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the beard

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class, sports and life

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The Runner

California State University, Bakersfield

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Campaign is on for potential ASI elects

By Stephanie Cox
Staff Writer

Your voice and vote count to determine the next leaders of the California State University, Bakersfield campus in the upcoming Associated Students Inc. elections on May 14 and 15.

This week has launched the election process for CSUB's new ASI board. The applications are in and now the

campaigning will start.

This will be Election Coordinator and Assistant Director of Campus Programming, Emily Poole's first time organizing and leading the ASI elections.

During an information session in the Student Union on Tuesday, she said, "'I' is for incorporated. The 'I' is a supported organization, a supporting entity of the university."

The two candidates running for president are Savannah Andrews, the current vice president of programming, and Derek Stotler, the current executive vice president. Running for executive vice president are Vanessa Cofield, the current director of Arts and Humanities, and Mike Kwon, the current housing director. For vice president of external affairs, Ricardo Perez, the current A&H director, is running

against Zach Miller. Four candidates are running for vice president of finance, including current Social Sciences and Education Director Gessel Romo, and three candidates are running for vice president of programming, including current SSE Director Stephanie Campos. Read next Wednesday's issue of The Runner for a voter guide and candidate profiles.

During the information session, the

requirements for running and the roles of each candidate were explained.

"I'm not sure what previous years have been as far as the numbers, but I would say that the excitement of the students running and getting involved in leadership opportunities is exciting and there's a large number," said Poole about the 26 candidates that turned in applications and were at the meeting.

[See ELECTION, Page 3]



Top: Luminara spell out the word hope during the luminara ceremony at Bakersfield's Relay for Life event on May 3.

Above: Luminara line the Relay for Life racetrack.

Right: Relay for Life volunteer Karyn Ortiz practices her painting skills before painting other attendees for the event.

Below: Entertainment was provided for spectators, including country music recording artist Ashley Monroe.



Relay for the Cure



Pertinence of poetry presented

By Layne Ogle
Staff Writer

was in love with teaching; as you enter that career you just fall more in love."

Bakersfield is home to many aspects of inspiration, and many local poets made an appearance at the Walter W. Stiern Library at California State University, Bakersfield on Tuesday, April 29 to show this.

Curt Asher, interim dean of the library, opened the reading by addressing the importance of poetry that's locally made.

"It is the purest form of literary art telling about the school and the town," Asher said.

Walter Presents featured six Bakersfield poets beginning with CSUB's Dean of Arts and Humanities, Dr. Richard Collins.

Collins commented on the title of "Local Poetry."

"All poetry is local just like all love is personal. There is no such thing as universal or abstract love and there is no such thing as universal or abstract poetry," Collins said.

Portia Choi, a Korean immigrant, followed Collins and showed the audience how she uses her poetry as a way to cope with her emotions from the Korean War that began when she was only 2 years old.

Choi dedicated "Line Dance," one of her poems, to her high school English teacher.

"[She] opened my eyes and heart to poetry," commented Choi.

Professor Emeritus of Bakersfield College, Dr. Nancy Edwards, reminisced about her days as a professor as she read her poetry.

"[I am] very proud of the marvelous work done at Cal State Bakersfield," Edwards said. "I

CSUB's own Dr. Marit MacArthur, who is currently compiling her first book of poems, read four of her poems including one titled "Comfort Zone."

"I like poetry because it allows you to express different moods at different times," MacArthur said.

Bakersfield native, Don Thompson, read an excerpt from his book "Local Color" published in February.

In the chapter "True Crime," Thompson recalls Bakersfield in 1904.

Another one of CSUB's professors, Matthew Woodman, presented his poetry and expressed his desire for others to take a chance on their own writing.

"I encourage you all to do your writing and send it out into the world and see where it goes," said Woodman.

CSUB Students Gerald Horowitz and Ashley Fischer were both given opportunities to read their poems, "Los Angeles: Miodotty" and "Loco Motives," respectively.

"It's so nice to hear that people like my poetry," Fischer said.

Fischer was awarded first place in the 2014 Betty Creative Writing Awards for her poem "Portrait Spun."

This event offered students, faculty and locals a chance to show off their talents by reading for an audience of interested peers.

It also opened a deeper understanding for poetry specifically written for Bakersfield locals.

CSUB students trained to prevent rape

By Hiba Ali
Staff Writer

The Rape Aggression Defense System is a nationwide self-defense program to teach women, children, men and seniors how to defend themselves from any physical violence. This program was offered at California State University, Bakersfield by the University Police Department; it was a three-day class from May 2 to 4. It is four hours of physical training and safety tips.

Two of the CSUB campus officers and CSUB instructor Michelle Mills trained a number of female students at the Student Recreation Center and taught them how to defend them-

selves from any kind of assault. The UPD has offered this class twice a year for the past 10 years.

"Because safety is a high priority to the university, the class is offered free of charge," said Colleen Dillaway, director of Public Affairs and Communications at CSUB.

Many female students were there to learn what to do if they were in danger, and they were actually having fun. Now they are equipped with the knowledge of how to handle themselves in a situation should they be attacked.

"I would take it again if they offered it again," said Anakaren Martinez, 20, a criminal justice student.

The class was free of charge,

but a \$20 deposit was held until the last day of the class to hold a place for the students. The class is offered for any females who have the ability. Men are also able to take the session, but the only male who signed up for the class did not attend. Students can bring their friends or family with them.

"We do, if we have the ability, we do open it for any female, not only students, but we give the CSUB students priority," said Mari Gonzalez, an officer of UPD and a trainer for RAD.

On the first day, there was no physical training. Instead, it was a lecture of some safety tips for the female students at home, walking to their cars and basic safety advice to prevent assault

and be more aware with some self-defense techniques. The second day was a light physical training day with basic self-defense techniques. The last day consisted of harder physical training, where they would actually have a male officer with a pattern suit as a fake assailant to allow female students to practice the techniques they learned.

The whole point of this program is to teach females how to protect themselves and to be aware of their surroundings.

"Upon completion of the class, students will have a heightened awareness of their surroundings and will — if need be — have the skills and confidence to defend themselves against aggressors," said Dillaway.



Crismat Mateo/The Runner

Officer Medina demonstrates defense techniques against potential aggressors during the RAD workshop on Sunday, May 4.

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Support is a cause, not a passing trend

**By Anthony Jauregui
Senior Staff Writer**

We've all seen the pink shirts, pink shoes and "save the tatas" bracelets. More importantly, we've all heard of them. Everyone supports breast cancer one awareness way or another, but are we supporting it because it's the right thing to do, or because it looks cool?

Breast cancer is in the spotlight in numerous outlets, but hiding in the bellows are other crippling diseases like muscular dystrophy, mental illnesses and other harmful cancers.

There are supporters in society who go out of their way to support other causes because they feel breast cancer is receiving enough notoriety.

Brandon Marshall, a wide

receiver for the Chicago Bears, was fined thousands of dollars on numerous occasions for wearing various colored cleats.

According to The Chicago Tribune in 2013, "Marshall wore (green) cleats to promote Mental Health Awareness week."

Although it is in his contract to wear white cleats, he wore green in hopes of bringing support to mental health awareness.

Ignoring the fact that the fine for fighting and wearing different colored cleats is the same, at \$10,000, the fact that Brandon Marshall's best way to spread awareness of mental illness is to break the rules of the NFL is wholly ridiculous.

Breast cancer awareness has a monopoly on the support that is received from society. I see

pink everywhere to support awareness, but nothing for Dissociative Identity Disorder.

Breast cancer affects less people than prostate cancer does, but I think people are inclined to support breast cancer based on the fact that it mainly affects women, and prostate cancer only affects men.

According to an article by thedailycaller.com, "According to estimates from the National Institutes of Health, in the United States in 2010, 207,090 women and 1,970 men will get new cases of breast cancer, while 39,840 women and 390 men will likely die from the disease.

"The estimated new cases of prostate cancer this year — all affecting men — is 217,730, while it is predicted 32,050 will

die from the disease."

And the fact that breast cancer affects the breasts, one of society's favorite body parts, makes it easier to market to the public, i.e. shirts and bracelets that say "save the tatas."

No one wants a bracelet that says "save my semen" for prostate cancer awareness.

Don't think you have to support illness relief because your friends are doing it, support it because it's the right thing to do. Don't pay \$5 to donate for a cause, just to have your name on the wall of a restaurant.

There are people who wear "I Love Boobies" shirts because they like what's under them, then there are supporters who wear "I Love Boobies" shirts because they genuinely support the cause.

We have created a society where we support things that are cool. We jump on bandwagons because our friends are doing it. I feel that the support of breast cancer has become a fad.

We support the cause because it involves boobs, not because there are women suffering.

We live in a world where we can be fined for showing support for something we're passionate and care about.

Society should stop "supporting" things because they think it's cool to support.

Don't be afraid to support something other than breast cancer. They'll still get it nonetheless.

Spread the support, not the idea of support because it's cool.

#Please #stop #abusing #hashtags

**By Bre Williams
Staff Writer**

#Love #TBT #Sorrynotsorry #JUST-STOP

We have all experienced those posts on social networking sites; you know the annoying ones that bury our feeds in hashtag after hashtag of pointless words.

Somewhere along the way of all the tweets and Instagram posts the actual reason behind hashtagging got lost in translation.

Hashtags were first brought into the web sphere by tweeter Chris Messina who is credited with the first-ever use of a hashtag.

He used the # symbol before the name of a technology conference as a way for those involved to share and find discussions easily on Twitter. While the idea was brilliant, hashtaggers have turned it into an obnoxious fad.

According to hashtagig.com, as of May 2, 2014, the top five instagram hashtags were #Love, #Instagood, #Me, #Follow,

and #tbt. Hashtags, on a site like Instagram, are meant to allow users to find other pictures related to the word being hashtagged. But honestly who is going to search the hashtag love?

That is far too broad because people love many types of things.

When searching #love on instagram one can find: sneakers, donuts, selfies, McFlurry's, and even Mickey Mouse giving the camera his middle finger.

The most popular hashtag on Instagram is a complete jungle of random pictures, most of which people will not love viewing.

If you are using #Me, I really feel sorry for you because your followers must not already know what you look like. Also

the more times you put #follow on your selfies the less meaningful the message becomes.

So why do people feel the need to hashtag 30 times on one picture?



Abdullahi, 20, a sophomore nursing major who is a frequent hashtagger, said that she believes, "the purpose of hash

Cliven Bundy is a dangerous outlier

**By Richard Garibay
Senior Staff Writer**

A small skirmish broke out in Nevada recently as agents of the Bureau of Land Management and a small group of armed militia faced off at the Bundy Ranch in Bunkerville. Now before I begin my rant on what I think of the situation and its participants, I'll give a bit of background information.

Cattle rancher Cliven Bundy refused to pay a cattle grazing fee that was passed in the early '90s and now owes the BLM over \$1 million. Apparently he feels he is above his rancher neighbors who pay their fair share.

After trying numerous ways to get its money, the BLM decided to forcibly remove Bundy's cattle from the land to which Bundy decided to call a militia and start a standoff.

These militiamen are what I find most difficult to comprehend in the situation. Why are there so many Americans who look for the smallest excuse to pick a weapon and go to war with the gov'tment?

There was no need for the kind of violent escalation the militia created.

According to Sara Morrison of thewire.com, "... the militia have set up checkpoints on the roads [of Bunkerville], where residents have to

prove they live there before being allowed to drive on."

These aren't officers of the law who are regulated and trained, these are a group of random guys who picked up some guns and decided to play cowboy. They have absolutely no need to be there and are more of a threat to the town than the BLM agents.

The next thing I find ridiculous is that the Bundy clan insists on making themselves the poor victims.

You can't refuse to follow the law and then cry when you have to face the consequences.

For years Bundy refused to pay the fees for his grazing cattle, fees that go to the

upkeep of that land for everyone who uses it. If he disagrees with the fees there are legal ways to voice his opinions and try to change it.

As I think about it though, this could be Obama and the big evil government's (side note: great band name) doing. All of this Cliven Bundy controversy is part of their evil plan to starve the world's cattle one backwater southern town at a time.

Thank goodness there are men who have assault weapons so they can replace the dangerous government agents and make the town feel safe by walking the streets with their guns slung over their shoulders.

The Beard is love, the Beard is life: Respect the Beard

**By Christopher Short
Staff Writer**

What do ZZ Top, Karl Marx and Ulysses S. Grant have in common? Facial hair.

Facial hair is a complex phenomenon. It is multi-faceted and dynamic. In fact, growing a beard involves science, virtue and art.

The beard is science: Beard cultivation is a product of one's genes and physiological construct. It is a scientific process and falls under what is known

as pogonotrophy, which is defined by the Farlex dictionary as: the act of cultivating, or growing and grooming, a mustache, beard, sideburns or other facial hair.

"Let's set aside the incredible stylishness for a moment and talk about the science," said Randy Lovegreen, 43, a California State University, Bakersfield nursing major.

"From a purely objective, scientific perspective we know that beards grant their wearers an evolutionary advantage. For

example, in areas where temperatures are very low, they prevent frostbite and warm the incoming air reducing insensible moisture loss. In areas where food is scarce, they can often trap small bits and pieces of food serving as an emergency food supply. And finally, the beard also says to the female of the species 'See? I am virile and ready to mate,' serving, if you will, as an external, visible manifestation of the internal testosterone levels."

Though the beard requires

time and energy, once a beard has matured, it possesses many characteristics.

According to doghousediaries.com, the beard filters the air of toxins, acts as a homing beacon attracting the jealousy of the beardless, increases cognitive abilities, and instinctually lets you know where the nearest mountain is.

The beard is virtue: Promoting patience and commitment, the beard separates the boys from the men.

Beards provoke leadership qualities that transcend the average male. Most of all, in accordance to virtue, it inspires contemplative philosophical thought.

"A beard is sometimes a pillow for the thinking man," said J.D. Roach, 24, a CSUB philosophy major.

Facial hair further displays character and defines modern masculinity. Some have asked,

"How do you shave your beard like a man?" Truth is, you don't.

The beard is art: There is an entire industry built on the art of facial hair. Websites such as artofmanliness.com and beardedgospelmen.net, television shows including Duck Dynasty and Whisker Wars and documentaries such as The Winter of the Beard are among the facial hair media empire.

The beard is an art form, much like a sculpted piece of art.

"Like a work of art, the beard is manipulated with hands and patience to create a form of self-expression," said Robyn Dyer, 29, a CSUB art education major.

The beard isn't a fad. The beard is a statement and the essence of masculinity. It is important to remember that a man doesn't simply grow a beard. A beard simply grows a man.

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Letter to the Editor: Advancing Parenting

I just wanted to say thank you for putting the article about the Advanced Parenting signs around campus. Every time I read one of these signs I become baffled because it's quite complicated to label parenting on degrees of good or bad. Everyone holds their own level of what is correct or incorrect, appropriate or inappropriate, so I find it very inappropriate for someone to set out a standard for this topic.

Thanks for the good read.
Sincerely,
Stephanie Nava

Matsuri festival funded by ASI

By Stephanie Cox
Senior Staff Writer

At the Associated Students Inc. meeting last Friday, two members of the club Japan and Beyond asked for money to help fund their upcoming event.

Club President Christina Swanson, 21, a chemistry major, and Treasurer Stephanie Villacorta, 20, a biology major, asked ASI for \$1,055.99 to fund the Matsuri event.

The last Matsuri event on campus was in 2010, with about 500 attendees. It event featured the club members singing and dancing. The club also prepared Japanese food.

This year's Matsuri will feature a group of taino drummers, an Aikido display and a dance and skits. The food for the event will be catered from a local restaurant. There will be anime screenings, origami, a judo club demonstration, calligraphy and more.

The Campus Gamers will also provide Japanese games and board games for students to play such as Dance Dance Revolution.

The budget for the Matsuri was modified from the original amount estimated. ASI will allocate \$1,460 to help fund the event. The money will cover \$200 for the performer and honorarium fees and \$200 for supplies and services.

Japan and Beyond's Matsuri event is from 5 to 8 p.m. May 23 in the Student Recreation Center.

ASI elections to be held next week

[ELECTION, Page 1]

The five executive positions available are president, executive vice president, vice president of external affairs, vice president of finance, and vice president of programming.

The 21 board positions that are available are five upper division directors, and four lower division directors, two directors from each school, two graduate directors and two housing directors.

While executive officers will devote 10 hours minimum per week, the office board members will devote two hours per week.

The benefits that will be granted to both executive and board officers include leadership skills that can't be taught within the classroom setting, quarterly parking permits, one unit of credit through GST 120, priority registration and chances for networking with campus leaders.

On Friday in the Blue Room after the final applications were turned in, there was a meeting for the candidates about campaigning guidelines.

Each candidate had to attend this mandatory meeting before they could start their campaigns.

"You are a role model," said Poole before launching into the Do and Don't list for campaigning, which included the requirement that all posters, handouts or any campaign material must be approved by Poole before it can be used.

In addition, some areas may need additional approval for posting.

Places that are prohibited from campaigning are cars, trees, bathrooms, mirrors, in or outside the cafeteria except for the bulletin boards, outside Science III and the Student Union.

While posters are forbidden from the Student Union, talking to students and handouts are OK.

Each student candidate can spend no more than \$300 on campaigning.

The funds do not get reimbursed to the students, but they must fill out a campaign expense sheet to which they have all receipts allocating what was spent where.

Current Vice President of External Affairs Jesus Martinez brought to attention the other ways of joining ASI if candidates are not elected.

One of those ways is by submitting an application to be reviewed by the board to add an open seat.

The other way that students can be involved is through the student-at-large positions, which are open to freshmen who are lacking the credit and enrollment requirement.

There will be a candidate forum held on campus for all students to get to know who is running. The time and location is still to be announced.

Electronic votes may be cast on May 14 from 9 a.m. to May 15 at 9 p.m.

The ballot will be emailed to all students.

There will be a link to follow in which you will cast your votes.

If you do not receive a ballot, contact Emily Poole at the Campus Programming Office, epoole1@csub.edu or 661-654-3091.



On Friday, May 2, 2014, members of CSUB's Associated Students Inc. prepare for the coming ASI elections starting on May 14.

Vote in the ASI elections

Online voting will occur from 9 a.m. Wednesday, May 14, to 9 p.m. Thursday, May 15. Students will be emailed instructions.

Read next week's issue of The Runner for a voter guide and candidate profiles.

Dont forget to like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/runnercsub and visit www.Therunneronline.com

Student Affairs Report

ASI Elections 2014

READY?

Want to run for Student Government?
Want to make a difference?
Check the ASI Facebook and ASI Elections Facebook
To get all the info on running for office!

SET...

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE
Monday, April 21
DEADLINE
Friday, May 2 12:00 PM!

Offices include:
President,
Executive VP,
VP of External Affairs,
VP of Finance,
VP of Programming,
and Student Body Directors
representing each class level and each academic school and special interests.
(Executive officers receive a scholarship)

VOTE - ELECTIONS!

ASI On-Line Elections
Wednesday/Thursday, May 14-15
Be sure your current email is on file in **MY CSUB!**

For more information contact Emily Poole in OSIL @ 654-3091.

WAIT FOR IT:

2014 ASI Elections On-Line Voting May 14th-15th All Day	2014 CSUB Ethics Bowl DDH (G-Wing) May 17th 9:00am	Brown Bag Discussion "The Hip Hop Movement" Stockdale Room May 22nd Noon
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Spring BBQ Ticket Give-a-Way

The first 10 students that bring this weeks newspaper into the Campus Programming office Student Union room 138 will receive a FREE ticket to the May 8th CSUB Spring BBQ



Wed 5/7	Thur 5/8	Fri 5/9	Sat 5/10	Sun 5/11	Mon 5/12	Tue 5/13
From Backpack to Briefcase CECE 5:00pm	CSUB Athletics Spring BBQ Icardo Center 5:30pm	Baseball Game vs New Mexico State Hardt Field 6:00pm	Baseball Game vs New Mexico State Hardt Field 6:00pm	Baseball Game vs New Mexico State Hardt Field 1:00pm	Meet and Greet 2014 ASI Candidates SU Lounge 11:30am	Meet and Greet 2014 ASI Candidates SU Lounge 11:30am
Leadership Workshop "Social Media" Student Union (Blue Room) Noon	SRC Wellness Workshop 7:00pm					

Spoiler: ‘Amazing Spider-Man 2’ perpetuates controversy

By Athena Skapinakis
Advertising Manager

Disclaimer: Please don't read this article if you haven't seen the "Amazing Spider-Man 2" movie.

In Spider-Man's No. 121 comic book issue, Gwen Stacy meets her death. Not only did it completely shock the comic book fan community, but also it greatly impacted the world. The event itself made history, and the writers of Spider-Man hadn't seen so many letters to the editor from distraught fans who couldn't accept their decision.

Before "The Night Gwen Stacy Died" issue, it was unfathomable to kill off a main character — especially one who was the love interest of the hero. It clocks in as a marker for the end of the Silver Age of comic books before an era that was sordid and darker. This grittier epoch was known as the Bronze Age.

There were many reasons for Gwen Stacy's death, one being that Gwen and Peter had become a too-perfect couple. The writers had made the executive decision to kill her off in order to perpetuate Spider-Man's story.

Gerry Conway, one of the writers, insisted that for their relationship to continue, Peter would have to marry her or reveal his secret identity, and that would have "betrayed everything Spider-Man was about."

Her death was used as a vehicle for Spider-Man's emotional storyline. Like many super heroes, personal tragedy follows closely at their heels. It is their purpose for becoming a hero.

"With great power comes great responsibility" is the moral theme of Spider-Man, and it is perpetuated through his life experiences, especially through his tragedies. The first catalyst had been the death of Peter's Uncle Ben.

In the comics, Gwen Stacy's iconic death was highly controversial for fans and even for the writers. There is no clear-cut causation. Writers and fans alike have argued what events transpired which eventually killed her. There is no consensus on the subject.

Even Stan Lee, Spider-Man's creator, hadn't authorized the death and was greatly saddened by the writers' choice.

One belief is that her death is a result of the

whiplash she received after Spider-Man used his webbing rather than the Green Goblin sending her on a free fall off the Brooklyn Bridge. (It was mistakenly labeled as the George Washington Bridge until fixed in later reprints of the issue).

Later, it was speculated that it wasn't Spider-Man's web that killed Gwen but the fall itself. The Green Goblin taunted him in the issue by saying, "Romantic idiot! She was dead before your webbing reached her! A fall from the height would have killed anyone — even before they hit the ground!"

However, this is where more physics-oriented fans have come in and declared this statement fallible. They often compared the event to sky-diving, saying that if this were a scientific fact, skydivers would all suffer the same fate. Thus, refuting this theory.

Other suggestions have been made such as Gwen suffering internal injuries by being mishandled by the Green Goblin. The neck snapping and fall didn't impact her because she was dead before she was thrown over the bridge.

Either way, Spider-Man vows to get revenge on the Green Goblin. He tracks him down, but in the end is unable to kill him. Peter will always blame himself for Gwen's death, and the guilt tortures him throughout the series. The incident is even cited by Iron Man at some point, and Tony Stark credits the mishap as a result of inexperience as a super hero.

Forever the scientist, Peter does correct his methods. When the Green Goblin casts Mary Jane Watson mercilessly over the same bridge to recreate the horrifying Gwen Stacy tragedy, Spider-Man remembers to use his web to attach to all of her major joints and body parts. Mary Jane escapes Gwen's fate, and is saved.

The "Amazing Spider-Man 2" movie shows a slightly different version of Stacy's death. The tragedy takes place at Manhattan's clock tower. Spider-Man and the Green Goblin are exchanging blows while Gwen tries to make her escape, clinging to moving cogs for safety. She loses her balance and then hangs onto a line of web Spider-Man shot to her. The web snaps.

In slow motion, she plummets toward the ground. The desperation and fear read clearly across her face as she calls out to Peter, who is still struggling against his nemesis. In a final



Image from denofgeek.us

Portrayed by Emma Stone, Gwen Stacy dangles by Spider-Man's web in the 'Amazing Spider-Man 2.'

attempt, Spider-Man knocks the Green Goblin back and shoots out his web to reach Gwen. The synthetic web makes its way to her through the debris of cogs almost as if a symbolic representation of Peter's attempt to stop time itself to save her.

As tragic and morbid as the scene unfolds, it is depicted beautifully. Spider-Man's web reaches out to Gwen in the form of a spidery hand. The tendrils spread like fingers as they fasten onto her abdomen, and we think he has saved her.

And he almost does, until it is realized that Stacy had generated too much momentum from her fall. The placement of the hero's webbing causes her back to snap, which in turn makes the back of her head hit the hard, cold concrete floor.

Gwen Stacy dies instantly.

There was almost a moment of hope, or perhaps it was just denial, when Spider-Man rushes down to Gwen after subduing the Goblin. She dangles lifelessly, suspended midair by a line of webbing. Spider-Man tears off his mask and takes her in his arms.

"Stay with me," the unmasked Spider-Man begs over and over again.

It's nearly as if her eyes may flutter open, but they remain closed. A single drop of blood runs from her nose and down her face. There is no denying that Gwen is indeed dead and gone.

The same controversy from the comic book

depiction of Gwen Stacy's death resurfaces. The question of whether it was Spider-Man's poorly placed webbing that killed Gwen Stacy, his inability to reach her in time, or the fall itself.

"Originally, she didn't hit the ground. She just bounced and her neck was supposed to break. But, what was interesting was people, when they watched that, the web represents salvation to people," said director Marc Webb in an interview with ScreenCrush.

"They did not understand or believe or were not willing to accept that she had died — which is how it was done in the comics. So, we had to add a moment where there's an impact wound. And then people understood what it meant."

Webb also told ScreenCrush that Gwen's death was inevitable from the first movie. There was no doubt that she would be killed off, as much as everyone would hate to see her leave the franchise. Her death is an important factor in Spider-Man's story as a hero. There is a meaning to her loss, and it will be central to the third installment of the franchise. (It is yet to be known whether Mary Jane Watson, Spider-Man's new love interest, will make an appearance).

Spider-Man is a story of personal growth, transformation and perseverance. Despite the sorrow and tragedy that occurs throughout his life, he doesn't succumb to it. He overcomes it, and that is his true essence as a hero.

“Above all else, the professors made my experience a truly memorable one.”

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Q&A with Eli Young Band

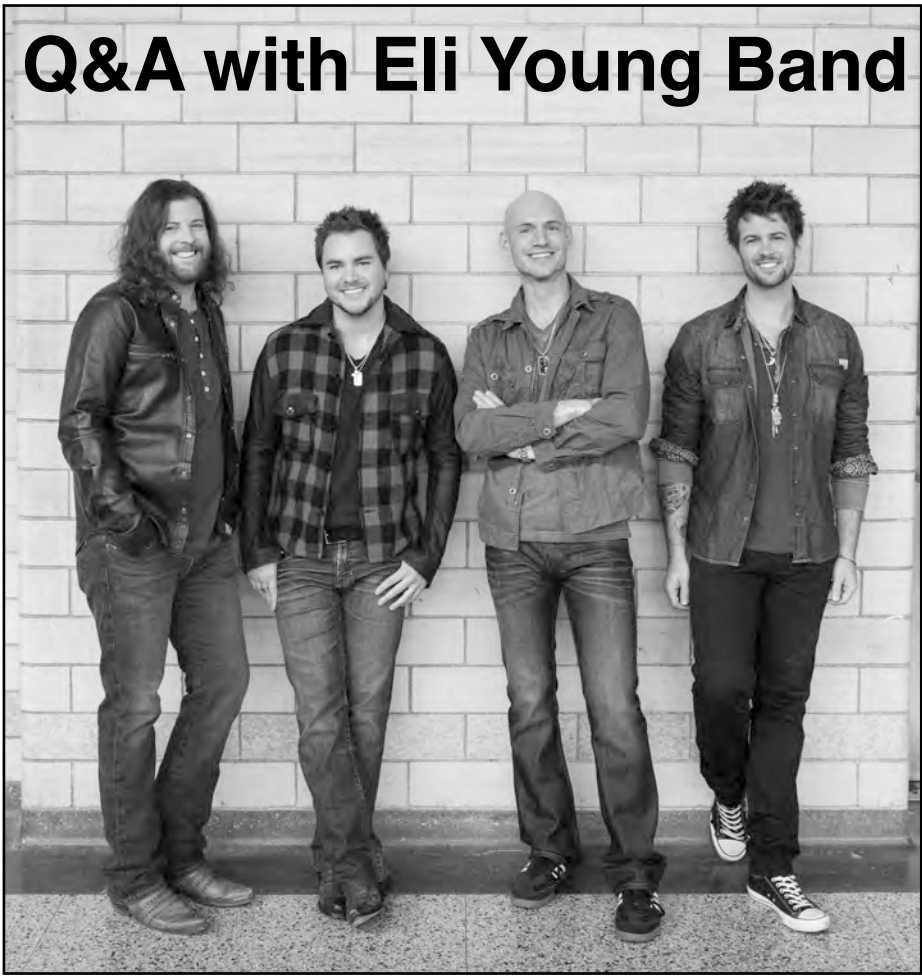


Photo courtesy of Brian Lazzaro

The Eli Young Band will be performing at the Fox Theater on Sunday, May 11.

By Athena Skapinakis
Advertising Manager

The Eli Young Band is on tour for their newest album “10,000 Towns,” and will be making a stop to perform at Bakersfield’s Fox Theater on Sunday, May 11. The award-winning country group is comprised of four members: Mike Eli, James Young, Jon Jones and Chris Thompson.

With Texas roots, the band grew in regional popularity before their current reputation. Upon its release, “10,000 Towns” hit No. 1 on the Billboard Top Country Albums Chart, a first during their career. “Drunk Last Night” is their lead single (and my personal favorite from the album).

After speaking with EYB’s management team and agent, I set up a phone interview with Mike Eli, the lead singer of the band. Despite combating some mishaps on the road such as the breakdown of the band’s tour bus, Eli was able to take the time out to kindly answer many of my questions.

Athena Skapinakis: How does it feel to have three singles from your new album reach No. 1 on the Country Charts?

Mike Eli: It’s incredible, you know? We’ve always felt lucky to play music for a living. Having number one really changes things for us. We were a little band from Texas. We’ve had some growth and popularity just based on being a regional band. Once radio started to pick up on us and started playing our stuff on the radio—that changed things in a huge way for us. It’s a dream come true to be able to do that.

AS: How is this album different than your previous ones? Did you experiment with any new sounds or techniques?

ME: Every album we make we try to experiment a little more and more, but this record we kind of dove back into some of the stuff that we did with our previous record and did a little more of that on this album. Before the “Life at Best”

record, we really experimented with different sounds. This record more than any album, we wanted to make sure that everything we recorded complimented the live show because playing live is why we do this. We wanted to make sure this album was full of songs that made the live show more and more exciting.

AS: You guys have won some awards like the CMA Song of the Year and MusicRow Awards Breakthrough Artist. Correct? What’s that like?

ME: We’ve won the ACM Song of the Year for “Crazy Girl,” which is pretty awesome. I grew up watching the ACMs and being able to get up on stage and accept an ACM award is pretty dang cool.

AS: What or who inspires the songs that you write?

ME: We pull from real life. My wife has been my muse for a long time. But I think all four of us when we’re writing, we pull a lot from our past, the way that we’ve lived and the life that we’ve lived. We try to really write honest songs, and [songs] that we believe that our fans will like.

AS: What would you like to see happen in the future for you guys?

ME: We just want longevity. I think we just want to stick around. We want our fans to stick with us and keep up with our music. We don’t have to be the biggest band in the world—we’d love it—but to be able to keep doing this would be the ultimate goal for us.

SHOW INFO

Tickets are available online at Vallitix.com or through phone at (661) 324-1369.

The doors open at 7 p.m. with the show starting at 8 p.m. Blackjack Billy will be a special guest, opening for EYB.

For the full interview visit
therunneronline.com

Upcoming artist: Céleigh Chapman

By Shelby Parker
Features Editor

Bakersfield native Céleigh Chapman released her EP, “Happy Now,” in March after 10 years of making a solo record, as she was focusing on school. If the title is any indication, Chapman seems to be saying that she really is happy now.

Chapman moved to Los Angeles to pursue a career in music after graduating from the University of Southern California, which she attended for their “incredible music program,” she said.

Though it wasn’t always an easy road, Chapman kept her eye on the prize, singing music.

“We’re our own worst enemy,” she said, adding that it was a bit intimidating when she moved to Los Angeles. There were so many people from different backgrounds, and she started comparing herself to others. It was a matter of overcoming that noise and reminding herself that she loved what she was doing, and many had encouraged her to take this path.

Chapman’s distinct voice, much like the stylings of Stevie Nicks or Bonnie Raitt, are also reminiscent of ‘90s country and its classic storytelling. She explained that it’s a bit of a throwback, and it is. However, it’s not so out-of-date that it will lose your interest.

The EP contains five songs, with a mix of up-tempo and ballads.

The first track, “No Words,” has a true country essence to it with a twang in vocals and guitars in the background. Plus, with a catchy hook and repetitive lyrics, you’ll be singing along in no time.

“It’s a losing fight when it

comes to love,” Chapman sings with a soulful voice.

“Coming Back To You” has a rockabilly feel, heavy with drums and guitar. It’s a song about a tumultuous, back and forth relationship. However, with the sweet melody in the background, it seems rather on the playful side.

The EP’s title track, “Happy Now,” has the flavor of a Fleetwood Mac song in the ‘70s to ‘80s era, along with country flavor. While it’s a bit slower,

and the people in Los Angeles don’t necessarily understand that. At least when it comes to Buck Owens and Merle Haggard, or the impact they’ve had on us.

She notes Linda Rondstadt and Trisha Yearwood as musical influences, because they have similar vocal ranges and she seemed to connect with their music more.

“If you love music, you love all music,” she added and explained that she listens to all genres. It’s easy to hear that she isn’t just classified in one genre.

Now, in her late 20s, Chapman is pursuing music full-time and has been for the past six years. It allows her to focus on “writing, performing and being a musician,” which is what she enjoys.

The sky’s the limit for Chapman, as she says she would like to win a Grammy someday or even write for an Oscar-nominated film.

As for highlights, there are so many great ones for

her, as she has already recorded two songs that have found their way onto major motion picture soundtracks for “A Little Help” starring Jenna Fischer and Tyler Perry’s “A Madea Christmas.”

But for now, she hopes people like the record so that she can continue to make more, and proves that you really can have it all.

“You can go to school and pursue music,” Chapman stressed. Chapman herself was able to attend school while pursuing music on the side and knows that it can be done.

“For me, there’s such a value in education,” and she doesn’t want other college students to feel that they have to choose one or the other.



Photo courtesy of Céleigh Chapman
Bakersfield native Céleigh Chapman released her EP, “Happy Now,” in March.

the rhythm moves it along nicely. The song tells a story of a relationship that went bad, but “life keeps moving on/It’s funny that way,” as the girl in the song wonders whether she looks “happy now.”

The other two tracks are titled “Iowasposta” and “Man Down.”

Bakersfield and country music seem to go hand in hand, and Chapman agrees that it inspired her with her craft today, which is easy to see.

“I think how fortunate I am to have been raised in a city with such a rich country music tradition,” part of the bio on her website reads.

“I think I didn’t realize how much it affected me until I moved to Los Angeles,” she said. “We’re so prideful here,”

Athena and Shelby’s Song Picks:

Eli Young Band:

“Drunk Last Night”

“Your Last Broken Heart”

“A Lot Like Love”

Céleigh Chapman:

“Happy Now”

“Coming Back (To You)”

“No Words”



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Student-athletes remain tough while juggling with life

By Stephany Bravo
Staff Writer

There are many sacrifices made as a student-athlete; consistency and progression have to stay with each individual player to benefit the team as a whole.

Junior distance runner Jorey Braughton is one of the many student-athletes here on campus that continues to show astounding sportsmanship. With planning a wedding, maintaining a 3.25 GPA to graduate with honors and remaining persistent with her training as a student-athlete while dealing with asthma, Braughton makes it all look equitably easy.

"I stress out and everything would be so easy if I wasn't running but it's worth it. My teammates are all going to be my friends for the rest of my life. Most of those girls I met in college and half of them are my bridesmaids. It's definitely worth the friendships that I gained from being an athlete," said Braughton.

Now that CSUB is in the Western Athletic Conference it is more competitive for ath-

letes to earn their spots in conference because they are competing with more skilled players.

"I would have easily had my spot for conference by breaking five (minutes) in the 1,500 if we were still in the Great West Conference, but now that we are in a harder and better (conference), it gets tougher," said Braughton.

Players who would have easily made it into conference while in the Great West must put forth more effort to receive their spot in the WAC conference.



Marisel Maldonado/The Runner
Redshirt junior distance runner Jorey Braughton battles with asthma while running for the track team, and also juggles track, class, work, and her upcoming wedding.

Sports are not easily incorporated into a class schedule. Student-athletes are required to be full-time scholars in order to qualify for any sport. Although



Marisel Maldonado/The Runner
Redshirt junior distance runner Jorey Braughton and junior distance runner Rudy Castro warm up with some laps around the track before practice on Wednesday, April 30 at the CSUB track field.

they themselves forget they lead regular lives, they have objectives to meet in each course.

Most players hold up to two part time jobs, and if that wasn't enough most student-athletes have scholarship accountabilities and cannot afford to fall behind in schoolwork. They must excel both in their athletic events and in class.

"The difficulty about being a student-athlete is that when it comes down to crunch time at stressful points in the quarter," said junior distance runner Rudy Castro.

"You are battling mental and physical fatigue. We are also regular students with all the normal deadlines and responsi-

bilities as regular students. Some of us have multiple part time jobs so the time commitment and physical fatigue experience on a daily basis is the real crux of being a student-athlete."

Success does not always come easy, and that is something an athlete faces every day as both a player and student.

"Jorey is my best friend and I have seen her break down and cry to finish sets. I have seen her have an asthma attack during episodes and still push through workouts. I remind them how tough they are and also remind them that the work out is supposed to be hard," said Castro.

Although the responsibility is

strenuous, there is much recompense that comes from being a student-athlete.

"Last year I didn't have too many big highlights (as an athlete) but this year I made my first goal of breaking five (minutes) in the 1,500, and then I made my second one by going to conference. Now I just want to get that third goal of getting on the top 20 list," said Braughton.

She has now received her second WAC Academics All-Conference award for indoor and outdoor track and honor roll for XC.

Not only do players exceed to perform well academically but the bonds they create as a team is worth the hard-hitting times

they face during their involvement in sports.

"They are like my family, they are awesome, they are always cheering me on, and we're all supporting each other and have become closer," said Braughton.

"They definitely are the hardest working group of individuals I have ever met. They don't make excuses and sometimes against all odds, pull out some amazing successes. They are also very funny even in the most serious of situations. We are a unique bunch but I guarantee that no one is as sincere as us when we work together to put our best foot forward," said Castro.

Donald Sterling's free speech was not violated

By Josh Bennett
Sports Editor

On April 29, Los Angeles Clippers owner Donald Sterling was banished from the NBA after he made his latest set of racist comments. The comments were made in his home and were recorded with his knowledge.

People immediately took to Twitter and other social media forums to praise NBA Commissioner Adam Silver's decision. Posts ranged from other NBA owners and players to Snoop Dogg, President Obama and Michael Jordan, who usually stays away from commenting on issues.

People also took to Twitter to proclaim that Sterling's First Amendment rights were violated when he was banned from the NBA. They weren't.

While there is a concept of "free speech" in America, that does not apply to privately owned companies that have their own bylaws and rules. The NBA is one of those companies.

In their constitution, article 24(1) is a "best interests of the Association" clause, meaning that Silver can be granted the power to give out any punishment he sees fit when a violation is not specifically covered elsewhere in the constitution.

Because there is no specific rule and punishment for owners or players who make racist comments at employees and fans of the league — including their own players, staff and fans — this article lets the commissioner act appropriately.

Add that to Article 35A(d), which gives the league power to deal with "misconduct of persons other than players," and there is your lifetime ban from the NBA for Sterling.

One Twitter rant that I found completely out of touch with the situation was that of novelist Joyce Carol Oates, whose rant was highlighted by Deadspin on April 30. The following text in

bold was her actual tweets.

"Nostalgia for time when one could say anything in private no matter how stupid, cruel, self-serving or plain wrong & not be criminalized."

That is not nostalgia. You still can say anything you want in private. However, when you know you are being recorded and you live in an age when anyone who is remotely famous will be blasted for anything they say or do, that is ignorant.

While I do commend Oates for



Image courtesy of Forbes.com
Former Clippers owner Donald Sterling, with his girlfriend V. Stiviano was banned for life from the NBA on April 29.

disagreeing with Sterling's comments, he should be criminalized because he made his employer, the NBA, look bad on numerous occasions. Although Sterling might have owned the Clippers at that time, he was still one-thirtieth of the owners of the league — their version of a board of directors, if you will. The owners act as team representatives, and they can be ousted under extreme circumstances — such as this one — when they make their team and the league look bad.

"Am I the only person in US surprised that a private conversation (no matter how ugly) can be the basis for such public recrimination?"

Yes, you are, as well as the other people who proclaimed "First Amendment rights" when they were never going to be in play in this situation. The only reason why this is a "public

recrimination" is because the NBA is such a large and popular entity in the country, and the person being punished is a recognized face.

Let's say that you work for McDonalds, and you go on Facebook to complain about the way your boss handles things. You end up posting a message, you instant message a fellow co-worker, and you are doing this from "the privacy of your home."

You go into work the next day,

record the conversation, so their inclusion in this tweet is irrelevant. Free speech is not ending in America anytime soon. You can say what you want as long as it's not being recorded or stated publicly.

You want to see no free speech? Go to a country like North Korea, where the platform to say what you want, like Oates, is gone and you truly are under surveillance.

As far as free press goes, I can't print a hit list on the front page of the paper, then when the paper gets shut down and I'm hauled away in handcuffs, yell out "free speech" and "free press" and get away with it. That's not how that works. There is free speech and free press, but it does have limitations. Limitations that make sense and are not unjust.

"Many who frequently speak in public have begun to speak much more circumspectly than we once did, for fear of being quoted out of context. Only stand-up comedians & clearly designated satirists are allowed an almost total freedom of speech today in US. (Note 'almost.')"

Sterling was not taken out of context. His rant was recorded in full. He clearly stated that he didn't want black people, including name dropping Magic Johnson, at "his games." That sounds clear to me. As a Clippers fan, I applaud Silver's ruling, and I await the other owners to vote Sterling out and force him to sell his team.

'Runner Roundup

By Josh Bennett
Sports Editor

Baseball: The 'Runners picked up their third series sweep of the season, as they defeated the Northern Colorado Bears in Greeley, CO.

On Friday, the 'Runners defeated the bears 7-3. The team was led by junior outfielder Garrett Pierce, who went 3-4 with 2 RBIs and also scored 2 runs of his own. Freshman third baseman Max Carter went 2-5 and collected 2 RBIs of his own.

Senior pitcher Taylor Aikenhead pitched a complete game, giving up three runs across ten hits to improve to 6-6 on the season. Aikenhead also recorded six strikeouts.

On Saturday, the 'Runners exploded for ten runs in the final two innings to blowout the Bears 19-7. Junior first baseman Solomon Williams went 4-5 with 2 HRs and 3 RBIs. His 11 total bases in the game set a new school record, which was previously 10 by Cael Brockmeyer last season. Williams also was the sixth 'Runner to hit two home runs in a single game.

Sophomore outfielder Chance Gusbeth became the seventh player to do so later in the game. Gusbeth finished the game going 4-6 with two 3-run home runs in the seventh and eighth innings. He collected 7 RBIs total, setting

the school record for RBIs in a single game, breaking a five-year-old record of 6 RBIs set by Martin Medina.

All nine starting position players for CSUB collected at least one hit, finishing with 21 hits total, narrowly missing the school record of 22, which was set in 2009.

On Sunday, the 'Runners completed the sweep of the Bears with a 4-3 victory. Led by senior shortstop Oscar Sanay, who went 3-4 with 2 RBIs and a stolen base, CSUB took a 4-0 lead into the ninth, where the Bears nearly mounted a comeback, scoring all three of their runs, but was finally shut down by Carter, who recorded his fifth save of the year with a quick strikeout. The team will wrap up home play with a weekend series against New Mexico State.

Men's Golf: The 'Runners finished 8th at the WAC Men's Golf Championship in Las Vegas over the weekend. CSUB was led by junior Dylan Lym, who finished tied for 23rd place with a score of +11.

Other participants in the tournament for the 'Runners included junior Matthew Deford, who finished tied for 29th with a score of +17. Redshirt junior Jin Park, freshman Izzad Ibrahim, and sophomore Nicholas Browning also placed.

Athlete of the Week

Senior infielder Oscar Sanay led the 'Runners' weekend sweep of Northern Colorado by going 6-8 with 2 RBIs and 2 runs, despite sitting out Friday's game. Sanay's best day was on Sunday's 4-3 victory over the Bears, where he went 3-4 and collected 2 RBIs. Sanay also hit for two doubles, a triple, and collected a stolen base.

Photo courtesy of CSUB Sports Information

