Students respond to proposed parking fee increase

By Erin O’Brien
The Collegian

As Fresno State grows, the numbers of enrolled students climbs every year, making issues like parking a serious problem. Campus officials have proposed the possibility of building a parking structure to accommodate these growing numbers for years to come. This will mean a jump in parking fees, an issue students are clearly divided on.

Recent proposals to raise the semester permit costs from $68 to $136 would be to build a parking structure for students on the west end of campus. In comparison to other CSU campuses of similar size, Fresno State has a low permit cost. The cost of a parking permit at CSU Northridge is $162, CSU Fullerton $162 and CSU Sacramento $153. Although these three campuses also have existing parking structures, students often complain about the lack of parking at Fresno State, but university officials have a different perspective. “It is important to note that the only revenue source for parking facilities on a CSU campus is the parking fee,” said Thomas Gaffery, an administrative project coordinator at Fresno State.

“Semester fees do not fund parking in any way,” Gaffery is convinced that students will see a benefit in campus parking if the fee was raised. “Students would have access to structured parking on the west end of campus,” he said. The fee would not be implemented until the structure opened, so that only students receiving this benefit would have to pay for it.

The main parking structure, to be built in 2012, would be located on Barstow Ave. and Campus Drive. The structure would increase student parking spaces by 970 to contain approximately 1,389 stalls.

According to Gaffery, parking fees are used for the operation of the parking program, maintenance of existing parking facilities and construction of new parking facilities.

By Mallory Frost
The Collegian

Fullerton $162 and CSU Sacramento $153. Although these three campuses also have existing parking structures, students often complain about the lack of parking at Fresno State, but university officials have a different perspective. “It is important to note that the only revenue source for parking facilities on a CSU campus is the parking fee,” said Thomas Gaffery, an administrative project coordinator at Fresno State.

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Every morning, it is common to see students circling the parking lots looking for a space close enough to keep their trek to class at a minimum. Part of the university’s Master Plan is to build a parking structure next to the softball stadium, on Barstow Avenue and Campus Drive. The Master Plan is the university’s plan for bringing it up-to-date with technology, remodel buildings and expand the university in both land and student size. This will also raise the semester parking permit costs from $68 to $136. The structure is planned to be built in 2012 and fees will not be raised until its completion.

This future fee may seem like a large jump for some students, but leaves Fresno State in the medium range of parking fees in comparison with other CSU schools.

Vanessa Williams, 20, a child development major, said that she is against the proposed structure due to its raise in costs and because she says parking isn’t an issue for her — she gets to school early enough to allow for enough parking time. “I leave home early so I can get a good spot and get to class on-time,” Williams said. “I don’t like the idea of paying more money when there is plenty of parking in the back of the school.”

Barbara Jessup, 22, a geology major, said that she doesn’t bother to purchase a parking pass because it’s too expensive as it is. “I park on the street behind the Red Wave,” Jessup said. “Students are broke enough as it is and it’s just going to make it more expensive to go to school.”

Some students, on the other hand, see the parking structure as a great opportunity for Fresno State and are supportive of the idea. Ashley Llanes, 21, a recreation and leisure studies and administration major, said that she visits her friends at different schools and they all have parking structures at their colleges. “I’ll be talking to my friends on the phone as I park and it’s a serious war to get a spot,” Llanes said.

“They will hear me freak out on the phone over a simple parking spot that got stolen and they can’t believe I go to such a big school and have to deal with such dumb issues.”

“I’m hummed that I won’t be in school when the parking structure is complete, but in reality, when it’s all said and done, I’m not thrilled.”
TCU reconsiders housing plans for gay students

By Gene Trainor
McClatchy Tribune

Texas Christian University may cancel plans to designate some on-campus apartments for gay students and their supporters.

The DiversCity Q community was to open this fall in a section of the Tom Brown-Pete Wright apartments on campus.

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender students and allies — heterosexual classmates who support them — would have had the chance to live together. Eight students had committed to the community so far, said TCU sophomore Shelly Newkirk, who applied to create the program.

TCU was also planning to open two Christian-based living communities, another for fine arts and three other themed housing arrangements under its living-learning communities program.

But the university announced Monday that it will now “review” requests for any new living-learning communities.

“TCU will not launch any new living learning communities at this time,” TCU Chancellor Victor J. Boschini, Jr., said in a statement. “Instead we will assess whether the concept of housing residential students based on themes supports the academic mission of the institution as well as our objective to provide a total university experience.”

This year’s living-learning groups are expected to remain.

They include the Leadership and Strengths Community for students who want to become leaders, the Green House for student interested in the environment and the Health and Wellness Community for students interested in healthy living.

TCU’s decision to allow DiversCity Q sparked a nationwide debate and conversation on blogs and Web sites.

FEES: Students have mixed reactions to planned parking structure

CONTINUED from page 1

and done, we are paying more and more every year to go to school anyways,” she said. “If they told me that I could get to sleep in an extra 30 minutes every morning if I paid extra, I’d have handed it over in a second.”

Mike Largent, 22, a business-entrepreneurship major, believes that the structure will not only benefit students, but Fresno State’s athletic programs as well.

“I know I won’t be in school to enjoy the structure by the time it’s built, but I will be around for football and baseball games in the future,” Largent said. “It will clear more room for tailgates and allow more fans to park.

“I may seem like a lot of money now, but when they get to cruise into a stall without a problem and get to class on time, they’ll be getting what they paid for.”

— Mike Largent, Student, Business: Entrepreneurship

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**Opinion**

**Pepsi & Prozac**

**SARAH A. PETERSON**

My mother will tell you that I walk around with the clouds, and this is probably true. Half the time I'm in my own little world, lost deep in thought, pondering who knows what. This usually means that I miss out on a lot of what is going on around me, especially when it comes to current events.

Don't worry, I realize that this is fairly pathetic, given the fact that I'm a journalism major, but that's just the way it is.

And this is precisely why I thought nothing of the swine flu at first. After all, how could it affect me? As a vegetarian, I don't eat pork. At first, I thought we were still dealing with the same flu that we did last year.

The media is using the swine flu as a platform to discuss the extremely high death rate of the flu. The only reason doctors are doing this is to make us worried about the chance of death.

"My exasperation reached the breaking point while at Mass last Sunday, our pastor announced that no one was to shake hands during peace because of the swine flu."

The media likes to blows these things all out of proportion.

I can see her point; there does seem to be something new and humanity every other month or so, but the fact that people are dying brings it home for me.

Tragedies, on a major scale, always do. Hurricanes, tsunamis and events like 9/11 all too often remind me of the myriad wars, epidemics and natural disasters. Just like Thomas Kinkade's painting of a serene countryside, the world has visibility.

And all too often, the media is focused on playing the scares, all in the name of drumming up business. Maybe this is why I find myself tuning out the news.

And while I do believe the public has the right to be aware of these events as they occur, I feel my spectacles is really starting to make sense.

"I mean, do you know how many epidemics there are, how many people are dying over the world?" she asked me.

“Why makes this flu so special? Why doesn’t the media focus on all the others?”

Words echoed in my head long after the conversation had ended. She definitely has a point there. So not all hope is lost for the souls who are praying that my exasperation improves.

My exasperation reached the breaking point while at Mass last Sunday, our pastor announced that no one was to shake hands during peace because of the swine flu. And not only that, wine was not going to be served.

So I will finally admit, this is getting ridiculous.

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**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**Veterans need support**

Homeless, psychological problems and family strains are becoming more commonly seen among war veterans returning from Afghanistan and Iraq. Young men and women who fight to protect our rights, are heroes among American citizens and I feel it is our obligation to make sure they live healthy lives while recovering from war traumas many Americans have never themselves experienced.

Barack Obama has declared that some of the funding increases in his proposed budget for veterans are going to be served.

"The Residence Director (RHD) offers a variety of decent meals every day for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. No they are not home cooked meals like mom used to make but the staff at the RDH works their best to provide a variety of decent meals every day for breakfast, lunch, and dinner."

Going to college is definitely a big step in our lives. Some of us are moved away from our homes into the dorms or in apartments nearby. With all the stress of not having mom and dad around to make dinner and take care of us we gain the "freshman 15." The Residence Director (RHD) offers a variety of decent meals every day for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. No they are not home cooked meals like mom used to make but the staff at the RDH works their best to provide a variety of decent meals every day for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

"One of my friends, however, is way more of a worrywart than me. As a vegetarian, I don’t eat pork. I can see her point; there does seem to be something new and humanity every other month or so, but the fact that people are dying brings it home for me."

Tragedies, on a major scale, always do. Hurricanes, tsunamis and events like 9/11 all too often remind me of the myriad wars, epidemics and natural disasters. Just like Thomas Kinkade’s painting of a serene countryside, the world has visibility.

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**Not a lifestyle decision**

In the recent article, “The Skinny of Men’s Jeans,” I found the quote, “they just look homely, I would never consider putting them on” to describe a student’s opinion about blue jeans quite offensive and socially unacceptable. Fresh of the controversy of Proposition 8 in the last election and most recently Vermont’s ruling that to deny gay marriage is unconstitutional, The Collegian staff should consider it. By their quotes, The Collegian is promoting the idea of discrimination against people simply because of who they are.

"Here is a fact for you: being homosexual is NOT a lifestyle decision, there is any underlying biological reason for homosexuality. The Collegian staff should not stand by and not only perpetuate a distorted image, but to use such a quote as an acceptable way of saying that Vermont’s students sets this newspaper back at least four decades."

This is a fact for you: being homosexual is NOT a lifestyle decision, there is any underlying biological reason for homosexuality. The Collegian staff should consider it. By their quotes, The Collegian is promoting the idea of discrimination against people simply because of who they are.

As Fresno State students and member of this great community, we must stick together and fight injustices and discrimination or we will never find improvement. We will never find acceptance. We will never find acceptance.
The price of pleasure

By Sarah A. Peterson
The Collegian

Despite the barrage of pornographic images flashing across the screen, only one person got up and walked out.

The rest of the audience stayed glued to their seats during the documentary “The Price of Pleasure: Pornography, Sexuality, and Relationships,” which was followed by a critical discussion on pornography led by Dr. Robert Jensen.

Jensen, an associate professor of journalism at the University of Texas in Austin and a consultant on the film, was also on hand to field questions from students regarding his role in the feminist anti-porn movement, during his lecture “A Critical Look at Pornography.”

“A lot of what drew me into this line of study was to specifically work out my own issues,” Jensen said. “Having grown up in a sexist society, it was an honest way to engage myself in critically examining the culture of pornography.”

It was only a matter of time before he developed a detachment when regarding his subject of study, but Jensen still chose to sit outside during the screening, having viewed the film many times before.

“The Price of Pleasure,” which was directed by Miguel Picker and Chyng Sun and interspersed interviews with actual porn footage, was hard to watch for some, including Jessica Villar, a junior social work major.

“It was definitely a little more than I would have liked to see,” Villar said, “but it made some very good points.”

Pornographic film clips ran the gamut from the softcore to the extreme, including the use of toilets, whips, gags and nooses, but “The Price of Pleasure” also showcased scenes from popular movies, TV shows, music videos and commercials to demonstrate the mainstreaming of porn in contemporary society.

“This culture has no problem talking about sexuality,” Jensen said. “We live in a culture saturated by sex, and it affects us all, whether we’re consumers of pornography or simply living in a society consumed by it.”

And perhaps what bothers him the most about porn has always been what he terms “the sexualizing of inequality.”

“Most pornography is about the control of women’s bodies,” Jensen said, “and this is a direct result of living in a patriarchal society. And as the industry pushes the limits in regards to violence, one has to wonder where exactly this culture is heading.”

In fact, the rise of violence in porn is something Jensen finds particularly disturbing.

“These images are becoming increasingly cruel, degrading and racist,” he said. “They’re also becoming increasingly popular. What does this say about the society we’re living in? How far will the porn industry go?”

Loretta Kensinger, the coordinator for the Women’s Studies department, thinks it’s about time these very questions were asked.

“All I’m seeing is a disgusting customer,” one porn actress says, “and all he’s seeing is a hot slut who wants to have sex.”

“What makes an image of suffering sexually arousing?” a scholar asks.

“The future of American porn is violence,” a director matter-of-factly states.

And to this cacophony of voices, Jensen, author of “Getting Off: Pornography and the End of Masculinity,” added a statement of his own.

“Some will argue that pornography opens up the imagination to unlimited fantasies,” he said, “but it actually constrains the sexual imagination. Porn shuts it down.”

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Dressed in a leather black jacket, white t-shirt, denim jeans, styling long thick side burns and Wolverine styled hair, Kyle Greilich looked like he had walked straight out of an X-Men movie.

The 20-year-old Willow International student, a longtime Wolverine fan, had to see the midnight showing of “X-Men Origins: Wolverine.” “I wanted to see it and couldn’t wait any longer,” Greilich said.

Greilich knows that there are a lot of movies that come out and do not meet expectations and hopes “X-Men Origins: Wolverine” doesn’t fall into that category.

The big draw for Greilich was to see how the X-Men started. Greilich was interested to see the characters before they became part of the X-Men team. Actor Hugh Jackman reprises his role as Wolverine, the inner mutant from the X-Men films, with a healing factor and adamantium claws that extrude from his hands at will.

Greilich said that Jackman has brought consistency to the X-Men movies and that he was born for the role of Wolverine. Many other X-Men fans would also agree.

“He has the perfect physique,” Amanda Chengrian, 18, a kinesiology major at Fresno State, said while waiting for friends, full of fan discussions and heated debates before the midnight showing of “X-Men Origins: Wolverine.”

Many other X-Men fans would also agree.

“`Wolverine’ kicks off blockbuster season

By J.W. Faria
The Collegian

An idea that is developed and put into action is more important than an idea that exists only as an idea.” — Buddha, Buddhist leader

Fuse: 1 Almanac contents
2 Bad actor
3 “Where to?” asker
4 “The Firebird” composer
5 Stravinsky
6 “To a Skylark,” for one
7 Regulars’ drink orders
8 What the poor dog had
9 Catching Z’s
10 Bay bobber
11 Author’s kiss of death
12 Ar-tee connection
13 A Ponderosa son
14 “The Firebird” composer
15 “To a Skylark,” for one
16 Regulars’ drink orders
17 What the poor dog had
18 It may be at your door-
19 Sounds of heavy objects
20 Auto mechanic
21 “Now you _ _ _ now…”
22 “30 Rock” network
23 Home of poet Langston Hughes
24 Heckelphone’s woodwind cousin
25 Brave mugs?
26 Brief acceptance speech?
27 “___ Now or Never”
28 Brief acceptance speech?
29 “Put some meat on those bones!”
30 Bag peg
31 Unoriginal one
32 Thumbs-up votes
33 Laundry room item
34 In the manner of
35 Barber’s obstacles
36 Burdensome possession
37 Pawn
38 Relative of et al.
39 Toothless Aussie mammal
40 Abrasive
41 GI’s address
42 China setting
43 Super saver?
44 Go over old territory?
45 Mystery writer Christie
46 Rocky prominence
47 Amtrak unit
48 “50 Ways to Leave Your Lover” bus-hopper
49 “Dr. No” star Andress
50 Braces
51 Mob’s planet
52 Hot air may be released when they are inflated
53 Agenda
54 Outwear
55 Is the emcee
56 Coagulate
57 Enthusiastic liveliness
58 Wonder
59 Na Na
60 Against the opposition

PUZZLE SOLUTION: http://collegian.csufresno.edu

The Collegian • Features
Monday, May 4, 2009
Your success is our success!
Division of Graduate Studies
California State University, Fresno

OPEN LETTER TO ALL GRADUATE STUDENTS AT CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

In celebration of Graduate Student Recognition Week, I am pleased to express my appreciation for the many contributions to the university and the community that you—our graduate students—make as you strive towards your academic goals. As graduate students, you are actively involved in pursuing new areas of knowledge in all disciplines. The following examples illustrate a few of the ways you are directly contributing to our university’s mission and to our community. To read even more about our graduate students, please see the Division of Graduate Studies Web site: http://www.csufresno.edu/gradstudies/

An Exploratory Analysis of Access to Care and Health Status among Undocumented Latinos in Fresno County
Alicia Gonzalez

Use of the Nintendo Wii Fit and Outdoor Challenge for Rehabilitation of an Elderly Female Patient with Age-related Balance Impairments
Benjamin Nichols

Influence of Sedimentation on the Distribution of Stream Macroinvertebrates in the Upper Fresno River
Brett Moore

Women in School Psychology: Publication Rates
Cheryl Gibson

Effects of Anonymity on Aggressive Behavioral Responses to Anger-Provoking Driving Situations - Coleman Tuttle Scimitar Cats (Homotherium) from Irvington and Fairmead Landfill in California
Danny Tovar

How Texting is Improving Language Skills and Communication
Lauren Bradley

Last Night a Rave Saved My Life: On Illumin Industries’ Audible Shock
Nathan Franklin

Educational Technology Use and Student Academic Motivation: A Correlation Analysis
Ralph Vasquez

Myspace, Facebook, YouTube and the 2008 Presidential Election
Sara Zakarian

My congratulations to these scholars, as well as the many others of you who help keep our university at the forefront of achievement in higher education. I encourage you to join us at the Graduate Research and Creative Activities Symposium Thursday, May 7, 2009, starting at 1 p.m. in the Satellite Student Union with Keynote speaker Nicholas Aretakis, author of No More Ramen, and continuing from 2 – 8 p.m. at the Henry Madden Library where you will see more excellent examples of graduate student work.

Sincerely,

Dr. Karen T. Carey, Dean
Division of Graduate Studies

Graduate Research and Creative Activities Symposium
Thursday, May 7, 2009
1 – 8 p.m. at the Henry Madden Library
Keynote Speaker: Nicholas Aretakis (No More Ramen)
in the Satellite Student Union from 1-2 p.m.
Bulldog track athletes reach Top 20

By Lorenzo Reyna

Three track and field athletes wanted to go against the best the nation had to offer, now the result is a national ranking for each of them.

Val-Pierre Dai’Re, Latrisha Jordan and Sharon Ayala have sprinted, hurdles and thrown their way into the United States Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA) Top 20. The USTFCCCA rankings were released this past Wednesday.

It’s the fourth time this year that the track rankings were released. Only this time, it featured three Bulldog athletes for the first time in the 2009 season.

For Val-Pierre Dai’Re, he earned his ranking after his performance in the Mount SAC relays on April 18.

He finished his 400-meter hurdle with a time of 51.00. The performance tied him with Ray Verner of Iowa for the No.18 ranking.

Dai’Re was recently named WAC Track Athlete of the Week, after his performance in the Mount SAC relays on April 4.

For Val-Pierre Dai’Re, he got a spot in the Top 20 after running a 51-second 400-meter hurdle time. Dai’Re should be back in the NCAA Tourney in ’09.

The performance earned his ranking after his season.

Even with two NCAA regional appearances, the junior still needed something more.

“The hurdles are each individual hurdle, so it’s something that you get to accomplish.”

Dai’Re said.

The Merced native will compete in his second consecutive NCAA regional, after a strong showing in the dual meet against Cal State Bakersfield this past Saturday. Dai’Re was able to amaze the crowd at Waterdorn Field in the 400-meter hurdles. Dai’Re competed in the 2008 NCAA regional in the 110-meter hurdles and 400 hurdles.

Even with two NCAA regional appearances, the junior still feels that he can get better.

“There’s plenty of room for improvement,” Dai’Re said.

“Every race I run I have coaches who tell me “you could do this better” or ‘you could do that better’. My goal every season is to be a conference champion; that’s my minimum goal, and then All-American.”

Freshman Latrisha Jordan is also a hurdler, and her basketball background has helped her earn a tie for the No.13 ranking in that category.

Jordan is one of two freshmen ranked in the Top 20. The Ceres native played her prep basketball at Central Valley High School.

“It helps with endurance, because I played all four quarters. I played every position and I jumped.”

Jordan said.

Jordan has also noticed the competition level with the open 400 is harder than running the hurdles. The hurdles are each individual hurdle, so it’s something that you get to accomplish.”

Dai’Re said.

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Wright, Bulldogs earn 10th WAC title

By Logan Hopkins
The Collegian

At the beginning of the season, the Fresno State softball team set a few major goals to accomplish before the end. According to head coach Margie Wright, the Bulldogs met their first goal this weekend. After a slow, tough start to the 2009 season, the ‘Dogs captured their 10th regular season Western Athletic Conference title.

“The just simply decided to not look past our first goal, which was to win the WAC,” Wright said. “I think we did a pretty good job of staying focused on that.”

The Bulldogs were able to win the regular season crown by battling back in the second half of the season. To close out the year, Fresno State had to win 10 of the final 12 games to catch first place Nevada.

The Wolf Pack and ‘Dogs both finished with a 15-5 conference record, but Fresno State took the three-game series from Nevada. The tiebreaker and the title went Fresno State’s way.

According to Wright, the season has had its difficulties, but the veteran coach is proud of her team’s resiliency.

“We’ve had a lot of ups and downs, but they were not ups and downs because we were playing easy competition,” Wright said.

Wright and the Bulldogs prided themselves on having one of the toughest nonconference schedules in the country. Early in the year, Fresno State played in the Cathedral City Classic, playing four Top 25 teams in five games.

“Part of the reason why you play the hard competition in the beginning, is to prepare for the end,” Wright said. The season is not yet over for the Bulldogs, as Fresno State hosts the 2009 WAC Tournament. Wright said that her team is happy to be at home, especially during the final week of the student athletes’ academic semester.

She said that even though the Bulldogs have the home-field advantage in the tournament, they still have to take advantage of the positives.

One advantage that the Bulldogs have is the knowledge of all their opponents.

“We know every opponent and we know that if we fell short against them before, we know why we did,” Wright said. “We know what we need to change that.”

The team has a few days to rest and prepare for the tournament. Being the No. 1 seed, the ‘Dogs have the first day of the tournament, Wednesday, off and will wait to play the winner of Boise State and Utah State on Thursday.

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And if her team can remain focused and accomplish its next goal, the Bulldogs will be making their annual trip to the NCAA Tournament.

Read The Collegian on Wednesday for a complete WAC Tournament preview.

BULLDOG BASEBALL

'Dogs split with Wolf Pack and keep post-season hope alive

By Jimmy Graben
The Collegian

It may be a steep climb, but the Fresno State baseball team’s ascent to qualify for the Western Athletic Conference (WAC) Tournament is still alive. After dropping both games in Saturday’s doubleheader to Nevada at Pete Beiden Field, the Bulldogs needed a Wonderdog-esque performance from someone on Sunday to stay relevant in the conference race.

Turns out junior first baseman Alan Ahmady still has some of that magic dust on his jersey from last season. Ahmady hit a walk-off homer over the left field scoreboard in the bottom of the ninth inning in Sunday’s first game, to give the Bulldogs an 8-6 victory.

Fresno State trounced the Wolf Pack, 12-5, in the nightcap on Sunday to earn the 2-2 series split.

The Bulldogs are now 6-10 in conference play and tied with Sacramento State for last in the WAC. Only the top six of seven teams in the conference get to go to Hawaii for the WAC Tournament.

“Part of the reason why you play the hard competition in the beginning, is to prepare for the end,” Wright said. The season is not yet over for the Bulldogs, as Fresno State hosts the 2009 WAC Tournament. Wright said that her team is happy to be at home, especially during the final week of the student athletes’ academic semester.

She said that even though the Bulldogs have the home-field advantage in the tournament, they still have to take advantage of the positives.

One advantage that the Bulldogs have is the knowledge of all their opponents.

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This is your place

- Senior pitcher Holden Sprague

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