May 21st 2012

CSUSB
CSUSB lost a student soldier May 11 in Afghanistan during a small arms fire fight. Lt. Alejo Thompson came to CSUSB in 2010 to become a U.S. Army Officer and continue his service to this country.

Lt. Thompson was a part of the Army Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) Coyote Battalion program until he graduated in 2010 and moved out of state.

The official released statement read

"1st Lt. Alejo R. Thompson, 30, of Yucaipa, Ariz., died May 11 in Bagram, Afghanis stan, when enemy forces attacked his unit with small-arms fire. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Carson, Colorado," according to the U.S. Department of Defense website. News of his death spread to his loved ones and to all the soldiers and cadets he had met through Facebook and phone calls.

"I saw a post on Facebook that a past former cadet was killed in action, it was just a shock. It was also a wake-up call for the seniors on this campus that this can happen after deployment," said Sgt. 1st Class Isaac Abyeta. The loss of Lt. Thompson was "a great shock, I still don’t want to believe it. We lost a good Army officer, a good person in general and I am deeply saddened," said Larry Daniels, who handles paperwork for ROTC cadets and this is how he met Lt. Thompson in 2010. The last time Daniels saw Lt. Thompson was when Lt. Thompson came to the office with his family to get his files for deployment.

"I said ‘have a safe trip man’ and we exchanged a handshake. He was the type of person that you were drawn to and easy to talk to,” continued Daniels.

Lt. Thompson will be one of the fallen soldiers that will be honored during the Armed Forces Awareness Week beginning May 18-25 hosted by CSUSB Veterans Success Center and Student Veterans Organization.

On Monday, May 14 the main flags at CSUSB were flown at half mast from morning until noon, this is customary after a soldier has been killed in action.

There will be a 21-gun salute and Continued on Pg. 4

Hunger strike ends with arrangements from Reed

By NIN GARCIA

Efforts by CSU students who engaged in a hunger strike over soaring tuition and high executive pay have come to an end after 10 consecutive days.

"Abnormal body functions" led students to fall back from the hunger strike.

"We’re tired, our bodies are tired but our spirits are strong and we will continue to fight to claim what is ours, to stand in solidarity with campus presidents, faculty and other students to claim our university," said CSUSB striker Natalie Dorado.

Dorado said students were heartened by an outpouring of support from the university community.

"There is a sense of relief in that, hopefully, there will be no long-term damage that the students will have brought on themselves. We’ve always been concerned about their health," said Mike Uhlenkamp, a spokesman for the university system.

The hunger strike began May 2 and involve 13 students that are members of Students for Quality of Education (SQE) across the CSU system.

They intended to fast with the other SQE members until tuition fees stop increasing. They were also advocating for administrative salary allowances from all 23 campus executives to be eliminated.

Protesting students made their presence known outside a dinner meeting at the home of Cal State Chancellor Charles Reed.

"Our demands aren’t off the table," said Donnie Bessom, a graduate student in political science. "We will keep fighting."

Bessom said through striking students learned not to expect instant gratification and that change takes time with thousands of students recruited for next year.

"Overall, we’re feeling good. We don’t have a set date," Bessom said through striking students learned not to expect instant gratification and that change takes time with thousands of students recruited for next year.

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Diane Baker, Actress in Silence of the Lambs, Cable Guy, The Diary of Ann Frank

Susan Zwerman, Author of The Visual Effects Producer—Understanding the Art and Business of VFX

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ICreate Youth Conference hosted at CSUSB

Elementary and high school students from the San Bernardino county participated in ICreate at CSUSB Saturday May 12.

For the full story, by Jonathan Ng, head to Coyote-Chronicle.net!

Coyote Classifieds

ROOMATE WANTED Fully furnished large bedroom unit near CSUSB. $395 monthly. All utilities, TV, cable, Internet, furniture included. Bus stop nearby. On-site laundry. Call manager, Alvin 909-913-6172

NEW EBOOK “Life on the Mesa” by author Val August (aka Valerie Davis, Wickerson) who grew up in Barstow, CSUSB alumnus and now lives near Seattle WA. Follow the main character, Gemma, from her small town, hardworking upbringing to her demise as revealed in Chapters “Revelations” and “Down by the Riverside.” Support a local girl, “Life on the Mesa” available NOW for only $2.99 on Amazon Books.
Morales hopes for better outcomes on campus

Continued from Pg. 1

president of the College of Staten Island in 2007. He earned his bachelor’s degree in history from The State University of New York, New Paltz, and earned his doctorate in educational administration and policy studies from Suny, Albany.

One of the few higher education administrators in the United States, he has held senior administrative positions at the three largest public university systems in the nation: the California State University, The State University of New York and The City University of New York.

The CSUSB news website stated that in addition to building the university honors college at Cal Poly Pomona, Morales helped faculty to secure a $3.5 million National Science Foundation ADVANCE grant to create a university-wide program for the recruitment and development of diverse faculty in the STEM fields.

The San Bernardino Sun interviewed Morales asking him his thoughts on increasing the number of minorities and financially challenged students on campus.

Morales responded by saying, “I certainly feel that and I’m committed in continuing Karnig’s work in this area.”

CSUSB vet falls in the line of fire

Continued from Pg. 1

taps, which is a bugle call when soldiers have fallen, during the Graves of the Fallen on May 21 at 11 a.m. on the Pfau Library Lawn.

There will be a volley of gun shots during the salute so Coyotes who hear the shots shouldn’t be alarmed.

During this week of awareness there will be a Tie a Ribbon Campaign where yellow ribbons will be tied around trees on campus to represent the 18,370 California Soldiers, Marines, Sailors and Airmen that are currently deployed.

This is a way to demonstrate that no one forgets about soldiers after they have left our community and that their families and friends are waiting for them to get back home.
Strikes get students noticed

By ANJOLAY LAMBERT
Staff Writer

I believe that strikes are words being put into action, so I think they can be an effective method of getting your point across.

Since the California Faculty Association (CFA) approved their two-day strike the students have been doing some striking of their own. Recently, the members of Students for Quality Education went on a nine-day hunger strike. This surprised me, but I think this may be what students need now that tuition costs keep rising and college grads are not able to get the jobs they need to pay off their student debt.

I think its about time that we hear some noise from the students.

“I wish I would have known we were striking because I would’ve wanted to be there, because I think Chancellor Reed needs to hear what I have to say,” said student Courtnee Allen.

Reed got to hear from the Students of Quality Education, according to The Press Enterprise.

As a student I’m so disappointed because students are struggling and it has been a hard time for us economically, causing many of us to be frustrated.

If you ask me it’s about time we turn our frustrations into actions.

We chose to go to college and further our education, yet the chancellor’s office is making it difficult to afford.

So should our tuition go up because we chose to better ourselves?

Something needs to change in order to prevent extra money being taken out of students’ pockets.

Students are now being forced to move back in with their parents or move into cheaper places that can be in bad neighborhoods.

After rising housing costs I was forced to move 15 miles away from school without a car or job.

“My family lives in a different state while I’m here at Cal State going to school, but since they raised tuition its been hard for me so now my family has to help support me,” said student Stephanie Pierre.

Students put so much into finishing school because of the promising future that we believe we might have.

The hunger strike the students put on gave us the attention we deserve because it’s about time for us to be heard.

A hunger strike doesn’t seem bad and it will make people recognize what we go through.

So let’s strike CSUSB, since it seems that’s the only way we are going to make any progress.
Attack ads: proceed with caution

By SARA NYDAN
Staff Writer

Negative campaigns prove to be an effective way to sway voters but are harmful to the decision making process of those listening. Although you like to believe you judge people based on merit and reputability, it is human nature to focus on the bad rather than the good. This is why attack ads have worked in the past and will work in upcoming elections, because “there’s nothing like a sinister portrayal of a greedy, self-centered villain, replete with grainy images and menacing music, to stir up our unconscious minds,” reported The Los Angeles Times.

I believe that attack ads normally begin as ridiculous exaggerations of events that occurred when the candidate was out of the spotlight but unfortunately end by swaying voters in an untruthful way. Consciously, you think to yourself that it’s wrong and unfair for a candidate to bring up old dirt about their opposing candidate. Unconsciously, you think to yourself that you wouldn’t want someone who’s been rumored to have tried LSD in the 80s to run your city or maybe even your country.

Let’s examine the current campaign involving Neil Derry and James Ramos, both of whom are running for the upcoming position of San Bernardino County Supervisor. Together, these two candidates will be able to start a Mexican mafia as well as a White gang, according to campaign strategies that bring up rumors about the candidates.

Derry recently slammed Ramos in an attempt to air out his dirty laundry, labeling him as a “‘Casino Boss’ with ties to the Mexican mafia,” reported the San Bernardino County Sun. Ramos fired back by saying voters “deserve something better than these types of gutter politics.”

While I believe that voters shouldn’t ignore attacks made against candidates, I think that they should search deeper for the truth instead of relying upon information that may be exaggerated or entirely untrue. “[Attack ads] make you think, discrediting someone in a negative way, instead of using facts. They just use an ad hominem effect,” stated student Erik Whitaker.

Derry’s attack specifically was both racist and profound but has brought attention to other relevant information regarding Ramos as a citizen.

“Ramos personally benefits by receiving millions of dollars in casino profits but he doesn’t pay any state or local taxes,” according to the San Bernardino County Sun. “He contributes nothing in taxes from his casino profits to our local schools or our local communities.”

Derry was accused of laundering money from a campaign contribution in 2008. He failed to report the contribution in his campaign report and was sentenced to 3 years of probation, reported the San Bernardino County Sun.

Despite this, as the incumbent it is much easier for Derry to win the upcoming election on June 5th and his vile attack ads may help him in the polls even more. It is difficult for me to make a choice on who to vote for when negative campaign ads surface because it is nearly impossible to know who to trust.

Although attack ads are effective, I encourage you not to believe them all but instead take into consideration comments made about candidates and evaluate what is being said. In other words, make sure to do your research so you don’t fall for attack ads.

Negative campaigns are more often just an untruthful way to throw off another candidate and make that candidate look untrustworthy when in reality, the only untrustworthy person is the attacker. My suggestion is to stick to your gut and even though negative ads can be persuasive, learn more about the candidate instead of strictly believing what’s said about them.
Bead exhibit brings cultural awareness

By KIM DAILEY
Staff Writer

CSUSB’s Anthropology Museum is hosting “Beads,” an exhibit displaying different beads and bead work, located on the third floor of the Social and Behavioral Sciences building.

A grand opening reception was held on Tuesday, May 15 from 5-7 p.m. and served refreshments to those who attended, which were about 45 students, faculty and local residents.

There are six tall display glass cases and four bulletin board with different types of beads and jewelry. Displayed are summaries on each item that say how they were made, where they come from and what they represent to each culture.

Beads and bead work on display included an Iroquois wampum belt, Transylvanian women’s collars, a Blackfoot umbilical amulet, African trade beads and prayer beads.

A summary board stated, "Beads were one of the worlds first commodities. An item made expressly to be traded." For many centuries, beads have represented and expressed many different cultural and religious beliefs from around the world.

"Beads were also an ideal subject for commerce since they require a great deal of labor to produce and were often of rare or expensive materials. They were light enough to be transported easily and durable enough to survive normal handling with little damage," according to a summary board in the museum.

There are many shapes, sizes, decorations and types of beads in the world. Some types of beads are made from animals, plants, minerals, sand, bone, coral, horns, ivory, seeds, animal shell, pottery, glass, precious and semi-precious gemstones, metals and different types of wood.

The summary board stated that more beads have been made of glass than all other materials combined. Glass beads were usually found in sub-Saharan Africa and were manufactured in India.

They are now commonly used as personal adornment and in the past were often exchanged as prestige goods, stated the exhibit.

One item on display was a type of jewel that had a resemblance of an eye. In Sumeria, in the third millennium B.C., they would refer to this as the evil eye.

The belief is that the malevolent forces can enter a person through the eye and can cause harm, poor judgement or even death.

Folks believed by having this bead on or around them would help prevent those bad events from occurring.

Student Gloria Doran’s favorite type of beads are Amber beads, which are fossilized resin of coniferous trees. “I’m learning a lot about beads and how they have different significances to each culture," said Doran.

The Tibetan Mala necklace on display used 108 bone beads that were divided into four sections by mismatched large beads.

The amount of beads and each bead placement resemble and represent a part of a person’s cultural prayer and their beliefs against evil.

Student Dominic Taylor was walking around taking pictures of all the different beads and bead work. “I like the realness. They are or seem to be real artifacts, not clones,” said Taylor.

On display was a wampum loom hand made belt and the machine that was used to make the belt. It took about 20 hours for the weaving alone and by adding in the time required to make nearly 1600 wampum beads.

The belt was usually worn for hospitality or a type of welcome ceremony.

There are many different cultural backgrounds and beliefs represented behind each of the beads and bead work that the museum had on display.

The Museum hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. If you have a chance, go check it out.

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Photography student gives beauty a new name

By GABRIEL CORRAL
Staff Writer

One CSUSB photography student has been inspired by the messages and ads on billboards and sends to society and is turning it into art.

Deana Romo, a studio art major with a concentration in photography, has recently grabbed the attention of her professor, Thomas McGovern, with her most recent project.

“My style is mostly revolved around celebrities in magazine ads by folding the paper into origami-like designs such as "water bombs" or the familiar "cootie catcher." “Ads and billboards are everywhere," said Romo. “And it seems as if we can’t get away from them. I decided I would just base my art around them and instead point my finger back at it all and say, ‘This is what I think of what you’re trying to sell me.’”

Romo’s interest in photography began her freshman year of high school when she took her first class. She started at CSUSB as a Spanish major but then quickly discovered that photography was her first love.

“I feel like I’m in control when I have my camera and that I can access anything,” said Romo when asked what her favorite thing about photography was. “There are no boundaries.”

One thing Romo has discovered about photography is that it has helped her break out of her comfort zone. She describes herself as shy, but photography has helped her become more outgoing so that she can get the shot she wants.

“Every photograph should have some sort of narrative to it,” said Romo. “I want people to look at my photos and see that the message is obvious.”

She was inspired to get her message across by distorting the faces and bodies of models in magazines in the form of paper folding by her already existing love for origami.

“I was using my wide angle lens and by using that, the edges of the picture already expanded,” said Romo. “I thought to myself ‘How can I make these people look even more ridiculous?’ I started folding the paper into different designs and realized it gave them even more conformities.”

Romo recently realized a famous photographer named Weegee had taken on a similar challenge in the 1950s by distorting the images of celebrities. One of his most famous photographs is of Marilyn Monroe where he adjusted her nose to resemble a pig.

“I already started my year-long project when I had discovered Weegee as a photographer," said Romo. “But now he inspires me to take even more pictures in this style!”

She plans to attend graduate school for photography in the fine arts after CSUSB and hopes she can continue to send messages to people through her art.
Local businesses receive student support

By ANGELA E. RODRIGUEZ
Staff Writer

CSUSB students support our community by buying from the small businesses we call our neighbors.

“Small business is what drives the American economy,” said chief economist for the Office of Advocacy, Dr. Chad Moutray, in the article “Small Business Drives U.S. Economy” on about.com.

During times of recession, small businesses are the ones that suffer the most, especially when they have popular, big-name competition that gets millions of dollars for their business.

At Paco’s Tacos restaurant off of University Parkway and Kendall Drive, student Michelle Greene orders her favorite dish. There are several fast food chains that serve a similar plate of food, however, when these local businesses are supported, it stimulates our local economy.

“This place has the best burritos here because they taste homemade, not processed and is less expensive than other places around,” said Greene.

Without these mom and pop businesses, we have corporate businesses available, which would have no need to provide variation in our choices for any basic need, including buying food and getting an oil change. A lack of competition decreases both the driving down of prices to catch customer attention, and the variety of products.

“On my way to school I always stop at Manna Donuts because they have better customer service and I feel more comfortable with the owners because they actually care.”

Michelle Greene
Student

“I actually like buying from small businesses because they have better customer service and I feel more comfortable with the owners because they actually care.”

Michelle Greene
Student

Small businesses close to campus help create good clientele of students and families that support these locations.

“I think some businesses should be supported more! I know there’s Jack in the Box and Bankin Robbins down the street but people got to open their eyes to see what other options we have here, like Tiki Hut,” said Aguyo.

“I actually like buying from small businesses because they have better customer service and I feel more comfortable with the owners because they actually care,” said Greene.

These small businesses give us different variations in price and allow us to not conform to a monopoly; for example at University Book Exchange have lower prices for their merchandise, $5 to $10 cheaper, compared to the original prices at our campus bookstore.

According on about.com in the article “Top Ten Reasons to Love U.S. Small Business,” small businesses contribute to our economy by creating 75 percent of jobs, some of which can help students pay for school.

These businesses follow their own rules when it comes to products, unlike many chains that have to deal with corporations like Walmart.

When local small businesses are supported, customers are giving back to their community, which means businesses that make higher revenue pay higher taxes to support local police, fire department and schools.
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Chamber Orchestra enthralls CSUSB

The melodies and variations of string instruments synchronized in perfect harmony on May 17 in a special collaborative concert at CSUSB’s very own Performing Arts Recital Hall.

The director of Chamber Orchestra, Michele Brosseau-Tacchia has created a multi-level orchestrated program which gives young musicians from elementary, middle and high school the opportunity to perform at a collegiate level.

It has always been a dream of hers to combine different young talents ever since the beginning of her career as a music educator. After working with students in the county and at local schools, Brosseau-Tacchia was offered a chance to make her dream into a reality.

“I thought, ‘Wouldn’t it be great if we could all play it again, together?’ So when I was asked I knew what I wanted to do,” said Brosseau-Tacchia.

She began recruiting potential musicians. Players from Elementary Magnet Schools, the Honor Orchestra from Palm Avenue Elementary, Symphonie Jeunesse from Youth Orchestra for Strings and the CSUSB Orchestra evidently made a lasting impression that soon became known as the Chamber Orchestra.

The collected group of over 50 students has learned three new songs since January, not including “Styres’ Rally” which was known to them from their daily school experience. The talented group however, learned it in just one month. Pieces such as “Irish Legend” echoed the heavy sounds of the violin and strings accompanied by an up-beat drum set.

CSUSB student Karissa Lozano enjoyed the concert even though it was a requirement for her music course. “I liked the performances a lot especially [listening to] how the violins made such different sounds,” said Lozano.

The crowd was filled with supporting family and friends. Proud mother Dale Craig was among that crowd as she embraced her talented daughter, violinist Abigail Craig.

“She has only been playing for two years [yet] every time I hear her play she gets better and better,” said Craig.

The song “Ice Sculptures” captured the hauntingly beautiful essence of winter thanks to the cellos and strings as well as a mini solo from eight year cellist, Dana Polley.

Polley, a junior at Cajon High School, has been under the teachings of Brosseau-Tacchia since the fourth grade. Throughout the night the spotlight shined on Polley as she perfected her role as the bass voice in the string quartet.

“I got so happy when I’m playing, I feel free. Its how I express myself, I speak better when I’m playing the cello than when I’m actually speaking,” said Polley.

Polley’s passion for the cello has inspired her to major in music once she gets to college and to perform all over the world.

This outstanding program has inspired Brosseau-Tacchia’s students to take their devotion to music to another level. The talent and brilliance that she helped generate with this group of performers was apparent.

With her expertise in the music scene, the future of today’s young artists looks bright.

Kimbra keen on creating soulful sounds

Kimbra is a star on the rise and her new album, Vows, proves that she is destined to be on top of the charts.

The 24-year-old singer from New Zealand is better known for her guest appearance on Gotye’s single, “Somebody I Used to Know.” The single was No. 1 in 10 countries.

Vows is an album filled with mixed genre glossy pop, whimsical soul and fulfilling jazz renditions that show Kimbra’s own writing as something to behold.

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Psychedelic Milk permeates the psyche

By MARISSA MOONEY
Staff Writer

Psychedelic Milk packs a mighty punch of desert-influenced vibes that is slowly infecting the underground rock scene.

The five-piece band consists of Chasen Landry on lead vocals, Russ Rosenwirth on bass, Taylor Ruthford and Brian Saude on guitar and Gary Humphrey on percussion.

Two of the five members, Saude and Ruthford, attend CSUSB. Saude is a mass communications Major, graduating this spring and Ruthford is a dual major in philosophy and communications.

The band’s main influence is based off the desert town of Hesperia, located on the outskirts of Los Angeles and the Inland Empire.

“Our music is heavily influenced on the desert and people who live there,” said the band.

The name ‘Psychedelic Milk’ was inspired by the Stanley Kubrick masterpiece “A Clockwork Orange,” specifically the scene where the main character Alex DeLarge and his droogs attend the Korova milk bar.

“Do you remember that part of the movie where they just sit there and drink psychedelic milk?” asked Landry.

The band has a noticeably retro sound, but they’re quick to point out their modern influences.

“When people say we sound like we are from the 60s, fuck that, we are not from the 60s. We are influenced by music that is back during that time, but we are contemporary and modern,” said Landry.

The music that the band presents is vaguely reminiscent of The Doors coupled with their own independent style.

Saude jams on the lead guitar while Ruthford strums in unison on the guitar to keep rhythm. Landry’s vocals are strong on his own, almost overpowering the strong percussion and guitars.

The music will definitely make you bob your head and tap your toes. It is an absolutely enthralling listening experience that makes you want to hit the gas pedal and rock the fuck out.

The song “Temptation” is darkly alluring. It was the closing song for the set at Lake Alice which, after only listening to twice before, creates a catchy element of rock ‘n’ roll.

The band believes that they do not have any type of influence in this modern world.

“As Jack White says, you can’t be influenced by bands today. We are trying to blend everything we listen to and put it together,” says Landry.

When all is said and done, Psychedelic Milk are just a group of friends who are living the dream of playing music.

“If you can find another band that does nothing but shoot the shit, and argue with each other as best friends, I would like to meet them. I have yet to meet anyone like us to this day. We are the best of friends, that play music together,” concluded Landry.

Psychedelic Milk is signed with Silver Rose Studios, an independent label. The band plays the second Wednesday of every month at the Lake Alice Trading Co. in Riverside.

You can listen to their music and watch the video “Temptation,” both of which can be found on their website at http://psychedelicmilk.blogspot.com/
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Vu’s 120 goals ties water polo record

By AMY CUTILLO
Staff Writer

Misty Vu is not only owning the water here at CSUSB but she is also leading herself into a life filled with much success.

Vu is a utility player for the Coyote water polo team.

Being a utility player requires that you can play several positions competently, and that is more than likely the reason Vu is so skilled at her sport.

She has played the field now for three and a half years.

Vu began playing water polo eight years ago as a goalie during summer school her freshman year.

"After my freshman year in high school, I just loved it. Everyday before practice started I’d have my bag packed al-ready, and wake up an hour early the day of practice," said Vu.

Since then she has built her way up, and as of recently Vu tied the previous goal school record of 120 and was named the school’s 120 goals ties water polo record.

Her love of the sport stems from many facets.

"I got hooked on the game because I like being aggressive and horsing around, and this is a sport where I can do that. The fact that I could be aggressive with someone I don’t even know is so fun, and I enjoy it," said Vu.

Not only does Vu say this is an aggressive sport, but it also is a sport that she never stops learning from.

"Everyday is a learning experience. I continue to learn more about this sport everyday. Playing water polo [for] CSUSB has taught me dedication. Rain or shine, I am in that water everyday," said Vu.

Aside from playing for the water polo team, she is majoring in communications with a concentration in public relations.

Despite juggling a busy water polo schedule, Vu finds time to work, go to school, coach the swim team and also coach at Martin Luther King High School in Riverside.

Vu is currently a senior academically, but athletically she is a junior.

Since Vu is not graduating until some time next year, she will be playing one more year of water polo here at CSUSB.

According to Vu, almost everything she has learned here has been due to Coach Sarah Reneker.

"She has taught me everything. Her passion is what I feed off of. She teaches me everyday. Like I said, it’s non-stop learning when it comes to this sport, but every little thing that I know right now about this sport is thanks to her," said Vu.

Knowing that she possesses the talent and determination to play the sport inspires Vu to continue to excel.

"I want to continue to do this and see how far I can take it," said Vu.

She plans to continue to play internationally for a club team.

Water polo is not just a sport for Vu, it is something that she believes will help her gain life experience.

"If you put in 100 percent at every practice, then you should apply that to your work. Give it your all no matter what. At practice we always say ‘Perfect practice makes perfect play,’ so if you always work hard then it will pay off," said Vu.

This season she definitely showed where working hard can lead you as she was named to the Western Water Polo Association (WWPA) second team.

In a year where her team struggled to achieve success, Vu stood out as the captain and gave her team a fighting chance each time they took to the water.

Vu has one more year to showcase her talents and hopefully lead her team to victory.

With seven upperclassmen returning next season, success is around the corner.

With a strong head on her shoulders and a positive attitude towards life, Vu will be making waves wherever she goes.

Toughness fuels Mitchell’s career goals

By CHELSEA UNDERWOOD
Staff Writer

Senior Alex Mitchell is an avid athlete who shows that with a strong mentality and a good work ethic anything is possible.

Mitchell has played softball for 15 years and over the course of time she has learned a lot about herself as an athlete.

Her mom was the one that influenced her to play softball but her dad and older brother were the ones who pushed and prepared her to become a better athlete.

She grew up with her brother who challenged her to be mentally and physically strong by picking on her and by play-fighting in order to toughen her up.

“It’s that fight to never give up that my brother instilled in me," said Mitchell.

Her brother taught her to fire but she was born with her dad’s competitiveness in sports, according to Mitchell.

Her dad started his own 18-and-under travel softball team called So Cal Stars in San Bernardino, which Mitchell participated in.

Even though he was the coach, he would work her harder than any of the other players to show he was not going easy on his daughter.

She also participated in the winning softball program at Cajon High School all four years and excelled there as an athlete, participating not only in softball, but golf and track as well.

Mitchell showed her athleticism and versatility, continuing through Coyote softball.

Playing as a Coyote for four years, Mitchell has shown significant improvement in her hitting since high school, especially her slapping (bunting for a base hit).

She had some help from the hitting coach but knew that if she wanted to get better she had to improve in another way as well.

"I would buy videos from Division 1 coaches to find out how they do [slapping],” said Mitchell. “I would try to teach myself.”

She has received constructive criticism from her coaches and makes sure to practice on her time in order to strengthen her weaknesses.

Coach Duncan invited players to come early to practice and Mitchell gladly accepted.

“My work ethic grew more and came from Coach Duncan,” said Mitchell.

Mitchell is practicing her work ethic in her studies for her major in kinesiology with an emphasis in exercise science.

After graduating she plans on continuing her education by going for her masters in athletic training but has not decided which school she will go to.

Despite her plans to move forward, Mitchell is not quite ready to put up her glove and cleats.

This summer she, along with fellow teammates Carly Land, Britney Butler, and Jamie Lefkord, will be participating in the USA Athletes International Organization (USAII).

They will be playing in Australia against other countries over a two week tournament.

After bat a blistering .384 in this season, Mitchell is sure to continue her brilliance during the summer and contribute greatly to her team.

In addition, she also contributed with 24 RBIs and 2 home runs, not to mention her nearly impeccable fielding percentage of .954.

It is clear that Mitchell has a bright future ahead of her and that she will use her education and her toughness to reach her goals.

While she will be missed on our diamond, we wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors.

Mitchell’s work ethic, which drives her to become a better player and person, will surely continue after graduation.

“You are not hurting yourself by working harder, you are only making yourself better," said Mitchell. “So why not put forth the extra effort.”
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Coyotes need to stay competitive in the recent history of the franchise, taking with them what they have learned, the ups and the downs.

Controversial balk circles Coyote playoffs

By RAY BEASLEY
Staff Writer

Coyotes are finding it hard to remember their amazing season and past successes with the recent loss to Sonoma State. With such high hopes of success the struggling Coyotes struggle to remain positive in the wake of such a disappointing end to their beloved season.

“At the start of the year our goal was to win the last game of the season and since we fell short it is a let down,” said starting pitcher Paul Eshleman.

It is this mindset of not coming home until the final game of the season was won that kept the Coyotes fighting until the very end.

The Coyotes lost in dramatic fashion as their star closer, Josh Pond, was called for a balk which allowed the runner on third base to walk home in the bottom of the ninth inning, giving Sonoma State a 3-2 victory.

This happened right after the Coyotes made an improbable comeback, as catcher Eshleman, tripled in a run in the top half of the ninth inning to give the Coyotes a 2-1 lead. It proved to not be enough, however. With such high standards and their willingness to strive for near perfection. It is difficult to keep mentally focused on next year or their professional futures.

“I am proud of how we finished, fighting until the end. It’s the result I am not not happy about. We know that we are a better team than what we ended at and it is a let down that we were not able to live up to the standards that we had put upon ourselves,” said Eshleman.

Oftentimes fans and followers of sports teams do not recognize the mental struggles the players deal with, never understanding that the players take a loss far harder then they could ever imagine.

This game is a major part of their lives. It is what they invest the majority of their time to perfect.

“Some of the guys will be at the baseball field eight or more hours on game days,” said head coach Don Parnell.

Many fans are never privy to the behind-the-scenes effort they give for the simple hope of achieving victory; victory for themselves, the team and their school’s pride.

It is this level of determination that the Coyotes need to stay competitive in the relentless world of baseball.

Every player, on both sides of the field, works to achieve the same goal and the first team to let up is the first team to admit defeat.

It is, in a sense, a cruel reality.

“Baseball is a weird sport in that even if you are ahead late in the game you never let up, and I feel that we let up for just a split second and when we did, the game was over and we were not on the winning side,” said Eshleman.

The game of baseball allows no room for complacency and demands nothing less than absolute effort until the final pitch is thrown.

The Coyotes will now have to learn how to pick up the pieces of their season, taking with them what they have learned, the ups and the downs.

L.A. pros taking sports world by storm

By JESSICA BRACAMONTES
Staff Writer

Lately, the city of Los Angeles has been on top of the sports world, with the Dodgers, Lakers, Clippers, and Kings making noise in their respective sports.

The hype from these Los Angeles teams has made its way to CSUSB, as the Coyotes cheer on and support their favorite local sport teams year round.

Student Valeria Barragan is an avid Dodgers fan who attended multiple games each season and is convinced that this season will be quite successful for the boys in blue.

“Los Angeles Dodgers are doing extremely good this season,” Barragan said. “Every game they play they win. My favorite player has to be Matt Kemp who has been blazing hot as of late, with 12 home runs and a .359 batting average.

“Baseball is a weird sport in that even if you are ahead late in the game you never let up, and I feel that we let up for just a split second and when we did, the game was over and we were not on the winning side,” said Eshleman.

The game of baseball allows no room for complacency and demands nothing less than absolute effort until the final pitch is thrown.

The Coyotes will now have to learn how to pick up the pieces of their season, taking with them what they have learned, the ups and the downs.

Los Angeles Kings making noise in their respective sports.

Meanwhile, the Clippers had themselves quite a regular season, as they provided the league with plenty of highlights to go along with their playoff berth in six years.

With 40 wins and 26 losses, the team was able to post their highest winning percentage in Clippers history, thanks in large part to the acquisition of what many call the best point guard in the league right now, Chris Paul, who turned the team into Lob City.

They started their playoff run against the powerful Memphis Grizzlies, who were designated as the favorites in the series.

The Grizzlies stacked roster and homecourt advantage were just two of the many obstacles that the Clippers had to face throughout the series, however, they were able to prevail with an impressive 10-point victory in game seven on the road.

They moved on to face the No. 1 seeded San Antonio Spurs, who they were able to outlast in a long fight with.

The Lakers found themselves in their usual position among the powerhouse of the competitive Western Conference.

With a 41-25 record, the Lakers claimed the No. 3 spot and faced off against the scrappy Denver Nuggets in their first round series.

The Lakers and Nuggets battled back and forth, and the Lakers, like the Clippers, won the series in seven games.

Currently, they are facing off against the vaunted Oklahoma City Thunder.

Interestingly enough, if the Clippers and Lakers are able to win their respective series, they will face off for the right to be crowned Kings of Los Angeles as well as champions of the Western Conference.

Student Arthur Maccas is a devoted Los Angeles fan who enjoys Lakers and Clippers games.

“I believe the success of the Lakers this year is due to the dedication and eagerness to win a championship again. The success can be attributed by the key factors such as the coach, coaches, staffs and the income the teams make,” said Maccas.

In the NHL world, the Kings have made a surprising run in the playoffs, as they have dominated the competition so far.

The Kings finished the regular season with 40 wins which was just enough to get them into the playoffs as the eight seed.

In round one of the playoffs, the No. 3 seeded Kings faced the Vancouver Canucks, who held the league’s best record.

The Kings made easy work of them, pulling off an improbable win in only five games.

The following opponent for the Kings was the St. Louis Blues, whose defense was feared and revered around the league.

Unphased, however, the Kings were able to pull off a 4-0 sweep against the Blues.

The Kings were able to advance to the Western Conference Finals where they are currently facing off against their division rivals, the Phoenix Coyotes.

If the Kings are able to defeat the Phoenix Coyotes, they will have earned the right to play for, and potentially win, the first Stanley Cup in the franchise’s silent history.

Even more impressive, they would be the first eight seed in NHL history to win the Stanley Cup.

Student Marvin Mejia is impressed with the Kings’ progress and feels that this team can truly compete for the Cup.

“Well, with the acquiring of [Jeff] Carter and [Mike] Richards, I had high hopes for goal scoring, and with Jonathan Quick in goal, I knew it was a recipe for good things,” said Mejia.

“The way they have been playing, they stand a good chance at winning, but they can’t get overconfident. They have to take it one hard-fought game at a time. Go Kings, Go!”

With the successes that sports teams are having in the city, it comes as no surprise if the city of Angels is able to host multiple parades this summer.