

THE RUNNER

California State University, Bakersfield

Vol. 43, No. 13

therunneronline.com

VOTE

ASI ELECTIONS ISSUE

VOTE



**Christopher Smith**  
V.P. of Finance,  
unopposed

**Aaron Wan**  
V.P. of Campus Life,  
unopposed

**Ashley Schmidt**  
President,  
unopposed

**Alejandra Lopez**  
Executive V.P.,  
unopposed

**Jose Garcia**  
V.P. of University Affairs,  
unopposed

ELECTIONS

President, EVP unopposed second straight year

**By Peter Castillo and Dylan Bryant**  
*Runner Staff*

CSU Bakersfield students have little choice as voting for Associated Students, Inc. opens today and all five executive positions are running unopposed.

Ashley Schmidt, a public administration senior, is running for president of ASI. She is currently serving on ASI as the chair of the board and has been on ASI for three years. She also is a member of the Gamma Phi Beta sorority and other honor and pre-law societies.

“I want to know why,” said Schmidt on running unopposed. “I would love for students to come to ASI and tell us what we can do to get students interested in the running.”

Alejandra Lopez is the lone candidate for executive vice president. She is a double major in public administration and Spanish. She is currently studying abroad in Spain and plans to return to CSUB following this semester. She has also previously served on ASI.

“One issue I would like to address while in office is the lack of communication that some schools or campus communities have with our ASI,” said Lopez in an email questionnaire.

The candidate for Vice President of Campus Life is Aaron Wan. He is a sophomore currently serving as the director of the L.E.A.D. Program on ASI. He is also a member of the Kappa Sigma fraternity.

Christopher Smith, a senior who currently serves a student manager on duty at the Student Recreation Center, is running for vice president of finance. He has no prior experience of serving on ASI.

Jose Garcia, a senior majoring in public policy and administration, is the candidate for vice president of university affairs.

Garcia currently serves as the director of sustainability on ASI. He is also a member of the Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity.

“I plan to start a Lobby Corps at CSUB that has students advocating and lobbying for CSUB on issues that affect students and higher education,” said Garcia in an email.

This is the second consecutive year in which the president and executive vice president are running unopposed.

Executive vice president of university affairs also ran unopposed last year.

There are also 10 director positions that are also being run for. However, there are only two positions that are not unopposed, director of clubs and organizations outreach, and director of marketing.

Ten of the director seats are left vacant. However, they may be filled by an appointed student.

Jaidyn Conner, who is currently the director of clubs and organizations outreach is running for re-election. She is opposing George Corral.

Joselito Flores and Morayo Oluju-mu are the candidates for director of marketing.

Voter turnout has spiraled in recent years.

After 24 percent of students voted in 2014, only 7.5 percent of students voted in last year’s elections.

Daniel Auyon, a senior in accounting, says apathy is the cause of the uncontested elections.

“No one cares. They come here and they go,” Auyon said. “There’s not really like a student life here... the information is there, if you’re really interested in it i think you should go out for it. They’ll give you the information.”

Students in executive positions on ASI have their tuition paid for the duration of their term, priority registration and receive a parking pass.

Executives are also required to serve 10 office hours per week.

Students in director positions will also receive priority registration and a parking pass as well.

Directors also must serve four office hours per week.

Jalise Steger, a senior human biology major, thinks more students would run if they were aware of the benefits that come with ASI.

“I think they would definitely run,” said Steger. “No one knows, if they knew about it, I feel like a lot of people would run for it.”

Steger also added that she thinks ASI should do a better job promoting the filing period for the elections.

Voting opened today at 8 a.m. and concludes tomorrow at 11:59 p.m. The results are expected to be announced on Friday, March 23.

Students are able to vote through RunnerSync, which is available through the CSUB website.

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

CSUB women have bright future ahead of them

**By Vincent Perez**  
*Sports Editor*

A new tradition is hard to start from scratch.

Greg McCall, head coach of the women’s basketball team at CSU Bakersfield, has done just that this season. McCall just finished his seventh season at CSUB and has jump-started a program that has not seen much success before his tenure.

“I’ve been so excited about this team all season long,” said McCall. “This has been a fun bunch to coach.”

The Roadrunners accepted at at-large bid from the Women’s Basketball Invitational.

This was the first time CSUB had reached a postseason tournament since 2015.

It was also the first time that the Icardo Center hosted a postseason game since the move to Division I in 2013.

The Roadrunners hosted Fresno State, but lost 77-66 to on Wednesday, March 14 in the first round of the tournament.

“It was great for us to be able to play in a couple championship games,” said McCall on this season. “We’ll take that, bottle it up, carry it over and take it into next year.”

Despite the first round loss in the WBI, the Roadrunners finished this season 18-14 overall, after struggling the first half of the season.

CSUB was 6-8 entering Western Athletic Conference play on Jan. 6.

“We came a long way, from not being able to score and not being in-sync to playing as a family,” said red-shirt-junior guard Jazmine Johnson. “This is one of the greatest teams I’ve ever been on.”

CSUB bounced back in conference play. The Roadrunners finished 10-4 in the WAC.

Displaying their dominance, the Roadrunners reeled off eight consecutive wins from Jan. 20 to Feb. 22.

The Roadrunners relied on a smothering defense that allowed only 56.5 points per game, best in the conference.

They were within striking distance of the WAC regular-season title before dropping the last two games of the regular season, including a 77-76 double-overtime loss to Grand Canyon University in the regular season finale.

Senior guard Aja Williams posted 22 points in the loss that dropped CSUB from the conference’s top spot.

The Roadrunners entered the 2018 WAC tournament as the No. 2 seed behind New Mexico State University, who had won the WAC tournament each of the last three seasons.

CSUB defeated the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley in the quarterfinals and Grand Canyon University in the semis to advance to their first-ever championship game in Las Vegas.

The Roadrunners fell 57-54 to Seattle University in the final, despite holding a four-point lead during the fourth quarter.

Not bad for a program that only began in 2000 and has had only three head coaches in its history.

McCall, a former CSUB player, and men’s team assistant, took over prior to the 2011-12 season.

Following consecutive Women’s National Invitational Tournament appearances in 2014 and 2015, the Roadrunners struggled in the 2015-2016 season, finishing just 12-19.

Last season, the third-seeded Roadrunners, who also went 10-4 in WAC play, were upset in overtime in the WAC tournament quarterfinals by Utah Valley University and finished 15-14.

See **BASKETBALL**, Page 7

Ana Canales/The Runner

Redshirt-junior guard Jazmine Johnson cuts through the Fresno State defense during CSUB’s loss in the opening round of the Women’s Basketball Invitational on Wednesday, March 14 at the Icardo Center.



CANDIDATE FORUM

ASI exec candidates talk plans during forum

By Veronica Morley  
Managing Editor

Associated Students, Inc. held a candidate forum in the Stockdale Room at noon on March 19. As the forum began, the room was mostly vacant, with only six students in the audience. By the end of the forum the audience increased to nine. Other members of the audience included some current members of ASI.

The candidates included Ashley Schmidt for president, Aaron Wan for vice president of campus life, Christopher Smith for vice president of finance, Jose Garcia for vice president of university affairs, and Alejandra Lopez for executive vice president, who joined the conversation via teleconference.

All five executive director positions are running unopposed.

The candidates addressed food insecurity on campus, lack of communication between ASI and the rest of the campus, engagement with students, and their plans and qualifications for their positions on the executive board.

**Ashley Schmidt, President**

“I’m supposed to represent the students, I have to be comfortable going to [administration] and telling them this is what the students want,” said Schmidt.

Schmidt said she plans to represent students, even if it goes against what the faculty or administration want. She encouraged all students to get involved in student leadership and find a way to be involved with ASI.

“ASI really is just the students. If you are a part of the student body, you are a part of ASI,” said Schmidt.

Schmidt has been involved in ASI for the past three years. She works in the Student Union and is member

of the Gamma Phi Beta sorority, multiple honor societies, and the pre-law society here on campus.

“We encourage everyone to apply for these positions. We have a lot of people who want to get involved in the application process but not the running process,” said Schmidt in regards to the lack of opposition for executive positions in this year’s election.

As far as the new members to ASI, Schmidt said that around 63 percent of people running are new to ASI. As far as incentives to run, Schmidt said that along with leadership incentive, the financial incentives include a parking pass, priority registration, and the executive positions have their tuition paid for the duration of their term.

“I think it’s a matter of students. The involvement is there, they’re wanting to get involved, they’re just not want to go through the entire process,” Schmdit said.

**Alejandra Lopez, Executive Vice President**

“The job of the executive vice president is primarily delegated to focus on all big picture tasks. As EVP, I’m focusing primarily on improving the connection between our organization and the students that we represent,” said Lopez.

Lopez said her biggest goal is ensuring that students are informed of what is happening on campus and improving student life. She wants to create a greater incentive for students who do not live on campus to get involved in activities and events, and improve communication between the schools and departments on campus.

She also addressed the lack of opposition in this year’s ASI election.

“I personally do not know why not as many students are running for leadership positions but this is something that we kinda see on

many campuses,” said Lopez.

Lopez wants to address the low voter turnout by following the example of other CSUs and begin the promoting process a month before the deadline to file for election. She said that the application window for this year’s election could have been a barrier for more people to apply.

Another responsibility Lopez addressed was the Food Pantry and the Produce Pantry.

Lopez attended the forum via live stream from Spain where she is currently studying abroad. She said she has stayed up to date on what is happening on campus and will be ready when she returns to CSUB at the end of the spring semester.

**Aaron Wan, Vice President of Campus Life**

“When you say there’s nothing in a specific location that’s the perfect time to do something and start something new. And through a representative position this is how we can reach out to people,” said Wan in regards to improving student life and involvement on campus.

Wan said he wants to create something that is focused on CSUB life and involves everyone at CSUB.

He also wants to continue to increase membership in the L.E.A.D. (Leaders Engaging in Advocacy and Development) program. Wan himself started in this program and said it helped him learn to improve his leadership skills and get involved in ASI.

The L.E.A.D. program creates workshops where students can get involved and directed to different organizations on campus. Wan said he wants to push students to go beyond their potential and become successful.

Wan explained how the executive board would work to help directors grow in their leadership skills, “This is where that grassroots



Andrew Paredes/The Runner  
From left to right: ASI executive board candidates Ashley Schmidt, Aaron Wan, Christopher Smith and Jose Garcia answer questions during the candidate forum in the Stockdale Room on Monday, March 18.

method comes into effect. The more you walk to people the more you understand what they’re looking for and if we can hit those things they’re looking for now it’s going to be an incentive for them to stay on campus,” said Wan.

He also wants to focus on creating a strong team within ASI and branch out to more committees and resources.

Wan is also involved in the Japan and Beyond club, Campus Gamers, is a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity, and he works at the Student Recreation Center rock wall.

**Christopher Smith, Vice President of Finance**

Smith said that he has been attending meetings for the financial committee in order to better understand money is dispersed at CSUB and prepare for this position.

“I would like to get more of the clubs and organizations more involved on campus. This happens by posting more, not meetings but tablings and events,” said Smith.

He also wants to create greater in-

centive for students who don’t live on campus to stay on campus and be involved in student life.

Smith works at the SRC, he is a member of the Black Student Union, and the African Student Association.

He also shared information about the voting process for granting student clubs and organizations fund and how ASI grants money.

“Usually when clubs come with requests for funding or for events, it really isn’t too often that those organizations are denied,” said Smith.

**Jose Garcia, Vice President of University Affairs**

Garcia also said that he wants to represent the students when it comes to the budget and areas of diversity and sustainability.

“We have to look at what kind of trouble their facing, depending on what that is I would try my best to help them with whatever resources I have and whatever resources we have at CSUB,” said Garcia about helping students struggling to transition into college life.

Garcia said that he hopes to help students feel comfortable here on campus and make sure they are informed on what resources are available to them.

Garcia addressed food insecurity on campus and the importance of helping at risk students.

“We need to make sure the Food Pantry stays open and not only that but people forget too that we have an Edible Garden in the process as well,” said Garcia.

He said that he will make sure all student voices are heard here on campus.

He wants to set an example for new members coming onto ASI and also make sure that new ideas are heard.

Garcia is a member of Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity, the Student Sustainability club, and he works in the grant research and sponsored programs office.

ASI elections begin today and voting will take place on RunnerSync until March 22 at 11:59 p.m.

FINANCE

Budget forum sparks heated debate among faculty, administration

By Dylan Bryant  
Assistant News Editor

The campus-wide budget forum hosted by President Horace Mitchell on March 6 has given fuel to a fiery conversation amongst faculty and administrators about our university’s priorities and spending habits.

Faculty, administrators, and students of CSU Bakersfield gathered in the Multipurpose Room of the Student Union to attend the annual budget forum. While in most years, faculty and others only had limited access to budget details, this year is different.

As a result of conversations with the Academic Senate and other faculty, this year the campus community will be provided detailed budget information.

“I think we are going firmly in the right direction as far as transparency goes,” said Deborah Boschini, chair of both the Academic Senate and the nursing department.

Vice President of Business and Ad-

ministrative Services Thom Davis gave a presentation walk-through of the new Budget Central page on the CSUB website.

On that page, the campus community will be able to access net operating budget reports for each fiscal year, as well as other budget information from the Academic Senate.

“It’s very transparent. All the data, literally, is there,” said Davis.

The campus community will now also have access to an online reporting tool called Questica. On that website, more detailed budget information for each year will be available.

According to Davis, in Questica one would be able to go to a department page and look at various expenses such as printing costs or others.

The availability of this data was welcomed by faculty and the candor of the budget information relieved many concerns.

However, the information that was

revealed led to further questions and complaints. For example, one faculty member was concerned to find that junior administrators and peripheral administrators appear to be paid more than most full-time faculty members.

“I will speak for myself, but I think it represents a lot of the faculty’s perspective. What we hope to do is compare ourselves to other campuses,” said Dr. John Tarjan, an associate professor of management, and a member of the Strategic Planning and Budget Advisory Committee.

Tarjan was concerned about how much money is being reallocated to lower prioritized areas, away from learning. He believes that the majority of the faculty suspects this to be the case.

“Ten percent of our state budget, if you define that as student fees, plus state allocation, goes to athletics. [That is] out of proportion to other CSU’s in terms of benchmarking,” Tarjan also said.



Screenshot of Campus Budget Forum from csub.edu  
Thom Davis, vice president of business and administrative services, shows the audience how to use the Questica reporting tool at the Budget Forum on March 6, 2018.

Boschini was glad to see that so many faculty members participated in the forum and shared their concerns.

“There’s been a lot of interest in

this topic, and I just want to say thank you for the shared governance and the collegiality that we’ve been shown,” said Boschini.

“We’re going to continue doing

what we’re doing, and continue the collaboration to make sure that our campus has access to all of the financial information that would be meaningful,” said Mitchell.

THE RUNNER

Volume 43, Issue 13

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Send letters to therunner.online@gmail.com. All letters must be signed, verified, and be no more than 300 words in length. Letters may be edited for clarity and length.

**ABOUT**  
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ASI  
CSUB president to be announced this week

By Sonia Lemus  
News Editor

Associated Students Inc. President Mariela Gomez stated during the ASI meeting that the new CSU Bakersfield President will be announced during the week of March 19.

“What we [the presidential search advisory committee] did about three weeks ago, is that we actually interviewed the candidates and we got down to our final three, so now it is up to the Board of Trustees to choose the final candidate,” said Gomez.

Gomez said she was very grateful for having participated in the search, and that she kept in mind the thoughts of the students who attended the presidential search forums that she hosted. The forums were done last semester by Gomez. In them she asked students what they wanted to see in the next president.

Gomez also spoke about working on Senate Bill 203, and how it will dictate ASI’s stance on the proposed CSU budget increase.

There was an update on the ASI budget, and several campus issues were brought up.

“The resolution [of Senate Bill 203] would state that we are in opposition of any tuition increase that would be possible, again I want the resolution to encompass the fact that we need a fully funded CSU,” Gomez said.

Aaron Wan, director of the L.E.A.D. program (Leaders Engaging in Advocacy and Development) questioned what would come after the approval of the senate bill, and



Ashley Schmidt, chair of Associated Students Inc., asks members to review their agenda before commencing their meeting on Friday March 19, 2018.

if the purpose of the bill was just to state ASI’s stance on the tuition increase.

Gomez explained that the purpose of the senate bill now is for ASI to state its stance. Additionally, the bill will be distributed to campus officials, informing them what ASI is advocating for.

A plan of action will be coming shortly after.

Selina Galvan, director of budget management, delivered an update on the ASI budget. ASI has allocated \$25,168 this school year, and they have \$14,832 left in their budget.

The finance committee has recently awarded a total of \$1,678 to five different clubs and organizations on campus, but there are still some clubs that have not requested any funding from ASI.

“So, I was telling the finance committee that, M.E.Ch. A. (Movimien-

to Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan) and Japan and Beyond, we need to reach out to them and make sure they get their funding before we run out,” said Galvan.

Three campus issues were brought up during the meeting in an effort to find resolutions. Justin McKinley, vice president of finance, reported the lack of skateboard racks by Science III.

Mohammed Cook similarly brought up the lack of bike racks by the soccer fields.

Finally, Illaria Pesco, reported a campus issue that was brought up by a student through ASI’s Instagram. The student sent them a video of dirty computers in the Walter Stiern Library, and Wan chose to take on the issue.

Voting for the ASI elections will begin March 21. The results of the election will be announced on Friday March 23.

CAMPUS  
Fresh produce available in new Produce Pantry

By Richard Gonzales  
Reporter

Discarded orange peels fill the trash cans in close proximity to the Food Pantry on CSU Bakersfield’s main campus.

This can be seen as the start of a fresh approach taken by the Food Pantry to provide even more options to students who wish to utilize the service.

Food Pantry coordinator, Kassandra Hernandez said the vendors from the Haggin Oaks farmers market, donated the produce for the food pantry.

The new Produce Pantry will be on campus every Monday morning, as an extension to the existing pantry.

Hernandez spoke of the positive response from students regarding the new “Produce Pantry.”

“In just three hours, all the produce had been collected by students.”

The Produce Pantry, like the Food Pantry itself, has taken a lot of effort to be open today. To understand this, a history of the Food Pantry must be known.

Hernandez said, “In 2013 an economics professor and one of his graduate students conducted a survey where 800 people responded. They found that 40 percent of students, staff, and faculty identified as being ‘food insecure,’ meaning that they didn’t have access to food in general.”

Then, a few years later, came a response to these statistics.

“In 2016, Dr. Wallace, Vice President from the Student Affairs Office, founded the Basic Needs Committee, a food and housing security committee organized and maintained by select students, faculty, and staff,” Hernandez said.



Two CSUB students stopped by to receive some delicious foods at the CSUB pop-up produce panty on March 12, 2018.

From this committee there came the idea for the Food Pantry.

“In 2017 I came in as a CSU STEM VISTA member and started the Food Pantry in September,” said Hernandez

Hernandez attributes the on-campus relationships with everyone to helping support and maintain the Food Pantry.

Before using the pantry’s service, first-time students must fill out a form providing basic information. After first-time students complete their form, they are in the system, and then they can pick their 16 points weekly worth of pantry goods.

Shawnee Villarreal, senior majoring psychology, said, “I fully support the concept, and hope that it grows and becomes as popular as the Food Pantry. I think our community and region lends itself to such services.”

Drew Raney, senior, majoring in kinesiology, spoke of the benefit of the Produce Pantry for students’

well-being.

“The importance of fresh, healthy produce as an addition to other great options provided by the Food Pantry should help promote vitality. Not only is produce nutrient dense, it’s going to provide steady energy without the sugar crash of a soda or candy bar,” said Raney.

Raney said it would also be a huge benefit to students who don’t buy fresh produce because of high prices.

“Often times students may be dissuaded from buying produce because of the extra cost, but allowing our student body to access these nutritious options is a great step in the right direction to having a healthy student population,” said Raney.

Produce donations to the Food Pantry are done at the Haggin Oaks farmers market on Sundays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Any other donation arrangements can be made by contacting Kassandra Hernandez.

What’s Happening  
Around Campus

March/April

- 21 Spring Career Expo  
CECE:  
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
SRC
- Identify Fake News:  
2 p.m.  
Dezember Reading Rm.
- Womens Self Defense  
Class:  
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
SU MPR 125
- 22 Piano Studio Recital:  
12:15 pm  
First Congretional  
Church
- 23 Panhellenic Day of  
Service: Make Blankets  
for the Children’s  
hospital  
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
SU Patio
- 26-30 Spring Break!
- 26-28 American Red Cross  
Instructors Course:  
10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.  
SRC
- 30 Cesar Chavez Day:  
Campus closed

- 2 Academic Advising for  
Students: Summer ‘18 &  
Fall ‘18
- Sexual Assault  
Awareness Kickoff  
10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
SU Runner Park
- IDP: First Aid Kits  
1 p.m. - 2 p.m.  
SRC
- 3 ASA Easter Egg Hunt:  
12 p.m. - 1p.m.  
SU Patio
- 4 Commemorating the  
Legacy of Dr. MLK Jr.  
9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
Dezember Reading Rm.
- 5 NSME Faculty Speaker  
Series: Eduardo  
Montoya, Mathematics  
4 p.m.  
SCI III, Rm 213
- 7 Fab Fest:  
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
Runner Park
- Fab Lab Hours  
Tuesday: 12:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.  
Wednesday: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m.  
Thursday: 9:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
Friday: 12 p.m. - 4 p.m.  
Saturday: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Calendar sponsored by NSME, Student Union, School of Arts of Humanities, and the Walter Stiern Library. To be included, contact efitzpatrick@csub.edu.

SAVE THE DATE



SPRING CONCERT  
APRIL 21, 2018 | 9:00 PM

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CAMPUS

Faculty awards pay cash prizes

By Chelsea L. McDowell  
Reporter

Did you know that you can nominate your favorite lecturer or faculty member for a cash prize?

In February the office of the Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs issued a call via email for nominations of lecturers and faculty members to be considered for an award.

The email stated nominations have to be “accompanied by a signed, written statement, not to exceed 600 words, summarizing your reasons for supporting the nominee. The statement should be factual and concise.”

Any CSUB student is sure to have at least one professor that has inspired or encouraged her or him, so why aren’t more students aware of the call for nominations?

Sociology major Clarissa Jimenez had not nominated any faculty member this year.

“I didn’t actually know it was a thing, but I would have, because I have some pretty good professors,” Jimenez said.

Jimenez is not the only student who tends to overlook their CSUB email, junior English major Jorge Lopez also doesn’t frequent his

Outlook page. “Usually the only time I check my email is when I know someone’s sending me stuff,” Lopez said.

First year Engineering Sciences major Nellie Santana would not have nominated a lecturer or faculty member had she known about the awards.

“I didn’t know that was a thing and usually I just go in and listen to what they have to say,” Santana said.

The Faculty Honors and Awards Committee sought out students to nominate faculty for categories such as the Outstanding Lecturer Award, the Faculty Leadership and Service Award, the Millie Ablin Excellence in Teaching Award, the Faculty Scholarship and Creative Activity Award, and the Promising New Faculty Award.

The nominations are due March 30, and then the Faculty Honors and Awards Committee will submit their recommendations to the Academic Senate for approval on April 23 before awarding any full-time faculty member.

Nominations for the Emeritus Awards were due by March 9. The Emeritus Award differs from the other five awards because it honors retired or retiring faculty members,



regardless of rank and administrative officers with academic rank, while the others award current staff members.

“You are encouraged to participate,” the call for nominations email read. “CSUB is known for its excellent faculty, and now is the time to formally acknowledge a faculty member you feel is especially deserving of recognition.”

Each award has its own requirements for who can be nominated. Along with recognition for the impact faculty and lecturers have in the lives of students, winners of each award are honored with a cash

prize of at least a thousand dollars, which is funded by the CSUB Foundation.

Dr. Kathleen Ritter was a psychology professor at CSUB and the 2007/08 recipient for the Faculty Leadership and Service award.

“I am very pleased to have received the award,” Ritter said.

Nominations are to be submitted by administrators, faculty, students, or alumni to Assistant to the Vice Provost Renee Martin at rmartin26@csub.edu. For more information contact the Provost and Vice President, (661) 654-2155.

STUDENT LIFE

Black Student Union seeks new members

By Chelsea L. McDowell  
Reporter

CSU Bakersfield students Kimberly Seward and her younger sister Ebonie Seward want to continue to give minority students a home away from home through the campus Black Student Union.

The BSU was previously the African American Student Union and is not to be confused for the African Student Association—or the ASA.

Senior child adolescent family studies major Kimberly Seward has been the acting Vice President of the BSU since the fall 2017 se-

mester. She is also in charge of the club’s social media.

The BSU currently has 45 members, but not all of them are active.

While the club may focus on the issues of the Black population on campus, it is open to any CSUB student who wants to learn more about the culture and participate in its events.

Paloma Rosales is a senior art and public relations major who has little to no knowledge about the club’s work.

“If I knew more about the activities that they do on campus, or how they involve themselves in the campus culture I would [join],” said

Rosales.

Kimberly Seward’s sister Ebonie Seward is a senior business administration major and the fundraising chair for the BSU since fall 2017. When Ebonie Seward transferred from CSU Fullerton, she didn’t know CSUB had a BSU because it wasn’t present on campus. The Seward sisters have been trying to change that.

“The Black Student Union is trying to put on events and things,” Ebonie Seward said. “We’re just trying to be seen more, be heard more on campus so people actually know that the club exists.”

Feb. 12 marked the first annual

BSU Self Love Day, where members gave out durags and bonnets—staples in black culture—in exchange for pledges from students to love themselves and fight discrimination. Senior computer information systems major Jordan Parks has not been an active member of the club in 2018 “as much as last school year, just because [he’s] been real busy this year.”

BSU club meetings are held in the Multicultural Center on Fridays at noon.

Students can find information about the BSU and its upcoming events on instagram at CSUB\_BSU\_.

www.csub.edu/ah

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Claiming the World Stage: Ballet in China, Russia, and the United States During the Cold War

*Honorable Mention*

Melissa Neal Garcia  
Sino-Cuban Relations in the Cold War Era

**Undergraduate Student Paper Awards:**

*1st Place*

Hillary Ball  
Scientific “Friendship” Networks: Building Science-Based Networks of Trust in the Transatlantic World

*Honorable Mention*

Michael O’Neill  
Muholland’s Failure: The Collapse of the St. Francis Dam

Paula Reynal  
Dangerous Environments, Exotic Foods, and Scientific Morality: Changing Identities of English Subjects in the 17th Century

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GAMING

Overwatch League battles controversies

By Christopher Sanchez  
Reporter

Blizzard kicked off its first season of the Overwatch League on Jan. 10.

Overwatch is a team-based, first-person online shooter game created by Blizzard Entertainment in 2016. The game is known for its diverse characters, unique world, and the various styles of gameplay.

However, in the last three months, the new league has failed to quell some of the growing controversies surrounding itself.

The players are drawing the majority of the controversies. The OWL is quick to discipline the players infractions.

Felix Lengyel of the Dallas Fuel, who’s gamer tag is “xQc” has repeatedly found himself in trouble. In January, Lengyel received a four game suspension and a \$2000 fine for homophobic remarks and insults towards Austin “Muma” Wilmot of the Houston Outlaws.

Lengyel was fined and suspended again in another wave of disciplinary actions from the OWL. During a live stream, Lengyel said the reporter’s commentary was “cancer” during his Twitch streams and spammed a racist emote during times Malik Forte was on screen.

Twitch is a live streaming platform that many gamers use to create streaming content.

On March 12, Lengyel and Dallas Fuel parted ways. He was released from his contract with the Fuel. No teams have stated interest in signing Lengyel.

Dallas Fuel found itself in the spotlight again as Timo “Taimou” Kettunen was fined \$1000 for his homophobic remarks on his Twitch stream.

Los Angeles Valiant player Ted “Silkthread” Wang was fined \$1000 for account sharing (logging into another player’s account and using it). While it’s not illegal, the fine came from a violation of Blizzard End User License Agreement. “It is unacceptable for members



Image from overwatchleague.com

of the Overwatch League to use or distribute hateful, racist, or discriminatory speech or memes. It is important for all members to be aware of the impact their speech may have on others,” stated Blizzard and Overwatch on March 9 in a press release.

“I’m glad they fired him. I’m glad to see EGaming take a stance on intolerance,” said Ashley Allen a senior in psychology at CSU Bakersfield. “It gives me more confidence in the women who are now being signed. Hopefully harassment aimed towards them won’t be tolerated either.”

OWL has another controversy with gender equality, since in ESports physical attributes do not matter. Women are not fairly represented in the OWL.Of the 12 franchises, no women were signed and drafted.

This drew a lot of criticism. The Shanghai Dragons officially announced on Feb. 14 that they would sign the first female professional player to their roster. South Korean Kim “Geguri” Se-yeon was officially added to their player roster.

“I think it’s great they finally added a female player to the league,” said Cody Besinaiz, senior communications major. “Women are just as capable of playing games at professional levels as men are. They have the right to play professionally in the same league, regardless of gender.”

Kim was a top player in the no longer active Apex League in Korea. She was also the first female player in that league as well. Hopefully Kim can add the necessary muscle to the Shanghai Dragons. They have yet to win a match.

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RUNNER ON THE STREET

By Danielle Blankenship/ Photos by Cecilia Torres

This week The Runner asked, “Will you be voting in the upcoming ASI elections?”

Carlos Zuniga  
Computer Science



“No. I don’t really know what [ASI] is.”

Amairany Chavez  
Computer Science



“I will. I don’t really know much about it, just what’s in the emails coming around.”

Sean Kelly  
Bio Chem. (Fruit Sci)



“No. I don’t know what it all entails. Like what [ASI] is or what it’s for?”

Jolie Basham  
Biology



“Yes I will be voting. I don’t know who’s all running since I’m in the middle of Mid-terms.”

Michael Onuselogu  
Biology



“Yes. I heard about it at the SU.”

STAFF EDITORIAL

Lack of info leads to unopposed elections

The entire executive board of Associated Students, Inc. is running unopposed.

Last year’s election saw the seats for president, executive vice president and vice president of university affairs, unopposed as well.

This resulted in one the lowest voter turnouts in years, with only 7.5 percent of turnout.

ASI did not do enough to promote the opening of applications for the upcoming election, nor did they make themselves visible in students’ eyes throughout this election process.

With every seat on ASI running unopposed, with the exception of two director positions, this year’s election surmises to have another pitiful turnout.

As a result, there is almost no visible campaigning from the candidates on campus.

According to ASI Executive Director, Ilaria Pesco, ASI wanted

to have elections completed before spring break.

An email was sent to students on Friday, Feb. 23 announcing that the application window for candidacy had opened on Thursday, Feb. 22, and would end March 7 at 11 a.m.

In some cases, the mass email went directly into students’ clutter folders. So only students who check their clutter email really recieved saw te email telling them to apply. ASI needs to renovate how they promote and publicize the filing period for elections.

Social media posts regarding the opening of the application period were published the day the window opened. However, there was nothing prior to this to let students know they would soon be able to apply.

ASI also does not provide enough incentive for students to apply. ASI executive directors have their tution paid for the term they are in office, they get a free parking pass, and

they recieve priority registration.

Students in director positions get a parking pass and priority registration.

Many students are not aware of these benefits for being ASI members, knowing these benefits they might have more of an incentive to run for a position.

When the student fee referendum passed last month, 17 percent of students voted in the special election.

In order to maximize voter turnout and awareness of ASI’s presence on campus, the two votes should have been combined on the same ballot.

What is ASI doing to not encourage those in its organization to rise up and fulfill these seats?

The L.E.A.D. program’s goal is to engage students and actively promote involvement on campus. It also aims to push students to go beyond their own expectations.

Ironically, the L.E.A.D. program has no one applying for the director

of L.E.A.D. program position.

However, according to Aaron Wan, who is the candidate for vice president of campus life and current director of the L.E.A.D. program, there are students who did not apply for elections but have ambitions to be director of the L.E.A.D. program eventually.

When both current ASI members Precious Nwaoha, executive vice president and Ashley Schmidt, chair of the executive board, were asked why students with leadership potential did not run they sadi it was because they wanted to avoid the election process.

When asked if ASI would consider changing this process, Nwaoha said that they would not change it.

“I feel like they shouldn’t be forced to go through the elections process,” said Nwaoh. “We wan the most amount of people to be involved. We don’t want to limit people because they don’t want to go through

the election process.”

If students are not applying for elections, but being appointed by their peers, is that really an election?

When asked of several students choose to apply to ASI after the election process has ended Nwaoha said they do.

“Last summer we had up to three people run for a position,” said Nwaoha.

A huge part of having an election is so that the mass student body can choose who they want to see represent them. A candidate has to prove to the student body that they are in fact the best candidate for the position.

However, these students were not chosen by the mass student body. They did not have to campaign and prove to the student body that they are indeed the best candidate for the job.

Additionally, there is a building of

character in running a campaign.

When doing there job, student leaders have to be willing to face administrators, and even legislators when fighting for the rights of the student body.

How can we trust the appointed candidates to do this if some of them were even too intimidated by a campaigning process?

If a person really wants to be the voice of the students, they will not be afraid campaign and have to prove themselves to the student body.

Editor’s note  
The Staff Editorial is an unsigned opinion story that reflects The Runner editorial board’s stance on an issue. Join the discussion by sending us a letter to the editor at [therunneronline@gmail.com](mailto:therunneronline@gmail.com)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To whom it may concern,

My name is Josue Cruz, the President of Japan and Beyond. I read today’s edition of The Runner, which featured our club, and I found the initial “attention-grabber” to be quite offensive. An otaku, in the Japanese culture, is not just “a person obsessed with certain aspects of culture.” Otakus are known to not contribute much to society by being so obsessed to the point that they don’t work and avoid social interaction. As a club, we all felt offended by such a starting phrase and the rest of the paragraph just made it worse. This “attention-grabber” can work with people who know nothing about these words, but

those who know what they mean, ignored the article once they saw the word “otaku” and the fact that the question “Have you been told your shipping of characters is excessive and borderline unhealthy?” is very unappealing, making anyone who wants to know about the actual culture we bring, to sway away from this kind of article. We’ve worked hard to change the image that Japan and Beyond has, and the beginning of the article goes against that. The rest of the article was fine, but I know that first impressions are what people look at and this beginning paragraph left a bad impression on how Japan and Beyond is as an organization. We know many who understand this jargon

would find the article uninviting and would go off without reading what we really are about. We would like to know how The Runner can make up for the defamation of Japan and Beyond. Please consider what you can do to change that and keep a good relationship with Japan and Beyond.

Thank you for your time.

*The Runner welcomes Letters to the Editor and comments to the Runner Online. The views expressed in this letter are the opinions of the author.*

POLITICS

Arming teachers is aimless

By Tanner Harris  
Reporter

A proposition to arm educators has arisen in the wake of the Stoneman Douglas High School shooting.

A teacher’s responsibility is to teach, not to be a first line of defense. That is why police officers and security exist in the first place.

Rae Abbott, a junior math major, said that arming teachers is a terrible idea and referenced the armed personnel who held back during the recent Florida shooting.

“There has already been at least 28 incidences where a gun has been fired at a school this year. If the f\*\*king campus police at the Parkland shooting didn’t do his f\*\*king job, a trained police officer, how the hell are teachers going to be expected to do it?” said Abbott.

It’s true that arming teachers might provide an extra layer of security

for American youth, but asking them to both educate and protect their students is a hefty task, and a misguided one if our current education system is any indication.



The U.S.is already struggling to keep up with other countries when it comes to test scores.

According to the Pew Research Center, the U.S. ranked just about

average compared to other industrialized countries like Japan, Germany, Canada, and Finland in terms of education last year. The Hechinger Report also found that spending per student declined by 4% in the U.S. from 2010 to 2014.

More resources should be dedicated to the education and care of our students, such as counseling centers, well-trained educators, trained security, and active shooter procedure drills.

Asking teachers to pull double-duty on something they were not trained to do is too much to ask, and having some experience with firing a weapon is no replacement for professional experience. Schools should be a safe-haven for children, not a potential shooting range.

Perhaps stricter gun laws are a solution, as many of the Parkland students have been calling for. Whatever the case may be, arming teachers is not going to be the solution.

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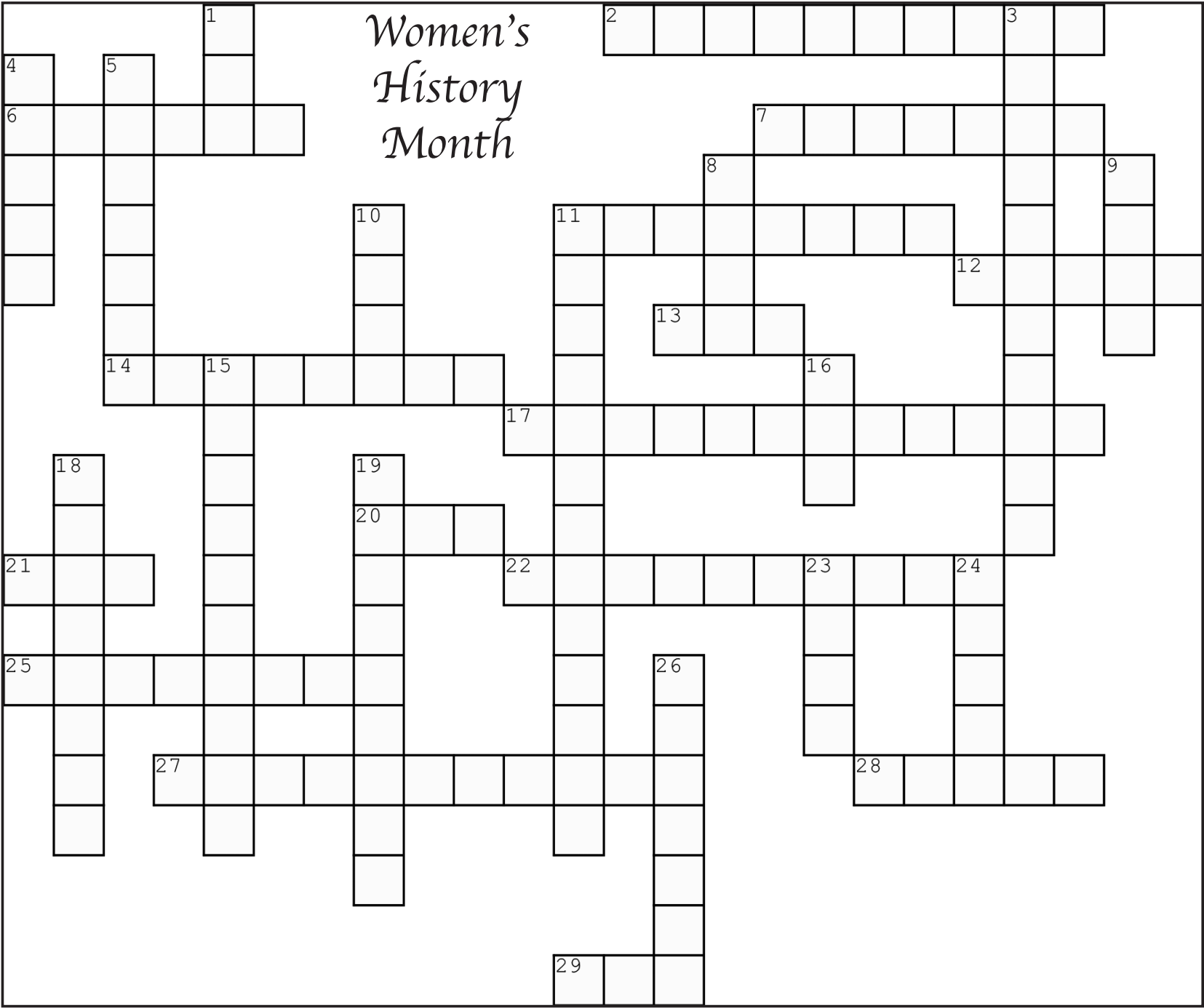


# THE RUNNER GAMES

6

By The Gamemaster

March 21, 2018



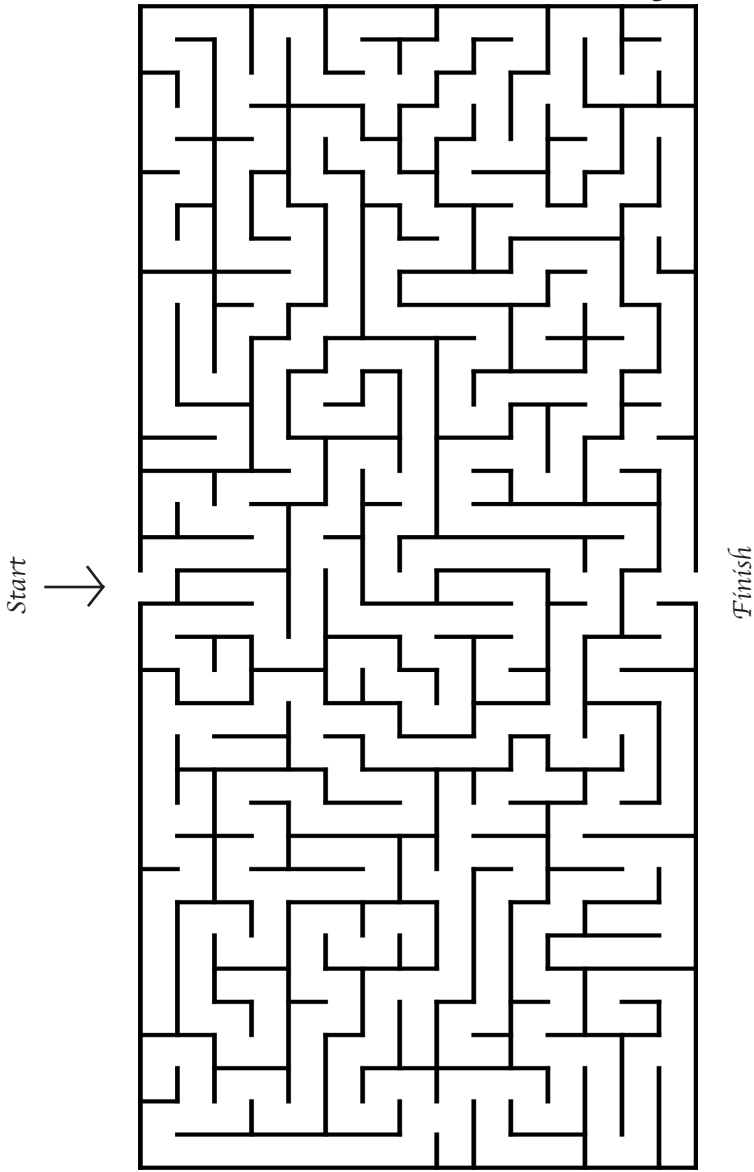
- Down**
1. John Lennon's widow Yoko \_\_\_\_
  3. Played Xena
  4. You can say that \_\_\_\_
  5. Oscar winner \_\_\_\_ McDormand
  8. Blanchett in Thor Ragnorak
  9. Princess played by Carrie Fisher
  10. Disney's Ice Queen
  11. First lady promoted healthy eating
  15. Natasha Romanoff
  16. So \_\_\_\_, so good
  18. Buffy slayed them
  19. First female US Attorney General
  23. Soccer Hall of Fame Mia \_\_\_\_
  24. TV host \_\_\_\_ Degeneres
  26. 29's weekends update co-anchor

- Across**
2. Lost a glass slipper leaving the Ball
  6. Hell's Kitchen Chef \_\_\_\_ Ramsey
  7. Mother of Blue Ivy
  11. Da Vinci's most famous portrait
  12. City where the Lourve is located
  13. Miles \_\_\_\_ Gallon
  14. Opposite of add
  17. Netflix female Defender
  20. Joan of \_\_\_\_
  21. Kill Bill's \_\_\_\_ Thurman
  22. Last surviving Golden Girl
  25. Opposite of noon
  27. Diana Prince of Justice League
  28. Ms. Jackson if you're nasty
  29. Ex -SNL cast-mate \_\_\_\_ Pochler

*Sudoku Solution  
for Mar. 7, 2018*

2	5	3	7	1	6	9	4	8
6	7	9	8	4	3	5	2	1
4	1	8	9	5	2	3	6	7
7	9	2	1	6	5	4	8	3
8	4	5	3	7	9	6	1	2
1	3	6	4	2	8	7	5	9
9	2	4	6	8	7	1	3	5
5	6	7	2	3	1	8	9	4
3	8	1	5	9	4	2	7	6

You're 'MAZING me crazy!



*Sudoku*

			4				5	
	5	7			3			
9						6		
4		3	5	9				2
		2		7			8	
				6		1		
		9				3		
	4				8	5	7	
	2							



## Graduation Workshops Schedule

Date	Time	Location
Tuesday, March 6th, 2018	12:00 PM to 1:00 PM	Main Campus: DDH 103K
Wednesday, March 14th, 2018	11:00 AM to 12: 00 PM	Main Campus: DDH 101G
Thursday, March 15th, 2018	12:00 PM to 1:00 PM	Main Campus: DDH 103K
Wednesday, March 21st, 2018	1:00 PM to 2:00 PM	Main Campus: WSL 18 AV Campus: 123 St-D
Thursday, April 5th, 2018	5:30 PM to 6:30 PM	Main Campus: EDUC 127
Monday, April 16th, 2018	11:00 AM to 1: 00 PM	Main Campus: EDUC 127



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BASEBALL

CSUB wins 3 of 4 over Dartmouth

By Vincent Perez  
Sports Editor

The finale of CSU Bakersfield and Dartmouth College came down to the last three innings. On Sunday, March 18, the Roadrunners won 7-5 at Hardt Field over the Big Green in a game that the Roadrunners grind-ed out the win.

The Roadrunners and the Big Green traded runs in the 7th and 8th innings before senior sidearm Naithen Dewsnap closed out the 9th for the win. Dewsnap got his fourth save of the season in the finale.

Junior catcher Ryan Koch led CSUB in offense in the win and has improved since the beginning of the season. Koch went 3-3 with 2 RBI doubles and a walk. CSUB won 3 of 4 from Dartmouth, their first series win at home and second overall.

“We’ve got a lot of confidence swinging the bats. We have a new approach going on,” said Koch.

The Roadrunners’ (9-12) 7 runs on 10 hits in the finale win catapulted them to their victory. Stolen bases came early and often for CSUB. The Roadrunners set a new record in 8 stolen bases in the win against Dartmouth (3-8).

“You can see it in this whole se-ries. We’ve got something good go-ing into conference,” added Koch.

Aaron Charles (2-3, 6.33 ERA) started the game for CSUB. Charles pitched 5 innings and threw 101 pitches for the win. A season high that didn’t seem to bother him.

“I feel good. I’ll ice it up later,” said Charles. ‘I’ll be ready for my next start.”

Charles’ next start is projected to



Aaron Mills/The Runner

CSUB’s No. 15, Davonte Butler delivers a pitch during the March 15 game against Dartmouth College.

be next week in CSUB’s first WAC set at the University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, beginning Friday, March 23-35.

CSUB tacked on 3 runs in the first off execution and an error. They added three runs total in the 5th, 7th and 8th, in a game that they never trailed but felt the pressure from Dartmouth.

“It’s difficult to beat a team three out of four. That’s a quality club,” said Head Coach Jeremy Beard about Dartmouth.

“It’s nice to round up our presea-son on a positive note. We see our guys’ growth throughout the last

few weeks.”

Beard said about Koch’s perfor-mance, “When he gets out of his game plan, he’s a different animal. When he’s in it, he’s a good a hitter as anyone we have.”

Beard said Charles did not throw his best stuff, but he wanted to get his pitch count up. “We stayed with him a little longer and he battled through.”

The Big Green were able to get to Charles in the 6th. He gave up three runs on two hits in the sixth.

Kyle King and Naithen Dewsnap closed out Dartmouth. The duo pitched two innings each and limit-

ed the Big Green to 2 runs.

“We’re ready to go for conference. It’s been a long preseason honestly,” said Charles.

In game two, on Friday, March 16, Dartmouth beat CSUB 11-9 in an ugly game for the Roadrunners. They committed 4 errors.

CSUB bested Dartmouth in the third game, on Saturday, March 17, 9-4.

The Roadrunners will travel to San Diego State University Tuesday, March 20 for a single game.

On Friday, March 23, CSUB will begin its WAC play at UTRGV Friday, March 23-25.

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

History-making season just a start

[BASKETBALL, Page 1]

This year’s team finally got over the hump and reached the WAC tournament final after falling in the semifinals each of the last four trips to Vegas.

Williams, a key piece on both sides of the ball, was selected to the First Team All-WAC after leading CSUB with 12.1 points per game. Johnson and redshirt-senior center Jazmyne Bartee were selected to the WAC All-Defensive Team.

Vanessa Austin, a freshman for-ward/center, earned a selection to the WAC All-Newcomer team.

The accolades didn’t stop there.

Johnson and junior forward Mala-yasia McHenry were selected to the All-WAC Tournament Team at the WAC Tournament in Vegas.

Johnson averaged 13.3 points per game in the tournament, including a game-high 23 in the win over UTRGV, while McHenry added 12 points per contest while coming off the bench.

“It makes me feel good. I was real-ly surprised because I didn’t know I was going to get this,” said McHen-ry on her All-Tournament Team selection. “It makes me hungrier for next season.”

Johnson said before the first round match up with Fresno State that she wants to continue to grow mentally and to hit clutch shots.

She also added that she wants experience and exposure for CSUB. She thanks the Bakersfield commu-nity.

“Everybody here is supportive so I just want the world to see how much we’re loved and how great Bakersfield is,” said Johnson.

Kandiss Barber, a senior guard who transferred from Rutgers University, will join CSUB in the 2018-19 season. Barber was the sec-ond-leading scorer for the Scarlet Knights in 2017.

The Roadrunners appear to have the pieces in place for a WAC Cham-pionship and berth to the NCAA Tournament.

With the exception of Williams, CSUB will return each member of its starting lineup next season.

Senior guard Alize’ Lofton, Wil-liams, and Bartee are also players graduating from this year’s roster.

“We’re looking forward to next year’s group, we do have some great pieces coming back,” said McCall.

With the momentum of this sea-son, plus another strong recruiting class this offseason, a WAC Cham-pionship and NCAA tournament berth are closer than ever for the Roadrunners.

Sophomore guard Kate Tokuha-ra showed promise this season as CSUB’s long-shot taker. She started in all of the WAC Tournament games. She may have average only 3.6 points per game, but once she finds her spot from the three, she will become dangerous.

McCall will enter his eighth sea-son this upcoming fall and will look to become a serious threat again.

FEATURE

Finch breaking pole vault records for CSUB

By John Hernandez  
Reporter

“I know I can jump that, I know I can jump higher,” were the thoughts going through Finch’s head right before her record jump.

On February 2, sophomore pole vaulter Julianne Finch broke the school record and reset her own per-sonal record by clearing 12 feet and 6 inches.

Finch had previously broken the record of 12-5 last year during her freshman season.

Since then, Finch has won two medals. At the Oxy Distance Car-nival, on March 10, she won silver (11-7.75). She placed first at the Cal State LA Invitational March 3, with a height of 11-2.25.

Finch shares a special bond with pole vaulting coach Dion Giuliano.

Coach Giuliano was not set to come back and coach. It took some convincing from the other coaches to bring Giuliano back and their convincing was successful.

“He makes it to where I want to come out here and I love the sport that I do. He makes me love it that much more with his coaching and how he is as a person,” said Finch.

Giuliano has made a commitment to Finch and does not plan on back-ing out of the commitment.

“I won’t go anywhere until she’s gone because we’ve made a connec-tion together. Just keep her prog-ress, keep her improving and getting better each year,” said Giuliano.

Finch is majoring in business with

a concentration on marketing. She is hoping to work with an athletic apparel company and help with its marketing.

“I want to work for an Adidas or Nike in their marketing/advertising promotions area,” she said.

“She’s basically setting the bar and raising it every single time,” Melson said.

When it comes to Finch’s work ethic, it is one of the best according to CSUB Director of Track and Field, Marcia Mansur-Wentworth.

“She works very hard, she has great enthusiasm and her teammates lover her. She is just full of energy, a lot of fun to have around and her work ethic is some of the best I’ve seen,” Mansur-Wentworth said.

“She doesn’t argue with you, she

doesn’t bellyache, she doesn’t com-plain. She sets very high standards for herself,” Mansur-Wentworth said.

Both Finch and coach Giuliano share the same goal for her this sea-son which is to make the regional championship and hopes of reach-ing the national championships.

Giuliano and Finch are confident she can jump 4 meters (13 feet) if she can make it to nationals.

Next, Finch and the CSUB track and field team will have the Cal Poly Invitational Friday, March 23-24.

Following that, the teams will travel to UCLA, for a two-day event March 30-31. The Outdoor Track and Field NCAA Championships are June 6-10 in Eugene, Oregon.



Simer Khurana/The Runner

CSU Bakersfield sophomore pole vaulter, Julianne Finch, practices on the track near the Icardo Center, on Wednesday, Feb. 28.

SCHOOL SPIRIT

CSUB fans: We see you, but we can’t hear you

By Peter Castillo  
Editor-in-Chief

As a member of the media, we are taught to not root for the teams and players we cover.

But as a student of the university I attend, sometimes I can’t help but root them on under my breath.

During the Western Athletic Con-ference Tournament in Las Vegas, there were four schools’ fan bases who had a noticeably larger number of fans in attendance.

New Mexico State University, Utah Valley University, Grand Canyon University and CSU Ba-kersfield had the most support from their fans.

However, what I noticed during that weekend’s games wasn’t the number of fans, but rather the dif-ference in intensity and volume of the cheering from the fans.

New Mexico State boasts the best travelling fan base of any school in the conference. This is understand-able, as it is the only institution in the conference with a football program. It also has been a Division I school since 1931.

The Aggies’ men’s and women’s basketball teams have also been the most successful teams in WAC play since the conference realigned in 2013.

Grand Canyon and Utah Valley both have up and coming basketball programs that have created excite-ment in the school’s respective fan bases.

Grand Canyon’s status as a for-profit institution allows for a cash flow none of the other schools in the WAC can compete with.

It also has the largest arena in the conference and is home to ‘The Havocs’, a student section at GCU home games that makes life tough on visiting opponents.

Utah Valley, meanwhile, has over 37,000 students enrolled and has a rowdy student section of its own.

Then there is CSUB. Our institution is the closest in proximity to Las Vegas of all the WAC schools, which allows for droves of Roadrunners fans to come and support.

However, the energy and noise created from the other three schools mentioned above, greatly outdid anything our fan base was creating.

It seemed as if our fans were just sitting on their hands.

This, of course, isn’t anything new if you have attended any CSUB sporting events, particularly basket-ball, in recent seasons.

The men’s basketball team draws nearly 2,800 fans per game, which ranked fourth in the WAC. Howev-

er, it never sounds like it, even in a small gym like the Icardo Center. This campus is absent of any sort of game day tradition or rituals. There is no buzz on campus when a big game is approaching. There are no chants or special cheers that occur during the course of the game either.

The only tradition I’ve noticed from the fans is to stand until the Roadrunners score a basket to start the game and the second half.

The swim and dive teams do their part to make noise whenever they are in attendance, as does the spirit squad and dance team.

However, the rest of those in attendance, particularly the student section, is largely silent and does not add to the atmosphere nor make the Icardo Center an imposing place to play for opponents.

Our teams deserve better than this. Despite the men’s basketball team enduring a rough season this year, the Roadrunners still performed well at home, going 8-4. There is also plenty of young talent on the roster which offers hope in the near future.

The women’s basketball team had a historic season which saw them advance to the WAC tournament final for the first time in school history.

Despite a successful season for head coach Greg McCall and his team, the Roadrunners only drew an average attendance of 685.

On Wednesday night, the women’s team hosted Fresno State in the first round of the Women’s Basketball Invitational. This was the first time CSUB had hosted a postseason con-test since the move to Division I.

The attendance was 1,604, just over half of what the average atten-dance of a men’s game this season.

Also, a good portion of those in attendance were rooting for Fresno State.

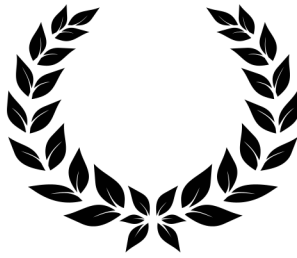
With the move to the Big West Conference on the horizon, students and fans alike will need to address this.

Every school in the Big West, with the exception of the University of Hawaii, is in California. Fans from these schools will flock to Bakers-field and invade the Icardo Center, just as Fresno State fans did.

In order to create a true D-I atmo-sphere, fans and students alike will need to step their games up.

Our status as a commuter campus does work against us, however, in a town like Bakersfield with not a lot to do, that’s hardly an excuse as to why school spirit is so low on this campus.

Please check [therunneronline.com](http://therunneronline.com) for coverage of Roadrunner wrestlers at NCAA Championships and full coverage of the women’s golf and track and field.



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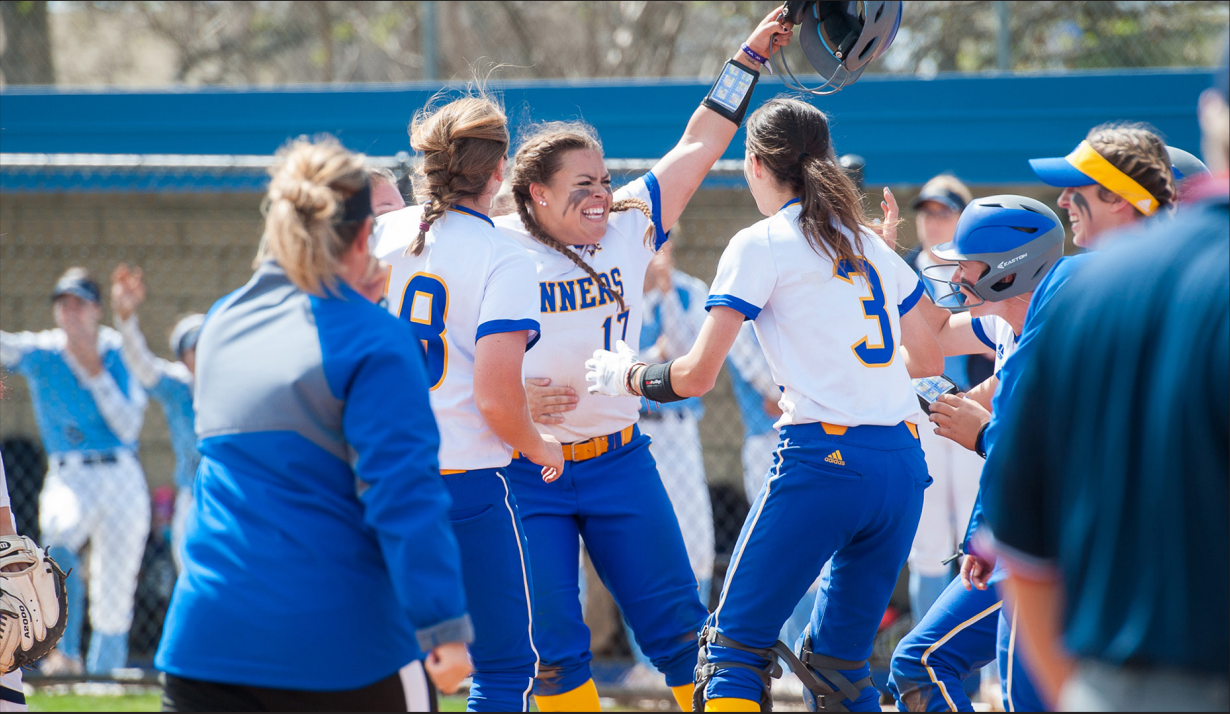
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SOFTBALL

CSUB wins on walkoff hit



Paige Johnson (center) celebrates with teammates after her walk-off base hit against San Diego on Saturday, March 17 at the Roadrunner Softball Complex. They won 2-1 in 8 innings to snap their 8-game losing streak.

By Johnathan Wheatley  
Reporter

CSU Bakersfield softball took the first game of the three game series against the University of San Diego, snapping an 8-game losing streak.

It was the first home series for the Roadrunners after its first scheduled home series against Sacramento State was rained out.

A struggling CSUB team, coming off a 1-17 loss against Stanford, returned to newly renovated dugouts and a home crowd for the first time this year and gave the fans something to cheer about.

The first game of the series doubled the Roadrunners total wins on the season and have a 2-19 record on the season after the series against San Diego.

The Roadrunners and the Toreros both started the game off in the first inning. San Diego had bases loaded in the first inning and CSUB held them to one run after a fielder's choice.

The Roadrunners scored on a single up the middle by junior Paige Johnson. Senior Kaylynn Burt

scored from second base.

Freshman pitcher Daryn Hitzel was lights out for CSUB, throwing a complete 8.0 innings striking out six and only giving up four hits. Hitzel earned her first win on the year, improving her record to 1-3 overall.

"The girls have been waiting for that moment for a long time. It was fun to see Paige's demeanor, to see how calm she was. She was built for that moment," said CSUB head coach Crissy Buck-Ziegler to gorunners.com.

The second game of the series was also a close game, but the results were in the favor of USD, as CSUB would fall, 3-2.

Senior pitcher Summer Evans pitched a complete game allowing three earned runs and nine hits while striking out two batters. Evans is still looking for her first win and after the loss against San Diego, her record drops to 0-10 on the year.

"I thought we played pretty well in the second game. I thought we competed really well and Summer threw a gutsy ball game," said Buck-Ziegler to gorunners.com.

In the series finale, San Diego got

on the board quickly after its first three batters reached base safely. The Roadrunners limited the damage and only allowed one run to cross home plate in the first inning.

The Toreros came back in the top of the second inning and scored two more runs after a single to left. CSUB responded with a run in the bottom of the second after a double down the left field line by sophomore Karah Wiseman and scored junior Chris Hipa from second base.

In the top of the fourth inning, the Toreros broke open the floodgates and scored four runs.

It forced Buck-Ziegler to make a pitching change, subbing Hitzel in for redshirt-freshman Kaycee Olson, who pitched 3 2/3 innings, allowing seven runs on 10 hits. The Roadrunners fell to San Diego, 7-5.

The Roadrunners will have played a doubleheader on Tuesday, March 20 at CSU Fullerton.

CSUB will continue play this coming weekend at the Gaucho Classic and UC Santa Barbara and Saint Mary's College from March 23-25.



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