November 7th 2011

CSUSB
Application confusion causes expulsion

California Baptist University student expelled after discrepancies over her gender on campus documents

By VERONICA NATAL
Staff Writer

Domaine Javier, a transgender woman, was expelled from California Baptist University after appearing on MTV’s reality show “True Life,” where she revealed she was biologically male.

In an interview with Javier on Nov. 2, she said the university had originally sent her a letter saying she was temporarily expelled for being logically male.

“I was shocked!” said Javier. “I didn’t think it [gender] should be an issue of admission,” continued Honn-Alex. The CSUSB Pride Center Coordinator was asked about the matter, “When I read stories of transgender people being discriminated against and ostracized it validates for me the importance of having a Pride Center where everyone can be celebrated and affirmed for who they are,” she said.

CSUSB senior Natasha Zahra died Saturday Oct. 30 at Arrowhead Regional Medical Center from complications after surgery from a third-floor bridge of Jack Brown Hall the previous Thursday.

CSUSB Men and Women’s soccer recap and season review

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Girls choose booze over food

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Obama announces loan relief plan

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Highway reconstruction to be completed

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Day of the Dead cultural art on display at CSUSB

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In memoriam
Cordie Natasha Zahra

CSUSB Men and Women’s soccer recap and season review

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CSUSB senior Natasha Zahra died Saturday Oct. 30 at Arrowhead Regional Medical Center from complications from surgery after falling from a third-floor bridge of Jack Brown Hall the previous Thursday.

Services were held for Natasha Wednesday Nov. 2 and her funeral was held Thursday Nov. 3 in Colton, where she lived and attended high school. Several CSUSB and former Colton High students showed to pay their respects.

“She was a very dedicated, hard worker with a brain as large as her heart. She was compassionate, intelligent and had a spark that made her a real presence,” said former high school classmate Kevin Miller.

“She had the biggest heart of anyone I know. She truly cared for her friends and was always there for them to listen and help however she could. Just being around her brought a smile to your face, even on your worst days, and no matter what stress she was going through, she always had a smile just for you,” said CSUSB student and former high school classmate Elisa Valencia.

Natasha was a nursing major on a President’s Academic Excellence Scholarship and a student mentor.

Natasha was a personal friend of mine for six years and I can say with certainty that she will be sorely missed.

by Richard Bowie, Executive Editor
San Bernardino County will see a population rise of convicted persons due to Assembly Bill 109 going into effect. County law enforcement fears a rise in gang population and already has the third-highest gang population, following Cook and L.A.

“San Bernardino has a high gang population. With the amount of inmates that will be transferred, we expect the number to increase,” said Cindy Bachman of the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s public affairs.

County officials are currently facing the challenges of expanding their departments and increasing the number of employees to meet the new demand. “The task we now face is making enough space to accommodate the new inmates,” said Bachman. Gov. Brown’s state funding will provide money to the county jail to cover the new cost; however, some feel the state is unable to determine how many of the incoming inmates will be gang members.

“San Bernardino has a high gang population. Around 33,000 criminals are expected to be transferred, of which an estimated 6,500 will come to San Bernardino County. Due to state officials’ classification of inmates, county law enforcement officials are unable to determine how many of the incoming inmates will be gang members,” said San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Office expressed that residents should not be concerned with public safety. “Public safety is not an issue,” said Bachman.

According to the National Gang Threat Assessment, San Bernardino’s gang population is currently at 40,558, falling third to Cook County, Ill., and Los Angeles County. Out of the 2 million residents in San Bernardino County, 2 percent have been labeled as gang members, putting San Bernardino County ahead of Los Angeles County which is at 0.7 percent. San Bernardino has nearly triple the amount of gang members as neighboring Riverside County according to FBI reports.

There are currently an estimated 1,100 gang members here in San Bernardino. San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Office to increase Against Street Hoodlums, a joint effort of law enforcement agencies to end gang activity in San Bernardino.

“Any decreases in crime, for us, would be concerned with public safety. “Public safety is not an issue,” said Bachman.

The San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department has made it clear they are able to withstand any challenges AB-109 poses.
Freeway completion expected in 2013

By ANTONIO SUAREZ
Staff Writer

The reconstruction of Interstate 215 has made the commute for some students unbearable. In recent months heavy reconstruction efforts have started changing the shape of Interstate 215, and made it impossible for some to get to their destinations on time.

There are several portions of the freeway, both northbound and southbound, that have been reduced to two lanes.

“Every morning on my way to school I get stuck on the freeway. It adds 30 minutes to my commute,” said student Elisa Martinez who commutes from Chino and drives northbound on Interstate 215.

Reconstruction of the freeway began in February of 2007. The main goal of the reconstruction is to change the amount of vehicles the freeway can accommodate.

This is mainly due to the drastic increase in population the county has experienced since Interstate 215 was first opened in 1959.

Originally, the freeway had three lanes going in each direction. The traffic the interstate received then was able to accommodate the amount of vehicles on the road without causing heavy congestion. With too many daily commuters on Interstate 215 (many of which are CSUSB students) the need for the expansion was apparent even before February of 2007.

Now with the greater increase in population that San Bernardino has experienced, this reconstruction is essential to keep the freeways and interstates in this county from becoming parking lots. To gain a better perspective of the situation, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, the population of the county in 1960 was approximately 503,591 — today, the approximate population count is over 2 million.

After the reconstruction is complete, the interstate will have five lanes in both the northbound and southbound directions.

The average daily traffic is also expected to increase from its last measure of 83,000 drivers in 2003 to an expected 135,000 drivers in 2030 according to San Bernardino Associated Governments (SANBAG).

The plan also will attempt to consolidate student loans to 15 percent interest rates, and loan debt forgiveness will be for 20 years instead of 25 years.

“The government is trying to be more generous to students,” said Ruiz. “It allows students to catch up. The depletion of the grace period makes it vital to obtain a job after college before the interest rates pile up.”

The advice for students is to know their options and not avoid payment.

“The interest for your student loans will stack up in the six months after graduation,” she emphasized.

The plan brought excitement to students, however some say that it may or may not assist.

“It may or may not assist,” said Obama. “We did not come to support students, we need to decrease monthly student loan payments and help students, especially the struggling students have loans.”

President Barack Obama’s proposed plan of decreasing monthly student loan payments attempts to help students, but according to officials, it needs employment to go up in order to work.

Obama announced in October at the University of Colorado that the congressional measure which reduces monthly student loan payments would go into effect starting in 2012 instead of 2014.

The plan brought excitement to students, however some say that if unemployment continues to increase the plan won’t be effective.

“It may or may not assist,” said Roseanna Ruiz, director of financial aid on campus. “What has to make it balance is the jobs,” she added.

The plan will affect students who have applied for federal student loans from 2008 to today.

For students in this category, their monthly payments will decrease to 10 percent of their discretionary income, which is their income after paying for food and shelter.

The plan also will attempt to consolidate student loans to 15 percent interest rates, and loan debt forgiveness will be for 20 years instead of 25 years. “The government is trying to be more generous to students,” said Ruiz. “It allows students to catch up.”

According to the financial aid department, 82 percent of CSUSB students are on some type of aid and approximately 10,000 students have loans.

“The Senate, however, voted to get rid of the six month grace period,” said Ruiz.

In addition to the expansion of lanes, the interstate will also have ramps connecting it to the 210 freeway from northbound and southbound directions.

The ramps that are currently being constructed are an Interstate 215 northbound merger to the 210 westbound, and a 210 eastbound merger to Interstate 215 southbound.

Once construction is finished, county residents and students can expect less congestion and shorter commutes on the freeway.

The length of the reconstruction is 7.5 miles and it is expected to be completed by 2013. The total cost of the project is an estimated $800 million. This project was funded by a series of federal, state and local funds.

Sanbag.ca.gov provides motorists with images, videos and updates on any closures or detours that can be expected to ease commuter traffic.

The Press-Enterprise

San Bernardino Associated Governments

The Press-Enterprise

Monica Gallegos | Chronicle Photo

New Obama loan plan

By MONICA GALLEGOS
Staff Writer

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Monica Gallegos | Chronicle Photo

Transgender student forced to transfer out of Cal Baptist

Continued from Pg. 1

On the CSUSB application there is one section called “Other Name(s)” where you can put down what you were known as at a previous time. “This section would be a starting point to match academic record if there was ever a problem,” said Reed.

As reported in The Press-Enterprises, “in an e-mailed statement, university spokesman Mark Wyatt wrote, “California Baptist University does not comment on student disciplinary matters or other confidential student information.”

Javier said on her job application she put male because they asked for her sex.

She also explained that the store manager must have changed it to female because she thought Javier was biologically female. The same thing happened when she applied to Riverside Community College, the school she currently attends.

“What you see is what you get,” said Javier. “My counselor and job manager changed my sex on my applications because of what they saw when they met me. That’s how others perceive me and I don’t perceive myself, a male.”

Horn-Alex said, “I hope the academic institution that the student ends up in is welcoming and affirming to her and everyone in the queer community.”

Javier explained that the situation is going to delay her education to nursing school by at least a year.

When asked what she was going to mark under gender on the next application, she responded, “Female! I have no regrets.”

Monica Gallegos | Chronicle Photo

Domaine Javier is currently attending Riverside Community College (RCC) after she was expelled.
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Keep the law out of students’ lifestyle

By SUANNA GUTIERREZ
Staff Writer

By attending a state-run campus we silently agree to the behavioral expectations set out by the government running our institutions. However, I feel that in no way did we ever agree to an institution deciding what is or isn’t an acceptable lifestyle choice. People’s choice to smoke isn’t warmly embraced by the greater populous of society as it is, and now in addition to the widely expressed discouragement of their lifestyle choice, smokers on campuses are now punishable by California state law.

Assembly Bill (A.B.) No. 795, a law allowing the active enforcement of smoking laws on California public post-secondary campuses has been passed by Governor Jerry Brown.

This bill is an elaboration of the law previously in place, making violators of smoking policies punishable by citation and fines of up to $100.

I understand, as we all should, that the government on a state or federal level has never been developed and put in place to protect the greater good of society. The perspective that cigarette smoke may provide a threat to the safety of society’s health is one that while can be supported, I strongly disagree that we should use that as an excuse to limit the ability and free will to smoke.

Carlos Carrio, Health Educator and Wellness Coordinator at CSUSB, says he supports the passing of A.B. 795.

“Cigarette smoking is the most preventable cause of premature death in the United States and there is no safe level of secondhand smoke exposure,” Carrio said.

“The passage of A.B. 795 is an important step forward by allowing California’s fine public colleges the opportunity to protect the health of students, faculty and campus visitors.”

Society is made up of individuals who have the right to decide their lifestyles for themselves. The protection of those rights is just as important as societies’ health.

I feel that to some extent, since this bill was never placed on a ballot for the effectuated campuses to support or disagree with, smokers among the student body and faculty alike are being discriminated against.

In addition, if the government can pass laws like A.B. 795, in order to help protect the health of its population, then it shouldn’t be able to financially benefit from tax profits made off of tobacco products that it attempts to “protect” its people from.

The schools affected by A.B. 795 are not receiving financial benefits from tobacco products. However, with their newly granted ability to fine students up to $100 apiece, money definitely seems to be an attractive prospect of this bill.

Student and faculty smokers are not smoking to cause conflict or harm to any person on the CSUSB campus. Their choice to smoke cigarettes doesn’t make their individual liberties any less important or less valid than any non-smoker.

Most smokers on the CSUSB campus respectfully comply and smoke within the designated smoking areas.

Smokers don’t need a law hanging over their heads telling them where and when they can smoke, and they certainly do not deserve to be fined or punished because of their personal choices in their health.

A strapped Earth can ill afford any more babies

Sustainable or not for the planet, the human population reached 7 billion Oct. 31

By CHRIS JOHNSON
Staff Writer

Baby making has reached a new high as the human population reached seven billion on Halloween day according to The Huffington Post.

Can the Earth afford seven billion people? Can we even implement ways to manage population growth in the near future?

I personally feel that we have never been able to sufficiently support the population—not 10, 20, or even 100 years ago.

Growing is the true issue that must be managed and we won’t be able to care for everyone as long as greed takes priority over all. For example, on a global scale Africa was a country of abundance when it came to resources, landscape and people.

Now it is sad to say that after centuries of being exploited by other countries, Africa is the poster child for feed the children commercials.

On the local level, inner cities throughout America are struggling daily with poverty, social injustice and crime according UCR Professor Mike Davis’s article “Fortress L.A.”

As urbanization continues to grow in developed nations, places like San Bernardino will be negatively impacted as already one in three residents live in poverty, according to The Sun.

Social security, housing, college admissions and competition for scarce financial aid are negatively affected as the population rises. I believe these issues will not be fully addressed by our local or national governments.

In order to reduce poverty in our cities we must fight to keep jobs from being outsourced, fight to keep our local businesses alive and put our money back into our poverty-stricken communities.

Our system is designed for inner cities to be the workhorse of our nation. That workhorse was put down a long time ago however.

As our population continues to grow, more people will have to endure a harsh life fighting and scraping against other poor to achieve the “American Dream.”

For many of the larger cities in the world, the population growth has continued, especially in the urban environment and those tend to be poorer cities, according to James Fenelon, a sociology professor at CSUSB.

We are the 99 percent, yet that one percent controls a majority of the money and has the authority to make decisions on resource distribution.

These people have what some people call “old money,” which is money inherited from generation to generation that has been multiplying along the way.

For the rest of us the definition of old money is the change that has been sitting in our piggy bank for the last couple of years.

Our world is evolving and shall continue to expand whether people like it or not. We must make the necessary adjustments for the betterment of all people and not just the select few.
Drunkorexia: a shameful, stupid practice

Attemping to prevent weight gain, drunkorexics starve themselves to compensate for booze calories

By VICKI COLBERT
Staff Writer

S

taving your body to make room for alco-
holic calories is pathetic. Even more pathetic is to starve your body just to get that “feel good” high instantly. Drunkorexia needs to stop, especially for females.

A new drinking trend among college campuses is “drunkorexia.” Many students may not know what the term means, but probably practice this ritual every Friday and Saturday night. Drunkorexia is the intentional restriction of food for two reasons: to get drunk faster and to compensate for the extra intake of calories attributed to alcohol.

While this sounds ridiculous and dangerous, drunkorexia is becoming more common, especially among female college students. According to a study conducted by the University of Missouri, 16 percent of college students surveyed admitted that this starvation technique also saved them money that would have been spent on food, but instead bought alcohol. Women were found to be three times more likely to participate in this practice. A sorority member on campus, who asked not to be named, wasn’t shocked when informed about drunkorexia.

“My sorority sisters would tell me that they were ‘starving’ their figures. They would come in from the fraternity parties, then spend the majority of the time in the gym,” she said.

“Many women know alcohol contains a lot of calories, and with all this pressure from the media to maintain a thin figure, I’m not surprised women have found an alternative route to reduce calorie intake.”

A competition has to do with this craze . . . as well as the government.

As of 2010, Obama’s new health care legislation includes a mandate that every major food chain to list the amount of calories per food item served based on a 2000 calorie per day diet.

It is as though we can never enjoy a greasy cheeseburger without the amount of calories listed, so everyone knows, dieting or not, exactly what we’re consuming. It seems this concept of calorie counting has now transferred to alcoholic beverages. Regardless of

Recyclables goes in recycling, trash goes in trash

By NICOLE MALDONADO
Staff Writer

I’ve been told to be nice when talking about the absent-minded students that don’t recycle correctly on campus. However, some of you need to get a clue.

Everyone needs to be aware of what they throw away in trash receptacles, especially the blue recycling containers around campus.

Every time I walk past a recycling bin on campus it’s mostly full of trash that does not belong in the recycling bin.

A majority of students do not pay attention or care to recycle. This is a problem and is detrimental to the future of our environment.

Figuring out ways to keep our planet’s

resources in our future will encourage a larger percentage of students to go green on campus if we implement a recycling incentive program.

One effective way to help students recycle correctly is to upgrade our trash receptacles. Different shaped holes could be placed on the top of each bin to ensure the right product goes into the right bin.

For example, a thin rectangular shape for sheets of unwanted paper could be implemented outside of classrooms, especially toward the end of the quarter.

I believe we should have all recycling and trash receptacles together in a row so students can choose the correct bin to avoid throwing away random items into the nearest bin.

Another practical idea is to have the Coyote Bookstore collaborate with students and reward them with a percentage off of purchased items based on a point system. The points would account for how much recycling students bring in at the end of each month.

A competition between departments may also be a fun way to get students and professors to recycle. The winning department would receive a reward at the end of each quarter, and an even bigger prize if winning consecutively for all three quarters.

According to benefits-of-recycling.com, recycling saves landfill space, helps save energy, money and most importantly, conserves Earth’s natural resources. This method proved to be safe and healthy for Frank, taking in food calories instead of starving. Not only is this a smarter way of tracking calories, but food also allows blood to absorb the alcohol slower.

Not to sound like a parent, but if you’re drinking just to get shit-faced, you’re not drinking responsibly. If you’re taking extra steps to get wasted, you don’t need to be drinking. Period.
Foster children receive pajamas from CSUSB

By STEPHANIE PANIAGUA  Staff Writer

A group of CSUSB students plan on donating 4,000 pairs of pajamas to the growing number of foster children within San Bernardino County. The members of the Educational Counseling Graduate Student Association (ECGSJA) hosted their first Pajama Drive kick-off event last Tuesday, Nov. 1, in the atrium of the College of Education building. The pajamas are to be donated to the Children’s Fund located in San Bernardino. According to childrensfundclub.org, the Children’s Fund is a 20-year-old non-profit organization with the mission of preventing child abuse in the community and providing at-risk children various social services to ensure proper development.

Supporters of the event arrived in pajama attire that ranged from pink Hello Kitty robes to Lakers’ shirts and Chargers’ bottoms. Many of the supporters took it so far as wearing their pajamas to class and work.

“If the only way we can make a foster child feel loved and comforted is by giving them a pair of pajamas, then way to go,” said Jay Fin, Dean of the College of Education, about ECGSA’s event.

Treasurer of ECGSA, David Smietana, reported that currently in San Bernardino County alone, there are 4,290 foster children. Erin Phillips, president of the Children’s Fund, reported that since last April that number has risen by 150.

“This is truly an incredible act of love,” said Phillips about ECGSA’s Pajama Drive. “We are dealing with kids who have come from nothing, yet are surviving and overcoming obstacles because of acts such as this.”

Vice president of ECGSA, Christine Gordon, said that at first she wondered how a pair of pajamas would help make a difference in a child’s life. “Then I thought that since foster children don’t have someone to show them that sense of love and comfort other children with parents get to experience. This is our way of giving them a hug and showing them that there is someone out there that cares about them,” said Gordon.

Students blown away by Santa Ana winds

By JHONISE HAMILTON  Staff Writer

The Santa Ana winds are strong offshore winds that sweep through southern California during the fall and winter seasons. The winds vary from hot to cold but remain dry. These seasonal winds are mainly known for compounding the hot and dry weather during the fall season, which can contribute to brush and wildfires.

These winds can do little to serious damage. You might, for instance, feel the wind pushing your car to one side while you’re driving on the streets or the freeway. However, winds during this time of year can become extremely dangerous as they can sweep you off your feet and cause you to hurt yourself. The Santa Ana winds have been so bad in the past that campuses have closed down because of how dangerous the speed of the winds and the gusts get. “Just two or three years ago, CSUSB was closed down due to the Santa Ana winds,” said Joe Gutierrez, PR representative for the campus police department.

“The severity of these winds should be taken seriously,” said Gutierrez. He suggests that everyone drive very cautiously, stay indoors as much as possible and keep entrances closed. A few of the campus buildings, like University Hall and Jack Brown Hall, have wind velocities that block high velocity winds. Those buildings along with others often close certain entrance-ways that may be too dangerous to have open due to the winds.

If the winds reach a point where it is unsafe to be on campus, the campus police chief and campus administrators will make the decision to close campus for the amount of time needed to ensure the safety of everyone there.

Everyone is probably wondering about the rumor that the windshield of a cart on campus flew off and hit a student, but that remains a mystery. It was confirmed that the windshield did fly off of the cart, but not that it hit anyone. Everyone should be extremely cautious when driving to campus or when walking on campus.

Be aware of your surroundings and what may be falling around you. Be safe, everyone.

Art for healing

By RENEE ETCHEBERRIA  Staff Writer

Patients at Patton State Hospital gain mental balance and normality through an art program that began 18 years ago. Patton State Hospital is a major forensic mental hospital operated by the California Department of Mental Health. All patients at Patton State Hospital have been commissioned by the judicial system for court competency and psychiatric treatment.

Upon arrival to the facility, patients are placed within a living unit which is one of the seven treatment programs. Throughout treatment the mentally ill adults are provided with psychiatric...
Hospital explores new horizons

Continued from Pg. 7

Oscar Romero a patient and artist at Patton Hospital, shares his art pieces presented in the “Healing through Art” show.

Care. They develop a wellness and recovery plan with the help of psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, rehabilitation therapists, registered nurses and psychiatric technicians.

Patton State Hospital first opened its doors in 1893 and is located in the hills of San Bernardino and currently has a capacity of 1,287 beds for patients.

Approximately one third of the residents at Patton, roughly 500 hundred patients, participate in the art program. The program began 18 years ago and includes ceramics, the culinary arts, theater arts, murals and writing.

This program was designed to create a place of healing, allowing patients to have a positive source of support for their overall recovery.

According to The San Bernardino Sun, Robyn Kohr, coordinator of the arts at Patton, has seen how beneficial the art programs are to the patients.

“We have had people who had no social skills and they were really down, and we were able to watch them come out of their shells through art,” said Kohr.

Art and mental health groups are held five days a week for one to two hours. Friday nights are the most popular group days, with and has 14 to 15 patients.

Most recently, Patton hosted a campus art show in September that showcased the work of the artists within the program. Friends and family members were invited to come see the gallery of art and its artists.

A hospital spokesperson expressed to The Sun the importance of the patients staying connected to the outside world to remind them of the positive things in their lives.

Although these artists are limited in the tools they are allowed to use they still get to express their artistic abilities with the use of charcoal, acrylics and watercolors.

According to The San, Oscar Vega Romero, a patient and artist at Patton embraces the art program. He uses it as an outlet to express his thoughts and feelings through various images created on canvas.

“Art gives us a different label than criminal,” said Romero.

The art program gives peace to the patients’ daily living allowing them to quiet their mind and release any negative energy they may have. Therapists are also in favor of the art program expressing that the program increases self-esteem and focus.

Overall the art programs give patients a positive place to express themselves.

Celebrating the dead with Aztec rituals

Continued from Pg. 7

RAFFMA shielded the performers and lookouts. Some even got the opportunity to dance with the troop and become the center of attention.

CSUSB students danced to the rhythm of drums next to dancers, who were donning headgear made of exotic bird feathers and leather.

Traditional costuming left legs and arms mostly exposed, graphically inspired skirt and back designs mesmerized the lively audience.

Endurance seemed to be a prerequisite of the Aztec performance. Long sets put the dancers to a physical test. Their lightly clad feet pounded the pavement to the beat set by four percussionists.

The women performers showed their metal as they were able to spin, jump and stomp in cadence with the men.

Their costumes were just as spectacular if not more. Pretty orange and pink colors made the onlookers guess what bird they must have come from.

ALFFS, in collaboration with the San Manuel Student Union, College of Extended Learning, RAFFMA and the John M. Pflau Library sponsored Dia de los Muertos. These same organizations are some of the most prolific in sponsoring university events.

“This event is free,” said Murillo-Moyeda, “but to raise funds for scholarships we charge for other events.”

ALFFS has dispersed over $130,000 in its 26 years at CSUSB. To some students the funds are life-savers.

The ALFFS website tells to inform the “university community in issues pertinent to Latinos.” With the Day of the Dead celebration they hit the nail on the coffin. They also promote mentorships and networking for both university and high school students. Ultimately, they offer a path toward higher education through accessibility.

ECCSA volunteers stand together with over 100 pairs of donated pajamas that will go to children in local foster homes.

Students give back to community

Continued from Pg. 7

By LITA GAITHERS

ECCSA has already received over 100 pairs of donated pajamas. They also received a monetary donation in the amount of $2,500 from a member of the organization’s board.

ECCSA will be accepting new unwrapped pajamas through Dec. 9. Drop boxes have been placed around campus.

Find other donation locations visit google.com/site/ecgsasite/.

World and Religion

By LITA GAITHERS

A Coyote’s insight into politics and religion

The CSUSB Chinese Student Association (CSA) is geared up with excitement for the coming new year. The Chinese zodiac calendar is calling 2012 the Year of the Dragon. CSA will partner with the CSUSB Taiwanese Student Association and offer a festival filled with an array of ethnic foods, cultural performances and presentations the first week of February 2012.

“Our organization is open to everyone, but those who choose to attend our meetings must be prepared for us to speak in our native tongue,” said Wente Zhou who serves as the group’s secretary.

Determining to not allow language to be an obstacle in communicating, Zhou and I spoke slowly to each other and even resorted to putting things in writing when necessary.

Answering my questions about the festival, president of the association Gaoshi “Sugar” Song said, “The Chinese and Asians all over the world will be celebrating this important spring festival. The dragon is a reversal symbol and it holds special significance.” Treasurer Jianwen “Jennifer” Shu added, “We’re planning early this year in order for this to be our best event ever.”

“We want to help our exchange and international students to feel comfortable in America by providing cultural events during their college experience, and share with the student body the beauty of our traditions. The program will be held in the event center and open to the public,” said Zhou.

In Chinese folklore, the Year of the Dragon is part of the zodiac calendar that focuses on 12 animals which appeared to Buddha after an invitation to celebrate his earthly departure.

According to the website, about-sium-china.com/year-of-the-dragon, “In Chinese astrology the dragon is the only animal of the Chinese zodiac year that is not real. The dragon is seen as a powerful almighty king because it is made up of different parts of animals such as a tiger, snake, fish, and an eagle. The Chinese dragon is not seen as a threatening evil being as we do in the west but rather a symbol of power, superiority and rule.”

Those who practice the tradition believe the dragon is the mightiest of the signs. Chinesezodiac.com lists some of the personality traits of those born during the dragon year; a couple include “dominant and ambition.” The site further states, that “Dragons prefer to live by their own rules and if left on their own, are usually successful.”

The CSA consists of about 90 members, and they meet every other Friday in Skybox 211 at noon. “This organization is important because it helps the students to adjust to a new environment. We assist them in registering for classes, accessing public transportation, locating grocery and clothes shopping areas, giving campus tours and social networking,” said Zhou.

The Year of the Dragon event will be sponsored by the Associated Students Incorporated, the CSUSB Cross Cultural Center, and the CSUSB Center for International Studies and Programs.

The Chinese Zodiac Calendar is believed by some to provide insight in foreseeing world events and activities. One can’t help but to wonder if it’s just coincidental that the Year of the Dragon is occurring during the world’s worst recession in history.

The Year of the Dragon is an important year, and many will be anticipating the significance the season will bring.
"Are you ready to hip hop to health!" exclaimed Lisa Rubino, president of Molina Healthcare.

Kids gathered around the Inland Center Mall Center Court Saturday, Nov. 5 to dance their way into health at the Get Our Kids Grooving Hip Hop for Health event held by Molina Healthcare.

Choreographer Milo Levell and his four backup dancers warmed up the crowd with shoulder rolls, lunges and finished with the Robot.

With the support from their families kids wiggled and dance zumba as Levell and Dr. Cleo, the friendly lion, yelled, "Drop it like you want it!"

"Move those hips to get some dates," joked Levell as he encouraged not only kids but their parents and grandparents to dance hip hop.

Besides all the dancing and laughter there were tables with information on how to live a healthier lifestyle.

"We need to set an example… exercise can be fun and can be enjoyed as family activities," said Rubino. "Exercise is not only good for your health but it also helps for better brain function."

One of the families present for this event was the Avila Family. They were filled with happiness since they won the Wii Fit that was raffled that evening.

"I am very happy because I have never won anything before and I am also happy for my kids," said the mother, Claudia Avila.

Avila added that this was a great event for her two daughters to distract themselves and have fun. They are looking forward to another event like Hip Hop for Health.

Another attendee at this event was Alianna Gonzales who realizes struggle is a reality and a conscious effort every day for healthier eating and fitness.

"No matter how much a child is aware of overeating, unhealthy options and the importance of exercise, sometimes it is beyond their control."

Gonzales, accompanied by her sister and grandmother, told us of ways she stays active. She played soccer with American Youth Soccer Association for three years until financial strain would not allow for enrollment. Now she enjoys hiking with her aunt and sister in Loma Linda once a week. She seems to be a very happy and energetic child despite of her learned eating habits.

Although Gonzales knows that one can of soda has about 125 packets of sugar, she gladly says, "I didn’t have any soda this week!"

Her aunt added, "My mom has been raising kids her entire life, and recently with Alianna, she has become a soccer mom so to speak, they’re always on the go, and they don’t realize that fast food here and there, really adds up in calorie count."

As she danced with all the other children at the event, she seemed to be enjoying herself.

"This event was an absolute success," said Community Outreach Manager of Molina Healthcare, Ruthy Argumedo. "Not only where the kids up for action but people with disabilities, seniors and their parents came to dance for their health."

For more information on Molina Healthcare or future events visit their website at molinahealthcare.com
“Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 3” aims to redefine gaming

The best-selling first-person shooter (FPS) franchise of all time has arrived on the scene, and it’s back with the next evolution of Call of Duty online gameplay.

“Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 3” (CoD: MW3) brings new twists and improvements to multiplayer gameplay, making it more of a modified, but better Modern Warfare 2.

The most significant change in gameplay comes from the new reward system. In MW2, good players were rewarded for getting high kills and low deaths in multiplayer matches, but MW3 is giving players with different play styles, the same opportunity to be rewarded.

In other words, you don’t have to be a one-man army to earn killstreak rewards in this game. This time around, they’re known as “point-streaks,” and you can earn them with strike packages.

Strike packages come in three types: assault, support and specialist. Each of the types work in unique ways.

Assault is geared towards the high kill count commando player, while support is for the objective team player. I think specialist, however, is the most interesting and perhaps rewarding strike package there is.

Instead of unlocking point-streak rewards, specialists unlock perks designed to improve their performance. Once you’re at a certain number of point-streaks, you will have earned every perk and become the most powerful player in the match. This is the most interesting type of the three, but judging from past CoD experience, alliance is the most interesting and perhaps rewarding strike package there is.

As with strike packages, weapon proiciencies can work with different play styles. They also go hand-in-hand with certain classes.

“Breath” is a proiciency that helps assault classes aim more accurately. Similarly to sniper classes, “Melee” helps SMG classes knife faster and LMG classes can unlock a proficiency to help them run faster with a heavy weapon.

However you choose to play, there are different proiciencies that will help enrich your experience.

Infinity Ward and Sledgehammer Games have taken CoD’s multiplayer experience to new heights to keep players interested and coming back, and it will undoubtedly work.

Despite all of MW3’s multiplayer improvements, the weakest aspect of the game is its graphics.

Now, any experienced gamer knows graphics aren’t the most important part of a game, but it feels like the developers weren’t very creative with the graphics.

To put it another way, the game does not look as good as it could have been, especially when you put it up against Battlefield 3. This can be attributed to the fact that MW3 will be using the exact same engines as used in MW2, according to ng4.com.

As for the PC platform, this game does not use the full scope of PC hardware like Battlefield 3 did, and it’s quite disappoint- ing if you’re a PC gamer. It looks as if the Xbox 360 and PS3 received the most attention in MW3’s development.

Although it will look and feel familiar, MW3 brings exciting new multiplayer elements that will keep millions of dedicated players logging countless game hours.

Be sure to catch a glimpse of this awesome game at the upcoming Midnight Madness event, which takes place this Tuesday night in the Gamer’s Lounge.

By NIGEL HAMBLIN
Staff Writer

Celebrating a culture through art

A great example of Rosie Guajardo’s fantastic and ultra-colorful work at the Dia de los Muertos festival here at CSUSB.

By CAROLINA McARTHUR
Staff Writer

Rosie Guajardo’s artwork thrives on her colorful paints that express art, love and culture.

At CSUSB’s Dia de los Muertos event on Nov. 2, one of the first things patrons noticed was Guajardo’s creative works, which can only be described as one of a kind.

Guajardo describes her art as mixed media. She makes altered or mixed art, collages, jewelry, cards, glitter art and a special art focusing on the Hispanic holiday Dia de los Muertos.

“I am a second generation Mexican-American. All my life I was brought up to live my life being an ‘American’ as I could,” said Guajardo. “By being able to create this art, I am able to reconnect with my cultural roots and share that with those around me.”

She explained that whenever she is about to create one of her pieces, there are a few guidelines she goes by.

First, she explained that she will never work in a bad mood.

“Whenever I start a piece, I am in a peaceful state,” said Guajardo. “That way I will be able to make a connection with it and be able to listen to what that piece wants to be made into.”

Depending on what she is creating, each item can take from a couple hours to up to four days to complete.

Guajardo attends art shows, trunk shows and gallery events. When she goes to sell her creations, she tries to see the connection that is made between the piece and the buyer.

“The piece speaks to them and then I get to see them go home together,” she explained.

Guajardo has also taught at Michael’s Craft Stores and showcased her techniques at various other events and gatherings.

For more info, go to www.rosiegirl.etsy.com.

By MATTHEW BRAMLETT
Chronicle Photo

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Depp's second Gonzo role not as successful

By TIFFANY BATSON
Staff Writer

Fans that were expecting Johnny Depp's 'gonzo journalism' flair may be disappointed with The Rum Diary.

The film, as well as Depp's reprisal role as a Hunter S. Thompson character, wasn't as good or as entertaining as Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas.

Although the film has a slow pace and the run time is a little long, it still keeps your attention.

Thompson is an American journalist that is credited for the introduction of 'gonzo journalism.' This is a style of journalism in which the journalist makes themselves a first person narrator in their story, which is the basis for The Rum Diary and Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas.

The film is based on the semi-autobiographical novel by Thompson which tells the story of Paul Kemp, a New York journalist who moves to San Juan, Puerto Rico and lands a job with a failing newspaper.

The pessimistic editor-in-chief of the newspaper, Ed Lotterman, is apprehensive about Kemp's efforts to save the paper. Kemp runs into a number of predica
tments and ends up contemplating an ethical dilemma as a journalist. Kemp also meets the wealthy Hal Sanderson (Aaron Eckhart), a snake in the real estate business.

Kemp unravels Sanderson's plan to con the residents of the island and must decide whether to exploit the truth or keep the public in the dark to satisfy the needs of the rich.

The Rum Diary has a good plot, but it wasn't dramatic enough. The characters never disappoint on screen and the ensemble cast that includes Richard Jenkins, Amy Ryan and Jason Clarke was one of the highlights of the film.

Johnny Depp's charming charisma never disappoints on screen and the ensemble cast that includes Richard Jenkins, Amy Ryan and Jason Clarke was one of the highlights of the film.

The film isn't great, it's also not horrible either. The late 50's era represents well, and the Puerto Rican scenery was a gorgeous backdrop.

The Rum Diary isn't worth the money to see in theatres, but it could be a good rental.

In typical Rihanna style, she will bring fans the unexpected for her newest album. The release of Rihanna’s highly anticipated new album *Talk that Talk* is set to drop Nov. 21.

Earlier this year, Rihanna was hesitant on whether she should re-issue her latest album *Loud* or just make a new album. After a lot of deliberation, she decided that *Loud* stood out for itself and something new needed to be done.

In late June, Rihanna hit the recording studio to work on her latest and greatest upcoming album. With help from The Dream and Jay-Z, the new album is promising to have the same success as her previous ones.

Rihanna relied on her past experiences to give her the motivation to create her album cover. As a famous artist, Rihanna learned very quickly how scrutinizing the media can be, which is the main point behind her album title.

Rihanna has several artists who lend their voices to her upcoming album, including Nicki Minaj, Big Sean and J. Cole. To keep her fans involved, Rihanna set up an online campaign which gives them missions to complete in order to unlock information regarding her secretive album.

Fans had to log onto her Facebook page and participate in the weekly game that was given to them. When each game was completed, Rihanna would release new information for her fans.

From her album title to the album cover, new details were being released every week. The top prize was given to a lucky fan who was able to receive the only copy of the upcoming album.

Her first release of the album, “We Found Love” has already started to jump up the music charts into the number one spot. The song will be the eleventh No. 1 single that she has had, which already brings her into the pantheon of great pop artists.

While her song has jumped the charts, many critics have already commented on the lack of lyrical content within the song. Known for pushing the limits with her lyrics, Rihanna’s newest album is no exception.

“It is one thing to record an album but it’s a huge difference when people play it and listen to it and embrace it the way that I do. It has always been my dream to get my music out to the world and have people hear it,” said Rihanna.

Fans all across the world are greatly awaiting the album release from Rihanna, which she promises will not disappoint.

**By BECKY MONREAL**

**Staff Writer**

Rihanna talks the talk

Popular singer/songwriter tackles life within the public sphere on her new album

Rihanna’s newest offering, *Talk that Talk*, officially out on Nov. 21 might very well redefine the pop music scene forever.

**Photo Courtesy of Vogue**
Coyotes soccer: year in review

Men’s soccer team ends inconsistent disappointing season on a high note

By EILEEN GUTIERREZ Staff Writer

What began as a year with high hopes and expectations, CSUSB’s men’s soccer team ended the season disappointed and unfulfilled.

They ended the season with a 7-9-2 overall record and a 5-9-2 record in the CCAA.

The team was only able to manage a winning streak of two games once throughout the entire season.

The Coyotes were not only inconsistent, but sporadic and all over the place.

“We were on the road a lot. I felt like we had no chance to get a rhythm going,” said coach Noah Kooiman.

During the season, the Coyotes found themselves with many opportunities to win games; however, missed shots, losses in overtime, and missed opportunities proved to be the difference between a winning season and the type of season they had.

“I’m not a believer in luck, but we just had a lot of bad luck from missed shots, to the ball accidentally hitting a player’s hand resulting in a penalty kick,” said Kooiman.

Chances came and went. Middle fielder, Brett Faggioni, had two headers hit the posts against Humboldt State. The men simply could not even buy a win it seemed like.

Some positives did come out of this season. They successfully spoiled Cal Poly Pomona’s post-season hopes.

“If we ended on a positive note. We swept Cal Poly Pomona who was going to playoffs,” said Kooiman.

The team will be losing seniors, Brett Faggioni, Julian Garcia, Jordan Rodino and D.J. Vigil.

“The four seniors had a stellar career here. They all played a lot of minutes. I feel like they left a good mark on their stay with us,” said Kooiman.

Vigil and Faggioni both had two goals and 12 shots apiece for the season. Garcia had one goal with 20 shots.

Garcia took a penalty kick in the 101st minute of the game on October 30, which delivered the season ending win.

It was Garcia’s first goal of the season. Faggioni received second team All-CCAA honorable mention.

The team has accomplished a great deal, breaking old records and setting new records this season. Though the graduating seniors will be missed, promising players for next season should provide for an eventful and successful season.

These prospects include Martin Esqueda, Marco Martinez, and Derek Taddei.

Esqueda had three goals and one assist this season and was named second team All-CCAA.

Marco Martinez, a sophomore, had excellent statistics this season, with two goals and four assists on 21 shots.

Junior Derek Taddei had three goals and two assists.

Lee Nishanian, a sophomore, played a huge role this season as a defender as well.

“We have a young team. The new guys have gotten a taste of conference playing. Its going to motivate us,” said Kooiman.

“The off-season is a time to recruit. We want quite a few additions and set a new record for CSUSB,” said Kooiman.

One of the team’s key players, junior Jani Carmona, missed the first month of the season due to a broken arm.

Her return proved to be a contributing factor in the teams’ turnaround.

Two seniors who have been duly recognized are Casey Hirsch and Ashley Cabrera. These two athletes were named to the All-CCAA second team.

Hirsch’s statistics include seven goals and 16 points.

She was acknowledged as the CCAA Player of the Week during the team’s impressive winning streak.

The home field advantage was the true difference for the team as they won four out of their six consecutive victories at Pre-Mier Field.

This year’s women’s soccer team accomplished many goals and set new records throughout the season.

According to a CSUSB’s women’s soccer blog post, some of the long standing program records the team has broken include: the program’s longest winning streak with six games, the program’s longest streak without a loss, eight games, most consecutive shutouts and going undefeated against the CCAA North bracket.

Overall the women’s soccer team has accomplished a great deal, breaking old records and setting new ones in the process.

The 2012 season is sure to be an interesting one, as many returning players would like to build upon this season’s successes and correct their failures.

Fans will be anxious to see how the team plans to top this year’s outstanding season.
**This week in Sports History:**

- **November 7, 1963**
  New York Yankee Elston Howard is first African-American ever voted the American League MVP

- **November 8, 1991**
  Pittsburgh Penguin Paul Coffey sets NHL defenseman scoring mark with 311th goal in a career

- **November 11, 1946**
  New York Knicks’ first game at Madison Square Garden, loses 78-68 to Chicago Stags

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**Sports**

**Coyote Jock Talk**

*By J. LEVI BURNFIN*  
Sports Editor

Tim Tebow. Immediately, every single one of you has an opinion, an unwavering opinion probably. That’s fine. In fact, it’s encouraged because after all, as the old cliche goes, everybody is entitled to their opinion.

So I am not going to try to change your opinion of him. I don’t want to. Because, there are three aspects of life that everybody, or almost everybody, has an opinion on: religion, politics and sports.

Sports is great because most of the time, people can sit down and argue for hours about sports topics without getting personal or becoming angry. Well, except for you SEC fans out there.

But Tebow is one topic that combines at least two of the three topics and creates a giant ball of divisiveness around him.

Tebow was an absolutely wonderful college quarterback, maybe the best of all time. That’s not arguable.

But it is possible that Tebow is even more known for his off-the-field beliefs than his on-the-field play. Tebow is a religious man. And he takes every opportunity to practice his religion.

In the overtime win over the Miami Dolphins on Oct. 23, Tebow began to pray after the game-ending field goal instead of celebrating with his teammates.

Is that wrong? I don’t know. I am not part of that team. I do not know how his teammates feel about it. But it does happen all the time.

When players score a touchdown, many look to the sky and point or take a knee and give a quick prayer instead of running to their teammates.

So why was Tebow so scrutinized for it by some of his peers nonetheless? The following week, the Detroit Lions came into Denver and completely thumbed the Broncos and Tebow in particular. He looked lost.

The Lions added insult to injury by “Tebowing” after big plays. Yes, Tebow praying after the game against the Dolphins created a phenomenon where people would say they are “Tebowing” instead of praying.

Instead of acting professionally and celebrating amongst themselves after big plays, the Lions purposely targeted Tebow for insult.

What made Tebow so big of a target that an entire NFL team targeted him for ridicule? The main difference between Tebow and any other over-hyped first-round prospect that is struggling in their first time playing is his over-the-top fans.

These fans are so blinded by their love for Tebow, that they do not even acknowledge his flaws. Even when the great Peyton Manning first came into the NFL, his most loyal fans could see that there were some slight flaws.

And Manning’s flaws were much smaller than Tebow’s. But it does not matter when it comes to Tebow. According to his fans, he is going to succeed because of his “will to succeed” or his “faith in God and himself.”

If God is going to help Tebow succeed in the NFL, then God has lost sight of the bigger picture.

But that is beside the point.

The fans are what bring so much scrutiny on Tebow. If he was just another first-round quarterback that was struggling in his first couple of games, it would not nearly be the story it is.

Many saw what the Lions did as an embarrassment and downright disrespectful. Maybe.

But it is understandable. Tebow should not get special treatment from fans and teams because he is religious, which is what this all boils down to.

If he was Muslim, how much would fans love him then? Probably not much.
Men’s basketball gives valiant effort in defeat

afraid of playing UCLA. There was an excited, amped up look to the Coyotes but it was never over the top. They seemed to just be ready for a fight.

CSUSB’s Theron Laudermill led the charge with an undying effort even though he was completely outsized in the paint against UCLA. He led the Coyotes with 19 points and was able to grab six rebounds while defending UCLA’s 6-feet-10-inches and 300 pound center, Joshua Smith.

Smith was a huge force on both sides of the court as CSUSB just did not have an answer for him.

“[He’s] like a big old wall that you can’t move. That’s a big man,” said Laudermill.

Smith forced CSUSB starters Tre Brewer and Kwame Alexander into early foul trouble which was a huge loss for the Coyotes as they sat a combined 19 minutes in the first half and a total of 45 minutes in the game because of foul trouble.

Both players ended up fouling out of the game.

Alexander was the biggest loss as he had a physical presence in the paint that could match-up with the size of the UCLA front court. He was able to score nine points and grab five rebounds in only 14 minutes on the floor.

But he could not contain himself on the floor as his adrenaline may have got the most of him.

“It was extremely hard [to watch from the bench] because I couldn’t really get nothing going [sic],” said Alexander.

Smith ended the game with seven rebounds, three blocks, two steals and a game-high 26 points including 14-18 from the free throw line.

CSUSB was undersized at every position but it caused UCLA fits on both sides of the floor as they used their quickness and precision passing to their advantage.

Several times, a CSUSB player was able to drive past their defender, only to be denied a shot by Smith’s presence.

At one point, the Coyotes were able to go on a 12-0 run in the second to take their first lead since early in the first half.

To begin the run, the Coyotes switched from man-to-man defense to a 2-3 zone that stalled the UCLA offense enough for the Coyotes to take advantage.

CSUSB fans, while most likely outnumbered, showed up in force and became an advantage that the players were able to feed off of.

Eventually, UCLA was able to take the final lead thanks, in large part to their size, but that doesn’t stop the Coyotes from being proud of their close defeat.

“I want to play them again,” said Alexander.

Visit coyotechronicle.com for more
**Coyote Chronicle:**

**Athlete of the Week**

**Name:** Camille Smith  
**Sport:** Volleyball  
**Class:** Junior

**Moment:**  
Oct. 28 vs. CSU Stanislaus  
Oct. 29 vs. Chico State  
The volleyball team has been a juggernaut this year because each week a new player elevates her game to another level. This week, Camille Smith flexed her muscles a bit. She averaged 11 assists per set (55 total) in CSUSB’s road sweep at Cal State Stanislaus and Chico State. Smith helped keep the team’s winning streak alive.

**More about:**  
As a sophomore, Smith was named second-team All-CCAA and earned first-team Daktronics and AVCA West Region honors. She would like to play beach volleyball professionally after college.

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**Soccer match gives unique experience**

**By AARON HUGHES**  
**Staff Writer**

The Los Angeles Galaxy defeated the New York Red Bulls by two goals to one on Thursday evening to advance to the Western Conference Final.

The game had been lauded by the media before hand to be the biggest match-up of the playoffs, pitting not only the coastal rivals against each other but also the leagues two biggest players. The Red Bulls are led by the former FIFA World Cup winner and French national team legend Thierry Henry, while the Galaxy are lead by David Beckham, arguably the world’s most popular sports figure.

The teams had met twice in regular season play, and the Galaxy couldn’t manage to win either time. They tied 1-1 at home and lost 2-0 away, but besides the final score in this encounter, there was something different: the fans.

The playoffs are a time when every player is expected to step it up to another level, to put everything on the line to do whatever they can to secure victory. One of the biggest factors in helping the players do so is an intimidating fan base. During the playoffs the fans also step it up, making it that much more difficult for the opposing players.

“Playing at home is a big factor,” said Galaxy midfielder Mike Magee, according to the Galaxy website. “We’ve established ourselves as a very good home team and our fans as you could tell tonight were amazing, pushing us when guys were tired. It’s definitely a lot better playing here.”

“We know those are difficult games. But, the advantage is, we’re at home and we’ll have our fans behind us,” said Beckham, according to the Galaxy website.

The Red Bulls fans showed up in force as well, taking over two full sections in the stadiums north east corner.

Lee Nishanian, a CSUSB student and Red Bulls fan, was in attendance.

“The crowd was amazing,” said Nishanian. “The game was exciting the whole 90 minutes and it was a fun atmosphere to be in because there was so much passion from the fans. I think the played fed off that because the game was getting pretty scrappy at times.”

The crowds at soccer matches are different than any other sports. There is a different vibe in the stands. It is hard to explain. But you could definitely feel the tension.

The Galaxy will be appearing in their third consecutive conference final after winning the two-game series with a 3-1 aggregate goal total, including their 1-0 win in Harrison, N.J., on Sunday.

**Nothing unlucky about women’s basketball’s 13**

**By ZAFIRO TELLEZ**  
**Staff Writer**

With the addition of 13 new players, CSUSB’s women’s basketball team might find that having as much success as the one they did a season ago may not come too easy.

It will be no easy task for coach Kevin Becker to put together a winning team with so many new players. Last year most of the team consisted of seniors, which provided the team with useful experience on the court.

This year Becker will have to rely on something other than experience to anchor the ship.

“The biggest obstacle we have this year is working with the system. How to play, what the team’s strengths and weaknesses are in all stages of the game,” said Becker.

Becker is starting his sixteenth season as head coach and has been coaching overall for a total of 33 years. During his coaching stint here, he has become CSUSB’s all-time winningest coach in our school’s 46 year history.

With such a seasoned coach, it may be his experience that will make up for that of which the team lacks.

“There will be a lot of time you have so many other experiences to bank on, that hopefully my experience will help pull them through tough times and try to coach them up a little bit,” said Becker.

Returning guards Jessica Dela Cruz and Angela Streets will have a monumental role on the team this year. They will have to use the experience gained over the years to help propel their inexperienced teammates forward.

“Dela Cruz and Streets have been good in trying to provide leadership to the team and both players got some good playing time last year. They are familiar on how strong the conference is,” said Becker.

Eliza Dy is another player who brings a lot of experience and strength to the team. She is a transfer student from University of the Pacific.

“Dy serves as a coach on the court to all the other players,” said Becker.

Center player Kenisha McKeel is another transfer student, but from San Bernardino Valley College. At 6 feet-2-inches, there are great expectations for her in the upcoming season.

Despite the lack of experience, coach Becker still has high hopes and expectations for his Lady Coyotes.

“Personally I would like to be in the position to make conference playoffs, that puts you in the position to extend the season,” said Becker.

Inexperience can lead to any team’s demise, but with an excellent coaching staff, great leadership, and exceptional talent, our women’s basketball team should be able to equal last year’s success, if not surpass it.

**Coach Kevin Becker hopes to lead women’s basketball to back-to-back NCAA tournaments.**