

California State University, Bakersfield

April 10, 2019

Vol. 44, No. 14

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[therunneronline.com](http://therunneronline.com)

## Students elect Wan and Esparza



Aaron Wan and Roxanne Esparza discuss their goals and visions during the ASI candidate open forum on April 2, 2019.

**By Ivette Nolasco and Violeta Trujillo**  
*The Runner Staff*

After almost two months of publicizing that applications for the Associated Students, Inc. 2019-2020 board were open, 951 students casted their vote last Wednesday and Thursday.

On Friday, ASI announced the winners. Aaron Wan was announced as the new ASI President as he beat his opponent, Lauren Yoder, 67.6 percent of the votes. Roxanne Esparza was elected as Executive Vice President after beating her opponent, Monica Figueroa, with 59.2 percent of the votes.

Wan is majoring in business management and is currently on his 3rd year at CSU Bakersfield. Roxanne Esparza is a junior majoring in engineering science.

Wan said that he was a little surprised with the voter turnout because there was an increase from the past years.

"I am really glad with the results," Wan said. "The election was more publicized this year with more people running and a higher voter turnout."

The voter turnout for this year's

elections was 8.6 percent. Last year, the voter turnout was 7.4 percent, or 775 students. Despite the 1.2 percent increase from last year's election, it was not the turnout that was expected according to Esparza.

"We were expecting a higher voter turnout and I tried to give it my all and I think it was a bit low, but we are trying to increase student involvement this year," said Esparza.

Wan stated that the election process was "nerve wrecking" to him. "The other candidate was very well qualified for the position. She had a lot of great ideas that definitely opened me to new perspectives," said Wan.

About 6 years ago, Wan migrated to the U.S. from the Philippines. He said that he sat in a corner of his high school for the first two months when he was a freshman, not knowing anybody.

"After two months of isolation, I met friends and people that pushed me and I eventually got involved in student leadership," Wan said. "It's the best thing I've ever done so far. I saw how much I can influence and make other people's lives better. I saw that I could empower people to

become their own better person by pushing myself to become better as well."

Esparza has been a Bakersfield resident since her family moved here when she was nine years old. She has been an active member of the Bakersfield community.

"I've been a part of the Kern County Latino Leadership Program, Adventist Health, Bakersfield Ronald McDonald's House," said Esparza. "I've also volunteered teaching guitar at local churches."

The summer before his freshman year at CSUB, Wan visited the campus and said that ASI was the first place he went to.

"I met the current board members of 2016 and the executive director of ASI, and at that point I knew that it was where I wanted to be and that I see myself being a part of ASI for all my years in the university," he said.

According to Wan, his favorite thing about being in the student government board is the people he meets and the lives they get to change for the better.

"It's not the title, but the job we all get to do as ASI board mem-



**Vice President of Finance**  
**Ulyses Rodriguez**  
*Obtained 56.1 percent of votes*



**Vice President of University Affairs**  
**Krystal Raynes**  
*Obtained 100 percent of votes*

**None of the three candidates for Vice President of Campus Life received over 50 percent of votes. The top two voted candidates will have a runoff election on April 10-11.**



**Vice President of Campus Life Candidate**  
**Joselito Flores**



**Vice President of Campus Life Candidate**  
**Morayo Olujumu**

[See ASI, Page 2]

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**ABOUT US**

The Runner is a laboratory newspaper published biweekly, in conjunction with the Communications Department at California State University, Bakersfield.

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# UPD slowly turns on alerts

By Lauren Silvis  
*Reporter*

On March 26, CSU Bakersfield University Police Department sent out a safety bulletin to the campus. The bulletin informed students and staff about two similar, suspicious events.

The first occurred on Feb. 4, at 8:45 p.m. where two men tried to open the doors of a vehicle while a female driver was in the car. The doors were locked, and the suspects were gone by the time UPD arrived.

The next occurred on the morning of March 26. A female driver was sitting in her car when a man tried to open her door. The doors were locked, and the suspect was gone by the time UPD arrived.

The safety bulletin did mention that patrolling has increased in those areas.

UPD Chief Martin Williamson said, "I still have to worry about the rest of the campus. But, when the officers are not handling calls and they have available time, they do visit those areas." Williamson added that he has been given positive feedback from "campus people" who have informed him they have seen the officers out and about.

Many students responded on social media asking why they were not informed of the Feb. 4 incident until March 26.

Explaining the lack of alerting the pub-

lic, Williamson said "There was no crime and the victim was not in danger."

Jennifer Self, director of public affairs and communications added, "I honestly don't think it's accurate to call the reporting party a victim either because nothing happened," Self said. "If there had been any true victim, a bulletin would have been put out."

The bulletin that was released on March 26, contained information of both events due to their similarity, Williamson explained.

According to the Clery Law, there are rules and regulations that universities, including CSUB, must follow regarding the reporting of crimes.

On CSUB's website there is a list of definitions on what qualifies as a clery crime. On Feb. 4 and March 26, no clery crimes were committed.

However, the clery law does state that if any act puts a victim in fear, this qualifies it as needing to be reported to the public through a timely warning.

Williamson said, "Being fearful is not the only criteria in a clery crime. To be classified as a clery crime, there has to be a committed crime and fear."

Williamson explains that there did not seem to be an ongoing threat to campus and thus no warning was released.

Simar Bains, CSUB psychology major

questioned the timing in which students and staff were informed of the Feb. 4 incident.

Bains said "Are campus police going to wait for someone to get kidnapped to finally alert everyone to stay safe? It should have been done immediately."

Williamson said "We assessed it the following morning and decided not to release a warning. If we were to put out a safety bulletin for everything that happens on campus, students would stop reading them."

Both events were referred to in the safety bulletin because of the similarity between them. Williamson explained that this presented a good platform to remind students of the services that are available to them. The suspects did not have similar profiles and have yet to be identified.

There have also been reports of stolen bumpers, denied requests, and stolen items out of vehicles.

Williamson said "All of the reports don't come to my level. I'm busy everyday dealing with a lot of things and crime is not always the top part."

Despite the reports and concerns from students, Williamson says safety is really not an issue on this campus.

"Still to this day I don't think there is a safety issue on this campus," said Williamson.

## ASI elected board of directors

**[ASI, Page 1]**

bers; representing CSUB, advocating for students, volunteering, and hosting events are all part of the reason that makes me enjoy what we do."

Esparza mentioned her community involvement inspired her to get involved on campus. One of Esparza's goals as EVP is to destigmatize mental health.

"As someone who has family with mental illness, I think it's so important to talk about it than just stigmatizing it," said Esparza. "I want to work towards normalizing the conversation about mental health and mention more the resources available."

Wan added that he plans on meeting with all the organizations on campus to see what they want to accomplish by the end of the year. He also plans on organizing a large-scale event where every organization on campus will be involved.

"It would be similar to Runner Nights, except it will be a festival where clubs, organizations, and school departments showcase what they have," said Wan.

Esparza mentioned one of her goals is to input "relaxation stations" on campus, where students can relax and talk about their experiences.

"Mental health can really change the lives of students," said Esparza.

Esparza plans to bring more awareness to ASI events on campus.

"They don't really know about events and I want to spread the word because it is important that they become involved and vote for decisions that will affect them," said Esparza.

Wan emphasized that his primary focus will always be to advocate for students and help them achieve their goals. He stated that he wants to "change our brand" so people think of CSUB students as successful and employed individuals.



ASI Outreach  
 Jorge Zamora



Clubs & Organizations  
 Outreach  
 Elysa Aguayo



Community Outreach  
 Aaliyah Beed



Diversity and Inclusion  
 Samantha De La Cruz



International Students  
 Divyang Motovar



Legislative Affairs  
 Aaron Aragon



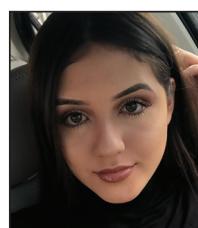
Student Support  
 Maria Espinoza



Sustainability  
 Stephanie Magana



Veteran's Affairs  
 Jose Meza



Business & Public  
 Administration  
 Serenity Sanchez



NSME  
 Gurnaaz Deol



Social Sciences and  
 Education  
 Rania Elhossiny

Wan continued that he wants CSUB to be the "center of commerce in Bakersfield."

"I aim to connect majority of the local business in Bakersfield with CSUB so that when students graduate, they can immediately be employed," said Wan.

That is also another of Esparza's goals; to bring more work opportunities on campus for students. In a spring 2012 to winter 2013 CSUB post-graduate survey, 40 percent of undergraduate students responded they were "looking but no offers yet" on their current job search situation.

Esparza mentioned the importance of students receiving work experience, so

they can expand their opportunities after obtaining their degree.

Wan said he will continue to be involved with the clubs and organizations on campus and help them become successful with all their events.

"I also want to establish events in Bakersfield where CSUB spearheads it," said Wan. "An example is expanding the "Celebrate CSUB" that involves more of the community, a festival like parade where multiple floats goes around Bakersfield to showcase what we have at CSUB as well as all our partnerships and sponsors around the city."

# Students argue for Planned Parenthood

By Sarah Jane Atkinson  
Reporter

A group of Masters of Social Work students head to the state capitol to advocate against the proposed bill, Bill H.R. 369: Defund Planned Parenthood Act 2019.

As part of a class project, graduate students, Catherine Morga, Hobert Gabuat, Esme Mendoza and Stephanie Rodriguez were given many different subjects to advocate for, and they ended up choosing Bill H.R. 369 for their senior project.

Through this project they created a project proposal, a Title X brochure and an online petition.

The proposed bill would defund Planned Parenthood, mainly on a basis of getting rid of access to abortion.

Bill H.R. 369 was proposed on Jan 9, 2019 by Missouri Republican Representative Vicky Hartzler. The bill is still currently in the introduction process, the next step would be passing it in the House of Representatives. The bill's main aim is to stop the federal funding for Planned Parenthood and instead give the funding to other clinics.

The only way that the bill will let the

funding continue is if Planned Parenthood eliminates abortions from their clinic services. The bill proposes that abortions can only be done under certain circumstances including, pregnancies as a result of rape or incest and in cases where a woman suffers from a physical disorder or illness that would put her or the baby in danger.

Defunding Planned Parenthood means defunding the Title X Family Planning Federal Program.

In their project proposal, the MSW students stated that, "Title X Family Planning Program is the only federal program that is designed to help low-income families with services such as preventive health services, patient education, counseling, cervical and breast cancer screening. They also help individuals with pregnancy prevention education, testing and referrals for sexually transmitted disease (STD) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)."

As part of their project the group of students will be making their way to Sacramento on April 10 to take part in Lobby Days, an annual event where "lay members meet politicians or public servants at various levels to advocate and explain support for legislation relevant to

the NGO." As for the graduates, they will be advocating against the bill that is trying to defund Planned Parenthood.

This group of students are not the only ones advocating for bills, they are a part of an entire class, SW 6160 Advanced Policy in Social Work. Professor of the course, Thomas Madhavappalil said, "The course has an advocacy project, it's one of the important projects in this course."

The Planned Parenthood Bill is one out of many that the students could choose from, these included; The Dreamers Act, minimum wage, ending police violence, paid parental leave and many more.

"We need social work students to learn skills about advocating for their clients, advocating for policies," said Madhavappalil.

On her part in the project, Catherine Morga said that, "As social workers, one of our core values is to advocate for those in need, for the vulnerable population."

Her reason behind advocating for Planned Parenthood is that if it were to be defunded it would take away a medical necessity for many, not just women.

"A lot of people think that Planned Parenthood is only there to help women with

reproductive health but they also serve low income, urban and rural areas," said Morga. "They not only have reproductive health but primary health. Defunding this act would affect millions nationwide."

As part of the group, Hobert Gabuat said, "We wanted to do something we were all passionate about." On choosing the topic with his classmates, Gabuat said that, "We all decided, this is great, because it's about choice."

Gabuat's felt strongly about this bill and was prepared to advocate against it. He said, "What people don't understand is that there are different circumstances."

Gabuat and Morga both mentioned the Kern County Planned Parenthood location has been open for 30 years.

"When we went there [Planned Parenthood] in February, that month was the first time they had an abortion," said Gabuat.

The main issue that these students want service is that Planned Parenthood is more than just a clinic for abortions and that defunding it would be defunding the medical assistance that many rely on.

## Elevator permits in library are overdue



Fernanda Martinez/The Runner

The permits on both elevators in the Walter W. Stiern Library display an expiration date of Jan. 25, 2019. Images were taken on April 4, 2019.

By Violeta Trujillo  
Reporter

Abigail Youngblood, an English graduate student at CSU, Bakersfield, found herself riding in the Walter S. Stiern Library elevator, when she noticed the expired elevator permit. The permit expired on January 25, 2019, just over three months. Youngblood's immediate concern was safety.

"I have seen them expired before and I was trying to understand why this seems to be such a continuous, neglected issue at the school," said Youngblood. "So many students ride the elevators everyday, it is truly putting students at risk to not have them checked regularly."

The elevator permit is issued by the State of California through the Department of Industrial Relations Division of Occupational Safety & Health, which states "No elevator shall be operated without a valid, current permit issued by the Division. The permit, or a copy thereof, to operate a pas-

senger elevator, freight elevator or incline elevator shall be posted conspicuously and securely in the elevator car."

"I felt uncomfortable and like the school was not prioritizing the safety of students on campus," said Youngblood. "How can we celebrate and learn on a campus that isn't looking out for us or our safety?" Laura Medina, a junior sociology major at CSUB, expressed her concerns regarding the expired elevator permit.

"If tuition is so expensive you would expect CSUB to be in compliance with all the safety codes," said Medina. "There is no reason they should be performing with expired permits."

Medina mentioned that she will "probably avoid" riding the elevator once she learned the permit was expired.

Despite student concerns on safety, Paula Bray, Director of Facilities Operations mentioned that the elevators are safe, but did not respond to questions on the status of the library elevator permits.

**ARTS & HUMANITIES** | **SCHOOL OF MAJORS THAT MATTER**

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, BAKERSFIELD

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**Graduating Seniors Exhibition 2019**

**April 4- May 11, 2019/ reception April 4, 5-7 pm**

**TODD MADIGAN GALLERY**

# FEATURES

The Runner

April 10, 2019

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# Common Ground pursues unity

By Vincent Perez  
Features Editor

Sumaiya Olia, 21, president of Common Ground, an interfaith club, heads into her second year in charge.

The club was formed in 2018, the first officially recognized interfaith club at CSUB.

She mentioned the early struggles Common Ground went through their first year.

"When you're trying to start a club, where there's no guidebook, you have to set everything up yourself," she said.

Olia said Common Ground wants to include everyone that wants to join despite religious or spiritual belief.

"[We want] to make sure everyone has a voice and is involved," she said.

Meeting other students from various religions and beliefs has shaped Olia.

"Your religious background should never define how you're treated," said Olia.

Jonathan Young, assistant professor of religious studies at CSU Bakersfield and Common Ground club advisor, takes no credit about the interfaith club forming. He said it was the students who did the work.

"We've been trying to have a bigger presence on campus," said Young.

He said that he wants to help create a space where people feel comfortable talking about religion and spirituality. Agnosticism, wicca or atheism are accepted

in Common Ground. Young wants the campus to know all students are welcome.

"You should feel safe talking about issues," he said.

Recent terrorist attacks were not downplayed by the student-run organization.

"We wanted to find a way to respond to that," said Young about the March 15 New Zealand terrorist attacks, in which 50 people died. CSUB and the Muslim Student Association (MSA) held a candlelight vigil on March 18 on campus.

Young wants more than just diversity in Common Ground.

"What we're trying to promote is pluralism: Which means you actively engage other people, even if you don't want to agree on difficult issues such as abortion, same-sex marriage or the death penalty," he said.

He added, "Just that you're willing to hear the other person about it."

Young, also the advisor for the MSA, wants to collaborate with other clubs on campus. Yet, he said that it's up to their leaders to reach back out.

Ellen Ijebor, a club member attended Interfaith Youth Core in Chicago in 2017, an interfaith conference. After, she wanted to become involved in the interfaith group at CSUB.

"I've always been fascinated by how much religion plays a part in people's lives and how much it influences society," said



JJ Reed/The Runner

Bakersfield City Council member, Andrae Gonzales, tunes in with Common Ground during the Festival For Peace and Non-Violence March on March 30.

Ijebor.

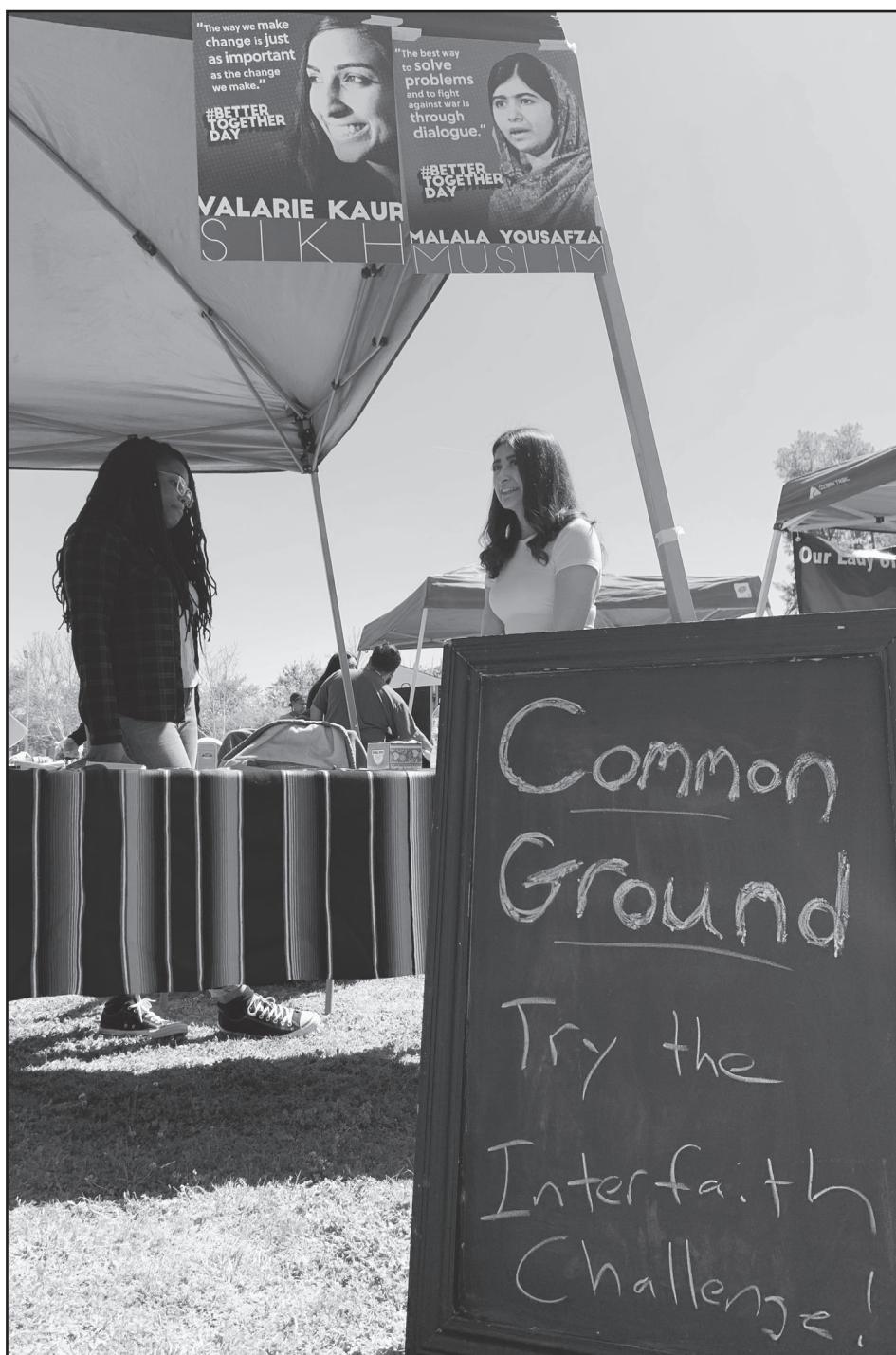
Ijebor plans events for CSUB events, specifically with the humanities department on campus.

Taking place this week on campus is The Better Together Days Week, hosted by Common Ground and ASI.

"This organization is important because we have to have open discussions. This campus is diverse in its own way, but it could be more," she said.

## Correction:

In the Angela Davis preview story in our previous issue, the correct date of her speech at The Doré Theatre is this Thursday, April 11 at 6 p.m.



JJ Reed/The Runner

Common Ground, a club of CSU Bakersfield, has members at their table at the Festival for Peace and Non-Violence, on March 30 at CSUB.

## What's Happening Around Campus

### April

#### 10 Express Yourself

4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Desember Leadership Center

#### Women Rock

5 p.m. - 8 p.m.

SRC, Rock Wall

#### #LETSTALKABOUTSEX

6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Housing, Rohan, 1st Floor

#### Strong Runner Series Fitness

##### Work

-shops

7.m. - 8:30 p.m.

SRC, Sierra Studio

#### 11 Small Business Recruiting Fair

10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

SRC, Full Solario

#### Teacher Ed Recruitment

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

DDH, Red Brick Road

#### Dr. Stephen Reynolds - Speaker

##### Series

12 p.m. - 1 p.m.

Library, Studio-B (ITV)

#### 12 Runner Nights

9 p.m. - 11 p.m.

Icardo Center

#### 17 Runner Wednesday

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

SU, Runner Park

#### 18 Runners Campus Church Service

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Albertson Room

#### 20 Mac n' Cheese Fest

2 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Campus

#### 22 Greek Week Games Kick-Off

11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

SU, Runner Park

Last Day to Purchase Graduate Shout Outs is May 8, 2019 by 5 p.m.

#### Fab Lab Hours:

Mon: Closed

Tues: 12:30 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Wed: 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Thur: 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Fri: 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sat: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Sun: Closed

Calendar sponsored by School of Natural Science, Mathematics, and Engineering and School of Arts and Humanities. To be included, contact [jburger1@csub.edu](mailto:jburger1@csub.edu).

## Bacon retires, staff reminisce

By Lauren Silvis  
Reporter

Steven Bacon, Dean of School of Social Sciences and Education, has had an impact on the life of students and staff at CSU Bakersfield. Just this semester, Bacon has announced his retirement after 24 years at CSUB.

"We all have so many chapters throughout our life, and while I like where my story has taken me so far, I have some additional chapters I would like to write," Bacon said.

In 1979, Bacon had just received his bachelor's from UCLA majoring in the study of religion and pre-med.

While attending graduate school at San Diego State University, Bacon spent a summer working in an emergency room, where he learned he did not enjoy the "blood and guts" of medicine, but he loved the research and academia.

Going off to receive his doctorate at the University of Minnesota, Bacon faced a life-changing decision: would he continue his track into medicine, or would he follow his heart leading him towards academics?

Spoiler alert, he chose academics.

By 1992, Bacon received his Ph.D. in clinical psychology, and completed a fellowship through UC San Diego in pain research, before moving to Bakersfield. In 1995, while working as a clinician, his chapter with CSUB began.

Bacon has been at CSUB for 24 years; 18 of which were teaching and the last six he spent in administration.

After starting as a part-time lecturer and finishing as the Dean of SSE, Bacon worked his way through every position CSUB had to offer him.

In the beginning, as a professor at CSUB,

the only university he has ever taught at, Bacon taught classes in psychology.

Bacon said, "I would get up in the morning and be excited about going to work."

"And when I started at CSUB, we were on the far west side of town. Over the years the town has grown around us and the community has grown around us."

He explained that he has seen CSUB develop into the university it is today.

Bacon said that in the beginning, the community had a hard time understanding the difference between Bakersfield College and CSUB.

But, through partnerships, and the expansion of this campus, CSUB now stands out in the community.

Dr. Kathleen Knutzen, the interim associate vice president of enrollment man-

agement and Bacon's previous mentor said, "We worked very closely together, he was a really great colleague of mine, and we were a really good team. He is an outstanding leader."

"Then, when I left, he became the interim dean for the School of Social Sciences and Education. It was a natural transition for him because he had shown such great leadership at the department level and the school level,"

Knutzen said.

Bacon thought about his chapter of administration.

"I have had the chance to impact the lives of students, but more importantly, they have impacted mine," said Bacon.

Renee Martin, assistant to the Vice-Provost explained, "During his time in

administration, he has contributed to the school's efforts in the Q2S conversion and GE transformation, Graduation Initiative 2025, acquisition of grants, fundraising in

the community, and development of the CSUB Quality of Life Center."

Taking a look into his future, Bacon said, "I really liked the challenges that I had as being a Dean, but I think teaching is great fun. I love teaching and I love the interaction with the students. I don't miss grading, but I do miss the classroom, and I hope to do some of that in my retirement."

Knutzen said, "I'm sad to see him go at this time, but he's really a person of integrity. He has a great personality: very friendly, easy to work around, work with, and is just an outstanding colleague."

"He took his time to sort through various issues and in the end, decided he wanted to take a different path at this time," Knutzen said.

Bacon said, "Sometimes when I write, I plan it all out and I know exactly how the story will end."

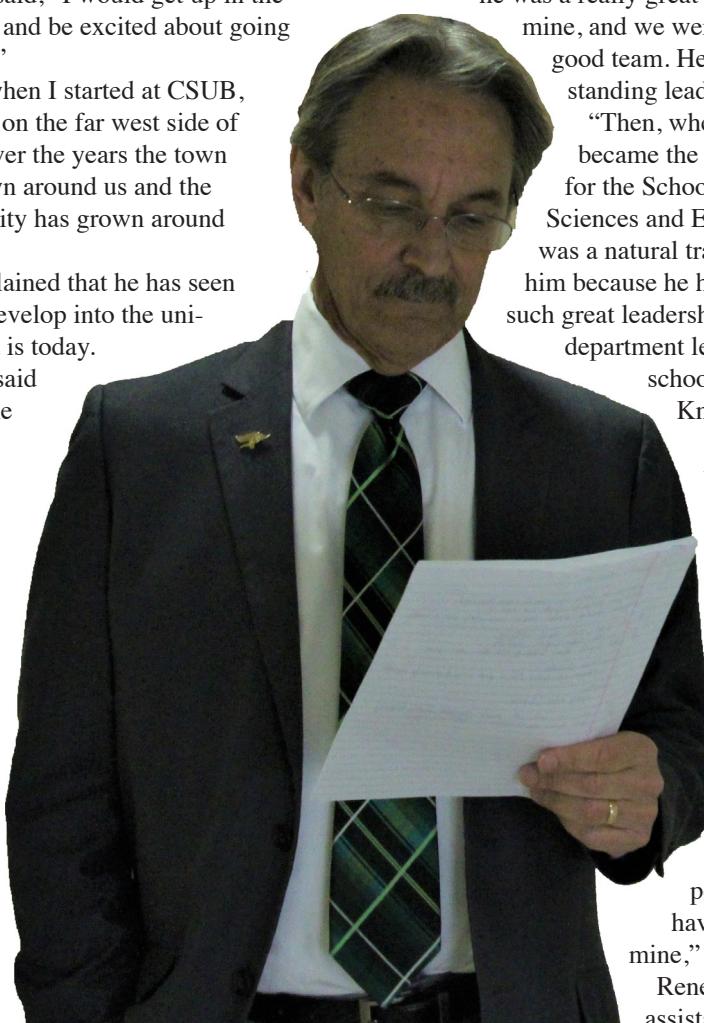
He added, "At other times, I trust the process, and a great ending just emerges, leaving me pleasantly surprised. For my retirement, I hope to do more trusting and less planning."

But he does have some plans which include traveling to Uganda this summer, reconnecting with students and increasing his political involvement in causes closest to his heart.

Bacon has had a positive impact on so many lives thanks to his time at CSUB.

As this is his official retirement, the campus will see much less of him. But, it has not seen the last of him.

Bacon will continue to change the lives of CSUB students through working on the Quality of Life Center, teaching psychology classes and writing for scholarship and the popular press.



Leo Garcia/The Runner

Steven Bacon, Dean of Social Sciences & Education, reads and walks down the halls of the Education Building.

## Poet Dixie Salazar visits Walter Stiern Library

By Sam Underwood  
Reporter

With her violet hair, shiny green outfit and large rings on nearly every finger, you can't help but notice Dixie Salazar among the simple wood and book décor of the Dezember Reading room at the Walter Stiern Library.

Her sense of style is hardly what makes her profound although she is a poet, artist, activist and humanitarian. Salazar visited CSU Bakersfield on March 27 to share her poetry as a part of the California Writers Series (CWS), organized by Marit MacArthur and the School of Arts and Humanities.

The CWS is dedicated to bringing writers to Bakersfield, in an effort expose students and the community to different genres, cultures and styles of writing. It was sponsored by the school of Arts and Humanities, Walter Stiern Library, Walter Presents, Poets & Writers, and Sigma Tau Delta, the English honor society.

Salazar, who studied under Fresno poet Philip Levine, has released five books of poetry, a novel and a young adult novel.

Salazar started the reading with some poetry from her latest book, "Voices of the Wind," written for her late husband, Jon Veinberg, who was also a poet.

Her readings go from there to another

collection that reflects her work with the homeless. Salazar is a board member for the Dakota Eco Garden in Fresno, a safe living space for homeless individuals that opened in 2013 that has helped more than 80 people become self-sufficient with their own homes.

One such success story, was of a homeless mother, who was not named by Salazar, that had lost her children and struggled with drug addiction. After coming to live at the eco garden, she went into rehab for her addiction, went back to school at Fresno City College acquiring her degree in counselling, and she regained custody of her kids. The mother is now working as a drug and alcohol counselor.

"People often say that homeless want to be homeless, maybe a small few, but in my experience, they really don't want that life," said Salazar.

In between poems, Salazar told stories of how the poems came to fruition or her sources of inspiration, adding tips and advice to aspiring authors to help with their writing.

Salazar shared a quote from her old teacher, Levine, "Phil would always tell us, 'why write about yourself when you can write about something interesting,'" she said.

English grad student Jennifer Weir said, "Getting to hear the commentary and



Chris Lopez/The Runner

Dixie Salazar speaks with the CSU Bakersfield community on March 27 in the Dezember Reading Room inside the Walter Stiern Library.

back story to her poetry makes this very interesting."

After reading her poetry inspired by her experiences with the less fortunate, she continued to read poetry inspired by her work in the prison system. Salazar has taught parenting classes at Fresno County Jail, taught writing and art to incarcerated women at Central California Women's Facility Chowchilla and Valley State Prison, and also taught poetry writing to men at Corcoran State Prison. The necklace

she wore was a gift from a woman at the Chowchilla prison.

Salazar ended the evening with poetry inspired by her heritage, one such being a poem that code switched from English to Spanish frequently truly showing her diversity and skill in writing.

Austin Yi, a senior English major, said after the reading, "I am really grateful for this program. I feel fortunate we have this access to the creative process," he said.

# Cheap spring break activities

By Samantha Cook  
Reporter

Twelve weeks of early mornings, late nights, and caffeine consumption have come and gone. Thousands of words poured into term papers and all of those 27 cent credit card and 15 cent per page transactions at the bookstore for that one Scantron you almost forgot to bring to class have made spring break a much anticipated and well-deserved week away from all of the academic chaos.

While glistening waters and white sand beaches of the most talked about spring break destinations may be flooding the 'gram this month, most of us probably aren't looking for spring break to make us spring broke. That being said, there are still inexpensive ways to enjoy the week off and take a deep breath before thinking about finals.

Though students said they did not have spring break plans, noting that the break was too short, these are some day-trip options available to make the most of the break.

## Wind Wolves Nature Preserve

Roughly a 40-minute drive from CSU Bakersfield, Wild Wolves Preserve offers the perfect escape from books and emails with expansive hiking trails and beautiful sights. This Bakersfield hidden gem boasts a 4.7 star review on Google reviews. The preserve also has gained student approval.

Daniel Sabalza, a senior engineering major said that he and his friends would be

taking a trip to Wind Wolves this spring break. Sabalza talked about the beauty of the preserve and said, "It's nice to get out of the city and see how small we really are."

Sabalza also talked about the potential to practice an activity called foraging, which he said involves learning how to live off of nature.

Foraging is about learning how to use different plants and learning which plants are poisonous or safe to touch and eat.

The outdoor website, visitcalifornia.com, mentions that Wind Wolves' 93,000-acre preserve even has natural

creeks, a waterfall and much more.

## Beach Day

If hiking isn't your thing, Bakersfield is the perfect central location for a number of beaches that are only about two hours away.

Santa Monica is the nearest beach to CSUB, at 112 miles away. In an hour and a half drive, you can be sitting on the

beach, allowing the sounds of the ocean to soothe all of the bad grade blues that midterms may have caused-just remember to apply sunscreen.

Angie Gruggett will be spending her spring break at Pismo Beach. Only 127 miles from CSUB, Pismo Beach is a great way to beat the heat and still enjoy the

central coast.

While there, Gruggett recommended a good-eat to try out the food that gave Pismo Beach its claim to fame.

"I like Splash Cafe," Gruggett said. "It has really good clam chowder."



Bre Parks/The Runner

practically begging every Californian to experience the super bloom. Spring break falls at the perfect time to witness the end of this natural wonder and beauty.

Though the many blooming fields can be seen bordering the freeway, for safety reasons and optimal viewing, it's best to visit a nature preserve. The Carrizo Plain National Monument is located 63 miles from CSUB, just west of McKittrick. There are rolling fields of wildflowers and beautiful natural features crafted by the shifting of San Andreas Fault.

## Wind Wolves Preserve

Hours: 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Location: 16019 CA-166, Bakersfield, CA 93311, Phone: (661) 858-1115

## Santa Monica (Pier)

Hours: 24 hours

Parking: \$15

Location: 200 Santa Monica Pier, Santa Monica, CA 90401

## Pismo Beach

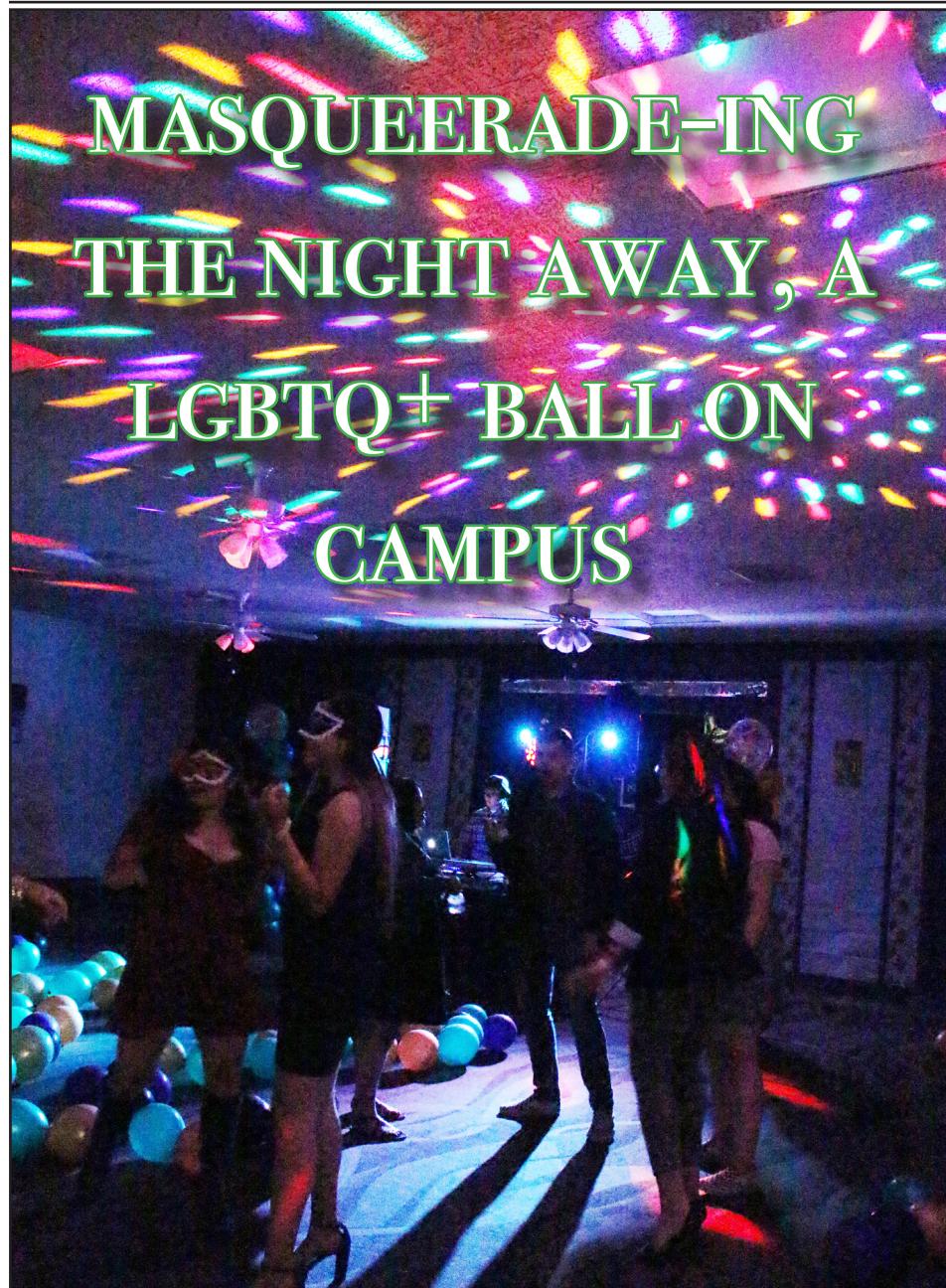
Hours: 24 hours

Parking: \$1 - \$2 per hour depending on location, or free between 4:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Location: 100 Pomeroy Ave, Pismo Beach, CA 93449

## Carrizo Plain National Monument

Location: 17495 Soda Lake Rd, Santa Margarita, CA 93453, Phone: 805-475-2035



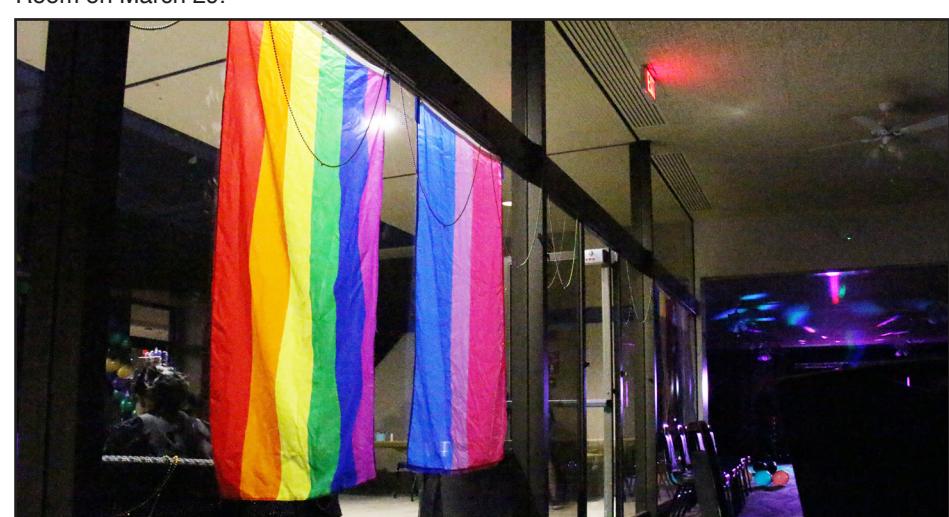
Leo Garcia/The Runner

CSU Bakersfield students dance during the MasQUEERade Ball in the Stockdale Room at CSU Bakersfield on March 29.



Leo Garcia/The Runner

From left to right, Bobbi and BreAnna Evans-Santiago, Michaela Donohue-Kim, P.K., Sarah Downie and Kris Grappendorf arrive at the MasQUEERade Ball in the Stockdale Room on March 29.



Leo Garcia/The Runner

LGBTQ+ flags down the Stockdale Room at CSU Bakersfield during the MasQUEERade Ball on March 29.

## Baseball season back and in full swing

By Chris Burdick  
Assistant Sports Editor

The 2019 CSU Bakersfield baseball team have their eyes on one goal this year, winning a Western Athletic Conference Championship.

The strength of this year's team has been the starting pitching lead by three junior college transfer students that have joined the team this season: junior pitchers Darius Vines, Ethan Skuija, and Edgar Barclay.

The three pitchers have started a combined 23 of the team's 33 games and have a combined earned run average of 2.47 this year and have registered a combined 171 strikeouts between them.

Vines has made his presence known to opposing batters, leading the Roadrunners' in strikeouts this season with 65 and holds a record of 4-2 in his eight appearances.

"I'm trying to win a WAC championship," Vines said. "I've been on some pretty talented teams in the past few years and we've just failed to win a championship so that's my one goal this year is to win."

Head Coach Jeremy Beard enters his fourth season at CSUB after being given the head coaching position for the Roadrunners in 2017.

Beard brings 22 years of coaching and scouting experience to the CSUB baseball program, including a four-year run as an



JJ Reed/The Runner

Junior infielder Tyler Jorgensen and senior Noah Barba practicing their infield defense on April 3, 2019.

associate scout in the Major League Baseball for the Florida Marlins and Boston Red Sox.

"He is very particular about what he wants out of a player," said CSUB team manager Christian Deaton. "We have a program philosophy on certain things so that's the first thing we look for."

The competitive philosophy that Beard installs in the program showed successful signs early, leading them to a third place finish in the WAC in 2017 with a record

of 32-24 after its lackluster 19-37 record in 2016.

The beginning of the 2019 season was slow for the Roadrunners. CSUB had a 2-8 record through the first 10 games with struggles on the offensive side being the main concern as the team was only able to average two runs per game.

Since then the team has hit its offensive stride. In the last 23 games the team has had a record of 13-10 and is averaging 6.14 runs per game bringing the team back

to a record of 15-18.

That record can be deceiving however when you consider that they have only lost three of their series this year so far out of the total nine.

The struggle for the Roadrunners this season seems to be in the execution on their Tuesday night turnaround games against teams like Fresno State University and Cal Poly University where they hold a record of just 1-5 on the season.

"We definitely want to play the best competition on those Tuesday games in order to keep that level of competition up we don't want to take any game off thinking we are going to roll over a team because that's not who we are," said Deaton.

Regardless of the outcome of the first few Tuesday games the team is still focused on their one goal: to win against all WAC opponents.

"Our big focus right now is the [WAC]. From here on out every weekend is a conference series so we want to take two out of three games, if not sweep every series," Ortiz said. "With these series we just have to stick to what we do best and that's just pitch really well and get guys on base."

The Roadrunner's will look to continue their battle towards WAC for the next six weeks. Starting with their next series of games against California Baptist University in Riverside, California this weekend.

The three-game series is scheduled to start on Friday April 12 at 7 p.m.

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## Team captain's favorite course is

golf



By Vanessa Villalvazo  
*Sports Editor*

Photos and illustration by Bre Parks/The Runner

but it wasn't an interest and when I got older it became more fun and interesting."

It was in high school when she knew she wanted to pursue a career in golf.

"It's really calming and it's the sport closest to life. You get some bad breaks because of things that are out of your control, but it teaches you so much about yourself and it's a very interesting game," Mills said.

Her break through moment in golf happened when she was 18.

"It was my senior year of high school, it was my first league match and I had a horrible warm up, but I ended up on the first hole eagley, which is shooting two under in one hole. So I eagled the first hole and then I ended up shooting 69 for the day, which is my low to this day," Mills said.

During her sophomore year, Macey competed in all 29 rounds and 11 events. With participating in all events and rounds she tied for most all time in a single season. She was the third on the team with an average score of 78.76 and was the fifth-best

in CSUB's single-season history. Macey also reset career-best 18-hole score at Battle at the Rock.

Besides going to school, practicing, and going to tournaments, she also volunteers.

"We put on a golf clinic that is free for young girl golfers just to get people more into the sport just because it is not popular amongst the youth," Mills said.

Mills is not just a golf player, she is the team captain.

"Team captain means leading from example. I don't like telling anybody to do anything I prefer to do my best and hope that they follow. It really means a lot because to be seen as a leader from your peers and your coach is a big deal," Mills said.

Meghan Thomason is the head coach of the golf team at CSUB and chose Mills as the team captain because of her qualities.

"It was a pretty obvious choice for me, she showed me the most leadership skills and she also showed that she's extremely dependable in pressured situations, especially in competitions. So I felt like giving

her the opportunity to be a leader on the team would only improve those qualities," Thomason said.

Jenni Chun is one of Mills teammate and just recently became good friends.

"She's really caring, funny, and she's very passionate about what she does. She's always there for me, she's just a good friend overall," Chun said. "She's our team captain, so she's the leader and she tries to be a good example for all the other teammates."

After graduating from CSUB, Mills wants to play professional golf.

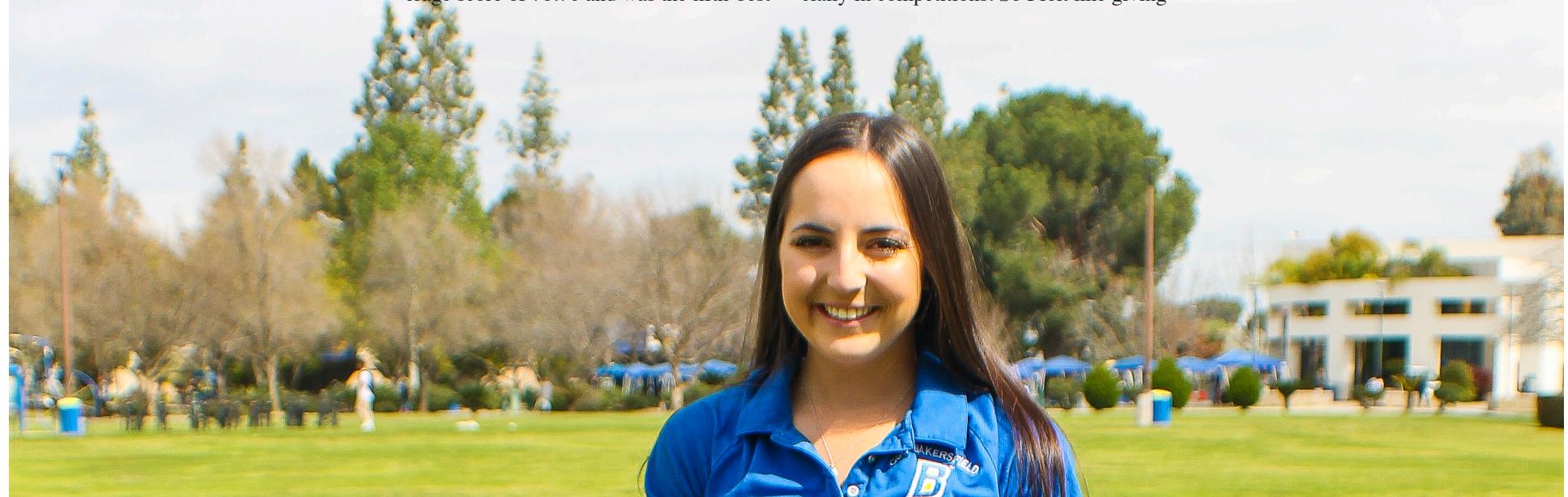
"I actually do want to go pro. I want to work in a local country club or at a country club in San Diego or Los Angeles and pursue a professional career starting with the Cactus Tour or the LPGA tour," Mills said.

Mills is the definition of a good team captain because not only does she bring out the best in herself, but also brings out the best in her teammates.

**D**oing gymnastics and playing basketball was good, but not as calming as playing golf.

Macey Mills was born in Kansas, but has lived majority of her life in Bakersfield. Her love for golf did not start at a young age as she was doing other sports.

"I started playing golf when I was 14, my freshmen year of high school," Mills said. "Prior to playing golf I was a gymnast and a basketball player and I am a really calm person, so my dad took me out to play golf when I was in sixth grade,



## RUNNER ON THE STREET

By Jessica Manzo

### "What are your plans for spring break?"

**Johnny Miranda**  
Criminal Justice



"Pretty much work. Either that or I might go camping."

**Alejandro Lemus**  
Business



"Take a trip to Disneyland or Vegas."

**Anna Chavez**  
Business



"Not much, just catch up on homework. And the beach for sure."

**Carolina Ruiz**  
Biology



"I'm planning on visiting a friend who moved to San Jose."

## The question of life is what really matters

By Rylee Smith  
Opinions Editor

The state of Georgia made a brave decision on March 29 to outlaw abortion after a baby's heartbeat is detected, usually around six weeks. The bill, known as the "Heartbeat Bill" is an important step in recognizing the Constitutional right to life that all people have in America.

Outlawing abortion at a clear sign of life such as the heartbeat is a logical decision. The baby's brain begins developing by four weeks after conception according to the Mayo Clinic, and by six weeks the brain continues to grow, along with the face. At six weeks, a baby is clearly a person, with a brain and a beating heart.

Georgia's bill was met with predictable outcry from opponents.

But the Fifth Amendment promises these unborn children that, "No person shall be... deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law."

Personally, I believe life begins at conception. When the zygote, which is "the first stage in the development of a ge-

netically unique organism," according to Encyclopaedia Britannica, attaches to the uterine walls, a life begins to take form. This is the most clear definition of the beginning of life, and the most logically consistent. I oppose abortion at any point. But Georgia's bill is a step in the right direction, and deserves positive recognition for that.

Arguments of the pro-choice movement only survive when one is willing to take only a cursory glance at them for the sake of preserving one's opinion. Giving women a choice over their bodies is an important and worthwhile goal. Giving them the choice to destroy another's body is where the problem comes in. It's not just the woman's body we're talking about. It's also her child's.

It is unfortunate that women get pregnant when they do not want to. There are already choices in place for women, though. The choices are: abstinence, contraception, adoption, and motherhood. That many people feel they cannot be satisfied with those four choices is not a good enough reason to end a life. The

only argument that matters is whether the child in the womb is a life or not; everything else is a moot point. After all, there is no justification to kill an innocent person, unless the life of his or her mother depends on it.

If you do not believe that life begins at conception, when does it begin? This question must be answered. "I don't know," is not a morally acceptable answer. Morally we must err on the side of protecting life. Disregarding life because we're not exactly sure so we'll just let the mother decide is wrong. Murder is illegal in this country, even if letting a person live will be a burden on his parents.

Some argue that life begins at viability. Once a fetus is able to live outside the womb, he or she should not be aborted. The problem with this argument is that viability changes. According to an article in the U.S. National Library of Medicine, one must take into account "biological and technological factors" when determining the viability of a fetus. Viability is situational.

If a fetus is born in a metropolitan area

with the best that technology (and her parents' money) has to offer, she may survive being born at 22 weeks. A child born at the same age in a rural area to parents who do not have access to the best medical care is far less likely to survive. Does this mean that the second child's life is not worth as much as the first child's?

All too often, I hear people say, "I think abortion is wrong, but it's not my job to tell a woman what to do." Well, why do you think it's wrong? Because it's taking a life? If a woman killed her child 3 months after he was born, we wouldn't be too concerned with telling her what to do. She would be convicted of murder, because the job of government is to protect life. Why is it unacceptable to tell a woman that she can't murder her child 3 months after birth but not 3 months before?

If you want to argue that abortion should be legal and that Georgia is wrong, you're free to do so. If you want to do it morally, you *must* explain why that child is not considered a person who deserves to live.

## Wait for your time: the drinking age is 21 for a reason, and should stay that way

By Jessica Manzo  
Opinions Writer

Spring break is just around the corner. It's that time again to plan your vacations and parties. Along with all the fun, there most likely will be lots and lots of drinking and alcohol on your check list, right?

This brings up the conversation of whether the drinking age should be lowered or remain at the age it is, 21. Personally, I am not an experienced drinker and was never into underage drinking besides a couple sips at family parties. But let's be honest, most people have at least tried a bit of alcohol before they reached the legal age.

Despite this, there is way too much responsibility that comes along with drinking that those any younger cannot handle. For that reason, the drinking age should remain at 21 years old.

Seconding this, Monica Heredia, child adolescent and family study major, states, "Age eighteen is when high schoolers are driving. They do not have much experience driving so lowering the drinking age would allow for more drunk drivers."

Recently in my Philosophy of Education course, during class discussion it was brought up by a classmate the responsibility one has when entering into adulthood.

Once 15 1/2 one can get their permit to drive. At age 18 one is considered an adult who can then gamble, play the lottery, and enroll in the military.

However, at age 21, it's finally the time one can drink despite the many other responsibilities they have thus far. But who really is to say that at age twenty years and 364 days old we are not old enough to drink until the next day?

"I feel it should be lower, if you can be in the military you can drink when you're younger. Not only that but it will lower the urge to want to drink before you're 21 and when you are older, you will resist [drinking] more. I have been drinking since I was 16. I am 23 years old now and I can't stand to go out and drink anymore," Julian Adame, communications major, states.

As others will agree, if you can have so much responsibility throughout your life thus far, you should be able to take on drinking as well.

Lauren Holbrook, communications and design major, says that most people think drinking at a lower age is a problem for brain development but "people are going to do what they want to do."

Though this is true and alcohol is easily accessible, especially high schoolers during spring break, they still should not be able to drink.

"If you go lower [on the drinking age], it would be the high school range and it would not be favorable to their education," Yesenia Leon, criminal justice major states.

*The Impact of Drinking on Psychological Well-Being: Evidence from Minimum Drinking Age Laws in the United States*

says drinking underaged can have effects for one's health, including low blood pressure, increased risk of stroke, liver diseases, kidney failure and depression.

Along with maturity, Greg Esquivel, biology major, says, "at age 21 years old, we see a major distinction between right and wrong."

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## Not every trans person fits the narrative



By Allie Page  
Opinions Writer

There is no single way to be a trans person. Trans stories vary greatly from one another – after all, we're a diverse demographic. According to the Williams Institute, there are approximately 1.4 million transgender adults in the United States alone. As with any other large group, trans people come in all personality types, ranges of interests and histories.

However, the public seems to hold a stereotypical “trans narrative”, which includes the following misconceptions:

The idea that all trans women are highly feminine from birth, and that trans men are all highly masculine.

The idea that trans women always like men and trans men always like women.

The idea that trans people “always know,” and that there are obvious signs visible to all around them prior to coming out.

The idea that transitioning is the same for everyone, and that it always ends with genital surgery.

In some ways, my story as a trans woman

fits the narrative. Some of my earliest memories were of wanting to be a woman. Seeing puberty masculinize my body was torturous. Also, I do have feminine tendencies, which has made my transition go smoothly.

But there are some discrepancies. While I was feminine, I wasn't flamboyant. While I had no masculine interests, I didn't play with Barbie dolls either, and I never pranced around or pretended to be a princess. I was more reserved. Instead, I gravitated towards art, music and science.

Furthermore, I'm bisexual and leaning towards lesbian. I was never one to go gaga over guys. Yes, it is possible to be trans and gay – the two don't cancel each other out. According to a 2015 survey from the National Center for Trans Equality, 36 percent of trans women are bisexual or pansexual, and 27 percent are gay.

My mother, who knows me better than anyone but myself, was shocked and surprised when I came out, since the signs weren't obvious. She was skeptical that I was really trans, since I didn't fit the aforementioned mold. However, she grew into my biggest supporter as my transition progressed.

None of those things made me any less of a woman. Cis women don't have to be hyper-feminine and heterosexual to be women, so why should trans women? What's really important is that transitioning has improved my mental well-being and outlook on life. I feel at home in my body now – this is who I truly am.

Even living in Bakersfield, a tight-knit conservative community, I'm far from being alone in being atypical. One of my good trans woman friends is an auto mechanic and a self-proclaimed nerd. Several of my trans man friends are interested in



1.4 million in the U.S.

Bre Parks/The Runner

makeup. And of course, not all trans people identify as men or women.

According to the American Psychological Association, 25 to 35 percent of the trans community is non-binary – that is, their gender identities are neither exclusively “male” nor “female.” Gender is a spectrum, much like colors and music. Understanding the nuances of this spectrum is crucial to understanding the true variation among trans people.

In short, there is no right or wrong way to be a man, a woman, or non-binary. It's also important to keep an open mind and open set of ears. You never know who is trans or not – it can be as obvious as an elephant in a room, or as discrete as the arrow in the FedEx logo.

## Vegan lifestyle is worth the health benefits

By Jorge Avila  
Opinions Writer

Have you ever considered going vegan? Being vegan can be difficult, as it is more than just a diet choice; going vegan is a lifestyle. If implemented successfully, a vegan diet can lead to several positive health benefits.

Going vegan means cutting all forms of animal-based product from your diet. This includes any meat, eggs, cheese or other dairy products. As a result, vegan diets consist mainly of nuts, grains, fruits, vegetables and soy.

According to Madeleine Burry, a writer for Health Magazine and author of *11 Things That Can Happen When You Go Vegan for a Month*, removing meat alone from your diet can greatly reduce the risk of several cancers. Following a full vegan diet can lead to weight loss, healthier blood pressure, improved complexion and lower heart disease risk.

In addition, Burry states, “Even after just a few weeks, the sensitivity of our taste buds for fat can change,” meaning our taste buds are able to adapt in a short span of time until eventually the craving for fatty acids is practically gone.

In just a few weeks, our bodies are able to adapt to vegan alternatives and develop new cravings for the foods being eaten. However, the shift to a vegan diet can have damaging side effects if not done correctly.

In her article, Burry cites Shilpa Ravella, a professor of medicine at Columbia University Medical Center, stating, “Gas and bloating may occur as the body adapts to increased fiber intake.”

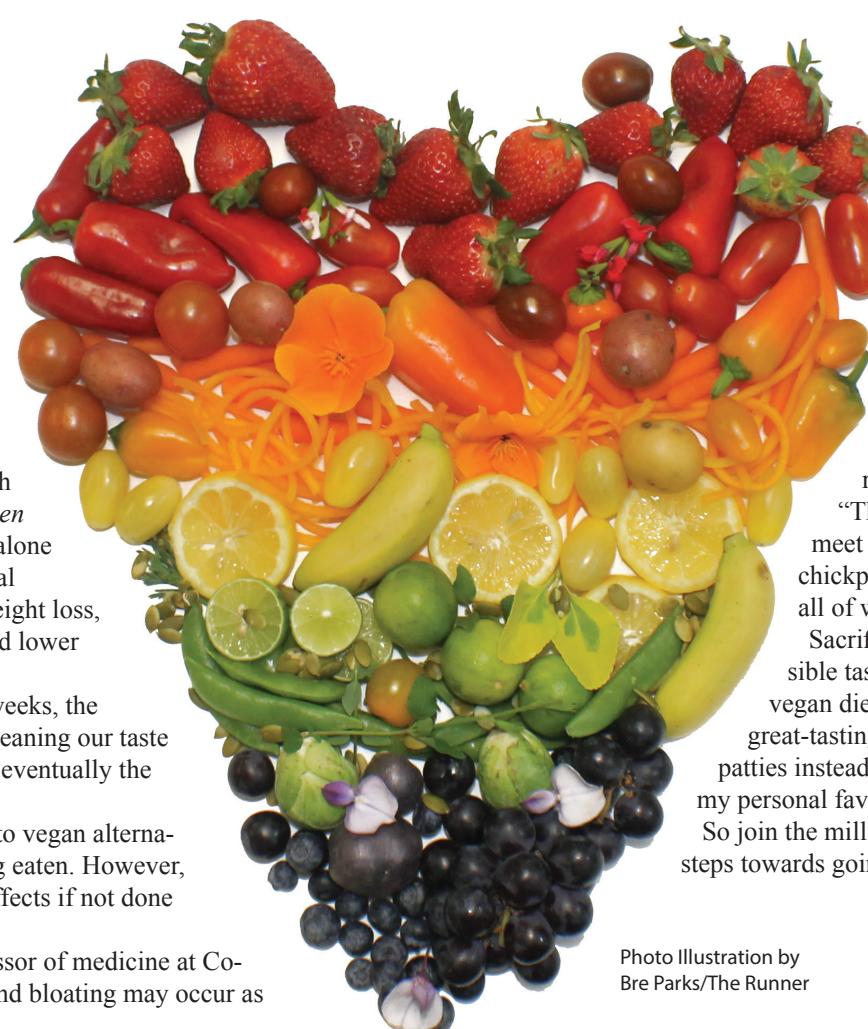


Photo Illustration by  
Bre Parks/The Runner

She also states the body can suffer from a deficiency of vitamins including iron, zinc and calcium.

This is why it is recommended for beginners to implement the diet slowly by progressively cutting various foods from their everyday meals, rather than all at once.

You may be wondering how a vegan is able to consume enough protein in a day without eating any meat. In actuality, protein intake is hardly ever a problem for vegans as there are several plant-based foods that are loaded with protein.

In an article titled *Becoming a Vegetarian* released by Harvard Health Publishing, it is stated,

“There are many plant sources that can help vegans meet their protein needs, including peas, beans, lentils, chickpeas, seeds, nuts, soy products, and whole grains,” all of which are simple foods easily added onto any meal.

Sacrificing your favorite foods can feel like an impossible task, but the long-term health benefits provided by a vegan diet make it all worth it. In addition, there are several great-tasting vegan alternatives to common foods, such as bean patties instead of meat patties, soy-based cheeses and creams, and my personal favorite, almond milk.

So join the millions of people around the world and take those first steps towards going vegan.

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