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CSU Strike authorized

By JONATHAN NG
Staff Writer

The California Faculty Association (CFA) has passed the vote on authorizing the CSU system wide strike. Over 95 percent of 24,000 CSU faculty, librarians, counselors and coaches have voted in favor of “rolling” strikes, in which different groups of people on CSU campuses would go on strike for a total of two days, according to ABC News.

CFA Vice President Kim Geron said, “The landslide authorization vote and our one-day strikes last fall leave no doubt that faculty have the capacity to shut down the university if an agreement cannot be reached,” according to calfac.org.

Members of the CFA say they feel that they are being mistreated by CSU administration as a result of the ramifications regarding the decisions made by the CSU Board of Trustees.

A few of the many reasons the CFA is upset is job insecurity the low amount they get paid by the universities and the few benefits received, but the main concerns are the quality of the education for the students and the allocation of the money received by budget cuts, according to the CFA website.

President Lillian Taiz of the CFA said, “We have had enough of the way in which they are being treated by the CSU administration...enough of the executives putting their needs before the students, and of the public university. Enough of managers using budget cuts as an excuse to destroy the quality of students’ education.”

The only help she said she needs is the students’ support and by posting updates on Facebook; just getting the word out to students to support the CFA and to support the hunger strike.

If the strike goes through, it will be the largest strike of university faculty in the history of the United States, as stated on the abcoloc.com.

“There will be hundreds of faculty and supporters from other unions on the picket lines... and they will be joined by students and staff who are fed up as we are,” said Geron.

Although people are upset with CSU Chancellor Charles Reed and the CSU Board of Trustees, university spokesman Michael Uhlenkamp said talk of a strike is premature as bargaining is ongoing, according to abcoloc.com.

Whether or not the strikes will happen and when they happen is still unclear. However, the authorization has been cleared and the CFA is ready to take action.

Students fast in protest over ignored demands

By NIN GARCIA
Staff Writer

CSU Chancellor Charles Reed’s failure to respond to concerns has urged CSUSB student Natalie Dorado to go on a hunger strike to bring the Board of Trustees meet students’ demands.

The hunger strike began May 2 and involves 13 other student members of Students for Quality of Education (SQE) across the CSU system.

Dominguez Hills, Fullerton, Long Beach, Northridge, Sacramento and San Bernardino campuses will be participating. Dorado says she intends to continue her fast with the other SQE members until tuition fees stop increasing. They are also advocating for administrative salary allowances from all 23 campus executives to be eliminated. The SQE is fighting for greater voice for students.

According to the L.A. Times, CSU campuses have lost nearly $1 billion in state funding since 2008, forcing cuts to classes, faculty and staff layoffs, and denial of entry of up to 16,000 students.

Tuition has increased for six years in a row, including a nine percent hike this fall that will raise the annual fee for undergraduates up to $5,970, not including campus-based fees that average more than $1,000.

The university also announced plans to freeze enrollment for incoming students in Spring 2013, and to wait list all applicants following the fall pending the outcome of a proposed tax initiative on the November ballot.

Meanwhile, Gov. Jerry Brown, and several legislators have criticized trustees as for their ridiculous awarding of a 10 percent pay allowance to new campus presidents, as students and families struggle to pay tuition.

During her fasting she has been receiving a lot of support from fellow core SQE, faculty and staff members.

Despite only drinking water and protein drinks, she said sleeping has been good and the Health Center here on campus has been checking on her to make sure she is hydrated and her body is functioning properly without food.

“I feel positive about this, I am empowered by students and seeing them empowered makes me feel good to know I am fighting with them and for them. This gives me a lot of encouragement. It just feels right,” said Dorado.

The only help she said she needs is from the students’ support and by posting updates on Facebook; just getting the word out to students so they know she is fighting for them.

“I think Natalie has a lot of will and courage to do what she is doing, and it just inspires me to fight for what I believe in as well,” said student Jorge Gutierrez.

SQE put up an all day hunger strike

CSUSB celebrates Cinco de Mayo

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Controversy arises over art

Continued from Pg. 1

ment that inspired the display.

“The assignment was that they could choose one of three words as a point of de- parture if you will,” said Grey. “The words were gravity, evanescence and fecundity and I am pretty sure he worked with grav- ity in that assignment in a literal and meta- phorical sense,” continued Grey.

Grey stated that her student’s work had some successes and failures. The work Bee was using was very graphic and used politically charged imagery.

Bee was using was very graphic and used politically charged imagery.

Grey further explained his decision to show the particular items that offended many.

“I simply chose the cross and Ameri- can flag as the main symbols because it is what I thought my audience would most readily identify as symbols for their own religion and government,” said Bee.

“As for the use of the noose as a sym- bol, I intended to give the people who were silenced by these violent factions another chance to be accounted for in the present day and remind the public of such crimes against humanity that have taken place in the past as well as the present,” continued Bee.

Bee expressed his sincerest of apolo- gies within his statement for any headache that the physical dimensions or location of his artwork may have caused those who saw it.

“I understand that some individuals thought that there were negative, racist ele- ments or messages being presented by my installation and I wanted to assure you that they are not, my piece was not aimed at any group in particular, rather every political, religious, government or social faction that has ever used sanctioned killings, violence or threat of these against another group as a tool to further their own agendas thereby painting their own flags in blood,” stated Bee.

Walker clenches top ASI spot

Continued from Pg. 1

“All major decisions regarding funds or programs are made on either boards or committees. Inserting student repre- sentatives into the mix of these commit- tees would make us well represented as a student body and less decisions would be made without our consideration,” said Walker.

Walker believes that if something enhances the experience of students at CSUSB, he is all for it.
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New cigarette tax will not benefit California’s economy

By SARA NYDAM
Staff Writer

The state of California is considering a new proposition that will spend your tax dollars in a foolish way.

Proposition 29 will tax each individual pack of cigarettes an extra dollar to create a program that will duplicate that is already under way. I do not believe we need to vote for this bill because spending money that Californians don’t have will certainly not fix our economic problems.

I feel it is ludicrous to assume that the state of California should, according to NoOn29.com, “start a new billion-dollar spending program when we have a $10 billion plus budget deficit and can’t pay for critically-needed existing programs like education and health care.”

This will affect you directly as a college student because this money could go towards funding classes.

Proposition 29 will also shortchange our children’s education in the future. California cannot afford to retain the courses that we need in order to graduate and excel in our lives, employ K-12 teachers, or provide adequate healthcare.

An estimated $735 million is what the Prop. 29 tax would raise, and about $500 million would be spent on a new agency that will provide grants for research on smoking-related illnesses. Unfortunately, I don’t find this program to be beneficial to us as Californians.

When the money is broken down further, 15 percent would create ‘California research facilities’ focused on prevention, detection, treatment and cures for tobacco related illness. About $120 million would go to existing anti-tobacco programs,” reported The Sacramento Bee.

The National Institute of Health, a current anti-tobacco program, already spends $5.4 billion per year on cancer research, according to the LA Times. I do not believe that California needs to vote for this bill when it is not really clear as to how this will even benefit us.

“The money needs to go to education. If we have better education, we have better research,” said student Dybra Grande. “There is a lack of quality of education.”

The proposed nine-member board to oversee the $735 million raised from the tax does not include one individual from the general population. I do not wish for them to oversee the way I should spend my hard earned tax dollars. Although it may sound as if your money will be used for the good of California, it’s possible it may even not even be spent in this state.

Proposition 29 “does not require any of the new tax revenue to be spent on research in Californiа, or even in the United States,” as stated on NoOn29.com. I refuse to create an even larger deficit by supporting this bill.

One benefit of Prop. 29 would be that it will be an effective tool for reducing smoking rates,” reported the LA Times.

There is no doubt that cigarettes are an unhealthy habit, but what you must consider are all of the unhealthy habits Californians along with the rest of the U.S. bathe themselves in.

If we are so concerned about cigarette smoking, we must become concerned with addiction to caffeine, sugar, salt and most importantly, fast food. Obesity has become a leading candidate for increased risk of premature death.

While only 1 percent of adults in California smoke, most of us have eaten at a fast food joint within the past week. This proposition will not go any further to save lives than the nearest KFC.

Students should print in the Learning Center

By SHANIEKA PERRIER
Staff Writer

I think using the Learning Center to print papers is better than using the Piusa Library, Jack Brown Hall and SMSU’s Cross Cultural Center.

The advantage is it is cheaper to print there than anywhere else on campus.

I used to think that the Learning Center should go paperless. When I went to find out why they haven’t, I discovered it’s cheaper not to go paperless. Surprising, right?

It’s better for them to use a paper system and not the card-swiping machines because using the machines is costly.

Printing was once 10 cents per page everywhere. But due to the maintenance cost they raised the price to 15 cents per page which is more money out of the students’ pockets.

If you have ever forgotten your student ID card, you know you’re out of luck if you needed to print something. Sometimes making sure to have cash on hand is the best method.

I’m always looking for the best deals and I think the Learning Center in University Hall room 361 offers the best prices because they take the students into consideration.

“The UH [Learning] Center is just another resource center trying to make it affordable for the students as much as possible,” said Tutoring Program Coordinator, David Reyes.

All of the money received in the Learning Center goes towards funding paper, toner, and maintaining computers if they break down, according to Reyes. I think this is good news for students.

The Learning Center uses cards that are available for purchase in $1, $3, and $5 increments. These cards have individual boxes that indicate how many pages students can print out.

For example, a $3 card will allow a student to print out 30 pages plus an additional free three pages.

Stephen Wentworth, the information technology consultant for the Learning Center, makes the cards right here on campus which cuts down on costs.

The Learning Center buys the paper from the book store, makes the cards, and issues them Continued on Pg. 6

It doesn’t make sense to tax cigarettes an extra dollar in order to fund a new program that has yet to prove beneficial to Californians when education and healthcare are hurting for more money.
Opinions

Don’t be fooled, Greek life is more than just a party

By AUNJOLAY LAMBERT
Staff Writer

I feel some people don’t understand what you can gain by being in a fraternity or sorority. I think that sometimes TV and movies can alter a person’s view of reality and I think in this case Greek organizations get the brunt of that. For example movies like “Old School” and “Animal House” can suggest that fraternities and sororities are around just to have a good time. “Some of the negative things I’ve heard are that the girls are easy and the guys just like to drink and party,” said Ashlyne Macan, a member of a co-ed fraternity at CSUSB.

Last summer I went on vacation to Virginia and my cousin, who is in a sorority, showed me around her campus and introduced me to some of her friends who were a part of Greek organizations. While I was there, they brought me to events and fundraisers they put on for local charities in their community. I was amazed at the bond they had with their members and their community. I believe that movies and TV don’t give being in a fraternity or sorority justice for all the other good things they represent. Brotherhood and sisterhood are what fraternities and sororities represent, and I don’t know about you but in this economy, you need somebody to have your back and be there when you need a hand.

“Being in a fraternity or sorority can help you in building relationships that can last you a lifetime,” said student Stephanie Brown. Honestly, I think a person should want to be apart of something with some substance and character, if you’re going to be tied to it for the rest of your life. “That’s the point in having your name tied to something that only represents partying and drinking?” I would rather become a better person rather than the best drinker.

With opportunities to help your community, develop leadership skills, grow in academics and the ability to network, you can become a well-rounded individual by going Greek.

I would think that people would jump at the chance to be a part of something so big, especially when it entails giving back to the community. “The best thing about being in a sorority is living the full college experience and being a part of something that is bigger than yourself,” said Macan.

Being in a fraternity or sorority would help your career opportunities. You would get to meet people that you never thought you would meet, shake hands with professionals and have conversations with people who can help you in life. “Do you party all the time?” shouldn’t be your first question when deciding whether or not to join a sorority or fraternity.

I would suggest getting more information from studentleader.csusb.edu and find out what sororities and fraternities are about, because I’m sure the wild parties won’t keep you interested for a lifetime.

Brotherhood and sisterhood are what fraternities and sororities represent, and I don’t know about you but in this economy, you need somebody to have your back and be there when you need a hand.

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Continued from Pg. 5

The Learning Center saves students money

out for sale to the students. The cost to print in black and white in other places on campus is 15 cents per page and 45 cents to print in color.

Now consider how pricey this may become when you have to print 10 page papers for one class, five papers for the next and four pages for another. I have found that printing in the Learning Center offers the best deal on campus.

If you buy a dollar card you get 10 cents per page for 10 pages, which is cheaper than the other printing locations.

But it gets even better. If you buy a $5 card, you get an additional ten free pages as a bonus.

Most students buy the $1 card but eventually end up spending $5 worth on printing. It would be to their advantage to buy the $5 card, according to Cynthia Linton, an assistant for the Learning Center.

As college students, we’re loaded with tons of assignments and not always able to print these assignments from home. We often rely on the school resource centers.

How much better would it be if Jack Brown Hall, the Pfau Library, Cross Cultural Center and all the other printing centers used this method? If you’re not sure, just ask your wallet.
CSUSB organizations on campus came together for Cinco De Mayo in celebrate the “The Battle of Puebla.” The Latino Business Student Association (LBSA), Foreign Language Advising and Guidance for Students department (FLAGS), Latino Cultural Clubs and the Santos Manuel Student Union (SMSU) Cross Cultural Center collaborated for the Cinco De Mayo event that took place on May 3 in the lower commons patio.

“The event promotes the history of Cinco De Mayo as a culture, specifically for Mexico in the Battle of Puebla, it also represents diversity within our school, and pride for what we have accomplished. It is an event for the entire community and school to participate in,” said Karina Reynoso, LBSA vice president of administration.

This is the third annual Cinco De Mayo event in partnership with the SMSU Cross Cultural Center, LBSA and FLAGS, all in favor of celebrating the victory of Cinco De Mayo in a fun and festive way.

“We have teamed up with the Cross Cultural Center and the FLAGS department for several years and within the last two years we have had ‘Nueva Descendencia’ from the Coachella Valley that is pretty popular conjunto band, which plays various styles of regional Mexican music. It is now known to be one of the biggest events we have here on campus that has been by students on campus and the organization,” said Reynoso.

The event consists of piñatas, live conjunto, baile Folklorico, singers, food, face painting, a disk jockey spinning the best of Latin music and five tables set up representing the different regions of Mexico and their cultures.

Live performances were held by CSUSB’s very own Folklorico team “Grupo de FLAGS de CSUSB,” and the Riverside, Calif. Folklorico team “Grupo Illusion.” As well as vocal performances by students Itzel Viramontes and Ernesto Saucedo and former FLAGS member Ma- ribel Rodriguez were also enjoyed.

“It’s barely the beginning of the event and I’m so excited, I love all the food they have, it is really good and everyone is so nice and learning about the cultures makes me want to learn Spanish,” said international student, Natsumi Sakurada. “This event really helped me learn more about a different culture other than my own and it’s so fun I really like the music.”

The head of the FLAGS department, professor Rafael Correa has helped assist the event and provide knowledge with his FLAGS members. They bring the true essence of Latino culture to the school and festive college life for everyone to enjoy.

“This is a commuting school and just like Dr. Correa has said, we don’t really have much of an opportunity to interact with each other more, we can definitely make our college life more fun and exciting for others, which is why events like this make us very passionate,” said FLAGS president, Margarita Vigil.

According to Vigil, Dr. Whitaker, a retired Spanish professor, was one of the main catalysts who initiated the idea to promote a festive Mexican American celebration.

Since then the event has continued to attract many community families, Latino organizations and CSUSB students. With over 200 supportive attendees that came out, the Hispanic community takes pride and joy when celebrating Cinco De Mayo.

“It amazes me to see how many people who have come out to support the event and of different ethnicities really humbles me and I feel great to know that they’re coming together to make this event a great one,” said president of LSB, Julio Ote- ga Lopez. “The fact that we can celebrate in the U.S. and being Mexican and a part of that culture, this is one of the biggest events we can celebrate here on campus. We take pride and joy in this event.”

The FLAGS department and LBSA collaborated with the SMSU Cross Cultural Center in celebrating one of the reasons to be proud of the Hispanic community and this resulted in a great turn out.

“Make sure to come around every year, it’s a big hit for the community, families and students,” said Reynoso. “It’s amazing, really fun. We constantly hear good feedback about the event so hopefully it continues to get bigger and bigger every year.”

Mother-daughter duo shine at CSUSB

Kimley Jones and her daughter, Kourtney, have been attending CSUSB together for the last five years and have been loving every minute of it. They will both graduate together this June—Kimley with a master’s degree in education and Kourtney with a bachelor’s degree in psychology.

“I love that even though [CSUSB] is a decent-sized campus, it’s still like a small campus because the professors have been so nice to me and they know who I am. I love that personal touch,” said Kimley when asked what her favorite thing about being a student was.

She hopes to attain a local teaching job after graduation and give back to students in a similar way.

“Kourtney loves being able to work on campus with the children of the Infant and Toddler Lab as a psychology major,” said Kimley. “I hadn’t planned on attending CSUSB because I didn’t know if I wanted to stay someplace close to home,” said Kourtney. “Not to mention my mother was already attending here!” she added laughing, her mother joining in.

But she is pleased with her decision to stay and is thrilled to have shared the expe- rience with her mom.

“I love my major, my job and the peo-
Students “Jump On It” for CSUSB’s first ever presidential flash mob

By KIM DAILEY  
Staff Writer

CSUSB’s first ever flash mob broke out at noon on Tuesday, May 1 in the Santos Manuel Student Union.

The assembly was put together by Michel’le Jones as part of her campaign for the Associated Students Inc. president.

Students who were a part of the event were invited through Facebook and by word of mouth from those students who knew about it.

The songs that they danced to were “Buzzin’” by Mann featuring 50 Cent and “Apache” by The Sugarhill Gang.

The dances performed were the “Cal State Slide” to “Buzzin’” and the “Jump On It” dance to “Apache.”

The flash mob was started by a student in a bright, full-bodied orange bodysuit.

He stood there frozen in place for about 10 seconds while acting like he was checking the time. Once the music started to play, Jones and about five other people jumped in. As the songs went on, more and more people and students joined in. The flash mob ended up with amore than 25 students participating.

The students who were hanging out both upstairs and downstairs in the commons all stopped what they were doing and watched or joined in the dance.

Student Colin Steele, who was able to capture the flash mob on video, had heard about the event by word of mouth.

“I heard something about a flash mob going down in the Commons by another student in my communication class. I didn’t think it was actually going to happen though,” said Steele. “It was really cool. I was very surprised when all these random students started to dance with this person wearing an orange skin suit. I thought it was fun and I think it should be done again.”

Student Ashlyne Macan was one of the students who got the Facebook invite and was invited to be a part of the flash mob event.

When asked why she wanted to be a part of a flash mob she responded, “I have seen it on TV and movies and I thought it would be fun to be a part of one.”

Those students who wanted to participate had only a few days to practice the dance.

Students who were invited were able to meet up with Jones on the few days and times she was available to teach the dance.

Jones had posted the videos on the Facebook invite for those who wanted to join in on the flash mob but could not make the practice times.

Due to this, people were able to practice the dances on their own time and were still able to be a part of the flash mob.

If you were not able to see the flash mob, check out the video on the article posted on coyotechronicle.net.

Proud mom and daughter to graduate hand-in-hand in June

Continued from Pg. 7

I’ve gotten the chance to meet here all so much. I really like working and building relationships with children and families,” said Kourtney. She hopes to continue in a field of work with her degree.

Kim and Kourtney even got the chance to take a few classes together during their time at CSUSB, strengthening their bond not only as fellow students but also as mother and daughter.

“She always made me take the notes,” said Kourtney, while her mom laughed.

“Well I didn’t see the point in us both taking notes!” added Kim, giving her daughter an innocent smile.

Kim says she loved being able to take classes with Kourtney, her youngest of four children.

She tried her hardest to coordinate their school schedules to match so that she could spend as much time as possible with her daughter.

As graduation month creeps up, the two cannot wait to proudly watch the other walk on stage during graduation to receive the diplomas they have worked so hard to get.

“We didn’t start [this journey] knowing we would graduate together,” said Kim. “It just sort of happened. But our family is so excited and happy for the two of us to graduate together and we’re planning the big party, of course.”

Kim and Kourtney will not only be walking at graduation once, but twice.

They are proud to be attending the Black Graduation ceremony on June 2 as well as the standard June 16 and 17 Commencement ceremonies.

This June will mark the end of their journey together as mother-daughter students at CSUSB.

But it is only the beginning of a new excursion, as the two warmhearted students take on the world hand-in-hand and diplomas in the other.
Pfau hosts Holocaust exhibit

By ANGELA E. RODRIGUEZ
Staff Writer

CSUSB is proud to host the Museum of Tolerance’s traveling exhibit “The Courage to Remember the Holocaust” displayed in the John M. Pfau Library April 30–May 21 on the first floor.

Last Monday’s opening ceremony and reception for the exhibit began at 5:30 p.m. on the fourth floor of the Pfau Library.

This traveling exhibit is part of the well-known Simon Wiesenthal Center’s Museum of Tolerance located in Los Angeles.

It is displayed for free and open to the public during library hours.

The renowned museum is the first of its kind ever, named after famous Nazi hunter Simon Wiesenthal.

The museum is internationally recognized and is meant to serve for prevention of hatred and genocide for any community in the future.

The experience of such an exhibit challenges everyone to confront their assumptions, negative or positive, of people who are different from them.

On the first day of the event, special speaker Timothy Pytell, CSUSB associate professor of modern European history, lectured intensely on significant Holocaust events.

Many students from different majors of study and ages were actively engaged throughout Pytell’s lecture.

“Never have I attended one of these lectures about the Holocaust. I thought it was interesting how Pytell mentioned some Nazi Germans would name their children with names that start with the letter ‘A’ out of respect for Hitler,” said student Valeria Barragan.

Many students like Barragan were interested in the displays of the historical Nazi genocide of the Jewish people, especially the photos of the “German Jewish Life Before the Nazis” display.

“I can’t believe how the Germans committed genocide of six million people just because of their Jewish decent and how long they literally got away with murder for so long,” said University of Riverside student, Jolee Parnell.

Many of the exhibit’s displays covered the Holocaust concentration camps; how the first founded camp was to house opponents of the Nazi regime such as Communists, Socialists, Liberals, clergymen and anyone not loyal to the Reich.

The Holocaust can be viewed as “a time of brutality approaches of which we ourselves can have absolutely no conception,” said Joseph Goebbels, Die Zweite Revolution, 1926 from the “Nazi Policy on Racism and Terror” display.

Students who have had the opportunity to visit the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles and who attended the exhibit on campus have been a part of a poignant event as they re-lived the gruesome past of racism.

The Holocaust exhibition has open arms for K-12 students who are interested in taking a tour of the moving displays.
the poodles of the film and production scene here at CSUSB, but they are quietly securing their status among the big dogs.

The purpose of SSF is to touch base on the ideas of commercial filmmaking and cinematography’s underlying characteristics. With help from their president Alex Hedstrom, they have been branching out and looking forward to many future filmmaking opportunities.

“We teach [members] how to ‘read’ movies and promote them as an art,” said Hedstrom.

SSF currently consists of 12 members, not including their large online base. Though they are a small bunch, they still manage to work on major projects such as a piece for the San Bernardino Valley Film Festival and even (SSF) might be seen as “The Avengers” is a Marvel of a movie

Marvel’s new super-film, “The Avengers,” is everything every comic book fanboy could hope for and more. Following the five films released since 2008 about each respective hero, “The Avengers” finds the six legendary heroes colliding for the first time in this non-stop action packed comic book epic.

The director of SHIELD (a military law enforcement agency), Nick Fury (Samuel L. Jackson), launches the Avengers Initiative after the evil Norse god Loki (Tom Hiddleston) steals the Tesseract, an energy source with limitless potential that opens the portal through Earth, and plans to destroy it.

Following a few battles within themselves, Fury manages to get all six superheroes on the same page to stop Loki and save the world. The all-star team consists of Iron Man (Robert Downey Jr.), Captain America (Chris Evans), Hawkeye (Jeremy Renner), The Hulk (Mark Ruffalo), Loki’s brothers Thor (Chris Hemsworth) and Black Widow (Scarlett Johansson).

Once the team has placed their differences aside and battled each other out in mind-blowing fight scenes, the newly created Avengers head to New York City (where all conflicts seem to take place in cinema) to confront Loki’s army.

What makes this film epic is the jaw-dropping action sequences that every superhero displays. Fury has definitely created the most dominating superhero league ever assembled. Fans will be blown away by the intense action throughout the film that leaves them breathless and on the edge of their seat. The cinematography makes the film flow uniformly with its dark and light tones as well as its captivating digital imagery.

The editing assembles each shot to portray every mood and emotion that each hero faces throughout.

Audiences will also enjoy the consistent humor in the clever dialogue added to the film to shift the balance of a serious intense film and a comedy uproar. Fans will be surprised that Tony Stark is not the only sarcastic figure who brings in the film’s biggest laughs.

With so many different personalities, powers and backgrounds from each superhero, director Joss Whedon combined each of these elements in each character to awe the audience and hold their attention from beginning to end.

The film runs at an astounding two hours and twenty-three minutes, but the action, effects and witty dialogue makes time fly by. Whedon has utilized the $220 million budget to bring an unbelievably exciting flick, as well as meshing all plots from each of the previous five films to link them into one single film.

“The Avengers” is a rugged, full-force action film that does not disappoint movie-goers and comic book fans alike. The comical and witty dialogue is an added bonus that takes a different and light-hearted route from the otherwise intense film.

When all is said and done, “The Avengers” is the ultimate cinematic experience that leave many Marvel fans satisfied. It has definitely set the bar for the summer movie season.
Staying safe with Statham

The British action star's latest film is an unstoppable roller coaster ride with exorbitant explosions and gratuitous gunfire

By GESELLA MARTINEZ  Staff Writer

Luke Wright (played by Jason Statham) momentarily enjoying a beautiful day outside in the new film “Safe.” The film also stars Catherine Chan as Mei, a girl wanted by gangsters.

Jason Statham is back to his old ass-kicking ways in his newest film, “Safe.” “Safe” is an action-packed thriller filled with mind-blowing fighting scenes. If you watched the “Transporter” movies then you will love this film.

It starts off with the Russian mafia trying to get Mei (Catherine Chan), a young girl with an incredible memory, to fess up to a priceless numerical code she has memorized. The Triads, a notorious Chinese gang, decide to take Mei under their wing when they notice her incredible ability.

Mei is forced to leave her childhood and has no choice but to grow up and catch on to the criminal’s business. Although she is a young girl, she is strong and able to overcome the hardships in her life.

Meanwhile, Luke Wright (Jason Statham) is a former cop who now lives as a second-rate cage fighter on the mixed martial arts circuit. He is living a numbing life of routine beatings and champ change until he blows a rigged fight.

In response, the Russian Mafia murders his family and sends him into hiding.

But when he witnesses a frightened Mei being parsed by the same gangsters who took away his life, Luke impulsively jumps into action.

Luke jumps head-first into the three-way war between the Triads, the Russian Mafia and a band of corrupt New York City cops. Realizing he’s the only person Mei can trust, he does everything he can to save her life.

Everyone has different perceptions of Luke. The Russians thought he was a coward and could not defend himself, but they definitely underestimated him. The corrupt cops knew that he was absolutely incorruptible and clearly wanted to be reckoned with and the Triads knew little of him.

Statham is incredible in the fighting scenes, making them look effortless and with plenty of entertaining scenes.

Boaz Yakin, who has written for “Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time” and directed “Remember the Titans,” wrote and directed the movie “Safe.”

He shoots the film like a crazy roller coaster ride, taking viewers on a fast-paced action tour of the dark side of gangland.

The movie’s plot was good and better than your average shoot-em-up flick. What initially looks like a basic Statham thriller turns into something much more.

What makes the movie great is not the intense fighting scenes but the story line of the movie. The story is believable, with equal bits of drama and comedy with plenty of entertaining scenes.

Chan’s role was especially great. She was not just a young and helpless little girl, but one who was tough and willing to take whatever is dished out at her.

If you love fast-paced thrillers that make your heart race and body tense up then you should check out “Safe.”

Beach House casts a musical spell

The indie band’s new album, Bloom, is darker, more expansive and more captivating than previous works

By PRINCESS RUSSELL  Staff Writer

Bloom, Beach House’s first album in over two years, is a darkly melodramatic mix of dream-pop that consumes you upon the first listen.

The album is the Baltimore-based indie band’s follow up to their critically-acclaimed sophomore album, Teen Dream. This new work picks up right where Teen Dream left off.

The simple yet appealing track titles such as “Myth,” “Lazuli” and “Trouble Maker” intrigue listeners and sets the tone for the decadently dark lyrics each song brings.

Every track has a uniquely distinct introduction. Much of the album could easily be the soundtrack to a major motion picture.

Bloom doesn’t capture its listeners with an immediate attention grabber, but once the bridge of the first track rises, listeners become hooked.

“My mother said to me that I would get in trouble/Our father won’t come home because he is seeing double,” croons lead vocalist Victoria Legrand.

The sounds and instruments are simple but the imaginative manipulation of echoing vocals and space-like Legrand’s voice seems almost ghostly in nature.

The second prominent component the listener experiences is the surprisingly futuristic melodies in each song. Beach House’s lyrics have a certain vulnerability to them. One of the lines from the song “Myth” illustrates that point with dark honesty.

“Why didn’t I wait/will we make it…” Legrand moans as if pleading to a long lost lover. “Lazuli,” the third track on the album, has dark lyrics but a light pulsating beat with lyrics about moving on from the past.

The final track, “Irene,” has a distinctly concert-like vibe. The use of guitar vibrates through your veins and the drums create a sense of angst.

Bloom does not employ the predictable indie formula of catchy choruses and hypnotic beats listeners have grown accustomed to. This album is proof that catchy music and passionate production is possible without having to forfeit any kind of lyrical substance, the Russian Mafia casts a musical spell.
Arts & Entertainment

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Butler honors father with dedication to softball

By CHELSEA UNDERWOOD
Staff Writer

Shortstop Britney Butler shattered the softball school record for the most home runs in a single season, blasting 15 this year.

Butler already tied the home run record her freshman year with 14, but now she is in sole possession of the number one spot.

She hit her record breaking home run in the last game of the regular season against the Dominguez Hills Toros in the third inning.

“It was a really good feeling,” said Butler. “I sprinted around the bases because I was so excited.”

Teammates cheered on while she ran the bases, but they are not the only ones who did so.

Family has been a strong support system for Butler through the thick and thin of her softball career and more importantly, in life.

“My dad was very supportive of me. He would always try to come out to every game that he could. My mom still, she comes out to every home game. So I have a very, very good support system. It helps a lot,” said Butler.

She grew up in an athletic family and with an older brother who helped her get better and stronger with her ball game.

She picked up baseball from her brother when she was younger, and according to Butler, wanted to be everything that he wanted to be.

“He basically taught me everything that I know,” said Butler.

Her softball career kicked off when she was a freshman at Poly High School in Riverside.

It was not easy to start, as she had to transition from baseball to softball.

Her brother helped her out tremendously with this change.

She worked hard throughout her high school career and continued to grow in her game.

Butler worked extremely hard on the field, and her efforts definitely paid off.

During her senior year at Poly High, she was offered a scholarship by the Coyotes and gladly accepted it.

Besides owning the school’s single-season record for most home runs, there are so many other things that she has accomplished on the diamond during her first three years at CSUSB.

This season she improved with the bat, hitting an exceptional .362, compared to last year’s still impressive .315.

In addition, she received All-CCAA honors for the third straight year.

What pushes this young athlete to do so well is her dad.

In 2009, he was diagnosed with lung cancer. After a tough two-year fight, he lost the battle on Sept. 2, 2011.

He was a big supporter of his daughter, and he himself grew up as an athlete playing football.

She was ready to stop playing softball after he died.

However, her mother was not ready to see her quit the game she has grown to love.

She told her that her father would have wanted her to play and to finish school, and so Butler decided to play for him.

“My goal was to play for him this year and do the best that I could, like he wanted,” said Butler.

Not only did she play for her dad, but she is planning on following in his professional footsteps as well.

Butler is majoring in criminal justice. Her dad has influenced her due to the fact that he used to be an officer for the Riverside Police Department.

She is looking to use her major to become a corrections officer.

With her dad in mind, she remembered a quote he always said:

“Just do the best you can, you don’t need to push, you don’t need to press. You just got to do the best you can and no matter what, at the end of the day, if you lose, you play a horrible game, [I’m] still going to be your number one fan no matter what.”

Water polo looks to future after unrelenting season

By AMY CUTILLO
Staff Writer

Coyote water polo had a rough time last weekend as they were unable to pull away with a victory during their final weekend of play this season.

The Coyotes played their last match against Sonoma State and lost a tough contest, 18–9.

Georgianna Brau and Meghan McConnell scored three goals apiece, but were unable to rally their teammates who trailed 6–0 through one quarter and 10–2 at halftime.

The Coyotes battled throughout but came up short.

The loss ended their season with an overall record of 4–37.

Altogether, it was a rough season in general. The Coyotes found it hard to win close games and thus, gain momentum.

Despite this, however, the girls found a way to remain positive and are optimistic heading into next season.

“I think our overall season was good because we are a team unit,” said Sierra DeForge. “We just need to work a little more on certain things.”

While the team found success to be hard to come by, one individual player had a season that can truly be classified as one for the ages.

Captain Misty Vu scored a ridiculous 120 goals this season which tied the school record that was broken recently in 2009 by Kaitlyn Hartman.

While she wasn’t able to surpass the school record, she did go on to lead the nation in goals scored this season, according to csusbathletics.com. She also finished third in steals with 72 and seventh in assists with 44.

Vu’s efforts allowed her to be named to the Western Water Polo Association (WWPA) second team.

Despite a rough season, water polo continually found the strength to continue to battle and keep a positive attitude while working hard to perfect their skills in the water.
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Baseball excels as season nears end

By RAY BEASLEY
Staff Writer

Coyote baseball came home with a 3–1 series victory in their April 27–29 weekend series against the tough San Francisco State Gators.

“Baseball is different then basketball or football, where any one player on the opposing team can steal a win from you, but in baseball the enemy is yourself,” said head coach Don Parnell.

With winning expectations, high standards and the mental ambition to always play their best, the Coyotes are a team to mirror not only in baseball, but in life.

“Emotions are key, they are a good thing and a bad thing. You want that play-off high, but not let it overtake you,” said Parnell.

With a chance to still achieve the number one spot in their conference, expect the Coyotes to come out fierce in this crucial series.

For now, they are focused on the simple task of making the playoffs.

In order to do so, they will have to defeat a tough CSU Dominguez Hills Toros squad who will be looking to play spoiler and keep the Coyotes out of contention.

With the way they have playing this year, however, it is clear that nothing will get in between the Coyotes and the playoffs.

Red Bull gives soccer players wings in campus tourney

By JESSICA BRACAMONTES
Staff Writer

CSUSB students put their soccer gear to participate in the Red Bull Kick-off Soccer Tournament on May 2 in front of the John M. Pfau Library lawn.

The soccer tournament had eight teams consisting of four players each. The games were fifteen minutes long, and consisted of single elimination rounds with one referee officiating.

The winning team was awarded an exclusive trip to see the New York Red Bulls soccer game in Los Angeles on May 5.

The tournament was free and open to all CSUSB students.

Senior Christian Bautista gathered three of his close friends to form a team called Los Coyotes.

“I’ve played with these guys back at the Rec Center intramurals. We have played with each other before and know when to cover one another,” said Bautista.

Red Bull brought out their MXT track that played upbeat music throughout the tournament thanks to two CSUSB DJs. The music enabled the participants to play with more energy and enthusiasm.

The games were different from most soccer games, as the teams played three-on-three rather than 11-on-11. The limited team rosters and the reduction to a 60-by-30 soccer field made the game fast paced for the players.

The students who engaged in the soccer tournament played on one of following eight teams: KO Kings, Bus Drivers, Visitors, Agwu, Los Coyotes, Lady Killers and Team Eight.

Bautista explained how he felt his team dealt with transitioning into the soccer game.

“The game is a lot more fast paced than a full field. You got to be defending and attacking,” said Bautista.

His team had good competition on the field. Most of the players had previous soccer experience.

Los Coyotes made it to the championship round and had to face the KO Kings. The two teams had to make it through two rounds before the men played in the championship round.

Bautista revealed his team’s strategy for winning the first two rounds of the tournament.

“We all know our positions to play. Out strategy is the chemistry we have when we play on the field,” said Bautista.

After fifteen minutes of play with no intermission, the KO Kings knocked out the Los Coyotes with a 11-4 victory.

KO Kings’ player Obi Agwu described how his team developed their strategy.

“We defend as a team and finished our opportunities when they came,” said Agwu.

Aguw felt the KO Kings had good competition in the soccer tournament.

“It was a good competition. There was a lot of good players out there on the field,” said Agwu.

The Red Bull company enjoyed giving free Red Bull to spectators and players, and showed that they can put together a fun, evenful and competitive tournament.

Keep an eye out for the next event they throw on campus, and stop by to participate and have a great time.