CAMPUS FIRES

Police suspect arson

Flames, smoke interrupt classes in Speech Arts

By Brian Maxey
The Collegian

Multiple trash fires set on the California State University, Fresno campus Wednesday night forced the evacuation of dozens of students and faculty from the Speech Arts building, according to a report filed with the university police department.

The first fire was reported at 8:18 p.m. inside the Speech Arts building, according to a report filed with the university police department. Witnesses said that they spotted fire and smelled smoke as early as 8:18 p.m. Within minutes, they said, smoke had filtered throughout the building. Two other fires were reported within minutes of the first. A trash can outside the Keats Building was reported to be in flames at 8:20 p.m. At 8:45 p.m., university police responded to a report of a possible fire in the Social Science Building. They found charred paper remains in an office inside the building, according to public information officer Amy Armstrong of the University Police Department (UPD).

Armstrong said UPD personnel extinguished the fires immediately.

Fresno State student Brandon Holloway was rehearsing inside of the University Theatre when the fire broke out. "For the first time in a while, I had a 20-minute break to catch my breath," Holloway said.

By Thaddeus Miller
The Collegian

Assemblyman seeks support for Bill 656

The California State University Board of Trustees on Wednesday asked state elected leaders for an $884 million funding increase in the 2010-2011 academic school year, following a two-day meeting.

The board adopted a budget proposal to increase the system’s General Fund support from $2.3 billion to $3.2 billion during two separate meetings at the Chancellor’s office in Long Beach this week.

As proposed by the board, the 23-campus system calls for Sacramento to provide $3.2 billion in general-fund support next fiscal year, an increase from the current $2.3 billion.

State funding for the CSU was reduced by $384 million for the 2009-2010 academic year.

Reed addressed the board stating that CSU officials had laid out priorities within the $884 million for California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and legislature.

“Not only does it prohibit oil companies from paying the state’s general fund, but to raise $1.25 billion per year,” Torrico said.

He said that the tax would raise $1.25 billion per year. The money would not go to the state’s general fund, but to the state’s general fund, but to fund higher education, Torrico said.

President John D. Welty was unable to attend Torrico’s presentation, because he was in Long Beach at a board of trustees meeting. However, he sent

See TORRICO, Page 6

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“My bill, AB 656, will charge a 12.5 percent fee.”

Torrico said California is an anomaly among oil producing states. He said that a similar bill in Texas raises $400 million per year that funds higher education. He also said that Alaska has a 25 percent tax on companies that extract oil from the state.

“In California, we’re going to join the rest of the country and we’re going to charge the oil companies for the oil that they take out,” Torrico said. “My bill, AB 66, will charge a 12.5 percent fee.”

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See TORRICO, Page 6
Both sides of the abortion divide

Opinion

By Bethany Rangel
The Collegian

I never expected to be a chicken, walking on an invisible leash mimicking a scary witch when I set out to cover a story about next semester’s “Theater for Young Audiences” production.

The Dennis and Cheryl Woods Theatre at California State University, Fresno was empty Monday evening, except for an animated gibberish sounding conversation between two students across the room from where I entered. My intention was to catch a glimpse of the “Tomás and the Library Ladybird” auditions.

The director arrived and quickly realized that the two auditions would take place in a few minutes. I settled into one of the red cushioned, fold-down-seats, notebook in hand, and pen poised to jot down notes when the director began to speak.

After introducing herself as Kim Morin, she summoned students to the theater floor where she said, “We’re going to be playing games.”

Soon they were standing in a circle facing outward, and under Morin’s instructions, tossing around imaginary tennis balls and bowling balls.

A girl wearing a plaid skirt dropped her imaginary tennis ball and skipped away to retrieve it. Another girl shyly tossed around imaginary bowling balls.

“Really, really imagine it,” Morin encouraged, as students pretended to walk like a Doberman and poise on an ankle. “This is weird,” I mused but thought I would go along with it. My thoughts were abruptly interrupted by Morin calling cheerfully to me, “Are you going to take notes or would you like to join us?”

I had no idea what to do, so I thought I would join up.

“My god, they’re wonderful, and then to myself, ‘What am I getting into?’ as I slowly joined the group.

In a matter of a few short minutes, I became a chicken, flailing my arms and ruffling pretend feathers. Surprisingly, this “magical realism,” as my fellow acting students called it, was a lot of fun. It was the type of situation that I would typically laugh at but secretly enjoy…like singing at the top of my lungs…to Miley Cyrus.

What are you, chicken?

By Danielle Gilbert

An article praising H.R. 655, the Americas and America First Act, appeared in Monday’s opinion section of The Collegian. The headline read, “Stumping the Stupak” and celebrated the Democratic victory for the removal of federal covered abortions in health care plans.

However, the article merely scratched the surface of the issue at hand. I found it offensive that a male staff writer who dares to not use a female pronoun when referring to other women, may tackle and condemn a women’s rights issue in such a naive manner. Call me naive, but the issue is actually not in the nature of the question, but rather a glimpse of the “Tomás and the Library Ladybird” auditions that determine whose choice an abortion actually is.

Last time I checked, my right to choose was not in question. I would like to join you like any of the students across the room from where I entered. My intention was to catch a glimpse of the “Tomás and the Library Ladybird” auditions.

I was the type of situation that I would typically laugh at but secretly enjoy…like singing at the top of my lungs…to Miley Cyrus.

President Obama’s deep bow to Japanese Emperor Akihito on Saturday may not have violated any official protocol, but critics of the presidential act of deference nevertheless he says guilt of bad form.”

— FoxNews.com

WEB-Spe@K

That’s the People Are Saying

‘Freakonomics’... "That was a frustrating game to watch. What a let down. The truth is, without Ryan Mathews this is a mediocre team. Ryan Mathews is the spark. Once he got injured, you could just see everyone’s faces. They knew it was over.

‘Junior’ Obviously it had a lot to do with morale. Dome Bell’s injury didn’t help either and AJ Jenkins didn’t play the same after his little scare.

‘tjrich09’ So, providing a half true, directly misleading attack on Obama in Beijing was a tad below par. The point was to make it look like he was read with the lies. These administrators need to give up, they are only fooling themselves and the few puppet students in ASI. Ahem, I mean the USA.

‘R. Snowe’ ‘Have you actually read the text before you simply regurgitating the talking points of the CFA in this article?’ Because if you did read it, it sure does show.

‘Jesi 2’ ‘R. Snowe, have you read the bill? What don’t you get about the bill? It sounds like you feel it won’t help education”

‘true09’ ‘That was a frustrating game to watch. What a let down. The truth is, without Ryan Mathews this is a mediocre team. Ryan Mathews is the spark. Once he got injured, you could just see everyone’s faces. They knew it was over.

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Response:

‘stumping the Stupak’

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Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

SOLUTION: http://collegian.csufresno.edu

### ACROSS
1 Symbol of gentleness
5 Torah’s homes
9 __ Ababa
14 Fridge problem
15 R-rating reason, perhaps
16 Longship sailors
17 Maximum tolerance for a stand-up comic’s jokes?
19 A&T Park player
20 Start of a memorable 1961 admonition
21 Force
23 Grip
25 Slippery swimmer
26 “I World, all the time” channel?
33 In favor of
34 Flight-related
35 Clichéd
36 It’s often left in the copier: Abbr.
38 Wolf (down)
41 Mountain ride
42 Marine threats
44 Edible seaweed used for sushi
46 Clear
47 When dogs can’t run loose?
51 Estuary
52 Senior golfer Aoki
53 Lover’s sweet talk?
58 Precipitated
62 Cuban boy in 2000 news
63 Nuts about Danish toys?
65 Confuse—or what to do to four common phrases to form this puzzle’s theme answers
66 Plus-size supermodel
67 To be, in Brest
68 Hull damagers
69 Signs of nervousness
70 Interpret, as tea leaves

### DOWN
1 1970 hit by the Kinks
2 Summer coolers
3 Religious ascetic
4 You can count on a lot of bucks from one
5 Strs up trouble
6 CD follower?
7 Interpret, as tea leaves
8 19 Saintly
10 Knock off
11 Big bore
12 “_ that special!”
13 Clockmaker Thomas
18 Drone in Exmoor
22 Relig. title
24 Capital northwest of Rome
26 He played Ugarte in “Casablanca”
27 “All My Children” vixen
28 “__ behold?”
29 Sad sound
30 Skater Slubitsays
31 Best way to ring
32 Veto from Lenin
33 Mislead
37 Great time, slangily
39 Rice-A-__
40 Satine Chapel features
43 Sacred sites
45 “I, Robot” author
48 Come out on top
49 Aerie newborn
50 More morose
53 Adjacent
54 Quant retail adjective
55 Sand castle’s undoing
56 Even share, perhaps
57 Huge hauler
59 Fill
60 Biblical reformer
61 Like blue hair
64 Tracker maker

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**Expiration chug**

When someone drinks milk very quickly on the day of the expiration date.

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**The daily crossword**

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis
Los Angeles Times

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**Word of the Day**

Expiration chug

When someone drinks milk very quickly on the day of the expiration date.

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**SUDOKU**

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

SOLUTION: http://collegian.csufresno.edu

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**Source:** UrbanDictionary.com
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“When I was younger, I always dreamed of being a doctor so I can help people and change the world.”

— William Menchaca, Fresno State student

**Fires:** No damage reported

CONTINUED from page 1

trash fire set off fire alarms throughout the building.

Holloway, a double major in theater arts and mass communication and journalism, is a contributing writer for The Collegian who aided in extinguishing the trash fire inside of the speech arts building.

Holloway said that he and about 29 other people were rehearsing for an upcoming play when one of his cast mates smelled smoke coming from outside the room.

“We thought that someone was playing a prank on the stage crew, so we tried to find where the smoke was coming from,” Holloway said.

He said that some of his fellow cast mates fled the building, but he stayed behind to try and stop the fire.

“I went back in first. We tried to move the trash can, but [the fire] was too intense,” Holloway said. “The trashcan was completely engulfed in flames. I tried to move it to get it out of the way of the soda machine because of the electrical cords.”

Access to the building was halted for several hours after authorities blocked off entrances. Classes inside the building as well as the stage rehearsal inside of the University Theatre did not resume.

The Speech Arts building hosts several graduate level classes during the evening as well as housing the University Theatre, photo and video studio. No property damage was reported and firefighters are currently trying to determine the cause of the fire. Fresno Fire Department Capt. Andrew Noel said that the full investigation is still underway and it may be days or weeks before an official cause is known.

Armstrong said that UPD currently has no suspects in the case.

“We’re investigating each incident, but there’s no speculation at this time,” Armstrong said.

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**TORRICO: Calls for tax on oil**

CONTINUED from page 6

questions to be asked on his behalf during the open forum portion of the presentation.

Welty asked how the measure would guarantee ongoing support for the California State University system?

“The bill specifically says that the $1.25 billion is supplemental funding. It is not to be used to replace existing general funds,” Torrico said.

He also said that he would like to engage in a discussion with Welty and would do so if students would organize it.

Wednesday’s presentation was organized and planned by Students for Quality Education (SQE). Whitney Thompson, a facilitator for SQE, said that her group fully supports AB 656.

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**Student Q&A with William Menchaca**

By Chris Aguirre

The Collegian

Senior William Menchaca has been interested in the medical field since high school. He used to play football, soccer and baseball at Washington Union High in Easton, Calif., south of Fresno.

Since starting at California State University, Fresno in 2005, Menchaca strived to be an athletic trainer. While in high school, Menchaca tore the meniscus in both of his knees as a freshman. His playing days were never the same.

After months of rehabilitation, Menchaca was determined to help other athletes cope with their injuries. At Fresno State, Menchaca is in the sports medicine program and also volunteers there.

Menchaca has interned with the Fresno Fuego and the Fresno Grizzlies, as well as with Clovis East High School as an athletic trainer.

Next semester, Menchaca hopes to get into the athletic training program so he can turn his experiences into a successful career.

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

A: When I was younger, I always dreamed of becoming a doctor so I can help people and change the world.

Q: If you had superpowers what would they be?

A: I would probably want to be like Superman. The only bad thing is the whole kryptonite thing. I would also like to have the superpower or ability to know everything, so that way I wouldn’t have to study.

Q: What is your biggest pet peeve?

A: The biggest pet peeve that I have has to be when people are talking on the phone while paying or ordering something. I mean, it is just so annoying and very rude to the cashiers.

Q: What would people find surprising about you?

A: Something that people might find surprising about me is that I actually like watching E! on TV. I like to keep up with celebrity life.

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

A: My mother and father have been the most influential people in my life. They have shown me what hard work is and how to make the best of things when things get tough!

Q: What do you do in your spare time?

A: Really don’t have any spare time but when I used to have time, I would just hang out with my girlfriend, work out and play video games. Now all I do is study, study, study.

Q: What are you passionate about?

A: I would have to say that I am passionate about learning and gaining experience for my major through my internships. I’m just very dedicated to my future career in becoming an athletic trainer.

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Florida's quarterback Tim Tebow has damaged his NFL Draft stock in his senior season

By Jeremy Fowler
McClatchy Tribune

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Ten games through his senior season, Florida quarterback Tim Tebow might be more of an enigmatic NFL prospect than a year ago.

Four of 10 experts told the Orlando Sentinel this week that Tebow's professional stock likely has been damaged by this year's performance, at least for now.

The informal poll is composed of six draft analysts, one NFL personnel executive, one NFL scout, one former NFL general manager and one NFL sports agent. The scout, personnel executive and sports agent spoke on condition of anonymity.

"We expected to see some NFL-style tweaks in his game," said Rob Rang, director of NFLDraftScout.com. "We haven't seen any changes, and his decision making in the pocket has gotten worse.

Most agree that Tebow hasn't bolstered his stock because of Florida's conservative offense and his lowest statistical production in three years as a starter. Tebow has thrown for 1,730 yards, 12 touchdowns with four interceptions and a career-high 23 sacks through 10 games.

Those numbers won't matter in Tebow's evaluation, six NFL sources and analysts say, because the most polarizing draft figure - one who can't solidify his NFL worth until 2010.

"I have my doubts," said Casserly, who has been an NFL GM for 30 years. "Tebow backer more than anyone, and he's getting a bit predictable. Wonder whether he's ever going to learn to read defenses. Or if he's ever going to notch a game-winning drive in overtime."
**WEEK 11 PREVIEW**

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20, AT 2 P.M., BULLDOG STADIUM**

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**Bulldog Game Day**

Fresno State Bulldogs (6-4, 5-2 WAC) vs. Louisiana Tech Bulldogs (3-7, 2-4 WAC)

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### Breakdown: Bulldogs

The Fresno State Bulldogs received some bad news Tuesday. The ‘Dogs’ star and the nation's leading rusher, Ryan Mathews, has been ruled out for Saturday’s game.

Mathews, who is averaging 149 rushing yards per game and has scored 14 rushing touchdowns in only 10 games, suffered a mild concussion in the Bulldogs’ 52-14 defeat at Idaho last Saturday.

In a press release, Fresno State coach Pat Hill said that the health of Mathews is a priority.

Last week, after Mathews was injured, the Bulldogs entire team fell apart, failing to score any points and allowing the Wolf Pack to put up 35 points in the final 40 minutes of the contest.

The shock of seeing their best player go down clearly had a strong, negative effect on the team. According to Hill, the players have a chance to earn their dignity back after a demoralizing loss.

“We need to earn our respect back and earn our pride back as a football team,” Hill said.

The best news from this situation: the decision to keep Mathews out was made four days before kickoff. The team will have had plenty of time to prepare for a very important game without Mathews.

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### Breakdown: Bulldogs

Louisiana Tech is coming off arguably its best game of the 2009 season — a loss at LSU.

The Western Athletic Conference’s (WAC) other Bulldogs made the trip to Death Valley to take on the Tigers last Saturday and kept things close, losing by only eight points, 24-16.

The Bulldogs played tough defense, holding LSU’s quarterback Jarrett Lee to 7-of-22 passing for only 105 yards, and the Tigers only gained 246 total yards. Louisiana Tech’s loss at LSU was its fourth in a row, but the Bulldogs have a real chance of breaking their losing streak and picking up their first road victory of the year tomorrow.

Two of Louisiana Tech’s best playmakers, tailback Daniel Porter and receiver Philip Livas, did not finish the game at LSU due to injury. But luckily for the Bayou Bulldogs, both Porter and Livas are expected to be on the field tomorrow.

Porter ranks No. 7 in the WAC in rushing, averaging 79 yards per game. Last season against Fresno State, Porter had a career-high 189 yards, averaging 9.5 yards per carry.

Livas is a decent receiver, but his biggest impact is on kick and punt returns. He is No. 2 in the WAC, averaging 28 yards per punt return with one touchdown this season. And in their 2008 meeting, Livas had an 81-yard punt return to the house.

Last year, Fresno State gave up 280 rushing yards to Louisiana Tech. Judging by Fresno State’s defense, it should be able to stop Mathews out of the backfield.

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**Student-athlete of the week**

**Center Greg Smith**

In his collegiate debut, the freshman had 17 points, 10 rebounds and five blocks, going 6-for-6 from the floor.

Finally ... a big man at Fresno State.