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Pressure put on ‘super seniors’

CSU presidents given ‘emergency’ power to cut courses for stray students seeking second degrees

By ERIC BROWN
Opinion Editor

A s the fall quarter draws to a close, students have to worry about the encroaching future that will include fewer classes, increased fees and the crushing heel of the administrative system.

Whether for good or for ill, CSUSB plays host to a large number of “Super Seniors,” or students with over 225 units who have not yet graduated, according to CSUSB President Dr. Albert K. Karnig. This is due in part to the Title 5 Amendment to the California Code of Regulations that was passed this summer granting emergency power to all CSU presidents, Karnig included.

CSU presidents were granted the authority to “precipitate any student from enrolling in any additional state-supported courses when that student has met all necessary requirements for a degree.”

Largely passed under the radar, many students have not even heard of this new policy or understand its full implications. However, the sting of the economy has brought this power to CSUSB’s doorstep and, as Karnig described, this authority will be used to create the “best possible outcomes for students and university personnel alike.”

There are four major components to Karnig’s outlook for next year in order to meet a mandated cut in enrollment and funding by the CSU, in which the status of all students will be reviewed and processed.

First is limiting students to achieving one bachelor’s degree, and denying admission for students to continue on as an undergraduate seeking a second bachelor’s degree. Second is potentially imposing unit restrictions on both undergraduate and graduate students, while continuing to attract their tuition.

Third is disallowing students who fail to meet academic probation or remedial requirements within a year.

Lastly, is the curbing of enrollment that all CSU’s face, CSU will be accepting 2,000 less students next year as well as denying most if not all transfer students, especially those with incomplete units.

Winter quarter looking bleak

Class cuts have struck again and the injury is proving to be difficult to recover from for both students and faculty.

The budget crisis has called for class eliminations in almost all of its departments, including English, Math, Marketing, and Criminal Justice, which have lost from seven to 13 classes each when compared to the Winter 2009 quarter, according to CSUSB’s class schedule listing. The Psychology and Art programs are among those who took the biggest hit, with 50 and 43 class sections cut, respectively.

Translation? Less classes for professors to teach, less chances of students getting into classes required for their GE or major, and longer waitlists.

“I had a hard time working with my schedule, since my five year old and I are going back to school around the same time,” said student Ruthanna Rosner, who is now considering bringing her son with her to school in order to make her schedule work for her.

Rosner says she’s had to enroll in whatever classes are open rather than courses she needs toward her major, since many of the kinesiology classes she’s looking for were already full when she was registering.

“I can’t afford to sign up for classes I don’t need,” Rosner said.

With classes filling up faster and students needing 12 units to meet full-time status, enrolling for classes that aren’t required has become the last resort for many, but at the cost of pushing graduation further away.

Campus car crimes climb

The University Police Department (UPD) has recently reported a surge in car break-ins and thefts in the parking lots. This has potential to be a huge issue for students, but UPD continues to take the necessary measures to prevent these crimes.

“During October and November the campus experienced eight vehicle thefts, ten vehicle burglaries and four thefts from vehicles,” stated Lt. Walter Duncan. “With the increase of thefts on campus involving vehicles, UPD put together an undercover task force.”

The task force is a new preventative measure aimed at stopping the trend of vehicle thefts, ten vehicle burglaries and four thefts from vehicles,” stated the University Police Department (UPD). The task force is a new preventative measure aimed at stopping the trend of vehicle thefts, ten vehicle burglaries and four thefts from vehicles.

“I know they want me to graduate, and I want to as well, but what’s out there for me now?”

Student Jon Kelly

Over 20 student’s cars have been targeted in the span of a two month period this quarter. The common vehicle stolen, followed by the Honda Accord.

The reason for this is because these cars are easy to chop and strip, as well as modify and enhance features to the vehicles.

The task force has been successful in preventing and stopping thefts and break-ins. So arrests have also been made thanks to their undercover work.

“If you’re not doing what you’re supposed to be doing, you’ll end up in jail,” said UPD Officer Drinkwater. “Everyone here will make sure you get caught.”

See Winter cuts, Pg. 2

See Amendment, Pg. 2

See Student vehicles, Pg. 3
The unreported crime—hate.

Victims of discrimination and hate crimes are usually targeted based on race, religion, sexual orientation, ethnicity or disability, and crimes against them can range from vandalism and intimidation to rape and murder.

The FBI recently released their 2008 Hate Crime Statistics report for the U.S. and out of 7,783 nationwide crimes, nine occurred in San Bernardino.

But some people may ask if those numbers are truly accurate.

Professor Brian Levin, director of the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism at CSUSB, lent the Chronicle his wisdom about the recent FBI numbers and the "real" numbers.

The FBI's report noted a 2.1 percent increase in hate crimes from 2007 as well as a 3.4 percent increase in agencies participating, so Levin asks if we have an increase in crimes or is it just that we have more agencies participating and the numbers stayed the same.

He said that the FBI's report collects data that is voluntarily submitted from participating law enforcement agencies, and since about 84 percent of participating agencies submitted reports of zero incidents in their jurisdiction, there are many "victimizations that never get processed."

Levin also mentioned the Bureau of Justice Statistics survey from 2005, where researchers called tens of thousands of homes and asked if anyone was a victim of discrimination or hate crimes. Compared to the 7,783 crimes the FBI's report estimated, this survey estimated 191,000 victimizations, a 2,000 percent difference.

California, one of the most diverse states in the nation, had the most reports of hate crimes (1,381), according to the FBI's report, followed by New Jersey (744) and New York (570).

CSUSB student and Mexican-American Rachel Mac-Donald said, "I feel sad that this is America and sometimes I feel like I can't be myself without someone judging me."

Campus police, Lieutenant Walter Duncan said of the study, "Hate crimes are very rare on this campus."

Although Lt. Duncan did mention that a few weeks prior, a note had been taped to the Pride Center's door with bible scriptures on it. A personal message was included, full of grammatical errors, calling for the execution of gay people.

"While hate crimes do not occur frequently on our campus, we still deal with hate on a regular basis," said graduate student and Pride Center worker Angela Romagnoli.

"Sadly, if [the student who posted the hateful message and bible scriptures] doesn't come across a student or teacher that changes their views, who knows what they might do next out of pure hatred," Romagnoli concluded.

In October, President Barack Obama signed a bill that makes it a federal crime to assault someone based on sexual orientation or gender identity. He said it is a step toward change to "help protect our citizens from violence based on what they look like, who they love, how they pray."

The bill, named after Matthew Shepard, a gay Wyoming teen who was killed after being kidnapped and beaten in 1998, is considered the first major gay rights legis-lation and "a triumph for the gay community," said CSUSB student Deejay Brown.

Brown mentioned that some people may not know what a hate crime is when faced with it directly. "I don't think that some people know if the justice system will be receptive to their cause or they simply don't know what to say or might be too ashamed to even say anything," said Brown.

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By AUSTIN DODD
Staff Writer

Hate crimes going unreported

The unreported crime—hate.

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CSU strained by record applicants

By ANDY OGG
Staff Writer

The highest number of applications ever, some 609,000, has been submitted to the CSU system. With budget cuts, furlough days and less class sections being offered, the high number of applications comes as something of a surprise to many CSU campuses who are working hard to keep up with the students who are currently enrolled.

The largest portion of the 609,000 applications came from undergraduate transfer students from community colleges. Around 195,100 applicants attempted to transfer, an increase of nearly 87 percent over last year’s applications according to the CSU Chancellors office.

Enrollment of first time freshmen was up a solid 12 percent to an astounding 412,000 according to the CSU Chancellors office. The problem that plagues the CSU system is the impact of the $564 million dollar budget cut that is still creating issues on many CSU campuses.

“For CSUSB, we somewhat anticipated the higher number of applications,” said CSUSB Director of Admissions and Student Affairs Olivia Rosas. “It seems that when the economy is down, people want to go back to school. We have pre-emptively arranged a wait list that will help us let as many students into CSUSB as possible,” she said.

CSU campuses all across the state have been working through the budget crises by raising tuition, reducing class sections and forcing instructors to take unpaid furlough days. The influx of students could cause a large problem for CSU campuses this next year and pose even more of a problem for prospective students trying to obtain their degrees.

Of the 23 CSU campuses, 17 will no longer accept transfer freshmen and at least 15 campuses will no longer accept transfer students, according to the CSU Chancellors office.

“CSUSB is currently still accepting freshmen and undergraduate applications but we fulfill our quota very soon,” Rosas said.

“We have preemptively arranged a wait list that will help us let as many students into CSUSB as possible.”

Director of Admissions and Student Affairs Olivia Rosas

Winter quarter looking bleak

“It gives you a headache, especially when you’re trying to change your major,” said student Sandra Ruiz, Liberal Arts, one of the most popular majors at CSUSB, is another department significantly affected by the class cuts.

“The problem that the liberal studies department has is that we don’t actually have classes,” explained student assistant, Patrick Nicholson. “We have to go to other departments like math or physics and request that they make a class for our students.”

However, with budget cuts coming down on all of the colleges, some departments have had to eliminate courses designated for liberal studies students because those classes aren’t required for students within the respective department’s major.

According to Nicholson, the only way liberal arts students can do something about this problem is by addressing it themselves and taking the issue up with the university.

“The students can’t expect the department to do everything, because a lot of times when we go to the university, they don’t listen to us,” said Nicholson. “Students have to voice their opinion.”

However, there is more to the issue of class cuts, like how it’s already affecting professors.

“At first I had no classes [for the winter quarter], but I was lucky enough to get one class,” said part-time communication professor Penny Drake-Green. “I’ve been here 14 years and this has never happened to me before.”

Aaron Sanchez, a student teaching oral communication, explained that in order to finish up in the Masters program, says he believes part-time teachers are being affected the most.

“In some cases full-time professors are having to teach the lower-division classes because the departments can’t afford to pay the part-timers to teach them,” said Sanchez, who explained that this leaves some full-timers unable to teach upper-division courses.

Green said though she is relieved by her other part-time job at Crafton Hills College, the problem with class availability is an issue that is affecting schools throughout the state.

Sanchez believes it’s only going to get worse with the economy in its present state, and suggests that schools find a way to solve their financial problems without relying so much on class cuts and fee increases.

“You can’t cover a gushing wound with a band-aid and expect it to be okay,” said Sanchez. “The university needs to really take a look at how they’re spending their money.”

Student vehicles targeted

Nov. 11, at about 5 p.m. the task force arrested a male after they observed him stealing a bait car the task force had parked in the campus parking lot.

Though their efforts have been successful, UPC is urging students and staff to take extra measures to make sure their vehicles are secure. Leaving out CD’s, books, iPods or other valuables in your backpacks, doors or any other open space in a vehicle is a definite way of enticing someone to break in.

“I am extremely careful when I leave my vehicle,” said student Steven Navarro. “I make sure to put away anything that is valuable, and make sure my windows are up and my doors are locked.”

Since the effort by the department has commenced, the crimes seemed to come to a halt. The crime log on the UPD website shows the last automobile incident logged was a theft on Nov. 5, 2009.

“Everyone should make an effort to insure your vehicle is locked and secured when you leave it in the parking lot,” said Lt. Duncan.

But remember, though the department has been working hard to secure campus parking lots and student safety, you should still take the necessary precautions to ensure the safety of your property.

Bringing ho-ho-hope

By RICHARD BOWIE
News Editor

The University Police Department is looking to bring some ho-ho-hope to some university families this holiday season.

The first annual University Police Holiday Helper Program was launched this year. Aimed to help less fortunate campus families, the program has been able to collect toys, winter coats, Christmas trees, food and other goodies for 10 families nominated by the campus. The program was also the first of its kind for any police department in the CSU system.

“If it wasn’t for the help from this campus, these ten families wouldn’t have a Christmas,” said Amelia Olivieri-Ramirez, police dispatcher and the head of the Holiday Helper Program.

Ramirez says that despite the recent budget cuts, people have remained surprisingly generous. She says ASI made the largest donations, and contributions were also made by Home Depot, Farmer Boy’s, Ralphs, Stater Bros, Jack Brown, JLM Towing and Jason Bingham of the Beaumont Garden Center.

Surplus of toys and/or clothing will be given to the San Bernardino Food Bank.

“The police department isn’t just here to deal with the negative,” said Chief of Police Jimmie Brown. “We wanted to reach out and help the campus community during hard times.”

They will continue taking donations through Dec. 11. The families will be presented with their presents during a private party held on Dec. 20.
Now we understand that it's just a different way to work in deadlines. Back home, we usually use all the time allowed as we realized that students here do not work like ours. Working on a group project, for instance, was quite a challenge as we expected them to do what we did," said Stéphanie Babin, another Canadian exchange student (and Chronicle staff writer).

First of all, we had to leave to discover another culture. We did too and were in for a big surprise. Being alone in a foreign country forces you to challenge your limits. We got here with no car to go around in, without any dishes to use and without any local friends to talk to. Getting out of your comfort zone is one of the scariest experiences and I was even terrified when I thought of leaving Canada for a quarter was not an easy decision for me. I lost sight of all the marks I had: my friends, my family and my environment. Would I relive these months again? Absolutely. I don’t think I’ve ever grown so fast.

During the last three months, we’ve learned so much about ourselves and about our relationships with others. I can even say we’ll be better people. I encountered the friendliest, caring staff and the team of sushi chefs had my order completed in minutes. This might seem like small things. But add them up and you’ll be in for a major shock. However, the better understanding of another culture is nothing compared to the better understanding I now have of myself.

In a couple of days, we’ll go back home as totally different people. I can even say we’ll be better people. During the last three months, we’ve learned so much about ourselves and about our relationships with others. “Being away made me realize how much my friends and family mean to me,” Camille Guenon said. “Being alone in a foreign country forces you to challenge your limits. We got here with no car to go around in, without any dishes to use and without any local friends to help us. We had to find out how to work and live in this new environment very quickly.

Today, we can proudly say we succeeded. These might seem like small things. But add them up and you’ll be in for a major shock. Getting out of your comfort zone is one of the scariest experiences and I was even terrified when I thought of leaving Canada for a quarter was not an easy decision for me. I lost sight of all the marks I had: my friends, my family and my environment. Would I relive these months again? Absolutely. I don’t think I’ve ever grown so fast.

Today, we know why we had to come to the States. Being abroad made me realize how much my friends and family mean to me," Camille Guenon said. "Being alone in a foreign country forces you to challenge your limits. We got here with no car to go around in, without any dishes to use and without any local friends to help us. We had to find out how to work and live in this new environment very quickly.

Today, we can proudly say we succeeded. "The trip changed our lives. If an opportunity like that presents itself to you, I urge you to take it. Getting out of your comfort zone is one of the scariest things you’ll ever do. Yet, it’s worth it. As you read these lines, we are getting ready to go home. Soon, we’ll be back with our families with a ton of memories to share. From now on, every time I think about California or visit, I’ll remember the fall of 2009 as a season that changed my life.

So long, California.
It's always a party at the Brandin' Iron every Wednesday for College Night, with 50 cent draft beers and other specials. The bar is so popular, it was even in "Borat"!

CSUSB students can brag about having one of the most popular bars in the Inland Empire: the Brandin’ Iron Rockin’ Country Saloon.

Most students know about it and it’s been a place for dancing and partying for years.

The Brandin’ Iron’s reputation is well known in San Bernardino.

Moreover, Brandin Iron will welcome students during "College Night" and small agencies.

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The Saloon welcomes students during “College Night” every Wednesday, with 50 cent draft beer from 7 to 9 p.m. and more promotions until 11 p.m.

Moreover, Brandin Iron will welcome students during the winter break as well and the owners are planning a memorable party for New Year’s Eve.

The Brandin’ Iron’s reputation is well known in San Bernardino: you might wait for an hour outside to get in, but apparently it’s worth it, because regular customers go week after week.

"I really enjoyed my experience at the Brandin’ Iron. The place is great and there are a lot of promotions," Melanie Belair said. "I was impressed by the large dance floor, and I have to say that it is really remarkable to see so many people line dancing all together."


Indeed, the Saloon is so popular that even Sacha Baron Cohen, aka Borat, went to the Brandin’ Iron in 2006 to shoot a scene on the mechanical bull.

"I did. And I enjoyed it. You will too!"

It was a self appointed goal we have assumed to spread the word about Coyote Radio around the nation," Kendall said. "It gives a once in a life time opportunity to students who get involved in this project."

In fact, they are seeking students right now.

"It is a positive partnership between the station and the show that will help us promote our facility but also the talent of CSUSB students who work for the station," she said.

ISLA Earth Radio Series is not a small-scale program. For two years they were finalists in two categories of the Los Angeles Press Club’s annual journalism awards.

Last year, they were recognized for their work by winning the News Bureau category.

This year, they won in the Environment Awareness category of the 2009 W3 Silver Award.

The W3 Award is a web competition that recognizes creative and marketing big and small agencies.

NPR is a non-commercial satellite-delivered radio network. According to their website, it’s “an independent, private, non-profit membership organization funded primarily through its own service-generating activities.” It is distributed via satellite to 860 public radio stations in the United States.

To learn more about ISLA Earth Radio program, visit their website at http://www.islaearth.org/.
Golden state losing its luster

Higher costs of higher education turns people away

By Cory Kirschke
Staff Writer

The budget crisis is forcing many of California’s brightest college students to take both their knowledge and their money, and invest it in out-of-state universities.

With the CSU planning to turn away over 40,000 prospective students, those students will need to find somewhere to invest in their futures.

According to Blake Vawter, associate director of admissions at Oregon State University, “California students have traditionally been our largest out-of-state population,” said Oregon State University’s associate director of admissions, Blake Vawter. “California students make up the largest and fastest growing out-of-state student group at Oregon State. Our total non-resident enrollment increased by 17.7 percent this year.”

Corresponding college systems in Washington and Arizona said they had not seen an increase in California applicants or that it was too early to tell.

“This is on top of the 12.8 percent increase in 2008,” Vawter said. “We effectively doubled the number of students from California in this year’s class. To handle the demand from California, we hired our own regional admissions person three years ago who lives in California.”

Vawter also explained that about 90 percent of California students receive a scholarship to attend OSU.

“I was surprised when I began calling out-of-state universities, just how many of California’s bright minds are leaving the state to attend college. Something has to be done to fix the current crisis we have in our California school system. We are not only losing a great deal of money, we are also letting go of thousands of educated individuals that would have contributed positively to the state. What is the incentive for students to continue going to school in California if they can go across the state line and receive an excellent education, with little to no worries about budget cuts, impacted majors, and minimal class offerings?”

Students attending any CSU campus already know that things are going down hill and will only get worse as time goes on. For prospective students of higher education in California, maybe you should pack your bags and move onto a better deal outside of California.

Don’t take a chance when it’s cancer

By Daisy Alvarez
Staff Writer

Breast cancer is the second most deadly cancer in women according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) recently released new recommendations for breast cancer screening.

The USPSTF now recommends against routine screening mammography in women in their 40s.

The American Cancer Society’s Cancer Prevention and Early Detection Facts and Figures of 2009 stressed the importance of women age 40 and older receive mammography screening on an annual basis at accredited mammography screening facilities.

With conflicting data from reliable sources, what should women do?

“With the lives of countless women on the line, you would think reliable and concurring recommendations would be available.”

According to The American Cancer Society, the incidence of breast cancer has decreased two percent per year from 1999 to 2006. They attribute the decrease to early detection caused by improved treatment, screening and increased awareness. If breast cancer has decreased over the last decade because of early screening, why discourage mammograms? The USPSTF believes it is not worth screening 1,900 women in their 40s for breast cancer if only one life will be saved.

The remaining 1,899 women would be exposed to “unnecessary” risks that the USPSTF considers to be surgery, radiation, hormone therapy or chemotherapy.

Anxiety and distress also were some of the reasons the panel cited to recommend against annual mammograms for women in their 40s. But anxiety, distress, surgery, radiation and hormone therapy were not among the top ten leading causes of death for women; cancer is.

Call me naive, but I think knowing if I have cancer is substantially more important than saving me from anxiety. Congresswoman and cancer survivor Debbie Wasserman-Schultz said, “[It’s not] a very patronizing attitude that these scientists have taken...”

Some say mammograms find lumps but don’t function to distinguish between malignant or benign growths.

Thus women are exposed to unnecessary procedures to stop a growth that may not be deadly to begin with. “The goal is not finding cancer; the goal is reducing death and suffering,” said Dr. Lisa Schwartz, a professor of medicine at the Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy and Clinical Practice.

This is true, but I think that until the technology to distinguish between cancerous lumps is available, preventive measures are better than remedial ones.

Women who postpone mammography until a later age may not be susceptible to unnecessary preventive procedures, but they also will not be given the opportunity to know if an essential life saving measure is needed.
We need Volunteers!

Volunteers of America

By BETH BAYOR
Staff Writer

This time every year I witness a transformation in people around me. We get a little bit kinder. We feel for those who don’t have food to eat or a place to live. We go out in record numbers to volunteer at the local homeless shelter on Thanksgiving and Christmas.

The fact is there is a significant increase in the number of people who volunteer during the winter holidays, according to idealist.org.

Even the animal kingdom gets a symbiotic nod of kindness during this season. For the past 20 years, on the eve of Thanksgiving, the president of the United States pardons two turkeys from what would be certain death. They then get to live out the rest of their lives on a farm somewhere.

What is it about Christmas and Thanksgiving that brings this positive change in us and why don’t we feel the same way year around?

Why do most of us ignore those in need the other 365 days of the year?

Is it because during the holiday season the TV networks show movies like “Scrooged” that encourage us to “think of our fellow man and lend him a helping hand,” or perhaps it’s seeing the Grinch’s heart grow three sizes?

Maybe it’s just the cognac in the eggnog, but whatever it is I think two days out of a year is not enough. We need to show love to others all 365 days of the year.

The US Department of Agriculture found in its yearly survey that hunger in the United States has become dramatically worse since the beginning of the recession.

Their survey showed the number of households that do not have enough food has risen from 4.7 million in 2007 to 6.7 million in 2008.

While it’s nice to feed hungry people during the holidays, what about the rest of the year?

People need to eat regularly, not just on Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Hunger is a serious issue, but it’s certainly not the only one that needs addressing.

Here in the Inland Empire there are many organizations that could use your help year around, such as the Humane Society of San Bernardino Valley or the Inland Empire chapters of the United Way and the Red Cross.

I have heard many say that they can’t make a difference, so why try? You don’t have to change the whole world. You can change the world for one person and if we all did that then collectively we would change the whole world.

Americans, for the past 34 years you have shown me, even if only for two days out of the year, you have it in you to look past differences and help those less fortunate.

I ask you to help those in need every day. If you do, I promise, the one who will benefit the most is you.

Lost in the Woods
When did we lose news to the tabloids?

By DAVID CHERNIN
Assistant Online Editor

It seems the Tiger is in his cage, hiding from the media as the aftermath of last weeks incident continues to surround golfing legend Tiger Woods.

His Cadillac Escalade hurled down his drive way, into some bushes, over a fire hydrant and smashing into a neighbors tree.

Woods was believed to be involved in an affair, provoking a domestic dispute to follow. He fled his house after the incident began and wrecked his car according to a CNN report.

However, what is the hype all about? Why do we care so much about a golfer and what happens in his personal life?

I am not in any way implying that it is acceptable to be unfaithful, but why are we as a nation concerned with one man’s life when there are more important things going on?

This week, President Obama made a decision to deploy 30,000 more troops to Afghanistan. This is going to have far more impact on our nation than anything a celebrity can say or do.

The guy did break the cardinal rule, but why must we focus on him.

Society is so obsessed with celebrities and their surreal life styles that we are missing out on what is really happening in our culture.

Though shows like TMZ are greatly entertaining, that is exactly all it is; a source of entertainment.

Why is this the number one story on CNN and every other major news network? Nothing beneficial to daily lives can come out of programs like this.

However, we can learn from the mistakes of these celebrities.

Sure he is a role model, but why does the focus of the media go from what is happening in the world to what is happening with one man.

This generation is addicted to drama. But then again going back to Greek society, it is in human nature to be dramatic.

When is enough, enough though?

We, as a nation need to see when something is ridiculous and just move on. The Woods’ family situation is unfortunate, but it just proves that even with every thing in the world, celebrities are people too.

The coverage he has received is overkill. So I think it’s time that we all back off, and move on to things that actually will affect us as a society.

However until that shift occurs, coverage about such topics will continue, the proof being articles such as this.
It’s safe to say Chris Brown’s career isn’t completely over. Brown’s latest album Graffiti isn’t outstanding, but it is withstanding in all the speculation looming over him. The lead single, “I Can Transform Ya,” which features Swizz Beats and Lil’ Wayne, was a smart single choice. The single recently broke the Top 20 on the Billboard charts and shows a steady run for Brown with Graffiti.

Refreshing, Brown doesn’t try too hard to be something he’s not. He’s stuck to the same formula that got him where he is today. At this point in his career, he can’t afford to go too far left.

If “I Can Transform Ya” barely cracked Top 20, “Crawl,” the second single, is a hit song waiting to happen judging by its booming chorus and easy melody. Brown saw the same crossover success with “With You” and “No Air” from his previous 2007 album Exclusive. What’s most notable on “Crawl” is hopeful lyrics that express his want to rekindle a relationship with an ex-girlfriend. That’s just the beginning of the pity party. Following that song are “So Cold,” “Fallin Down,” “Lucky Me,” “I’ll Go” and “Famous Girl.”

Brown stated to MTV News that “Famous Girl” is indeed about his ex-girlfriend Rihanna. It’s also a genuinely strong track. The bouncy production is reminiscent of Brown as a 16 year-old newcomer that sang with green excitement, but lyrically Brown shows maturity.

Brown crosses the line between maturity and sexually explicit on the tacky “Take My Time.” To make matters worse, has-been R&B singer Tank is featured on the track. At best, “Take My Time” is a poor man’s version of “Take You Down.” Brown gets the electro pop sound right on “Pass Out,” which samples Steve Winwood and features singer Eva Simmons, who coincidentally Rihanna appears to sample her style from. Brown is in true form on “Wait,” which features fellow R&B crooner Trey Songz. The song is arguably the best song on the album, and is a reminder to the doubtful that Brown hasn’t lost sight of the music his fans will appreciate.

With the exception of the mid-tempo pity party Brown threw himself on the album, Graffiti is solid. It’s not edgy or new; nor does it stray far from what people are expecting of Brown. The album is, however, a significant mark in his career and shows he’s not going to sit back and watch his career fade away.

Owl City: “Fireflies”

Melanie Hunter: Reminds me of little kids - cheesy and annoying.

Jennifer Torrez: The song would be cooler if it was less pop-py.

Ashley Harper: As soon as the song started I liked it. It’s adorable.

Danielle Baird: This song is awful. It’s great for Kids Rap though!

Angelica Stewart: This song is so cute. I love it.

50 Cent ft. Ne-Yo: “Baby By Me”

MH: This is great because the chorus applies to millionaires and deadbeats like Kevin Federline. “Have a baby by me baby, be an welfare”! Woof Woof!

JT: Blahh come on 50? This is the first song I have not liked by you!

AH: 50 couldn’t think of any new song ideas, so resorted to bragging about how filthy rich he is.

DB: I don’t think I’ll be having any future babies with a bullet magnet

AS: Catchy, yet repulsive at the same time.

David Guetta ft. Akon: “Sexy Chick”

MH: When I found out this wasn’t LMFAO, I was disappointed. They’re the only group I will dance through three minutes of ignorance for.

JT: I can never change the channel or stop dancing when this song comes on. Love it!

AH: Thanks for telling me what I already know, guys. ;)

AS: The song is good, if you happen to be a weirdo that loves techno and Akon at the same time.
Entertainment

She Said

By ANGELICA STEWART
Staff Writer

Many people have witnessed Barbadian singer Rihanna’s trials and triumphs recently. As for Rihanna herself, she has used that time to channel her emotions into a very different and critical album, Rated R.

Laced with spicy tunes and a newfound “take no prisoners” attitude, Rihanna’s new album has indeed lived up to its title. Songs like “Rude Boy” show her tendency to play submissive with lyrics such as: “You can be the captain, tonight I’m gonna let you do your thing.” and later she counters those statements by taunting throughout the song, “Can you keep it up, are you big enough?”

Ester Dean, who actually collaborated with Rihanna’s former flame Chris Brown, co-wrote the song ‘Rude Boy’, and is the only female collaborator present on the album. Her image as a good-girl-gone-bad is definitely shining bright on each track.

Her newly released single, “Russian Roulette” has received lots of speculation in the media, as well as garnered much anticipation for her new album. This album seems to signify a change in direction for the singer’s life.

Most of her songs derive from the feeling of empowerment and finding a new outlet for emotional distress. This new-found attitude is a far cry from what she used to be.

With the direction that this album is going it seems to be that Rihanna has spiraled her image into something darker.

“Umbrella” was the first song she recorded after as her transition to a naughty girl made headlines in the media.

Since then, Rihanna took a hiatus after her much publicized drama this past February with ex-boyfriend Chris Brown. Soon after, the singer emerged with a new and in your face attitude.

She has said this album was an emotional release for her and that she practically lived in the studio during the months that followed her tumultuous relationship.

In ‘Cold Case Love,’ the singer croons about a relationship gone bad and how, as much as she regrets it, she wished it could’ve been prevented.

With a list of producers and co-writers that include Justin Timberlake, The Dream, Timbaland, Chase & Status and Stargate, the album is rigged with potential hits, yet seems to fall short of our expectations.

The singer used Rated R to lay down every single emotion she has been feeling in the past and present, and although she put her all into this album, it’s more for the lonely at heart.

Unless you are suffering from depression or anger problems, this album is not for you.

Singles

Lady Gaga ft. Beyonce: “Telephone”

MH: The two hottest females in the industry right now on one track? Epic. Gaga shouldn’t have gone easy on Beyonce & chopped and screwed the second verse.

JT: Beyonce and Lady Gaga should not be joining forces, they sounds better independently

AH: I like Beyonce’s “Videophone” better. Sorry, Gaga.

DB: Lady Gaga and Beyonce? Can’t get any better than this, love it!

AS: Good song, but it’s no “Video Phone.”

Alicia Keys: “Sleeping With A Broken Heart”

MH: Another hit for Alicia! The 80s pop synth progressions that support her R&B melodies make the song stand out.

JT: I think Alicia’s new sound is a hit!

AH: This song is better than her last single, but it’s no “Fallin.”

DB: Alicia Keys can do no wrong in my eyes!

AS: Oh she’s sleeping alright. Not with a broken heart, though. Just ask Swizz Beats’ wife.

Ke$ha: “Tik Tok”

MH: “Before I leave, brush my teeth with a bottle of Jack.” She’s like a trashy version of Ashley Tisdale. I love it.

JT: She should get a less annoying voice if she wants to get my vote.

AH: I LOVE THIS GIRL!!!

DB: I really regret paying $0.99 for this song.

AS: Brooke Hogan changed her name and released a new single? I had no idea.
Jay Sean gets “Down” with Cash Money

By ASHLEY HARPER
Staff Writer

Cash Money is definitely becoming the music label known for making hits, with mega singles such as “Every Girl,” and “Lollipop.” Their newest artist, Jay Sean, co-signed with Universal Republic U.S. has the newest hit song for the label.

The single “Down” from his first U.S. released album All or Nothing has reached the #1 spot on the Billboard Hot 100 Chart twice within the same month, the song also went double platinum.

All or Nothing has been receiving a lot of buzz. Although the album is Jay Sean’s first American release he is certainly not new to the music game. He was born and raised in London, England with an Indian/Punjab descent.

In England he is known for his two previous multi-platinum albums, and is an accomplished singer/songwriter/producer. Sean, 26, has two top ten singles and was nominated for Britain’s MOBO (Music of Black Origin) Award twice. Jay Sean’s music has the styles of pop and R&B fused together. His music sounds similar to Ne-Yo and Chris Brown.

Sean says that his musical inspirations growing up were “Brian McKnight, Joe, and Musiq Soulchild.”

With as great muses as those fellas, it’s no wonder he has reached huge popularity in the UK, and is easily breaking through in mainstream America.

All or Nothing is an album that has thirteen tracks and a bonus track. The bonus track is an alternative version of “Down,” is called a “candlelight remix.” The remix is a lot more soulful and way less annoying; however this version is not as flashy and would probably not have received the same amount of air play on the radio.

The album features collaborations with heavy-hitters like label mate Lil’ Wayne, mega producer Lil’ John and reggae star Sean Paul.

His second single to be released is the song that features both Lil’ John and Sean Paul called “Do You Remember.”

The song is not as amazing as it should be, considering it has two big names on it.

The song that should have been his second single is called “Ride It,” this song is one of the songs that he has released before on a U.K. album. However it has not truly reached the popularity it could have in the U.S.

The song has an R&B flavor and could become a club hit. “Ride It,” is actually the song that made Jay Sean get noticed by Cash Money Records co-creator Ronald “Slim” Williams.

His unique music flare surely adds to the Cash Money label, since it is mostly known for Hip-Hop music.

The album plays up the pop vibe throughout, especially the tracks “Fire” and “Lights Out.” While listening to the album you can feel Jay Sean really meaning what he’s singing and since he’s has been around the music block, you can hear his trained vocals.

The album has its highs and lows but overall it’s enjoyable. Jay Sean just might become a household name.

Timbaland turns up voltage

By DANIELLE BAIRD
Staff Writer

Timbaland is famous for his collaborations with artists who reside at the top of the billboard charts.

Perhaps the most shocking thing about Shock Value 2 is the vast amount of different artists featured on every track. The album features every one from Nickelback frontman Chad Kroeger to rapper Drake, singer Katy Perry and even Miley Cyrus.

The sounds of Timbaland’s Shock Value 2 continue to deliver what the music fans love to listen to while in the clubs, but adds fresh, new sounds to the mix with artists that are on the opposite end of the spectrum from the producer/rapper.

With a catchy beat and Justin Timberlake sharing the microphone “Carry Out” is likely to be a chart topper, thanks to Timberlake’s melody and lyrics. The last time the two collaborated was in 2007 and it’s good to have them back.

Timbaland is famous for kissing a girl and liking it, Katy Perry, collides with Timbaland in “If We Ever Meet Again” which summarizes the message of the love song.

One success wasn’t enough for “One Republic” and Timbaland as they do it all over again for the song “Marching On.” The song has the potential as their first big hit “Apologize.”

Drake, whose fan base has been growing since 2007, can be found on the song “Say Something” where the new artist dominates the air waves, successfully mixing up the album.

With many fans disappointed in “Shock Value” the sequel is sure to compensate for the lack of interest audiences has in 2007.
Jack White’s new groove

By JENNIFER TORREZ
Staff Writer

Jack White may have successfully re-mastered the classic and heavy funk-centered rock-and-roll sounds of the late 60s and 70s with his newest band, The Dead Weather.

The Dead Weather artistically incorporates screaming guitar riffs, deep powerful beats, tricky beats and extrinsic keyboarding through a skillful array of artists that all stem from accomplished alternative bands.

With each band member’s musical experience under their belt, it is no surprise that their newest dark-themed band has accomplished a modern addition to an original sound.

Don’t let the trendy black-dressed branding fool you into thinking this band is another commercial based no talent product.

The Goth “dead weathered” band is actually the opposite. Their darkness is only a plastic wrap over their true musical capabilities.

The talent is proved in their debut album Horehound, released July 2009 on White’s label, Third Man Records, with a collection of soulful beats that take your mind and body to a carefree musical level.

The 11-track album, integrates the spiritual funk noise unfamiliar to White’s other bands that leaves you feeling like you’ve slipped into a trance that normally only live music can achieve.

Each song in the album manages to pull you one step closer to a noisy abstraction that leaves you hitting repeat before the last song even finishes.

Songs like “I Cut Like a Buffalo,” “Bone House” and “Treat Me Like Your Mother” highlight this album with catchy beats and choruses unique to their sound.

In an interview with Spin Magazine, Mosshart responded to the song “I Cut Like a Buffalo” by saying, “I don’t know how to describe that song to anybody, other than Jack is playing drums and singing at the same time, and you gotta watch it.”

“I remember him doing the vocals and not being able to sit down. I was just standing there, jaw dropped, mesmerized. There was nothing written down on a piece of paper, it was all just stream of consciousness” says Mosshart.

White also commented on the song to Spin Magazine saying “It just feels like I’m being the most truthful I’ve ever been with myself, especially the lyric ‘You cut a record on my throat / But the record’s not broken.’ It’s everything I’m about, the poetic side of me. I’m just obsessed with this song, but I’m scared to listen to it at the same time.”

The compelling reflections on this song only give a preview to what this band is about.

With the formula of White’s talent and passion, it only makes sense that by adding three true artists to the mix, something amazing will develop.

Clearly, The Dead Weather collectively, under White’s power, has managed to become one of the newest additions to the classic funk-based genre.

Dave Grohl joins Them Crooked Vultures

By JENNIFER TORREZ
Staff Writer

David Grohl just added another band to his list of musical accomplishments, but whether Them Crooked Vultures will be as successful as the rest is up to your judgment.

The new Grohl collaboration includes Joshua Homme from Queens of the Stone Age on guitar and vocals, John Paul Jones from Led Zeppelin on base and Grohl from Foo Fighters and Nirvana on drums.

With an A-list group, it’s surprising the band would choose such an elementary and meaningless name, but the band claims on their website that the name was chosen based on limited options.

Aside from the name, the band managed to produce an alternative sound worth checking out.

The sound offers a clear representation of two of its members, literally sounding like a crossover of Foo Fighters and Queens of the Stone Age.

Unfortunately, the classic Led Zeppelin sound is left in the shadows on most of the tracks.

Whether the sounds are new or regurgitated, the band has been touring for the last couple of months to prove to audiences they are unique.

The band’s 14-track debut album New Fang makes Grohl’s creation a possible holiday gift if your judgment favors his new sound.

Recognize someone? That’s Dave Grohl of the Foo Fighters. His new band, Them Crooked Vultures, have currently been touring the country. Their album New Fang is in stores now.

A pro to some, but a con to others, the band is a mash-up of Led Zeppelin, Foo Fighters and Queens of the Stone Age.
got talent?

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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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Pitching is key

By ANDREW TAPIA
Staff Writer

The 2010 season will be the final shot at a conference title and a berth in the NCAA tournament for 10 Coyote baseball players. The votes will return a corps of veteran players and pitchers from the 2009 team that produced a 23-23 record (17-18 in the CCAA).

The team was in contention for a berth in the four-team CCAA championship tournament until the final weekends, but finished sixth in the standings.

Chief among the returners is senior second baseman Brent Plank who hit .318 last season with two home-runs and 34 runs batted in.

Also back is senior short-stop Kyle Davis, who batted .307 with one home run and 19 RBI’s and Jordan Lowe, who batted .320 with 11 RBI.

Julio Torres is another returning starter who played right field in 2007.

The returning pitchers are led by senior right-hander Danny Stenavich who had a 5-1 record with a 2.09 ERA and 89 strikeouts last season.

Aaron Brooks, another right-hander had a 5-2 record and a 3.96 ERA, with three complete games.

A third starter, senior Trevor Longfellow, also returns.

Several newcomers figure in Head Coach Don Parnell’s plans for success in 2010, primarily third baseman Raul Meraz and second baseman Erik Orinales, both sophomores and both all-Orange Empire Conference second-team selections.

They figure to vie for starting positions right away as juniors at CSUSB. CSUSB looks to fill the third base job now that all-CCAA second-team selection Jesus Beltran has used up his eligibility.

Orinales will vie with senior Brent Plank for the third base job and can back up returning shortstop Kyle Davis.

“They (Meraz and Orinales) come from the toughest junior college conference in the nation and have had success there so they should be able to compete and play pivotal roles for us in the CCAA,” Parnell said.

“Our season should go according to how we pitch,” said Parnell, entering his 20th season as the head coach.

“If the pitching is solid, we will be solid. We return seven pitchers who all played a pivotal role last year. If those same guys can take it up a notch, we should be very competitive in the conference.”

One of the newcomers expected to start in the outfield is Matt Winn.

Winn is a freshman who had to take a medical redshirt after getting hit in the face earlier last season.

Two other players considered key to the team’s lineup are Darren Dvorak, an infielder from University of San Diego, and Cody Madison, a transfer from Riverside Community College.

If fall 2009 for athletics was groundbreaking, we can take it up a notch, we should be very competitive in the conference.}

By JEREMY VASQUEZ
Staff Writer


Fall athletics 2009 at CSUSB summarized in a nutshell.

The women’s cross country team, men’s and women’s soccer team, and the women’s volleyball team all demonstrated competitive and successful seasons.

“I couldn’t be any prouder of our fall quarter athletics. The goals that were set so early in the summer have been strated competitive and successful seasons. The goals that were set so early in the summer have been well accomplished and the experiences of our players have been beyond expectations,” said Athletic Director Kevin Hatcher.

“For CSUSB, we made a great display in our conference and the Inland Empire. The cross country team competed agressively and numerus players were rewarded for their scholastic endeavors.

They also finished with a strong second place effort at the Grand Canyon Invitational 6K run and an admirable third place effort at the UC Irvine X-country meet earlier this year. The women’s soccer team also made strides toward excellence.

Two members of the 2009 women’s soccer team were voted to the National Soccer Coach’s Association of America All-West Region team.

Senior defender Ashley Salas was a first-team All-CCAA conference pick.

Sophomore midfielder Jaclyn Clark earned second team honors.

With a 6-1-2 record at home, the women’s soccer team finished strong this season.

“I really enjoyed attending every one of the soccer home games this fall, I feel like there were so many competitive teams and our record reflects all the hard work on and off the field,” said student Janika Kelly.

The 2009 Men’s Soccer team reached the NCAA West Regional tournament after an 18 year drought.

Junior forward Albert Cabrera was also voted to the AVCA All-Americans First Team:

Sara Hoffman
Jane Chafeh
Second Team:
Samantha Middleborn
Women’s Soccer
NCAA Div. II West Region First Team
Ashley Salas

Coyote of the Week:
Michael Murphy
Murphy has faithfully served as CSUSB’s sports information director for over 10 years. This December he is retiring, and will be missed greatly by students, athletes and faculty.
Farewell to a true Coyote

By JESUS ROMERO
Staff Writer

Murphy has been the go to guy for any athletic story, question, statistic, or picture at CSUSB for the past ten years.

December 30 will be Murphy’s last day as Assistant Athletic Director for Media/Sports Information.

“It’s been a great job and I’ve seen a lot in my time, but now it’s time to see the finer things in life and give the time back to my family,” Murphy said.

Murphy says he only puts in about 40 to 50 hours a week, but he explains his wife thinks it’s more, which many at CSUSB would agree with because of his extreme dedication to Coyote athletics.

He covers the university’s 11 teams throughout the year and also deals with incoming media for each of the home games. His statistic portfolio for each team is about as thick as a phone book. The information included: game stats (both home and away), wins, losses, scores, achievements, player biographies and team recaps.

In his time here, Murphy also ran the official school athletics website while keeping it current by adding new stories daily. He is involved with the NCAA and CCAA in getting sure there is someone to announce the game, keeping score and preparing media guides.

Murphy is also the liaison between the coaches and the media in setting them up with interviews and press conferences if need be.

Murphy explained that he puts in a lot of time at the office, court and field, and his family has been so patient with him, but now it’s time for them.

Murphy has a wife, three adult children and five grandchildren who he plans to spend his time with.

Although he says he’ll still be at some Coyote athletic events to see his family away from home.

Murphy has lived in Highland for 43 years. Two of his years all together.

“Farewell to a true Coyote.”

This is my second year here, but I’ve played eight years all together.

CC: How do you work with your coach?

MJ: I prepared by keeping the right mind-set. The practices didn’t lighten up at all. It was some of the most frustrating practices I’ve had all year, but in a good way because I know they made me a better player for our team.

CC: How do you work with your team mates?

MJ: The girls are like my family. I love them all and we just have fun and play a game we all love to play and succeed together.

CC: How do you prepare for nationals?

MJ: I know they made me a better player for our team. I prepared by keeping the right mind-set. The practices didn’t lighten up at all. It was some of the most frustrating practices I’ve had all year, but in a good way because I know they made me a better player for our team.

CC: How do you work with your coach?

MJ: Coach is amazing. We have a no taboo subjects rule and so it is really open. She is really open to our input as well as making executive decisions that benefit the team. I fully trust all of her decisions.
The team has four consecutive CCAA championship wins, four West Regional wins in the past six years, and are now making an appearance in their fourth national championship in the past seven years. The Coyotes won the Division II West Regional and were given another chance to make history for the school by being the first team to ever win a national title in any sport.

CSUSB defeated Cal State L.A. in the final round of the West Regional tournament and advance to the NCAA National Championship tournament in St. Paul, Minnesota. This marked the 31st straight home win for the team as they played in front of a sold-out crowd in the Coyote Den.

Seniors Ashtin Hall and Sarah Hoffman came up big for the ‘Yotes in the last game, as Hall had a match high of 13 kills, nearly double her average, and Hoffman added 31 assists. Hoffman now only needs 77 more to place third on the Coyotes career assist list. Hoffman and outside hitter Jane Chafeh earned AVCA All-West Region honors. This is Hoffman’s second year in a row receiving such honors. Chafeh also received All-CCAA first-team honors and was named the Daktronics West Region player of the year. Sophomore middle blocker Samantha Middleborn made second-team honors.

The regional victory gave the Coyotes the momentum they were hoping for. “We played great team volleyball and it gave us the confidence we need going into the national tournament,” setter Sara Hoffman said. “The way we played reassured us that we are ready.”

Every player on the team has had a little taste of the NCAA National Championship game before, and are ready to face any team. The team will be looking for a different outcome in this national championship tournament than last year after losing to Concordia-St. Paul by just two points in the last match. “I’m extremely thankful to have another chance to win the National title,” Hoffman said before heading to Minnesota. “Our returners know what it takes to win and we are determined to beat any team that stands in our way.”

The Coyotes are second in hitting pct., 13th in kills per set, and 12th in assists per set. The Coyotes faced Tampa in the quarterfinals, a team they have had previous success over with a record of 4-0. Although Tampa ranks No. 1 in hitting percentage, No. 2 in kills per set and No. 4 in assists, the Coyotes managed to put them away in 4 sets, despite dropping the first.

The win set up a rematch of the 2008 national championship between CSUSB and Concordia-St. Paul (CCP). Going into the match CCP was undefeated and ranked first in the country, while CSUSB was ranked second dropping only a road match to UC San Diego.

The women’s volleyball team beat Cal State L.A. to earn themselves another shot at a national title in this year’s NCAA Division II Championship Tournament. The team that defeated CSUSB for the title last year, Concordia-St. Paul, also made their way to the tournament, setting up a possible rematch for the national title. Check coyotechronicle.com to see the full results of the tournament, including the championship game.

By SARAH MIKELSON
Staff Writer

Close calls
Near championships for CSUSB
2003: Women’s volleyball lost 3-2 in the semi’s to Concordia-St. Paul.
2007: Men’s basketball fell 80-79 to Barton College in the Final Four.
2008: Women’s Volleyball lost in the championship match to Concordia-St. Paul in 5 sets.
2009: Men’s golf loses lead on final hole in National championship before falling to Sonoma St. in a playoff.
2009: Check coyotechronicle.com to see how this year’s team fared.