October 26th 2009

CSUSB
Beefed-up police presence

New police substation developed in hopes of lowering crime, bettering relationships.

By ERIC BROWN
STAFF WRITER

The University Police Department at CSUSB has aimed to build a better community relation between students, residents and staff through establishing a new office in Serrano Village.

Centrally located next to the mail boxes for CSUSB residents inside the dormitories, the new satellite office serves as a one-stop-shop for all of CSUSB’s police services.

Sergeant LeAndre Fields is the officer in charge of the new station, which was created this past August, and explained that the secondary location helps to provide all the University Police Department has to offer.

“Looming budget cuts, in increased energy costs and global warming make reducing energy use everyone’s number one priority,” according to Tony Simpson, senior director of facilities services.

According to calculations made by the facilities department, CSUSB has already saved over a million dollars this year from energy reductions alone.

CSUSB has won the Association of Energy Engineers’ energy project of the year award, but it is still to be decided whether or not the recent energy-saving practices will be kept for the future.

“Thy are issues that depend on the economy and the budgets,” Vice President of Public Affairs Sid Robinson said.

Robinson explained that saving money is not the only factor in enforcing energy saving, but that currently CSUSB is working to reach a point where it will be able to generate half of its electrical use.

Future plans for the campus include increasing the use of LED lighting across the institution, implementing solar powered technologies and creative cost cutting cuts.

Furloughs and course eliminations may be putting a damper on the new year for some, but CSUSB’s more subtle attempts to save money are bringing in the green in more than one way.

With a shortfall of $26 million, CSUSB’s energy-saving accommodations to the budget cut range from letting the grass grow longer and leaving lights off, to updating the heating and cooling systems to be more efficient and composting various items that come through the campus.

The Student Recreation and Fitness Center also contributes to CSUSB’s green efforts, thanks to recently installed elliptical machines that generate electricity.

Creative cost cutting cuts CSUSB costs

By PRISCILLA GUTIERREZ
STAFF WRITER

CSU receives $25 million for more classes

Unanticipated windfall for students

The California State University will receive $25 million in one-time funds that will be used to offer courses and sections for the winter and spring terms to help students progress to their degrees.

Campuses will also augment student services and advising.

The addition of up to approximately 4,000 course sections across the system also means the CSU will be able to retain as many as 800 lecturers for the winter and spring 2010 terms, according to a CSU press release.

The university funds come from an additional $77.5 million one-time federal allocation that will help the CSU meet its payroll.

In turn, the CSU will be able to use the additional one-time revenues, previously set aside for payroll, to add the course sections.

The CSU will reserve the remaining $52.5 million to manage its budget, according to CSU officials.

Letting the grass grow in between cuts is just one way CSUSB is experimenting in saving.
Financial Fitness Fair preps future students

CSUSB reaches out to community’s youth to educate about the importance of financial responsibility.

By AUSTIN DODD
STAFF WRITER

The Chronicles associated with college can be an intimidating thing, but being prepared can save a lot of time and money in the long run. Paying for college, opening credit cards, budgeting, investing and job search techniques are all tools that students need to keep in mind in becoming financially independent and CSUSB is offering those tools.

The Financial Fitness Fair presented by California Jump$tart Coalition and the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences informed teens about those tools in a fun and exciting way on Oct. 17 at CSUSB.

Youth-motivational speaker, Josh Shipp, was present at the event educating and entertaining teens to help them get the point about being financially smart.

“Josh was realistic and down to the point,” said Arroyo Valley High School student Richard Williams. “He told us about the negatives of finance to get to the positives and he did it in a fun way.”

As a child, Shipp was abandoned and abused. Now featured on MTV, Comedy Central and touring with Bill Cosby, Shipp has spoken to over a million people in the eight years he has been a professional speaker, and he is only 28 years old.

“I’ve found that sometimes the very thing that has hurt you the most, is the very thing you can use to help others,” said Shipp on his website joshshipp.com.

From 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., the financial fair offered young kids seminars to attend on how to take care of their credit, the basics of banking, how to pay for college if they are financially independent, and a very entertaining seminar by CSUSB professor of economics Dr. Jim Charkins, about financial choices and consequences.

Using props like mirrors, Barbie dolls, Spiderman, and Harry Potter, Charkins got the point across to students that “there is no such choice as a free choice,” meaning opportunity cost is the cost you pay when having to drive an hour to pick up “free” concert tickets.

His basic message was everything costs something.

“You can’t manage money if you don’t have any money,” Charkins added.

Major Ricardo Williams, Junior Reserve Officer Training Corp (JROTC) teacher at Arroyo Valley High School and father to two sons attending the fair said, “The message I want my kids to leave here with is to not accept being average when it applies to financial education.”

Williams brought many students from his JROTC class, offering them extra-credit to attend the fair.

“I am just interested that these kids move onto college, that is focal to the JROTC experience,” said Williams.

Being financially independent used to mean opening a bank account and saving enough to hopefully not overdraw with your rent payment each month. Teens nowadays have many more options to think about as they make the transition from high school to college life.

To find out more about managing your finances better or applying to colleges visit csusb.edu, jumpstart.org or csumen-edu.

Check out the ALL NEW Coyote Chronicle, for all the latest updates.
New campus police substation

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The Campus Health Center has been taking extra precautions in warning students of the dangers of spreading illnesses this fall.

Almogela has worked on other campuses besides CSUSB, and explained that in her experience, the relationship between the housing and police officers is something that is very important and should not be overlooked.

The idea of having officers closer to the dormitories and classrooms is also appealing to students, like Brian Lopez, an undergraduate student at CSUSB.

“It’s good to know if I have a problem or just a question, that they are just around the corner,” Lopez said. Amidst the current budget crunch and furloughs, Chief Brown and Almogela explained that funding for this project was natural, because it was a necessity for the campus’ safety. The funding was provided by the Department of Housing through a memorandum of understanding, explained Almogela.

Students and staff can rest assured that if there is any need, from a parking lot accident to students needing an escort to their cars at night, the University Police Department exists to serve CSUSB.

Swine flu vaccine to debut at CSUSB

By ANDY OGG

The H1N1 virus (commonly known as swine flu) vaccine is coming to CSUSB. The H1N1 virus, which was introduced last year into the states as an “epidemic”, may finally have a vaccination to stop the disease.

H1N1 is very similar to a typical winter flu; however, there are factors that can make it much more dangerous to people with pre-existing health problems and weak immune systems.

The vaccines were released Oct. 13 to San Bernardino County. There were 10 registered family-care clinics that were administering the nasal vaccine. However, due to limited supplies, the vaccine was only administered to healthy, non-pregnant individuals ages 2 to 24.

According to the CSUSB Student Health Center, the H1N1 virus vaccine is expected to arrive on campus in early November and will be available to students free of charge.

The H1N1 vaccine comes in two forms, a shot that is a made of two separate immunizations that must be administered over time and a nasal spray form that can be taken in one dosage.

An estimated 18 people in San Bernardino County have died from swine-flu-like illnesses since the virus’ announcement in April.

Approximately 150 Inland Empire residents have been hospitalized with symptoms. However, an estimated 1,400 people died nationwide, while an approximate 36,000 died each year from the so-called seasonal flu.

The H1N1 virus vaccine offers some peace of mind for those truly worried about the virus. However, there have been some troubling allegations that the H1N1 vaccine has been said to cause paralysis in some cases.

Carlos Carrio of the CSUSB Student Health Center said, “The chance of obtaining a form of paralysis from the vaccine is as common as getting struck by lightning.”

“We are expected to receive enough of the vaccine to cover the entire student body,” Carrio continued.

I highly recommend that all students obtain the H1N1 vaccine as it is free and will create a strong barrier against the H1N1 virus.”

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Campus saving

adding another irrigation well that will help cut back on water costs, according to the facilities department.

Though many students had yet to notice significant signs of energy saving efforts, some had suggestions on how CSUSB can continue to cut back on energy usage.

“I’m sure it’d be nice to turn off the sprinklers when we have natural water sources like rain,” said Matthew Cordoro, who says he also thinks lights should be turned off during instruction time in classrooms with enough windows to let in a sufficient amount of sunshine.

According to Rebecca Rivera, project coordinator of CSUSB’s Green Campus, saving energy could be as easy as pulling a plug.

“Many office workers turn off the power strips when they leave, but by leaving them connected to the wall, they are still taking up energy,” explained Rivera.

Rivera suggested that items like computers, speakers and other office machines should be disconnected overnight or during weekends when workers aren’t around.

Green Campus, a student-led project created to raise energy awareness and find ways to use energy more efficiently, is currently auditing the San Manuel Student Union to determine how much energy it uses up on a daily basis.

Though Rivera says the audit team doesn’t have an exact calculation, she has estimated the cost of energy in the SMSU to be somewhere around $500,000 a year.
It’s Monday morning, 8 o’clock. You’re running late to work and are stuck in highway traffic. You fix the car beside you as a benchmark of your own deficit of advancement. Of course, the other lane always seems to go faster than yours, even if you decide to change lanes, yours seems to be slower. You are always feeling like you are losing. This is a common situation for a lot of drivers.

Tom Vanderbilt, a New Yorker, is used to traffic and all the frustrations than it can cause drivers. The bestselling author of “Traffic: Why We Drive the Way We Do (And What it Says About Us),” was at CSUSB on Oct. 20, to present his lecture, “Objects in Mirror are More Complicated than They Appear.” Vanderbilt examined the perceptual limits and the road illusions that make us poorer drivers than we think we are and attempts to change the way we see our driving skills. According to Vanderbilt, we are not as good drivers as we think we are compared to others because we are overconfident.

The author also responds to many questions about the background of driving. Most drivers consider themselves very good drivers, but if driving is so easy, why is it so hard for a robot to do it? Who is more likely to honk their horn and why? How do traffic jams form? Why is driving on a dangerous road technically safer? How have other countries developed new forms of signals to prevent traffic and accidents?

“In some countries, they shouted the white lines on the highways from fifteen to ten feet,” Vanderbilt said. “There is only one reason to this change: drivers thought they were driving slower with longer lines. With shorter lines, the driver has the illusion that he is driving faster and slows down.” Studies also reveal that sometimes, less is more.

“When there are less lines and signalization, drivers have the reflex to reduce speed and think more,” Vanderbilt said. “They become more cautious and analyze the road instead of just following lines.”

Vanderbilt also showed pictures to the audience that proved the fact that roads without reserved lanes for bikers were safer for both drivers and bikers. The white lines of the ground make an illusion of a safe fence. When there is no line, drivers decrease speed and are more careful about bikers.

After the lecture, Vanderbilt met with students about his lecture and his book. Vanderbilt’s talk was the very first in a series of speakers sponsored by the university’s William and Barbara Leonard Transportation Center. The center was founded in 2006 and works to discover and implement transportation solutions for the expanding Inland Empire and focuses on research and education to public and private users of regional transportation systems.

I have an anxiety problem. And it all started when I moved to California.

Back in eastern Canada, I was normal. I hurried up to be on time to every single class, otherwise the teacher would yell at me. Every morning I would run to catch my bus which I would miss at least one out of three times. I had a very strict schedule. Most of the time, my working days were races to get from one point to another. I didn’t think there was any problem with that. Believe it or not: people actually think of me as a zen guy.

That all changed the day I moved to the West Coast. Compared to the others, I’m the nervous guy where I come from.

I study way too much compared to others and I get anxious about small things that everybody else doesn’t seem to care about.

That was never the case back home. “We are way too preoccupied with everything,” Stéphanie Babin, also an exchange student from Canada, told me one day.

And she was right. Calm down. That’s the first thing I learned when I arrived here.

I thought I was already calm. I was obviously mistaken.

Time doesn’t seem to be a preoccupation here as it does in the east. It’s not just about California or the United States. I had the exact same feeling when I visited Vancouver, on the west coast of Canada. And I felt as if I was home when I went to New York City.

In the west, being late is usually not a big deal. I’ve seen students who were 30 minutes late to a class. You wouldn’t even dare to show up that late where I come from.

The sense of constant hurry we see in the east doesn’t seem to be present here.

People even tend to be less preoccupied with daily problems. It is never “the end of the world.” Knowing all the effects that stress can have on the human body, I guess that can only be a good thing.

According to Health Canada, symptoms of stress can include “feelings of irritability, negative thinking, heart disease and mental illness.”

Of course, stress can be a problem. But it can get a little frustrating when you come from a world where deadlines are usually tight. Sometimes, I would like to see people adjust to my rhythm. But living the other culture is part of the exchange, so I will try to enjoy the West Coast way of life for the weeks to come.

One question remains though. Why is it so different from the east to the west? I have only one explanation: the Pacific Ocean. After all, Pacific does mean “peace.” And there is better way to calm yourself than a lazy day at the beach?
The Worldview of the Ottoman

SARAH BOUTIN
Staff Writer

The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has declared 2009 as the 400th anniversary of the birth of Turkish scholar, Katip Çelebi, born in 1609 in Constantinople.

For the occasion, CSUSB presented the exhibition “The Ottoman Worldview from Pîrî Reis to Kâtip Çelebi” in collaboration with Bahçeşehir University Civilization Studies Center (MEDAM).

It is dedicated to the impressive mapping work done by Çelebi throughout the years. The work of other artists are also acknowledged due to the extraordinary exactitude of their maps.

This free exhibition is presented in the Anthropology Museum in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences building until Oct. 31.

This is the first time the collection has been exhibited outside of Turkey and it will later visit Washington, D.C., and New York. In addition to being displayed here in the United States, it will tour France and Syria.

Only a few other U.S. Universities, one of them Georgetown University, will have the chance to welcome this exhibition within their walls before it goes back to Turkey.

The exhibition is composed of high-quality digital copies of the real maps drawn mostly by Çelebi. This procedure even reproduces the cracks of the papers. It is as if they were the originals. Visitors can see every detail of the maps as if they were just drawn.

The maps are from Cihan-Numa, one of Çelebi’s seminal works and the Islamic world’s first set of comprehensive atlases.

The two geographers dedicated most of their life to the creation of maps representing the regions and climates of the world. The map by Admiral Pîrî Reis was drawn in 1513. It shows the western coast of Africa, the eastern coast of South America, and the northern coast of Antarctica.

Every part of the world is shown in this collection: continents and seas, climates, directions, countries and cities of the times, rulers, flags, the universe and zodiac signs.

Even if you don’t know anything about maps and geography, you can appreciate the talent of the geographers. It is really amazing to see how precise these maps were during a time that world exploration was just beginning.

Their observations and the maps of the Muslim and Christian European world helped them create maps representing their Ottoman realm.

Professor Dr. Mustafa Kaçar of Bahçeşehir University said that the maps are just as accurate for practical purposes as modern scientific maps, thanks to their projection centers and corrected trajectories.

The most remarkable ones are the maps of the world. Except for the Antarctica, which they represent as a bigger land, everything looks approximately the same. We can see the evolution of the vision people had of the world before technology.

Kaçar also explained that the Ottoman civilization emerged during the 14th century and expanded rapidly. Unlike others, the Ottomans felt the need to put on paper the land they explored and owned.

This exhibition doesn’t only show the intelligence of one man, but also the great power of an empire.
Every family deserves a chance to know how their loved one died, and every person deserves a chance to have their deaths investigated. This is where Deputy Coroner Investigator David Van Norman of San Bernardino County comes into action.

“Death investigators are the eyes and ears of an investigation,” Van Norman said.

Van Norman, who investigates the deaths that occur within San Bernardino County limits, spoke at a Pfau Library’s noon lecture last Monday about what the types of cases the Coroner’s office deals with and what steps they take to find an answer in a person’s cause of death.

In his lecture “Myth vs. Reality,” Van Norman spoke about the investigative philosophy of the San Bernardino County Coroner’s Office and demonstrated the fallacies connected with prime-time TV investigation shows and the actual process.

While addressing these issues, he used a little humor to keep the mood upbeat while speaking on such a dreary subject.

“It’s not really a glamorous job at all. You won’t see Columbo sweating and dirty in the sun all day,” Van Norman joked.

Images of Van Norman crawling under spider-infested homes and over badly-decomposed bodies in storm drains were shown to contrast the glamorous characters of Hollywood to the actual work of the Coroner’s office.

Although several jokes were made about the conditions and types of work Deputy Van Norman has to do, the subject of the victims was very serious.

Van Norman spoke about a heart-felt case where a young girl from Alaska was killed in Montclair, Calif. while running across a local freeway and was unable to be identified for 19 months as a result of faulty information entered into a database for identifying missing persons.

Van Norman also spoke on the how the Coroner’s office addresses all types of deaths from natural causes to homicide and suicide to everything in between.

“Myth vs. Reality” was Van Norman’s attempt to educate the attendees about the actual processes and pitfalls that a death investigator faces.

He showed graphic images of deceased persons whose cause of death ranged from natural causes to homicide and in several cases, suicide.

“The images, along with his experience and personal anecdotes, caused most of the attendees of the lecture to wince as he spoke of the conditions that he had to investigate the death of a person.”

Many of the situations that were discussed in the lecture about what the investigations found were extremely sad and to hear about what he and his fellow investigators had to go through to put the pieces of the puzzle back together was equally upsetting.

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It was difficult to hear about what the people of the Coroner’s office go through. If it’s not all the gizmos, glam, and high technology we see on TV, what keeps them motivated and wanting to help people after seeing what we can do to each other?

Deputy Van Norman explained this by a simple phrase: “To the dead we owe the truth.”
Barbados’ singer Rihanna has traded in her island tunes and dancehall beats for barbed-wire and suicidal lyrics. Rihanna finally returns to the music scene with music of her own, since her media-frenzied domestic violence incident with singer and ex-boyfriend Chris Brown.

“Russian Roulette” is the first single off her new album. Since it’s leak on the internet last week, the single has generated a lot of buzz about the seemingly dark direction in which the pop star is headed. The single is a dark ballad, arguably her most depressing, in which she sings, “You can see my heart beating, you can see it through my chest / I’m terrified, but I’m not leaving / know that I must pass this test… so just pull the trigger.”

Sonically, it’s reminiscent of her 2006 hit, “Unfaithful.” Ne-Yo also penned “Russian Roulette.” He as well as her other collaborators and producers on her new album have all echoed that Rihanna is experimenting with a darker, edgier sound.

FOLLOWILL went on to say, “the U.K. is more open to all kinds of music. The fans are just insane in the U.K. - they are music lovers. You have kids going to shows to see the bands, not going to a show to be seen there.”

Lately, Kings of Leon’s Los Angeles shows have become the equivalent to the paparazzi magnet restaurant, the Ivy in Beverly Hills. Everyone from Zac Efron, Cyrus, Vanessa Hudgens, Justin Timberlake, Jessica Biel and Leanne Rhimes have been seen in the VIP boxes or backstage. Not to mention, Katy Perry, Timberlake, Paramore and Kelly Clarkson have all covered Kings of Leon’s smash hit, ‘Use Somebody.’

Let’s face it guys, you’re the cool kids now. Stop complaining and embrace it, because we Americans that don’t know good music have officially accepted you into our ‘elite popular club.’

I get it. It’s hard to hit in big in the states. Kings of Leon has had astounding success in the U.K. But, let’s not generalize.

Just because everyone wasn’t on the Kings of Leon bandwagon a year ago doesn’t mean all we listen to is hip-hop and kiddy pop.

The Hot 100 Charts, indicative of what’s popular in American music, are mere reflections of what radio stations are playing. Radio stations are puppets of their parent conglomerates Clear Channel and CBS Radio. People aren’t requesting these songs, radio stations are instructed to play what the taste-makers want, regardless.

The occurrences of “kiddy-pop” come up because kids in the 12-15 year old age range are the only ones who have time to request one song 1,000 times. Thus, the emergence of Miley Cyrus and the Jonas Brothers.

Besides, UK Billboard charts are also saturated with Lady Gaga, Keri Hilson and the Black Eyed Peas. There are pitfalls in every genre of music, whether it’s hip-hop, rock, alternative or pop. Unfortunately, these pitfalls are what radio stations play, but it doesn’t mean it’s all we listen to.

What defines what good music is, anyway? A true music lover can appreciate all music for what it is, regardless if they add it to their playlist.

Suck it up, boys. You’re thisclose to being over-rated anyway.

The new, Rated R, Rihanna

By MELANIE HUNTER
Entertainment Editor

Barbados’ singer Rihanna has traded in her island tunes and dancehall beats for barbed-wire and suicidal lyrics. Rihanna finally returns to the music scene with music of her own, since her media-frenzied domestic violence incident with singer and ex-boyfriend Chris Brown.

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He as well as her other collaborators and producers on her new album have all echoed that Rihanna is experimenting with a darker, edgier sound.

The sound is so edgy that everyone is talking, questioning if she has purposely chosen a darker look as a response to her public altercation with Chris Brown.

Only time will tell if the world is ready for the new Rihanna. The album Rated R hits stores Nov. 23.
NY, I Love You’ an atypical rom-com

By JENNIFER TORREZ
Staff Writer

“New York, I Love You” is not your typical romantic-city love story, full of giddy actors, stereotypical screenplays and over-used happy endings.

Instead, the feature offers 11 short and ambiguous love stories with an artistic foreign film appeal.

The visual foreign-film appeal comes from producer Emmanuel Benhisy’s images: he creates a worldwide love series called the "Cities of Love" franchise, which is based around a specific city that uses different writers and directors to portray their visions.

“The New York, I Love You” is the second series film after the “Paris, Je Taime” (Paris, I Love You). Although “New York, I Love You” follows the similar path of short love stories all written and directed by different talents, this new film does so in a different and adaptive way.

“New York, I Love You” moves much more quickly. It’s less organized, which coincidentally reflects the speed of New York’s lifestyle.

The film features 11 directors, 18 writers, plus a star-studded cast, including Natalie Portman, Bradley Cooper, Christina Ricci, Orlando Bloom, Shia La Beouf, Ethan Hawke, Blake Lively, Rachel Bilson, Hayden Christensen, and Robyn Wright Penn to name a few.

Surprisingly, every well-known actor manages to escape his or her celebrity name and transforms into their character while speaking foreign languages or using unfa-miliar accents.

Shia La Beouf, who should win an award for his characterization, executes the role of a crippled man, making the audience forget he does not have true physical disability.

With the deep and emotional writing of Anthony Minghella (who unexpectedly passed in 2009 before he could direct his piece), the unforgettable emotion-filled story of an elder French female singer and her bell boy (Shia La Beouf) made this film an achievement.

The director’s (Shekhar Kapur) use of pure colors and dark tones made this mystical story powerful, artistic and a must-see film.

In addition to this story, most characters play roles of foreigners, emphasizing New York as a landing pad for individuals migrating for freedom and love.

Other characters highlight their appreciation towards a city full of unique cultures unlike any other.

The short and ambiguous stories offer brief bird’s eye view into each character’s as he or she deals with love, heartbreak and/or acceptance. Most of the stories give a few snippets, that leave you confused, shocked, upset and wanting more.

The collection of artistically shot taxis rides, cigarette breaks, subway tunnels and coffee shops bring the anti-linear randomness of each story together to create something beautiful and different.

The film leaves you feeling full of emotions of sadness and happiness with the array of characters’ stories.

“New York, I Love You” also makes you want to visit New York right away.

Compared to the slower pace of “Paris, Je Taime,” “New York I Love You”’ speediness impressions make you want to watch it over and over again immediately once it ends.

Next on Benhisy’s list for the “Cities Of Love” franchise is “Rio, I Love You” and “Jerusalem, I Love You” expected to come out in 2010. “Shanghai, I Love You” and “Dubai, I Love You” are also desired future projects for Benhisy.

Benhisy is on his way to producing a full world-wide collection of love stories with similar motifs to add to his franchise.

With two triumphal films under his belt, it will depend on Benhisy’s upcoming feature films to see whether or not he has produced a formula for success.

Artist Spotlight: Priscilla Renea

By ANGELICA STEWART
Staff Writer

Priscilla Renea is another one of the many artists who has catapulted to fame via the Internet.

The talented singer wowed many by posting homemade videos of herself singing self-written songs.

"Once I discovered YouTube, that added a whole new side to my singing,” the 19-year-old singer said.

In 2007, Renea appeared on the MTV show “Say What? Karaoke” which skyrocketed her Internet fame. Online admirers posted covers of her songs, and hits on her YouTube page reached 1.7 million.

Renea’s viral videos caught the eye of pop superstar Justin Timberlake.

Upon request from Timberlake, Renea did a cover of his hit “What Goes Around” that can be found on Timberlake’s website.

Following up after “Say What? Karaoke”, Renea signed to Power Entertainment, a production company based in Atlanta. From there on, Renea perfected her songwriting skills and starting pinning hits for herself as well as others.

Renea released her three song EP titled Hello My Apple which included tracks “I Fell in Love,” “Cry” and “So Hard on The Outside But Oh-So-Sweet On The Inside.”

Now signed to Capitol Records, the pop/funk singer has nothing but bright lights in her future.

Renea is currently working on her full-length debut album, Jukebox, which is slated for a Dec. 1 release.

Laced with collaborations with many talented producers like Brian Kidd and Danish duo SoulShock & Karlin, Renea’s debut is sure to be a show-stopping hit.

Her debut song, “Dollhouse,” a sure-fire hit and audiences from around the world will soon be enamored with her distinctive style and fresh sound.

What sets Renea aside from other musical artists is her willingness to expand her music and style.

Renea is not your typical African-American singer; in fact she’s very different from today’s standards of what a black singer is supposed to be.

Now signed to Capitol Records, the pop/funk singer has nothing but bright lights in her future.

Her musical style is mixed with funk and pop, and her presence is alarmingly refreshing. Renea is making herself known to the music world, and doesn’t plan on going anywhere.

If you’re looking for something new and out of the box, Renea is the way to go.
Inside all of us is a child that probably read Maurice Sendak’s “Where the Wild Things Are” when we were young. For those of you who didn’t read it then, or read it recently in response to the Spike Jonze movie, the magic might not be as strong.

Luckily, Jonze is able to weave a rich tapestry of characters that make viewers feel like we’re watching our childhood fantasies come true.

Max (Max Records) is a child whose loneliness is instantly obvious and relatable. His dad has gone away, and he’s left with a busy working mother (Catherine Keener) and an older sister that he adores but doesn’t have time for him.

One night, when his mom has a man over for dinner, Max throws a tantrum and becomes a wild thing. He wrestles away from her when she tries to catch him, and goes to a nearby wooded area on a lake and finds a boat, biting her in the shoulder and running from the house. He’s left with a busy working mother (Catherine Keener) and an older sister that he adores but doesn’t have time for him.

What follows are some of the most beautiful parts of the film where Jonze is able to transport us from a theater to our warmest memories of childhood.

He approaches their camp as Carol (voice of James Gandolfini) is in the angry throws of sadness, destroying large bird nest-like structures.

He’s yelling about how he just wants them all to stay together, that they’re a family, and why won’t K.W. come back? He sounds like what we know Max feels like: a lost child, trying to hold onto his family.

Max runs up and introduces himself by destroying the nests with Carol when no one else would, and in response, the wild things want to eat him. Turns out, those nests are their homes.

He tells them, “Be still!” And in true leader fashion, Max weaves a story about how he was a great king of the Vikings and can make heads explode if they don’t listen to him.

So they announce that he’s their king, and withdraw a crown and scepter from a low-burning fire that has bones beneath it.

Uh oh. Not a good sign.

What follows are some of the most beautiful parts of the film where Jonze is able to transport us from a theater to our warmest memories of childhood.

Katie explains that she has had eerie incidents ever since she was eight years old, when a black shadowy mass would stand at the foot of her bed. She always felt as if the unknown figure was something dangerous and out to get her.

Unfortunately, Micah does not share her sense of terror, and proceeds to make light of the matter, even when told by a psychic that there is a demon in the house and it wants to eat her. Micah of course does not heed the warning and taunts the demon with an Ouija board, which of course angers the demon.

The escalating fear of what the demon will do each night is what keeps the audience sitting at the edge of their seats.

At night when the paranormal activity frequently takes place, Micah sets up his camera on a tripod and captures the unnerving encounters with the demon.

The psychic warns the couple not to give off negative energy that would attract the demon even more. Micah of course does not heed the warning and taunts the demon with an Ouija board, which of course angers the demon.

At night when the paranormal activity frequently takes place, Micah sets up his camera on a tripod and captures the unnerving encounters with the demon.

The escalating fear of what the demon will do each night is what keeps the audience sitting at the edge of their seats.

Also the true horror that is portrayed in the film by the actors is what the audience is truly able to connect with.

The movie would not have been as effective in scaring the viewer, if it weren’t for the superb acting of the main characters.

Yes, that’s right acting.

At the end of the film, a disclaimer appears and informs the audience that the film was a fictitious work, based on possible real events.

This disclaimer, however, does not detract from the movie.
It's almost a universal truth in California that we state raising taxes, so long as someone else is footing the bill.

In this recent economic depression, and the budget woes that the state and the CSU system face, it would seem like any option is a good one, as long as it stabilizes the rising tuition cost or adds those two precious classes you need as a senior to graduate on time.

However, the age-old adage holds true; money doesn't just grow on trees, and a new bill that would tax oil companies and fund higher education raises much concern. Will the cost of this tax be passed on to the consumer?

The answer is anyone’s guess, but first we must explain the provisions behind the bill.

Recently, here at CSUSB, we played host to the “Fair Share for Fair Tuition” rally in favor of California Assembly Majority Leader Alberto Torrico’s (D-Fremont) Assembly Bill 656. This proposed bill provides for levying of a tax-severance law on oil and gas in California, essentially taxing a percent of the gross value of oil and gas that the oil companies produce and then re-routing that money into higher education in California.

Specifically AB 656 outlines allocating 60 percent of the money raised through taxes to CSU’s (30 percent to the University of California’s and 10 percent to California Community Colleges).

As defined in AB 656 the bill “would impose an oil and gas severance tax, on and after January 1, 2010, upon any producer for the privilege of severing oil or gas from the earth or water in this state for sale, transport, consumption, storage, profit, or use, as provided, at a specified rate of 9.9 percent of the gross product.”

This whole idea for taxing the oil companies stems from the fact that California is the third largest oil producing state, and out of the top three it is the only one that doesn’t impose a severance tax, according to the Los Angeles Times.

Alaska and Texas, the only two states to produce more oil than California, tax the gross value that oil companies produce and use substantial portions of that revenue to help fund higher education in those states, according to the californiaprogressreport.com.

Isn’t this the first time that California has made a move to tax the oil companies? Similar propositions have come about twice since 1981, including the most recent defeat of California Proposition 87 in 2006, which went down to defeat.

And why has California been behind the game in taxing the oil companies?

One word: fear.

Fear, supported by millions of dollars that companies such as Chevron and Exxon-Mobil have spent in convincing California voters that such a tax would mean increased prices at the pump. The Los Angeles Times reported that Chevron had spent $95 million to take down Prop. 87 back in 2006.

So should we be scared now that it’s less than 100 days before AB 656 is voted upon?

Assemblyman Torrico and his crew have seemingly addressed that issue by outlawing the raising of gas prices due to the tax increase, and would create an oversight board to monitor and investigate the oil companies and the taxation as part of package in AB 656.

However, history begs to be remembered as regulatory commissions and government backed programs have been created in the past, only to flounder and not fulfill their true and full purpose.

One need only look back to the measures President Herbert Hoover took during the Great Depression and the debate over the success of the No Child Left Behind Act.

Still the skeptics in us is unsure, so much as we want to bring money back into the CSU system and lower tuition fees, we don’t want to find that we have to now pay our local gas station twice as much just to get to school.

Now to lay to rest our fears; Mason Gaffney, with a doctorate in economics and professor of Economics at University of California of Riverside explained that the oil and gas prices are determined and driven by far larger factors than severance taxes, and that the portion of oil that California represents in the global market is negligible.

So, if such a tax is passed, the oil companies, as a whole, will barely feel the pinprick which is the tax that Torrico proposes to implement.

Gas prices are determined as a result of the global economy as, opposed to regionally driven occurrences.

In that regard, we believe now is the time to see through the fear that the oil companies perpetuate, and support AB 656. If oil companies get a free ride in California, and taxing them could help out the ailing higher education system in the Golden State, then we're all for it.

Students, teachers, parents and anyone with any investment in higher education should support Assemblyman Torrico’s bill and be prepared to play watchdog against the oil companies, who will surely try to scare us into higher gas prices.

Who’s fooling who in Moore’s new film?

By CORY KIRSHKE
Staff Writer

Michael Moore’s new documentary “Capitalism: A Love Story” presents an eye opening but controversial way to think about capitalism.

The documentary depicts the shameful acts of America’s elites, including several of our U.S. senators and congressmen, CEO’s of major insurance companies, banks and other wealthy corporations.

The film also shows us the heartbreaking truth about how Americans are being evicted from their homes and shown no compassion.

 According to dictionary.com, capitalism is an “economic system in which investment in, and ownership of the means of production, distribution, and exchange of wealth is made and maintained chiefly by private individuals or corporations.”

Though the film may or may not accurately depict the entire truth about the capitalist system that we have in America.

However, Moore does show us how the greed and lack of compassion that frequently spawn from capitalism, can be very harmful to many Americans.

During the film, there was a scene where a grand total of eight police cars drove up to a house to evict the family inside.

The officers and a sheriff broke down the family’s door and forced the occupants to leave immediately.

In another scene an elderly couple who had owned and lived on their ranch for decades was given a 24-hour eviction notice.

They were to have the place cleaned and all of their belongings out, as someone else had already purchased the now bank-owned home.

The couple explained to Moore that the interest rate of the loan that the bank had given them was steadily increasing every year.

First it was $1,500, and they were able to make the payments, then with no warning or explanation, the payments increased to $2,700.

I can relate to the families that were evicted from their homes, as my family and I were evicted from the house I grew up in.

My parents refinanced our home and before they knew it, the mortgage payments increased dramatically.

There was no way to keep up with the payments even though they both had full time jobs, and had always paid their bills on time.

We were evicted just a few months after we were unable to make the payments.

I believe that while some may disagree with Moore’s point of view on capitalism, he does show us the very real and disturbing truth about Americans losing their homes.

Moore also shows us that during the recent stock market crash, and Wall Street corporation failures, the banks, insurance companies and investors asked the government for a $710 billion bailout.

The bill did not pass the first time around, but just days later, it came back, having been reworded and reworked before being passed on the second go.

The end result, the bill gave the richest people in America billions of our tax dollars.

Many will reject Moore’s point of view on capitalism, and continue to rave about this being the best system for America; even though most likely it has benefited them in no way at all.

I believe that while capitalism has its advantages, it is still flawed in many ways, and I think it could/should be more beneficial to a greater amount of Americans than it currently is.
King of Pop’s reign far from over

By BETH BAYOR
Staff Writer

Standing in line at Starbucks the other day, I overheard a man tell his friend that he was sick of the media coverage on Michael Jackson and he thought it should stop.

Furthermore, he thought Jackson was just an entertainer and he didn’t understand why people cared so much about the death of someone they didn’t even know.

I couldn’t disagree more. Not only do I think Michael deserves continued media coverage, but as a lifelong fan I believe I know why so many mourn the loss of a man who was much more than just an entertainer.

Michael’s professional accomplishments are legendary, but if that were all there was to the man, then he would just be an entertainer, albeit a successful one.

I believe what set Michael apart from the mere entertainer was his humanitarian efforts, his trailblazing for the African-American community, and his powerful messages of peace, hope, love, equality and ecological responsibility.

Jackson supported 39 different charity organizations during his life, according to the “Guinness Book of World Records” who named him the pop star who supported the most number of charities.

Pharrell Williams, an artist and producer, said Michael “opened the doors” for black people in the music industry.

If being a record breaking singer-songwriter, an extraordinary dancer, a humanitarian and trailblazer does not make someone worthy of media coverage, then what does?

If you don’t agree with those arguments, the media is governed by the law of supply and demand, which states that if there is no demand for a product then that product will no longer be provided.

“Michael Jackson’s This Is It” documentary will open in theaters this Wednesday. MTV is reporting that the documentary has already broken international ticket sales records. They are also predicting that it will become “the biggest concert film of all time.” MTV’s statements indicate that lots of people want to see more of Michael, which alone should be enough to justify continued media coverage of him.

As for the accusation that Michael’s fans mourn for someone who they didn’t even know, I agree that we did know him.

A few years ago I took a class in Mesopotamian art history. I thought the class was going to be about pieces of art, but I realized that what we were really studying were people.

I could see the hopes, dreams, fears, struggles and values of the people of Mesopotamia through their art, because art is a reflection of the artist.

Michael’s art has been around for the last 45 years and I believe it reveals who he really was as a human.

I also believe his fans mourn not only for a man who entertained them, but for a man who cared enough about them to formulate messages that he thought would make this world a better place.

I know one thing for sure, Michael instilled, in this fan, a strong sense of equality, a passion for the environment and a hope for a better tomorrow.

No end in sight to Afghan War

By DAISY ALVAREZ
Staff Writer

Disappointing elections in Afghanistan highlight the need for credible leadership in this struggling nation.

The election however has been a huge disappointment to leaders in the West. Hopes had been extremely high that the elections would go smoothly, highlighting a growing democracy in that most unstable of regions.

This would, in turn, lend support to America’s efforts in the Middle East as a stable of regions.

Hopes had been extremely high that the elections would go smoothly, highlighting a growing democracy in that most unstable of regions.

Nations and the United States have gone to waste efforts in Afghanistan if it cannot whole.

The United States should not continue supporting a crooked government before it approves U.S. Army Gen. Stanley A. McChrystal’s request for 40,000 additional troops.

Even if Karzai wins the upcoming runoff November election legitimately, his corrupt ties can’t be denied.

Forty thousand additional troops should not be sent to a nation whose highest elected official utilized fraudulent methods to acquire votes.

Our continued presence in the struggling nation has cost us $171.7 billion, according to the American Friends Service Committee.

The total cost for the war is estimated to be over half of one trillion dollars after calculating increased occupation and veteran benefits.

The cost of the Afghanistan War has more than a monetary value. This nine-year war has cost countless lives.

This war will be a cycle of expensive and tragic events unless we have our troops withdrawn soon.
Chronicle Sudoku
The numbers 1-9 will appear in each column, row and 3x3 square only once. There is only one solution. Good luck!

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xkcd - A Webcomic

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‘Creepy’
Life without baseball

By ANDREW TAPIA
Staff Writer

I have been a baseball player all my life, until now. For me, baseball was like an institution that taught me lessons, built friendships and helped me set goals. I was a talented left-hander who only got better the more I played. I excelled at Pierce Junior College, receiving first-team all-conference honors and was part of a team that only comes by once in a lifetime.

After Pierce I transferred to CSUSB, because my former teammate Danny Soles was going here. He told me the checks were hot, and the home field is a beauty. I was sold.

I experienced two seasons playing for CSUSB. With the amount of talent we had and no playoff births, I have to say I, and others, were surely disappointed. Nonetheless, it’s about the relationships you build with friends and teammates that encourage you to work hard and get better each day. Baseball is a commitment to your coach, your team and most importantly yourself.

The sport served as a rulebook of ethics that I saw as a code of conduct. Baseball was my conscience and it was continually tested. I would tell myself, “I can’t go out tonight, I have a game tomorrow.” Or, “I wish I could go guys, but I have morning weights.”

These were some of the best answers to not going out and drinking with friends. Unfortunately I cannot make these excuses anymore. October 9, 2009, while leaving a club in Hollywood, I crashed into a tow truck an exit away from my house.

Spinning out of control, I see a big-rig hit his breaks and barely avoid squashing me like a bug. Stunned and shaken, I jumped out of my passenger window and rushed to see if everyone was alright in the tow truck. Luckily everyone was.

I waited for the CHP officers and stood there evaluating my punishment. I had been drinking that night, I knew I was going to jail and only thing I could think of was how disappointed and scared my parents were going to be. Spending a night in jail, I asked myself, “Where is that code of conduct that you used to base your life off on? Did you leave it on the diamond?”

In reality I did. Baseball served as structure for my life. Without it I felt alone and missed the direction and bonds that you build with teammates. However, I have not least too far from baseball. I am a batting instructor where I work with kids to help their hitting approach and help build their mental confidence.

I just started playing in an adult league, where I am finding a lot of old friends. As far as the accident, it was a gigantic learning lesson, and an expensive one. Walking away from an accident that could have taken my life made me realize that I need to look at situations differently.

Because any baseball coach will tell you the difference between a good or bad play is the difference between safe and out.

Although I am out of baseball right now, the sport has taught me that through hard work, you can get through the trials and tribulations, especially the ones you make yourself.

On-campus students ‘battle it out’

By JEREMY VASQUEZ
Staff Writer

Residential Hall Association (RHA), in collaboration with RecSports, are trying to build community among students living on campus by creating a quarterly intramural sports league for residents.

Many residents have attended the past weekly competitions since the beginning of the quarter and are very optimistic about the turnout thus far.

“I love getting outside my apartment and getting some good physical contact on the field,” said resident Bryanne Cox.

“I’ve always had a competitive nature since softball in high school, and being involved in a college intramural league gives me a great opportunity to get some rust off my cleats.”

RHA is the student government of the housing students, advocating as their voice for programming and student issues.

Students busy with school have friendly competition, serving as a way to network as well as compete with other on campus students.

The most successful team by the end of the quarter will receive a trophy for their efforts and achievement and be crowned champions.

“I’m very proud of the resident halls association this year,” said University Village RA Tiffany Webster.

“We have continued to gradually achieve higher, plan bigger, and challenge more even since I joined.”

“Students involved this year are striking while the iron is hot, said Webster.”

Thus far, there was a dodge ball game on Oct. 12 in the Coussoulis arena.

Close to 80 on-campus students came to participate.

On Oct. 15 there was kickball in the lower soccer fields, where students jammed the grass to compete against rival dorms.

Students will be looking for more friendly competition Monday Oct. 26 for some blind volleyball in the Rec Sports gym at 10 p.m.

Dont miss out on the fun.

Coyote of the Week:
Albert Cabrera, Men’s Soccer

Cabrera, the CCAA leader in points (26), scored two goals over the weekend, including a match winning goal against CSU Stanislaus. He now has 10 goals and 6 assists for the Coyotes, who are 12-3-1 on the season.
Hectic hockey season underway

By ERIC EBEL
Staff Writer

Every year in the NHL we see a handfull of powerhouse teams that do well from start to finish. On top of that, we often see the same teams every year lose over and over again while they fail to make a playoff spot and disappoint their die-hard fans. However, this year when the puck was dropped, hockey gurus across the nation were soon scratching their heads and trying to figure this season out.

Sure, the league has only just started and teams have played about 10 games, so how much can we really tell by what’s happened so far?

Well, to start, two teams who finished in the bottom five last year (Atlanta and Columbus), have given up only one loss through six games. Instead of sitting in dead last in their division again, the Phoenix Coyotes are trailing right behind the San Jose Sharks with the potential to make the playoffs. However, the franchise hasn’t won a playoff series since 1987, when it was still in Winnipeg. Perhaps a Stanley Cup championship will save their future in Arizona, as the team filed for bankruptcy this year.

This year it seems as if the two South- ern California teams have switched their rankings: the Anaheim Ducks can’t post big wins and the Los Angeles Kings are toppling household names like the San Jose Sharks. Perhaps the biggest eye opener this year has to be the Detroit Red Wings and their surprisingly bad start. The team has given up four losses in seven games and is second-to-last in their division. As a team that had the most points in the league last year, the coaching staff is struggling to find a way to win.

Of course, we can’t expect all of the teams who did well last year not to win at all. In fact, last year’s Stanley Cup Champions, the Pittsburg Penguins, boast the best record in the league so far, leaving fans wondering: will Captain Sidney Crosby lead the team to the finals for the third straight season?

The toughest division has proved to be the Atlantic, which includes consistent powerhouse teams like the New York Rangers, New Jersey Devils, Philadelphia Flyers and the Pittsburg Penguins. Despite trailing the Penguins in the division, the Rangers have one of the best records in the league so far due to a seven game winning streak.

Just like previous years, the Canadian teams are mix of good and bad - three teams are in the bottom ten with only eight wins combined. The remaining two teams (Ottawa and Edmonton) are astonishingly better than last year. Not only are there teams exceeding and failing expectations, but there are players that are giving fans a reason not to wear their jersey. Fan favorites Bobby Ryan and Ryan Getzlaf of the Ducks are off to a slow start as they only have a combined total of five points. Center Eric Staal of the Carolina Hurricanes accounts for a -2 rating and has only two goals accounted for so far.

Pavel Datsyuk of Detroit has only two assists in five games, which is shocking for one of last year’s point leaders.

Fans must remember: it’s early in the season still. Last year San Jose and the New York Rangers looked like Stanley Cup finalists in the beginning, but both were ousted early in the playoffs despite their records.

So heed this hockey fans, this season could be your team’s year, just don’t bet on it.
The men’s basketball team can now practice for the 2009-2010 season. Last year they tied for first in the CCAA, and won their first conference tournament.

By SARAH MIKKELSON
Staff Writer

Practice has begun for the men’s basketball team and with only seven returning players, Head Coach Jeff Oliver has some rebuilding to do this season.

Despite the loss of key players and the addition of 10 newcomers this season, Oliver is optimistic about what the team has to offer.

“It's going to be a really enjoyable group to coach. Effort will not be an issue. Chemistry will not be an issue,” Oliver said.

Shooting guard Lawrence Tyson is the only returning starter of the group. He looks forward to bonding with the team and going far with them this year.

“We have a great group of guys that really want to win,” Tyson said.

The drills Coach Oliver runs are challenging, but they “really push us and make us better players,” Tyson said.

Six-foot-7 center Devon Davis is in his third year playing for the ‘Yotes. He sat out last season as a redshirt.

“We prepared as a team and trained everyday except Sunday,” Davis said.

The goal for the season is to win a conference championship, but Davis wants to go further in the playoffs and win a national championship as well.

Although team practice for the season is just beginning, the ‘Yotes are already a tight-knit group, according to Coach Oliver.

In the offseason, the team lifted weights together, practiced the team offense and defense, and worked on individual skills.

Oliver, now in his eighth season at CSUSB, will be looking to discover the offensive identity of the team and rebuild using the group of new transfers the school gained.

This year, the team will utilize such talent acquired from junior colleges and Division I transfers.

“We usually have a big turnover of players each year. [This year] it’s a little more than usual, but it’s nothing extraordinary,” Oliver said.

After starting out last season 2-5, the Coyotes bounced back to end the season with a 20-10 record overall. They fought their way to the NCAA West Regional quarterfinal against Cal Poly Pomona but lost in overtime, 83-81.

One challenge for the ‘Yotes this year: dealing with the loss of forward Brandon Brown.

Brown decided to pass up his senior year in order to play for a professional Lithuanian team.

Last season, Brown led the CCAA in scoring, (21.5 ppg) and was third in the conference in rebounding (8.7 per game).

Oliver will have some adjustments to make in his offense due to Brown’s absence.

To make up for that, Oliver will start to implement new offensive and defensive philosophies at the start of the season. However, strategies used will be similar to years past.

“It will be a work in progress,” Oliver said.

The veteran coach is still trying to figure out what kind of team he has to work with and what each player will bring.

As practice progresses, he will learn what works, what does not, and what route will bring him and his team closer to a championship.

The ‘Yotes start off the 2009-10 regular season on Nov. 20 at Pepperdine.

Haas recognized by NCAA

By CHRIS BAKER
Sports Editor

The awards keep on rolling for Meghan Haas.

Although she hasn’t played collegiate volleyball for nearly a year, the CSUSB graduate was one of 30 women semifinalists at the 19th annual NCAA ‘Woman of the Year’ award ceremony in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Last season she helped lead the Coyotes to their third straight CCAA championship and was named first team All-CCAA. Haas was also an All-region player and earned All-American honorable mention honors.

In 2008 she posted a record breaking year, surpassing all other Coyotes in career digs, despite playing for Louisiana Tech out of high school.

Haas not only excelled on the court, but in the classroom as well. The Kinesiology major had a 3.8 GPA.

Her literal enactment of what a student-athlete is, won her the CCAA scholar athlete of the year award last June.

Haas graduated from CSUSB with honors, and has received plenty of others along the way. Last season she was named to the ESPN the magazine all-academic team for district 8.

In addition, she was awarded as the outstanding graduate in the kinesiology department.

Haas was one of two CCAA semifinalists for the ‘Woman of the Year’ award.

Track and Fielder Jasimen Bailey of CSU Stanislaus was also one of the 30 women recognized for their efforts.

The banquet had representatives from 28 conferences throughout all three divisions of the NCAA.

Each division was allowed 10 nominations, and in total there were over 132 conference recommendations.

The CCAA was in good company, being one of only two NCAA conferences with multiple representatives. The Big 12 was the other.

Olympic silver medalist swimmer, Lacey Nymeyer of the University of Arizona was named ‘Woman of the year’.