November 13th, 2019

CSUSB
Impacts of the unforeseen power outages

Affected residents on campus by consecutive power outages

By Tanya Jensen
Contributing Writer

On-campus residents, staff, and faculty share and comment on their apocalyptic-like experiences from being left on campus during the power outages from October 30 to 31. High winds have always affected CSUSB, but for this fall quarter, due to the fires last year, Southern California Edison (SCE) power company had been taking more precautions than usual.

Campus had little warning and no control when SCE turned off campus power, according to Jon Merchant, the interim director for The Department of Housing & Residential Education (DHRE).

“We’re kind of at the mercy of the power company in terms of when these things occur,” Merchant said.

When SCE cut the power, it left 1,200 student residents without refrigerators, water heaters, electric stoves, elevators, microwaves, internet, and lights, to name a few.

Cindy Chavez lives on campus and is majoring in Biology. On October 30, Chavez thought the power would come back the next day, but she was instead left in the dark. She said, “I was scared and overwhelmed at the time, because I hate the dark, you know?” ...

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Hillside fires at San Bernardino

By Jacob Russell
Staff Writer

On the night of October 30, 2019, a slew of ravaging, brush fires broke out just a half-mile into the mountains located directly north of local San Bernardino neighborhoods, only about a mile away from the CSUSB campus.

Local firefighters and medical staff rushed to help contain the blaze before it could even spread through the many neighborhoods it surrounded.

At around 11 p.m., local law enforcement started to wrap up their evacuations of the surrounding neighborhoods. James Garcia, a 25-year-old resident who was evacuated, exclaimed, “I just had went to sleep because I have work in the morning and the next thing I knew I had cops banging on my doors telling me a fire was dangerously close to my home. We had to grab our bare necessities and evacuate our homes! My neighbor, Jordan, lost his home, and this is all just insane!”

21-year old CSUSB student, Isaac Lopez, who lives on Del Rosa, which is about 5 miles away from the site of the fires, said his car was “covered in ash. I thought it may have snowed.”

Local officials contained the fires in less than 24 hours. 13 properties were lost.

Donations are being collected for those who lost homes and property, and for those who barely escaped with their clothes on their back. For donations to local Californians who are affected by the recent wildfires, log on to www.cafirefoundation.org.

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"...Also, I didn’t know where to go or what to do,” said Chavez.

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"It was just kind of frustrating ‘cause I know, like, the powers are out, they can’t really give information easily, but I feel like they maybe could’ve helped out,” Chavez expressed. “I don’t know, I just feel like, in my opinion, they didn’t handle the situation as well as they should have.”

Students were not the only ones impacted by the power outages.

Professor Richard Addante, Ph.D., is part of a CSUSB program called Faculty in Residence. There are a total of 7 professors who live on campus, for the purpose of connecting with students outside of the classroom.

In addition to the 7 Faculty in Resident professors, there are 53 resident assistants, 8 hall coordinators, and 4 full-time area coordinators.

The RAs are student volunteers who are not paid but rather compensated for room and board, said DHRE director Jon Merchant.

When the power went out, most students were dependent upon their RAs.

Dr. Addante stated that RAs are not trained in depth when it comes to emergency protocol.

According to Merchant, RAs have a “full training” at the beginning of the year which mainly focuses on health and wellness. Other than that, RAs refer to the other live-in staff for any questions they might have.

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Eyewitness account on power outage on campus

Sydney Fregozo  Copy Editor

Monday, October 28. Day One of the week-long power outage.

I was in the middle of my linguistics class, where I sat in the front with my right leg propped up on a chair ahead of me, listening to my professor, when the lights suddenly turned off. Everyone was confused, including my professor. He stepped outside for a moment to figure out what was going on.

When he returned, he resumed the lesson for an additional fifteen minutes before dismissing us. The power in the building had not returned and I was on the second floor, crutches under my arms, and stitches on my right knee. If it weren’t for the kindness of two strangers, I don’t know how I would have gotten down the flight of stairs.

I managed to find companionship on that first day as I went to the Commons for a source of food. Another kind stranger offered to pay for my meal as I did not have Dining Dollars nor was I on a meal plan, the only way one could receive food from there. It had been my luck that Day One was when I was scheduled to see the doctor about my knee. From there, my luck was about to get worse.

Wednesday, October 30. Day Two of the week-long power outage.

Once again, I had been scheduled to see the doctor that day, but the previous night indicated that would not be the case. I trudged on, accepting that the campus would be closed. I woke up at around 10 a.m. that morning to find that my chargers plugged on the outlet were not working. I realized, then, that the power had been shut-off. While the e-mails warned me that the power could be shut-off during a planned campus closure, I had yet to see them follow through on it.

I had to rely on emergency cash to order a pizza for myself and one of my roommates just so we could have something to eat that day. I used my laptop to charge my phone, with two portable chargers in hand. I had to be careful with how I used them for my phone’s battery is very unreliable and in need of constant charging to ensure it won’t die.

Connection to the outside world was limited as my network went on and off on working, even with the Hotspot on for my laptop. I managed to keep in touch with my online friends and my sister, who was three hours away. I had to rely on emergency gas since I don’t have to drive to get worse.

I decided to turn my phone off for the night, intent on turning it back on in the morning. I wasn’t sure what I would do the next day.

Thursday, October 31. Day Three of the week-long power outage.

What should have been a day of tricks and treats was a day of worry hanging over my head. I turned my phone back on, only to find that it wouldn’t turn on. I had to resort to using my second portable and waited for my phone to be usable again.

When it became usable, I found out that there was a chance I would have to be evacuated as the fires peaked closer to the area. I heard that some in the area, some that were farther away from my apartment, were called to evacuate their homes. It was a first for this campus. I trudged on, accepting that would not be the case. I trudged on, accepting that the campus would be closed.

I live off cereal on Day 3 and all I could think to do was check my e-mail and…

I waved the flashlight in front of my window as did the residents in the building across from me. I don’t know who those people were. They didn’t know who I was. But we were the ones who remained in the powerless buildings.

High wind alerts drove campus closures

By Yera Nanan, Avery Robinson, Fatima Gomez, Graciela Ramirez  Contributing Writers

A day off from college courses is typically a day well received, but not when it involves dangerous winds and power outages.

On Thursday, Oct. 10, 2019, the campus was shut down due to high winds with Southern California Edison being proactive in preventing wildfires.

This campus is no stranger to high winds and potential fire scares, but what is new is the authority that Southern California Edison has to shut down electricity if need be.

Associate Vice President for Facilities Planning and Management, Jennifer Sorenson, is one of the first recipients to the news of a power outage from Edison.

“We have to make sure that we are providing emergency power to areas like animal care facilities and research things that can’t go down,” said Sorenson. Facilities Planning and Management work non-stop in these situations from the time the outpost starts to putting the campus back together when things go back online.

“We have to pay all the staff that get sent home for a closure… it’s extremely expensive for the campus to close in this situation,” expressed Sorenson. Dr. Douglas Freer, Vice President for Administration and Finance, has been in constant communication with Edison to make the best decisions for the campus going forward.

“We rely on the information coming from Southern California Edison…we have to just roll with the punches if we don’t get the notice,” said Dr. Freer. The National Weather Service also plays a major role in the decision to close campus as the presidential cabinet has to convene and discuss the fate of the campus for situations like this.

“These issues around pre-planned power outages is a new phenomenon this year by the major power companies... this program hasn’t existed in the past,” mentioned Dr. Freer. With this new program being implemented, the campus has experienced five closures in total, making the month of October an interesting one for many students.

“I have been studying more and catching up on homework,” said commuter student Ashley Roche who resides in Riverside and has been using her time to be more productive.

Most of the students enrolled in this institution hail from San Bernardino and Riverside county making this a predominate commuter student campus. “I’ve been saving money on gas since I don’t have to drive here. It’s been nice,” expressed Roche.

The students are always the top priority for this campus as different departments and administrators have been working around the clock to ensure student safety.

Vice President of Student Affairs, Dr. Paz Oliverez, commends students on their...
Lack of student engagement on campus

By Destiny Johnson, Jallene Paniagua, Tyler Williams, Sydney Pate, Abigail Ramos

Contributing Writers

Low student engagement worries campus city and club organizers, while students fret the lack of effective communication about the campus extracurricular activities.

According to the Office of Institutional Research, about 94% of students at CSUSB commute. Of 20,000, “that’s about 18,775 students,” said Muriel Lopez-Wagner.

Dean Saravia, a university honors student, said he felt more informed when he lived on campus during the beginning of his college career.

“The problem is that most of the students are commuters who are not properly informed about the variety of resources we have,” he said. “When you’re a resident, you are constantly informed about what’s happening on campus.”

Extracurricular opportunities allow students to travel nationally and abroad, gain experience through internships, receive physical and psychological counseling, and so much more. Yet, many students fail to take action.

Jane Rodriguez, CSUSB’s Student Engagement Coordinator, expressed her frustration.

“The engagement isn’t there,” she said. “What we’ve noticed is that students are not opening their emails, which is where the information that we send them lies.”

Kayla Burroughs, a transfer student in her second year at CSUSB acknowledges that the information in those emails could be important, but she believes the sheer amount of random emails throughout the day “vaguely heading school related matters” causes her to feel more repelled than inclined to open them.

“I feel like I get a lot of emails but I never know what they are about, and I never want to open them because of how frequently I get them,” explained Burroughs.

“It’s barely noon and I already have six emails that I needed to go through,” said senior Garrett Little. “It devalues university communication. It is more spam and less of a notice.”

Vanessa Cruz, a Business Management Major in her 4th year, reflected on her time at CSUSB. She regrets that she did not get to experience other cultures through the Study Abroad Program, a department which frequently sends out informational emails about upcoming trips, giveaways and events.

Fortunately, I found an alternate way to travel,” said Cruz. “Through my involvement in the ‘Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities,’ I am leaving this month on a paid flight to Chicago!”

Cruz admits that as a first-generation college student, she’s “really nervous, but that she is still putting [herself] out there and networking with other professionals.”

In a school where 81% of the student body is made up of first-generation college students, getting involved is important in order to gain necessary experience said Career Counselor and First Generation student graduate, Denise Perez-Flores, M.S.

“In order to attain your goals, it is gonna take a lot of work,” she said. “It’s better to use the resources available on campus.”

Levena Griffin, a 3rd year Business and Administration Major is also a first-year college student. She found entering college to be difficult and intimidating. However, Levena stated that even though she doesn’t always “know what to do and who to ask” that, from her sorority sisters to her professors’ office hours, there is “always an answer” if she seeks it.

Jenny Phan, a 5th year Sociology Major in the Master’s Program is currently pursuing her passion. The professors in her Sociology Program connected her to an internship at a local courthouse, where she mentors and counsels families in distress.

Phan stated, “While I started as a Computer Science major, I learned more about myself, and discovered what my passion is, which is serving and helping people.”

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Jenny Phan realizes that had she failed to reach out to faculty and attempt “new things,” she would have missed out on “a journey of self-discovery and her future career.”

Peer Advisor, Mariana Jimenez shared how getting involved on campus changed the whole trajectory of her college experience.

She feels like a student’s college experience is entirely in their own hands.

“I could just be a student who comes here, takes the classes, and then just goes home, but then I wouldn’t get to have that university experience,” she said. “I would say your education and experience in general here at CSUSB is what you make it.”

“Lack of student engagement on campus”

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Q: What causes strong winds?
A: What causes strong winds is the difference in air pressure. If you have really high pressure over here and lower pressure here that means that the air is going to want to equalize that. It’s not going it wants to fill in the holes to speaks or it’ll blow from high pressure to low pressure. And so that’s what causes wind regionally.

If there’s a big difference, the bigger the difference the stronger the flow the harder it will blow. There’s also the issues of day time heating, the sunlight hits the ground, the ground heats up heats the air hot air rises and so you’ll often get air currents forming just during the day. But those are more local effects depending on who the ground gets it’s a clear day or not. Then we experience those air pressure differences in different air masses. Weather systems typically move eastward. Sometimes they’ll move kind of southeast as you’ve got cold systems that are moving and sometimes you have things moving northeast. But overall the general drift in this belt of latitude is that the weather systems move east and that’s largely related to the rotation of the planet.

Q: Why do you think we are having strong winds here in SB?
A: The really strong winds this last month were high pressure systems that were kind of north and northeast of us. And the reason that we got super strong winds here on campus is because we’ve got the San Bernardino Mountains and the San Gabriel Mountains and in between them is the Cajon pass. And so that pass kind of funnels the winds down the pass. It focuses them and the same way you have a garden hose you turn on and the water just pushed out and you constrict the opening. What happens to how fast the waters move? It speeds up the pass is a construction. So, this is all a low valley. Be breezy but you get the mounds here. They block the wind at either side which funnels the air and speeds it up. And so that’s why we get such high winds right at the foot.

Q: Is there a solution to fix the strong winds?
A: No. The Earth has patterns of weather systems. Some of it globally deals with just the circulation of the earth the fact that it rotates. Here’s the atmosphere and it’s rotating out from under it which induces some general drift of air masses. So, this is one reason why if you look at a weather map of the U.S. of North America the weather systems typically move eastward. Sometimes they’ll move kind of southeast as you know you’ve got cold systems that are moving and sometimes you have things moving northeast. But overall the general drift in this belt of latitude is that the weather systems move east and that’s largely related to the rotation of the planet.

Q: Consequences of strong winds?
A: For campuses in cities and towns, the winds going to blow trees over low branches off trees. And if those trees fall on a house or if they fall on a car you know they can cause damage.

Continued online @ CoyoteChronicle.net
Lot N, located adjacent to Parking Structure East, is one of the most crowded parking lots on campus. 

“Actually live on campus but even an on-campus student I experience a lot of parking issues. I think the price should accommodate more and it doesn’t. I have an issue with tickets and the way they’re given and how you can’t contest it. I think that’s really unreasonable.”

By Tanya Jansen
Contributing Writer

As the fall quarter nears its end, the struggle to find parking is at its peak. Campus officials have plans for helping students find parking with the help of new software.

Savanna Trombetta, a senior at CSUSB who works two campus jobs, said that finding parking has always been difficult for her, even when she lived in student housing.

“I think we can handle the mass number of students here but just not in parking terms because we’re such a heavy commuter campus. I think that the commuter aspect is really negatively impacted the way our parking services work,” said Savanna Trombetta, who is hopeful for the possible parking solution.

CSUSB Assistant Professor for Computer Science and Engineering Yunfei Hou, Ph.D. has been working with ITS Director of Digital Transformation, Michael Casadonte, to provide a parking monitoring app that will tell students where parking is available.

Their tentative plan is to release the app once both parking structures are up and running, which they say should be in the next 18 months. Students will be able to look at the myCoyote app before they get to campus or once they arrive on campus and see where available parking is located. This is intended to reduce the time spent searching for parking.

“Our objective is just to count how many cars are coming in and coming out of Parking Structure East so we can then tell you how many spots are available,” said Dr. Hou. Hou explained that the parking monitoring system originally began last year as a project that three of his students had been working on as part of the Engineering Design course series. It then turned into a collaboration between Academic Technologies & Innovation, facilities service, and parking service as well as the university police department who provided 13 cameras for Parking Structure East.

Parking Services officials have been contacted for several stories about campus parking, including this story, but have not responded. Samantha Noriega, a student staff member who works at the front desk of the Parking Services, said she gets a lot of complaints about parking. Despite the complaints, no plans to improve parking have been officially announced.

Students are expressing that finding parking near their classrooms has always been a struggle.

As shown in the fact book, the student body has only grown over the years, but parking has remained unchanged. The campus has roughly 6,000 available parking spaces. This number does not account for accessible parking spots, staff parking, carpool parking, or residential parking.

John Hansen, another CSUSB student who transferred from Riverside Community College (RCC), shared his experience with parking on campus. He explained that one of his biggest frustrations is that CSUSB, unlike RCC, has no ticketing grace period at the beginning of their quarters.

“I know those in charge of parking don’t understand the frustrations,” Hansen stated. “I brought my frustrations to them and they were like, ‘sorry, but no.’”

“Is campus parking getting out of hand?”

Students are expressing complaints about campus parking. Stories about campus parking, including this story, have been contacted for several times.

“I think it’s pretty easy to find if you come early, before 8 o’clock, ’cause after, it gets swamped in the front. I appreciate the people who help you unlock your car when you leave your keys in the car.”

“I actually live on campus but even an on-campus student I experience a lot of parking issues. I think the price should accommodate more and it doesn’t. I have an issue with tickets and the way they’re given and how you can’t contest it. I think that’s really unreasonable.”

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“We’re paying for parking and we can’t even find parking.”

“I think it’s very hectic if you don’t get here early. When I have 10-80 am classes it was hard to find parking. I would probably change having to pay for parking. I think it’s stupid. I mean, we’re already paying to go to school we shouldn’t have to pay for parking.”

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Another frustration is the cost of parking citations, even though parking passes per quarter went from $102 in 2016 to $114 in fall 2019.

“I would happily go give my two bits. I’ve had two tickets that’s $108. I have a child at home, a wife, payments, and I’m putting money into the school,” Hansen said.

Hansen received the first ticket because he did not know there was no grace period. The second he received because he did not know his summer pass did not cover the entire summer. Noriega admits she never thought there would be so many details that go into the work of parking services before she started working there.

For example, she explained that parking services is self-funded by the revenue generated from parking passes and parking citations.

Michael Casadonte, who was collaborating with Dr. Hou, has been in contact with Parking Director Munyiri while working on an interface for the myCoyote app, designed to monitor the level of available parking spaces.

“Parking services’ perspective is, ‘well, there is available parking somewhere on campus it’s only a matter of finding it.’ In fact, Grace just told me the other day she had people in parking literally park somewhere and walk somewhere else to determine the amount of time it took to park,” shared Casadonte.

The point of the exercise was to show that any parking space is within reasonable walking distance from any location on campus.

Casadonte’s project is based on the parking space monitoring system that Hou and some of his students installed over the summer. It launched on September 7 in CSUSB Parking Structure East and calculated 19 cars at the busiest hour that Saturday.

“I think we can handle the mass number of students here but just not in parking terms because we’re such a heavy commuter campus. I think that the commuter aspect is really negatively impacted the way our parking services work.”

Savanna Trombetta

...for monitoring to be set up in additional lot and structures before officially launching it.

Pavement Structure East cost Parking Services $20.85 million to build, whereas Dr. Hou’s monitoring equipment for the garage cost them $10,000.

Casadonte explained that his app works by retrieving the information from Dr. Hou’s equipment.

As of now, Parking Structure East is the only structure that has monitoring equipment...

Continued online @CoyoteChronicle.net

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Continued online @CoyoteChronicle.net
Undocumented Student Success Center celebrates their 4th year

By Citlaly Carlos
Photo Editor

First opened on November 5, 2015, the Undocumented Student Success Center celebrated its 4th year anniversary on November 5 through an open house: “See Beyond the Dream.” “Every year is a big celebration, but we decided to make it a small gathering this year,” USSC advisor, Maria Corona, stated.

Students gathered and continued with their work after celebrating.

Food and refreshments prepared for the attendees of USSC’s 4th year anniversary celebration.

Dr. Paloma Viegas and Seval Yildirim greet each other in the open house.

By Citlaly Carlos
Photo Editor

Lifestream blood bank’s recruitment representative, Erica, helped with student’s paperwork before getting blood drawn.

Jacqueline Montarlo was having her blood drawn by Nurse Lidia Bran, while others patiently waited for their turns.

By Daniel Escamilla
Photo Intern

In addition to the blood drive on October 10 this fall quarter, a couple of Lifestream blood banks were seen throughout the campus for the community blood drive that, again, took place on November 5, 2019 from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Participants consisted primarily of staff and students having their blood drawn for donation.

Productive campus community blood drive

Lifestream blood bank’s recruitment representative, Erica, helped with student’s paperwork before getting blood drawn.

Jacqueline Montarlo was having her blood drawn by Nurse Lidia Bran, while others patiently waited for their turns.

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Feature on Veterans Success Center

By Abigail Ramos
Contributing Writer

The Veterans Success Center is more than just a resource center to those who are a part of that community. It’s a place where those who have suffered pain and loss for serving our country can relax and feel at ease.

This center is a place where those who serve for our country can feel comfortable in a place where there are others like them. It helps them with closure and to feel like they’re not alone. Some of the resources provided for use are free printing, free scans, free access to computers, and quiet rooms. Students from this center believe it does not receive enough recognition, not as big enough for all those who are a part of it. Solutions considered to this are to expand the center and so add more promotions about it throughout campus.

Joe Irwin, a student receiving his masters and a veteran who is there every day, recognizes that not enough is done for this center.

“When I graduated from my undergrad, they didn’t even acknowledge the veterans and the graduating class,” said Irwin.

Irwin openly discussed his concerns with this issue but also shared the triumphs of the center. There are several accomplishments that the veterans and dependents utilizing this facility have noticed.

“I think the biggest achievement of this center is its openness and willingness to let us be,” said Irwin.

Walking around this center, different rooms for different services are seen throughout. A break room is located straight down the hall from the front doors where many veterans and dependents eat, relax, and socialize.

The Veterans Success Center offers eight computer stations where student veterans are able to work on assignments.

Faculty senate meeting addresses power outage

By Sydney Fregozo & Adrienne Rosiles
Copy Editor, Production Assistant

On October 29, the Faculty Senate held a meeting that discussed the concerns and issues with the power shutoffs.

The Senate was not present in this meeting, but one concern was whether or not the campus would receive generators to generate power during the power shutoffs.

Solar power was brought up as a potential solution to future power shutoffs, but that notion was dismissed due to solar power being tied to the grid that SoCal Edison controls. Furthermore, solar power would not be enough to support a building.

The Senate promoted visiting the Internet to receive updates in regards to emergen- cies. When decisions are made regarding the campus, Blackboard is used to send out texts and e-mails and there are posts uploaded on sites such as Twitter and Facebook.

While the campus used to have a voicemail, the Great Shakeout event proved that the voicemail method of communica- tion is ineffective. It was reported that the voicemail messaging system took two hours to get through, which was consid- ered too long by the Senate to release a message.

With CSUSB being a commuter campus, the Senate brought up the idea of making sure faculty and students receive updates around 7:00 P.M. the night prior to whether campus would remain open or not.

Considering that many leave their homes around 6:00 A.M. and travel “an enormous distance to get to campus, work, and so on”, mentioned Senator Fischman, the Senate’s question remains if there is an easier way for student and faculty communication.

Deputy Chief Information and Chief Information Security Officer, Gerard Au informed that the university is working on a platform with Microsoft that is should be piloting soon to help make stu- dent and faculty communication easier. “It is almost like a social media platform, where you can get postings, as well as chat with one another”, said Vice President for ITS.

The Senate also discouraged having a system where phones would go off. While phones going off in the events of high winds and power shutoffs would not be an issue, it would be useful to have an active shooter on campus and people are trying to find a safe place to hide.

Although there is still room for improvement, Libertarian Jill Vassilakos-Long mentioned that on her way back to her office, she could “hear students talking about how campus will be closed the following day and was really impressed on how ITS was able to reach everybody”.

More information about future improvements will be dis- cussed at the next Senate Faculty meeting in January 2020.
Opinions

Campus closure affects work-study students

By Briana Calderon
Staff Writer

CSUSB had its fifth campus closure this quarter due to reports of high 80 mph winds and power outages. On Wednesday, October 30, at 5:20 p.m. the school text alerts went out announcing the closure. However, as some students celebrated the campus shutdown, others are conflicted by it. There are many student employees on campus who gain hours throughout the week working in the different departments, resource centers, and campus restaurants here on campus. These students get paid by the university to work on campus. Federal Work-Study is a financial aid award given to the students who qualify for it. The facilities in universities then use that money to pay their full time and part-time student employees. When students fill out their FAFSA, they mark whether or not they want work-study. Most on-campus job opportunities require students to have work-study, which makes this difficult for students without work-study to get an on-campus job. Federal work-study student employees, however, will not get paid for the days campus was closed.

Work-study student employee Brijuana Hooper stated, “When it comes to students who receive work-study, we should also be paid on days of campus closures.”

Staff/faculty doesn’t have stressors of not getting paid for the days of the closures because of their status. Even though we are student employees, we all have bills to pay.”

Student employees are only allowed to work up to 20 hours a week according to the U.S. Department of Labor and they only get paid once a month. Another work-study student employee, Mark Sanchez, stated “We should still get paid because we are students and we are working for the campus.”

On the other hand, students who do not have federal work-study, meaning they did not apply or qualify for federal work-study will still be getting paid for the days campus was closed.

Nonfederal work-study students get paid by the university.

Letter to the Editor

Opinion: Senate Bill 24

Governor Newsom signed into law Senate Bill 24. Under this bill, all 34 universities within the University of California and California State University systems will be required to supply the abortion pill RU-486 on campus for students. Universities will have until January 2023 to comply or face legal action.

At first glance, it seems like it would be a great idea because the availability of this medication would be beneficial for students who have no health insurance outside of the university. According to Governor Newsom in an October 2019 Yahoo article: “We’re removing barriers to reproductive health, increasing access on college campuses and using technology to modernize how patients interact with providers” (De Sanctis, 2019 Oct 15). However, on closer analysis, this is a bad decision that will endanger the lives of students and increase liability for universities. Medication such as RU-486, the abortion pill, shouldn’t be handed out like ibuprofen as it must be handled with strict medical supervision as fatal side effects such as ectopic pregnancy or sepsis can occur according to the Food and Drug Administration’s official website. In addition, SB 24 will be a legal nightmare for the university system as they will have to deal with increased liability due to the potential of students suffering from serious complications or death after being given RU-486. There then is the fact that universities don’t have the necessary surgical facilities and emergency equipment required in the event a student experiences life-threatening complications such as extensive bleeding or infections. University health centers are not the best place to provide chemical abortion drugs as university health staff are only able to deal with common ailments like the cold and flu. When it comes to serious medical procedures such as this, the state shouldn’t force universities to supply RU-486 as it creates an unnecessary legal and financial burden that faculty and students can’t afford to carry.

Hector Pimienta is a 5th-year undergraduate student majoring in Information Systems Technology. He is also the Vice-chair of the Coyote Dining Committee.

The high winds are making it difficult for the student employees to clock in their work hours and earn money with the campus’ fifth closure.

When students fill out their FAFSA, they mark whether or not they want work-study. Most on-campus job opportunities require students to have work-study, which makes this difficult for students without work-study to get an on-campus job.

On the other hand, students who do not have federal work-study, meaning they did not apply or qualify for federal work-study will still be getting paid for the days campus was closed.

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Our first “Women Writers Unite”

By Sydney Fregozo  
Copy Editor

For the first time ever, the Women’s Resource Center hosted a “Women Writers Unite” event on November 5, 2019, from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. The event had three writers speaking in the panel about their experiences as writers, as well as the issues they dealt with in terms of getting published. The three authors appearing at the panel were Pakistani-American Sehba Sarwar, author of Black Wings, Latina Elisa Grajeda-Urmston, author of Soundcheck, and Isabel Quintero, author of Gabi and My Papi has a Motorcycle.

During the panel, the authors provided their insight into the difficulties in writing and getting published.

“It isn’t talent that gets you where you want to go – it’s work ethic. It’s marketing yourself well. It’s knowing where to send your poetry,” Urmston said.

Rejection is a fear that many writers have, but Quintero advises people to keep going.

“I always kind of laugh at people who tell me to write about something that is both specific and broad,” Urmston explained.

Keeping one’s integrity is an issue that the writers acknowledged is difficult to maintain. With the prospect of money, it’s easy for someone to write what the publishers want them to write.

“About selling out, you will be asked,” Quintero elaborated.

“We are asked to write about something that isn’t our own,” Sarwar explained. “This is who I am…My struggles and stories is not the same as yours…You cannot be lumping people into boxes and saying that all of our struggles are the same…”

Urmston shared her reaction, too, whenever people ask her to write about something that is both specific and broad.

“I think as women and women of color and marginalized folks, it’s something we’re often asked to do,” Urmston explained.

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MOTHERS

Cruelest of Mothers
Your heat burns our land
Your cold freezes every strand
You are unforgiving
One mistake results in a whipping
One misstep leads us closer to death
Oh, Mother,
Why do you hate us so?
Why choose our brethren
That want us all dead?
Mother,
How could you?

Kindest of Mothers
Your water heals our wounds
Your light guides us to our mounds
You are loving
When we fall we receive a lifting
When we are lost we get a guiding
Oh, Mother,
We love you so.
You chose brethren
That want us safe.
Mother,
Thank you
by Carmen Sandiego

breathing
After Joshua Jennifer Espinoza's "A Guide to Reading Trans Literature"

picture I was defenseless underneath of him
when he shattered the lock so forcibly that night.

picture you were under my clothes something in you
had been raided, stolen.

Now picture you are... breathing.

Philippines is the phantom. It trembles at times, too.
Rage of an inevitable force cracks concrete slices lands
Island splits islands
moved by the gushing muddy floods with rats' peas swimming cockroaches
some aboard pieces of ripped cardboard boxes float...
pieces of papers drowning
between these islands before the thick humid air blew.

We felt the motion as our bodies were forcefully swayed back and forth, side to side. We felt light on
our feet despite putting pressure on our bodies to try to have control over it. Keep our balance.
Prevent ourselves from falling. We close our eyes. Open our eyes!
Now picture... we are... breathing.

I didn't have the knowledge for my body
so I'd say I was a rag the stain
or simply just something too alive...needed to die.
but I didn't die, though sometimes I DID want to - I'm one
of the unlucky ones the chosen ones you can feel pity about that // us
it's okay to feel pity.....

by Iska Gregorio

Read the full Poem @CoyoteChronicle.net