By Jessica Dugan  
The Collegian

Before she moved to an apartment across from cam-
pus, Jessica Freighl had a problem with parking.
“I always used the business school parking lot, Lot 4,” said Freighl, a business major.
“I would usually go to the front and realize there were no spots and park in the back
or in the Save Mart Center (lot). However, this caused me to waste time looking for a parking spot
because the parking lot is not in the amount of parking available, but where most students have
their classes in relation to the parking.

According to the Academic Scheduling Office, from 10 a.m. to noon on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays
(MWF) this semester, there are 4,115 students attending class-
es. The campus, in a recent count by The Collegian, offers
3,140 parking spots sprawled across 11 lots. Those
numbers do not reflect the four areas of parking meters,
and does count the front lot of the Save Mart Center.

Theoretically, then, every student would have some-
where to park. The trouble is that the class locations for nearly half of
those students attending class-
es at peak MWF times are in
buildings located near the Q
parking lot on the northwest end of campus. This means
the 1,105 parking spots
there have to accommodate
twice the number of students
attending classes in that area. A similar overflow problem
occurs around lots T, Y and J.

“One of the most underused lots
is Lot V,” said Michael Weinstock, a vit-
iology major, as patient as he is
with the parking lot. However, he
said he would still walk to park in S
because they have to cross Cedar
Avenue.”

During the construction in Lot V last year near Shaw and
Woodrow avenues, Armstrong herself parked in Lot S along
Building Lane, near the football stadium. She said she
wasn’t going to ask students to
park in Lot S if she wouldn’t
do it herself. Armstrong said
Lot V is still actually one of
the most underused lots available, along with S and V,
which is located on the east
side of O’Neill Park on the
northeast side of campus.

“People want the front row, but that’s not always avail-
able,” Armstrong said. “My grandma does the same thing at the mall.”

Michael Weinstock, a vit-
iology major, gets to campus
up to a half an hour before
his class starts in order to get
a parking spot in Lot Q. He
rarely resorts to parking in
the back, but instead decides
to wait for students to walk
to their cars in order to claim
their spots. He does not do the
same thing at the mall, unless
parking is sparse.

Jessica Freighl, the busi-
ness major, as patient as she is
on campus, is equally patient
when parking at other places.

“If I see people walking to
their car, I’ll wait,” Freighl
said. “Otherwise, I’ll just park
in the back.”
Student parking passes may go from $68 per semester to $136

By Danielle Gilbert
The Collegian

A proposed parking structure on the west end of campus will increase parking permit fees, once the structure opens in 2012.

Although raising the price of the parking pass might not pertain to most of the current student body, its feedback is being taken into consideration.

Students have been asked to let their voice be heard by taking an online survey, which is one of three focus groups regarding the Master Plan.

The focus group and online survey are some of the components of the alternative consultation process that we are doing this semester, according to Project Coordinator Tom Gaffery said.

If the Master Plan doesn’t sound familiar, you’re not alone.

The Master Plan is a proposal to build a university campus with parking structures in the new California State University campuses. The projects will make optimal use to accommodate growth and improve pedestrian circulation. The protection of the university could allow certain fees and “is responsible for assuring that appropriate consultation occurs prior to adjusting any fees, according to Gaffery.

“The online survey and focus groups are not being used to determine the structure will be built,” social work graduate student Cerda said.

The administrators of this campus already have a predetermination of what structures are already using data collection from students to justify the green light to proceed with the structure. But Administrator Cynthia Teniente-Matson said, “If a student’s life is busy enough to attend classes, work and family, it is also being adapted into a new format.”

“Administrators consistent-ly made the argument that our campus needs to be like other campuses that charge more for their parking fees,” Cerda said. “Comparing our campus to another campus or average income and poverty levels for the counties of other CSU’s sites, including student fees, haven’t been taken into consideration.”

“Should be comparing to other schools why we don’t have a parking structure,” Cerda said. “When there is nothing is final-ized, yet.

Today at 2:30 p.m. in USU room 309 will be the last focus group regarding the Master Plan.

Give your feedback and get your free gift for attending while supplies last.

"The Campus Fee Advisory Committee reviews student input and makes a recommen-dation to the president who will ultimately make the final decision,” Teniente Matson said.

However, if the majority of the students were against the Master Plan, the president could still vote to go forward with construction with the chance to re-vote.

The president will review the information by the end of this semester.

If the parking structure isn’t approved, the campus would likely run out of parking by 2015, there could be student restric-tions on bringing cars to campus and vehicular congestion would increase according to the flyer issued by Administrative Services.

Descended, it could also be a solution for the next 25 years,” Teniente-Matson said.

Additional student parking on the west end of campus would improve traffic circulation and enable access off Barstow Ave.

Lots A and J, K and L and the Save Mart Center are all potential sites for the new parking structure.

Plans from a traffic plan-ner indicated that Barstow Ave. at Cedar Ave. is the busiest crossroad with 30 percent of all vehicles driving through the intersection daily.

An actual student parking consultation video showed a simula-tion of the parking structure on Barstow Ave. and Campus Drive. The three level infra-structure will contain approxi-mately 1300 stalls which would create a net gain of 970 student parking spaces.

According to Gaffery, if the parking structure is approved, a semester parking permit would cost $136 which would, in return raise the Fall 2009-Spring 2010 pass to $272. All parking fees are not subject to change until after the构-structure is complete.

A comparison to cam-puses of similar size was made to indicate the infla-tion. CSU Northridge $162, CSU Fullerton $162 and CSU Sacramento $163.

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An award-winning scholar from UCLA will speak tonight on the practice of veiling women prior to Islam in the Engineering East building room 191. Sponsored by the College of Social Sciences in association with the Gender and History Lecture series. Amy Richlin, a Classics professor from UCLA will be speaking in a lecture titled “The Veil Before Islam.”

“I will be talking about one big way in which people now living in what we think of as the ‘West,’ have defined what we think of as the ‘East’ — the veiling of women,” Richlin said.

Richlin will touch on the cultures, who also practiced Western traditions, that practiced veiling before Islam did. “You can see the whole idea of West and East shaping up in classical antiquity. There was a point at which the West was considered strange, hostile, and threatening by the same Greeks we think of as the origin of Western civilization,” Richlin said. Overall Richlin will discuss topics such as Orientalism not originally being about Islam at all, and how Islamic traditions are in fact akin to Western traditions in the practice of the veiling of women.

In that the traditions one may practice is similar to that of Islamic traditions.

Richlin has published numerous articles on sex and gender in antiquity, the history of sexuality, and feminist theory.

Richlin has a bachelor’s degree from Princeton and then her master’s from Yale.

She also won awards from National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship and the Women’s Classical Caucus article prize. Richlin teaches undergraduate courses such as comedy, Roman law, women’s history, Roman civilization and Latin language and literature.

Her graduate courses include “Roman History and the Theory of History” and “Sex and Gender in the Ancient Mediterranean.” Richlin also serves as the graduate director at UCLA.

The lecture, “The Veil Before Islam,” takes place on Weds., March 25, at 4 p.m.

“T

There was a point at which

the West was considered

strange, hostile and threatening

by the same Greeks we think of

as the origin of Western civiliza-

tion.”

— Amy Richlin,

UCLA Professor of Classics

By Bryan Grace

The Collegian
Lessons and love from the 'Tao'

There are many things about this world that I don't quite understand. Often times I wonder if my lack of knowledge is simply due to a lack of relevant situations. Take love for instance. Who can righteousness proclaim with pride, "I understand the art of love!" I will be the first to admit it is not me, and it is not for lacking of trying. I would like to say I have loved and been loved. The fact that I am sitting in my house alone, looking at the ceiling and watching my son grow, I feel the urge to revert to that innocence he wears so easily; I can remember when my biggest gripe was my bedtime, 9:00 p.m. seeming truly unfair, rather than just late. I believe the beginning is the central figure in my life, the innocence has become a memory. How can I get a taste of that back?

"These days the gripping is the central figure in my life, the innocence has become a memory. How can I get a taste of that back?"

The love we receive as children is given, we do not coddle it or worry about it straying. It is there in its truest and rarest form, keeping it seems effortless. But in this, just when I thought I was being foolish, I realized I had found my answer: love is a given. If you are in a relationship that requires more than it is willing to give, get out. The easiest relationship I ever had was the one I worried the least about, it just happened and I could not explain why. Any good thing I wanted to back it up with proof. I looked to the Tao Te Ching for assistance. It took me a while but I finally found what I was looking for, at least it felt right: "The best athletes regard their opponent at his best. The best general enters the mind of his enemy. The best businessman serves the communal good. The best leader follows the will of the people. All of them embody the virtue of non-competition. Not that they don't love to compete, but do it the spirit of play. In this they are like children and in harmony with the Tao."

Love is boundless, unexplainable, and easy, but only if it is right. You cannot force love; you can fake it, but not for long. The innocence of love is best left untouched. If you're asking yourself what this matters, the Tao Te Ching has an answer for you: "If you don't know the less you understand."

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**CAMPUS SPEAK**

**What are your reactions to proposed measures to deal with the budget deficit?**

**Lance King**

Sophomore

Criminology

"I haven't really thought about it recently because all of the things that have been going on, but I just realized I should start thinking about it now. If the classes get bigger you won't get more one-on-one attention, that will affect your learning environment."

---

**Rene Charest**

Junior

Business Finance

"I think like any budget it needs a bit of work... Me personally, I'm not too concerned, I'm on my way out, I'm not coming in. I know that the major changes are not going to affect me directly as things worsen over the progressing years."

---

**Guillen Gonzalez**

Junior

Criminology

"It's really going to affect a lot of people because the CSU's in Fresno are not able to actually pay for college, and as years pass it's going to be increasingly increasing. I believe a lot of people are going to stop coming for the same reason."

---

**Rosa Santos**

Junior

Social Work

"I feel it's going to affect a lot of students, especially those who have to pay their own tuition. It's going to have a big effect on everyone. For me personally, financial aid starts cutting down some of the money that they give to students it will affect me."

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**Our Views**

End lack of student voice

Indifference is one of the clearest signs of indifference. This particular attitude of indifference usually comes from the belief that one will be affected by whatever the attitude is directed at. This can be seen clearly with Fresno State students when it comes to the lack of interest in our own student government. Thinking the activities involving ASI, the acting student government, do not impact the average Fresno State student, can be seen stemming from a lack of information, rather than an idea based on truth. Beyond student representation, student government serves to fight and uphold student rights to make sure the resources allocated to our university are used in the best interest of the students. In a time when state and CSU deficits are should give me the insight my youth, freezes and class reductions, it is extremely important the student voice is loud and strong.

This voice becomes even more critical when the cutbacks are eminent and thus hold the potential to impact many Fresno State students. In recent comments on our Web site, students have complained of what they perceive as student votes ignored, specifically citing the IRA fee increases.

The main problem rests on the fact that the student voice is not the major voice of students voted in that election. Although opposed by the majority, those that voted constituted to such a low percentage of all students, that it could not be said to represent the whole of the student body. This voice raised, was weak and thus unfortunately, unheard.

We at The Collegian believe ASI has the ability to voice students interests in all university issues and has the potential to make sure student impact is at the forefront of all decisions. With effective representation, circumstances, such as budget cuts, can hopefully have minimal negative effects on students.

However, in order to accomplish this, it is vital that students become involved and volunteer for positions that are of the student body, as well as properly oversee the funds granted to ASI each year.

With so many issues having the potential to directly affect students, it is time to make a change in these upcoming elections. The time to stop the indifference and become involved is upon us.

Although the official deadline to run for office has passed, the senate seats for the College of Arts and Humanities and the College of Science and Mathematics, remain with no current candidates. Potential senators can still run for the seats, with the exception that their name will not be included in the official ballot, but may still gather votes through write-ins.

Come this April 2, the voting will be even more accessible with the switch to electronic voting. Along with the regular polling stations around campus, students will be able to cast their ballots electronically. The communal links located on various university Web sites, including Blackboard and MyFresnoState.

We urge students to voice their opinion this election. Stop the ignorance and cast your vote.

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**THE COLLEGIAN**

The Collegian is a student-run publication of California State University, Fresno. Each edition is read by approximately 55,000 people, primarily students at California State University, Fresno.

The Collegian is an equal opportunity employer and will post notices of available jobs in the appropriate places on campus.

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Narcissus was a handsome young man who was desired and loved by all. One day, as he bent down to drink from a pool of water, he caught a glimpse of himself and fell in love. When he realized it was his own reflection he was in love with, he killed himself out of despair. He was sent to the darkest part of hell and a flower grew where he perished.

This story and eight others come alive in “Tales from Ovid,” a theater arts production opening Friday, that focuses on some of humanity’s timeless tales. While Ovid’s original stories were written around the time of Christ’s birth, Ruth Griffin, who teaches theater arts and dance, directs a unique rendition of Ted Hughes’s 1997 translation.

The production, acting and dancing bleed together and words, music and movement become one. On the mystical blue set, humans are transformed into trees and ponds, and one’s imagination is left to run wild.

“You’re not just a spectator. You’re an active participant in the story making,” Griffin said.

The production is unique in that it seamlessly meshes 13 actors, eight dancers and two musicians together to create dreamy and dramatic storylines that compliment the acting and dancing.

“The language tells you what’s happening, the dancing shows you, but the audience really creates it.”

— Ruth Griffin, Instructor of theater/dance

By Kaley Delarosa

The Collegian

Griffin added that singing, puppetry, lighting and projection are just some of the elements that complement the acting and dancing.

“Tales from Ovid” starts March 27 and runs through April 4. All performances are in the Dennis and Cheryl Woods Theatre in the Speech Arts building. Tuesday through Saturday performances start at 8 p.m. and Sunday performances start at 2 p.m. Student tickets are $10 with ID.

Tales from Ovid

The original stories were drawn from Ovid’s Metamorphosis, and this theme runs through each of the nine tales. “The stories are deeply psychological,” Griffin said.

The play creatively addresses cultural taboos and intertwined tragedy with comedy, producing cautionary tales of hubris, vanity and humanistic tales of love and pride.

Griffin said the play focuses on the unity of opposites in the world and the act of balancing them. The stories address men and women, day and night, love and hate, chaos and order and life and death. She said the stories, which are all about young adults, are also violent and sexually charged.

Vanessa Pereda, a senior acting major, plays multiple roles in the play.

“I think the play appeals to everyone in some way,” Pereda said. “There is just a magic to seeing it all come together on stage.”

ONLINE: For a profile on one of the lead actors visit: http://collegian.csufresno.edu

Word of the Day

Facebookemon

The term used for the collection of people on your Facebook list that you don’t actually talk to or know in real life.

From UrbanDictionary.com
2009 Chicano and Latin American Studies Conference

Friday, March 27, 2009
California State University, Fresno, College of Social Sciences & Chicano and Latin American Studies Department are pleased to announce

Independencia en las Américas: History, Impact, and Consequences

The Third of May (1808), by Francisco de Goya. Prado Museum, Spain

Keynote speaker: Dr. Miguel Tinker-Salas (Pomona College), one of the nation’s foremost authorities on political issues confronting Latin America.

See Web Site: http://clu.csufresno.edu/ for schedule and registration fee.
Contact Dr. Maria Lopez (559) 278 8808 mllopez@csufresno.edu
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"Please keep in mind, engaging in unruly behavior is prohibited on the bus." The voice coming from Route 38’s P.A. system is robotic, with a slight lisp. The shiny blue seats on the Fresno Area Express (FAX) bus gleam. A young guy in camo and piercings aims his rear at what he thinks is a seat, only to meet air. The girl in hoop earrings near the front lets loose a guffaw. "You think that’s funny, huh?" "Hell yeah, funny as all outdoors." "Well hey, you wanna give me your seat? You can sit in my lap if you want." She shakes her head and continues grooving to her iPod. "Silver Sundays are fun days on FAX," the robot voice booms over the activity. "If you’re 62 or older, it’s the day you don’t pay." It’s another day on the FAX, as the No. 38 barrels down Cedar, stopping occasionally with a screech of its brakes. As the rest of the world sleeps in or goes to school or work, the driver thinks of nothing but making good time. An elderly woman in purple leggings hauls a PowerForce Bagless vacuum cleaner on behind her. "Everybody believe in Jesus Christ?" she asks. "God bless, if you don’t." The passengers ignore her. The driver chuckles. A boy in a red shirt, about 10, boards with his older sister and grandmother. "That’s Fresno Steak." "No." His sister shakes her head. "That’s Fresno State." "That’s what I said. Fresno Steak." "Grandma, he’s mocking me." The boy laughs. "Look, I’ve got an extra finger!" he crowls, giving her his middle finger. His grandmother clucks disapprovingly, swatting at his hand. There is a lull in conversation among No. 38’s passengers. A young guy wearing a John’s Incredible Pizza uniform dozes against a window. The soft rock station playing on the radio is barely audible as the woman with the vacuum cleaner exits. "You know the driver they call Santa Claus?" she asks the driver. He nods. "Tell him Mama Boots sends her regards." And then she was off, luging her vacuum cleaner behind her as the bus pulls away from the curb, on the way to its next stop.
Horoscope
By Linda C. Black

Aries (March 21-April 19)
Don’t rush things, let them develop and mature natu-
really. When it’s time to take action, you’ll know, and it
should be very soon.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)
Think about a friend’s suggestion. It’s not the sort of
ingthing you’d normally do, but that doesn’t mean it
won’t work. A little pull of whim could brighten your entire
day.

Gemini (May 21-June 21)
A door will open, leading to a prestigious career advance-
ment. Are you ready to convince the others you’re the
perfect person for the job? You should be, at all
times.

Cancer (June 22-July 22)
Most accidents happen when the villains are not
beyond the call of duty when it comes
to fleshing out its villains and keep-
ing them on the edge of my seat with
heart-stopping tension and well-timed
scare.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)
The best laid plans of mice and men often take unexpected
twists. That’s likely to happen
now, so don’t relax quite yet. The surprise
could be a happy one. Be watching for
treasures.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
There are certain rules you
must follow, but don’t stifle all creativity. If somebody up
with a good idea, think it over. You
could make some big improvements.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
You’re moving quickly and you are amazingly inven-
tive. You find new ways to
make what you want in a flash, while you’re multi-
tasking.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
Encourage a loved one to
tell you about his or her
secret hopes and dreams. You
can help the good ones come to
turn, and overcome worries and fears.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
You should keep
your mind open and
be aware of things.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
No need to hurry, especially if you’re doing
something new. That’s
when the most mistakes are
made, as you may
already know. Take a little
e extra time as you won’t
do it have to do over.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb.
18) By now, you should
have pretty much every-
thing you need. This is
good, because you’ll soon
be distracted by other
things.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March
20) You’ve been wondering
what to do. The planning
phase soon will be over.
Better review your notes so
you can take appropriate
action.
The NCAA Tournament is over, and the National Championship Tournament is about to begin. They are two different things.

The misunderstanding about the NCAA Tournament is that it is for the 65 best teams in college basketball. It is not.

The NCAA Tournament is designed to make all member institutions, no matter how big or small, feel as if they are all part of the system.

That’s what last weekend was about. It was the weekend for dreamers, when schools are made to feel as if they are welcome at the Big Dance. As for the competition, it is a time when a surprise team is Big Ten Tournament champion Purdue, a No. 5.

The only double-digit seed to make it to the Sweet 16 is Arizona, a perennial Pac-10 power with as much talent as almost anyone. After that, the lowest seed is Big Ten Tournament champion Purdue, a No. 5.

The only schools from so-called non-power conferences are No. 4 seeds Xavier of the Atlantic 10, Gonzaga, of the West Coast Conference and No. 2 Memphis, of Conference USA, possibly the best team in the country.

But those have been Top 25 programs for most of the season.

As much as people like to question the NCAA Selection Committee, the No. 10 seed of the top 16 seeds advanced to the second weekend.

And that is usually the way it always works out.

There are exceptions, but a mid-major that earns its way to the Sweet 16 generally starts as a dark horse. Last weekend, it was Siena, of the Mid-Major conference, but it still had already proved its mettle throughout the season. The NCAA Tournament is for everyone. The National Championship Tournament is reserved for the 16 best teams.

One is done. The other is about to begin.

In my small opinion ... It’s diminishing returns for women’s basketball when Connecticut coach Geno Auriemma or Tennessee’s Pat Summitt assembles a squad as superior as this year’s UConn.

Certainly, if you’re an alum or fan of UConn, it’s nice to have an undefeated team that is light-years better than everyone else, but for the rest of us it’s a waste of time.

There is no reason to watch this year’s women’s NCAA’s when the other 64 teams are just playing for the right to be cannon fodder for Connecticut (8-4) on April 7 in St. Louis.

There is more talent than ever in women’s basketball, but it’s still a two-program fight at the top, with Connecticut and Tennessee alternating turns as Queen of the Mountain.

Since UConn won its first NCAA title in 1995, the Huskies and Lady Vols have combined for 10 of the last 14 titles, with each winning five.

When Connecticut or Tennessee puts together one of its uber-teams, the only thing capable of derailing them is if the other is just as good. It’s a down year for the Lady Vols, a No. 5 seed who lost to No. 12 Ball State in the first round.

That’s bad for women’s basketball.
CONTINUED from page 12

OB: Four Bulldogs competing for spot

Freshman Derek Carr is one of four quarterbacks competing for the starting spot this season after the departure of Tom Brandstater.

CONTINUED from page 12

as an excuse to get worked up.

WILLIS: Never early for football

Even better, nobody has to see their team lose a game until almost Labor Day. Oh, how sweet it is.

You can cause people losers if you want, but you can’t call them narrow-minded. Entire blogs, magazines and Web sites are dedicated to spring football, and they are read by millions.

Feathers even tried to have fun with Carr by saying a joke to an assistant coach after practice. That one involved the name of the quarterback.

“Maybe Feathers and Carr can be used in tandem the way Florida used Chris Leak and Tim Tebow in 2006. We’re gonna dominate!”

Feathers said with a laugh. “But I think we all came to practice to succeed, to see each other do well at the same time.”

One player wanting to succeed right away is true freshman quarterback Derek Carr, who experienced his first spring practice today.

Carr has already gotten permission right now.

Carr is also in a fight to establish himself right away.

I witnessed a family friend of mine jump up and down to get ripped their shirts off and jump up and down to get their recruits excited.

I await being asked about this spring.

Besides the fights, the hair, the cosmetic contacts and “Butch,” the epic quarterback battle will be put on display for all to see. It culminates April 25, when the spring scrimmage is held at Bulldog Stadium. Officials expect a high turnout.

I never early for football.

WILLIS: Never early for football.
Lacrosse is back in action today

By Alex Zimmerman

The Collegian

For two weeks now, the women’s lacrosse team has been preparing to take the field again. They have played five games thus far in their first season as a team.

After their loss to the Ducks in Oregon, they started a two- and a half week break from games.

The season is broken down into thirds, and the team is just beginning the second third of the season now, coach Sue Behme said. “Having a break in the season really helps players academically; it is challenging having to study on the road. Also it is good for training purposes,” Behme said.

According to Behme, during the break the team has been able to do strength training three days a week, work on stick skills and their offensive shooting and transitioning back on defense.

The team is breaking the game down and building it back up, focusing on different aspects.

These and other tactical concepts have been kept by the team busy in preparing to return to the full field.

Having a break in the season also gives players the opportunity to improve their play.

“Every player improves; I have seen improvement all over the place,” Behme said.

Some player’s improvements have caused adjustments to the team’s offense and defense. These adjustments include offensive and defensive shifts.

It poses a challenge to the team as some players grow faster than others, but at the same time that is what helps them grow as a team and eventually get to the level we are going to be playing, explained Behme.

The team will have a break from conference play for three games. They will be playing the University of Cincinnati Bearcats on Wednesday March 25, and then traveling to Detroit Mercy to play on Friday March 27, and back to Fresno to host their third home game against Presbyterian on March 29 at 8 a.m.

The Mountain Pacific is a tough conference. It is good to have these three non-conference games to prepare us for our next conference matchup,” Behme said.

As the lacrosse team begins the second third of the season, they look to use these three road games as preparation to return to Fresno to host their next conference game.

“It will be like we have the advantage, because we are playing again, and using these three non-conference games to prepare us to host conference opponent St. Mary’s,” Behme said.

Behme said that now being in the second third of the season, the team will be working on the execution of where they need to be by the end. After the Bulldog lacrosse teams finishes its expedition of the East Coast they will be returning to Fresno to host one of five of their remaining games.

They will host their second game of the season on April 4 at 1 p.m. against conference opponent Saint Mary’s.

They have to miss a lot of class. Does that affect your grades?

A: Yeah, I mean I got a 3.75 last semester, but it’s tough. I mean, for example, I missed some class last week and now I’m going to miss more class this week. People are always like, ‘oh cool you get to miss class,’ but it’s not cool. I want to get good grades and it can be difficult. It’s easy to get behind.

Q: Any thoughts on what you’re doing next year?

A: Really, I try not to be caught up in all of that. As I said, it’s pre-season stuff, I don’t even know, I am not worried about it. I’m here to play baseball for Fresno State. If I’m so lucky to have a chance to play professional baseball, I’ll take a look then.

Livin’ down on the farm

Fresno State’s superstar third baseman had humble beginnings in the Valley

By Mackee M. Mason

The Collegian

The confetti has been cleared off Beiden Field and a new season has commenced. One star that has been absent this season is last year’s College World Series MVP Tom Mendonca.

Mendonca gained so much recognition for the championship that he was invited to participate in summer leagues with the U.S. national team, and has garnered attention from all 30 Major League teams.

The Collegian sat down with Mendonca to talk about his background, baseball, and to find out what life is like in the limelight as one of the most famous students on campus.

QUESTION: Your uncle played for the Philadelphia Phillies, and your dad is a coach. Is that why you got into baseball?

A: At the beginning of last semester it was pretty cool, people still remembered, but it’s long gone.

Q: What was it like when you got back from Omaha?

A: I actually went away for a month to play baseball so by the time I got back it had died down [in Fresno] and back home so I didn’t get to live it up, which is probably the best thing that happened so I didn’t get caught up in it.

Q: You played for three weeks as one of the most famous students on campus. What was it like?

A: Everyone says 97, but I was sure I had 99.

Q: OK, 99, what happened? Were you being too aggressive?

A: Yeah I think it’s 99. Everyone says 97, but I was sure I had 99.

Q: How long have you been playing?

A: Since I was 7.

Q: So you remember your first home run?

A: I think it was when I was 10. When I was 9 it was just a triple. Yeah it was a fun game.

Q: You were hitting it over the fence at 10 years old?

A: Yeah, it was an all-star game. I remember that.

Q: You grew up on a dairy farm in Turlock. What were your duties on the farm?

A: Mainly I would sit back and watch because when I was younger, I was a farmhand, helped clean up, miscellaneous stuff. I have done it all. I’ve dehorned cows, I’ve moved cows out of pens, I’ve milked cows, I’ve fed cows and helped sick cows and stuff.

Q: Would you attribute your hitting skills to growing up on the dairy farm?

A: It’s more of the genetics. I have great parents and a brother. They laid the rules down and I followed them. Made me who I am today.

Q: What was it like when you first heard you were going to be in the major league?

A: Yeah, I had two great parents and a brother. They laid the rules down and I followed them. Made me who I am today.

A: I actually went away for a month to play baseball so by the time I got back it had died down [in Fresno] and back home so I didn’t get to live it up, which is probably the best thing that happened so I didn’t get caught up in it.

Q: You have to miss a lot of class. Does that affect your grades?

A: Yeah, I mean I got a 3.75 last semester, but it’s tough. I mean, for example, I missed some class last week and now I’m going to miss more class this week. People are always like, ‘oh cool you get to miss class,’ but it’s not cool. I want to get good grades and it can be difficult. It’s easy to get behind.

Q: Any thoughts on what you’re doing next year?

A: Really, I try not to be caught up in all of that. As I said, it’s pre-season stuff, I don’t even know, I am not worried about it. I’m here to play baseball for Fresno State. If I’m so lucky to have a chance to play professional baseball, I’ll take a look then.
Boeh was on hand, wearing a shirt and tie. Plenty of reporters and even regular ol’ fans were there as well. Of course, everyone talked non-stop about the final four – the Bulldogs’ quarterback quartet composed of Derek Carr, Ebahn Feathers, Ryan Colburn and Matt Faulkner – and about which one deserves the starting job.

Four fights broke out during 11-on-11 drills. People discussed the length of offensive lineman Matt Hunt’s hair. A reporter asked running back Ryan Mathews if he was growing out his hair as well (don’t worry, he is). Wide receiver Marlon Moore was asked about his scary-looking red contact lenses.

If you think all of this attention is nerdy at best and creepy at worst, especially when considering that the team won’t play a game for five more months, you’re wrong. College football fans are starved for their sport, and they will use anything they can get. Maybe it’s considered tough love, but Fresno State football is looking to install toughness for next season, which may explain the number of fights that broke out during the first spring practice on Monday afternoon.

During 11-on-11 drills, emotions ran high as the dog piles became present and the hands began to shove with the defense and offense getting into scuffles. At least four different fights broke out in the final hour of practice.

Coach Pat Hill, however, felt that the altercations didn’t put a damper on practice and was content about being back on the football field.

“It’s great. I liked the way we practiced today,” Hill said. “There were a lot of eager guys today; guys wanting to get this thing rolling. They’re going to be scrappers, but we got to get that personality back. I told my team that I liked their aggressiveness and I like their ‘want to’ attitude, but we got a lot of teaching to do.”

Some of the learning has to come from a young offensive line that is replacing both tackles.

“We had a lot of guys taking their first snap ever,” Hill said. “So a lot of times you have to judge it by who’s in or who’s out. Wherever we put quarterbacks in with all freshman lines we got to make things happen. We got to get our freshman linemen up to speed.”

Hill admits that his team is young, especially at the quarterback position.

“We gotta find out who the quarterback is going to be,” Hill said. “We still have a young football team, but I think we got some experience. We got some athletes, we just need to get the chemistry right and we’ll be ready to roll.”

While there were fights going on during team drills, there was another battle taking place in the first day of...