May 14th 2012

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CFA, CSUs struggle for labor peace

By ALEXIS FIGUEROA
Staff Writer

The California Faculty Association reportedly walked out on negotiations on May 7 without giving a counterproposal. The California State University’s offer did not meet the CFA’s standards.

With the CSU system not meeting the CFA’s demands, they are not backing down.

The CFA has been going through negotiations and hope to come to an agreement that guarantees improved treatment by the CSU administration and improved job security.

Also included in the CFA’s demands is better quality of education for students and a fair distribution of money received from budget cuts, according to the CFA website.

The CSU and the faculty union came to an agreement that would continue negotiations on a number of issues that remained to be addressed.

The issues included the appointment and evaluation of temporary faculty as well as the paying leave time and evaluation of temporary faculty.

The crisis unfolded as an outburst of faculty union and CSU agrees to hold off the strike and continue to make negotiations on multiple demands.

California to enforce stricter tattoo regulations

By ALEJANDRA ARANA
Staff Writer

Students and faculty members are encouraged to present their area of study: Botanicam.

Jarret Lovell, a professor at CSU Fullerton, was interviewed for NPR news.

“We are very disappointed that our university and our advocates back down,” said Brooks.

The CSU system is one of the three major institutions of higher education in California along with the University of California and California Community Colleges, according to the CSU website.

“With the strike not going the way each party had planned, CSU vice chancellor of human resources Gail Brooks expressed her surprise at the union’s behavior,” said Brooks.

The crisis unfolded as an outcome of major state cuts in funding which has pushed higher education in California to the breaking point.

The CSU system has 23 campuses and enrols 30,000 students.

CSUSB’s Kenneth Williams was the only student from California to attend the 2012 Posters on the Hill event in Washington D.C. to promote the importance of student research to Congress.

Williams, a computer science major, along with co-researcher Chris Patten, has dedicated his time to the Botanicam project, a plant identifying mobile application for smartphones, tablets and other devices which could be used by scientists or amateurs.

“We created two mobile applications, a trainer app and a user app. The trainer application allows a botanist to annotate a photo of a plant which are then sent to an image database. We used the Bisque database at the UC Santa Barbara campus. The server uses the plant and the annotation information to train a classifier which is used by the user app to identify plants from images,” said Williams.

Posters on the Hill is a annual reception that showcases student work and research. The event took place April 23–24 and hosted 74 undergraduate students in every field of study from all over the country.

“I’ve always enjoyed doing research, but I think it is even more rewarding when the potential for the applications is realized,” said Williams.
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By NIN GARCIA
Staff Writer

Amazon plans to hire more than 1,000 people to work in the company’s new San Bernardino distribution center when it opens this fall.

Still under construction, the nearly 950,000 square foot building on the corner of Tippecano and Central Avenue near the San Bernardino International Airport is where the center will be located.

“The ‘fulfillment center’ will be one of two in the state where Amazon branded goods sold on the site will be stored at and shipped from,” said spokesman Ty Rogers.

Fulfillment centers are where products sold by other vendors on Amazon store their inventory.

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CFA demands not met

Continued from Pg. 1

lough. Lovell and the CFA union are asking for a one percent salary increase this year, according to NPR.

The CFA and students at CSUSB like Ashley Buchanan, note how important it is for the CSU system to take notice of the faculty’s demands.

“It’s getting to the point where only the elite students can attend and afford college, the middle class students are struggling and cutting classes and increasing the size of classes has an effect on students,” said Buchanan. “The longer the classes the students are less likely to attend due to limited space and distractions,” continued Buchanan.

What’s to follow for these next negotiations according to the CFA website is assigning a fact-finding panel headed by an outside party to hear arguments from both sides and make a recommendation for each proposal.

Coconut Correction

In our April 30 issue, the article “Coyote karma encourages philanthropy” stated that CSUSB is “state funded” when it is actually state assisted.
The new Safe Body Art Act that will be implemented in June will cause undue hardship on professional tattoo artists and body piercers who have already completed the necessary legal requirements and follow the safety rules currently in place.

More regulations on tattoo artists are not needed

By SARA NYDAM
Staff Writer

The new Safe Body Art Act is posing what I think are unnecessary regulations on professional tattoo artists and piercers in California. AB 300 seeks to raise $55,000 in revenue, according to the San Bernardino County Sun. I believe this money will be spent zealously.

The San Bernardino County Ordinance is going to comply with the new state law which will “require practitioners at the county’s 91 body-art establishments to undergo blood-born pathogen training” starting in June, reported the SB County Sun.

In order to raise the $55,000 for these programs, the state will be taking money from schools and local agencies, which means this act now affects our entire community.

According to the California Constitution, the state will reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs but there is absolutely nothing in the act that requires reimbursements to these facilities, as stated by aroundthecapitol.com.

I believe that these school districts and agencies will never see their money again. These specialized training programs are supposedly going to “deter the spread of viruses and infections, including hepatitis, HIV and staph,” according to the SB Sun.

I personally have been tattooed and pierced at five different parlors out of the 91 in San Bernardino County and each time the tattoo artist wears gloves and uses fresh and sterilized needles. I can also assure you that I have not caught any viruses or infections after getting tattooed.

In fact, there have been “no cases of HIV transmission through tattooing anywhere in the country since it began tracking such data in 1985,” reports tattooartist.com as cited from the Centers of Disease Control. In comparison, there “have been at least seven cases of HIV transmission associated with dentists and dental workers.”

These are professional tattoo shops, not places where they shoot up heroin.

This act will be “deterrent already honest people, people who are already doing it right,” said CSUSB student Becky Galina.

If the county would like to pick on someone I suggest that they pick on at-home tattoo artists and piercers.

“I’ll hopefully shut down a lot of these guys that are tattooing out of their house or garage and spreading around a bunch of viruses and staph infections,” said Eric Alguin, as reported in the SB County Sun.

I believe the money this act will generate for San Bernardino county is going to be far less than any amount of money they could get from ticketing illegal tattoo artists and piercers.

If an “artist” is tattooing at home they are not a registered tattoo artist to begin with.

They have not paid the current state mandated $25 fee and they are not required to follow any sanitary regulations so this “life-saving” act will not even apply to them, let alone save any one from a blood-pathogen disease.

I believe the money this act will generate for San Bernardino County is going to be far less than the amount of money they could get from ticketing illegal tattoo artists and piercers.

Rather than passing this act I believe the county should focus their energy on more important issues, such as getting our schools back on track.

Again, I think the county shouldn’t be wasting money on tattoo artists and piercers who already follow regulatory sanitation and safety rules. Instead the focus should be on the real problem and go after those who are tattooing and piercing illegally.

I do not believe that act AB 300 will be an effective solution to save lives but rather a selfish attempt by the state to raise revenue for themselves.

Vagina pops draw awareness to programs that empower women

By SARA NYDAM
Staff Writer

Dear Sir or Madame,

Earlier this week, I came across an opinion piece in the Coyote Chronicle that I would like to respectfully respond to, if I may.

The main focus of the article was on the perception that our means of advertising have been overtly sexual—speaking specifically to our Vagina Monologues and I Love Female Orgasm events. These promotional materials have been described as possibly making people, like Miss Cannon, uncomfortable.

But, you see, that is exactly what we are addressing. I’m not sure if Miss Cannon has actually attended a performance of The Vagina Monologues, but one of the issues it addresses is the fact that people, especially women, are very uncomfortable with even acknowledging the vagina.

In fact, women have been so discouraged to know anything about their vaginas that most cannot even muster up the courage to even call it what it is: a vagina.

But aside from not being able to call their own vaginas by their proper names, most women don’t know their bodies nearly half as well as men do. Men don’t call their penises their “down there” or their “flower” or any other kind of non-threatening and passive nickname; they call it what it is and know it unapologetically.

This, amongst many other subjects, is what The Vagina Monologues are all about. Selling vagina pops therefore follows with this notion that women should not have to feel ashamed or embarrassed by their own bodies.

Secondly, the promotional “I Love Female Orgasm” shirts serve the same purpose that the vagina pops do. Though I must correct Miss Cannon, for we did not sell the shirts before the show in order to promote the event. The people at I Love Female Orgasm sold their merchandise at the actual event and we merely helped them staff their merchandise table.

But I digress. There is no argument against the fact that women are hyper-sexualized in the media; but what is often forgotten is that a woman’s sexuality is depicted as existing only for the pleasure of men, not for her own pleasure. Again, women are taught what men want, but not what they want.

The point of these events is not to sexualize women, but to acknowledge that we are sexual beings and if women are going to be having sex, they should be safe about it and they should enjoy it.

I’m not trying to pin men as the enemy either. I’m simply addressing the issues that come about from a system of patriarchy—a system where both genders lose, but particularly women.

Though it is unfortunate that Miss Cannon felt offended by our promotional tactics, I do not apologize for them.

We are not trying to offend anyone, but I do firmly believe that it is our mentality and attitude towards women, as a people and as a society, that should change—not empowering programs like The Vagina Monologues and I Love Female Organs (nor the tactics used to promote such positive programs).

It defeats the purpose and if we lived in a truly egalitarian society, such events would not need to exist. But until then, we will continue to do what we need to do, even if it means shocking people into paying attention, in order to one day reach equality for all.

Vazmin Wheelerlock, Graduate Assistant for the Women’s Resource Center

Opinions

Wednesday, May 14, 2012

The new Safe Body Art Act that will be implemented in June will cause undue hardship on professional tattoo artists and body piercers who have already completed the necessary legal requirements and follow the safety rules currently in place.
By AUNJOLAY LAMBERT

Staff Writer

Obama should push for marriage equality

Equal rights should be given to everyone even if it involves marrying someone of the same sex.

If it was up to me, same-sex marriage would have been legal a long time ago.

I don’t know why people feel like they have to dictate the lives of others but I think the government is doing a good job of it when it comes to the LGBT community.

It’s kind of hypocritical when the Declaration of Independence says that everyone is created equal, yet the LGBT community is not treated the same as everyone else.

Obama confirmed last week in an ABC News interview that he supports same-sex marriage.

But where does it go from there?

I feel he’s using this as a political strategy because the presidential election is coming up soon.

In order to be re-elected Obama needs votes from the gay community while being careful not to lose the votes of other minorities such as Latinos and southerners.

The president’s opinion about same-sex marriage came within five months of his election to a second term.

His timing puts him into a situation where many question whether or not he is being genuine.

Finally, they can take same sex marriage to the next level and have people recognize that the gay community isn’t bad. I hope Obama doesn’t ease off,” said student Gabriel Rodriguez.

For awhile, same-sex marriage did not receive a lot of attention, but now that President Obama is supporting equal rights for gay couples, the claws are coming out.

After the president made the announcement that he was for gay marriage, Bristol Palin wrote on her blog that she felt Obama was being influenced by his daughters and was not showing leadership qualities, according to ABC News.

Since Obama has now taken a clear stance for gay marriage, he can at least implement policy changes that will show he supports the LGBT community.

In my opinion Obama is the most openly pro-gay president that we’ve had but I believe that there is more he can do when it comes to LGBT rights than just say he supports it.

He should strive to put into law the right for all couples to marry.

If Obama did this, it would prove that he is willing to put his money where his mouth is, not just win an election.

The LGBT movement in some ways mirrors the civil rights movement because they are fighting for the equality that they deserve.

Obama being open about his support is a big step for the LGBT community.

“Baby steps can be a good thing in this case, but it’s growing and I can definitely see the progress,” said Rodriguez.

Other people in the gay community around campus feel a little differently about same-sex marriage.

Some don’t feel that they have to be married to have a family and raise kids.

But what they fail to realize is that this is not just about marriage but about equality for all.

“This process has been going on for a while and I’m glad that we are making progress, because all we want in this community is to have the same rights as everyone else,” said student Morgan Lim.

We can no longer dodge this issue. Equality for everyone is something that definitely needs to be achieved.
Features

Coyotes stuff their faces at competition

By KIM DAILEY
Staff Writer

ASI hosted their third annual Coyote vs. Food competition May 10 in the Santos Manuel Student Union lobby. Students gathered around the table, some waiting to participate and others just waiting to watch. After signing a liability waiver, participants partook in three different rounds of competitive eating.

In round one, students had to eat a foot-long “garbage” burrito weighing up to 5 pounds, in 30 minutes or less. There were eleven competitors, 10 men and one woman. Students tried all different ways to defeat the burrito, but the winner, student Alex Weis, had eaten the whole burrito in only six minutes. The time was little over four minutes faster than last year’s record holder. “The tortilla was thick which was hard to get through. Eating fast is hard to do,” said Alex Weis. When asked what he liked about the competition he answered, “I like free food!”

Round two, things got a little spicier. Students had to eat four different wings in increasing degrees of hot wing heat. Competitors had two minutes for the first two rounds and only 1 minute for the last round. The wings started as regular buffalo flavor to a spicy Sriracha, ending in a flaming hot haban fire. Student Brian Morales was able to put the spice behind him and won the competition against his six other competitors, two of them being women. Round three was a sweet change for those who competed. A huge bowl of ice cream with sprinkles and marshmallows. About 10 competitors stood up to the plate to compete. This time the majority of the field were female, and just three men; one of those men being the first and second year dessert winners. Competitors went face-first into this round, no utensils allowed.

Competitors went home with a set of free movie tickets if they were the first or second annual dessert winners. 10 men and one woman. Students tried all different ways to defeat the burrito, but the winner, student Alex Weis, had eaten the whole burrito in only six minutes. The time was little over four minutes faster than last year’s record holder. “The tortilla was thick which was hard to get through. Eating fast is hard to do,” said Alex Weis. When asked what he liked about the competition he answered, “I like free food!”

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Burlesque workshop helps students get sassy

By GABBIE CORRAL
Staff Writer

The glamour, glitz and risqué art of burlesque dancing comes to CSUSB.

The Women’s Resource Center in the Santos Manuel Student Union (SMSU) held a workshop on May 7 that taught students with an interest in burlesque dancing as well as choreography held a workshop on May 7 that taught students with an interest in burlesque dancing as well as choreography.

The evolved risqué form of entertainment incorporates many different styles of dance into the performances like ballet, jazz and belly dancing. It is a very versatile form of expression that usually incorporates a theme into each act. “[Burlesque] is very thematic with the music and costumes,” said Hula-La. “As women, we’re always told to stop being dramatic. But in the burlesque world, the more dramatic the performance the better!”

The dancers usually base their act off of the show from the theme of the night. Themes can range from Western to Vegas to wild animals and the performers will shape their act around it, incorporating costumes and props.

Costumes and props are a vital part of the performances and are usually very elaborate, extravagant and can be expensive.

Hula-La has heard of dancers who change for those who competed. A huge bowl of ice cream with sprinkles and marshmallows. About 10 competitors stood up to the plate to compete. This time the majority of the field were female, and just three men; one of those men being the first and second year dessert winners. Competitors went face-first into this round, no utensils allowed.

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Costumes and props are a vital part of the performances and are usually very elaborate, extravagant and can be expensive.

Hula-La has heard of dancers who change for those who competed. A huge bowl of ice cream with sprinkles and marshmallows. About 10 competitors stood up to the plate to compete. This time the majority of the field were female, and just three men; one of those men being the first and second year dessert winners. Competitors went face-first into this round, no utensils allowed.

Competitors went home with a set of free movie titles if they were the first or second annual dessert winners. 10 men and one woman. Students tried all different ways to defeat the burrito, but the winner, student Alex Weis, had eaten the whole burrito in only six minutes. The time was little over four minutes faster than last year’s record holder. “The tortilla was thick which was hard to get through. Eating fast is hard to do,” said Alex Weis. When asked what he liked about the competition he answered, “I like free food!”

Burlesque dancer and workshop host, Hula-La, teaches attendees sassy four routines which are a form of physical fitness.
Energy drinks destroys teeth enamel, health

By ANGELA E. RODRIGUEZ  Staff Writer

Students looking for a quick fix to pull an all-nighter for finals should be cautious.

As finals approach, we all suffer from sleep deprivation due to late night craming. For many it means stocking up on energy drinks like Red Bull, Monster, and Starbucks and so forth to help them keep motivated to study the entire night without feeling tired.

Even though these popular drinks help energize their consumers, they have harmful side effects which include jitters, changes in heart rate and according to healthmad.com, as-sociate professor in the School of Dental Medicine at Southern Illinois University, Fenton.

Teeth On An Irreversible Acid Trip,” there are about 30 to 50 percent of 12 to 24-year-olds who [who] consume energy drinks. According to NPR's blog “Energy Drinks Can Take Teeth On An Irreversible Acid Trip,” there is a high amount of citric acid in energy drinks in order to preserve its shelf life and to flavor the products, but at the same time, this acid strips the enamel from your teeth.

Each published book has its own essence. All three books tell a story and create a vision of what he hopes is appreciated and acknowledged in the world.

“Green Web comes from a poem of the book that had to do with the death of my father and the right of passage to becoming a man,” said Delgado. “I was 28-years-old. He then graduated from CSUSB with a degree in English and received his master’s degree from the University of California at Irvine.

Last May, Delgado recited his poetry across the country and has spoken to universi-ties rounding up an estimated fifteen shows per year.

“It’s always tempting when a student or writer comes up and shares his or her experience and enjoys the work. It is always good when they come and talk to you after a reading. It inspires me to keep doing what I do,” said Delgado.

Delgado appreciates student feed-back.

This is one of the chances that inspire him to create and publish more books. Each published book has its own essence. All three books tell a story and create a vision of what he hopes is appreciated and acknowledged in the world.

“I’m writing about the things that matter to me, the art and culture in my history. I am affirming and acknowledging my past with poetry,” said Delgado.

Delgado was born in Guadalajara, Mexico and came to the United States with his family when he was 6 years old. He received his citizenship when he was 24-years-old. He then graduated from CSUSB with a degree in English and received his master’s degree from the University of California at Irvine.

Today, Delgado has recited his poetry across the country and has spoken to universi-ties rounding up an estimated fifteen shows per year.

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Energy drink companies are not required to put the amount of citric acid on the products’ labels, therefore consumers will never know the damage that they are causing to their teeth.

Next time you need to stay up, consider drinking something more traditional like coffee or tea. Not only are they natural, but they’re inexpensive and better for your body and less damaging for your teeth.
Students find their inner playful side

Continued from Pg. 7

have spent up to $500 on a costume for a single performance. But she emphasizes the fact that you can do “burlesque on a budget.”

“More affordable costumes can be made, for example, by purchasing a cheap bra from Wal-Mart, adding fringe and rhinestones from Michael’s Crafts and throwing on jewelry from Claire’s,” said Hula-La.

Burlesque dancers are often associated with incorporating a strip-tease into their performance, which is why costuming is so important.

However, burlesque has become much more than the stereotypical provocative scene that has been connected to it for so long. It has evolved into a great form of physical fitness and activity.

Dancers are required to do multiple leg lifts, technical spins and ab workouts in order to provide an entertaining performance for the audience.

“Burlesque is all about finding that inner playful side and finding something that makes you different,” said Hula-La.

One way the dancers find self-expression is by giving themselves a unique, playful name like Hula-La gave herself.

The SMSU Women’s Resource Center will be presenting All That Glitters: Rockin’ Women in Burlesque on May 18 at 6 p.m. in the SMSU Events Center. The event is free for all students.

The show will feature Burlesque dancers like Hula-La, Little Miss Vicious, Jessabelle Thunder and more. All proceeds from the raffles will be donated to the Bust-ed Foundation which supports the fight for breast cancer.

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By MARISSA MOONEY
Staff Writer

The department of music and voice students of the opera program presented “Hänsel und Gretel” May 4 and 6 in the Performing Arts Recital Hall.

Dr. Stacy Fraser, director of the CSUSB Opera Theatre, presented Engelbert Humperdinck’s opera with a modern take on its original story line.

“Opera has a tradition of being a highbrow art form and I am trying to advocate that opera can indeed be accessible to the modern audience,” said Fraser.

In this modern take, the opera is filled with pop culture references, as well as commentary on poverty, greed and commercialism that applies to our world, according to the department of music’s website.

“It is all about telling the story within a setting that relates to those who are watching the production,” said Fraser.

While talking to the students about going in a different direction in choosing Humperdinck’s version of “Hänsel und Gretel,” one of her students said, “Dr. Fraser, we want something that we can really sink our teeth into, we are ready!”

The new director of choral activities, Mr. Kosta Popovic, conducted the singers on stage for the audience to follow along.

Danielle Perrault played Hänsel, with Michael Rodriguez as Gretel and Aaron Molina as the witch. The opera’s twist on the famous Brothers Grimm fairy tale sparked an element of fantasy comparable to the style of Tim Burton.

Costume designer Fabiola Munoz developed the costumes to be dark, but vibrant filled with bright wigs and carefully put together dresses and blazers. Gretel’s costume was a tailored dress made of pieces of cloth and fishnet tights, while Hänsel’s costume had a more punk-rock style complete with Verse shoes, jeans, a stud belt and a torn top.

The normal tale of the brother-sister duo facing the evil witch in her gingerbread house was turned into a coffee shop filled with frappuccinos and lattes.

Hänsel and Gretel are sent out in search of dinner after their mother grows angry from lack of food in the household. The siblings become lost and frightened while the Sandman, played by Denise Tillman, wakes the children to rest.

The next day the Dew Fairy, also played by Tillman, wakes the children and they discover the coffee shop. It is here that the witch casts a spell on Hänsel to turn him into coffee.

Many of the elements of the original tale have been updated to suit modern audiences. Instead of the oven, the witch tries to lure the children into a coffee roaster.

The opera was a beautiful harmony between the actors and orchestra. The prelude to each act included incredible displays of choreographed dance, acting and singing.

“Hänsel und Gretel” is drastically dark and its different delivery proved that tweaking classical fairy tales to fit the styles of modern times can be a scintillating success.

By PRINCESS RUSSELL
Staff Writer

CSUSB’s theatre arts department is set to present their adaptation of the world-famous Broadway musical “Cabaret.”

The Broadway production “Cabaret” is the Tony Award-winner for Best Musical and Best Revival of a Musical. “Cabaret” details the love story of Sally Bowles, a British nightclub singer played by Kiersten Olsen and an American writer, Cliff Bradshaw, who is portrayed by Eric Bernard.

The CSUSB production of “Cabaret” will open June 1 at the Performing Arts Theatre.

The Broadway production “Cabaret” involve characters stepping outside of the reality of a world soon to be at war.

Productions of “Cabaret” have been entertaining and historical; however, “Cabaret” contain sensitive adult themes and content most suitable for mature audiences, according to cast member Michael Rodriguez.

Rodriguez is the assistant choreographer of the “Cabaret” production and also plays the role of Bobby, one of the Kit Kat boys.

“I get to be in the show and I get to be part of the creation,” said Rodriguez.

The process of getting into character for all the dynamic roles in “Cabaret” is different for every cast member.

Karl Royer plays one of the Kit Kat girls, Marlene, and describes the show as an in-your-face approach. Royer gets into character by finding a connection to her character.

“I love how much of a spit-fire she is,” said Royer.

Royer mentioned that being in such a comfortable, professional environment makes getting into character and playing the role much easier.

There will be endless plot twists throughout “Cabaret.”

“The show will surprise the audience multiple times,” said Royer. “Don’t get complacent because the story line changes quicker than you can imagine.”

CSUSB “Cabaret” director Tom Provenzano has a unique vision for the show that is sure to entertain audiences as explained Royer.

Provenzano’s favorite character of the original production is the leading role of the Emcee, played by Eric Bernard.

The show becomes a production within a production with several individual stories being told. Many of the scenes and musical numbers of “Cabaret” involve characters stepping outside of the scene and, as Provenzano creatively announced, “de-molishing the fourth wall” between the audience and performers.

The CSUSB production of “Cabaret” will be an authentic version that will incorporate all of the original musical numbers. With a cast of around 30 actors, there will be a mixture of singing and dancing from the theatre arts department that should make for a big and exciting show.

“Cabaret” opens June 1 and runs through June 10 in the Performing Arts Center. Tickets range from $6-15. VIP seating on stage, which will give the illusion of being a part of the Kit Kat Club, is also available.
Best Coast blends beautiful beachy beats

By MARISSA MOONEY  
Staff Writer

Best Coast’s new album The Only Place dishes out a happier, more melodic mood compared to their previous works.

The title and opening track of the album, “The Only Place,” is a salute to the beach and a perfect send-off to the summer season. Bethany Constentino, the lead singer of the duo, joined by Bobb Bruno, sings about the love of her home state of California.

“Why would you live anywhere else?” Constentino sings. “We’ve got the ocean, got the babes. Got the sun, we’ve got the waves. This is the only place for me.”

The opening track draws in the listener with a familiar beach theme that starts with the opening track, only less happy. “Let’s Go Home” picks up the speed and is one of the few songs aside from the title track that is irresistibly danceable.

The concluding track, “Up All Night,” ties into the familiar beach theme that started with the opening track, only less happy. “You left me here in the cold/You left me here in the sea,” sings Constentino.

The album ends with a slow-paced song with Constentino’s voice trailing off like a 1940s doo-wop group. The short album, which is only 34 minutes long, is very personal to Constentino. Her habit of writing lyrics in her bedroom while she is thinking about sad memories of her past can be often related to many broken hearts.

The Only Place is a prelude to upcoming summer tour, starting May 18.

Laura Jane Grace, previously known as Tom Gabel, is setting the music world on its ear by announcing her transition.

Laura Jane Grace, singer of punk band Against Me!, made waves throughout the music world by coming out as a transgender woman in an interview with Rolling Stone.

In that article, she revealed that she had been suffering from gender dysphoria all her life and finally made the decision to transition after 31 years of crippling depression and confusion. She chose the name Laura Jane Grace and plans to undergo Hormone Replacement Therapy.

She is also staying with her wife Heather and two year old daughter Evangeline, both of whom have been unrelentingly positive about her decision.

For many, the news was blowing up message boards and social networking sites with the news. While many reactions were rightly positive, some had derogatory and negative comments directed to Laura about her life-altering decision.

“He is going to be an ugly girl. It’s a horrible decision. Horrible,” wrote one user on Punknews.org.

“Hey, stop lyin’ and then come back to earth and open-minded than anyone I know. Punk taught me to believe in myself, to tear them down. People like Laura Jane Grace are brave and inspiring, which are sentiments that cannot be said about the countless number of people who constantly try to tear them down. Simply put, if you have a problem with transgender people, then you need to grow up.

Whatever your views on the subject of transgender people are, the truth is that there are people who have every right in the world to live the life they want to live.

I grew up in a town that wasn’t particularly welcoming to my sexual orientation. I gravitated toward the punk scene, where I met people who were more down to earth and open-minded than anyone I had met before.

Punk taught me to believe in myself and instilled a sense of pride and self worth in me, giving me strength to carry on.

It’s sad that there are people who call themselves members of the punk scene spouting hateful and ignorant epithets in Laura’s direction.

Even outside of the punk scene, I see countless hate-filled messages toward the trans community permeating throughout mainstream society.

Laura should be applauded for going public about her transition and bringing attention to a very normal condition.

It sends a hopeful and positive message to young people who are struggling with the same issues. She’s living her life on her own terms, which is the very essence of punk and is guaranteed to be come one hell of a role model.

People like Laura Jane Grace are rare and inspiring, which are sentiments that cannot be said about the countless number of people who constantly try to tear them down. Simply put, if you have a problem with transgender people, then you need to grow up.
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Cervantes a winner with family and coach’s support

By CHELSEA UNDERWOOD

Senior softball player Felicia Cervantes will always remember the great influence her family and high school coach had in helping her develop into the talented player she has become in her four years as a Coyote.

Cervantes started playing softball when she was six years old and wanted to attend her brothers’ practices and games every chance she got. Her uncle noticed the passion that she had for softball and taught her the fundamentals of the game.

“Her uncle laid out the path for her to become a great athlete, but her grandparents were the ones that influenced her to keep growing and working hard on her game.”

According to Cervantes, her grandparents are her biggest supporters and the reason why she did not give up.

“I didn’t give up on the sport because that is what [my grandparents] enjoyed. I felt like playing softball and going up north, it brings my family together,” said Cervantes.

“Even though they live 400 miles away in Stockton, Calif., they are still supporting and influencing her in everything she does.”

Cervantes excelled in the sport throughout her childhood, and when she got to high school she met who would encourage her in every aspect of her life. Her uncle worked with her day in and day out and together they practiced to develop her complete game.

“He was always there from the mental aspect to the physical aspect of the game,” said Cervantes. “He taught me everything.”

Her uncle laid out the path for her to become a great athlete, but her grandparents were the ones that influenced her to keep growing and working hard on her game.

With all of the help and support she has received over the years from family, friends and coaches, Cervantes has been able to grow and blossom into an outstanding softball player, student and most importantly, person.

Cervantes’ mental and physical strength will surely prove to be monumental in her career and life on and off the field.

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Coyotes beat Toros, claim playoff berth

By RAY BEASLEY
Staff Writer

The Coyotes clinched a CCAA tournament playoff spot on May 5 by sweeping their home doubleheader against Dominguez Hills. Courageously battling back after being down two games in a four-game series, the Coyotes demonstrated their consistent mental resilience.

Originally, the Coyotes took the field with their eyes set on coming home as league champs resulting from a series sweep. After losing two games at the Toros home stadium, however, they found themselves in a battle just to make the playoffs. The Coyotes refused to accept defeat as they battled valiantly through an exhausting 12-inning game. With their season on the brink of ending and their playoff hopes on the line, anything less then victory was unacceptable.

By AMY CUTILLO
Staff Writer

Coyote baseball has had a season to remember this year. With a collection of walk-off victories, stellar pitching performances and outstanding individual performances, the team has turned heads and has shown their competitors what they’re made of.

Chapman’s impressive season was worthy of his first team All-CCAA honors after a season’s worth of hard work. Chapman, who has been playing the game since he was three, is currently a senior.

He majors in kinesiology and hopes to coach high school baseball.

"This is cool and rewarding. Hard work pays off," said Dworak. "I’ve learned to accept my failures and start new challenges. Learning about the game makes you an overall better player."

Dworak leads the team in batting with an unbelievable .356 hitting average and in doubles with 13 according to csusbathletics.com. Through his remarkable season, it’s no wonder why Dworak received such a great honor, which just so happened to be his first conference honor.

"This is cool and rewarding. Hard work pays off," said Dworak. "I’ve learned to accept my failures and start new challenges. Learning about the game makes you an overall better player."

Dworak has been a machine this season, leading the Coyotes in batting average.

Understanding that the game of baseball is about adjusting and learning, both players have found that through patience and perseverance, they can achieve anything.

"In baseball you have to humble yourself. You make mistakes, and it’s tough to accept that. But once you accept it you learn more. You learn to capitalize on every opportunity," said Chapman.

Both Dworak and Chapman have come a long way, but all of their hard work is starting to pay off. With strong determination and a humble mindset, they are sure to accomplish many more things throughout the course of their lives.