Medicinal marijuana users and distributors in California and 13 other states that allow for the use of medicinal marijuana can rest easy now that the federal government has reached a new decision concerning marijuana.

A new directive was issued October 19th by the U.S. Department of Justice which allows federal investigators to relax their proceedings against medicinal users and distributors as long as they comply with state laws.

This is due in part to the Obama administration's pushing for federal authorities to focus their resources on serious drug traffickers whilst protecting and taking into account state laws. This is in stark contrast to the Bush administration of dealing with all marijuana users as criminals and using all available resources to investigate users in all states regardless of state laws.

Chris Schneider, an undergraduate at CSUSB explained how many Californians are on the fence about the issue concerning marijuana. Schneider pointed out that marijuana is a horrible substance, but that since it is legal, widely popular and it can help people, its use is permissible.

"If you use it legally for the right reasons its OK, but only for the right reasons, and only for those who really need it," Schneider said.

Marijuana is very prevalent in California, both legally and illegally, thus the concern over the recent decision is extremely high. Many, such as Schneider, believe that people will abuse the system due to the fact that they are not under constant scrutiny from federal authorities.

Whether people are undecided, for or whole-heartedly against medicinal marijuana users and growers, the federal directive provides some much-needed breathing room for users and distributors alike.
Coyote wannabes get a campus peek

CSUSB opened its doors for prospective students to attend its annual Open House event on Oct. 24, but just for a peek until admissions open in fall 2010.

Some 300 high school and community college students got a chance to visit the CSUSB campus and meet with faculty and staff, attend seminars on financial aid and other programs, check out the different clubs and organizations and meet with faculty from the five different academic colleges.

“This is probably the first time prospective students get to see a university,” said Joe Gutierrez, the assistant director of public relations.

“And many incoming students at first don’t focus on what it takes to get into college like submit transcripts and apply for financial aid so this is a good intro to university life,” Gutierrez continued.

Even with the recent fee increases, many potential students, most of them community college transfers, showed up to the event to confirm their choice of university before the Nov. 30 priority deadline for fall 2010 admission into the CSU system.

“I tried to get into the spring 2010 class but admissions were already closed,” said future CSUSB student Tara Igler. “I applied two weeks ago just to make sure I made it for the fall.”

Transferring from Citrus College in Glendora, Igler describes that her reason for wanting to come to CSUSB is the location.

“I’m commuting from Glendora so the traffic is opposite me and makes it much easier,” said Igler.

One of the attributes the campus boasts is its convenient location in inland Southern California. San Bernardino is just a short drive from the mountains, beaches and amusement parks.

Riverside Community College transfer student Amadis Licerio, says that he is planning on attending college in the fall but has not yet chosen between CSUSB and San Diego State.

“San Bernardino is a pretty nice campus. The price is a lot cheaper and it’s really close to me coming from Moreno Valley,” said 25-year-old Licerio after taking one of the campus tours offered at the open house.

CSUSB, along with the other 22 schools in the CSU system, are definitely some of the lowest costing universities to attend in the U.S. with prices per quarter ranging from $1,000 to $1,600 for undergraduates.

On the tour, Licerio visited the student recreation and fitness center and said that was his favorite part about the campus.

“I go to the gym now and pay for it but I’d rather not plus there are free towels and that rock climbing wall is sick,” Licerio said.

Students should know, however, that California is estimated to remain under the current budget crunch through-2011 and university fee increases and future may still happen in the future as well as even more reductions in student enrollment.

“We have to trim enrollment by 2000 students in the next two years,” said Gutierrez.

“We still encourage people to apply because that person might have more of what it takes to be a college student than another,” Gutierrez continued. “Don’t close your options without first trying.”
**Femme Faire sets stage for awareness, celebration**

By PRISCILLA GUTIERREZ  
Staff Writer

Live music, free food, and violence prevention were front runners at the Women’s Resource Center’s (WRC) Femme Faire as men and women alike came out to celebrate. The event, held in the Santos Manuel Student Union (SMSU) on Oct. 23 from 8-11 p.m., featured various bands, vendors and snacks for all attendees, female or otherwise. Though the WRC, a center which strives to “provide a support and resource center where diversity is respected and celebrated,” holds various events throughout the year, the Femme Faire was the first of it’s kind.

“Our goal was to provide information on sexual assault, domestic violence and violence against women in a way that would be fun,” said Janet Honn-Alex, coordinator of the WRC. The event offered free food and drinks, along with free tarot readings and henna tattoos. Female vendors also set up camp at the event, selling handmade jewelry, clothing, greeting cards and other crafts.

Among the artists performing were ska band Half Past Two, bass powered band Switchblade Kittens, and Russian songstress Marina V. Also performing at the Femme Faire was one of CSUSB’s own, alumna Teresa Raef. Raef, who played five acoustic songs including a demanded encore, said she was impressed with the event’s turnout.

“I see a lot of strong, powerful, artistic, intelligent women and this is the best event I’ve seen so far,” said Raef. Various organizations such as Option House and Planned Parenthood handed out pamphlets and offered informational statistics to attendees.

The Hands Don’t Hurt campaign allowed attendees to take a vow against violence by putting their name on a paper hand and adding it to the wall of pledges. The Reproductive Health Program’s table offered free condoms. “There would be a lot of people demonstrating the dangers of unprotected sex.”

“I’m really happy about this event, I think it’s great that CSUSB has something like this to support breaking the silence,” attendee Tonya Andrade said.

“This event was created by students, for students,” said Honn-Alex, who stressed that the Faire was a group effort. Honn-Alex also stressed the importance of participating in any events or programs held in the student union, whether it be from the Cross Cultural Center, the Adult Re-Entry Center, or the Pride Center.

“Everyone is working together, if you don’t participate, you’re missing out,” said Honn-Alex.

For more information on the Women’s Resource Center and other upcoming events, visit studentunion.csusb.edu.

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**Dry days ahead as water levels decline**

By ANDY OGG  
Staff Writer

The word “drought” is nothing new to Californians. Through the years we’ve heard it more and more frequently. The current drought is shaping up to be the worst since the early 90s when California was in dire need of any sort of water. However, while the drought of the 90s was bad, this current situation is shaping up to be significantly worse.

From 1988 to 1992, California faced a series of dry years with an average of 86 percent less precipitation and approximately 53 percent lower than average levels in the state reservoirs.

With California water reservoirs 68 percent lower than average and rainfall 72 percent lower than previous years, there is obvious cause for concern for the upcoming 2010 year. The water shortage is not only a serious concern for residents but also for the economic outlook of California.

If a drought reaches a “severe” level, the prices of water increases dramatically, which in turn raises the cost that consumers will see at grocery stores and restaurants.

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**Continued from Pg. 1:**

**Californians seek to recast state constitution**

creases an extra two years. The voters made it clear, however, that even higher taxes in the already highest taxed state in the union, will not be an option.

Amongst the cuts and propositions come the politicians and their agendas. Stalemate after stalemate continue to be the end result as politicians continue to have conflicting views on each policy being discussed.

The two-thirds majority rule is a big issue for Democrats. This rule in the state’s constitution requires a two-thirds majority vote to allow anything to pass or be placed on a ballot for voters.

“The two-thirds rule is the most commonly criticized aspect of California’s broken government,” said Robert Cruickshank, Public Policy Director of CourageCampaign.org.

CourageCampaign.org is an organization that pushes for progressive change and equality for all Californians. Right now their biggest focus is reforming the state government and bringing order to the chaotic state that our government is in.

The proposal to end stalemates and eliminate wasted time in policy making and government reform would be to call for a California State Constitutional Convention, he argues.

“Article 18 of the California Constitution explains the convention process,” said Cruickshank. “The convention does not have the authority to actually change the Constitution itself - only the voters can actually ratify Constitutional changes. What the convention does is debate and refine proposals, and agree on what will be submitted to voters.

From that point it is up to the voters to decide what changes will be made to the state constitution.

“It’s cool that we have that freedom to amend and change the ways our government can function,” said CSUSB student Breshawn Wiley. “If the people feel the need to call a convention, then that right should be exercised.”

No matter the outcome, the state government is still in a crisis. Democrats and Republicans alike realize there are issues that need to be addressed and soon before our state continues to spiral out of control.

They argue that a constitutional convention may be the only way to solve this fiscal crisis, and completely change the way the government works. In return, a new group of representatives and new way of deliberation will be introduced to finally bring productivity to the state government and the way it functions.
Body image: it’s negative everywhere

By STEPHANIE MONGEAU
Staff Writer

One of the major things that distinguish one country from another is the food and the eating habits of the residents. When I moved to the United States, I thought that the food would pretty much be the same. After all, it is still North America. Despite the proximity of these two countries, my Canadian friends and I noticed few differences with the American diet. I asked my Canadian friends what they thought of their new American diet and I have to say, I’m very surprised by the variety of answers that I got.

“I am astonished to see the amount of Mexican restaurants,” Stephanie Babin said. “There are Mexican restaurants on every corner and Mexican dishes in almost every place to eat.”

By Camille Gueden and Sarah Boutin, the most noticeable difference is the groceries. “The frozen sections in grocery stores are much bigger than in Canada,” Salt said.

In my own opinion, the portions and the sizes are quite bigger in Uncle Sam’s country than anywhere else.

Even if there are a lot of eating behavior differences from one country and another, there is a problem that has no borders: the body image issue for women and girls.

Back in Canada, women and young girls are subjected to the media’s influences that partially dictate their body image. Psychologists, doctors and sociologists blame everyone for the body image issues that Canadians teenagers and young adults are living with. Magazines, pop music artists, commercials and cosmetic companies; there’s an endless list of people that could make them feel unsure about their bodies. Canada is by law, but they have access to many more sources that could make them feel unsure about their bodies. Canada is heavily influenced by the American culture and that’s why Canadians face the same problems.

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Northern Outlook: an exchange-student’s journal

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Can you handle the truth?

By MATTIE COURCHESNE

Public relations is not about lying. According to Elizabeth Ebie and Grace Rudatsikira, it’s about putting the best face on the truth.

Ebie and Rudatsikira talk passionately about public relations. Both communication majors want to pursue a career in the field.

They are off to a good start, as they both just got a $500 scholarship from the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) Inland Empire.

The PRSA is a nationwide organization that, according to their website, “welcomes all communications professionals wanting to meet people in their field.”

This comes only a couple of weeks after they joined PRSSA, the Public Relations Students Society of America.

Ebie and Rudatsikira are no strangers to PR.

Rudatsikira, a former business major, is often referred to as the “PR girl” within her family and friends.

She got involved with several organizations for which she handled public relations. Among others, she helped organize an AIDS awareness public relations campaign for which she handled many contacts and helped them devise a plan on the whole truth.

Ebie believes that it’s her passion she puts into her work that convinced the selection committee.

And don’t you dare tell Ebie or Rudatsikira that public relations professionals are spin doctors.

“There’s always a good and a bad side,” Rudatsikira said. “Public relations professionals are supposed to be non-objective. They’re not supposed to lie.”

Ebie agrees.

“Before, I guess I thought public relations professionals were spin doctors,” Ebie said. “But it’s not like that. It’s not even about not telling the whole truth.”

They both think that an organization like the PRSSA can help them develop a useful network.

“I met so many people, got business cards and made so many contacts already,” Ebie said.

“I joined PRSSA because I wanted to join an organization that will better prepare me for the field I’ll be going into,” Rudatsikira added.

“Getting a job in that business is hard. It helps to already have some contacts,”

This year, the PRSSA, which has about 20 members, is trying to get more visibility on campus.

“We are starting from a clean slate this year and are trying to find as many ways as we can to prepare public relations students for their career,” said Jennifer Torrez, president of the CSUSB chapter of the PRSSA.

“We focus on preparing students to get hands-on experience that they can put on their resume and, of course, scholarships like Ebie and Rudatsikira got,” Torrez added.

It costs $60 to join PRSSA. After graduation and becoming alumni, your membership to the PRSSA is discounted.

Surgical weight loss

It’s not for just for the middle-aged

By ERIN CHESTER

I’m a lot of things: student, features editor, semi-writer, and an occasional (ahem, often) user of “your mom” jokes. Another title to tack to the list: surgical weight loss patient.

Yeah, I’m basically putting the beginning of my story out there, but it’s because I want students to know that people who undergo these types of procedures aren’t always middle-aged. I got the surgery when I was 23, a little over four months ago.

Let me start by saying, I’m not lazy. I’ve always been physically active, but a sports accident when I was in high school resulted in damage to my meniscus (cartilage in the knee), and pretty much all fun stuff that involved my left leg was put on the back burner.

In the early part of spring quarter, I had to go to the Student Health Center, and lo-and-behold, my blood pressure was at a stroke range.

My nurse conveyed the gravity of the situation, and I understood. I’d been considering weight loss surgery for a long time to help relieve my knee pain, but it wasn’t a pressing issue.

That doctor visit helped change that. I want to live a long, full life. I’m a research fanatic, and I understood that ultimately, Americans’ unhealthy choices of food, portion sizes and my own shortcomings would never enable me to lose weight.

I know a lot of people perceive weight-loss surgery as a weakness. That I didn’t have the willpower to lose it on my own. Granted, that’s their opinion, and to a small extent, they’re right.

I’m not alone; more than one-third of adult Americans, or roughly 72 million, are obese.

I have a four-ounce stomach. Even if I want to overeat, which I absolutely do not, I can’t. To give you an average can of tuna is four-ounces. So that or less is what I can eat at every meal, or I’ll puke. For the rest of my life: overeating will equal puking.

A Vertical Sleeve Gastrectomy (VSG) is the type of procedure I chose. It doesn’t bypass your intestines, so malnutrition and vitamin deficiencies that are common with other surgeries aren’t a factor. As of this printing, I’ve lost 84 pounds since June 20.

I’m ahead of the curve on my loss, and it doesn’t look like it’ll slow down anytime soon. I’ll graduate in June 2010 as a relatively normal-sized person, but more importantly, the quality of my life and the duration of it will have increased.

My blood pressure, while still high, is nowhere near what it was eight months ago. I work out often (when I’m not injured, I’m a pretty bad klutz) and can take two flights of stairs quickly and without unbearable pain.

Bottom line, I’m a student, and I’ve done something that stereotypically is reserved for people who have been overweight and happy most of their lives. Eight years was enough for me. I took the steps to change my life, and I hope that after reading this, you might reconsider how you view those similar to me.

Stressed-out students

By HEATHER CLARK

It’s a school day. Hoping to do well in my classes, I get up early and get ready to head to the library to study with my friends before my long school day begins. I fight traffic on campus and search endlessly for a parking spot. I finally find one and make my way back to the library.

To our surprise, all of the study rooms are already filled with nervous looking students, desperately trying to study for their classes.

In the fact, the study rooms in the library are practically full every day of the week until closing. My friends and I try to devise a plan on the elevator ride up to search all the floors for an available room, and we rarely find one.

This seems to be completely opposite to when I first came here five years ago and could find an extra room any time of the day.

I walk around campus, and students seem to actually be stressed and genuinely concerned about doing well in school.

So what’s changed?

One consensus my colleagues and I have come to is that students are trying much harder than before to do well the first time taking the class as opposed to doing poorly and having to shell-out the money to take it again.

Students are also overloading in units to get done faster, which would also save on tuition.

All of the campus community is well aware of the one-third increase in tuition for close to 400 fewer classes, but could this alone be the reason for the change?
Anyone living in Southern California can tell you Mexican restaurants are a dime a dozen. In San Bernardino alone there are at least 24 individual restaurants. However, community favorite Mitla Cafe is a cut above the rest.

Mitla Cafe, located at 602 North Mount Vernon Avenue in San Bernardino, has been serving quality Mexican cuisine since 1937. Lucía Rodríguez, Frank Montano, Vera Lopez and Helena Martínez founded the restaurant. Over 70 years later, Mitla Cafe remains family-owned and is currently operated by Irene Montano, wife of Frank Montano.

Irene had been working as a waitress since she became the owner in 1984. Irene's grandson, CSUSB student Corey Sandoval, is a waiter at the cafe too.

"I enjoy it," Sandoval said. "It's easy money, family-owned and it's just great food."

My waiter was Bryan Lopez, founder Vera Lopez's great-grandson.

On their website, Mitla says their mission is "to serve our customers with the extensive knowledge and expertise we have gained in our industry, while continually offering them the finest in customer service."

Their staff exceeds and goes beyond their goal with their food and service.

The staff is warm and friendly, not just forced professional friendless, like at other restaurants, but genuine compassion and concern for their customers.

The food is exceptionally appetizing and portions are generous. For a student eating on a budget, the cafe is definitely one of the most appealing options in the area.

The atmosphere at Mitla is inviting and homey. Waiters shoot the breeze with you as they serve your food.

Fellow customers feed quarters into the jukebox in the corner to fill the air with classic funk and soul hits as others eagerly bite into their tacos between conversations with close friends and family.

"It is a very friendly environment and wants to make you come back for seconds," said customer Edwin Negrete.

My order, a menu item dubbed Gloria's Special consists of two mouth-watering soft chicken tacos served with enchiladas that come loaded with heaping amounts of fresh sour cream, lettuce, tomato, melted cheese and sauce. It was amazing that one plate was able to pack so much food and flavor.

So, CSUSB students, the next time you're craving Mexican cuisine and can't decide amongst the multitude of options available, keep in mind the proximity, tasty food and great service at Mitla Cafe.

Marijuana enforcement relaxed under new federal directive

At least a dozen dispensaries in the city of San Bernardino alone will now be safe from federal raids.

Marijuana enforcement relaxed under new federal directive

Marijuana remains one of the most highly debated topics in the golden state. Legislation both for and against the drug have come and gone since marijuana was first legalized for medicinal purposes in 1996. Organizations such as CA NORML exist to promote the very reasons why people flock to this "drug," because it's seen as a valid medical treatment by many doctors.

Marijuana has been found to be helpful in a variety of medical usages including aiding depression or stress, glaucoma, migraines and chemotherapy-related pain and nausea. Also two recent and separate studies conducted by both Louisiana State University and Columbia University have proven that the use of marijuana slows the degenerative process of HIV.

Studies from LSU and Columbia have proven that marijuana slows the degenerative process of HIV.
Sizzlin’ Singles

Britney Spears: “3”

Jennifer Torres: Love this song! Perfect dance song.
Angelica Stewart: On a scale of 1-10, this song is a 1.
Ashley Harper: Instantly makes me want to get up and dance around. Plus the song is a bit naughty, which is always amusing.
Danielle Baird: She’s back!
Melanie Hunter: Classic Britney is the best Britney.

Chris Brown: “Transform Ya”

JT: Still not over the whole Rihanna thing. It’s too soon!
AS: Since you can transform Chris, can someone try and transform this song into a hit? Thanks.
AH: The beat is nice, but he still needs to transform his image before I’ll like him again
DB: I love it, but he should be working on transforming his reputation
MH: Lil’ Wayne is also on this track. Rapper guilty of illegal gun possession and a singer guilty of battery. Nice.

Robin Thicke: “Sex Therapy”

JT: He’s not my favorite, but this song catches my attention.
AS: The song is actually very therapeutic. Guess his wife thought the same thing
AH: Love, love, love this song. It’s sexy but not raunchy!
DB: He can even make graphic lyrics sound sexy.
MH: His therapy must’ve worked! He and his wife are expecting.
Edward Sharpe and the Magnetic Zeros

By JENNIFER TORREZ
Staff Writer

If you think three’s a crowd, think again because Edward Sharpe and the Magnetic Zeros have something in common with the Grateful Dead that includes more than your standard four-piece.

Only a few members shy of the Grateful Dead, Edward Sharpe and the Magnetic Zeros includes 10 to 12 band mates, all harmonizing to collaborate a positive musical experience that you can’t help but sing along to.

With vocalist Alex Ebert, singer of “Ima Robot,” and nine to 11 musicians, melodies of alternative indie-folk rock channel through percussion, piano, guitars, horns, drums and an accordion all to craft one of the most unique up-and-coming bands of 2009.

Edward Sharpe and the Magnetic Zeros debut album “Up From Below” was released July 2009 on Vagrant records. However, the catchy and inspiring lyrical content on this album takes back seat to their live energetic performances.

It would be a good decision to go buy this album along with a ticket for their upcoming Southern California show Dec. 14 at the Mayan in LA.

Meet Portugal. The Man

By JENNIFER TORREZ
Staff Writer

Indie-rock, soul and pure addiction, Portugal. The Man (yes there is a period in their name), brings all three in their newest album after a four year break, The Satanic Satanist.

The bands fourth ten-track album since 2006 includes songs full of pure musical talent with creative sounds and surprisingly uplifting poetic lyrics, despite the albums name.

“I was really trying to go for the more Motown structure than anything,” said vocalist John Gourley. “The really short, tight songs with three parts and that soul vibe that we’ve been trying to go for this whole time. It really took stripping things down to even get that sound. You know, ‘Ain’t No Sunshine’ is the same riff for two minutes,” Gourley said.

The artists accomplish their soul-alternative sound with Gourley’s high pitched voice, deep and modern blues guitar riffs and talented keyboard work.

Lyrics to the must hear song “The Sun” give perfect example to why this band can’t help but increase its followers.

With addictive lyrics and true artistic talent, Portugal. The Man achieves a good sound they waited four years for.

Albums worth your money

Mayer Hawthorne
Motown is not dead! Hawthorne, 30, of Michigan, sounds like he came from 1960s Michigan. Hawthorne is hugely reminiscent of The Temptations, The Chi-Lites and The Stylistics. A Strange Arrangement is quickly gaining him credibility among his peers such as Justin Timberlake, Mark Ronson and John Mayer.

Amanda Blank
Yeah, she’s a little naughty, but that’s all a part of Amanda Blank’s charm. Blank is a musician that can sing, write and rap.

If Trina was white and had a little more swagger, she’d be Amanda Blank.

A song to look out for on I Love You is “Might Like You Better”. Blank says what most girls are scared to.

Joss Stone
America hasn’t gotten soul right since the days of Motown. British neo-soul star Joss Stone delivers quality music yet again on Colour Me Free.

See that album cover? Apparently the cover was too vulgar to be released here in the states, so that’s the UK version.

If you forgot just how good Stone is, listen to “Free Me.”
Pop / Rock

Relax, it’s a little Morningwood

By DANIELLE BAIRD

Morningwood may not have hit their peak in the music industry in recent years, but if their new album gets the recognition it deserves, they’ll be on top in no time.

The vibrant and edgy sounds of the new album Diamonds and Studs offer something a little different than the band’s freshman album. The album is mature, sexy and entertaining all at the same time. The funky pop tunes are combined with syncopated rock beats that will likely have listeners hooked and begging for more.

Singer Chantal Claret brings it all the way with some unheard of vocals that were certainly missing in the band’s first hit single the “Nth Degree.” Bassist Pedro Yanowitz doesn’t fail to impress and entertain for the new album. This comes as no shocker for those who listened to him when he played for the extremely successful Wallflowers.

Claret’s lyrics are tough in songs like “Best of Me” where the rugged singer holds nothing back and delivers the message that she’s not going to get pushed around by anyone. Diamonds and Studs is a polished and vamped up album that follows the same style as the band’s 2006 self-titled release. Their originality and creativity shine through in their latest release and the album will likely earn the hearts of new fans and further impress their already supporters.

Movers and shakers....

By ANGELICA STEWART

Mika is slowly but surely becoming a household name. Mika’s biggest hit in the U.S., “Love Today,” helped launch him into international fame as a superstar overseas, and American audiences were enamored by the singer’s flamboyant style, sleek lyrics and unique falsetto.

His single “Grace Kelly” also helped him secure his spot in American music culture. Mika’s debut album, Life in Cartoon Motion was released in 2007, which he describes as a recollection of his adolescent years. Mika is currently working on his new album, The Boy Who Knew Too Much. Everybody’s going to love him today.

By ASHLEY HARPER

Little Boots has big shoes to fill. Following in the footsteps of huge pop artists like Kylie Minogue and Madonna, this electro-pop artist has a way to go to reach her international stardom.

Little Boots uses her musicality to differentiate herself. She plays the piano, keyboard and stylophone. Finding her footing in the industry, she eventually released her debut album Hands in 2007. Although Hands was not released in the United States, she did release an EP, Illuminations. The EP features, “Stuck on Repeat” and “New In Town,” which are both fan favorites.

Little Boots may have a meek name, but her high energy music puts her well on her way to super fame.

More Sizzlin’ Singles

Justin Bieber: “One Time”

JT: I can’t tell if I’m laughing at how ridiculous the song is, or if I’m laughing because I feel bad for him.

DB: Can someone just clarify if I am listening to a fourteen-year-old boy or a girl? Thanks.

MH: He reminds me of a mini Justin Timberlake. By mini I mean before puberty.

John Mayer: “Who Says”

JT: Good lyrics, now all he needs is fresh sound.

AH: Funny song premise, great melody, and is sure to be another hit. I already like this song.

MH: He should keep his comedy and music separate.

Miley Cyrus: “Party in the U.S.A”

JT: I wish she would just go away!

AS: Although I hate to admit it, this song is pretty good. It’s like Disney is brainwashing us all.

MH: Say what you want, this song is catchy and fun. Makes me smile, and I’m not ashamed to like it!
Taking Back Halloween at any age

By DAISY ALVAREZ

Staff Writer

Halloween has been under attack in recent years by critics that aim to steal the magic from this night of ghoulish imagination and limitless possibilities.

Children used to anticipate the immensely popular holiday that brings exciting costumes, candy, ghost stories and jack-o-lanterns. Instead, the celebration has been tainted with unnecessary and excessive criticism.

“The whole day has become the most provocative day of the year,” said radio personality Ryan Seacrest during a recent on-air discussion concerning inappropriate costumes for children.

Various callers voiced their concerns about the difficulty of finding appropriate costumes for young ones. However, I visited four costume shops and found it easy to find non-provocative costumes for children.

At Spirit Halloween, a specialty retailer, over 80 percent of the costumes for girls were cut below the knee. The costumes which were above the knee were accessorized with tights, which almost eliminated all leg exposure.

Only three of the top 40 children’s costumes at Party City, a party supply store, had an exposed mid-section. Those three costumes were genie. None of the top 40 had exposed backs or low bust lines.

“Some of the options for young girls are provocative, but parents can add length to a costume and force girls to cover up,” said Maria Felix, while shopping for costumes for her children at Spirit.

Felix demonstrates how parents are responsible for what their children wear. If the costumes available were truly so innocent, those in the business would find it extremely difficult to prosper.

According to an article in Time Magazine, despite the scarcity condition of the economy, 2009 Halloween sales are estimated to reach a record high of $6 billion.

The growing Halloween sales do not illustrate angry dissatisfied consumers. Obviously people are content with the products offered.

The massive growth in Halloween sales can be attributed to the popularity of this holiday among adults. Perhaps parents are offended by the selection of adult costumes. Of which the most popular brands for adults include Dream Girls, Leg Avenue and Secret Wishes.

These costumes are without a doubt exposed and provocative ensembles meant for a mature adult audience.

“The eighteen and up crowd are buying sexy costumes,” said Spirit employee Aaron Palmer. Palmer said the main consumers are “females trying to look sexy.”

Some adult costumes include appropriately named ensembles such as Dr. Anita Vibrata, Hot Cherry Pie girl and Sergeant Dick Amazing.

These costumes are not intended for children and it is a parent’s responsibility to ensure their children are steered to age appropriate outfits.

Parental concern over costume indecency should not prevent adults from indulging in the holiday.

Children enjoy dressing up and trick-or-treating, while adults enjoy dressing up and participating in other grown-up activities.

“Sales of adult items are surprisingly strong,” says Nick Pardasani, CEO of costumes4less.com, an online retailer. “Children’s costumes used to dominate. Now it’s about half and half.”

Without a doubt there is a lot of product intended for an older audience, but that does not mean children should no longer enjoy the holiday.

“In the real world Halloween was a time for little kids to dress up in scary costumes. In girl world, it was the one night a year a girl could dress like a total slut and no other girls could say anything about it,” said Lindsay Lohan in a special study by Forbes conducted at the end of October.

However, this is all up to the consumer. We determine how much money we give to dead celebs, and even in tough times it seems like we are not cutting back.

Being a broke college student, it can be hard to spend money, especially if it is money we do not have on things we do not need.

But we can thank things like iTunes and its easy access and convenience to download the latest albums for $9.99.

Weighing in at fourth place, Elvis Presley, rolled in $55 million. Despite being absent from this world for 30 years, the king of rock ‘n roll is still singing about the “money honey.”

Finally in fifth is J.R.R. Tolkien with $50 million. As author of the Lord of the Rings series and other fiction surrounding his fantasy realm, this story seller raked in hordes of dough.

What does this say about us as consumers though? As people are struggling to get jobs, those six-feet-under have found great employment, laying back and watching as their estate continues to grow.

However, this is all up to the consumer. We determine how much money we give to dead celebs, and even in tough times it seems like we are not cutting back.

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But we can thank things like iTunes and its easy access and convenience to download the latest albums for $9.99.

Just one click and there goes your money, off to the estates of the dead and out of the banks of the living.

Anyhow, even if entertainment is nonessential, it is something we still can’t get enough of.

Dead celebrities, or their estate controllers rather, make money off of unreleased material, re-releases, sales and remakes of their classic materials.

A great example is Michael Jackson, and the release of the new documentary “This is It,” along with the release of tracks from the vault that had never been sold before.

It is just an interesting when you stop to think, that as we continue to go to school and work hard towards gaining a career to make a living, that the dead sometimes make a better living than the living.

But we must ask ourselves one thing: would we rather be rich, dead and famous? Or would we rather live within our means, even if it means bringing cereal for lunch and “borrowing” milk from the Starbuck’s in the student union?

Personally, I would rather just own the estate of a dead celebrity and call it even.
Who doesn’t love puppies and kittens?

Respect for animals and humanity

By BETH BAYOR

Staff Writer

Allocating animal life into a lower category sets precedence for human life to be devalued too.

After admitting to electrocuting, beat- ing, drowning and hanging dogs, you’d think Michael Vick deserves to star in a TV reality series? My friend answered this question, with a perplexed look on her face: “Yeah, they were just dogs.”

I have engaged in similar conversations on many occasions in my life. It seems that many people in our society accept, without question, that animals are of lesser value than people. There are two arguments I have heard defending this position. The first is an obvious non-sequitur.

People say, “Everyone knows animals aren’t our equals.”

Based on postmodern theory, I argue that this premise is man-made, nothing more then a social construct, passed on through socialization.

There is no proof that human life is more valuable than the life of an animal. It’s just accepted because it’s what our society teaches us.

I think the reason our society accepts and passes down this idea is because most Americans eat meat.

A 2008 study estimated that only 3.2 percent of Americans are vegetarians, according to Vegetarian Times Magazine. As long as people believe animals are of lesser value, then it’s easy to justify lopping off an animal’s head, cutting it into pieces and tossing it on the grill. The other argument for human supremacy, I have heard, revolves around cognitive abilities.

To say that humans trump animals in value because of our cognitive superiority is funny to me, since we value physical abilities over cognitive ones.

In high school the smart kids are called geeks, dorks and nerds; while the jocks rule the school.

In the “real world” scientists and college professors don’t get a fraction of what professional athletes get paid.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimated that in 2007 the average full-time college professor’s salary was $73,207 a year and the average pay for a federally employed general biological scientist was $72,416.

What does a professional athlete earn each year?

Well, ESPN placed Michael Vick’s base salary at $6 million for the year 2007. By our own standards we should be lower on the value “totem pole” since animals are certainly bigger, stronger and faster -- qualities which are valued over cognitive abilities in our society.

Not only is the belief in human supremacy unfounded, in my opinion it comes at an extreme price, to both the human race and the animal kingdom.

Allocating animal life into a lower category sets precedence for human life to be devalued too.

All one need do is label some group of people as animals, say it until others believe it, then nobody will question it when that group of people are treated inhumanely, because after all they are just animals.

With great reservation I share a dark piece of my family history, in an effort to prove this point.

My grandmother grew up in the American south. She once told me that slavery was not a bad thing, because “slacks are not people.”

I asked her what she thought black people are, if not people.

“Honey, they are animals,” she replied.

I love my grandmother, but she did not question anything and that made her a victim of socialization.

If you think animals are not our equal counterparts on this earth, then you are a victim of socialization, too.

Responsibility sells: companies come clean

By CORY KIRSCHKE

Staff Writer

Social innovation is taking over America, in what Time Magazine calls “The Responsibility Revolution.”

Even in the midst of an economic meltdown, there is a rise in the demand for ethical production and the choices we make as consumers.

More and more people are putting their money where their ethics are. A poll done by Time Magazine shows that of the 1,000-some adults polled, over 80 percent said they have consciously supported local or neighborhood businesses this year.

In the same poll, 40 percent said they purchased a product in 2009 because they liked the social or political values of the company that produced it.

Much of corporate America has caught onto social responsibility as being a way to gain profit, as well as consumer appreciation and loyalty.

As seen throughout the world of consumer products, companies are constantly trying to gain our attention with how “green” they have become.

They often compare their means of production to that of other companies in order to “out green” the other.

Besides being green, companies are donating profits to support cancer research such as Yoplait, or the (RED) campaign which donates a small percentage of companies’ revenue such as Apple and Gap, to the Global Fund that helps anti-AIDS programs in Africa.

Of course, morality and the well being of the environment is not the only thing driving companies to produce greener products; they do see greater profits from this.

However, do we really care what their motives are?

I don’t think we can change the capitalist driven society we live in; but at least we can use our consumer power to force companies to work towards creating more ethical and greener products through greener means of production.

But are the labels on our products, producers and the media over-exaggerating the actual amount of changes that have been made to their products?

Then are these companies using this knowledge that consumers are becoming increasingly morally responsible and taking advantage of us?

According to New-York environmentalist Jay Westerveld, companies are “greenwashing” us. They, “spin their products as being more environmentally friendly than they really are.”

Only 59 percent of the 1,000 largest U.S. companies embrace the idea of corporate social responsibility (CSR) and have publicly available environmental policies, according to Time.

Among Americans, there are a lot of people taking steps in the right direction, but we still have a long way to go according to Britt Leatham, a geology professor at CSUSB. “People don’t change unless they have incentives… I don’t see us becoming a self-sustaining society without making the necessary changes.”

Consumers, whether we believe it or not, have an enormous power over production and the products we buy.

As we have seen in the past, we have the power to destroy a company’s credibility through boycotting and media coverage, such as when Nike was exposed with running ads of convicts.

If we continue to keep up with our moral and social responsibility to better our environment and our society’s well being, and we strive to maintain ethical consumerism, then there is no place for our society to go but up.

The more we buy from ethical producers and the less we buy from those that aren’t morally aware, we will be enforcing our power as consumers and will force the other companies to either go broke or step up to the plate.
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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By KEN DILLARD
Editor in Chief

Here at the Chronicle, it is our mission to supply you, our fellow students, with all the information you need to make informed choices in your educational careers and your lives.

We also want to supply the campus community with a forum to distribute and discuss our news, the news that matters to us, the students at Cal State San Bernardino.

The first aspect of our mission is solely our responsibility, and we work hard every week to keep you informed.

To achieve the second aspect, however, we need your help.

As you read our paper each week, you may or may not agree that we’ve done our job particularly well. Maybe you feel like we missed something. Maybe you want clarification. Maybe you just want to give us a word of encouragement.

No matter what your responses are, we want to hear them.

Our recently redesigned website, coyotechronicle.com, has comment sections for every article on the site. Don’t be afraid to log in, register and speak your piece.

If you’ve got even more to say, write us a letter. Our e-mail address is sbchron@gmail.com. Our offices are located in the basement of University Hall, room UI-037.

Feel free to drop in.

Myself or Managing Editor Melanie Hunter are almost always in the office if we’re not in class.

We would love to have the opportunity to print letters to the editor in future issues of the Chronicle.

The current economic climate on campuses throughout the state should be enough to generate tons of opinions on its own, but there are more issues we should all be debating in a student-generated public arena like the Chronicle.

Much of the world’s youth don’t have the ability to speak their minds without fear of reprisal.

Let’s take advantage of our voices and the rights the Constitution provides us. Get involved.

By KEN DILLARD
Editor in Chief

We want your input. Get registered and comment at coyotechronicle.com. Write us a letter. Get involved.
Former star gives back

By SARAH MIIKELSON
Staff Writer

Still a Coyote athlete at heart, but not able to play, Marlon Pierce will take on a new challenge this year as the men’s basketball team. Pierce will continue to be a part of the team by helping at practice.

Pierce’s dream is to coach for the college level. In his near future he is hoping to be a grad assistant and help with the team at CSUSB.

“I’m not opposed to a change of scenery, but I would like to do it here,” Pierce said.

Coach Oliver said “I just want to be along for the ride.” Pierce was a floor leader, like our quarterback,” Gaston said.

He brings the same aspect to practice as a coach. It’s easier to listen to him than the other coaches, according to Gaston.

Coyote center Devon Davis can take criticism from Pierce easier as well.

“He can relate us to what we need to do and knows what we need to do to be successful because he was successful when he played,” Davis said of Pierce.

Pierce has an advantage coaching in that he knows both sides.

He not only knows the plays as a former player, he can look at the game from a coaching angle. This allows him to talk to the team on a friendship level first, and coaching level second.

While Pierce admits he misses the competition of the game and sometimes wishes he could jump in the plays with his teammates, he knows this is a great opportunity to “get his feet wet” as a coach.

“Pierce was our floor leader, like our quarterback,” Gaston said.

Although this former star has used up all of his eligibility as a player, he still wants to stay close to the game. Steve Gaston, a senior point guard, remembers playing with Pierce and the dedication he brought.

“(Pierce) was a floor leader, like our quarterback,” Gaston said.

He’s loyal and can communicate well,” Oliver said.

This season Pierce is working on encouraging the players and building them up while watching and talking over plays with the team.

Once a star player on the court, Pierce is now on the sidelines looking to lead future stars to success.

New players strive to fit in for the Coyotes

Women’s basketball welcomes thirteen new players

By PAIGE GAINES
Staff Writer

After an inconsistent season last year, Coach Kevin Becker of the women’s basketball team believes they will improve based on their athleticism and work ethic.

The women are “gradually coming together in the pre-season practices,” said Becker.

He explains that there is a lot of work to be done to be ready for the regular season. With only seven players returning, 13 new women need to learn a new system as well as adjust to the campus life here at CSUSB.

Accomplishing all of these things involves learning to manage time between class, studying and practice.

The goal this year is to be more of a fast-break team. The Coyotes want to improve weaknesses from last year such as pressure defense and rebounding. Becker hopes that a more aggressive defense will lead to turnovers and early future he is hoping to be a grad assistant and help with the team at CSUSB.

“This would help the team transfer into a better offense,” Becker said.

Although it is too soon to tell what strengths and weaknesses the team has since they haven’t had their first game yet, the coach is hoping to work out the kinks during pre-season practices.

The ‘Yotes are going to start working towards their general weaknesses and strengths from previous years.

“We hope to be able to create more shots off the drive this year and have a consistent post game; which is something that didn’t happen a year ago,” said Becker.

Although the lady Coyotes didn’t have their best season to date, they defeated two nationally ranked teams last year. The coaching staff is looking to build off of the positives from an otherwise disappointing season.

Guard Krystal Urzua was the leading scorer a year ago and returns for her senior season. Urzua was an All-CCAA performer last season.

Lisa Takata is the returning starter at point guard.

“I am looking for [Takata] to take it to the next level in leading the team,” said Becker. Morgan Pryor is returning to her spot in the post.

“This season we are looking for [Pryor] to be more consistent and a legitimate three-point threat,” said Becker.

Pryor needs to drive more as well as be consistent with her effort on defense and rebounding.”

This team has hopes of ending this year with a better season than the last, which would include an NCAA appearance.
Chemistry key to success

By JEREMY VASQUEZ
Staff Writer

It takes a school to create a team. But it takes a community to craft a champion.

The CSUSB Women’s Volleyball team is off to yet another great season, but attendance is nowhere near reflective of the amazing demonstration on the court.

“Every little bit helps, every clap, step, cheer, and roar help us remember we’re not alone,” volleyball star Jane Chafeh said. “That is the advantage of having home court.”

In retrospect, the games are much more than sporting events. The women’s volleyball team competes from the first whistle until the last and it is not uncommon to see players diving on the court for loose balls or dance together on the sidelines.

During the end of this season, as the playoffs approach, students are able to watch the team compete for their fourth straight CCAA championship and their first one nationally.

Student organizations have tried to encourage school spirit and dismiss apathy by hosting tailgate parties as well as performing at halftime.

“When I stay near the campus and I take great pride in my school, if I don’t lose my voice... then I am not howling loud enough!” Lambda Theta Alpha’s Roxana Flores said. The people who attend are always in for a jam-packed game full of fanatic students, some bearing blue body paint, others wearing the CSUSB apparel and/or colors.

Usually students encourage the athletes on the court by making cheers toward their home team and jingling keys for the other team when it is time to catch the bus.

“I can’t explain how fun the games are, and how much of a difference I feel I make by just being there,” said freshman Student Paula Caicedo.

“We all play a role on our campus and attending a game is the least I can do.”

We all have the ability to change the game, as students, as alumni, as Coyotes.

The attendance at CSUSB sporting events has always been an issue, but with a team as successful and locally treasured as the CSUSB women’s volleyball team, many people wonder why the stands are not packed.

With a record of 20-1, the women’s volleyball team is again poised for a championship run but fan support and enthusiasm is known to change the tide of any game.

“I don’t go to games because I’m too busy. I work off-campus and usually on Friday or Saturday I’m in the Los Angeles area for parties or at American Eagle [to make money],” student Khosay Renee said.

The attendance at CSUSB home games usually fluctuates during the season but as the year comes to a close, larger attendance is not required but imperative.

When volleyball players on the court know their fans are there it makes a difference.

Events that happen during the season is crucial to team chemistry.

“Every season there are new plays, some returning, and they have to all get along some-how.”

Some coaches have team building exercises, while others just let the chemistry build as the season goes on.

Noah Kosiman, head coach for CSUSB men’s soccer team, and assistant coach Tony Vigil say they have such a fun group of guys and it all starts with the chemistry.

After tryouts and “hell week” are over, Kosiman and Vigil take their team on a three day trip.

The coaches take them to a place like Big Bear, the river or Palm Desert. This year they took them to Palm Desert. They did different team building exercises, relaxed and just hung out together without any strenuous work or practice.

“It was a way for them to interact with each other and have fun,” Kosiman said. The coaches explained the team and bond and said it’s like their own fraternity.

“It’s important to have that team chemistry because the closer you are off the field channels into the closer you are on the field,” Vigil said.

Events that happen during the season is crucial to team chemistry.

It has the power to boost chemistry tremendously or destroy it completely.

An event could consist of: a death of a teammate or someone close to the team, a fight, a huge underdog win or just the addition of a player.

It depends on how the team handles the event that will be the end result.

The men’s basketball Head Coach Jeff Oliver explained that leadership also plays a role in team chemistry:

“You have a better chance of team chemistry through good leadership, because of the roles and organization,” Oliver said.

When all the coaches were asked, they said they would rather have a team with good chemistry that may lack the talent over a talented team that has no chemistry.

“They are just easier to coach and the good chemistry teams are just a lot of fun,” Kosiman said.

“I’ve had both,” Oliver said. “And my most successful wasn’t my most talented, but it had the best chemistry.”

The men’s soccer team is having an outstanding year, and the coaches believe that the team chemistry has a lot to do with it.

Kosiman said that the team has had a close bond from the start and they have had a winning focus throughout the year.

Chemistry can’t be taught, but it has to come together, often with a little push or a leader.

While chemistry can’t be measured, it’s hard to overlook it’s results.
On a roll to their goal

By ERIC EBEL
Staff Writer

Fall is ending, winter is rounding the corner, and many college soccer teams are ending their long-fought season.

That’s not the case here at CSUSB, as the ball keeps on rolling for our men’s soccer team.

This past week, the NCAA Championship Committee pushed the Coyotes up to the No. 3 spot in the NCAA West Region poll, directly under Cal State L.A. and Sonoma State.

The top four ranked teams in the west region will advance to the NCAA tournament.

On top of this, the “Yotes, who have collected 10 wins in conference play, are a shoe-in for the CCAA tournament.

This is a first for the university since it entered the conference in 1991-92.

It was obvious from the beginning that there were relationships that set this team apart and played into their success.

“The group of players we have this year has been the closest group of guys we have had since I have been here,”

junior Tyler Kahn said.

While other teams depend on their star athletes to score points, the “Yotes’ have a wide spread of talent that allows the men to really work as a team.

“The overall skill level is so high that we don’t have to depend on one guy to do all the scoring,” said the team’s overall point leader Alberto Cabrera.

“That’s what makes our team much more deadly. Other teams don’t know who to defend.”

Not only have the “Yotes become regionally ranked, but they made the NCAA National Division II top 25 rankings.

They are currently ranked 21st in the country, which is a rare feat for the Coyotes.

The men were ranked seventh nationally in 1987 as a Division III school and finished at No. 12.

The only losses this season came from the west’s No. 1 and No. 2 ranked teams, Cal State L.A. and Sonoma State.

So what will the men do if they find themselves crossing paths with these teams again?

“We know we’re going into a battle and that we have to give up everything we have in order to get what we want,” said Obi Agwu.

“We know these teams have been the top dogs for years and we want to be at the top. We know if we want to be the best, we have to beat the best.”

It’s no secret that sixth-year coach Noel Kooiman and his staff hold the keys to the team’s success thus far.

“The coaches have been the foundation for what we do,” defender Daniel McElroy said.

“They have set up a very organized, clear, and professional style of coaching for us. A lot of our success can be credited towards our coaching staff and the path they have shown us,”

this is a great team to end a senior year on.”

The men’s previous shutout victory over Cal State East Bay has enabled the “Yotes to enter their last two games against Cal Poly Pomona with a seven-game unbeaten streak.

They finished their regular season this past weekend with home and away matches versus rival, Cal Poly Pomona.

The Coyotes will compete in the CCAA tournament in Turlock, CA (Cal State Stanislaus) beginning November 6.

On Nov. 8, the NCAA West Regional tournament will announce the schedule and award the home field advantages.

Whatever the matchup, and wherever it may take place, expect the Coyotes to compete to the end.