**Budget cuts again affect university**

By Samuel Cosby  The Collegian

Following the trend of the last few years, Fresno State is implementing yet another budget cut for the 2011-12 fiscal year, with students and teachers seeing the largest effects. According to associate vice president of financial affairs Clint Moffitt, Fresno State’s budget is being cut by just less than $36 million for the fiscal year.

Moffitt said the state’s general fund is $225.8 million. Last year Fresno State spent $229.1 million.

“The state has allocated less money to CSUs and UCs,” Moffitt said. “All of the schools have taken their respective amount of reduction.”

Alongside this, student tuition has increased as well to make up for the cuts. To make up for losses in the budget, student tuition has increased by a total of $22 million. 

(“About” 52 percent of our budget comes from our general fund, student tuition and fees,” Moffitt said. “The state is only providing 46 percent.”

Staff salaries and staff benefits make up 80 percent of the school’s budget, Moffitt said. After that, maintenance and utility charges are the highest percentage of spending.

Those most likely to see an effect from the budget cuts are students and teachers.

“Academics is going to take 70 percent of the cut,” Moffitt said.

Provost William A. Covino said that students will not see large changes over the next year, rather than the budget that has been affecting us slowly. As provost, Covino is a part of the committee that manages the academic budget.

“The largest portion of the university budget is the academic budget.” Covino said. “The budget reduction affects us in academic affairs in a big way, because it impacts the library, all of the school and colleges, all of the academic departments, our research programs, our centers and institutions, etc.”

An academic affair budget reduction task force has been set up to maintain the quality of education at Fresno State. Covino explained that the budget was being cut when he arrived at the university in 2009.

To make up for the cuts in the budget this year, academic affairs has cut administrative positions, reduced staff positions, reduced funding to academic-funded programs and the schools and colleges are all running on reduced budgets.

“The schools and colleges are trying to decrease the cost of low enrollment, low demand courses,” Covino said. “They are putting their dollars into high-enrollment, high-demand courses.”

What this means for students is less variety in terms of class selection.

“Students are going to need to plan more carefully and will be faced with few options for courses that they need,” Covino said.

Covino said that we won’t see any shifts toward online classes or a reduction in high-enrollment, high-demand courses.

To better understand the disease, Muller and Joy Goto from the Fresno State chemistry department decided three years ago to initiate the research.

Muller explained that in understanding a disease in humans, she needed an animal model. Muller said that the 10 percent of Lou Gehrig’s disease patients are genetically prone to it, while the cause of the disease for the other 90 percent remains unknown and has been challenging for many researchers around the world.

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Paul solves the debt crisis

By Selena Farnesi

At ASI Senate meetings every other Wednesday, the Senate hears student concerns in two forums: Public Comment and Campus Issues. Public Comment is a time for students to talk about the things that are happening on campus. In the physical problems you see around campus, Campus Issues is a time to report physical problems you see around campus, ASI or on campus with ASI, and sentiment about anything happening at Fresno State. Public Comment and Campus Issues are two forums: Public Comment and Campus Issues.

Near the Memorial Fountain.

Among these, we have seen an increase in bike riders on campus; therefore, there are currently plans to add more bike racks to the area in addition to the bike rack already in place. The new rack location will be on the field near the Free Speech Aree.

The bike racks that used to be located just outside the University Student Union are currently being moved to the Kinesiology Field Fence. These bike racks were moved due to space constraints.

The bikers on campus should be grateful for this new addition.
CONTINUED from page 1

TUITION: Courses set to decline again

Weston said she has been noticing much fuller general education courses.

One of the other problems that Weston has seen is an increase in the “invisible work” that professors do without credit or pay.

“We haven’t been replacing retired faculty,” Weston said. “And what that means is we have more work to do because there are fewer people to sit on the same committees and task forces.”

Weston also noted that more and more of her colleagues are taking more sick days.

“We’d like to see a rational workload that will allow us to teach the students as well as the best, rather than what’s efficient,” Weston said. “In terms of the budget, during tough times, it would be a good idea to see more money go into the classrooms, rather than creative and wonderful initiatives.”

Moffitt says that students may also see longer lines in the classroom.

“Obviously, we are not happy about this,” Weston said. “What this means is less work.”

But this doesn’t take into account that some courses are larger, while some classes remain the same, said Lisa Weston, chair of the College of Science FAC and the English department at Fresno State.

“Students are going to find that some services have decreased,” Moffitt said. “There will be longer lines in some areas because administrators have reduced their staff.”

One thing students won’t see though is a decrease in library hours. Because of continued complaints regarding the library hours, funds have been allotted to maintain those as well as the tutoring center, Moffitt and Covino explained.

Moffitt said that it is likely students will again see tuition increases in the coming years.

“If the state appropriation is reduced again, we will most likely see some tuition increases,” Moffitt explained.

Moffitt explained that one of the only ways to fix the longstanding problems that Fresno State has with the budget is for students to talk to their representatives.

“Students need to get into contact with their local legislators and state representatives,” Moffitt said. “We need to reinforce the concept that the CSU system provides higher education to students. The trend needs to be to stop providing less and less.”

RESEARCH: Ongoing study

Continued from page 1

age, so you want to find an organism that gets old very fast,” Muller added.

Muller explained that some humans start developing this disease because they consume BMAA, an amino acid that is produced by blue-green algae that have been found in some foods.

Fresno State researchers believe the symptom is mostly environmental.

Muller and her voluntary-based research team have been conducting the research by feeding BMAA to the fruit flies and observing the results.

“Indeed our fruit flies developed similar problems as humans,” Muller said. “They lose motor control just like Parkinson’s disease patients.”

Besides focusing on the molecular effects caused by BMAA, Muller said the research is also focusing on the behavioral outcomes from the infected fruit flies.

The fruit flies are given different doses of the neurotoxin BMAA and the researchers are observing how different levels of neurotoxins work in the fruit flies’ motor ability.

So far, the study has found that at higher dosages of consumption, about the same level as daily food consumption for human, the fruit flies showed an elevated mortality. They had severe motor disability compared to those who were fed a smaller dosage of BMAA.

However, the fruit flies with smaller dosages of BMAA developed unexpected behavioral outcomes.

The surprising thing is when you give the flies lower dosage of BMAA, they become hyperactive,” Muller said.

That is surprising because we expected them to go shaky but we didn’t expect them to become hyperactive.

Muller said that even the fruit flies with full dosages of BMAA eventually got Lou Gehrig’s disease. However, in lower doses of BMAA, the flies went through a hyperactive period before they finally lost their motor ability.

By using an animal model for a very lethal disease, Muller explained that they need people from different departments to collaborate in the research.

Biologists are in charge of observing the behavioral outcomes of the infected fruit flies, while chemists are focusing on the molecular level of the research. Computer scientists are working on the programming to make the research more efficient.

Students who are working in the research study are learning how to work as a team and collaborate with different departments.

Muller said that through this project, he has gained not only academic benefits, but also has learned how to work with people and different responsibilities.

“I have been learning a lot from this project, probably more than I have gained in any of my classes,” Husain said. “Because when people tell you what to do, but when you have to do it yourself, it’s kind of a different feeling.”

Husain said he is working on the abstract and introduction of the paper and plans to have it published next year.

“Any help from anyone interested in gaining new experience in research would be very helpful for us,” Kevin Maxkwe, co-author of the research paper, said. “I suggest science students to start getting involved in research as early as their sophomore years.”

Muller said Associated Students, Inc., (ASI) and Fresno State have been supporting the research financially, although in the future Muller and Goto are hoping to get other funding.

Weston said her classes are at a higher cost.

“Online courses don’t necessarily save money,” Covino said.

Professors will also see effects from the cuts, dean of undergraduate studies Dennis Nef explained.

“We can see some of that this fall when you look at the average class size,” Nef said. “The average class size has gone up a little bit in most programs.”

Departments are having to offer larger sections so they can fund smaller major courses that they still need, Nef said.

We teach them less frequently,” Nef said. “If you want to provide courses, “Nef said.

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Meat judging takes the bacon

By Megan Letson
The Collegian

Competing on Fresno State’s meat judging team isn’t always a picnic, but the team does provide a feast of opportunities for students. “If you are going to be in the meat industry, you want this on your resume,” graduate student and meat team coach Crystal Waters said. “Opportunities for our really small program are endless.”

“I feel like everyone who’s been on this team has gone on to something,” said junior Ben Vinzant. “I think it’s fun.”

Waters said: “Tie my resume up with a bow, and you can go anywhere.”

The biggest challenge is that the team is so small, and they are only four-years because of student interest. “No one has heard of us, but we have actually done very well,” Waters said. “We are so small, no one has heard of us, but we have actually done very well.”

The team itself is broken down into a senior and junior team. The current members of the senior team compete in three fall competitions while the junior team learns the basics of judging carcasses and cuts of meat. The junior team must cut out to compete in the three spring contests.

You have to try, you have to be good and you have to be competitive,” Waters said. “There is only room for six people to go to the competitions. So far, there are about 15 junior members working for a spot. The team travels to places such as Colorado, Texas and Nebraska for competitions against 20 other universities, on average.

It takes a lot of logic,” Waters said. “You have to be very fast and quick thinking.”

Judging is also very methodical and takes a lot of memorization, Waters added.

The students learn to evaluate both carcasses and wholesale cuts of meat, pork and lamb. At a competition the students don’t know what type of animal, cut or carcass they will be evaluating until the competition starts. They will be presented with either four cuts or four carcasses of one of the three animals. They then have to rank the products from best to worst. After that they present written reasons as to why they ranked the products the way they did. This has to all be done within a 20-minute limit.

“We’ll be presented with either four cuts or four carcasses of one of the three animals. Then, they have to rank the products from best to worst. After that, they present written reasons as to why they ranked the products the way they did. This all has to be done within a 20 minute limit.”

“It’s a ton of stuff,” Waters said. “They have to prepare for the first semester before they start traveling.” Waters said about the junior members.

In 2008-09, a team of five students was produced and they had only 15 percent increase from five years before.

“All Hidden Cranes of Community Colleges comes when the colleges are seeing swelling enrollment and increasing demands on their services. Their student bodies now include displaced workers, remedial students, non-English speakers, and students seeking more affordable higher education.”

Also, community colleges feature prominently in the Obama administration’s pledge to substantially increase the number of the nation’s college graduates by 2020. “The central rule that community colleges play in the nation’s plans to regain its position as the number one country in the world when it comes to college-educated adults, and given the increasing fiscal difficulties facing individual states and the nation as a whole, it is clear that ‘business as usual’ is far too expensive,” the report states.

The report by the nonpartisan social issues and behavioral science research group calls for improved measures to try to ensure that students who enter college and low-socioeconomic status students actually graduate.

Christopher Mullin, an official with the American Association of Community Colleges, said the colleges serve multiple missions and are committed to seeing more students graduate.

Study: $4 billion goes to community college dropouts

By Rita Giordano
McClatchy Tribune

A new national study reports that federal, state, and local governments invested nearly $4 billion in full-time community college students who dropped out after their first year.

In Pennsylvania, that five-year expenditure was about $77 million. $98 million in New Jersey in government aid to students and support to schools, according to data released Thursday by the American Institute of Research of Washington.

Nationally, the report’s authors say, nearly $1 billion in government funds was spent on these first-time students who dropped out in 2008-09, the most recent year surveyed, a 35 percent increase from five years before.

The Pennsylvania Commission for Community Colleges says it does not keep such statistics, but some campuses report similar numbers. In some parts of the country, they are higher.

For the last two years, county colleges in New Jersey have taken part in the “Big Idea Project” aimed at finding solutions to problems such as the huge need for remediation and the low graduation rate that often goes with spending so much time and funding on noncredit courses.

Often community college students have time-consuming jobs that cut into their studies, as may other issues.

“The issue of remediation in college is a serious one,” said Raymond Vazquez, president of Camden County College.

The school is one of the New Jersey county colleges working with local schools to give high school students a chance to get what they need to enter college so they can identify academic weak spots early.

Meats Inc.

“Tie my resume up with a bow, and you can go anywhere,” Waters said. There is only room for six people to go to the competitions. So far, there are about 15 junior members working for a spot. The team travels to places such as Colorado, Texas and Nebraska for competitions against 20 other universities, on average.

“The rewards of the experience can be great,” the report states. “It is open to anyone in the university with an interest in critical thinking, oral communication, written communication and networking for future employment,” Waters said.

The team’s students have to prepare for competitions, travel for days at a time to get to tours and competitions, get their school work done and sometimes have jobs to account for.

“We really does take a special breed of person to handle the pressure. It takes a lot of balance,” Waters said.

The rewards of the experience can be great, though.

“I was a student at Fresno State and probably one of the most significant experiences I had was being on a judging team. The opportunity to travel across the country, see what’s going on at other universities, visit industry folks and their facilities and compete at a very high level with like universities across the country, it’s a great opportunity,” Waters said.
‘Paranormal Activity 3’ scares off competition

$54 million made over the premier weekend, more than “Contagion,” or “The Lion King.”

By Steven Zeitchik and Amy Kaufman

LOS ANGELES — “Paranormal Activity 3” vanquished the box-office ghosts this weekend, taking in a whopping $54 million upon its premiere in the U.S., according to studio estimates.

The other two new films in wide release this weekend, however, flopped. An expensive 3-D version of “The Three Musketeers” grossed a disappointing $8.8 million. And “Johnny English Reborn,” a comedy starring British comedian Rowan Atkinson, did not resonate with American audiences. While the film is a hit overseas, it collected a weak $13.8 million in the U.S. this weekend.

Still, the results for Paramount Pictures’ third “Paranormal” made for the first truly stellar box-office weekend of the fall, which has been characterized by middling performances from high-profile releases. Even past weekend winners such as “Contagion,” “Real Steel” and “The Lion King 3-D” had failed to open much beyond $30 million.

“Paranormal’s” opening, on the other hand, was the highest-ever October debut, and helped power the top 12 movies to their highest total, $110.3 million, since the middle of August. Analysts had anticipated $40 million to $45 million for the third installment in the supernatural franchise.

The numbers for the Paramount release represented a significant increase over other horror films, which have struggled of late, and demolished expectations this weekend. “Paranormal Activity 1,” which drew $40.7 million in its premiere, on the other hand, was the highest-ever October opening for the franchise.

The movie grossed an additional $26 million upon its debut in international territories, which included France, Australia and Russia, Paramount said.

Still, it remains to be seen how the movie will perform in the coming weeks. While filmgoers came out in sizable numbers to see the horror prequel, they didn’t necessarily like what they saw. The film notched an average grade of C-plus, according to market research firm CinemaScore. The first “Paranormal Activity” took in $107 million in the U.S., while the second film garnered about $85 million.

Meanwhile, fortunately for Summit Entertainment, the studio did not have much money invested in “Musketeers,” as the movie was financed by Germany’s Constantin Film for about $80 million. Summit, which is distributing the movie domestically, paid only for prints and advertising.

On Friday, actress Milla Jovovich—who stars in the film directed by her husband, Paul W.S. Anderson—took to her Twitter account to criticize Summit’s marketing of the film. Jovovich said the studio was “resting on their laurels from ‘twilight’ n mak-

Los Angeles Times

See PARANORMAL, Page 6

A world-renowned orchestra performed the Academy Award-winning “The Lord of the Rings” film score live on Friday, Oct. 21 at Fresno’s Save Mart Center. More than 200 musicians performed the score of the first film, “The Fellowship of the Ring,” as it was digitally projected on a 60-foot screen in high definition. Several props from the first feature film were on display in the Save Mart Center’s halls, including the original hobbit feet worn by Sean Astin, one of the film’s key actors. The Lord of the Rings in Concert is a three-year installment celebrating the trilogy’s 10th anniversary. A second tour is scheduled for 2012, in which the score for the second film, “The Two Towers,” will be played. The score of the final film, “The Return of the King,” will be played in 2013.

By Esteban Cortez
PARANORMAL: High gross at the box office

CONTINUED from page 5

The film will at least make up some financial ground overseas. Abrad, where “Muskeeteers” is being released by Constantin, the movie has so far debuted in 56 countries and grossed about $60 million.

With “Johnny English Reborn,” Atkinson again failed to connect with American audiences. The actor, best known for playing Mr. Bean, has never been a favorite stateside. 2003’s “Johnny English,” in which Atkinson originated his role as an incompetent secret agent, opened to a better $88 million but ended up grossing only $28 million in the U.S.

It seems “Johnny English Reborn” will follow a similar trajectory. Although the film will probably make less in America than the original did, it is on pace to easily out gross its predecessor abroad. This weekend, the movie crossed the $100 million mark at the international box office, collecting $135.2 million from 44 countries. The film’s foreign total now stands at $140.4 million, and the movie has yet to open in 15 markets overseas.

“I guess it’s just that British humor.” Nikki Rocco, president of domestic distribution for Universal Pictures, surmised about the movie’s U.S. failure. “Unfortunately, the American grosses are exactly what we predicted they would be, but when you look at the level of business the film is doing internationally, it doesn’t matter.”

This weekend, the movie played in about 1,500 fewer U.S. theaters than any of the weekend’s other wide-release debuts. Universal Pictures and Relativity Media spent about $45 million to produce the picture, which received an average grade of B from moviegoers.

By John Horn and Ben Fritz

LOS ANGELES — Eager to move ahead with new installments of what’s currently the studio’s hottest series, Universal Pictures is considering shooting its sixth and seventh “Fast and Furious” movies back-to-back with a single director connecting the two films.

Screenwriter Chris Morgan, who wrote the last three films, is busy working on story ideas while director Justin Lin, who also worked on the last three “Fast” movies, is expected to return behind the cameras for both films, according to people familiar with the studio’s plans but not authorized to discuss them publicly.

Universal already has penciled in a May 24, 2013, release for “Fast and the Furious 6,” but the consecutive shooting schedule may result in a later launch, as Lin would need to film the first seven films back-to-back before he could edit the sixth. By making the two movies together, the seventh film could be in theaters sooner than the typical two-year gap between the Vin Diesel movies.

The idea of shooting multiple films has been tried (and succeeded) before. Recent examples include “Back to the Future,” whose first and second sequels were consecutively filmed, as were the second and third “Pirates of the Caribbean” movies. Peter Jackson shot all three “Lord of the Rings” films in one epic swoop, a pattern he is following with his two “Hobbit” films, due Dec. 14, 2012, and Dec. 13, 2013.

Paramount Pictures is also considering shooting the fourth and fifth “Transformer” movies together, according to a report in Variety. Such combined production schedules can significantly reduce the combined cost of the two films and also minimize scheduling and staffing issues, as the lead cast and filmmakers essentially work on one longer production rather than coordinating their calendars to reassemble two separate times.

Universal’s potential “Fast and the Furious” strategy would represent a risk for the studio, as it already would have invested hundreds of millions to make a seventh movie before knowing if the franchise, which began in 2001, almost died with 2006’s modest performer “Fast and the Furious 3” before reviving back with 2009’s fourth installment and this year’s hit “Fast Five,” which grossed $624 million worldwide.

The “Fast and Furious” franchise, which began in 2001, almost died with 2006’s modest performer “Fast and the Furious 3” before reviving back with 2009’s fourth installment and this year’s hit “Fast Five,” which grossed $624 million worldwide.

Word of the Day

Sources: UrbanDictionary.com

Word of the Day: Mullet over

When a guy with a mullet ponder or considers a decision at great length.

Mullet over — Bob Moore, Paramount Pictures vice chairman

H

orror fans came out in very large numbers this weekend, and that’s a testament to the filmmakers and the enduring powers of this franchise.

— Rob Moore, Paramount Pictures vice chairman

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CONTINUED from page 8

No new labor talks are scheduled, and more regular-season games almost certainly will be scrapped in the near future. League executives are forbidden by the NBA from speaking to players about labor disputes. But The Times surveyed front-office executives, league officials, players, attorneys and others close to the game to get a sense of where the owners stand.

HAWKS Paul Allen, Portland: The Microsoft co-founder is a billionnaire, but Portland is a small market and Allen wants spending control among all owners.

Paul Allen made it clear that owners would not allow the players anything more than a 50-50 split of basketball-related earnings.

New labor talks are likely to come up, depending on the lockout.
Fresno State loses dog fight in Mackay Stadium

By Jerry Huerta
The Collegian

Fresno State traveled to Reno, Nev. for a battle between the remaining two undefeated teams in the Western Athletic Conference – and the showdown didn’t disappoint.

The Wolf Pack started off fast when freshman quarterback Cody Fajardo hit senior wide receiver Rishard Mathews with a 58-yard pass to put Nevada in scoring position. Fresno State would come up with a big stop to hold the Wolf Pack to a 22-yard field goal by junior Allen Hardinson to give Nevada the 3-0 lead.

Mathews wasn’t done making plays on the next Wolf Pack possession. He returned a punt to the house from 86 yards out to give Nevada the 10-0 lead.

Following Mathews’ electrifying return, it was Fresno State’s time to answer back with junior running back Robbie Rouse putting the ‘Dogs within striking distance of the Nevada lead, 10-7.

On the next drive, Nevada converted another big play with senior wide receiver Shane Anderson catching a 55-yard pass to put the Wolf Pack in Bulldog territory. Fresno State’s defense bent but didn’t break, holding Nevada to another Hardinson field goal to give the Wolf Pack the 13-7 lead.

Sophomore quarterback Derek Carr made his presence felt on the following drive, leading the ‘Dogs on a 15-play drive, the longest drive for either team in the game. On the drive, Fresno State mixed up the pass and the run to drive down the field. Carr found his top target sophomore wide receiver Jalen Saunders for a 6-yard touchdown pass to give Fresno State its first lead of the game, 14-13. Carr finished the game going 20 of 37 for 315 yards and three touchdown passes. Nevada let the pack loose on the next drive with junior running back Mike Ball outrunning the Bulldogs’ defense for a 35-yard gain. Ball finished off the drive with an 18-yard reception from Fajardo to give the Wolf Pack the 20-14 lead in the back-and-forth affair.

It was Carr’s turn on the next drive to shake things up, leading Fresno State down the gridiron with a variety of runs and passes. The ‘Dogs had to settle for a Kevin Goessling 22-yard field goal after the Nevada defense came up with the stop in the red zone. The Wolf Pack still clung to a 20-17 margin.

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Fresno State had trouble limiting the big play all game long as Nevada running back Mike Ball (left) ran all over the defense with 26 carries for 198 yards. Another critical play occurred the third quarter when senior Devin Wylie fumbled a punt return and the Wolf Pack recovered in the end zone for a momentum-shifting touchdown that gave Nevada a 30-24 lead late in the game.

Sophomore Derek Carr did his part to keep the ‘Dogs in the game with 315 passing yards and three touchdown passes. The offense put up 38 points on the Nevada defense, but it wasn’t enough.