind of tell right off the bat how they were feeling."

Stite also gave some suggestions for any upcoming dating events.

"I think it could have been broken into two sections or two different parties cause it was pretty long," she said.

Megan Wade, a criminal justice major said, "It was a

really good experience. I really liked meeting all the people. It's a way to make new friends with people that you wouldn't normally hang out with."

Wade also shared some helpful suggestions for next year's speed dating.

"One thing that should be different is that we should have to write down everyone's name and then later decide yes or no, 'cause it's really awkward when the guy watches you if you're going to write their name down or not. Or when they grab your paper and write their name down," she said.

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CSU Bakersfield
School of Business and Public Administration

Local website helps curb schoolbook costs

By Eloy Vieyra
Staff Writer

Every quarter at CSUB starts out with students worrying, dreading having to pay for their overpriced books. The hunt for cheap books can be stressful. Bakopost.com has come to the rescue for students who are looking to sell books and other stuff.

Bakopost.com allows students to buy trade or sell their books online for free. They also have sections where people can post ads to sell other things such as furniture, cars and computers. Not only can you sell things, the site has a "wanted" section for those who want to get the word out about things they are interested in.

Professors try and help students by using the same book or choosing literature that is inexpensive. Students understand that the authors need to make money too,

but off of the future of America? Financial aid and student loans are there to help, but it's hard enough trying to afford a car and food then spend hundreds of dollars on a book that you might not be able to sell or even get back the amount invested.

Why do books always have to come out with newer editions almost every year? It is understood that updated books are necessary in order to have the most current information – but, a math book? Math has been around for hundreds of years but the only thing that changes is the prices of the math books.

The bookstore offers a buy-back program, but they only buy back the books for less than half of what they were sold for. Students all over campus look for others who have taken the same courses or know people with the book in to find the book they need at an

affordable price. Students are urged to use the site in order to form an online community where everyone can benefit.

Reyna Olaguez and another fellow student started the site in hopes of helping themselves and others try to find books. Reyna said, "My books were going to cost over \$500 so I decided to create a way for students to sell and buy books from each other."

The web site already has many users commenting about how great it is to be able to find the books for a low cost. "I love the idea of students coming together and maybe now I can get some extra cash that I'm not sure I would have been able to do as easily as this," said Darrin Burchfield.

Bakopost.com also includes a link for Facebook users. "I encourage everyone to add us to their

Photo courtesy of Bakopost.com

Facebook. Also tell five friends so that we can keep the site going and be able to help each as students," said Reyna.

Bakopost.com needs student support in order to stay active, so go on today and sell your books and other stuff that is sitting in the corner and could help someone else not to mention put some extra cash in your pocket.

Nominees for CSUB 'royalty' to be presented at halftime

[DANCE, from Page 1]

The night will be filled with dancing, appetizers, casino games, and of course the crowning of homecoming's king and queen.

This year's homecoming king and queen nominees are Vanni Banducci, Tyree Boyd-Pates, Megan Wade, Alyssa Simone Wiley, Brizette Cruz, Vanessa Rojas and Linda Lara.

Banducci is currently a junior studying art with a minor in organizational studies. He is the web designer/IT person for the CSC (Community Service

Cooperative) and the SRC (Student Recreation Center). After he attains his B.A. he plans on becoming a full time Web designer.

Boyd-Pates is a senior majoring in communications. He plans to work toward a master's degree in mass communications and media while continuing to provide inspiration to urban youth to help them pursue their educational dreams.

Wade is a senior majoring in criminal justice. After she graduates she hopes to be a counselor in a prison and eventually work her way up to be a criminal pro-

filer. She is also an active member in the sorority Gamma Phi Beta.

Wiley is the youngest of three daughters and first one to take on a B.A. Her major is in theatre and her minor is psychology. In her spare time she enjoys singing, dancing, writing songs and poems and acting.

Cruz is a graduate student with a B.A. in psychology. She is currently working on her second B.A. in criminal justice. She is currently the vice president for M.E.C.H.A (Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano

de Aztlan).

Rojas is a senior majoring in English. She will be graduating this spring. She believes that the greatest and important gift in life is not to think of herself, but to always think of others first.

Linda Lara is a senior at CSUB and a sister of Nu Phi Chi Sorority. She is an English major, theater minor and is the president of Sigma Tau Delta English Honor Society.

For more information on homecoming, please contact 661-654-2418.



Photo Courtesy of ASI

A collaborative shot of this year's homecoming nominees.

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Faculty performs 'An Homage to the Powerful Human Spirit'

By Emmanuel Price
Staff Writer

Geeta Novotny and Soo-Yeon Park Chang performed in the Doré Theatre on Feb. 11. The performance was titled "An Homage to the Powerful Human Spirit."

Novotny, who performed with the Bakersfield Symphony Orchestra, is a mezzo-soprano who has won awards, has sung lead vocals for film soundtracks and is a published writer.

Soo-Yeon Park Chang is a gifted piano soloist and opera coach. The pianist worked with Zakhar Bron, Midori Goto, Carol Vaness, and more. Chang has performed in Korea and England and has collaborated with the USC Opera. The pianist is a full-time staff member at CSUB.

Robert Alvarez, business administration major, said: "I feel as though opera music is commercialized enough in the region, and I like the swells and the notes in opera. If a soprano can hit a certain note and put a lot of power behind it, I respect them."

"There are dark moments and cheerful moments in opera, so this style of music gives me mixed emotions."

Chang, dressed in black, sat at the piano.

To her left a young man assisted her in the turning of the music sheets.

Novotny wore a red dress and opened with the very familiar tune (Habanera). According to the Novotny, one of the most

popular and well-loved opera tunes is the selection from Carmen by Georges Bizet. Novotny believes that the performed songs illustrate the story of our humanity, and the examining of the free will, opposed to our

adherence of social framework.

The Gypsy Songs, set to poems by Adolf Heyduk, was chosen for the purpose of reflecting the credo of the gypsy tradition.

"I am not a real opera fan, but I love the beauty of the sounds the singer can make. The voice is a powerful instrument, and it is different from the other musical instruments because every voice is unique," said Ted Murphy, biology professor emeritus.

After the performance the entertainers looked somewhat drained and overwhelmed, but stopped for the taking of photos.

"I think a lot of students are going into the arts, and the music is becoming more mainstream because of the crossover movement. The singers need to evolve and continue to work with those who play instruments like the electric guitar, but I don't think it will ever become fully mainstream," said Geeta Novotny.

"Students taking music appreciation are required to attend three concerts, and this performance provides a great opportunity for students on campus to meet the requirement and listen to music that they normally would not be exposed to," said Carrie Gabler, liberal studies major.



Pablo Hernandez/The Runner
CSUB professor Soo-Yeon Park Chang and award-winning Mezzo-Soprano Geeta Novotny take the Doré Theatre stage for a Faculty Recital.

'Feliz' sheds light on familial secrets, struggles

By Zachary Gonzalez
Staff Writer

Every family hides behind a façade.

"Feliz," a staged reading written by CSUB graduate Michael Mejia, takes a deeper look at the emotions, secrets and betrayal hidden behind the family image. The play was presented by the CSUB Association of Student Theatrical Artists in association with Impulse Theatre Company on Feb. 7 at the Doré Arena Theatre.

The play takes place on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day in the house of Augusto, a school teacher, and his wife, Amanda. As family arrives for the holiday festivities, secrets are revealed and the family is left to either confront the ugly truths that surround them or maintain the veneer of a happy Christmas.

Mejia started on the project in 2009 in his play writing class at CSUB. He said the process was easy as an assignment, but after lengthy edits, rewrites and notes, the project grew into a difficult one.

"The entire process is hard," said Mejia. "If you love what you do, though, like I love writing, you don't notice the hard

part until it's over."

CSUB professors saw that the play had potential, so they suggested that Mejia continue to work on the project.

"When I showed it [to] my professors, it was clear to them that there was more story here, so I went and finished that story," said Mejia. "We all have secrets. I wanted to see

the work of somebody else.

"I have to work to make it fresh," he said. "When you're writing, you hear

things a certain way

humans and that changes how things look and feel. If you don't collaborate, you don't get good work done."

"Feliz marks the first reading held by ASTA, and is the premiere production for Impulse Theatre Company, which is comprised of Mejia and his graduate friends. ASTA

"The play was a perfect mix of funny, realistic, and sad," she said. "Every character had a secret. Figuring them out, from an audience perspective, was exciting yet overwhelmingly horrible."

Frayre said she left the theater thinking and applying the show to her own life, which she believes is the mark of a good play.

"There is no 'feliz' [happy] at the end," she said. "You're left with a disquietude that almost breaks your heart."

Mejia hopes to have a full production of "Feliz" playing in the future.

"I want a set, lights, costumes," he said. "I will be working on getting it up somewhere."

hopes to premiere more readings, and Impulse hopes to grow.

Freshman theater major Kayla Frayre felt the show was entertaining on all levels and was as engaging for those in the audience as the actors on stage.

"In theater, you can't do that. You have to let things happen and many times, it isn't what you expected. You have to act and respond with other

in your head and then you expect it to sound that way.

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actors on stage.

"It's about a Mexican family and has [some] Spanish dialogue, but the issues in this family can be found in any home," said Mejia. "We just see them here through a Mexican lens."

Mejia not only wrote the play, but performed the leading character. He said the experience of playing a character he has written is a unique experience, as most actors do not perform their own work, but rather

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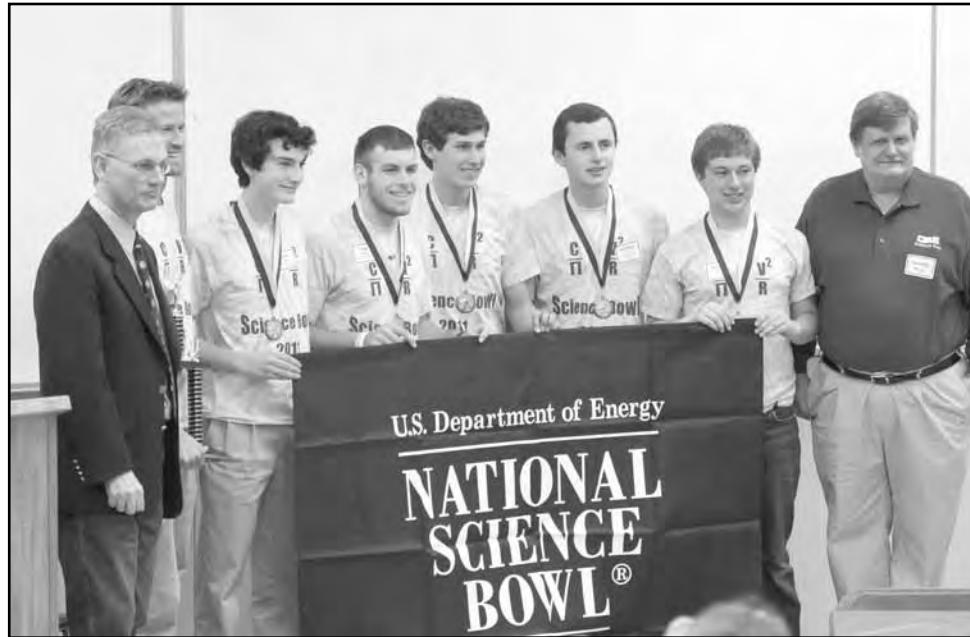
The week in pictures

Science Bowl students come to CSUB to showcase their knowledge



Liquid nitrogen being poured on a student's arm and instantly evaporating at the Science Bowl Feb. 12.

Brady Cabe/The Runner



Mark Nessia/The Runner

Members of the Dos Pueblos Science Bowl team pose for a picture with meteorologist Miles Muzio and professor of physics Thomas Meyer after winning the Kern County Science Bowl for the third straight year.



Brady Cabe/The Runner

Students from Centennial High School discuss a potential solution during a competition.

Speed dating and cupcake sales help students celebrate Valentine's Day



Above: Margarita Cano listens to her date during speed dating Feb. 9.

Right: Angel Perez laughs at a joke told to her by her date during their two-minute date.

Adriana Vega/The Runner



Mark Nessia/The Runner
Community Service Cooperative sells cupcakes in DDH for Valentine's Day.



Stephanie Mahinan/The Runner

From left to right: Mike McCarthy, Ryan McIntyre, Jonathan Montoya, Jeremy Rodriguez, DC Legg, Martin Medina and Mick Gaston

Big bats, big games and big goals

CSUB baseball looks to make a name for itself.

By Manny Beltran
Sports Editor

For the CSUB baseball team the word "inaugural" doesn't apply, but neither does "established." The program is in its third year of existence and it's looking to take some big steps toward establishing itself as a team to be reckoned with.

To establish the 'Runners as one of the top teams head coach Bill Kernen has put together one of the toughest schedules in the nation. This year the 'Runners will open up the season at home against Washington State and visit last year's national champions South Carolina and runner-up UCLA. In all, the 'Runners will face seven teams that made the 2010 NCAA tournament.

Knowing that it would be difficult for an Independent – CSUB baseball still does not belong to a conference – to make the NCAA tournament Kernen feels that the NCAA committee can't overlook the tough schedule and hopefully wins against the nation's best.

That's a lot of confidence for a third-year program, but Kernen knows the work his players have been putting in during the off-season – 5 a.m. individual weight training programs, hours spent in the batting cages and summer ball out of state – are signs that this year's team is committed to producing wins on the field.

Still this season has its share of obstacles within the team if they want to have any success. One word that almost all the players mentioned was chemistry. Twelve of the 24 players on the team are new but the core group of juniors that started their collegiate careers at CSUB have established a culture and attitude that the newcomers can gravitate toward.

"We've come a long way in terms of team chemistry and I think for the most part every new guy has bought into the with-us-or-against-us mentality which is good because that's the only way we'll have a successful year," said junior Martin Medina.

Junior catcher Jeremy Rodriguez feels that it is more than just team cohesiveness but something much stronger.

"The newcomers have acclimated really well with the team chemistry. We told them in the beginning what our goals are and they wanted the same thing. All of them have worked really hard to be part of this team and be part of our family. You're going to see some new faces shine. At this point, they're not newcomers anymore; they're a part of this team and this family."

But even with all the chemistry and cohesiveness, some on-field issues need to be addressed. Changes to this year's infield will be key factor in how well the overall

team defense will perform. Gone are graduated seniors Kyle Richardson, Brandon Boren and JJ Henry who all shared infielding duties at multiple positions and played key roles on last year's team. They're being replaced by three freshmen and three junior college transfers competing for the starting shortstop and second base positions.

An even bigger problem from last year was relief pitching. Kernen has always felt that the 'Runners have had quality Division I hitting, but the pitching has left much to be desired. Last year the 'Runners gave up quite a few games in the final innings, including a nine-run ninth inning against UC Davis to lose 11-12.

"If there is a concern right now, it's the depth of our pitching staff. We have lost five pitchers over the past year that should be pitching for us right now. Last season more than 80 percent of the innings were thrown by seven pitchers and that same thing will happen this year."

"We need quality starts and strong defense to succeed. Also, many of our young players will need to step into key roles and perform," said senior pitcher Mike McCarthy.

For two returning players the excitement of playing this season means a bit more.

First baseman Stuart Smith and outfielder Ryan McIntyre both had their season cut short due to injuries. Smith's hand was bothering him from the beginning of the season, but he played through it only to find out he had a broken bone in the hand that required surgery. McIntyre tore ligaments in his right knee that also required surgery. Both players were key contributors in the games they played last year and having to sit out was hard for both of them.

"It's an exciting feeling getting to come back after being out half the season and summer," said McIntyre. "I've been patiently waiting for the season for a while now. Our coaches gave us the tools needed to be successful and the schedule needed to get our name out there. Now we just have to prove ourselves on the field."

All these things just add up to one thing for the 'Runners. The metaphorical chip on the team's shoulder has grown and the expectations to perform well against much tougher competition as well as a us-against-the-world mentality has this year's team focused and ready.

"I think we feel like we have something to prove to CSUB, Bakersfield and the nation. We have to put ourselves in the deep end of the pool with our strength of schedule that is ranked in the top 20 in the nation. We know that we have a tough road ahead of us but for many of the guys here we have been working for the past 30 months to get to this place and want to take advantage of it," said McCarthy.

The 'Runners open the season Friday, Feb. 18 at 2 p.m. on Hardt Field.

"I think we have something to prove to CSUB, Bakersfield and the nation."
-Mike McCarthy

Male Athlete of the Week



Freshman Chase Goodvin finished tied for fourth after Day One of the CSUB Invitational. Goodvin shot 3-under par 141 over the first 36 holes Monday and posted a 72 in the first round to lead the Roadrunners.

Courtesy of Sports Information

Female Athlete of the Week



Senior forward Nikki Leon had 14 points, and career-highs in rebounds and steals with 16 and seven respectively to help CSUB defeat fellow NCAA Division I Independent Seattle University. Leon shot 5-10 from the field including 3-4 from three-point range in 33 minutes played.

Courtesy of Sports Information

TENNIS DROPS ONE TO RIVERSIDE



Taylor Gambo/ The Runner

Top: Senior Ashley Thorneycroft attempts a return against UC Riverside.

Bottom: Redshirt freshman Estefania Limpias smashes a forehand.

By Chris Davis
Staff Writer

fifth spot for the 'Runners this season.

"I thought I played well," Limpias said after her singles win. "I played steady through the entire match."

Playing the No. 1 doubles slot were sophomore Julian Mannix and freshman Estefania Limpias. The pair battled UC Riverside's No. 1 doubles team, of sisters Jamie and Taylor Raney to a tiebreak after the match reached 8-all.

In the tiebreak, the Raney sisters jumped on top early, but Mannix and Limpias fought back to get within one at 5-6. However, the UC Riverside sisters were just too much and won the tie-break 6-8.

Thorneycroft was a winner in singles action. This comes after dealing with bronchitis all week.

"I'm so proud of Ashley after fighting bronchitis all week and not being able to practice, just shows how much of a competitor she is," head coach Regina Csibi-Krueger said after the match.

After losing the first set 0-6, No. 1 singles player Thorneycroft battled back and came out swinging. She jumped out and won two of the first three games in the second set. Then the first really long point of the match occurred. Most points in tennis usually only last a few seconds, this point lasted two and a half minutes! It would not be the last long point of the match either.

"A big part of my game is being able to run down shots," Thorneycroft said. "My opponent would try and go after too much and she would hit it into the net. I sucked her into playing more my game with lobs and rallies."

Thorneycroft took the second set 6-2. In the third set the rallies did get longer and that proved to be a winning recipe for the Melbourne, Australia native as she won 6-4 to take the match.

"I'm pleased with the way the girls played today," Csibi-Krueger said.

Also in singles action, Limpias got a win for the 'Runners from the No. 5 match by a score of 6-2, 6-3. Limpias has been solid in the



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