Despite economy, students continue to study abroad

By Brian Maxey
The Collegian

Studying abroad is expensive — especially for cash-strapped college students living in a woeful economy. Yet, as a number of Universities cut study abroad programs, Fresno State officials say that the current budget deficit hasn’t dented enthusiasm for students hoping to study overseas.

“We have yet to detect a significant drop in the number of students interested in studying abroad,” said Dr. Robert Hudgens, director of the study abroad and international exchange programs.

“In fact, some students have expressed an interest in studying abroad to delay graduation until the job market improves.”

In fact, overall study abroad has been on the rise at Fresno State in recent years. During the 2003-2004 academic school year 189 students from Fresno State were studying abroad. By 2004-2005, 207. And in 2006-2007 the number rose to 250 students studying in one of the university’s yearlong programs offered in 18 countries or one of the semester-long outings offered in 25 countries.

“We’ve been fortunate at this campus,” said administrator of the Continuing and Global Education department Dr. Berta Gonzales about funding for the study abroad programs at Fresno State.

“We have yet to detect a significant drop in the number of students interested in studying abroad.”

— Dr. Robert Hudgens, Director, Study Abroad and International Exchange Programs

CSU system faces $50 million reduction

By Megan Poindexter
The Collegian

California State University, Fresno officials are awaiting the outcome of a May 19 meeting with the state Board of Trustees in order to finalize the 2009-10 school year budget. It was recently announced that $88 million in cuts will be made, as there is not enough federal stimulus money to fund specific programs. This results in the loss of $50 million in government money normally funded to the California State University system for the next school year.

Fresno State president John Welty issued a statement that said, “We are preserving our commitment to make courses available for students currently enrolled and we are moving ahead to complete the library, although other capital projects are on hold.”

Welty said the loss of this money will also result in possibly the elimination of some administrative functions and already vacant positions.

In addition, he said that $2.8 billion of which the state depends on is being protected, but that the $50 million is a huge blow to the CSU system.

The $50 million reduction — while not welcome news — is not an unanticipated development.

— Dr. John D. Welty, President of university

The provost has provided resources to keep the program going.

Last year, CSUF offered thousands in study-abroad scholarships to its students and the ASI added partial funding through the Instructionally Related Activities fees (IRA) to help pay for the trips abroad.

Recently, proposed state budget cuts to the CSU system totaling more than $386 million and the $4.6 million reduction to Fresno State jeopardized some overseas opportunities.

In response to the budget cuts, the London Semester Program in the College of Arts and Humanities, which has been offered every Spring semester for 26 consecutive years, will be cancelled for Spring 2010.

Yet, Hudgens doesn’t see a link between the outcomes of the cancelled trips and the economic downturn.

“Maybe the destinations or subject matter of the trips just did not appeal to students,” Hudgens said.

“Or perhaps the timing of the trips conflicted with their part-time employment or family obligations.”

See ABROAD, Page 2

Campaign guidelines, costs and large participation push student campaigns to social networking sites

By Megan Poindexter
The Collegian

With Associated Students Inc. (ASI) elections less than a week away, candidates are campaigning harder and more frantically than ever.

And with the rise in technology and social networking Web sites, it seems as though more and more students are turning away from traditional methods of campaigning.

“The internet has started to play a huge role in campaigning,” said Alex Andreotti, who is running for a Senator at-Large position.

“Since many students today are a part of a social network site and check it regularly, sending a message to a friend advertising a campaign message is an easy way to attract attention.”

Some popular social networking sites include Mypace, Facebook, Twitter and other outlets frequently checked by students.

“The best part about these types of advertising media is that they are free for candidates, as any one running for a political office at the university is forced to pay for their materials themselves. Because of this, students can simply update their statuses, post bulletins, send messages and do a variety of things on social networks with no charge. Any campaign materials that are visibly placed around campus or any physical campaigns on campus must be approved by the Elections Committee according to Allison Smith, the Elections Commissioner. Thus, social networks are away to avoid any type of restrictions in terms of visual campaigning. I would say the most effective way to campaign is the online social networks because students are addicted to these,” said Jessica Sweeten, the current executive vice president. “It grabs attention and gives you a direct connection to the students. You have a way to interact with them and talk about the issues.”

While these networking devices have become popular amongst candidates in recent years, the old fashion flyer and button method is still around.

The visual aides can be placed anywhere on campus as long as they are not within 100 feet of the polling booth on election day. But once again, the downside to placing posters around campus is that the current budget deficit hasn’t dented enthusiasm for students hoping to study overseas.

“The $50 million reduction — while not welcome news — is not an unanticipated development,” said Welty. “We understood it was a possibility when the state budget was approved in February.”

The meeting between the state finance director and state treasurer on March 27 not only causes programs to be cut, but raises personal income taxes from 8.125 percent to 10.25 percent.

This decision will directly influence the Fresno State budget, as the university will be at a loss of $3 million causing Welty to reduce the 2009-10 budget by $1.3 million.

Welty said that the university will await the decisions of state officials and that Fresno State’s “emphasis will be on persuading the legislature and governor to avoid further cuts.”
ABROAD: While study abroad participation is on the rise, some programs continue to face cancellation

CONTINUED from page 1

gations. It most likely is a combination of many factors, including economic anxiety.”

Economic anxiety, institutional barriers, and prior student obligations have played a role in the cancellation of some trips abroad, but Hudgens and Gonzales say funding isn’t the only factor challenging the program.

“I can report that one of the faculty-led programs planned for Spring Break and two short-term study tours planned for this summer have been canceled for lack of sufficient student enrollment,” Hudgens said.

“Although the internet has changed the way candidates campaign together as an effective strategy, Teaming up can either make or break an election, and for some it’s worth a shot. However, Sweeten and Andreotti both agree that creating a catchy slogan is the best way to draw a student’s attention to a particular candidate.

“Although the internet has somewhat taken over the campaign world, a flyer still catches the attention of a passerby,” Andreotti. “It still catches the attention of students, but Sweeten said the hardest part is really engaging students to vote.”

And finding out who to persuade for a vote is difficult, but Sweeten said the hardest part of campaigning is simply getting students to turnout to vote.

“I would say the most difficult part is really engaging students to vote and telling them why it matters to vote,” said Sweeten. “It is hard to tell someone to vote when they do not know what ASI is, let alone what it does for them.”

Continuing on this page

I’m proud that we currently have two groups of students abroad right now. We have groups of about twenty students in the London and South Pacific semester abroad.”

— Dr. Berta Gonzales, Administrator, Department of Continuing and Global Education

CONTINUED from page 1

and handing out flyers is that it costs money.

Smith said that she has also witnessed candidates who campaign together as an effective strategy. Teaming up can either make or break an election, but for some it’s worth a shot.

However, Sweeten and Andreotti both agree that creating a catchy slogan is the best way to draw student’s attention to a particular candidate.

“Although the internet has somewhat taken over the campaign world, a flyer still catches the attention of students to the way to vote,” said Andreotti. “It still catches the eye of a passerby.”

Campaign strategies are a major concern, but another thing that candidates must consider is which students to target as less than 10 percent of the student population participates in ASI elections.

But most candidates focus their attention on the Greeks and student organizations that will benefit from a candidate getting into office. And finding out who to persuade for a vote is difficult, but Sweeten said the hardest part of campaigning is simply getting students to turnout to vote.

“I would say the most difficult part is really engaging students to vote and telling them why it matters to vote,” said Sweeten. “It is hard to tell someone to vote when they do not know what ASI is, let alone what it does for them.”
Bulldog Card still lacks plan for recovering leftover money

By Tori Pollock
The Collegian

The university has not yet made a policy for the Bulldog Card, the universal form of ID for Fresno State students. When students put money onto their card, there is still nothing to let students know they cannot have their money back if it’s not used up by graduation.

In an August 2008 article in The Collegian, Chris Robinson, the university controller, said a refund policy was in the works and remained a priority.

Six months later, nothing has changed. And, there is no notice posted at the campus PHIL stations, where students refill the cards, about the fact there is no refund policy.

Many students on campus don’t know about what the Bulldog Card can do or don’t use it much. The Bulldog Card, which the university switched to in the fall from the old student ID, can be used like a debit card for printing on campus, for food court purchases, or for discounts on off-campus activities. Students can load money onto their cards at three PHIL stations. One is located on the second floor of the University Student Union, one is in the Peters Business building, room 133, and one is in the new library on the collection level, which is on the lower level.

There are 7,302 accounts with money on them. Of that, 7,372 accounts have balances less than $20. Only six accounts have a balance greater than $100. The other 105 accounts have balances between $20 and $100.

Anel Mora, a sophomore, doesn’t use her Bulldog Card for anything but printing. “I just put $5 on it for when I need copies,” said Mora, a student who has been using her Bulldog Card for the past two years. She hasn’t used it for food, she said.

Ryan Steuk, a senior studying criminology, used his card as a freshmen and sophomore to make copies and as a meal plan but hasn’t since due to the no refund policy.

“That was a big reason why I stopped using it. It is not reasonable for me to put money onto it if I’ll never have the chance to get it back,” Steuk said.

This is the first year that the university has offered so many options for the card and it still doesn’t quite know what else to offer students. Robinson has looked into two other state schools to see what they do. On its Web site, San Diego State University said it works with U.S. Bank Aztec to give a free checking account for the students’ ID card. The card can be used as their ATM card to pay for charges both on campus and off.

If students want a refund or tell them to close out their card,” Jessica Lopez, administrative support assistant, said in a phone interview. “We offer refunds to students or tell them to close out their card.”

For students graduating from Long Beach, they may close their card at any time by completing the required form and will be sent their refund in the mail within two weeks.

With these two schools as possible examples, Robinson said the university wants feedback from Fresno State students about what to do with their accounts, no refunds are allowed, according to Donna Soto, manager of ID card services at Long Beach.

“There are 37,000 students and they don’t tend to put huge amounts on their cards so if they money is left, we encourage them to spend it,” Soto said.

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Recession survival guide: Harsh welcome to real world

By Mary Ellen Podmolik
McClatchy Tribune

The Class of 2009 may be curing the economy, but they can’t let it distract them from their job search.

Senior Black is hunkering in the insulating embrace of college as she waits the eight weeks until her May 9 graduation from Lake Forest College. With the little she is not in class or studying, she’s scanning online job sites, sending out resumes and cold-calling potential employers, anything that might get the frustrated 21-year-old job.

“Damn me for being in 27,” said the English and communications major. “This is just annoying.”

There could be worse time to be looking for a job.

After college seniors enjoy their last spring break this month, they’ll return to campus for the final weeks of academia before they enter a new chapter of life with an 8.1 percent unemployment rate. The first job search is an immediate launch but particularly so for the estimated 1.5 million members of the Class of 2009.

In August, employers surveyed by the National Association of Colleges and Employers said they planned to increase hiring of college graduates by 6 percent over last year. By October, the revised projection was a 1.3 percent increase in hiring. Then the hiring expectations were flat. Last month’s updated survey showed a stagnating change of heart, with employers reporting they planned to hire a flat 6.8 percent fewer college graduates than they did from the Class of 2008.

Some seniors do have jobs waiting for them; others accepted offers in the fall only to have them rescinded. Some are hoping to wait out the recession by heading to graduate school, a questionable strategy if it’s not for the right reasons, or are looking at service programs that are inundated with applications. And others are career guidance office regulars looking for assistance.

However, there are worries on college campuses that many seniors either are throwing up their arms and giving up or are focusing on their last semester and confident in their abilities. They wrongly figure they’ll easily land a job after graduation.

“The workplace is going to continue to get worse,” said Paul Garvec, director of Michigan State University’s Collegiate Employment Research Institute. “You have to be resilient. It’s not all going to work out the way you want it. You’re going to be underemployed and not valued as much as you think. But you want to position yourself and keep your options on where you want to go.”

In other words, don’t let a bad economy distract you from a good job search that needs to start now. The workplace may not need as many college graduates as it once did, but the need for the qualities they bring remains career counselors.

“There’s something great about a fresh college graduate,” said Gillian Steele, managing director of DePaul University’s career center.

“Before they’re up to date with the latest stuff, they’re full of energy and have a more reasonable cost as well. And despite the headlines, there are jobs to be filled.”

There’s a mind-set that “there aren’t jobs,” said Lois Meerdink, director of business career services at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. “There are, but there are fewer positions, so (students) have to work much harder and outwork their competition.”

Here’s how:

Use the services of college career centers, which continue to hear from employers that want to visit campus to meet students regardless of whether they have immediate job openings. Career offices also are adding programs to help students deal with today’s economic realities.

For instance, DePaul for the first time is putting on a special career fair after graduation for non-traditional employers, service organizations and temporary help firms. 

• Broaden your search parameters. Look beyond the big firms to smaller employers. Look at other industries where your knowledge base could be applied.

Expand your search geographically and realize that while it may be your dream to work in the Loop and live near Wrigley Field, that dream may have to be placed on the back burner for a few years.

• Take every opportunity to make a connection, whether it’s by meeting the parents of a friend or by doing an information interview with a company that you’re interested in but has no openings.

• Consider service organizations as a way to develop skills and expand your network of potential contacts.

But beware the paying jobs can be just as tough to get as those with a traditional employer.

Applications for the Peace Corps are up 16 percent this year, compared with 2008. Meanwhile, Teach for America, a program that places teachers in inner-city schools for two years, has accepted a record 35,000-plus applications, a 42 percent gain over last year. Last year, of the then-record 25,000 applications, 3,700 received teaching positions.

• Be ready to move to Plan B doing something else. Experts say the worst strategy is to try out the recession, because that shows a lack of career and independent thinking.

This may be, career counselors say, the only time when you can get away with working a minimum-wage job that has little to do with your degree.

Why? Because everyone knows what the economy is like, and managers want to know that graduates are doing something with their time rather than work on their tan or Xbox accounts.

• Take responsibility for yourself and realize the skills you’re learning from the job search process itself.

“Our culture of excess created this generation,” said Lindsey Pollak, author of “Getting From College to Career: 90 Things to Do Before You Join the Real World.”

“You hear the terms ‘entitled’ and ‘cold-titled. The economy is going to slap that out of them pretty quickly. If this economy teaches them to be humbled and hardworking, it’s teaching them what their parents and professors can’t.”

COMMENT: The Collegian is a forum for student expression. http://collegian.csufresno.edu
When the desperate attack

Pepsi & Prozac
SARAH A. PETERSON

T his recession may have changed my spending habits, but not my haunting habituals. Yes, my friend Bear and I can still be seen doing our weekly patrol of Fashion Fair on any given day, making rounds of the clearance racks at Hot Topic and Urban Outfitters, plunking down as little change as possible for a cute top or pair of earings.

It’s always been a fun and relaxing pastime, we can take our time and browse while catching up on some gossip and quality girl-time without the nagging of an impatient mother or the watchful eye of a paranoid boyfriend.

But that was before the attack of the desperate salespeople, in their relentless pursuit of that ever-elusive sale.

It used to be just a simple “Hi, how are you?” But these days it seems as if, no matter which store you enter, it’s never just a simple greeting anymore. It’s “Hi, how are you? Do you need help finding anything?” Or you are already halfway halfway to the car by then. When I looked back, he was lighting up a cigarette outside the mall. That was harassment, plain and simple. We probably should have reported it, but for once I left it off. Bear was shaking.

What’s next, a gun to the head? Probably not, but that was just to tell you that I’ve been walking that way anymore; the second I was at Fashion Fair, several days later, I walked around the outside of the mall. How sad is that?

Daniel helped you today?” I wish I could tell you I was exaggerating, but sadly, I am not. I was recipient of this exact dissertation only a few weeks ago.

Now, I understand that times are tough and that these people are just trying to make a living for themselves. But, that doesn’t make it any less crap. And the kiosk people are worse. There’s this one vendor in particular that we pass on our way to JC Pennys, right outside Forever 21, where the salespeople hawk their lotion samples. Not as if their very lives depend on a sale. At first we were polite, declining their offers with a smile and a “No, thank you.” Then they’d start tripping us up with questions like, “Can I ask you something?” or “What do you put on your hands?” If you stop, you are a goner, which is why I speed up and avoid eye contact, dragging my shopping companion along behind me.

But this last time I actually got scared. Bear and I were strolling along at a leisurely pace, oblivious of the very people who were chasing us. “Would you like to try this?” We shook our heads on our way past. Then, “Can I ask you something?” Maybe we shouldn’t have ignored her because all of a sudden, her manager was keeping pace beside us. “You come by here every day, and you always say no,” she said.

I automatically picked up speed, but Bear was slowing down. “Yeah, because it’s annoying,” she said, squaring her shoulders, prepared for battle.

“She’s just doing her job,” he said.

“Yeah, and like I said, it’s annoying to shoppers.” Bear repeated. “I should know, I work in retail.” He said something else, but I was already halfway halfway to the car by then.

My car is overheating. The thin indicator is hovering very close to the red line, just as if their very lives depend on a sale. I will go ahead and play the pity card first, but if that doesn’t work, I will go ahead and play the pity card first, but if that doesn’t work, I will go ahead and play the pity card first, but if that doesn’t work, what else do I have left?

After I looked back, he was lighting up a cigarette outside the mall. The atmosphere is broken, the economy is dying up and the struggle is getting harder. The nightly news paints my optimism with every headline.

Nevertheless, I have love for this day. It matters that Sandis are built on further plans. I have to appre- ciate the stability provided now.

I do not like being late, but once I am, no amount of unhappiness will turn back the clock.

I do not like forgetting, but once I have, all I can do is apologize. Life is only a struggle if you make it that way.

**COMMENT:** The Collegian is a forum for student expression. http://collegian.csufresno.edu

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**Hard struggle for optimism**

**VICTORIA L. JONES**

A couple of weeks ago I was going through a real tough time while simultaneously trying to bring home life with more positive thinking. When we are at our worst, it is then we must try our best.

Therefore, I was trying. However, life was not giving me easy breaks. I will go ahead and play the pity card first, but if that doesn’t work, I will go ahead and play the pity card first, but if that doesn’t work, I will go ahead and play the pity card first, but if that doesn’t work, what else do I have left?

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What’s next, a gun to the head? Probably not, but that was just to tell you that I’ve been walking that way anymore; the second I was at Fashion Fair, several days later, I walked around the outside of the mall. How sad is that?

Pennys, right outside Forever 21, where the salespeople hawk their lotion samples. Not as if their very lives depend on a sale. At first we were polite, declining their offers with a smile and a “No, thank you.” Then they’d start tripping us up with questions like, “Can I ask you something?” or “What do you put on your hands?” If you stop, you are a goner, which is why I speed up and avoid eye contact, dragging my shopping companion along behind me.
I’ll take good company, beer and some resurrection of Jesus Christ. Hmmm, Sunday thrown to commemorate the arrival of spring, particularly short lived in Fresno, is in actuality a confusion of colored candy and cheap dollar store edible—make up the festive décor, while upon sight properly goth, or mere pessimist cringe colored with an overwhelming brightness of such religious holidays. Why do self-professed Christians go to such great, and often outlandish, trouble to celebrate a God that preached humility and simplicity of life? And even more importantly, why has the holiday, along with much that relates to religion, turned away from What Would Jesus Do to Where Did Jesus Go? In my years of attending Easter Sundays with different family members and friends, not once do I remember seeing a sticker of Jesus on Easter eggs or noticing his mug on a piece of cake. I can’t even remember hearing the name mentioned, with the exception of course, of someone calling out to their cousin Jesús. The closest thing to a religious reference I’ve seen is the “Hear My Prayer” clasped chocolate hands my twenty-four year old sister was given, which even at that, chocolate hands in prayer form are far from appetizing.

And this may be the gist of the missing Jesus phenomenon, in attempts to skip away from anything that may be considered blasphemous, like drinking JC labeled beer or hiding little Jesus figurines stuffed with candy, the figure of Jesus has become so far removed from the celebration that now, he’s not just placed on the back burner, but practically kicked to the curb to make way for the candy bearing rabbit. Even the people that flock to churches for their yearly redeeming visit only devout about an hour to their honored star outside of the celebration. It’s my belief that everything is best when clear and upfront. Even the people that flock to church—telling them they’re not invited to the way for the candy bearing rabbit. A religious holiday that places their honored star outside of the celebration hardly reduces skepticism of religious practices with obscure purposes. As I told my brother, I’m a believer, I’m just not sure of the particularities. But I am sure however, that it’s no coincidence every instance that has coincided every instance that has gone back to the aforementioned question. IWMQ. Until He’s found, religious holidays will continue to be just bunnies and eggs. What comes off better as a celebration of course, of someone calling out to his name, with the exception of the holidays that have the holiday, along with much that relates to religion, turned away from What Would Jesus Do to Where Did Jesus Go? In my years of attending Easter Sundays with different family members and friends, not once do I remember seeing a sticker of Jesus on Easter eggs or noticing his mug on a piece of cake. I can’t even remember hearing the name mentioned, with the exception of course, of someone calling out to their cousin Jesús. The closest thing to a religious reference I’ve seen is the “Hear My Prayer” clasped chocolate hands my twenty-four year old sister was given, which even at that, chocolate hands in prayer form are far from appetizing.

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**Smoke Shop Hop**

*By Sarah A. Peterson*

**Tower Smoke**

**Location:** 3335 N. Marsha

**Atmosphere:** White walls stretch out with a smattering of Bob Marley posters, while rows of elaborate glass water pipes stretch across two walls floor to ceiling. Hookah pipes and tobacco in a dizzying array of flavors take up the whole left-hand wall, as glass cases house blown glass hand pipes in a variety of shapes, sizes and colors. Reggae music sets the mood.

**Price Range:** Described as the “Nike” of water pipes, the Pure brand comes in varying shades of frosted glass and sell for about $200 to $350, while the monstrous Biohazards go for $329. Figurine hand pipes come in the shapes of cats, chihuahuas, frogs and elephants, and cost around $30 a piece. Pipes also take form as gas masks, bowling pins, corn cobs and lipstick tubes ($12.99).

**Extras:** Hideaway cans ($20-$39.99) come in the form of Rock Star and Red Bull energy drinks, salt and pepper shakers, canisters of Coffee-mate and Country Time Lemonade. Scales ($20-$90) take the shape of CDs, matchbooks and cassette tapes. Grinders ($10-$80) masquerade as crowned skulls and grenades. StarBuzz hookah tobacco comes in orange, blueberry and fruit salad flavors, to name just a few; $9.99 a can. Dr. Green’s Agent X Unisex Synthetic Urine sells for $30. Also for sale: watches, rings, lighters, T-shirts, Swanky Dank boxer shorts and Swisher Sweets pipe tobacco.

**Things to keep in mind:** Soft glass pipes are environmentally friendly and made from recycled glass. Vaporizers burn out the impurities so you inhale vapor, not smoke. Synthetic urine had a shelf life of 2-3 years. Current sales at Tower Smoke run from 10 to 10 percent off.

**The Stuffed Pipe**

**Location:** 2377 E. Shaw

**Atmosphere:** A vast array of water pipes line the left-hand wall to the ceiling, in a variety of shapes, sizes and colors, while a lone gumball machine stands guard by the front entrance. Glass cases house all manner of blown glass hand pipes and cannabis literature, detox herbal cleansers and Tasty Puff tobacco flavored (which comes in flavors such as Pimpy Fresh Peach, Chick Magnet Cherry and Toke-a-Cola). Incense lines the back wall beneath a neon green clock.

**Price Range:** Soft glass water pipes cost an average of $60, with plastic ones running about $25 to $35. Glass hand pipes sell for about $30, while the Root pipes, the “Gucci” of water pipes, will set you back anywhere from $110 to $600.

**Extras:** Wild Berry brand fragrance oils. Book titles include “The Cannabis Breeders Bible” and “Buds for Less”; the aforementioned Tasty Puff tobacco flavoring; Black Flys shades; key chain pipes, shot glasses; rolling papers; magnets; posters; even a Cannabis Coloring Book.

**Things to keep in mind:** Domestic glass is healthier to use than imported, which may contain loose glass dust that wreaks havoc on the lungs. Hookah tobacco contains only 0.5 percent nicotine. Rolling papers come in rose, hemp, flavored and clear, which are made of cellulose sugar and have a sweet taste. The Stuffed Pipe has been in business since 1969.

**Phat Manz Alley**

**Location:** 1140 N. Van Ness

**Atmosphere:** Brick walled entrance painted graffiti style with psychedelic art: an alien in a blue suit smoking from a giant sea-colored water pipe amid floating dice, bubbles and mushrooms. Brick walls are lined floor-to-ceiling with water pipes of every make and model, glass hand pipes come in the shape of cuddly animals and a blow-up doll straddles a water jug in one corner.

**Price Range:** Tasty Puff tobacco flavoring goes for $3.50 a bottle. Hideaway cans (used to store the goods) are about $14. A flashlight keychain pipe is $8. Wild Berry brand fragrance oils cost $6 a bottle.

**Extras:** Scales disguised as CDs, ashtrays, iPod cases and cigarette packs; the aforementioned hideaway cans, masquerading as cans of Nestea and Campbell’s Soup. Book titles include “Marijuana Cooking” and “The Big Book of Buds”; there’s the “Ultimate Grow” DVD set; Juicy Jay’s flavored rolling papers, Wild Berry brand incense; and little baggies emblazoned with Hershey’s kisses.

**Things to keep in mind:** Hideaway cans are heavy, but do not shake; they do not really contain liquid. Phat Manz Alley accepts SPCA donations, both monetary and edible.
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4/20 Celebration
DJ Nayte Joon
in The Pit
Noon to 1 p.m.

Information table
10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
in the Free Speech Area
"I find hope in the darkest of days, and focus in the brightest. I do not judge the universe."

— Dalai Lama, leader

From BrainyQuote.com

**Movie Review: The Haunting in Connecticut**

By Sarah A. Peterson | The Collegian

After moving into their not-so-new Victorian-style home in Connecticut, the Campbell family starts to encounter the supernatural as their cancer-battling son begins to hallucinate. Based on a true story, the film is not just a cheap thriller, but a real-life chiller.

Many critics have pounced on "The Haunting in Connecticut" for being formulaic, but I see nothing wrong with that. In fact, I think it works tremendously well in this film’s favor, after all, formulas are relied upon because they usually deliver. And let me tell you, "The Haunting in Connecticut" delivers.

The Campbell family is at loose ends. While teenager Matt (Kyle Galliner) battles terminal cancer and dad Peter (Martin Donovan) struggles with alcoholism, mom Sara (Virginia Madsen) does her best to keep her family from slipping through the cracks.

With the help of her niece Wendy (Amanda Crew), Sara relocates the clan to Goatswood, Conn., where Matt is undergoing aggressive radiation treatments.

But it isn’t long before Matt starts experiencing disturbing hallucinations involving Corpses and severed eyelids; it turns out the house they’ve been renting used to be a funeral parlor where seances were conducted.

Enter fellow cancer patient Rev. Popescu (Elias Koteas), who reveals the truth about Matt’s visions—dying people can see the dead because they themselves are so close to crossing over.

The scares in this “Haunting” are frequent and relentless, as the reanimated charred remains of a young medium named Jonah appear to Matt time and again, warning of the numer-ous tormented souls inhabiting the Amtville-style house.

All hell literally breaks loose when Peter slappers home drunk one night, unleashing the fury of a hundred pissed-off spirits who want the truth to be known.

Director Peter Cornwell does a fine job of balancing the bodies and their possessed owners with minimal bloodshed but plenty of cringe-worthy moments, resulting in a near-perfect horror film whose fiery climax rivals the intensity of “The Exorcist.”

To put it in a nutshell, “The Haunting in Connecticut” had me jumping out of my seat on more than one occasion, spilling a multitude of buttered popcorn kernels along the way.

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For information, contact Editor in Chief Brandon Santiago

(559) 278-5732 or bigpapa12242@csufresno.edu
Kelsi Bond, a Fresno State women’s basketball assistant coach for the past two seasons, has accepted the head coaching job at Southwestern Oklahoma State University.

Bond will be replacing Shelley Pond at Southwestern Oklahoma State, who has been the head coach for the last 10 seasons.

Bond is a native Oklahoman and played high school and college basketball in the state. Bond was a member of the Bulldog staff for the program’s two best years in school history. The Bulldogs posted two consecutive 20-win seasons and won both the WAC regular-season and tournament titles.

In those two seasons, Fresno State made two trips to the NCAA Tournament, losing both times in the first round.

Bond played college basketball at Cameron University in Lawton, Okla. She played four years for the Aggies, setting school records in career three-point shooting average and assists.

Bond has also coached at Canton High School, her alma mater.

By Collegian Staff

THINKING OF GOING TO LAW SCHOOL?

California State University, Fresno

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April 15, 2009

From 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
in the University Student Union

Time: Event: Location: Sponsored by:
9-10 a.m. Admissions Presentation Workshop McLane Ran 281 Chicanos In Law, CSUF
10-10 a.m. The Law Class Experience McLane Ran 281 San Joaquin College of Law: Professor Carter
10-2 p.m. Law School and Professional Resource Fair McLane Ran 281 Phi Alpha Delta
11-12 p.m. Financing a Legal Education McLane Ran 281 USU South-USU
2-3 p.m. Preparing for a law career: What to expect? McLane Ran 281 Phi Alpha Delta

After NCAA Tournament run, ’Dogs lose assistant

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Bulldogs split WAC opener

By Collegian Staff

The Fresno State baseball team started off its conference schedule this past weekend a lot like last season - right at .500. The Diamond 'Dogs split four games with the nationally-labeled New Mexico State Aggies over the weekend to begin Western Athletic Conference play.

Fresno State won the opener last Friday 5-4, thanks to a 10th inning, walk-off homer from freshman Dusty Robinson. The Bulldogs' bats were silenced on Saturday though as they dropped game two of the series 4-2.

Coach Mike Batesole received outstanding pitching performances over the weekend, which is key since he's received outstanding pitching performances over the weekend, which is key since he's been able to manage the team's pitching throughout.

Sophomore Jake Floethe went 6-2 going into the ninth inning, but New Mexico State made it interesting, scoring three runs in the top of the inning.

Sophomore Gene Escat picked up the save and pitched his way out of a bases-loaded jam for a 6-5 win.

Monday night turned out to be a historic night for Fresno State, but it didn't end up in a victory.

Junior Tom Mendonca tied the school home run record by blasting two bombs on Monday, but Fresno State failed to hold the lead.

The Bulldogs' bullpen gave up five runs over the last two innings and the Aggies were able to capitalize. The Diamond 'Dogs won't be until May 1 when they host the Nevada Wolf Pack.

Champs: Wiens named tourney MVP

By Collegian Staff

With the resignation of five-year coach Steve Springthorpe at the beginning of January, Fresno State has finally landed a No. 11 national ranking and a trip to the first place in the nation.

His name is Brian Zwaschka, a former two-year assistant coach at UC Berkeley.

"I'm thrilled. I think there is an excellent opportunity for success here," said Zwaschka at a press conference on April 7. "With the forward thinking of the administration there is no doubt in my mind that this place has great potential."

Zwaschka has big shoes to fill as Springthorpe led the Bulldogs to a 53-39-7 record over two years where he led a team to a state championship.

As an assistant at Berkeley, Zwaschka had numerous responsibilities in helping the program's development. Everything from scouting to equipment to video to player development was listed in his job description.

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First-year program will build on inaugural season

By Alex Zimmerman
The Collegian

Stanford clinched the No. 1 seed in the tournament after beating UC Berkeley 13-4 on Sunday.

I think it is going to come down to Stanford and Oregon in the tournament. Stanford has played well throughout the conference as well as their top twenty schedule,” Behme said.

The Bulldogs have the seventh seed in the tournament. They will be playing against the second seed in the tournament which is still to be determined.

Depending on how the Oregon Ducks do this week against conference opponents St. Mary’s and California, will decide whether they are the second or third seed for the tournament.

Although the schedule is not finalized yet, Coach Behme said she would not be surprised if they got Oregon for their first game.

If the Oregon Ducks win both matches this week, they will lock in the No. 2 seed for the tournament.

A pair of losses for the Oregon would bump them down to the No. 3 seed, making Denver the No. 2 seeded team for the tournament.

It is Behme’s expectation of the team to win a game in the tournament regardless of the opponent.

“We look at it as a new season. That is what the tournament is, and we are playing to win,” Behme said in response to starting the tournament next Thursday.

Although it may seem frustrating that we have not won a game yet, it is not. We just focus on the right things. We have seen all these teams before, and we just need to play to win,” Behme said.
The weather in Fresno may not be warming up, but the offensive position battles at spring football practice are.

The competition for every spot on the Fresno State offense is beginning to get more intense, as players are fighting for playing time once the 2009 season starts.

Players young and old are trying to raise their level of play by achieving their tasks at hand, in an effort to get the offense on the right track between now and the season opener in September.

Offensive lineman Devan Cunningham has been bouncing between guard and tackle, having to learn the different blocking assignments.

“Each position has their pros and cons,” Cunningham said. “Guard or tackle, I’m fine with it. Our coaches have been harping on us to play since January.”

Also on the line is center Joe Bernardi; the returning starter is not only looking to maintain his starting role, but also assume a leadership role.

“When you become an older guy and the one that’s in the middle of the offense, it’s your responsibility to assume that role,” Bernardi said. “It’s a young group and it’s funny for guys like me when you come out here and there’s no Ryan Wendell, no Bobby Lepori and there’s no Cole Popovich.”

Bernardi spent most of his Bulldog career playing alongside and learning from the three. He does believe that this new group will learn from him and play at a high level.

“I think overall it’s going to be a real good group as things shape on,” Bernardi said. “There’s a lot of potential with this group and right now we are all getting used to each other.”

Coach Pat Hill admits that the offensive line is a work in progress, with several young players vying for positions, especially at tackle.

“The two tackle spots are open, with Bryce Harris, Kenny Wiggins and Devan Cunningham playing tackle,” Hill said. “We’re playing a lot of young lineman out here and what’s really amazing is their execution.”

Despite the youth and inexperience, Hill doesn’t think his young line has disappointed, but the veteran coach wants his unit to grow as spring practice continues.

“Our line is not bad, especially in the blitz pick-up,” Hill said. “We’ll have a very athletic line and we’ll be a physical offensive line; we just need to mature.”

But when the line is blocking, the coaches are focused on execution with the passing game.

“There was the issue of receivers not catching the football at the last scrimmage, before the spring break.

“On offense, we can’t have drops,” Hill said. “Those things we’ve got to correct. We don’t want to be the kind of team that has to win games by a scramble by our quarterback.”

Senior wide receiver Seyi Ajirotutu knows that catching the ball is a must, especially when his position coach Keith Williams discovered him and his fellow receivers about making drops.

“He was telling us that we have to catch the ball. There’s no excuse for coming out and dropping the ball,” Ajirotutu said. “He said that if we drop a ball, we have to do extra work or do anything so that we can catch the ball.”

Ebahn Feathers is one quarterback looking to be on the same page as the receivers, regardless of who’s running the routes.

“Camaraderie in terms of receivers and quarterbacks is a big thing and we got to learn how to trust each other on the routes and throws,” Feathers said.

Feathers believes that no matter how inexperienced the offense will be, the unit will perform at a high level as the position battles continue to intensify.

“We got a lot of young talent on the offensive line and this is the first time we are actually going full flex live and obviously there are some nerves shaking,” Feathers said. “But I have confidence in our offensive line. I know our coaches are doing the best they can to not put the quarterback’s position in a place where we won’t get killed and I think we’ll be fine.”

By Lorenzo Reyna
The Collegian

Sophomore Bryce Harris (70, ABOVE), Kenny Wiggins and Devan Cunningham are competing for the tackle positions. Cunningham is the only one of the three to see significant time for the Bulldogs, but has played as a guard. The tackle positions will be key to protecting the ‘Dogs new starting quarterback.

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April 15, 1997

Major League Baseball honored the late Jackie Robinson by retiring the number 42 from all MLB clubs.

Volleyball nets national championship

Men’s club team wins second national title in last five seasons

By Megan Poindexter

A year after taking third at the National Campus Championship Series (NCCS), the Fresno State men’s volleyball team finally got some redemption, winning the 2009 national title in Kansas City.

“This was by far the best moment in my volleyball career,” said senior Jake Wiens, who was named tournament MVP. “It was the pinnacle.”

Saturday, Fresno State was able to make its mark in the world of collegiate men’s volleyball by defeating University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh 26-24, 25-27, 16-14 in the championship game.

And to the Bulldogs’ surprise, they were actually the crowd favorite. A crowd of over 3,000 was cheering for the Fresno squad at the Bartle Convention Center, and it wasn’t until player introductions prior to the start of the game that Wiens said he and his teammates realized they had the crowd behind them.

“We had very few home games, so we aren’t used to playing in front of our home crowd,” Wiens said. “We didn’t realize it till right before the game that we were [crowd] favorites and they started cheering for us.”

After the first two games the match was tied at 1-1, and pushed to a third game where halfway through the Bulldogs trailed 8-7 before pulling even with the Titans at 12.

Fresno State made a hitting error while up 14-13, wasting an opportunity to close the match, but instead allowed