

THE RUNNER

California State University, Bakersfield

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THE BIG STORY

The email heard around campus

CFA strike explained at ASI meeting

By Javier Valdes
Assistant News Editor

As the CSU Bakersfield faculty prepares for possibly the largest strike in the history of higher education, the Associated Students Inc. board invited CSUB’s California Faculty Association chapter president Doreen Anderson-Facile to inform the board about the five-day-strike.

Anderson-Facile explained why it’s happening, what students can expect throughout its duration and addressed the memorandum sent out last week by CSUB president Horace Mitchell.

In the memorandum sent out last week, Mitchell notes that “classroom time cannot and should not be used by faculty to discuss issues related to the strike.”

Anderson-Facile said that students have the right to ask and right to talk.

Academic Senate member and CSUB counselor Janet Millar pointed to the academic freedom of speech and encourages students to ask questions about the issues affecting both faculty and students.



Chris Mateo/The Runner

During last week’s ASI meeting, the board listened to CFA Chapter President Doreen Anderson-Facile discuss the five-day strike.

“In the letter that came out there was a suggestion...that faculty are not supposed to talk about the strike during their classes,” said Millar. “We have academic freedom and we can speak in there, and if you have questions for your faculty, please ask.”

Since the CFA announced its proposed five-day strike, many questions as to how this will affect CSU students have been raised.

Anderson-Facile dismissed rumors that the strike would cause a delay in graduation for

students.

“It’s not going to change your graduation date. It’s not going to affect your grade,” said Anderson-Facile. “You might miss a chapter, or you may be told to read a chapter on your own.”

Anderson-Facile noted that CSUB has been down this road before when faculty furloughed and reduced their classes by 10 percent, “It did not affect the students then, just as this will not affect you at this point,” said Anderson-Facile.

Anderson-Facile continued stating that the reason for the

strike dates back to the faculty’s 2007 contract. “The economy dropped and we did not get a raise for 2007, 2008, 2009,” said Anderson-Facile. “Then in 2010...we furloughed...we took a 10 percent pay cut because we need to hang on to professors...because the governor wasn’t giving us enough money.”

In order to not lose professors, the faculty decided to take the 10 percent decrease.

[ASI, Page 2]

Faculty has right to discuss strike

By Patricia Rocha
News Editor

In a campus-wide memorandum sent Feb. 23, CSU Bakersfield President Horace Mitchell addressed the California Faculty Association’s preparations for a five-day strike in April. In the memo, he assured students that alternate assignments or canceled classes will not negatively affect student’s grades or graduation requirements.

A note on the second page summed up four reminders:

- No one should feel compelled to side with either the CSU or CFA’s position in the negotiations;
- Class time should not be used to discuss the strike;
- Students cannot support the strike in exchange for class credit;
- Striking faculty cannot prevent student access to campus.

As all 23 CSU campuses prepare for the possible strike, many of these types of memos are going out to students, and the CFA wants to make it clear that the faculty does have rights when it comes to talking to their students.

“In the tradition of Academic Freedom, we fully expect faculty members to discuss appropriate and germane topics within their classrooms. To be sure, faculty members can talk

about issues that are relevant to the classroom, which can include the strike, the situation of faculty, student fees and debt, and the CSU as a public agency,” read the CFA website page “Faculty Rights Tip of the Week.”

In the CSU Frequently Asked Questions page Mitchell attached to his memo, it states, “Faculty members may use class time to give students information such as changes to the class schedule or alternative assignments if the class will not be meeting as scheduled. In general, however, faculty members cannot and should not use classroom time to discuss other issues related to the strike, unless such a discussion is directly relevant to the content of the course.”

“That will not be true in the vast majority of cases. Even if the discussion is relevant to the course content, faculty should not use this opportunity to insert their own opinions or try to persuade students to support or oppose the strike.”

Related story

Check out our staff editorial on President Horace Mitchell’s campus-wide memorandum on page 5.

OBITUARY

CSUB alumna dies of cancer; service set for Sunday

By Lindsay Costa,
Melissa Maddux and
Adriana Ruvalcaba
The Runner Staff

Elizabeth Ascencio, a CSU Bakersfield alumna and member of the Phi Sigma Sigma sorority, died of cancer on Feb. 17.

She was 24 years old.

A memorial service will be held on campus in the Student Union Multipurpose Room on Sunday, March 6 at 3 p.m. The service is open to all students.

Ascencio was born on Nov. 27, 1991. She was a business administration major focusing on management and graduated from CSUB last spring. She is remembered by many

as a friendly, outgoing young woman.

Gloriann Ruiz, Phi Sigma Sigma’s adviser and a financial aid assistant at CSUB, was in the chapter with Ascencio when Ruiz was a member.

She said Ascencio was a personal friend and touched the hearts of everyone in the sorority.

“She was very outgoing, always the life of the party,” said Ruiz. “She’s the type of person that if she had a problem, you wouldn’t even know unless you were like super close to her because she always had a smile on her face. She was friendly with everybody.”

Ascencio would frequently participate in community

service activities with her sorority and would partake in fundraising events such as Relay for Life. Ascencio had made it a priority to bond with other sorority sisters. Ruiz said in a sorority with over 50 girls, making personal relationships with everybody can be difficult.

Even so, Ascencio would still take the time to build connections with fellow members.

“She wasn’t like a clique-y person,” said Ruiz. “She would always be the type of sister that saw you, she’d talk to you (and) she’d welcome you. She had a warmth about her that you would always want to approach her for anything really.”

Sorority sister Deslyn Joseph, 21, was a good friend of Ascencio



Courtesy of Dylan Knight
CSUB alumna Elizabeth Ascencio, 24, died on Feb. 17.

cio and remembers her positivity and kindness.

Fellow sorority sister Vanessa Gutierrez, 23, said Ascencio

was one of the reasons why she wanted to join Phi Sigma Sigma. During the recruitment interviewing process, Ascencio helped her break out of her shell.

She remembers Ascencio as a person who had “a fun side, always laughing and smiling.”

“(She was) always there for anybody that really needed her — a phone call away or anything like that — that is what I will miss about her the most,” said Gutierrez.

She will also remember Ascencio for her enthusiasm and outgoing personality. Gutierrez said that towards the end of last year, Ascencio found out she had cancer and was getting treatment thereafter.

The news of Ascencio’s cancer diagnosis came as a shock to many members. Around the same time she had attended a wedding and looked fine.

“She looked like she was happy and we were all hoping that things were going to get better, so it came as a shock,” said Ruiz.

Ruiz encourages everyone at CSUB to attend Ascencio’s memorial service.

“She touched a lot of people on campus and even if you didn’t know her, if you want to show support, because it is hard to lose someone so young. Especially someone that was just here walking the halls with everybody and in classes with people,” said Ruiz.

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CAMPUS

Lancaster axes Comm

By Abigail Youngblood
Archivist

The communications department at Antelope Valley College will no longer be offering the major to students as the department officially closes its doors.

“Anyone who was in the program prior to this winter quarter will be able to finish,” said Randy Schultz, the interim dean of the CSU Bakersfield Antelope Valley campus. “The communications department is reviewing everyone’s transcripts and developing a program that they can follow in order to graduate from the AV campus.”

The program will no longer be offered, but classes will continue to be offered to those who were enrolled before the winter quarter before the program will officially close.

The closure is ultimately due to the small class size numbers. “It is difficult to keep a program open over at the AV campus when there are too few majors to sustain it,” said Schultz. “We have a total of 15 communications majors on our campus at this time. Some are juniors and some seniors.”

He said a full program should consist of 40 to 50 students. “To confirm, the Comm. students who are enrolled [before the winter quarter] they will finish their BA in Communications,” said Judith Pratt, chair of the communications department.

Other majors shouldn’t fear. “The other programs at the Antelope Valley campus are healthy and are continuing,” said Schultz.

However, communications majors are feeling left out in the cold.

“I got an email on Dec. 10th of last year, 2015, and it said that because I was admitted to CSUB, like this is my first quarter so it said that I was admitted to the school by error and they are fazing out the communications program,” said communications major Marie Aguirre, 24.

“He [Schultz] said that if you are enrolled in a program, then you don’t really have much to worry about. They will make accommodations for you to graduate and finish your major; except for me because it is my first quarter here, so I was singled out that I can’t finish there,” said Aguirre.

She was the only one in that small class consisting of five to six people that will not be continuing on with the program at the AV campus.

“They advised me to switch majors and in order for me to switch majors at this campus I still need a lot of prerequisites. It would take me at least a year to get back to where I am right now in a different major,” said Aguirre.

At this point, Aguirre is unsure of what her future holds as she looks to other schools but she is determined to continue forward.

MEETING



Andrea Flores/The Runner

ASI board of directors gets ready for its weekly board meeting on Friday in the ITV Studio Center C.

ASI gathers strike info

[ASI, Page 1]

Although the faculty’s pay went back up the following year, it did so without a raise.

It wasn’t until 2014 that the faculty received a 1.6 percent raise across the board, said Anderson-Facile.

However, this raise made little to no difference for the faculty. “Do you know that there’s faculty on this campus, that have Ph.D.’s, that are making \$39,000 a year?” asked Anderson-Facile. “Think about your student loans and add that up through a Ph.D.”

Anderson-Facile mentioned how there are faculty at CSUB that have lost their homes over the last five years and some that are filing for bankruptcy.

“Don’t get me wrong,” said

Anderson-Facile. “There are faculty on this campus that are paid well and the reason why is because they’ve been here forever.”

According to Anderson-Facile these professors got all the raises offered in the ’90s and early ’00s.

“We have voted for a strike because it’s a matter of principle at this point,” said Anderson-Facile. “The administrations are getting raises, the community colleges are getting raises, the UCs are getting raises. We are not, and we work hard.”

Anderson-Facile is optimistic that the CFA will make an agreement with the Chancellor’s Office, and be done with this.

But notes that they are ready to strike if no agreement is reached.

The support for the strike is strong said Anderson-Facile, stating that there’s been an email indicating that there is not a real strong following for the strike, but she notes that this is “painfully inaccurate.”

“We have only ran into three faculty so far that aren’t willing to strike,” said Anderson-Facile

As for the strike, the CFA faculty is prepared to strike April 13-15, 18 and 19, if an agreement is not reached.

It will go on from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m., where participating faculty will block all five gates, but will let every student through the proposed “peaceful strike.”

The faculty is currently working with the University Police Department to make sure everything is as safe as possible during the five-day-protest.

As for what faculty can do to inform students on the situation, Academic Senate member and CSUB counselor Janet Millar said that the senate would be sending information out reaffirming the academic freedom of speech.

As for the parking fee increase, the ASI board motioned to table the issue and is expected to be voted on during next weeks meeting.

ASI meets every Friday for its weekly board of directors meeting from 3:15 p.m. to 5 p.m.at the ITV Studio Center C.



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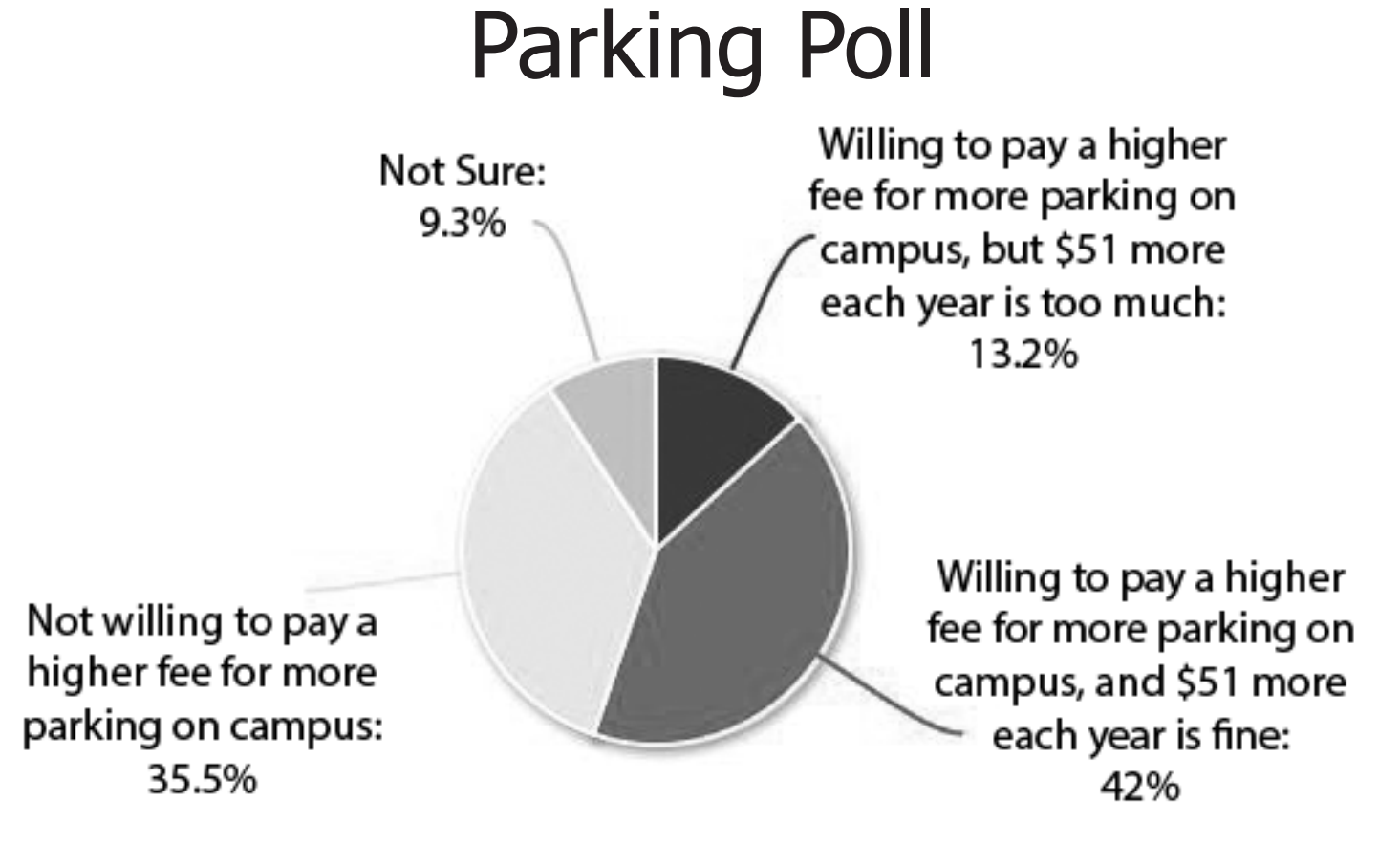
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Patricia Rocha/The Runner

The Runner staff randomly polled 250 students and asked them how they felt about the \$51 annual parking fee increase proposed to fund new parking lots on campus. ASI will be voting on the proposed increase as well as proposed lot locations during their meeting on Friday, March 4 at 3:15 p.m. in the ITV Studio Center C, located in the lower level of the Walter Stiern Library.


CORRECTION

Student Recreation Center Sports Coordinator Kareem Bland bounced a giant volleyball off his head in a photo on pages 1 and 3 in the Feb. 24 edition of The Runner. The photo caption had an incorrect identification.

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SCHOLARSHIPS

Funds still around for students

By Gina Butler
Staff Member

The last day to achieve priority filing, which gives students the opportunity to be considered first for CSU Bakersfield scholarships, has arrived.

The official priority deadline is March 2.

CSUB offers millions of dollars in scholarships to eligible students each year. Students who have already filed their applications will be given first consideration during the selection process. However, students are still encouraged to apply after this date.

“This year we disbursed out, so far, about \$2.8 million,” said Chad Morris, interim director in the office of financial aid and scholarships at CSUB. “Last year we did a total of \$3.2 million.”

That amount includes endowments, external scholarships and athletic scholarships.

“The endowments are considered our in base,” said Tanae McCall, who is the academic scholarship coordinator at CSUB. “Those are our internal CSUB scholarships from donors.”

Endowments are donations that are placed in interest-bearing accounts.

“How much interest they bear determines how much we disperse out for them,” said Morris.

External scholarships are donations given by a group or individual and provide a student with scholarship help for that year.

Athletic scholarships take up the bulk of the total amount awarded to students each year.

Student athletes are sometimes offered scholarships by several schools and the student is given the opportunity to pick what works best for them. They do, however, have to complete renewal paperwork each year, according to junior environmental management student Ariana Mariscal.

Mariscal is a cross-country and track and field athlete at CSUB.

It’s not that they don’t apply, they actually probably start the application (but they don’t finish... Either they forget about it, stop, or they fear the essay.”

Tanae McCall,
Academic Scholarship Coordinator

“Here at CSUB my coach, she just like realized that she really did want me to participate here at CSUB, so she gave me a really reasonable scholarship and I thought that it was the best offer I should take compared to other offers I had received,” said Mariscal.

“Of that [\$2.8 million] about \$420,000 were our endowment scholarships,” said Morris. The rest were external and athletic scholarships.

The internal scholarships are awarded to about 300 to 350 students. Many students receive more than one, according to McCall.

The donors of those internal scholarships set their own criteria to determine eligibility.

However, Morris said there are certain things that they can’t specify, like for a certain race or male or female.

“It’s got to be open for anyone to apply,” he said.

Scholarships that don’t get disbursed don’t get wasted.

According to Morris, most of the time, less than 4 percent of available scholarships aren’t awarded each year.

That 4 percent is a result of students not applying, not meeting criteria, or graduating before they were able to collect the remainder of the scholarship.

“That remainder amount doesn’t get lost,” Morris said. “It just rolls into the next year.”

Students don’t apply for different reasons.

Senior public relations major Justin Pool said he wasn’t aware that CSUB offered scholarships.

He said he didn’t really need a scholarship since he gets financial aid and wasn’t aware they were easily accessible.

“It’s not that they don’t apply,” said McCall. “They actually probably start the application, (but) they don’t finish.”

This is why the financial aid and scholarship department started the workshops.

“Either they forget about it, stop, or they fear the essay,” said McCall.

Having to write an essay to be considered for a scholarship is something that stops many students.

“There was this one scholarship and I was going to apply for it,” said senior liberal studies major Laysha Morgan, “and it was like, ‘you have to write four essays and each topic has to be like three pages or more’ and the scholarship was only for like \$250.”

It is important for students to be aware that not all scholarships will require this much work and there is help in applying for them if they attend the workshops hosted by the financial aid and scholarship department.

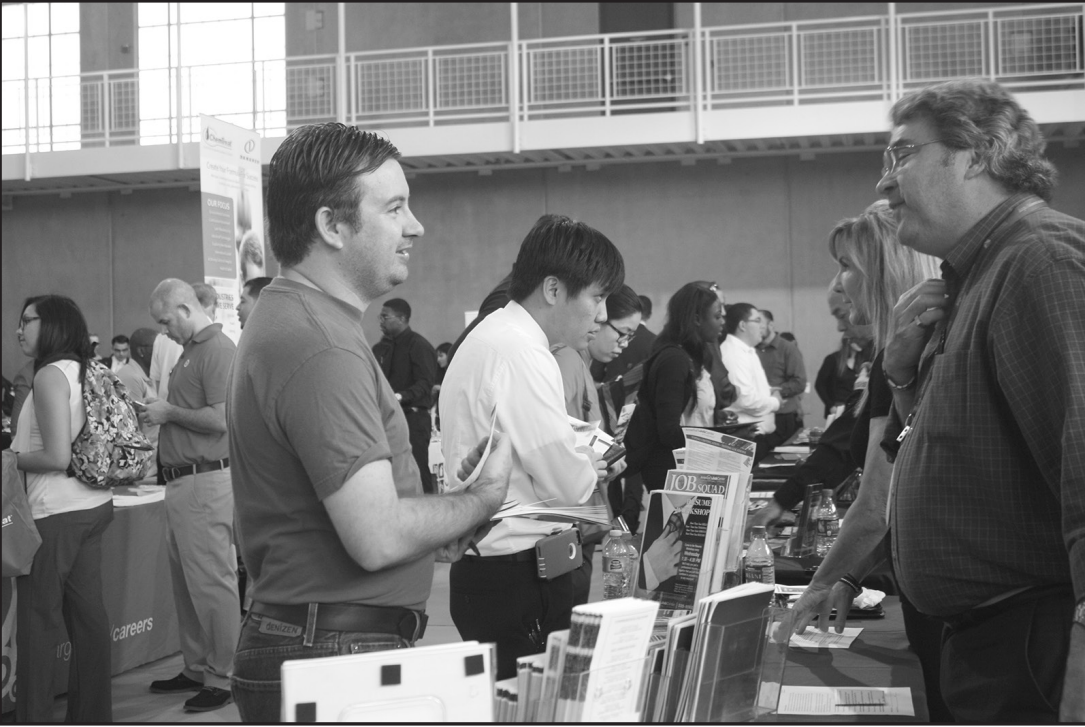
Over the past few years CSUB’s financial aid and scholarship department has been doing a lot to get the word out about available scholarships and the number of students being awarded scholarships has grown.

They give presentations at orientations and open houses. They hold the financial aid and scholarship workshops, run ads in The Runner, run a Facebook page and send emails out to students.

CSUB students have many resources available for them to help pay for college. The resources are also there to help you complete the process of applying for those scholarships.

“Just go for it,” said Mariscal. “Just apply for them.”

CAMPUS



Karina Diaz/The Runner

Jason Miller speaks to a representative of American Job Center at Career Day inside the Student Recreation Center gym on Monday, Feb. 29.

Jobs aplenty at CSUB fair

By Annie Russell
Assistant Features Editor

Dressed in slacks, dresses and flats, students crowded into the Student Recreation Center gymnasium with several copies of their résumés.

CSU Bakersfield held its first Career Day of the year with much to offer to CSUB students as far as networking and hiring.

Communications major Daniela Miramontes, 22, came dressed to impress.

“I’m here for some networking. I’m really close to graduating,” said Miramontes, who was hoping to network with different companies.

Miramontes was delighted that the event setting had changed from outdoors to indoors.

“Indoors is better than outdoors,” Miramontes said,

admitting that being outside on a sunny day is an invitation for sweat.

Career Day had grown a little since the previous year, offering more options for students to choose from.

One of the newer tables to join Career Day was ACE Charter Schools, which was looking for unique students to hire aboard.

“Our goal is to recruit students interested in teaching,” Talent Operations Coordinator Elyse Rivera said.

Some of the other companies and businesses that were in attendance were: Bolthouse, Panda Express, Target, Walgreens, Peace Corps, KRAB Radio, and multiple police services such as CHP, correctional officers, and the Kern County Sheriff’s Office.

Correctional Officer Dhillon

stood tall in his green uniform greeting students as they approached his table for information.

Dhillon noted that it wasn’t his first time attending the event to recruit.

“We do get applicants from the college,” Dhillon said.

However, Dhillon was unable to answer how many CSUB student applicants get the job as a correctional officer.

“We’re looking for well-rounded individuals,” Dhillon said. He also stated that having integrity was just as important as being well-rounded.

The event was hosted on Feb. 29 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Most students seemed pleased as they exited the gymnasium with handfuls of pamphlets and a free bottle of juice from Bolthouse.

What’s Going on Around Campus

WED., MARCH 2 “I’M ON LINKEDIN. NOW WHAT?” CECE WORKSHOP 5-6 PM @ DDH 107K PRIORITY DEADLINE TO SUBMIT FAFSA FOR ON-TIME FINANCIAL AID CONSIDERATION WWW.FAFSA.ED.GOV	THURS., MARCH 3 BROWN BAG LUNCHEON DISCUSSION SERIES 12-1 PM @ STOCKDALE ROOM RUNNERSYNC TRAINING SERIES 12-1 PM @ SU BLUE ROOM 137 CONCERT BAND WINTER CONCERT 7:30-9:30 PM @ DORÉ THEATRE	FRI., MARCH 4 DISCOVER CSUB 8 AM - 2 PM @ SU MPR 125 STUDENT RESEARCH ORAL COMPETITION 8 AM - 12 PM @ DLDC 40TH ANNUAL CSUB JAZZ JAM 8-10 PM @ DORÉ THEATRE
SAT., MARCH 5 WOMEN’S FLAG FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT 11 AM - 5 PM @ SRC INTRAMURAL FIELD	SUN., MARCH 6 CHAMBER MUSIC WINTER CONCERT 2:30-3 PM @ MUSIC BUILDING 127 CHAMBER ORCHESTRA & WIND SYMPHONY 7:30-9:30 PM @ DORÉ THEATRE CASH AND CHECK ONLY	TUES., MARCH 8 CSUB SINGERS CONCERT 7:30-9:30 PM @ DORÉ THEATRE

Calendar sponsored by CSUB Office of Student Affairs, School of Arts & Humanities, Walter Stiern Library, and the School of Business and Public Administration. To be included, contact aflores62@csub.edu.

WED., MARCH 9 HOT COCOA, MUFFINS, & DONUT SALE 8-10 AM @ DDH EAST	THURS., MAR. 10 BPA GROWING OPPORTUNITIES CAREER FAIR 12-5 PM @ SU MPR 125 SOCIAL MEDIA & THE JOB SEARCH CECE WORKSHOP 12-1 PM @ DDH 146H	FRI., MARCH 11 STUDY STRONG MESSAGES FREE MESSAGES FOR FINALS WEEK 8-9 AM @ SU BLUE ROOM 137
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BROWN BAG DISCUSSION

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UPCOMING EVENTS

●

March 9-12th our Men’s and Women’s basketball team will be participating in the annual WAC Tournament. Make sure to cheer on our fellow Runners. Runners Up!

●

Finals are around the corner, and we know that all of you are extremely excited for Spring Break! Campus Programming, will be holding our quarterly Study Strong week of events to help you finish off the rest of the quarter STRONG!

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LOCAL

Parade celebrates black history

By Javier Valdes
Assistant News Editor

The community of Bakersfield celebrated Black History Month with a parade and festival in Bakersfield’s downtown area on Saturday, Feb. 27.

The event closed down streets to celebrate the annual festivities of entertainment, food, and community.

The parade included dance teams, step teams, motorcycles, cars, church groups and horses in a two-hour celebration.

The festivities were surrounded by the powerful theme: “Reclaiming our culture, preserving our history, restoring our pride.”

Many of those celebrating Black History Month felt that preserving the history of the black culture was of significant importance.

Edna White can’t remember the last time she didn’t attend the annual festivities.

“It’s very important to know not just about the parade, but about the history,” said White. “Many kids don’t know that history anymore.”



A family marches during the parade celebrating Black History Month. Several blocks in downtown Bakersfield were closed for the festivities.

And in fact many of the parade attendants felt that the youth were out of touch with their roots and that these events help the younger generations keep in touch with their culture. Rene Doughton was a first-

time attendant of the celebration and she expressed her thoughts on the importance that these events can have on the youth. “These kids need to know who they are and know their

roots and where they come from,” said Doughton. “This event does that.” For some, the event has become a family tradition. Dinoshia Bailey attends the event every year and used to

march in the parade when she was younger.

“During my teen years I used to march in the parade, my grandfather...used to ride horses (in the parade),” said Bailey.

Even though Bailey stopped performing in the parade back in 2006, she continues to be a loyal attendant and comes out to support every year in remembrance of her now deceased grandfather.

In fact, Bailey has recently started bringing along her kids and making this event a family affair.

“My first time taking them was last year, and since then they (her kids) keep asking when the day that people drive and dance in the street is coming,” said Bailey.

Some of the attendants enjoyed the community of people that gathered together at the downtown festivities.

Jewel Adams felt that the event did a great job of getting people together and hopes that these type of events happen more often.

Lakeisha Herron attends the event every year and expressed

her thoughts on the importance of the event.

“Getting the community together to show different support of African Americans and showing different cultures is of such importance,” said Lakisha Herron.

The annual parade followed with a festival at the Gardens at Mill Creek, concluding the day’s festivities.

ONLINE



To watch the multimedia video on the Black History Parade, go to **The Runner Online**.

Caption Contest Winner



When you are too thug for this school, so you just take flight. Carolyn Ayesh, Business Major

Watch for more contests on our Facebook and Instagram pages with #TheRunnerContest for a chance to win a \$25 gift card to Johnny Garlic’s.

REVIEW

For this prince, 2000 party over

By Graham C Wheat
Features Editor

School dances seem out of place in a university setting and the Homecoming dance made it more apparent that I am no prince.

I was transported right back to high school in the early 2000s. The same music, the same veiled illusion of being allowed to have fun in a controlled setting, the same bad food and the same bad dancing. But at least this time some people actually looked like they were having fun, instead of the popular kids forced into cliques and the nerds covering the walls.

The only thing different this time was better looking women and being able to drink.

With over 700 tickets sold, there were plenty of people festooned in formal wear pouring

into the DoubleTree Hotel on Saturday night. But that was part of the problem. It was the DoubleTree Hotel. The same place where I once sat for hours in sensitivity training seminars.

Either most of the people attending were desperate for a night out, or they just didn’t realize the janky nature that is the DoubleTree.

A few black sheets draped over a makeshift PVC pipe hallway led to the conference room where the actual dance was being held. Beyond the ticket table the music bumped out into the single hallway where attendees not on the floor milled around in their clubwear best.

Unlike high school, there was actually legal alcohol. The drinks were too expensive and watered down, but at least they gave the option for those of us

who were of age.

Don’t worry, there were plenty of police and security to make sure we were having fun, but not too much fun.

In the same crowded hallway there was a buffet of sorts for all the dance revelers.

The sweets and pastries were decent, but gone way too fast, most likely because the other food, dry chicken sliders and soft pretzels (with no cheese), tasted like cafeteria fare.

The dance itself was in a conference room converted into impromptu club, complete with neon and black lights blasting through the dark room. Montel Jordan’s “This Is How We Do It” blared through the monitor speakers with too much bass. I was instantly transported to my early 2000s days.

Plenty of people were cutting a rug and shaking their groove

things to modern hip-hip and throwbacks alike. Somehow it felt like a house party and simultaneously not as much fun.

Despite all the shortcomings, people did seem responsive and to be enjoying themselves. Cam Meyer and Jared Gildon, CSU Bakersfield seniors, said that this year’s dance was much better than previous outings for Homecoming.

They regularly came back to the table with a drink in hand and a shuffle in their step. When they tried getting me to “hit the floor” with them, I made a quick escape to the hallway full of lingerers.

By the time they announced the homecoming royalty, I felt squarely out of place. I was too old, too jaded and too sober.

But I am the prince, somehow. Rating: 3 out of 5 dancing shoes.



Johnny Garlic’s will now offer **10% off** when you dine-in and have your CSUB Student/Staff/Faculty ID with you!
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**SATURDAY
MARCH 5
VS. MIRA COSTA
COLLEGE - 2 PM &
CONCORDIA-
IRVINE - 4 PM**

**SAVE THE DATE
BASEBALL VS. OKLAHOMA
MARCH 17 - 6 PM
MARCH 18 - 6 PM
MARCH 19 - 12 PM/3:45 PM
HARDT FIELD**

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RUNNER ON THE STREET

By Roseanne Ayala / Photos by Karina Diaz

This week The Runner asked, “What are you doing for Spring Break?”



Cassandra Flores
Criminal Justice

“I want to go to the beach, just to take my daughter and hang out with friends.”



Don Springfield
Environmental Resource Management

“I’m going back home to Sacramento and doing some snowboarding.”



Celyne Skibicki
Biology

“I’m going to Six Flags with the CSUB women’s soccer club.”



Aristotle Galiza
Nursing

“I’m helping with ‘alternative spring break’ for the club Sensational Sophomores.”

STAFF EDITORIAL

Memo misleads

Clarifying the impending strike

Recently, the Office of President Horace Mitchell circulated a memorandum to students concerning issues involving the possible faculty strike in April. What is heinous in this memo is the fact that the administration is attempting to bully away the free speech rights of teachers.

“Classroom time cannot and should not be used by faculty to discuss issues related to the strike.”

Let that sink in.

Any abridgment of the First Amendment is outright manipulative, whether you are painted in a bad light or not.

Strike aside, if the administration is truly for their students and faculty, these types of misleading and calculated ploys must end now.

This precarious memo gives four reminders: students cannot be compelled to take any sides on the issue, students cannot be compelled to participate in the strike for a grade, faculty may not bar access to any services of the campus and faculty are not allowed to speak of the strike on company time.

This is also restricting our rights as students. We can choose to take a side if we want. It’s our right to do so just as it is our right to listen to what faculty have to say about the strike.

Additionally, the memo purports that things will “be as they usually are” in not so many words.

This has only served to confound students and teachers alike, creating disconnect between what is the actuality of events that will take place.

The memo outlines what students and faculty should do in the current situation. It makes a point to bold the statement that the school will remain open during the strike.

This is merely to confuse students and most likely faculty as well. There are many times during the year when the campus is open and no classes are being held. Technically, the campus is open during some parts of the winter months before classes resume. Students are not in classes learning, but the campus is open.

This type of tactic to obscure the nature of what could transpire is above the Office of the President and out of character for an official of a university.

ENTERTAINMENT

Oscars are hard to watch

By Katie Aubin
Opinions Editor

I spent this year’s Academy Awards the same way I spend most of my days: eating spaghetti in my pajamas and criticizing Sam Smith. As with every year, there were certain highlights that defined the night, however, this year most of those highlights were pretty nauseating.

The evening got off to a rough start with host Chris Rock’s opening monologue. Naturally, the focal point of his set was the Oscar’s diversity issue (or lack thereof). Rock attempted to compare the lack of black nominees with the “real issues” of the Civil Rights movement of the ’60s, which implied two things: first, that current-day African Americans are no longer facing violent, hateful and specific persecution; in that same vein, that racism has to look like a literal lynch mob in order to be “real.” Does he not know that more unarmed black people were killed by police in 2015 than in any year for the last century? Does he not know that, not only is the Ku Klux Klan still totally active but a current presidential nominee (Donald Trump) has their explicit support? I hoped that Chris Rock would get on stage and, somehow, convey to the 80 million people watching how wrong this was. Instead, he took their fragile, pasty egos and shielded them from the whole icky “race” thing.

The eye rolling didn’t stop there.

During his acceptance speech for winning Best Original Song, “Writing on the Wall” crooner Sam Smith made a remark about how “no openly gay man had ever won an Oscar,” according to an interview he had read with Sir Ian McKellan. Unfortunately for Smith, he was not the first openly gay man to win an Oscar. As a matter of fact, he makes the eighth openly gay individual to win an Oscar, including Elton John, Melissa Etheridge and Howard Ashman.

Award season veterans like myself are not unfamiliar with celebrity snafus. I want my first tattoo to be whatever gibberish John Travolta said instead of “Idina Menzel” when he introduced her at the Awards in 2014. But Smith’s flub could have been avoided altogether with a quick google search, and Rock was all but apologizing for the whole race kerfuffle.

Of course, the night wasn’t all bad. Leo DiCaprio earned his win, at last, and used his platform to spread a message about climate change. Frankly, though, the best thing about him getting that gold is that this meme can finally die.

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

CSUB earns 20th win of season



CSUB senior forward Kevin Mays fights for the ball against GCU sophomore forward Keonta Vernon on Saturday in the Icardo Center. The Roadrunners earned their 20th win of the season as they beat the Antelopes 77-62.

By Joe Macias
Sports Editor



77
CSUB



62
GCU

With 3,596 people in attendance, the CSU Bakersfield rolled past Grand Canyon University 77-62 on Saturday in the Icardo Center.

The Roadrunners (20-8, 10-3 Western Athletic Conference) got its 20th win of the season against GCU (24-5, 10-3 WAC), which was the first time CSUB was able to reach 20 wins since moving to Division I.

“It was a huge win for us,” said CSUB head coach Rod Barnes. “I thought our guys came out tonight and really played well. Offensively, that’s something we’ve been struggling with lately. Our defense has been good the last five games, but our offense has suffered.”

Things got scrappy in the 17:59 mark of the second half as CSUB senior center Aly Ahmed and GCU sophomore forward Keonta Vernon were both given technical fouls as Vernon slammed to the floor. After Ahmed jumped up and contested Vernon’s shot, Vernon quickly got up and got in Ahmed’s face. Not long after that was when both were given technicals.

“That play I didn’t see exactly what happened, but I know Aly. He is an emotional player,” said CSUB senior forward Kevin Mays. “He might have said something, but after the play was over he said nothing and (Vernon) was the one who jumped in his face and Aly just kept calm. He didn’t say nothing and they still gave him a technical foul.”

Mays had a double-double, leading the team with 21 points and 10 rebounds.

“We just took the challenge

personal,” said Mays. “This is a good part of the season for us to start playing together and start playing well. So it definitely means a lot getting ready to go into Vegas and finishing up our season strong.”

CSUB junior guard Dedrick Basile added 19 points, seven assists and six rebounds of his own. In the last possession of the second half, Barnes asked Basile if he wanted to take the ball to the hoop by himself, and Basile said, “Yes.” Basile then drove the ball left against the GCU defender and scored a layup to end the half.

“Coach Barnes, I guess he (has) confidence in me so I just like answering the bell for him,” said Basile.

The Roadrunners made 30 of their 62 shots in the game, good for 48.4 percent.

CSUB redshirt-freshman guard Damiyne Durham made five of his eight three-point attempts tallying 15 points, five rebounds and two steals. All of Durham’s shots came from behind the three-point line.

In their last game, the Roadrunners will face Seattle University on March 5 at 7 p.m. in the Icardo Center, which will also be senior night for some of the athletes.

CSUB 77, Grand Canyon 62

Grand Canyon	25	37	—	62
CSU Bakersfield	36	41	—	77

GRAND CANYON (24-5, 10-3 WAC)
Davis, De’Andre 5-7 6-9 16; Glaze, Grandy 6-9 0-1 12; Jackson, Matt 3-8 3-410; Braun, Joshua 1-8 4-4 7; Russell, DeWayne 2-7 3-4 7; Vernon, Keonta 2-3 1-2 5; Majerle, Ryan 1-2 0-0 3; Martin, Gerard 0-5 2-2 2; Estelle, Jevon 0-0 0-0 0; Magee, Dominic 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 20-49 19-26 62.

CSU BAKERSFIELD (20-8, 10-3 WAC)
Mays, Kevin 9-14 3-5 21; Basile, Dedrick 8-14 1-2 19; Durham, Damiyne 5-8 0-2 15; Hollins, Justin 2-2 0-0 4; Ahmed, Aly 2-6 0-0 4; Smith, Matt 2-3 0-0 4; Wrapp, Brent 1-8 2-2 4; Airington, Jaylin 1-6 2-2 4; Pride, Justin 0-0 2-2 2; Barnes, Bray 0-0 0-0 0; Geyen, Darryl 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 30-62 10-15 77.

ONLINE



To find out how the CSUB baseball fared against St. John’s, go to The Runner Online and read the story.

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