Senator introduces measure to campus

By Joe Bailey
The Collegian

A state senator introduced a measure, which would cap fee increases for students, to Fresno State Friday.

Republican Sen. Jeff Denham held a press conference in front of the Henry Madden Library where he presented his measure that would institute a 10 percent cap on fee increases within the California State University (CSU) and the University of California (UC) systems, and provide a 180-day waiting period before students would have to pay those increases.

“We already had a 30 percent fee increase which many of us voted against,” Denham said. “We want to make sure there isn’t a 30 percent increase next year. When does it stop?”

Denham said this measure would allow students adequate time to financially plan for fee hikes which will result in fewer students dropping out. CSU student fees climbed 27 percent in the past fiscal year and fees have risen 150 percent since 2003.

“I worked two jobs going through college,” Denham said. “These types of increases would have forced me to drop out. I think it’s forcing a number of our students to drop out.”

“Many other states have a three or six percent cap. We are asking for a 10 percent cap that should provide plenty of flexibility. A 10 percent cap is something UC and CSU systems can live by,” Denham said.

Denham also said this measure would provide a 180-day waiting period for student fees, which many students feel is “a number of our students making a decision immediately and not doing the right thing.”

“The focus of the plan is the student,” Denham said. “I think we got a fight ahead of us. But I think it’s a fight the students are going to win.”

Task force charged with student success

By Thaddeus Miller
The Collegian

The university plans to meet, and hopes to exceed, the goal of a six percent increase in graduates by 2020.

One method implemented by the administration is the Student Success Task Force (SSTF).

“The Office of the Chancellor sent down an initiative in January calling for the increase in graduates as a greater representation of underserved students. The initiative also falls in line with President Barack Obama’s charge to make the United States the leader in college graduates by 2020,” Denham said.

The SSTF is made up of faculty, staff, administrators and students.

Provost William Covino, who co-chairs the SSTF with the vice president for student affairs Paul Oliaro, said that the target period will be six years from when students enter the university.

Part of what the [SSTF] does is talk about the many elements that comprise student success,” Covino said. “However, we all agree that the prime indicator of student success is graduation.”

An academic success course has been added, which is aimed at students who are in academic probation in their first semester.

“We’ll provide them further support in terms of developing study skills, time management skills and other kinds of skills that are conducive to greater success in their courses,” Covino said.

Failure to attend the course would delay those students under probation from registering.

Covino said that the administration and faculty are dedicated to the success of students in a timely manner.

“We certainly want the students to complete their education here in a timely way, so that they can start their careers,” Covino said.

Paul Oliaro told The Collegian in an e-mail interview that his past experience has shown that the mentoring program may be especially helpful to underserved students.

“Success is graduating students, and also preparing them to think critically and have knowledge and skills necessary in their chosen field,” Oliaro said.

He said that the SSTF has continued to grow through the participation of students and faculty.

Oliaro also said that the current combination of general education courses and majors courses that are available to students across all disciplines help students to accomplish that.

“The focus of the plan is the six-year graduation rate, which [will] give students plenty of days for the faculty in order to make up the deficit,” Oliaro said.

Denham disagreed stating that the CSU and UC systems should make up the deficit by being more fiscally responsible.

“This measure will force CSU and UC systems to live up to their means and the state government to do the same,” Denham said. “There are those that don’t want to cut the waste. There are a lot of common sense measures out there.”

Denham proposed that the University of California should sell its properties in Hawaii and Tahiti and close down the University of California Institute for Mexico and the United States.

In December, a Sacramento Bee article reported that the CSU wrongly reimbursed a high-ranking official $152,000 for expenses. The CSU system paid the official for stays at luxurious hotels and travel around the world, as well as internet and phone service at home.

If the measure passes through the legislature Gov. Schwarzenegger will need to sign it into law where it will immediately take effect.

“I think it’s going to be a tough fight,” Denham said. “But, it is a bipartisan measure. We have democrats on the bill who co-authored. I do think we got a fight ahead of us. But I think it’s a fight the students are going to win.”
Panhandlers gotta go

As we drive throughout Fresno, we come across the defiant fighter talking on the phone. This person driving unbelievably slow and of course the cyclists riding bikes in the middle of traffic lanes, as if they were riding solar-powered motorcycles. But what part of the law of nuisance are the panhandlers who occupy the medians throughout the city.

For the last nine months, as I’ve driven through the intersection of Blackstone Ave. at Ashlan Ave. I have seen a middle-aged man standing like a statue while holding a sign. She moved back from the crosswalk as I noticed a young woman driving by with her window down. “I thought,” she said. She then proceeded to tell me her story, “I’ve spent to fix roads that really did not need it. The city has spent to fix roads that really did not need it.”

According to the article, city council members voted to ask the city attorney to draft legislation that would ban the practice of panhandling on medians either illegal or severely limited. One exception was for those who were fired up with donors who are raising money for their annual fund drive. Now that it has been almost two years since this issue was brought up, I have seen little to all change in the city. In fact, I think it’s gotten worse.

“Setting it Straight
DENTON DUBBELS

Donating, and with the push of a button, my window went back up. I couldn’t believe she had the guts to do that.”

On March 26, 2008, an Associated Press story entitled, “Fresno City Council seeks to limit panhandlers in medians,” appeared in the San Francisco Chronicle. If a story about Fresno’s beggars appeared in the Chronicle, what do you tell them?”

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“I'm not sure if I have a point, but it's one thing more that I can’t take on my last word.” — Susan Xiong
When students think of Broadway Studios, it has been under the watchful eye of many due to the lively addition of the Mural District. The Mural District, the creation of Reza Assemi, lies just south of the Tower District and extends to Broadway Studios. It has been an area of conversation lately not only because of its luxury lofts, but also because its focus on the arts.

The loft showcases murals and sculptures from local artists like Josh Wigger and Francisco Vargas. Their signature styles can be easily identified by those who have seen their previous murals throughout Fresno. Many locals had different reactions to the sculptures. "Anytime you do anything in public, there is no way to make everyone happy," Assemi said. However, he preferred not to comment on the statue until its unveiling.

The 4-hour period of time that you cannot drive or function in society due to playing Grand Theft Auto. You may have the intention to steal a car, kill innocent people, and/ or drive recklessly.
The Mural District: the future of downtown Fresno

CONTINUED from page 3

legitimate.”

Flake also said he knows people understand the work and some students would like to be involved with what is going on downtown. “I know the debate is known among students and some may even present it in a similar style,” said Flake.

The Mural District has created some controversy based on what some would consider tasteful and what is considered outlandish based on the surrounding neighborhoods. It has sparked creative conversations between local residents and students alike.

The future of downtown Fresno, according to Assemi, is in the local arts whether people agree with it or not. “We get a lot of negativity about Fresno in general. If I listen to negativity, I wouldn’t get anything done,” said Assemi.

These statues sit on top of the Iron Bird Lofts on the corner of Divisadero Street and Fulton Street. Created by Brandon Grier, these statues are said to represent downtown Fresno. The statue of the young gargoyles dangling over the edge represents the downfall of downtown that many people have witnessed over the years. The one statue of the gargoyles in flight represents the rebirth of downtown. Brandon Grier is also the artist behind a larger statue that will be unveiled in mid-February in front of the lofts.

This mural, painted by Robert Amador, is on the side of what will soon be Broadway Lofts. Located on the corner of Calaveras and Broadway, Reza Assemi hopes this new project will open in June. The latest project will follow in the footsteps of Iron Bird Lofts and feature 23 living spaces. Robert Amador has been gaining local notoriety for his art and as the curator for the Nihon Gallery, located in Fresno’s Chinatown.

Photos by Matt Weir
The Collegian

Seducing Cindy

By Rick Bentley
McClatchy-Tribune

Cindy Margolis often seen scantily clad in images on her Web page earned a spot in the 2000 Guinness Book of World Records as the “most downloaded” person in 1999. At the peak of her Internet popularity, Margolis was clicked into computers 70,000 times in 24 hours.

So the 44-year-old mother of three turned to reality TV. On “Seducing Cindy,” debuting Saturday night on the Fox Reality Channel, 25 bachelors, ages 18-71, make pitches to date Margolis.

Because of her longtime connection to the Internet, Margolis initially tried finding a guy on the Web. The winner turns out to be someone who at first glance wouldn’t have been her idea of the perfect date.

Doing this to find a date may seem odd but it fits Margolis, who became the first big Internet sensation by grabbing an opportunity. Now she’s doing it again.

By Rick Bently
McClatchy-Tribune

Now or Later?
Bulldog Village is leasing Fall 2010!

Lease NOW for next fall & lock in at this year’s rates! But wait ‘til LATER, & rates will be going up!
**Student Q&A with Jared Yurong**

**By Tara Albert**

Basketball was a big part of freshman Jared Yurong’s youth, but now he is focused on finishing college and being able to support his own family.

He is a business major and is thinking about an emphasis in entrepreneurship. He said he has considered starting his own men’s clothing line called Yurong Wear. Yurong has played basketball since he was in kindergarten, and was the point guard on his high school varsity team for four years.

He plays at the Student Recreation Center from time to time and is part of a division two intramural basketball team called MGK1.

Yurong said family is very important to him, and he would like to be able to support his family like his father has done. He has one younger sister and one younger bother. His father, Dale Yurong, is a news anchor for Channel 30.

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**Q: What did you want to be when you were younger?**

**A:** That I used to play basketball in high school, because I’m short and not as big as basketball players now.

**Q: What is your biggest pet peeve?**

**A:** Stuck up girls. I can’t stand them. They think they are too cool - fake girls. They will say hi to you one day and another day they won’t say hi. Or they will act like they are your friends but they won’t say hi. Or they will be stuck up. I can’t stand it.

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**Q: If you had superpowers, what would they be?**

**A:** I would be able to fly, so I can finally dunk.

**Q: Who is the most influential person in your life?**

**A:** Probably my dad. He grew up in a poor family and went to college. He supports the family now. I am trying to be like that one day.

**Q: What are you passionate about?**

**A:** I am passionate about my family. They come first. They have been there for me, my parents especially.

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**Q: What are you most afraid of?**

**A:** Someone hurting my family or them getting hurt some how. And the doll Chucky scares me. It’s freaky, dolls are not supposed to look like that.

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**Q: If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go?**

**A:** I would go to Hawaii, because I have not been there yet. I am planning to go some time before I die.

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**Q: What is the weirdest thing you have ever eaten?**

**A:** Duck, but that’s not that weird.

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**Q: What do you do in your spare time?**

**A:** Whenever I have time, I like to hang out with friends and just chill and sleep. Sometimes I workout, but not a lot.

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**Q: What do you like to do in your free time?**

**A:** Sometimes I workout, just chill and sleep. Out with friends and sometimes I workout.

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**Q: What are you passionate about?**

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“I am passionate about my family. They come first. They have been there for me, my parents especially.”

— Jared Yurong, Business major

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** Silent, yet still speaking**

The ASL club encourages all signing levels.

**By Janessa Tyler**

Mouths are closed, no one is saying a word. Several pairs of hands are moving fast, signing various motions. The room may be quiet, but a conversation is taking place among several Fresno State students.

The American Sign Language Club (ASL) has been an active student organization on the Fresno State campus since April 1998. The club provides students with a chance to interact with faculty and administration at Fresno State, as well as members of the deaf community.

“It is a complex, beautiful language,” ASL Club secretary Sharayah Hartman said.

The community plays a key role in the success of the club. The club gives anyone interested in ASL an opportunity to learn more about events in the deaf community, the culture and interpreting.

“I have always been interested in sign language. In high school I took it as my foreign language class and I fell in love with it,” Hartman said.

The club organizes and hosts many events around the community. Past events include silent dinners, study nights at Starbucks, silent social nights at Dog House Grill and Halloween parties and a silent sleigh around Christmas time. “I love serving at the various deaf events,” Hartman said.

Most members of the club are communication disorder majors with plans to continue in the field. The ASL Club has even encouraged Fresno State students to branch out and change career choices.

“I decided to evolve my goals of becoming a teacher into becoming a deaf educator,” junior ASL club member Courtney Blohm said.

Anyone interested in ASL is highly encouraged to check out the club, regardless of one’s major or plans to join the club. Students who want to learn a new language will have a chance to discover a new way of communication in the ASL Club.

This is a club for anyone and everyone who has an interest in American Sign Language,” ASL club president Nathan Gomez.

Gomez advises anyone interested in sign language to take a class and attend a ASL Club meeting to learn more.

“We do our best to provide a friendly and supportive environment for our members at all signing levels,” Gomez said.
Black history month turns to the future

By Lolly Bowean
 McClatchy Tribune

Black History Month typically has been a time to reflect on the achievements of prominent African-Americans such as Jackie Robinson, Harriet Tubman, Thurgood Marshall and others. But for some, like Robin Price, this year’s celebration repre- sents an opportunity to look ahead.

Prompted in part by a more forward-looking view of Black History Month, which begins Monday, Price has decided to spend the year mentoring a young student.

“There are so many young girls that need guidance: their mothers need guidance,” said the 55-year-old event planner from Chicago’s Bronzeville neighborhood. “Not to say I’m a guru, but I have a great base. I’m excited about the prospects. I’m ready to share what God’s given me.”

African Americans have made histor- ical gains in recent years, the most prom- inent example being the Obama fam- ily in the White House. Still, they are struggling through a silent economic depression because of foreclosures and unemployment rates greater than the national average. That has prompt- ed some to see Black History Month as a time for service and to chart a more stable future.

That’s exactly why Tim Lee plans to kick off an outreach program for at-risk boys in Chicago starting Monday, offer- ing them counseling and guidance. His timing is critical.

“People are expecting to hear about black history, so this is the time when people are open and listening,” said Lee, who is a youth pastor. “I use it to take advantage. You can learn history from now until the day you die. But if you don’t act, you in a very real sense are failing.”

Lee already has the children at his church writing a play where they pre- dict the state of black America 10 years from now. It’s an exercise to make them imagine what murder rates, drop-out rates and HIV/AIDS infection statis- tics will look like if there is no inter- vention of the initiative from California State University executive vice chan- cellor and chief academic officer, Jeri Echeverría.

“A big part of the challenge is that our student profile is not what most think of as a traditional college student,” Echeverria said. “The average age of our students is 24, about 70 percent of them work, and a third of our students are the first in their family to attend college. All of these factors play a part in the approach that we are taking and our ultimate success in supporting stu- dents to achieve their degree.”
Part time jobs are in order to get through the tough economy


America’s Winter Olympics work just as hard off the snow and ice as on it. They have no choice. Tough economic times are battering them like a blizzard, so they have opened businesses or taken part-time jobs to pay the bills. Scarcity of sponsorships during the global recession have forced Olympic athletes to compensate for the loss of income with entrepreneurial ventures and old-fashioned minimum-wage paychecks.

For many, the road to the 2010 Winter Games in Vancouver and Whistler has been paved with extra sweat. Their careers are at risk. Tough economic times are battering them like a blizzard. They have no choice. Tough economic times have forced skilled workers to trim back. The U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association made some hard budget cuts that affected staff and developing athletes. U.S. Speedskating lost sponsor USB, a Dutch bank that went bankrupt, and grabbed the lifeline offered by comedian Stephen Colbert, whose Colbert Nation website fans have pledged $80,000

“For a time when non-profit and arts organizations are going under, we’ve had to get creative,” said Janine Alfano, USOC chief development officer, who estimated expenses for a U.S. skeleton athlete on the World Cup circuit to be $20,000-$30,000 a season if he or she is not on the U.S. World Cup team. Financial support from the national and international federations and the USOC adds up to about $15,000-$20,000. She’s getting sponsorships, but no free diapers for Lacee _ this Olympic season from Pampers.

Men’s Basketball:
vs. Boise State Broncos
Final: 49-65
Jerry Brown led the Bulldogs in scoring with 19 points and matched a game-high with 3 assists. Jaleesa Ross had 18 points and 3 assists. Emma Andrews came off the bench to lead the game in scoring with 19 points and 3 assists. Mercedez Head added 13 points and 7 rebounds and 3 blocked shots. Center , Greg Smith had 9 points, 7 rebounds and 3 blocked shots. Jerry Brown led the Bulldogs in scoring with 19 points and also had 7 steals, both team highs.

Women’s Basketball:
vs. Boise State Broncos
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Sylvester Seay also scored 9 points and 5 assists to go with her 7 rebounds and 3 blocked shots. Center , Greg Smith had 9 points and also had 7 steals, both team highs.

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Sylvester Seay also scored 9 points and 5 assists to go with her 7 rebounds and 3 blocked shots. Center , Greg Smith had 9 points and also had 7 steals, both team highs.
The Fresno State baseball players take the mound at Pete Beiden Field to get ready for spring training, pitching to teammates in scrimmages on January 30-31.

Head coach Mike Batesole’s 2010 squad began spring training Friday and competed in two live scrimmages over the weekend at Pete Beiden Field. Saturday’s scrimmage and practice lasted nearly three hours and also marked the first media day. The afternoon mostly showcased sophomore Tom Harlan and junior Gene Escat on the mound, with senior Zac Rusche filling in late.

Excitement was definitely in the air among the players. With a lot of shouts of encouragement and communication, the Bulldogs look like a confident unit early on.

The Bulldogs boast a top-40 national ranking in the Collegiate Baseball Fabulous 40 preseason poll, the only team in the WAC listed among the nation’s preseason elite.

Some concern entering the initial days of practice may be the age and experience of Batesole’s team. Leaders such as Tom Mendonca, Alan Ahmady and Holden Sprague are now out of Fresno State uniforms. And with only five seniors on the 32-man squad, the 11 newcomers and returners such as Danny Muno and Dusty Robinson should expect to play a prominent role in the ‘Dogs pursuit of a third straight WAC championship.

“If the guys returning all get a little bit better, then I think we can handle it.”

Over the course of the initial three days, Batesole was especially pleased with the performance of his pitching staff. Josh Poytress and Taylor Garrison saw the bulk of the pitching time during Sunday’s scrimmage, giving the ‘Dogs plenty of security on the mound.

“The good news is we get to stretch some of our pitchers out,” Batesole said. “We’ve been working hard. We have them in some bullpens, up to 30 or 40 pitches depending on the guy, and the last couple days we’ve been able to stretch some guys out to 60 and 70 pitches. That means by opening day we should have our starters ready to roll.”

Opening day features the premier of Fresno State’s tough schedule against opponents from quality conferences this season. Big 12 foe Nebraska comes in on Feb. 19 for the first game in the four-game series. Batesole, however, sees the rigorous schedule as an opportunity for improvement rather than a road block.

“It’s an excellent schedule,” Batesole said. “We have 21 preseason games against Big 12, Big West and Pac 10 opponents that will definitely have us ready for the WAC play.”

“We have 21 preseason games against Big 12, Big West and Pac 10 opponents that will definitely have us ready for the WAC play.”

— Mike Batesole, Head Baseball Coach