San Bernardino County is ranked fifth in the nation for having the most vehicles stolen in 2009, according to a report released last month by LoJack.

LoJack Corporation, a company that deals in stolen vehicle recovery technology, ranked Los Angeles as the top county in the nation for vehicle thefts and recoveries. Riverside Country came in at No. 7, boosting California to the top of the nationwide list.

In the past year, 16 cars have been stolen on the CSUSB campus alone, most of them stolen out of Parking Lot D, located in front of University Hall, according to Lieutenant Walter Duncan of the San Bernardino Police Department.

According to Duncan, the most frequently stolen vehicles have been late '80s and early '90s Toyota Camry and Honda Civics and Accords. “These vehicles have been targeted because of the ease in which they can be stolen,” Duncan said.

According to CHP Lt. Steve Ureca, commander for the San Bernardino County auto theft task force, the parts are so similar for Hondas, thieves are motivated by being able to swap them out.

Patrick Clancy, vice president of Law enforcement for the LoJack Corporation said that stealing older model cars remains a big business for organized crime rings which often strip vehicles and sell the parts for three to four times their value.

See Car theft, pg. 2
Students fight for education

the funding back in public education,” said Theatre Arts lecturer Leslie Bryant. “We are sick of furlough days, where you don’t see your teacher, yet students are still held accountable for work that should be done in the classroom.”

As the budget cuts continue, more students say they have found themselves making sacrifices that negatively impact their scholastic careers. ASI President James Fukazawa brought up two textbooks during his speech, pointing out that they were the only two he could afford in the past two years. “I was cut from the only two classes I needed to graduate this spring, because I was unable to pay on time,” Fukazawa said. “When I asked what I should do, they told me ‘good luck.’”

Students are being pressured to succeed and are now facing more obstacles on the road to graduation. With bigger class sizes comes less attention. The ideal student-teacher experience is being compromised. Teresa Raef, a Shandin Hills Middle School teacher and CSUSB alum, took to the stage and spoke about how California’s budget woes have affected her classes. “Every time I get a class of 36-studens, I know that they are going to suffer because they’re not going to get the attention they will need,” Raef said.

Speakers also urged the crowd to spread the word and support the cause. “Get a hold of your assemblymen and legislators,” Bryant said. “Hold them accountable, you voted for them, and if they aren’t doing their job, vote them out.”

Continued from Pg. 1

Local car theft on the rise

the overall value of the vehicle.

“We’re also seeing sophisticated thieves go after newer vehicles,” Clancy said. “As they’ve found ways to outsmart the theft deterrents, such as disabling GPS tracking devices and vehicle immobilizers.”

The Cadillac Escalade was the fifth most-stolen and recovered car in Los Angeles County last year and ranked fifth in the nation. According to the San Bernardino Sun, new vehicles become common targets for car thieves, but their appeal tends to diminish with time. Lincoln Navigators, PT Cruisers and even Mini Coopers had a spike in thefts when they were new but eventually declined in theft popularity.

Because of LoJack and police operations focusing on auto theft, law enforcement agencies have been able to get many of the vehicles back to their owners.

Vehicle burglary prevention tips

● Always lock your doors even if you are making a quick stop.
● Do not use a keyless remote to lock and unlock your vehicle. Remotes can be cloned.
● Always close all the windows.
● Do not leave any personal property lying on the seats of the vehicle.
● Always put personal property away (out of sight), prior to arrival at your destination;

Vehicle theft prevention tips

● Don’t leave a vehicle in unattended parking lots for an extended period.
● Never attach a tag with your name and address to your key ring. If the keys are lost or stolen, the tag will lead a thief directly to your car and your home.
● At night, park in well-lit areas.
● Consider an alarm system.
● Report to police any person(s) on our campus who appear suspicious or out of place.
● Do not leave money in your ashtray.

● Keep your garage door remote out of plain view, and if stolen, change the remote control frequency.
● Always put personal property away (out of sight), prior to arrival at your destination;

● Always close all the windows.
● Do not leave any personal property lying on the seats of the vehicle.
● Always lock your doors even if you are making a quick stop.

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Raising awareness with carne asada

By JA’HAAN HOWARD-YOUNG
Staff Writer

Dia Latino, a day of recognition, was truly a multi-cultural event. Hosted by the Cross Cultural Center (CCC) and the World Language and Literature Department, Dia Latino exposed students and faculty to a different view of Latin Culture outside of Mexico.

The event was held in the Santos Manuel Student Union Event Center on March 4, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and featured foods from Central and South America, information and a slew of entertaining performances.

The CCC puts on this event every academic year. Every year, it seems to get better and the turn-out larger.

“Even with all the injustices and prejudices in the world, people are coming to understand that Latino people aren’t just Mexican,” said student Chaneal Carey.

“There are so many different countries in South America and they all vary greatly,” Carey continued. “I am happy I came out. I had a good time.”

“Being Mexican, I think this event is a good idea. I can become more culturally aware of my heritage,” said CSUSB student, Marcos Pineda. “I also think it is good that other people can acquire knowledge and understanding of Latin heritage.”

The barrage of colors, smells and different artifacts varied from table to table as different representations were shown. There were food samples on the tables that gave a taste about Mexico, Peru, El Salvador and Guatemala. Some food was free and other tables asked for a donation.

The Latin Business Students Association (LBSSA) showed their pride by providing carne asada plates to everyone present for $5. Another table sold hearty candy apples for $3.

The festivities were plentiful and entertainers from all over Central and South America were present. Entertainment included dancers, singers, a live band and a DJ. The music was a mix of Latin flavors and present day hip-hop and pop genres.

“I think it was cool. It opened us up to places besides Mexico,” student Myynise Bailey said. “Just experiencing different cultures, foods and lifestyles made the event really special.”

Campus clubs help with fight for education

By JEANNETTE MONROY
Staff Writer

At the March 4 rally to defend public education; a few organizations on campus came out in full force. We at the Chronicle wanted to share the heavy hitters on campus so you know who is truly active in your community, defending your rights, and worth your time.

The Big Three:

Cross Cultural Center

● Coordinator of the Cross Cultural Center: Tamara Holder
● Purpose: The Cross Cultural Center focuses on issues of race and ethnicity. In this space its programs, workshops, advising and support services combine to create a place for students to explore issues of identity, develop political and social communities that benefit both individual students and the entire campus in fostering a community that embraces diversity.
● Participation: Provided space for clubs to gather to work on posters. Also distributed flyers and kept awareness going for the issue to all students that entered the CCC.

S.O.U. (Students for Quality Education)

● President: Nathomas Duro, organizer of the walkout last quarter “Public education should be available to everyone, not privatized. The failed leadership of board of directors, the chancellor, and Governor Schwarzenegger should not have direct consequences or burden on the students. They should work for us, not against us.”
● Purpose: Formed by students in the CSU system in 2007 to raise awareness and build a student movement for educational rights in public higher education.
● Participation: Teamed up with California Faculty Association for rally to bring awareness of issue to students.
● Preparation: Certain students attended meetings to learn all the facts that about budget cuts then brought the information back to campus to spread awareness with student body with this rally.

M.E.C.A (Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Azteca)

● President: David Huante. “Student awareness is the key factor for this rally. Students see the fee increases but do not think of the long-term outcome that will hinder the future of the CSU public system. We need to put pressure on legislators.*
● Purpose: A nationwide organization started in 1969 to address the many issues facing the Chicano community at the time. Since then, MECa has changed to fit the evolving, but ever-present needs of our community. One of the main issues MECa addresses is improving the state of education and expanding educational opportunities for our youth.
● Participation: Many members can understand lower income students and their family’s frustrations to pay the rising fees.
● Preparation: The club prepared by making banners, posters, and silhouette cutouts throughout the week. The silhouette cutouts represent all the students that will be denied attendance to a higher education due to these budget cuts.

Other Notable Players:

Sociology Club

● President: Nathomas Duro.
● Purpose: The increase of students’ awareness of sociological issues and events. The Sociology Club offers resources such as books and a supportive atmosphere to involve the community and is open to all majors.

E.D.O.H. (Eliminating Bias, Opposition, Negativity, and Ignorance)

● President: Christopher Beckom

* This is not only affecting the universities but also K-12 where teachers are being cut left and right as student numbers rise,” said CSUSB sociology professor Dr. Little.

Politics were ever present at the rally and this included fresh politicians trying to express their views on education. One in particular took time to personally speak with me, Renea Wickman (assembly member running for 63rd district). “We have to be serious about educating our community members since only 60% of seniors are graduating from San Bernardino County Schools, which is unacceptable,” Wickman said. “I will support legislation that gives continued support and positive reinforcement to creative and innovative teachers, institutions and students.”
Crowning glory

By ERICA JAMES
Staff Writer

"Mr. and Ms. CSUSB Pageant Hollywood Style" is being projected on the back wall behind the stage in the Santos Manuel Student Center. Many students applied, but only 14 are chosen. The grand prize for the contest is being named Mr. or Ms. CSUSB 2010 and receiving one quarter paid tuition.

Groups of supporters gathered outside the doors, patiently waiting for the show to begin. Some of the contestants mingled before beginning the competition.

"The competition’s tough. I’m still confident in my ability though," said Aaron Molina, one of the contestants.

Music from the jazz band (led by Dr. Robert Knop) fills the air in addition to tunes by a DJ that was hidden behind a navy blue curtain.

Four judges had the tedious job of scoring each challenger based on how spirited they were, talented, their image, and their speech.

"I have to judge according to the criteria of timed speech, coyote spirit, et cetera," said Toney Tunes, one of the judges.

As soon as the doors opened, students crowded in the center, hurrying to grab a seat for the festivities. Home made signs announcing the name of the favored contestant were held by some of the audience members.

"I think Jeremy should win because he’s humble and he’s familiar with our campus," said Minder Thind, a CSUSB student, as she proudly showed off her creative poster.

The host introduced the contest and then explained the rules: the judges scores were final, and there would be no booing tolerated.

Soon after, 14 contestants swarmed the stage in a dancing frenzy. The disk jockey spun hip-hop music as each potential winner took the stage for their fifteen seconds of hilarity.

The first segment involved two minute speeches by each student, and all the contestants spoke about their lives, how involved they were on campus, and how much spirit they had.

If the competition wasn’t stiff during the speech competition, it definitely got more intense during the talent portion.

Each student displayed their best skills; most singers, some dancers. Music filled the room and it wasn’t from the jazz band or the DJ. Another break was taken to allow the contestants to get dressed in their formal wear, the third segment, and each competitor came out with partner.

The host came out and announced it was time to choose the best three of each. After the judges tallied up their scores, the names of the final three contestants were read.

Following the speeches came the big moment. The time to announce the Mr. and Ms. CSUSB 2010 had finally come.

The room grew quiet as the host fumbled with the paper that held the two winning names. The name Brianna Pascoe was announced as the new Ms. CSUSB 2010. The crowd cheered on as she accepted her blue sash and princess crown.

Immediately afterwards Paul Dudley was announced as the Mr. CSUSB 2010. He accepted his blue, suede crown and sash.

They both were given checks that showed the amount $1,619, the tuition for a quarter.

"I’m speechless," Pascoe said. She had a surprised and yet happy look on her face as she hugged her family and friends.

"I don’t know what to say, I’m speechless," said Dudley. He walked around shaking hands and hugging his supporters.

The competition ended at 10:30 p.m., but it didn’t end without giving as sense of hope to students who attended.
CSUSB’s own (mini) farmer’s market

By LIN YEN-FAN
Staff Writer

You may have noticed a new vendor on campus last week, or that the people in your class were eating a banana instead of scarfing down Cheetos. Last Wednesday was the debut of the “Coyote Produce Stand,” CSUSB’s own little farmer’s market. I decided to check it out.

One of the people who came up with the idea for the stand, Frank Becerra, said that nurses and doctors in the Health Center were noticing a lot of students with food security issues.

Many weren’t eating a balanced diet, and others who were given a prescription by the Center would decide not to purchase the medicine because they planned to spend the money on food.

“One of the ideas that we came up with was having a farmer’s market type of event on campus, because it would provide healthier food choices,” Becerra said.

Health Educator Carlos Carrio of the Health Center pointed out that March is National Nutrition Month, so along with providing students with information about healthy eating this month, they also initiated the Produce Stand that will be on campus every Wednesday between 8:30am-1:00pm.

The same stand will be operating from 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Wednesdays on the Palm Desert Campus. I saw lots of students milling around the stand Wednesday. To promote the stand and help students with cost, the Health Center provided coupons for the stand to many students on campus.

Students can still pick up two-dollar coupons for the Stand at the Student Health Center until they run out.

“I knew about it from the CSUSB website and took a coupon from the Health Center. I am glad because it is cheap food and good for promoting healthy eating,” one student customer said.

“It was a big hit today,” Carrio said of the stand’s first day. “Students love it and a lot of staff are coming to buy.” The Stand is operated by John Nayler and his family who own DMC, a fresh foods wholesale company. The company provides fresh fruits and vegetable to convenience stores and other businesses. They get their products from different farmer markets in states like California and Washington.

Nayler said he enjoyed his first day bringing fresh food to CSUSB students and giving them an opportunity to make healthier choices.

“During the first couple of weeks of promotion, we are trying to get as many people to come over here as possible,” Becerra said.

All of the individuals and organizations involved in bringing the stand to campus in hope that students will embrace it so that it can stay and become a permanent fixture at CSUSB.

“Basically, if it goes well, we will keep it and have even more to offer,” Nayler said.

For me, it is exciting to see that there is a stand here focusing on providing healthy and fresh food because I love eating fruits and vegetables.

Most students on campus aren’t getting their recommended daily amounts of fruits and vegetables. If you’d like to make it a bit easier and less expensive to eat healthy on campus, make sure you stop by the Coyote Produce Stand on Wednesdays and stock up for your entire week of tasty eating.

I’ll see you there!

The Mug celebrates 60 years

By SHELBY SWANK
Staff Writer

If you’re wondering where you can buy tasty spaghetti sauce by the bucket you can go to The Mug. For over 62 years, The Mug has been a living preservation of San Bernardino’s rich history.

Tony Trozera, the restaurant’s original owner since it first opened in 1948, says he has bigger plans for his business than just serving great food.

Located 10 minutes from campus on West Highland Avenue in San Bernardino, The Mug attracts a lot of customers. It’s a place to just mellow out and have a good laugh.

The business thrived, like many other great ideas, after World War II booms to the current decline. “We maintain the old recipes my mother gave me as well as maintain the classy San Bernardino environment. We were here when San Bernardino was a real city,” Trozera said.

Everybody used to go downtown and have a wonderful time. Beer was a nickel and cheese pizza was 95 cents. Crime was low and now it’s not that way anymore.”

Regulars to the restaurant are the big names in San Bernardino, like Jack Brown, CEO of Stater Bros. Supermarkets, city officials, and local police officers.

The jukebox in the restaurant seems to have music from every decade after 1948 until the ‘90s. In other words, you could end up eating dinner while hearing an ‘NSync song. It’s a flashback of a meal!

Although the restaurant was once open seven days a week, they have to take days off to be at similar hours of nearby businesses to keep the crime rate low.

“I’m not too worried about my business going out like the rest of the family owned restaurants. We’re obviously doing something right to have stayed in the business this long,” Trozera said.

The entire restaurant gives off a heartwarming feeling. It has provided comfort for many customers.

CSUSB student Christy Dimagio has dined at The Mug since she was four.

“It’s hard to believe that a family business so deeply rooted in San Bernardino is still thriving, despite the current economic state. Sixty-two years and not once has the restaurant changed venues or shut down. The Mug also witnessed the great shifts in the city’s economy, from post-World War II booms to the current decline.

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Smoke Free CSUSB: STAT

The only way to protect innocent passersby from second-hand smoke could be to ban it completely

By CHI MENG-TSEN
Staff Writer

You could be at risk of getting heart disease just from the air you breathe here on campus. CSUSB’s Student Taskforce Against Tobacco (STAT) and the Student Health Center are working hard with the intent of all ‘Yotes leading longer, healthier lives.

Secondhand smoke causes around 46,000 heart-disease deaths of nonsmokers annually, according to the Center for Disease Control (CDC).

Currently, CSUSB policy prevents smoking no further than 20 feet of buildings, a policy that students at a recent STAT meeting said many students just don’t follow. STAT literature points out that as even a nonsmoking student, you “are exposed to smoke on campus as you enter and exit buildings, where smoking is the most heavily concentrated and from the drifts of smoke by those who smoke and walk.”

Further, on average over 100 children visit our campus every day to introduce them to the college experience. STAT members think that smoking on campus sends the wrong message to those students who are encouraged to follow in the footsteps of current college students.

The Surgeon General concluded that there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand tobacco smoke. Cigarette smoke respects no boundaries of walkways, windows or doorways.

Under this policy smoking on campus will only be allowed in designated areas. Other ash cans around campus will be removed and “No Smoking” signs would be displayed throughout campus areas.

You could be at risk of getting heart disease just from the air you breathe here on campus.

The only way to protect innocent passersby from second-hand smoke could be to ban it completely.

By NATALIE MORRISON
Staff Writer

Someone is killed by a drunk driver every 45 minutes. In 2008, an estimated 11,773 people died in drunk driving related crashes, according to www.madd.org (Mothers Against Drunk Driving).

Drinking and driving is something that we all know is wrong, but it continues to happen. The thought of getting a DUI is scary and can end up costing a lot of money, but an even worse outcome would be losing your own life or taking the life of someone else.

I came across a card that was put out by the Student Health Center here on campus. It’s an advertisement for the Yellow Cab Co. that offers free rides home within San Bernardino city limits for CSUSB students who may have had too much to drink. All that is required is a student ID.

This is a great way for CSUSB to take action and help prevent students from drinking and driving. The word for this service needs to get out there so that students can take advantage of the free rides.

“I live close to the campus and I didn’t know this service was available to us. I think it’s a great way to prevent drinking and driving and best of all, it’s free,” said CSUSB student Monica Gonzalez.

Local San Bernardino students and those who live near or on campus should always carry the card or phone number for the cab service with them. You never know when you might get stuck in a bind and need a ride home.

Personally, I know too many young adults who have gotten DUls. Not only is it dangerous to drive under the influence but the outcome could cost you an arm and a leg.

According to Friendsdrivesober.org, the average cost for a first offense DUI is between $7,828 and $10,828. That includes the minimum fine, penalty assessment, state restitution fund, alcohol-abuse education fund, blood or breath-testing fee, driving/alcohol awareness education, license revocation fee, attorney fees, and auto insurance increase.

I don’t know about you but if I had to pay that much for the mistake of a DUI it would be financially difficult to even finish college. In addition to all of the fees, many people get their licenses suspended for a year, and that’s only on a first offense. It would be near impossible to get to school, work, and other places without a driver’s license.

The Student Health Center here at CSUSB put this advertisement out for a reason. There are too many young adults who are getting behind the wheel after they have had too much to drink. By doing so, they are risking lives as well as hard earned paychecks.

Next time you feel that you’ve had too much to drink call the Yellow Cab Co. at (800) 340-8294 and don’t forget your student ID!

Free rides save lives

By NATALIE MORRISON
Staff Writer

The CSUSB MARC Program (Minority Access to Research Careers) is seeking excellent undergraduate students who plan to continue their academic careers and gain a Ph.D in research-based disciplines that have relevance to health such as psychology, biology, chemistry, etc.

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For more information contact Brittani Washington, Program Coordinator
E-Mail: bwash@csusb.edu • Phone: (909) 537-3152 • Office: FO-180
You finally got tickets to go see your all time favorite artist or band and you know it is going to be the best time of your life, or is it? Here are five signs that you are trying too hard.

1. Wearing too much memorabilia!
   - Wearing a hat, shirt, jacket, wrist band and shoes that say I love this band screams, "Look at me! Look how hard I'm trying to be a fan."
   - The majority of people are guilty of having one or two shirts from their favorite band or artist.
   - Supporting your favorite band or artist is a great thing, but looking like their stalker, a little freaky.

2. Don’t be such a groupie!
   - Every girl is guilty of screaming, "I love you Justin Bieber!" or whoever their music industry wannabe band is.
   - When you are crying, telling every stranger around you that you love that man, and jumping up and down like a five-year-old who actually meets Santa, you are trying too hard.
   - No one cares how many kids you two are going to have.

3. You’re no Beyoncé, quiet down.
   - Is it obvious that the band or artist is performing, but it’s impossible to hear them. Why?
   - Because you are singing on the top of your lungs wishing you were up there performing too.
   - Everyone sings along to the songs, but please leave the performance to the people who are paid to do it and let us hear them.

4. Put your phone down, no one’s calling you.
   - You are glued to your phone texting, twittering and updating your status every five seconds about how much you love the concert.
   - While at the same time you are trying to record the whole concert.
   - Everyone wants to share and remember this night, but you are going to have to take your eyes off the electronics to actually enjoy the show.

5. Personal space still matters.
   - If you can’t dance, then don’t. You don’t want to be the person who’s bumping into their neighbors. It’s not their fault you’re off beat.
   - They paid good money just like you did, so don’t ruin it for them.

INSIDE ...

Page 8

Page 9
On the Rise: Thursday Night Out

By JUSTIN IVEY
Staff Writer

Thursday Night Out has only been in existence for 13 months, but that doesn’t stop them from putting their hearts and souls into the music that they create.

Thursday Night Out consists of Dwayne Stewart on lead vocals, Jamil Leslie on bass and synth, Adam Gonzalez on drums and Leo Davis on keys. The band members met at Eisenhower High School in Rialto and all shared a love of music.

Thursday Night Out derives their music from a blend of hip-hop, electronica and R&B and add a unique blend of synth and bass to build a unique sound of their own. They look up to groups and artists who have lead the way and inspired a new generation who hope to follow in their footsteps.

“I’m inspired by a variety of artists,” said Stewart. “Kanye West is amazing. My favorite band of all time is Blink 182 and I love Hayley Williams from Paramore, but we have lead the way and inspired a new generation who hope to follow in their footsteps.

Another great song from the band is a song called, “Hollywood.” Right away, the tempo and the bass line hooks you in and again the rhythm keeps the song solid.

Stewart does a great job in telling a story of a young up-and-comer trying to get in to the Hollywood scene. Writing songs seems to be easy for the band. It seems like they have the right tools to build a solid musical career.

“The artist’s taste makes the song. The artist has to have passion in their writing or it might come off as fake. They’ve got to have passion for what they’re doing,” Stewart said.

“When we first got together, it was clear that we all gelled musically. We all got really into what we were doing,” Stewart said.

After their demos are complete, they are closer to getting to where they believe their music will take them and they hope that in the future they can help up and coming artists and even get the chance to work with their heroes.

“I would love to collaborate with Pharrell Williams one day,” Stewart said. For more music information and when they’ll be coming to a town near you, visit their Myspace page.

CSUSB Jazz Ensemble spices things up

By CALI CARTER
Staff Writer

In an entertainment period of blaring and obnoxious clutter, crazy outfits, and off-the-wall attitude, the CSUSB Jazz Ensemble’s music is a pleasant escape. Their music and harmony are pleasantly contrasted against the harsh noise of what some may consider “popular” music today.

They are a shining example of a great genre of music that is unique, and they know how to incorporate variety and put a great show.

String bass player Jonathan Frias said, “We make a mixture of a lot of different types of music, even hip-hop.” The department is open to any musician or music lover. It doesn’t matter who you are or what your major is, if you have an interest in jazz or making music for that matter, you’re encouraged to go out and audition to be a part of the diverse ensemble.

“When we first got together, it was clear that we all gelled musically. We all got really into what we were doing,” Stewart said.

The group of students, who rehearse weekly, hold concerts frequently on campus and perform around the Inland Empire on a regular basis. The Jazz Ensemble is known to perform at jazz festivals, schools and the annual ‘Lake Arrowhead Village Jazz Series’ in Lake Arrowhead, CA.

Legendary blues icon B.B. King also shared a stage with the ensemble November 2009 here at CSUSB. The Jazz group is unique, and they know how to incorporate variety and put on a great show.

The CSUSB music department has a lot to be proud of. In 2006 and 2008 the ensemble was invited to play at the Reno Jazz Festival. They even placed in the top ten during 2007.

The Jazz Ensemble has been invited again for the 2010 Reno Jazz Festival. They look up to groups and artists who are passionate about music and put the time and effort into it. They’re doing it for the love of music and are currently in the studio hard at work writing and recording new songs for their first set of demos.

“I am excited for where we are going,” said Stewart.

After their demos are complete, they are closer to getting to where they believe their music will take them and they hope that in the future they can help up and coming artists and even get the chance to work with their heroes.

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Here we go again. Brace yourself for 2010’s first installment of mindless, gross-out comedies.

Director, Kevin Smith’s “Cop Out” is a recycled buddy-cop movie about a veteran level-headed policeman Jimmy (Bruce Willis, pictured left) and his fanatical partner Paul (Tracy Morgan, pictured right) who together take-down a vicious drug lord.

Smith is most known for writing and directing “hitting-below-the-belt” comedies like “Clerk” and “Zack and Miri Make a Porno.” Smith sticks to his signature satire, however he left the writing to brothers Robb and Mark Cullens.

Sadly the Cullens brothers don’t even make an attempt to venture into new movie lands. Instead, they stick to the played out, but always lucrative buddy cop formula.

This film is full of throw-backs and clichés. Like the cop movies that have preceded it, within the first 15 minutes of the film, Jimmy and Paul are asked by their lieutenant to turn in their badges and guns although they’re in the middle of a big case. Of course Jimmy and Paul refuse to walk away from the case.

In addition, the Cullens brothers also recycle an overused secondary storyline with Jimmy and Paul’s investigation being constantly undermined by their square, straight-laced policemen nemesis played by Adam Brody and Kevin Pollak.

This movie feels like a modern day “Beverly Hills Cop.” It’s filmed in present-day Brooklyn. However, the dialogue is full of old cliché’s and at unusual times scenes are injected with old-school hip-hop songs.

This most notably occurred when Eric B. and Rakim’s ‘80s hit “Follow The Leader” was booming through the theater during the movie’s biggest chase scene. Willis (Jimmy) and Morgan (Paul) play NYPD detectives who are trying to recover Jimmy’s stolen valuable baseball card.

The recovery of this baseball card is vital to Jimmy because he needs to sell it in order to pay for his daughters impending wedding. His long-time partner and friend Paul agrees to help him get his card back.

Although Paul is totally on-board with helping Jimmy recover his card, he often finds himself side-tracked and preoccupied with suspensions that his wife is cheating on him during their long police hours.

In their pursuit to recover the card they discover that it ended up in the hands of a ruthless Mexican drug lord, Poh Boy (Guillermo Diaz), who collects baseball memorabilia.

Poh Boy agrees to return the baseball card if Jimmy and Paul find and recover a Mercedes Benz that was stolen from him.

The action begins as Jimmy and Paul find themselves in car chases and shootouts while simultaneously trying to recover both the baseball card and the Benz. The car chases are exiting and adrenaline-rushing, while the shootouts make you cringe.

Adding light to otherwise intense scenes is Morgan who is simply hilarious. It’s obvious that Morgan adlibbed throughout most of his scenes but it seemed to work. However, he is almost upstaged by equally funny Seann William Scott who plays Dave, an off-beat, quirky crook that Jimmy befriends.

Not to be overshadowed Willis holds his own, playing off both Morgan and Scott with his own dry humor.

All in all this is a funny movie. “Cop Out” is filled with more than enough wit and laughs to make up for the sub-standard storyline. Movie goers should see this movie without any expectations but to have a good time.
No thanks, I’ll pass on the tea

Grassroots organizations help get people motivated and activated in today’s shifting world of politics

By BRIAN SAUDE
Staff Writer

Looking on the brighter side of things, a new organization called Coffee Party USA offers a more productive equivalent to the well know Tea Party gatherings.

What I like about the Coffee Party, as opposed to the Tea Party, is their outlook on government.

Neither organization claims to be a political party, but rather groups of citizens driven by their specific political views.

Instead of seeing the government as an evil entity, every trying to strip away your freedoms, the Coffee Party “recognize that the federal government is not the enemy of the people, but the expression of our collective will, and that we must participate in the democratic process in order to address the challenges that we face as Americans.”

Coffee Party USA has one main objective – preserving democracy – and as far as I’m concerned, that’s the most American thing you can do.

Their mission statement says, “Our Founding Fathers and Mothers gave us an enduring gift – Democracy – and we must use it to meet the challenges that we face as a nation.”

You may be wondering what the difference between the two organizations are? Or why the Coffee Party didn’t just join the Tea Party protest?

First off, The Coffee Party does not want to be seen as an opponent to the Tea Party. In fact, they agree on many issues, such as fiscal responsibility and dissatisfaction with congress.

However, where the two parties differ is their approach to solving these problems. The Tea Parties are keen on the blame game and faintly clever signs. Ironically, many of these people were the same to call protesters “un-American” during the last administration.

The Coffee Party, on the other hand, is devoted to a call to action in a more progressive way.

“Standing out here in the rain on a Monday is not going to get bills passed,” Coffee Party organizer Jessica Sharp said. “But calling your legislators and writing your letter to the editor and things like that.”

In additional to why the Coffee Party caught my eye was they claimed to be 100 percent grassroots.

The Tea Party claimed to be 100 percent grassroots and they may well have started off as that, but as soon as FOX News caught on and all their pundits starting calling the shots, it’s hard to believe that there’s no agenda that’s been formulated.

The Coffee Party website claims that the organization has “No lobbyists here, No puntins, and no hyper-partisan strategists calling the shots in this movement. We are a spontaneous and collective expression of our sentiment that government – that is solution-oriented, not blame-oriented.”

Now the only question is, will they hold to that?

That to me is the most important factor to hear from a group dedicated to government reform, because I’m not exactly a huge fan of lobbyists.

The Coffee Party is encouraging its supporters to hold meetings, nationwide, on Saturday, March 13.

These meetings will be a chance for individuals to voice their opinions and work together with those on the left and right to find real ways in which we can productively make changes. As of when this article was written, the closest designated gathering point is in Los Angeles.

If you would like to attend one of these gatherings, visit the organizations website, coffeepartyusa.com.

Not only will their website help you find the closest meeting point, it will also offer you a wealth of information on the organization and their mission.

It’s simple, the current political system is not working and we need a major revision.

It’s time for Americans to speak up and let the government know we’re not yet out for blood, but we do demand significant change, and we want it now.

Insurance companies aim to drive up prices

With the June 2010 ballot drawing near there is one proposition we need to really take a closer look at, Proposition 17.

Proposition 17 is titled “Allows Auto Insurance Companies to Base Their Prices in Part on a Driver’s History of Insurance Coverage.”

This all sounds good when you read the title, but like most bills that reach the ballot, there’s miles of information we need to be aware of before we cast our votes.

If Proposition 17 passes it will allow insurance companies in the state to give what are known as “persistence discounts” to new customers.

Drivers who qualify for these discounts are those who have had continuous or nearly continuous coverage for the past five years.

Nearly continuous means you can’t have a lapse in coverage for more than 90 days otherwise you don’t qualify for the discount.

Proposition 17 is a bad idea and could have disastrous effects for people who don’t qualify.

In our struggling economy the word “discount” appeals to everyone, but that’s just what the supporters of the proposition want it to do.

While they have us reeling over the opportunity for a discount, we don’t see what’s really going on, the fact that this will cost many of us our dollars, and plenty of them.

At present there are 23.7 million licensed drivers in California, about 20 percent of those drivers fall into the category of those who have had lapses in their insurance coverage, and they won’t qualify.

Under Proposition 17 the drivers who do not qualify for the discount will be subject to increased costs of insurance at the insurance companies’ discretion.

Mercury Insurance, who is the state’s sixth-largest insurer, sponsors Proposition 17. So far they have paid over $3.5 million in donations towards getting this bill passed.

According to the Department of Insurance, Mercury has a “lengthy history of serious misconduct and has an attitude of contempt and/or abuse of its customers.”

It’s strange that a company with such a bad reputation would spend so much money on a bill to give us discounts.

If this is supposed to save us money, how is it going to help an insurance company?

They are all about making money, not saving us any. However, this most recent play is devious in its appearance; it’s more than just a grab at our wallets. The proposition’s true goal is far deeper.

What we don’t see is that this is just a first step in the process for insurance companies to break away from the state’s ability to regulate how much they charge for insurance.

Michael Hiltzik of the LA Times described the bill as, “Essentially the latest attempt by Mercury to eviscerate Proposition 103.”

Proposition 103, which was passed in 1988, gave insurance companies the right to give these same discounts to their own policyholders. The initiative was aimed at lowering insurance rates and giving state oversight for future rate hikes.

If Proposition 17 passes it will give insurance companies the right to charge whatever they want to the 20 percent of drivers who don’t qualify for the new discounts.

I seriously doubt that insurance companies would just hand us a discount like that, digging into their profit margin, without being able to make up the difference somehow, at the expense of those who probably can least afford it.

I’m not buying.

Car insurance prices have continued to rise over the years and California’s Proposition 17 aims to allow certain driver’s discounts at the expense of government regulation. The proposition is currently supported by the insurance companies.
Maturity required to be an adult at CSUSB

By MARY MARTINEZ
Copy Editor

As an older returning student, I’ve used lots of the resources provided at CSUSB to assist my re-entry into college life.

Most of these have proved helpful.

One however, has not: The Osher Adult Re-Entry Center located in the Student Union.

I’ve been back at school now for over a year. Now and then, I’d wander into the Adult Re-Entry Center to do some studying or to relax between classes.

Invariably, the center would be filled with young teenage students loudly yelling back and forth, often using profanity.

Music would blare from a radio and if I stood around inside the door long enough, someone who worked there would eventually, and rudely ask, “Can I help you?” As if they’d really rather not.

After spending several hours inside the center trying to study for a test, I had enough of hearing rowdy guys shout back and forth at each other about their sexual prowess while calling each other racial epithets.

I left and never went back.

On its website, the Osher Adult Re-Entry Center describes itself as, “an inviting place for you to be part of a community of folks much like yourself.”

That wasn’t really the case for me and other adult students I’ve talked to about it. Now I’m not saying I’m against having younger people in the center.

I love that the Student Union’s Centers aren’t supposed to be only for one type of people.

I think its great that men are free to enjoy the Women’s Center’s services and that the Pride Center is a safe zone for all.

I don’t care who is in the center, I just think that the people in charge of the center itself should preserve its intended environment.

I realize that I’m in college, and actually many of my friends here are in their teens and twenties.

I hang out with them a lot and really don’t mind loudness or even profanity (I definitely have no room to talk there!). I just think that if there is going to be a place set aside on campus that’s supposed to make me feel comfortable, then I should feel welcome and comfortable there.

I’ve heard from younger students who don’t frequent the Student Union that much, that it’s a place for cliques and “groups” and not really for them.

Maybe the people who work in the Adult Re-Entry Center and any other centers in the union should remember their intended audience and that their offices weren’t meant to be an exclusive hang-out for their friends.

To the Adult Re-Entry Center, all I ask is that you at least enforce some kind of respectful environment on the one place on campus that’s reserved for older students.

The Center’s website claims: “we know that non-traditional students face unique challenges and that returning or entering school at this stage in your life can seem daunting.” Honestly, returning to school wasn’t that daunting for me.

The only times that I’ve ever really not fit in here were at the one place where I was supposed to feel the most comfortable.

Staff Writer Mary Martinez

BE HIS RISE FROM HOSPITAL CHARTS TO MUSIC CHARTS.

Within every one of us is the power to heal. It’s called marrow, and thousands of patients could potentially be saved by a marrow transplant.

Join the Be The Match® marrow registry and fight for those with life-threatening diseases. Who knows? You could be the one to save a life.

Take the first step at BeTheMatch.org.
TechSpot

Welcome to the Chronicle’s peek into all things tech. Check this space for weekly news and views on the wide world of phones, computers, TVs, games and the Internet. We’ll do the browsing so you don’t have to! Enjoy!

Microsoft releases details on iPad fighter

Engadget dropped exclusive details about Microsoft’s proposed dual screen, touch/pen based “digital journal,” the Courier, last Friday afternoon.

The OS and functionality look stunning in Microsoft’s product demo video, but (as always) we’ll remain highly skeptical until we see the new device in real-life action.

The Courier is meant to be extremely portable and at less than an inch thick, a little over a pound and just bigger than a 5x7 photo when closed, it’s looking like it will fit the bill.

Engadget’s got a whole host of photos and some really interesting HD video of the user interface in action.

iPad date announced, Apple stocks soar

Apple stocks spiked to an all-time high last Friday afternoon when the Cupertino-based giants of all that is awesome announced the release date for the iPad, Apple’s new tablet-style device with a 9.7-inch capacitive touch display.

Apple fanboys can circle April 3 on their calendar and have their credit cards ready by March 12, the date Apple will begin accepting pre-orders (we’d definitely place an order if we had the cash laying around).

Apple stocks closed for the day at $218.95, a hefty 4 percent bounce that should come as a vote of confidence for any Apple shareholders out there that remain skeptical about the iPad’s potential.

Where are you, TV networks?

While we’re on the subject of tablets and tablet-like devices, there’s an issue that’s been really irritating us lately. When are the TV networks going to understand that the only was to save their own necks is to stop fighting the relentless advance of new technology?

We don’t want to get off on a rant here, but we’re sure that Steve Jobs and Apple must have laid it out for the big three (we’re looking at you, ABC, NBC and CBS) before the iPad was announced. Still, TV subscription deals were again conspicuously absent from Apple’s last keynote. The networks need to open it up if they want to survive.

got talent?

Here at the Chronicle, we’re always looking for new, entertaining content to run in our paper.

If you or someone you know is an illustrator, cartoonist, graphic artist, writer or columnist looking for an outlet, look no further.

Send us an e-mail at sbchon@csusb.edu.

We’d love to help you reach the audience you deserve!
Upcoming Events

Pride Spirit Week
Mon., 3.8.10 - Fri., 3.12.10
Pride Center
This week is packed full of fun activities where everyone is welcome to come out and show their LGBT pride. There will be exciting contests, movies, games and prizes.

Phenomenal Women
Thurs., 3.11.10, 12 p.m. - 2 p.m.
SMSU Theater
The Women’s Resource Center will be celebrating "Phenomenal Women" who have paved the way for several generations to follow. In this event, we will be taking on the rolls of great women in history and perform their work on stage for all to enjoy.

Game Night
Fri., 3.12.10, 8 p.m. - 10 p.m.
SMSU Bay
Want to relax after a long day of class? Come to the Student Union Bay for Game Night! Food and refreshments will be also be served. Come on over and have some fun playing the Wii and some classic board games! Everyone is welcome to come!
Playing the numbers game

By JESUS ROMERO  Staff Writer

In sports, a number can be everything, and for many it’s a form of identity. The greatest athletes are often remembered by their number hanging in the rafters. Athletes wear different numbers for different reasons. Some choose a lucky number or their birth date. Some choose the number their childhood hero wore, while some take the round or pick they were chosen in the draft.

In the early years of baseball, the way you determined your number was based on where you were in your line up. You were number 1 if you were the leadoff man and 2 for the next guy, and so on. Numbers expanded after franchises retired numbers. We see 23 and automatically think of Michael Jordan. What about 99? No, not Manny Ramirez. The Great One, Wayne Gretzky.

These are some of the greatest athletes ever, and besides legends, stories and old film, the only thing they can be remembered by is their numbers.

Recently, one of the greatest basketball players in today’s world, LeBron James, has put in a request for a new number. He currently wears 23, which he wore in high school and I’m sure all of growing up. Like everyone else, he wanted to be "like Mike." But now he wants to pay honor to MJ and wear up the 23 jersey and wear 6. James wore the number 6 in the Olympics in 2004 and 2008.

Jordan didn’t wear his usual 23 either because in the Olympics they play by the International Basketball Federation (FIBA) rules and they only allow numbers 4 through 15. I’m not sure if anyone noticed but the number 6 is an upside down 9, (Jordan’s Olympic number).

Also numbers represent championships. New York Yankees Manager, Joe Girardi was number 27 when he joined the pinstripes. The Yankees had 26 Championships and the 27 stood for the next one Girardi was going to lead them to. Since the Yankees won the World Series in 2009, the skipper changed his number to 28, to reflect his pursuit of the next championship.

So when it comes to choosing a number it could be a tougher decision than you think. It may be a way for people to remember you by or it may be a reason people may want to follow in your footsteps.

‘Yotes end strong, await NCAA’s

By DEVLIN AMBERS  Staff Writer

The Coyote men’s basketball team finished another strong regular season with a 20-7 record. The Coyotes finished third in the CCAA (California Collegiate Athletic Association) behind first place Cal Poly Pomona and second place Humboldt State.

Even though the Coyotes had a good regular season, the year is not over.

The Coyotes wrapped up the CCAA Conference tournament last week.

The Coyotes are now working hard and getting ready for the grueling NCAA Division-II tournament.

Coach Jeff Oliver has a lot to be happy about, adding another successful season to his resume in a league which was extremely competitive.

Also, the Coyotes front court played well considering they lost last year’s star Brandon Brown.

Bryan LeDuc and Devin Davis dominated low post play for Oliver’s Coyotes this season. The two combined to score over 24 points and grab 13 rebounds per game this season.

Not only did Oliver’s ‘Yotes get superior front line play, they received great backcourt production out of guards Corey Custon and Aaron Hill, who will be returning to the team next year.

Custon and Hill supplied the Coyotes with over 21 points per game this season.

The backcourt duo led the team in assists, steals and minutes played.

The Coyotes also had three players make the CCAA All-Conference Teams.

LeDuc made first-team all-conference while Custon and Hill made second-team all-conference.

The ‘Yotes finished up with a 4-2 non-conference record and a 17-5 CCAA record and also sported an impressive home record going 13-2 inside Cousoulis arena.

However, they did struggle on the road going a mediocre 4 through 15.

It may be a way for people to remember you by or it may be a reason people may want to follow in your footsteps.

The ‘Yotes dominated the opposition in impressive fashion all year. Strong team contributions were made by players like Lawrence Tyson, who averaged nearly ten points a game.

The pair have boosted the Coyote offense by averaging a combined 13 points per game. If the Coyotes plan to go far they are going to need the same production and more from players like LeDuc, Custon, Hill, Jefferson, Tyson, Williams, Davis and Gaston.

Also numbers represent championships. New York Yankees Manager, Joe Girardi was number 27 when he joined the pinstripes. The Yankees had 26 Championships and the 27 stood for the next one Girardi was going to lead them to. Since the Yankees won the World Series in 2009, the skipper changed his number to 28, to reflect his pursuit of the next championship.

So when it comes to choosing a number it could be a tougher decision than you think. It may be a way for people to remember you by or it may be a reason people may want to follow in your footsteps.

Coyote Coverage

Upcoming Schedule

Men’s Basketball

NCAA Tournament: TBA

Baseball

March 12 vs Chico State--2 p.m.

March 13 vs Chico State--11 a.m.

March 14 vs Chico State--11 a.m.

Softball

March 10 vs Dixie State--1 p.m.

March 12 vs San Francisco St.--1 p.m.

March 13 vs San Francisco St.--11 a.m.

Water Polo

March 11 vs Azusa Pacific--3 p.m.

March 14 vs Bucknell (@UCSB)

March 14 @ UC-Santa Barbara

Final CCAA Standings

Men’s Basketball

Cal Poly-Pomona 18-4, 21-5

Humboldt St. 18-4, 22-6

CSUSB 17-5, 20-7

CSU Dominguez Hills 16-6, 16-12

Chico State 11-11, 16-12

San Francisco St. 10-12, 17-14

Cal State L.A. 10-12, 14-14

Sonoma State 10-12, 11-17

UC San Diego 7-15, 8-17

CSU Stanislaus 6-16, 10-17

CSU Monterey Bay 6-16, 8-19

CSU East Bay 3-19, 6-21

Women’s Basketball

UC San Diego 19-3, 25-3

Cal Poly-Pomona 18-4, 22-5

Chico State 16-6, 20-8

CSU Monterey Bay 14-8, 18-9

Humboldt St. 14-8, 17-10

San Francisco St. 11-11, 15-16

CSUSB 9-13, 13-15

Sonoma State 9-13, 11-16

CSU Stanislaus 9-13, 10-16

CSU Dominguez Hills 9-13, 10-18

Cal State L.A. 2-20, 4-23

CSU East Bay 2-20, 2-25
Recruits, coaching help women’s polo turn around

By AARON HUGHES
Staff Writer

The CSUSB women’s water polo team has done a 180. This time last year the lady ’Yotes were 4-6 and finished 12-23, but after a strong start this year, they’re 10-4.

A combination of recruiting, team spirit and the hands-on approach by their new coach, Sarah Reneker, has contributed to the success.

“We’ve brought in some really good recruits this season in Ashley de Jonckheere, Lenzie Quist, and Teresa Martinez,” said Emily Hove, a returning sophomore.

“Having them come in is a huge advantage. Also, we didn’t lose anyone to graduation last year so the chemistry is really good and having these solid players come in has helped us tremendously.”

Coach Reneker agrees with Hove.

“The new additions to the team have been a bonus. The key is that there’s a night and day difference in heart of the team between this year and last. The heart and the passion have increased and that has everything to do with the way we’re playing,” Reneker said.

Although the majority of the teams the Coyotes have played this season are not part of their conference, the games have been good preparation for league play.

“The rest of the season is going to be a lot more challenging. We just played Cal State East Bay who are ranked 19th in the nation and we lost by a single goal in overtime,” said Hove.

“Even though we lost, it was a big accomplishment. It showed that we’re really improved. Last year at the same tournament we lost to them by five goals.”

Although chemistry and recruiting are important factors, Coach Reneker’s impact is huge. This is her first true season as head coach, and her players think her hands-on approach is working.

“The fact that she’ll get in the water with us and practice is huge. She plays as if she was a player on the team, like one of us,” said Danika Vera, who is in her second season with the team.

Hove agrees, “Because our Coach was an All American and has only been out of college for a couple years, she knows how it is.”

“She knows what we’re going through and how to overcome obstacles, she can relate to every one of us. She’s experienced many of the same things we go through and knows what she did to get past those things. She passes that on to us.”

However, despite all of his recent success, what Hunter's most proud of is being a good father and husband.

‘Sports Madness’ host balances family, college

By MAHELI VALDIVIA
Staff Writer

Coyote Radio’s Erik Hunter is living proof that it’s never too late to accomplish your dreams.

Getting an education is important for Hunter, host of Coyote Radio’s “Sports Madness,” but going back to school was a difficult choice.

After high school, Hunter was unable to attend college right away, since he had to work to support his wife and kids.

“My life was miserable,” Hunter said. “All I did was work, until there was a point where I decided to go back to college.”

Hunter decided to continue his education at Riverside Community College (RCC) but he didn’t know what he wanted to major in.

“I wasn’t sure what I wanted to major in when I was at RCC,” Hunter said.

“All I knew is that I loved sports and I needed a career that involved sports.”

In 2007, he transferred to CSUSB, although he still wasn’t sure what he was going to major in.

One day during class, one of his classmates, who worked at Coyote Radio, told him that Lacey Kendall, the director of Coyote Radio, needed help with one of the shows.

“I first started by helping out the guy who was in charge of the sports show,” Hunter said.

“I loved the show and I decided that I wanted to major in Mass Communications.”

He spends about three hours putting these stories together and interviewing the student athletes or their coaches.

Also, he gathers the questions he would be asking during the show.

“Getting an education is important for Hunter, host of Coyote Radio’s ‘Sports Madness,’ but going back to school was a difficult choice.”

Hunter tries to make the show more intimate by interviewing the students and coaches.

“I’ve had the experience at the collegiate level and I know the intensity that they need to bring. Because of that I show them new moves that they’ll be able to use in games and improve technique. The more intensity we have the harder it will be for other teams to keep up.”

Intensity has been a constant this season, even in practice and the hard work and extra swimming are paying off.

“I think we are a fourth-quarter team. There are times when we’ve started kind of slow, but we’ve done a ton of swimming and conditioning so we’re all in good shape.”

That shows in the fourth quarter that we’re strong. In our overtime win against Occidental, we were able to pull away and win,” said Hove.

Reneker is please with their results so far.

“The team in general is working really well together. They’re making each other look really good. As long as they continue to play their hearts out every game, I won’t be disappointed,” said Reneker.

“A top three finish is a realistic goal for us; I could see that it happening.”

Only time will tell.
CSUSB men’s baseball team is proving their pre-season ranking wrong, with a record of 11-2 overall thus far, ranking fifth in the initial NCBWA poll.

The Coyotes were able to make a statement to Cal State LA by sweeping the series after falling short to the Golden Eagles earlier in the season.

The Coyotes went into the series against CSULA as a different team with a different attitude than their first encounter in the season opener.

After falling short to the Golden Eagles, 2-10, a full night practice was held after the drive home from Compton and it became the turning point of the season for the players.

“Coach just told us that we couldn’t play scared and that they could tell in our eyes that we were,” said outfielder Matt Winn. After that night practice we just came back and we’ve been winning ever since.”

“We literally drove from Compton and everyone thought we were going back to the school but we came back to the field with all the lights on and one of the coaches that wasn’t at the game waiting for us,” said shortstop James Kono.

Though the Coyotes went into the last minute practice tired from the two hour drive and defeated from the disappointing loss, the team that came out of it started to believe and work together.

“It was probably the best practice we’ve had all year, everyone was just like it sucks to be here, but we were working hard and everyone is still working hard,” said Winn.

Ever since the night practice, the Coyotes have gone 11-1 in their conference games, sweeping both Cal State Monterey Bay and Cal State LA.

It was a bold move by Head Coach Don Parnell, but proved to the best thing he could do for his team to become successful.

Returning players from last year all agree that the team this season is drastically different because of everyone’s work ethic as well as the team chemistry.

“Last year no one even really tried to play as a team, but now we realize that we have potential so it’s a lot easier for us,” Winn said.

“Last year we had a lot of slackers, so everyone just gravitated towards the slackers,” Kono said. “This year it’s the opposite. Everyone works hard and someone isn’t we can see it.”

Senior outfielder Cody Madison believes that it’s the chemistry between players and coaches that have contributed to the team’s success so far.

“We have better players that want to buy in and listen to the coaches and last year we had a lot of individuals instead of buying into the team,” said Madison.

With talented players working together as a team, the Coyotes believe that this year they can advance to playoffs and have a chance in the Collegiate World Series.

“As long as everyone stays healthy, and everyone keeps playing as a team and no one falls off, I think we have a really good chance,” Madison said.

You can catch the new and improved Coyotes at their next series at home at Perris Hill Park against Chico State beginning March 12.

The Coyote men’s golf team finished fifth in the 54-hole Coyote Classic Collegiate Golf tournament hosted by CSUSB.

Senior Gene Webster Jr. won the individual tournament with an impressive 196, 14 strokes under par.

“I haven't won a collegiate golf tournament since the 2007 NCAA West-Regional my freshman year. So, it is nice to get back into the winners circle,” Webster said.

The two-day tournament, held at the Arrowhead Country Club, featured some of the best schools from across the country.

CSUSB started the tournament in 12th place, but came back the second day to move up to fifth.

Webster has been a stand out golfer for the Coyotes since his freshman season.

He was the team’s leading player his sophomore season, averaging 73.5 strokes per round and helping the Coyotes finish in second in the CCAA.

During the Coyote Classic, Webster said he struggled driving the ball at first, but his game quickly picked up before the finish.

“My putter was the club that excelled throughout the tournament. I felt very comfortable with the speed of the greens and was able to make the majority of my short putts as well as make some longer ones. Holes 17 and 18 during round one got me moving in a positive direction when I birdied both of them,” Webster said.

“I felt like those back-to-back birdies gave me some momentum heading into round two.”

Webster’s attitude about the game says a lot about how successful he is able to be in each tournament.

He remains focused no matter how well he and the team are playing.

“One of the major aspects of playing golf that I hold close to me is the ability to stay in the present moment and to possess a one-shot mindset,” he said.

“I try not to dwell or celebrate on a prior hole that I have already completed, I try to maintain my composure throughout the day to give myself the optimum opportunity to execute each shot to the best of my ability.”

Senior Joe Allids kept on track and tied for a finish in 18th place with a 214 (77, 67, 70), just four strokes above par.

One stroke behind Allids was senior Thomas Chu, who finished with a 215, tying for 21st place.

Chu averaged 76.1 strokes per round last year and also excelled this season.

He led the team to a third place finish in their last tournament, Cal State San Marcos Invitational in February, where he finished fifth overall.

The Coyotes may have placed fifth out of the 17 teams playing in the Coyote Classic, but Webster beat out 88 golfers to steal the tournament.

The next match for CSUSB will be the SoCal Inter-collegiate, hosted by UCSD, on March 22 and 23.