

## Robert Estrin brings piano to life



Photo and story by  
Ally Jones  
Photo Editor

Robert Estrin enchanted the crowded Doré Theatre on Sunday, Feb. 12 with his show, *The Living Piano: A Journey Through Time*. Appearing before the auditorium wearing 16th Century attire, Estrin spoke of the rich history and evolution of the piano as a musical instrument.

Three large instruments lined the stage: a piano, pianoforte and a harpsichord. Estrin explained the many different characteristics that separated the instruments. He even demonstrated the different tones and ranges of each musical device.

Estrin's engaging stage presence entertained the many diverse audience members in the Doré Theatre. Many children sat beside their parents while the elderly nodded rhythmically to the music of Mozart and Bach. CSUB students were also present for Estrin's enlightening lesson and expertly executed piano playing.

## System-wide over-enrollment hits home

By Marissa Lay  
News Editor

The \$750 million budget cut to the CSU system encountered this past year has spawned a domino effect of uproar and anguish for many of the CSU system's students and faculty.

Tuition hikes are no longer the only burden for many of the students in the CSU system. According to the LA Times, six of the 23 campuses in the CSU system are over-enrolled. This includes Bakersfield, San Marcos, Dominguez Hills and Northridge.

This year, Cal State campuses are allowed to be over-enrolled by 3 percent without facing a penalty. According to CSUB President Horace Mitchell, CSUB is expected to be over-enrolled by 6 percent.

"For next year, campuses are going to be allowed to be 5 percent over the enrollments, and we expect to be at least 5 percent over," said Mitchell during his Feb. 8 Fireside Chat.

When a CSU campus over-enrolls, certain penalties arise. According to the LA Times, CSU Northridge over-enrolled by 7 percent this year and will sustain a \$7 million penalty if it does not immediately reduce its enrollment. In efforts to do so, CSUN has capped the number of units students can take to 15 and placed strict limits on class sizes.

While CSUN is not CSUB, we could potentially be in the same situation very soon. According to Mitchell, CSUB is not currently planning any efforts to reduce or limit the amount of enrolled students.

"We have this commitment to access. And we've made a decision – a conscious decision – that, even as there are expectations that CSU campuses will be reducing their enrollments – while that might be the right strategy on a system-wide basis – that is not the right strategy in our community," said Mitchell. "Our community has a college-going rate that is about 50 percent lower than the statewide college-going rate. So we want to do everything we can to promote access."

According to Mitchell, whether or not a campus receives a penalty changes from year to year. CSUB was over-enrolled two years ago and as a penalty, couldn't keep the resources that were brought in from

[See PACKED, Page 4]

## Club Literario Hermes celebrates Spanish Literature

By Ashley Zaragoza  
Features/Entertainment  
Editor

Students are exposed to ethnic culture in the classroom, but Club Literario Hermes offers a new way to experience Spanish culture through reading, writing and field trips. Every Wednesday evening, members of Hermes study literature and learn from the personal experiences of Dr. Helia Corral.

Corral was born in Mexico City and came to CSUB in 1974. Corral has taught courses in intermediate and advanced Spanish grammar, the contemporary Spanish American novel and General Studies 290 (Club Literario Hermes).

CSUB honored Corral for outstanding faculty contributions in 2009 and then for faculty leadership and service in 2011.

CSUB alumni Judice Horta graduated in 2007 and was involved in Hermes. "Dr. Corral was very dedicated

to her students," said Horta on the CSUB website. "She was always trying to instill the importance of culture into us through her trips and presentations."

In the Hermes classroom, Corral engages her students in discussions about historical events that have influenced Spanish literature.

This quarter Hermes has studied the works of Jose Marti, Lope de Vega, Pablo Neruda, Sor Juana de la Cruz, Shakespeare and Greek mythology.

Not only do students have the opportunity to study and discuss these literary figures, members of Hermes write and publish their own pieces of literature for their annual journal.

Many students choose to publish in Spanish, but the journal welcomes all languages in all literary genres.

Junior French and Spanish major Rogelio Arias plans to publish poems and stories in Portuguese for the upcoming

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Courtesy of Hermes

Dr. Corral and Juan Carlos play with clackers at the Dia de los Muertos meeting.

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Briselda Rubio/The Runner

**BAD COMPUTERS:** (From right) Modern Languages Chair Anthony Nuño, Michael Mikita and Unai Nafarrate struggle with computers in the DDH lab.

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Andrew Rivera/The Runner

Amber Williams gets into the lane for a running jump shot against Cal Poly Feb. 8.

Seven-day  
weather  
forecast

According to  
weather.com



Wednesday  
Hi: 57  
Lo: 36  
Precip. 60%



Thursday  
Hi: 63  
Lo: 38  
Precip. 0%



Friday  
Hi: 68  
Lo: 42  
Precip. 0%



Saturday  
Hi: 66  
Lo: 41  
Precip. 10%



Sunday  
Hi: 58  
Lo: 40  
Precip. 10%



Monday  
Hi: 57  
Lo: 43  
Precip. 10%



Tuesday  
Hi: 65  
Lo: 42  
Precip. 0%

# RUNNER ON THE STREET

By Ally Jones, Photo Editor (who often writes for us too)

This week, The Runner asked, “Should there be a cap on the number of students allowed at CSUB?”



**Juan Gamino**  
Political Science  
Sophomore

“No, education shouldn’t be limited to a certain number, even if it means hiring more professors.”



**Valerie Sistual**  
Senior, Biology

“Yeah, because there’s not a lot of parking if too many people come here.”



**Sukhpreet Singh**  
Freshman,  
Chemistry

“Yeah, but it should be given first to the [students in the] community and with high GPA.”



**Melissa Lucas**  
Junior, CAFS

“Yes, the student to teacher ratio seems absurd.”

## THE RUNNER

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The Runner  
California State University,  
Bakersfield  
9001 Stockdale Hwy.  
Bakersfield, CA 93311-1099  
**Telephone** 661.654.2165  
**Fax** 661.654.6905  
**E-mail** runner@csub.edu

## editorialstaff

### EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Rhianna Taylor  
rhianna\_taylor385@yahoo.com

### OPINIONS & CHIEF COPY EDITOR

Sara Gunn  
sarathegunn@gmail.com

### NEWS EDITOR

Marissa Lay  
marisa91@gmail.com

### FEATURES EDITOR

Ashley Zaragoza  
ashleyrebeka91@yahoo.com

### SPORTS EDITOR

Steven Gaede  
sgaede@bak.rr.com

### PHOTO EDITOR

Ally Jones  
allyjones64@gmail.com  
**ADVISER/ADVERTISING**  
John Emig  
jemig@csub.edu

## newsroomstaff

### PAGE DESIGN

Alexandra Medellin

### COPY EDITOR

Haleigh Tyack

### MARKETING

**email:** runner@csub.edu

Kathryn McCoy, manager

katy\_kidwell@yahoo.com

Marian Garcia

### SENIOR WRITER/ ASSISTANT EDITOR

Paul Rivas

### WRITERS

Elizabeth Ekanem, Katherine Haas, Shelby Hill, Garrett

Ming, Paul Rivas, Ben Whipkey, Ruth Whipkey, Brian Willhite

### PHOTOGRAPHERS

Brian Farinas, Andrew Rivera, Briseida Rubio

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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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## Laptops and netbooks and tablets, why not?

By Rhianna Taylor  
Editor-in-Chief

Technology is a tense topic in today’s classroom. Pardon the alliteration. Some tech-savvy professors welcome laptops, tablets and netbooks; others ignore their presence; and still others hold them akin to cell phones and MP3 players, explicitly banning them.

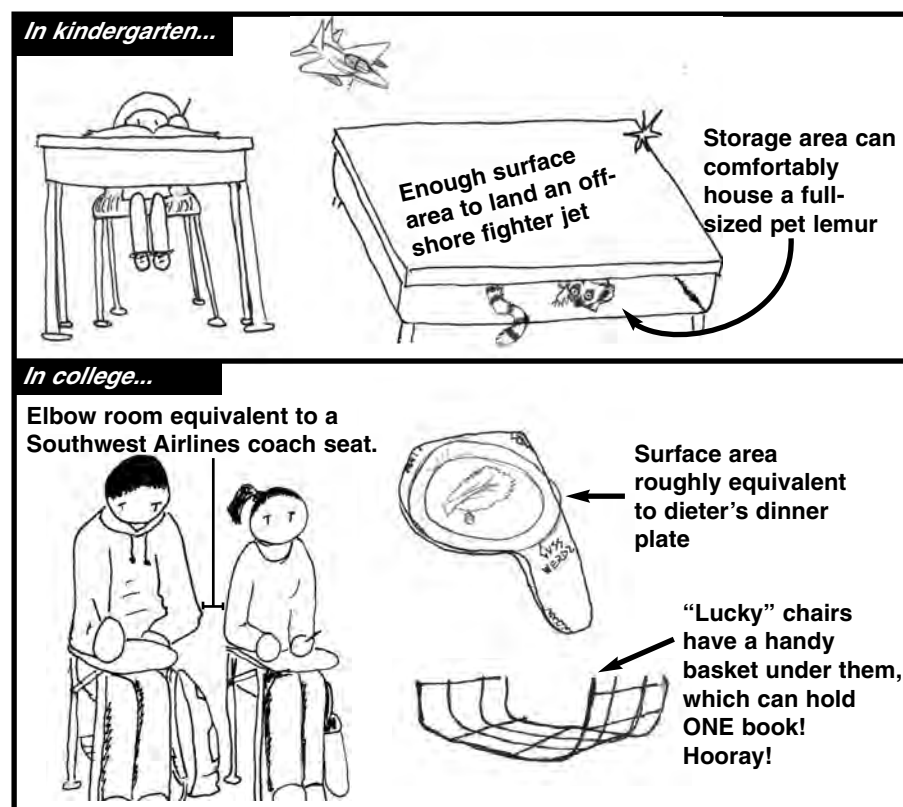
I assume this last group has three arguments. First, books, notebooks and pens work just as well as when we (professors) went to school. Second, access to the Internet is too tempting for most students, who will ignore lectures. And lastly, when students inevitably go surfing, they will distract all of the students within eyeshot.

I’m going to offer my rebuttal to each of these arguments with “visual aids” inspired by The Oatmeal and Hyperbole and a Half. No, I’m not going to explain who/what they are. Look it up. On your laptop.

### #1: Books, notebooks and pens work just as well as when we (professors) went to school.

Well, yes, when you know how to use them. However, the skyrocketing use of keyboards and voice technology over pen and paper has led to the atrophy of the hand’s writing muscles. Sure, my handwriting starts out legible but as the PowerPoint slides start flicking by at warp speed, my writing quickly starts looking like a ransom note about to be replaced with cut-out magazine letters.

Also, an interesting phenomenon has occurred with desk sizes in proportion to the size of human beings:



Gee, it sure would be great if we had a small yet virtually infinite storage space for our notes, or even a lightweight book-like device that could actually contain thousands of school texts instead of having to balance three textbooks on my knee while changing back and forth between highlighter and pen on my notepad.

### #2: Students can’t avoid the call of the web and will just pretend to be taking notes when they’re actually surfing, not paying attention to my lectures.

Before text messages and Facebook, people would pass notes to fulfill their desire to escape the drone of lecture or to comment on a blathering brown-noser. Before iPods and Angry Birds, people doodled, sneaked in magazines, etc. New gadgets, same slackers. And while I’m at it:



If these geniuses are so determined to be physically but not mentally present in class, does anyone really care that they fail?

Lastly, the big one.

### #3: When students do get on the web, they’ll distract everyone within eyeshot.

This, unfortunately, is true. The amount of distraction varies based on the content:



There is no defense for these intellectual imposters. When somebody is playing a game or watching a show during class, nobody does anything. The teacher can’t tell for sure – or refuses to stop the flow of class to call someone out – and because nobody gets a hug from mommy when they “do the right thing” and tattle on the troublemaker, most students just remain silent.

My solution? Security mirrors, like the ones in the corners of gas stations. Professors can catch movement flicking across the screen, and after a few busts, people will learn to either stop showing up or, gods forbid, pay attention.

Some might be insulted because I am suggesting the administration treat students like children. Unfortunately, there is at least one student in every classroom who is willing to act like a child and screw the system up for the rest of us.

The average student is getting more and more dependent on technology, and I suspect that in as little as 10 years, those ol’ inky papery machinations will be rendered obsolete. Let’s stay ahead of the curve, Bakersfield, for once.

## The Dispatch: Cross-town traffic

By Sgt Justin Gildner  
University Police  
jgildner@csub.edu

We live in a go, go, go society. We want things yesterday and we want to get where we need to go ASAP! Our campus community is no different as most of us already know: Law enforcement constantly struggles to find the balance between safety and convenience.

One area around campus we have recognized as being out of balance is the way some students choose to cross the streets. In particular, the way they are crossing Stockdale Hwy from the parking lot adjacent to the bike path. Too many choose ‘jaywalking’ instead of walking to the crosswalk and crossing the street legally.

What is Jaywalking?

Jaywalking is crossing the street outside of a crosswalk or away from a street corner.

Some feel that it is inconvenient to use the marked crosswalk on Don

Hart East because it is too far away from where their class is being held.

The decision to cross in between intersections and either wait on the median or time oncoming traffic is a dangerous one.

Some are in a rush and think that they can get across the street before the approaching vehicle reaches them and assume that once they’re on the roadway, the driver of a vehicle can see them crossing.

That is a bad assumption. Most of the time what we see are others assuming that jaywalking is allowed because they see others doing it. It isn’t. Jaywalking is NOT legal and you can and will be cited for it!

In an effort to stop this habit, officers from the CSUB University Police have started an awareness and education initiative. You may have already seen a few distributing informational fliers and speaking with offenders. After the initial education and awareness period is over, our officers will be issuing citations for jaywalking.



Brian Farinas/The Runner

**A mother, daughter and baby (faces blurred) jaywalk across Stockdale Highway Feb. 13.**

Jaywalking is dangerous and deadly! Each year hundreds of pedestrians are killed and thousands more are injured while crossing California streets. To avoid becoming a statistic, the UPD urges people to use crosswalks, obey traffic signals, and watch out for drivers who are distracted or who disregard traffic signals.

We understand that it is sometimes

necessary to rush because you might be late for circumstances out of your control but try and find that delicate balance between safety and convenience. Plan your arrival to campus a little earlier or purchase a parking permit which provides you access to our many available parking spaces throughout campus.

Stay Safe.



**By Katherine Haas**  
**Staff Writer**

*Are you a club or organization on campus  
interested in placing an ad in the Runner?*

Contact the Runner at **runner@csusb.edu**

Ads for student clubs and organizations are **free**.

**Hurry and submit an ad today!**

# Modern Languages computer lab short on computers

By Brian N. Willhite  
Staff Writer

The modern languages resource lab is doing without modern conveniences as students looking to utilize campus-provided assistance are having to do so with minimal means.

The computer lab, located in DDH E102, has a total of three working, Internet-connected computers for student use out of the 27 computers in the room, according to Anthony Nuño, chair of the Modern Languages Department.

Nuño said three years ago the computers were all working and able to access the Internet but was told the aging computers had to be disconnected because of a “security risk.” Since then, only three computers have been operable.

“The computers were working – some of them were a little bit harder to connect to the Internet – but they were still functioning. But then all of a sudden we hear that ‘It’s a security risk,’ and ‘We will disconnect all of your computers,’” Nuño said, adding that the computers are so “obsolete” that they can’t get any support.

Nuño is concerned about students missing opportunities to enhance their education because of inadequate learning tools. He feels that such resources are a valuable asset for student success.

“I believe that the lab is an extremely valuable tool in the learning process for students to receive com-

petency in a modern language,” Nuño said.

Nuño said that he has been requesting funding but has yet to receive any conclusive answers about when funding will be available.

“The next thing on the list is to fig-

cific software not available on other computers and that there are often volunteer lab assistants ready to help students.

Dean of Arts and Humanities Richard Collins said that the funding is not available to support buying

as we go out and talk to people and private donors and corporations, this is one of the things we’re putting in front of them,” Collins said.

Collins said that the best alternative would be to find a company looking to upgrade their own computers and

Chinese requires a lot of extra time and having a lab with proper tools is very beneficial for a student’s success.

“When you’re called upon to learn a non-European language – a language that doesn’t have the same

kind of orthography that we do – you really need to have the kind of tools that the lab hopes to equip you with,” Mikita said.

He added that “Chinese really does require some special time and dedication to those tools because we spend the vast majority of our time writing the characters but as soon as you get in front of a computer, everything you learned in class is fairly inapplicable without that further mediation. I think that’s where [the lab] plays the strongest role.”

The lab is still open for all modern language students, though resources are limited to non-web-based materials and only available on three computers.

“Right now I’m keeping the lab open because I have a couple of students working as tutors and assistants. We also

have books, CDs and DVDs. So, students who are studying Spanish, Chinese or French can at least have a place where they can go and find more resources. At least we’re offering those services,” Nuño said.

Currently over 220 students are taking language courses including Chinese, Spanish, French and Basque.



Briseida Rubio/The Runner

**New professor Unai Nafarrate (left), visiting professor Michael Mikita (middle), and Modern Languages Chair Anthony Nuno in the DDH computer lab on Jan. 20.**

ure out funding possibilities because the ideal thing would be to have the lab functioning next year,” he said.

Nuño also said that the administration had asked why students can’t utilize other computers on campus, to which he responded by saying students are often repeating sentences out loud and recording their speech, making the lab an ideal environment. He added that the labs are equipped with headphones and spe-

new computers for the lab, though efforts are being made to find funding.

“With the cuts, it’s very difficult to continue with, or even worse, to start up again to pay for 27 new computers without outside funding or without a big input of cash from Academic Affairs,” Collins said.

“One of the things that’s on our funding priorities list for the School of Arts and Humanities is the lab. So

needing to get rid of the older ones, which he said is how the lab got the computers they have now.

Collins added that the department would like to build on to the program by continuing to offer Chinese and eventually include Arabic courses as well.

Visiting scholar Michael Mikita, who volunteers his time in the classroom and as a lab tutor, expressed how learning a foreign language like

## System-wide over-enrollment hits home

[PACKED, from Page 1]

CSUB received more funding because it was over-enrolled.

“It’s a pendulum. And as this pendulum swings, we’ve made the decision that we’re not going to swing with the pendulum,” said Mitchell. “We’re going to stay steady and admit all of the students in this region who are eligible for admissions into the university.”

“We’re sympathetic to all campuses and to all students across the system,” Cal State spokesman Michael Uhlenkamp said in an LA Times article. “We can’t make expectations for what, for the most part, is an error in decision-making [by the school].”

“I believe we should make CSUB harder to get into,” said Shelby Hannah, junior liberal studies major. “If we keep allowing so many people to enroll at CSUB, we will soon be in CSU Northridge’s shoes.”

While Dr. Rhonda Dugan, a sociology

professor, understands the motivation for providing a greater access to students and over-enrolling, she feels that it, in the long run, is detrimental.

“It contributes to that problem of students not being able to get into courses. So, in addition to less class offerings, you have more people competing for less space,” said Dugan. “It’s a zero-sum game and there are going to be losers, in terms of trying to get into classes. And that’s unfortunate when you’re trying to get your degree and trying to finish.”

According to the LA Times, Cal State system officials said it is not right for campuses to allow more students to enroll when there are not enough funds to provide resources to the students.

“CSUB is already cutting professors and has over-populated classes. If we just keep allowing students [in], it then becomes not worth the money for the education we are getting,” said Hannah.

Class sizes are increasing due to the diminishing resources, and more 10-year professors are having to take on larger workloads and teach introductory courses.

“Are our classes larger than they used to be? Absolutely. Are they as large as they are on many other campuses? Not even close,” said Mitchell.

According to Dugan, she would normally allow a few extra students over the limit to enroll in her classes. However, she was unable to do so this last quarter because there were not any more seats available in her class.

“Since there are less class offerings, our class sizes are increased but the physical space on the campus are not set up for those larger classes,” Dugan said. “Those are those effects where not only funding is an issue, but the physical space becomes an issue for over-enrollment.”

## CSUB Sports Roundup

[ROUNDUP, from Page 6]

a career-high 15 rebounds for the ‘Runners acceptable effort to win the game.

### Softball

The CSUB ‘Runner softball team opened up the 2012 season with a double header on Friday at the Sportco Kickoff Classic at UNLV and lost both games – the first to Kent State 11-5 and then to No.5 Oklahoma 6-0. However, the women ‘Runners redeemed themselves on Saturday with a win against Webber State. Laura King smashed the game-winning home run to center field during the top of the seventh inning. The women acquired their first win of the season.

### Track & Field

Senior sprinter Michael Davis recorded an astonishing first place time of 6.30 seconds in the 55-meter dash, which set a record at

the Run For The Dream meet. Davis’s time broke the previous record of 6.37 set by Grand Canyon’s Mikio Bain in 2011 by 0.08 seconds.

On the women’s side, Alyssa Page clocked a time of 7.77 seconds in the 60 finals and placed eighth. Antionette Garrett set a record in the indoor 400 with a time of 58.97 and placed 13th.

Collin Ellis placed third in the weight throw with a personal best of 53-06.50. He also earned sixth place in the shot put, throwing 43-05.00.

### Water Polo

CSUB women’s water polo team was victorious on Saturday afternoon against the Triton Invitational host No. 18 UC San Diego Tritons. They came from behind trailing 9-8 to defeat the Tritons. Taylor Hanson scored the remarkable game winner with 1:57 remaining on the clock. Sadly, the

CSUB women’s polo team lost their morning game against ASU Sun Devils 16-7.

### Women’s Basketball

The CSUB women’s basketball team was not able to hold their lead from the start of the game and lost to UC Santa Barbara 57-49 on Saturday. The women ‘Runners owned the lead the entire first half. Their shooting then went cold and UCSB took over the game with a 13-0 run with 7:18 remaining and lead the rest of the way with 41 percent shooting.

### Men’s Basketball

Information courtesy of CSUB Athletic Communications  
OMAHA, Neb. – Zachary Lamb (Jr., Norcross, Ga., Miami-Dade CC) scored 22 of his game-high 27 points in the second half as the CSUB Roadrunners overcame a shaky start to beat Nebraska-Omaha 75-65 Sunday afternoon at Sapp Fieldhouse.

Lamb was limited to just five points in the first half after picking up three personal fouls but came alive with 16:56 remaining in the game scoring 15 straight points for the ‘Runners, who erased a seven point deficit to take the lead following a Lamb layup and free throw on a three-point play. Following a score by the Mavericks and a Roadrunner turnover, CSUB would get a block and then a three-pointer from Donald Johnson (Sr., Lancaster, Calif., Eastern Arizona CC) to take a 50-47 lead with 10:11 to play, they would not trail again.

Nebraska-Omaha would tie the game on two occasions in the final seven minutes, but CSUB’s defense came up big forcing three late turnovers and coming up with two steals as they hit free throws to close out the 10-point victory, CSUB’s first this season outside the state of California and the program’s first since an 82-79 win over Idaho State on Feb. 15, 2010.

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# Bakersfield streets glow under the neon lights of artist Mary Weatherford

By Brian N. Willhite  
Staff Writer

The Todd Madigan Gallery at CSUB will be hosting “The Bakersfield Project,” which features seven paintings by visiting artist Mary Weatherford. The abstract visuals offer viewers a glimpse of some of Bakersfield’s landmark roadways re-imagined in vibrant colors and neon lights.

Visiting from Los Angeles, Weatherford has been getting to know Bakersfield’s locales since October of last year to soak up what it is that makes this city unique. She wanted to embrace the ambience the city had to offer so that the show would have a life inspired by the local culture.

“I didn’t want to come here and put my artwork out in some place and not have the artwork have anything to do with the place,” Weatherford said.

Weatherford’s paintings are mostly named after streets in Bakersfield that she found had a lot of character and appeal. She was also inspired by Union Avenue’s many neon signs and the history of the street’s evolution to its current state.

“I just started doing a lot of research and I didn’t know what I was going to find. The more I saw the neon I thought, ‘Wow, look at that, and that,’ and I just had this vision of putting light into the painting,” Weatherford said.

Weatherford learned about Union Avenue’s history as one of Bakersfield’s most vibrant and spectacular streets. The contrast of change through time was very appealing and inspired the “Midnight Union Avenue”

piece, which is filled with dark colors and accompanied by a glass strip of neon orange light. She adds that it’s a “pretty intense painting.”

“I’m so interested in the life of the city and how things change and then change back,” she said about Union Avenue, adding that it was apparent what the local culture was like nowadays. She said: “I could tell because of all the hotels and stuff. I knew where I was.”

Another painting characterized by Weatherford’s visions was “Truxtun,” which has a morning blue color to it accented by orange and yellow neon lights. Weatherford said that she would drive along Truxtun Avenue often during the morning hours and was inspired by “blue-ish, misty” qualities that characterized the feel of the street.

Two of Weatherford’s paintings, “Ruby One (Thrifty Mart)” and “Ruby Two (Thrifty Mart),” were inspired by an old Thrifty Mart neon sign that had been stored away at Center Neon (a local business that helped create the neon lights used for the paintings). The glass used for the two paintings is the same glass used from the signs, which Weatherford feels is a nice touch for the show.

“What I love is that it was part of the city – actually outside hanging up – and now it’s in a painting about the city,” Weatherford said.

The other paintings included in the show are “California,” “North Chester,” and “Panorama,” which was inspired the colors visible in the sky as the sun sets down over the valley.

Some students have been assisting with the show as part of a class that allows students to work with a visiting

artist to help prepare for a show.

The learning experience is something that senior art major Renee Roy is glad to have participated in and said that watching Weatherford’s rich, expressive attitude toward creating art is something that she enjoyed experiencing.

“She gets so excited. That’s probably been the best part, just hearing what she is saying and learning from her,” said Roy, who will also be featured later this year in the senior art show.

Junior art major Tanya Darapiza found that working with Weatherford was interesting and educational because a lot of the methods Weatherford used to prepare things like the canvases and the paint were methods she was unfamiliar with and appreciated learning those new approaches.

“I know a lot about neon lights now and how the paint works with the different colored lights. We’re used to these track lights and that’s the only way that we light our paintings but, this is completely different. The paint reacts with the neon and all of that reacts with the lighting, so it’s a whole other element that we’re completely not used to,” Darapiza said.

Weatherford said that this is the first time she has incorporated light into her paintings and that she is very happy with the turnout of such an ambitious project. She also declared that the project is an “ode to Bakersfield” and its strong heritage.

“It’s the most visionary work I’ve ever done, I think,” Weatherford said. “I could just see it in my mind what I wanted, like I just imagined it and it happened.”

The show opened Feb. 9 and will be



Courtesy of CSUB Public Affairs

**Weatherford’s pieces, made of paint and neon light fixtures, will be on display at the Todd Madigan Gallery through March 10.**

open until Mar. 9.

Weatherford is represented by Brennan & Griffin Gallery in New York City. She has an upcoming solo project at LAX Art in LA in September. She has a B.A. in visual

arts and art history from Princeton University and an M.F.A. from Bard College. She also attended the Whitney Independent Study Program as a Helena Rubenstein fellow.

## ‘Zelda: Skyward Sword’ aims for the sky, misses

By Sara Gunn  
Opinions/Copy Editor

I’ve loved “The Legend of Zelda” my whole life.

No joke. One of my most vivid childhood memories is playing “Link to the Past” with my uncle, and I’ve run so many stints through “Ocarina of Time” I could probably play it in my sleep. I have the fraking Master Sword tattooed on my arm, for crying out loud. So when I say I have mixed feelings about “Skyward Sword,” I want you to really grasp my full meaning.

First, the most obvious: the controls. We all know controls on the Wii are way hit-and-miss; this one, fortunately, is a fantastic hit. When it comes to combat, this game is everything “Twilight Princess” wishes it was, and the attack/block interface is super fun and realistic. I fought more than one heated battle that got me on my feet and my family making fun of me.

Secondly, the most recent “Zelda” installment is easily the best written of the series. The plot is solid, and it contributes significantly to overall Hylian mythology - much more so than any of the handheld titles or “Majora’s Mask,” my personal favorite. It takes place much earlier in the timeline than the archetypal “Ocarina” – before humans have descended to Earth – and concerns the making of the Master Sword and finding of the Triforce, among other things.

It also finally answers the question of

why Zelda herself is so important when all she ever does is get captured and pray. Shocking, I know.

Actually, this is the first time Zelda, perhaps even more so than Link, has contributed to the actual workings of the story in any real way since “Wind Waker.” “Skyward Sword” has other things in common with the wacky GameCube title as well. It is similarly cell-shaded, though much less cartoony than its whimsical cousin. Building architecture and environmental aesthetics are a throwback to “Wind Waker,” too, as many details and reliefs throughout the world are constructed in neon and linear designs.

While the game world itself is interesting and varied (I was surprised to find the water-themed dungeon, unlike every other “Zelda” title, was my favorite area), it is a little on the small side. This isn’t an inherently bad thing; “Majora’s Mask” showed us how to make a small world, use it over and over on a loop, and keep things interesting and fresh, as opposed to making us run through the exact same environment over and over again picking up different MacGuffins.

This leads me to what I find to be a gigantic, glaring error in an otherwise awesome game: Halfway through “Skyward Sword,” I suddenly found myself in a Rare-tastic collect-a-thon à la “Banjo Kazooie.” No hate for the bear and bird, but if I wanted to pick up a bunch of color-coded bullshit items, I’d go play some bloody “Banjo Kazooie.” I expect

better from “Zelda,” especially when the series’ signature element is solving the giant, complex puzzle that is the environment - not picking up a bunch of goddamn tadpoles.

You think I’m joking. I wish I was.

There are other things about “Skyward Sword” that bug me, too. Like the Silent Realms. Remember the Temple of the Ocean King in “Phantom Hourglass,” where you couldn’t properly explore because you had invincible jerks with giant swords crawling up your ass the whole time? Yeah, that’s what the Silent Realms in this game are like, except you have the added bonus of collecting a bunch of MacGuf- I mean, uh, passing a “trial” to experience “spiritual growth.” Doesn’t that sound awesome?

And every time you fail by getting your face smashed into the ground by a comically large Phantom sword, ~~Navi~~ Midna Fi feels compelled to say, “Master Link, I can unfortunately confirm that you have failed to pass the trial.” Every. Time.

Thank you, Captain Obvious. I’ll show you some SPIRITUAL FUCKING GROWTH. And then I’ll go spend another hour collecting bugs.

All of this, while it does make me frustrated and angry, ultimately just makes me sad. Like I said before, this is easily the best-written of all the “Zelda” games, including “Majora’s Mask” and “Twilight Princess,” but it stumbles so hard in the second half that it almost becomes unplayable – for a time, anyway, as I did find myself enjoying the endgame sequence. The final boss fight was also awesome and, frankly, quite challenging – an unfortunate rarity in the “Zelda” universe.

Even with all its flaws, true fans will find something worthwhile in “Skyward Sword.” They will also, most likely, find themselves grinding through some portions because they know better things are coming. I can’t sum up my whole feeling on this game in a single statement; it’s far too much of a clashing, competing mess of tropes for that.

I can say, though, that I would ultimately like to see Nintendo return to the older “Zelda” formula, where the world itself is a complex character worth getting to know and all the layers don’t seem like the same ol’ thing, re-dressed to save time and money.



Courtesy of digitatrends.com

**Link fights creatures that are totally not created in Ganon’s image. We swear.**

## PEAK Club hosts Valentine’s Day Run

By Elizabeth Ekanem  
Staff Writer

The Physical Education and Kinesiology Club at CSUB had its annual Valentine’s Day Run. The event took place in front of the Icardo Center on Saturday, Feb. 11, and started at 9 a.m. Runners and on-lookers participated in the slightly cold weather but were pleased to be there. The event hosted the 5 and 10k runs.

Most runners looked tired and consumed a lot of liquids. Carol Foxe Abrams, who moved to Bakersfield in August, was exhausted. “I came here today because I used to run in San Diego,” said Abrams. She heard about the event and decided to come and participate because she liked it. “I have not done it before so I want to challenge myself,” she said.

Her goal was to finish because she had been in a half marathon prior to moving to Bakersfield and wanted to make sure she finished this time. Since she had not run in a long time, her body felt different. “I feel like I’m starting over and can’t breathe,” Abrams said. Abrams also thanked the sponsors for helping out with the event. “This is the first time I have been to this campus so I know whatever they are doing is for the good of the community.”

She urged individuals to get involved in these events and plans to participate in later ones because it is good and healthy. She said, “I feel the club can grow if they continue creating these outlets for individuals who probably have no other option.” She said she will certainly get her co-workers involved next time and try to beat her time of 49 minutes and 55 seconds.

Some participants recall their first time at the event. Maya Rocha has been running for three years and although she was never satisfied with her scores, she aspires to improve. “I am not a runner so I try my best,” said Rocha. She said the event is very important to her because she loves to challenge herself and hopes to support the club in any way she can.

Brooklyn Patterson also echoed Rocha’s experience. Patterson ran three years ago at this event and has been running since she was in middle school. “Once you are a runner, you cannot get it out of your system,” said Patterson.

Her husband Tyler Patterson wished to follow in his wife’s footsteps for support. “I really want to be here because my wife has always been running so I want to do it for her,” he said.

The event was successful and those who participated seemed to really be enjoying themselves. Even those who weren’t running had a great time at the event. Everyone can certainly look forward to next year’s run.



Ally Jones/The Runner

Grant Campbell takes a swing during practice on Feb. 12. The 'Runners are preparing for upcoming baseball season, set to open Feb. 18 in a home game with the Big 12's Kansas State.

## Baseball puts in last-minute preparations for 2012 season

By Garrett Ming  
Staff Writer

On Saturday, Feb. 18, the CSUB baseball team will open its season at home with a three-game series versus Big 12 conference member Kansas State.

From 2009-2011, Kansas State had seven players get drafted in the top seven rounds of the Major League Baseball draft. They are the first team on a challenging schedule for the poised 'Runners.

A month later, CSUB will travel to play a three-game series against Pac-12 conference member University of Southern California, perhaps the most successful collegiate baseball program in history, as they have collected twelve national titles. Once the 'Runners conclude at USC they will travel to the Atlantic Coast to take on another nationally ranked team.

In May, the team will visit North Carolina State, which, according to Head Coach Bill Kern, has the best team they've had in recent history.

Weeks later, the 'Runners will go back to Southern California to take on UC Irvine. In 2007, UC Irvine went to its first College World Series and since has continued to build its program to a level of national prominence.

"Results will take care of themselves, if we take care of all the ingredients that goes into winning baseball games," said Kern.

The team has been practicing six days a week, preparing for a season that is full of anticipation due to last season's success and this year's high-profile opponents.

CSUB returns key players such as

sophomore infielder Oscar Sanay, who batted .355 and led the team in hits; senior outfielder Andrew Letourneau; senior infielder DC Legg; junior outfielder Kevin Younger; and senior pitcher Spenser Messmore. The team will be without pitcher Jonathan Montoya due to injury.

In addition to several players coming back, Kern also added defensive coach Mike Mayne to his staff.

"He is one of the best coaches in the nation so he will have a major impact. He will work on our defense, specifically our infield and catcher. Defense, as in all sports, often determines whether a team is successful," Kern said.

Next season CSUB will join a rebuilt Western Athletic Conference. Athletic Director Jeff Konya said on the Western Athletic Conference website, "It's a testament to the excellent work done by our coaching staff, student athletes and our program."

Kern is eager toward the possibilities that come with a conference affiliation. "It is great to have a conference championship to play for and earn an automatic bid for the NCAA tournament," said Kern.

Last year CSUB finished the season with a

33-22 record and a RPI of 53, which was an improvement from their previous season where they went 26-30. The baseball program is only four years old but progressing to becoming a national title contender as quick as any other of the CSUB athletic programs. This year's schedule provides many benchmarks to gauge the level of success of the young Division I CSUB baseball program.



Ally Jones/The Runner

Chuck Buchanan winds up to throw the ball at CSUB's baseball practice on Feb. 12.

## Mustangs gallop through the paint

By Steven Gaede  
Sports Editor

Cal Poly's women's basketball team outshot the Roadrunners 95-78 Feb. 8.

The San Luis Obispo Mustangs dominated the paint and the game. Cal Poly got off to a quick 6-0 lead thanks to Kristina Santiago. She played a huge part in the Cal Poly win which saw no lead changes throughout the game.

"We came out really slow, sluggish, [and] did not do a good job of transition defense," Head Coach Greg McCall said.

CSUB kept Santiago under control in the first half only allowing her to score six points but it was quite a different story in the second half. Santiago went off in the next 20 minutes of play, earning herself a double-double by scoring 22 points and by coming up with 11 rebounds.

"She did it again, she is a great player. She has done that against top notch teams in the country," McCall said. "You can see why she is averaging 22 points a game."

Most of Santiago's points and more than half of the points Cal Poly scored throughout the game came in the paint. The Mustangs scored 62 points in the paint and a total of 39 points off of fast breaks; CSUB did lead in points off of turnovers 18-17, but the effect it had on the game was minuscule compared to the large number of missed shots CSUB had in the early going. It also did not help CSUB that the Mustangs came up with 24 rebounds in the first half, of which 21 were defensive rebounds.

CSUB made nine shots in 33 attempts in the first half. The 'Runners could not get anything to go into the basket; whether it was three-pointers that went in-n-out of the hoop or shots that found the side of the back-

board, nothing was going in. Going into halftime down 44-24, Bakersfield's accuracy from behind the three-point line was a major talking point in the locker room. "[In the] first half we shot a lot of threes, which we did not want to do," said McCall. "That is something we talked about from the beginning of the game."

McCall must have gotten through to his team at halftime because his squad played much better in the second half, outscoring Cal Poly 54-51. Bakersfield's shooting percentage in the second half was much better in every category, especially from behind the three-point line.

CSUB, 2-of-14 from distance in the first half, came into the second half with something to prove, making 10-of-14 from distance. Freshman guard Brooklynn Hinkens was not able to get a lot going in the first half, making one-of-seven shots, but she erupted in the second half by making four threes. Senior guard Kristine Herman made three of the 10 CSUB threes in the second half, while junior guard Ciarra Ford had two and junior guard Amber Williams had one. The 'Runners played like a completely different team in the second half, but it was too little, too late.

"They were the better team tonight," McCall said. "They were hot; they shot 64 percent for the game."

By the end of the game, CSUB had five players in double digits: Ford led the 'Runners with 19 points, junior forward Lauren Carter scored 17 points, Hinkens tallied 16, Williams had 11 and Herman earned 10 points.

CSUB will travel to Cal State Fullerton for a 7 p.m. game Feb. 16. The team will then return home to host Northern Arizona at noon Feb. 19.



Andrew Rivera/The Runner

Amber Williams shoots a lay-up past two Cal Poly defenders at CSUB's Icardo Center on Feb. 8.

## CSUB Sports Roundup

Courtesy of CSU Bakersfield  
Athletic Communications  
Compiled by Paul Rivas

### Women's Golf

Freshman Roadrunner Lauren Holbrook carded an 82 to lead the CSU Bakersfield women's golf team in the season's first tournament at the Super San Diego Women's Collegiate Golf Championships on Monday. Holbrook shot 41 on the front nine and the same on

the back nine and was tied for 16th place heading into the final round on Tuesday.

She finished her outstanding tournament debut by shooting a two round score of 162 to finish in tie for 11th place. The CSU Bakersfield women's golf squad improved as a team on the second day of the tournament. They jumped from 12th to 10th place in the 19-team bracket in which the women finished with a team score of 679.

### Men's Basketball

Poor shooting and turnovers during the second half caused CSUB to lose their seven point lead, which turned into a double digit deficit that the Roadrunners could not recover from and lost Wednesday night against Texas Pan-American 73-67.

CSUB led 47-40 with 10:46 remaining, then went four minutes without a single basket and turned the ball over four times. Pan-American

countered with a 19-2 run that solidified their win. The Roadrunners played fairly well during the first half in which they led most of the time.

Stephan Carter was the leading score with 19 points on 8-for-10 shooting. Carter's scoring on Wednesday placed him in 9th place on CSUB's all time scoring list with 1,069 points. Rashad Savage added

[See ROUNDUP, Page 4]  
[ROUNDUP, from Page 6]

### Athlete of the Week

Men's basketball at  
Nebraska-Omaha  
Feb. 12.

Junior guard Zachary Lamb scored a game high 27 points in the 75-65 win over the UNO Mavericks.



### Athlete of the Week

Women's softball  
vs. Weber State  
Feb. 11.

Redshirt junior and center fielder Laura King hit the go-ahead home-run in the top of the seventh, resulting in a 5-4 'Runner win.

