20,000 student protesters anticipated at rally

By Carlos Perez
The Collegian

At a time when the world watched as former Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak resigned from his regime and the newly-elected governor of Wisconsin, Scott Walker, proposed a “Budget Repair Bill” that would potentially strip his state’s workers of their collective bargaining rights, the term “protest” isn’t taken lightly.

As the California legislature prepares to make budget decisions in early March, students from all over the state will join together on March 14 to march in protest of recent and proposed budget cuts to higher education. Protesters will meet at the California Automobile Museum in Sacramento at 10 a.m., and will march to the west steps of the capitol building. A rally will take place from there from 11 a.m. to noon.

“If we are loud enough and show our support, we can make a difference and change our education system.”

— Pedro Ramirez
ASI President

President Pedro Ramirez said in a phone interview. “The protest will be the last voice the representatives hear, as the deadline for the budget is the next day, March 15.” Ramirez is assisting in raising awareness on Fresno State’s campus for students to get involved.

The march is organized by the California State Student Association and the Student Senate for California Community Colleges. Ramirez, along with other representatives from the California State University system, the University of California and community colleges, are urging students to join together to protest budget cuts against higher education.

The goal for Fresno State ASI, specifically, is to encour-

age as many students on cam-

pus to go to Sacramento,” Ramirez said. “If we can get 50 to 60 students from Fresno State alone, we’ve definitely succeeded.”

Students, like Block, that plan the process beforehand have more time to work on the application should they run into a problem.

“My mom fills out her income tax information right away,” Block said. “I think it’s good people to file the FAFSA, receiving financial aid and repaying student loans.

While patiently waiting to receive help in the financial aid office, chemistry major Brittnie Block said that for her, the FAFSA process has been fairly easy with parental assistance.

Some students prefer to file their taxes early, while working adults are focusing on filing their taxes, many students are also completing their Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

Along with filling out the FAFSA, getting financial aid and repaying student loans.

In addition to calling the financial aid office to conduct business, students can also visit the office to meet with a representative regarding their financial aid status.

The office is commonly known to be over-crowded at times, especially when approaching the FAFSA deadline, which is March 2.

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Let Libyans decide Libya's fate

I cannot leave my country.” Col. Muammar al-Gaddafi, the leader of Libya, said in a recent speech, “I will die a martyr.”

With that, Gaddafi announced that the protests in Libya are far from over; and that many more Libyans will have the same fate as roughly 2,000 already have, according to estimates of various tyrants. While the protests in the Middle East have indeed enacted much change, with the Tunisian and Egyptian leaders already deposed, most of the protests in the region have been peaceful thus far; in large part because those governments have been unwilling to kill citizens.

Not in Libya. Instead, Gaddafi is desperately clinging to power, even going so far as to blame the uprising on al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden and coffee spiked with drugs. Bizarre.

All this puts the United States in an interesting position. Thus far, President Barack Obama has been, if an interesting position. Thus far, the United States could do, including establishing a “presence in an aerospace and temporarily halting the importation of Libyan oil into America.”

The two senior hawks of Congress’ deliberative body, John McCain (R-Ariz.) and Joseph Lieberman (I-Conn.), have begged Obama to establish a no-fly zone over the country, which could be a first step toward direct military action and the publication of a list of things that the U.S. could do, including establishing a “presence in Libya” and temporarily halting the importation of Libyan oil into America.

Let Gaddafi have that which he so desperately desires — death at the hands of a tyrant. While the protests in the Middle East have indeed enacted much change, with the Tunisian and Egyptian leaders already deposed, most of the protests in the region have been peaceful thus far; in large part because those governments have been unwilling to kill citizens.

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Let Libyans decide Libya’s fate

QUIT meddling in faraway lands with things we could not simply stand by and watch a government massacre its citizens. Stay out of these Arab conflicts.

That’s just creepy.

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FAFSA: Surviving the stress of financial planning for school

CONTINUED from page 1

as it is available at the begin-
ning of the year, even if they
have not yet filed their taxes.

Undeclared major Vanessa
Medina said that she, too, has
had no problems with her
FAFSA applications thus far
because she files her applica-
tion as soon as possible.

“I select the ‘will file taxes’
option, so I can complete my
application and fill in the tax
information later,” Medina
said.

This gives Medina the advan-
tage of having her appli-
cation submitted early while
she can still access the appli-
cation to edit her income tax
information before she files her
taxes.

“One thing that we try to
emphasize is to file the FAFSA
early,” Maria Hernandez,
director of financial aid at
Fresno State, said.

Hernandez said that many
students and their parents are
under the impression that they
need to complete their tax-
filing before the FAFSA, which
is not true. It is easier for students to apply for the FAFSA and
return it to with tax infor-
mation, Hernandez said.

Oscar who? Astronauts too busy for earthly awards

By Marcia Dunn
Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — The astronauts aboard the orbiting shuttle-station complex said Sunday that gearing up for their first space-
walk and accomplishing other
chores kept them too busy to pay
to any attention to the Academy
Awards back on Earth.

When asked by a TV inter-
viewer, the International Space
Station’s skipper said he wasn’t even aware of
the celebrity event. More pressing
news was delivered. Mission Control told the six shuttle
flyers that Discovery made it through its final liftoff rela-
tively unscathed, and that no further inspections would be
needed before undocking next
weekend.

NASA officials had said they did not suspect any
damage from a section of
insulating foam that broke
off the fuel tank and struck Discovery’s belly. At least
four pieces of debris came off the
tank during Thursday’s launch, though none posed a
health or safety concern.

More than 100 digital pho-
tographs snapped from the
International Space Station
during Discovery’s close
approach Saturday confirmed
the shuttle’s thermal armor is intact. The pictures still are
being analyzed, but nothing worrisome has popped up,
said LeRoy Cain, chairman
of the mission management
team.

The 12 astronauts hustled
Sunday to haul fresh supplies
from Discovery into the space
station, and get ready for today’s spacewalk, the first
of two planned for this week.

They were so busy some of
them, at least, did not realize
the Academy Awards cere-
mony was Sunday night.

When asked if the two
crews might tune in, station
commander Scott Kelly said it
would be possible for Mission
Control to beam up portions of
the awards broadcast — “if we
weren’t working.”

One of two astronauts step-
ing out Monday — Stephen
 Bowen — joined the crew last
month, replacing lead space-
walker Tom Jones, who was hurt in a bicycle crush.

In a series of interviews
Sunday, Bowen and Alvin Drew
said they have been able to pick up the
slack that I kind of brought on board.”

Bowen is an experienced spacewalker with five to his
credit.

“I really — still on crunches
— will help direct both space-
walkers during the spacewalk,”
Bowen said.

During Monday’s outing,
Bowen and Alvin Drew will
move a broken ammonia pump to a better storage area
on the station’s exterior and install a replacement cable.

The cable extension needs to be hooked up before a
chamber full of supplies can be installed permanently
on the orbiting lab; the Italian-
built compartment was car-
ried up aboard Discovery to
serve as an extra closet.

The first humanoid robot
in space — Robonaut 2 or
R2 for short — will remain
boxed up inside the compart-
ment for another few months. Begining in spring or early
summer, it will be tested as
an astronaut helper. R2 will
remain on the space station, future ver-
sions may venture out on
spacewalks.

The first crew member to
be getting ready for the mis-
sion’s 1st spacewalk,” R2 said
in a tweet, posted by a human
colleague back on Earth. “Wish
I could do with them! Maybe someday.”

PROTEST: Fresno State students urged
to join the rally

CONTINUED from page 1

ASI is sponsoring a bus that will provide students free transportation to and from Sacramento. Interested students are encouraged to stop by the ASI office in room B110 in the University Student Union for more transportation details.

The purpose of the March for Higher Education is to raise public awareness about the value of education to both the public and decision-makers in Sacramento. The march wants to bring as many stu-
dents as possible that are con-
cerned about the future of the
education system.

Olgalilia Ramirez, CSSA
director of government rela-
tions, said that the march is an opportunity for student activ-
cists to voice their opinions to
send a clear message to the
state.

While we might not be
able to compete with large campaign
donations that support
Pres. Obama’s, high education,” Olgalilia Ramirez
said, “(students) have power in numbers and we have power
to be heard.”

This year’s march is anticipated more than 20,000
students and supporters — it
was among the largest turnout to date.

Over the past few years, the rally has seen an increase
in attendance. According to
Olgalilia Ramirez, the rally
began with only 5,000 stu-
dents. Then, it grew to 8,000.
Last year, the march brought
together 13,000 protesters at
the steps of the state capitol.

Fresno State, however, has not written in the number of
students that made the trip to Sacramento because of
state transportation legisla-
tion. “We are working with
ASI to find an alternative
mode of transportation for the
students,” McCaffrey said.

It’s important for students
to show their support and have the legislature consider us,”
McCaffrey said. “We need to
demonstrate to the decision-making
process that our education
matters as possible that are con-
nected to Sacramento. The march
will provide students with
more transportation details.

Interested students are
called upon the opportunity , how-
ever, to come from the stu-
dents themselves.”

Moncayo is also the chair of
the legislative affairs commit-
tee for Fresno State and deals
with lobbying efforts ASI has
put forward to get students to
go to Sacramento for the
march.

The Student Affairs commit-
tee plays an active role in being
involved with the campus and trying to get more students
involved in this important issue.

Allyson McCaffrey, a psy-
chology major at Fresno State,
attended the march last year
and hopes to participate again
next month.

“ASI is concerned about the
future and the future of our
children that we’re protesting for,” McCaffrey said. “We need
people to show the decision-makers that we’re paying attention
to politics and taking account of
what is being done.”

McCaffrey believes that the
majority of her age group, 18 to
24, is not very politically active and it’s because the
legislature tends not to vote with
the constituency in mind.

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Identity theft poses a risk to some students

By Beeta Taidi-Laskowski
The Collegian

The consistent modernization and sophistication of the Internet, as well as general technology, can be paired with the refinement of different types of identity theft. Identity theft is becoming a concern among some college students.

Consumers have become increasingly uninhibited with their personal information and feel comfortable entering it into websites, such as social networking sites. Similar to the willingness to share information on social networking is the level of complacency with smart phones and online shopping. The youngest generation of consumers no longer thinks twice about entering their personal information when purchasing items online or checking their bank accounts.

“Online banking is safe to use if you make sure you never share your password with anyone and log off when you finish your session,” Justin Witte, assistant branch manager of Banco Bilbao Vizcaya Argentaria Compass Bank of Fresno, said.

Consumers should be wary of the ways hackers and scam artists have evolved and the lengths that they will go to in order to obtain another individual’s information.

“Remember that your bank or credit union will never send you an e-mail asking for personal information,” Witte said.

Websites such as PayPal can help ensure safety when shopping on lesser-known websites, and will only share the minimal information necessary while shopping. Consumers can also protect themselves by only entering their information into well-trusted and secure sites.

Additionally, banks have developed programs that will help protect their cardholders from fraudulent charges. Regardless of the banks’ efforts to help, it is essential that consumers frequently double-check the use of their credit and cards to ensure that no one else is making additional charges.

Business major Derek Worman said his credit card number was compromised last spring and he has since begun to pay close attention to his monthly statements.

“Social networking sites are really dangerous in terms of putting your information out there.”

— Greg Wiles, Fresno Treasury Officer

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Swan Lake, West Side Story mash-up makes for smash hit

By John Quinlan

The Centennial Symphonic Dance Project, a joint event produced by the music and theater arts departments, opened Thursday night to a sold-out house, a pattern that would continue over the weekend during the project’s next three performances.

The performance was headed by contemporary dance ensemble director Kenneth Balint along with Fresno State symphony orchestra conductor Thomas Loewenheim.

“The conductor and I, at least in the beginning, jokingly teased each other that it probably would be another hundred years before the departments collaborate,” Balint said.

The performance featured a contemporary mash-up of “West Side Story” and “Swan Lake.”

Students, professors, friends and family of performers and many others made their way into their seats as more than 400 filled the John Wright Theater, selling out all four performances.

“This is my last night playing Odette, so I’m pretty excited,” Nicole Askren said before performing on Saturday. Askren switches roles with another dancer each performance, as do both of the male leads.

“Both the two gentlemen in the show partner differently, so it’s a challenge working with two different partners at the same time, but it works,” Askren said.

Askren said she gets plenty of rehearsal time. The dancers have been practicing for this event since October.

The two weeks leading up to the performance is the most intense, Askren said, as they have rehearsal every single night.

On the floor of the dance studio they rehearse in a taped-on version of the theater stage, which Balint pointed out is six inches smaller than the actual stage. Many times the dancers have to walk backwards at certain points in the performance but still avoid ever falling off the stage for this reason.

The Contemporary Dance Ensemble members are all a part of the class Dance 163, which is a preparatory class for performance and careers in dancing.

“It’s essential that the students actually have this opportunity to go through a grueling rehearsal period and performance,” Balint said. “To be able to perform with the symphony is just amazing. Sometimes professional dancers don’t even get to do that anymore because performing with a symphony orchestra is just too expensive.”

Eugene Rodolfa, one of the male leads, said that dancing with a live orchestra is what he enjoyed most about this performance.

“You can definitely feel the movement a lot more and the energy behind the music is just powerful,” Rodolfa said.

The behind-the-scenes production and direction of the show is almost fully student run.

“I like the theatre department because it’s very hands on,” stage manager Angela Salinas said. “The person who’s running the light board is a student.”

A lot of what goes on behind the scenes requires quick changes. In many cases, the performers have to be completely re-dressed in less than 45 seconds.

“It’s all about being prepared,” Salinas said.

The Fresno State symphonic band plays the score for the Centennial Symphonic Dance Project, a performance that sold out four times this weekend.

“T he energy behind the music is just powerful.”

— Eugene Rodolfa

Male lead
ACROSS
1 City in Japan
6 ATM output
10 Barely open, as a door
14 Steamboat site
15 “I Love ___” (classic TV show)
19 “Have a ___ day!”
20 “Do You Believe in Magic” group
23 “Full Metal Jacket” setting, informally
28 Nothing to write home about
31 Spring flower
34 “1000 Oceans” singer Tori
36 Stretched tightly
38 Gloomy shadow
40 Have surgery
43 Be an omen of
44 Invention genesis
46 Make another eBay offer
48 Couple in a rowboat
50 Superfluous ending
51 A mere step away
53 ___ for tat
55 Lost traveler’s bane
61 Favoritism or discrimination
63 “I’ve finished,” on a radio

DOWN
1 By word of mouth
2 Airtight tower
3 Tel ___, Israel
4 Bacon in Hollywood
5 Blotched concert venues
6 Give an ovation
7 Workers in Des Moines make a dash for it
8 Juicy tidbit
9 Church songbook
10 Declaring invalid, as a marriage
11 Monopoly corner
12 Benetton’s path in the sky
13 Alternative to seven-grain
21 Whomped, a la Samson
22 Wrist action
25 Completely infatuated
26 “My Cherie ___” (Stevie Wonder song)
27 “Moulin ___”
29 Bollywood dress
30 Top
32 Able to jump through hoops?
33 Al fresco eateries
35 Like some pliers
37 “Take ___ Train” (Duke Ellington song)
39 Where part of a paycheck may go
41 Comparatively arid
42 “Planet of the Apes” planet
47 Territory divided into two states in 1889
49 Nap, south of the border
52 Adversary
54 Fish with a big net
55 Celebs acquire it
56 “America’s ___ Top Model”
57 Due plus one
58 Bar in the fridge, perhaps
59 “Two and a Half Men” role
60 TV’s Dick Van ___
61 1987 Michael Jackson album
62 Arctic surface

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

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

C

Bipolar texter
An individual who will suddenly, mid-conversation stop responding to you via text. Or, an individual who has reckless emotional swings through text message.

Source: UrbanDictionary.com
GOLF: Bulldogs will square off with No. 1 UCLA

CONTINUED from page 8

good players. The main thing is us putting it together,” Watney said.Watney said the team has struggled in the spring session of getting all competing players to perform at a high level in the same matches. The Bulldogs placed 10th in the Arizona Intercollegiate’s 16-team field and seventh at the John Burns Invitational at Hawaii.

One area of mild concern for Fresno State has been the play of its premier player Patel. The junior has labored down the stretch after a terrific fall campaign. Patel’s average of 75 per round in Fresno State’s two spring tournaments is well under his fall average of 69.71.

But if Patel can return to his fall form at the USC Invitational, and his four teammates can prove to be an ample supporting cast, Watney believes his team is nationally ranked caliber.

“If you have an All-American, and solid support, you should be a top-20 team,” Watney said. “In Bhavik we have a guy that, until the last two tournaments, is definitely playing All-American level. But we’ve been inconsistent behind them.”

Watney held a competition during Wednesday’s practice to determine which five members on his roster he would take to the invitational. Patel, Brian Sunker, Brad Wyatt, as well as surging Bulldogs Nate Jessup and Bryan Hogan made the cut. Hogan shot one-under at the John Burns Invitational in Hawaii while Jessup, just a freshman, shot a third-round 65.

“I had a freshman last week shoot 65 in Hawaii. Watney said of Jessup. “That’s a fabulous score. I mean that’s beyond good — that’s fabulous seven under par.”

Although Watney has plenty of confidence in his five-man group, North Ranch Country Club’s layout presents plenty of unfavorable circumstances itself. The course is relatively short at 6,889 yards, but keeps the driver out of players’ hands and warrants caution on out-of-bounds areas.

“For the free-swinging type of player, that can be very difficult, very scary, because you can’t just give it a rip because, I mean, most golf courses you hit it left you might hit trees or be in another fairway,” Watney said. “Here you’re out of bounds and reloading.”

Watney said even for the teams of NCAA elite status, the course’s dynamics level the playing field.

“At the NCAA, Arizona came into it prohibitive favorites,” he said. “They’d won like seven tournaments during the year. They had several [PGA] Tour players, and these guys were bombers. Well they go to this golf course, take the driver out of their hands, now they’re hitting three irons and some short, straight hitters who normally can’t compete against the bomber, but he can hit his driver against the other guy’s three iron.”

This year marks the fourth straight season the Bulldogs have competed in the USC Invitational. The best a Fresno State player has finished in the last three invitational is last year when Hogan shot a 69-69-71—209, good enough for fifth place.

But Watney reiterated that his team’s struggles of late are simply a product of his players putting it all together at the right time.

“Every sport it’s hard,” Watney said. “It’s like the quarterfinal is right on and his receivers keep dropping passes. One guy’s on and the other guy’s not on, and you don’t have success.”

DOGS: Bulldogs undefeated

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Pepperdine would also add another unearned run due to a fielding error by shortstop Garrett Weber.

For the first time this year the Bulldogs would use more than one reliever to finish out a game. After Gonzalez left after 5.2 innings when he allowed two runs, one earned, the Dogs would use five relievers with Taylor Garrison getting the win and Charlie Robertson picking up the save. The pitching staff ended the game with nine strikeouts and only one walk.

Fresno State took down the Waves 8-1 in the second half of Sunday’s double header.
Austin Wynns and the Bulldogs drew in four of their seven runs in the final three innings in Saturday's win over Pepperdine, then capped off an undefeated weekend with back-to-back wins in Sunday's double header.