After months of remodeling, Taco Bell Express is now open. Taco Bell Express had its grand re-opening on Wednesday at 10:30 a.m.

Taco Bell Express had been expected by many students to be re-opened by November causing some students to be disappointed in the setback. 

Repairs of Taco Bell Express were delayed due to conflicts in funding and construction. They caused Taco Bell Express to open later than expected.

Construction was to fulfill the requirement placed by Taco Bell Corporation. With a whole new look, Taco Bell Express shows a new atmosphere, with vibrant colors giving it a new look. Along with the new interior, Taco Bell Express has more seating for anyone who visits to be able to sit down and enjoy.

When walking into Taco Bell Express it is different with the way things were before. It looks just like a Taco Bell restaurant and can be a comfortable place for anyone to eat at.

Rain did not stop Fresno State students from lining up for Taco Bell Express’ grand opening. The first 300 customers won a free crunchy taco.

“Taco Bell Express: Under Construction. Reopening in November 2010” is no longer seen on the glass doors of the University Center. After months of fixing up it has now been remodeled and is open for business.

Taco Bell Express has affordable prices that Fresno State students can be satisfied with. With recent accusations saying that Taco Bell’s beef was not real beef, it has not stopped some students from eating at Taco Bell Express on campus.

Taco Bell Express has affordable prices that Fresno State students can be satisfied with.
EDITORIAL

Time for Ramirez to resign

Pedro Ramirez, Fresno State’s infamous Associated Students, Inc. president, should resign from his post, and let President-elect Selena Farnesi, their former executive vice president, get a head start on the job. Ramirez has lost the ability to effectively govern ASI and has split the student body into two factions: one Pro-Ramirez, the other anti-Ramirez.

On Nov. 16, 2010, after six months in office, the Collegian revealed that Ramirez was an undocumented immigrant. As an ASI 540 student, Ramirez had the right to run for office and has the right to be ASI president. The Collegian is not questioning that right. Every student enrolled at Fresno State should be eligible to represent the students in ASI.

We don’t question this. What we question is his entitlement since the revelation of his immigration status. In the ensuing circus, it has currently being investigated by the senate’s Personnel Committee. In addition, according to Article III, Section 7.2.1 of ASI’s bylaws, if an executive officer misses three ASI meetings, Ramirez, in dealing with every student enrolled and has the right to be ASI president. Farnesi, the current executive vice president, get a head start on the job.

Ramirez broke the law when he drove without a license violating ASI’s Code of Conduct in the process. He is and he is certainly a hero to many. It was no fault of his own that he was brought to America at the age of 3. His tenure, however, has been mired by controversy. His failure to disclose his immigration status opened the door for a scandal like this, and his claim that he did not drive was a blatant lie. Ramirez is too much of a distraction. He should step down so that ASI can get back to focusing on student issues.

Farnesi’s election has opened the door for Ramirez to resign gracefully. She’ll be able to start early, and Ramirez will be able to leave all the controversy behind him and have a normal life again. The students will also benefit — things will get back to normal. This is the best thing for everyone involved. Mr. Ramirez, it’s time for you to resign.
Services for students with disabilities fly under radar

By Beeta Taidi-Laskowski

Though most, if not all professors include some information regarding Services for Students with Disabilities in their syllabi, not nearly as many students take notice, or advantage of the services.

Weldon Percy, a quadriplegic for all of his adult life, founded and directed the Services for Students with Disabilities in 1974. The office has relocated since it’s founding and can be found in the Henry Madden Library, downstairs in suite 1202. Services for Students with Disabilities partners with other services provided on campus, such as Academic Support Services and the Health Center, to further meet students’ needs.

Services for Students with Disabilities provides many services which include counseling, registration assistance, blue curb parking and orientations. There are nine private rooms within the office to allow testing as needed by students. SSD can aid students with learning disabilities and temporary needs, like a student who has previously been on crutches, “Over two-thirds of the students we service have a hidden disability.” Janice Brown, the director of Services for Students with Disabilities said. Hidden disabilities can include, but are not limited to, ADD, ADHD, chronic illnesses, Asperger’s Disorder or any other type of learning disability.

In addition to on-campus resources, Services for Students with Disabilities works closely with Resources for Independence, Central Valley Resources for Independence is available to students as a shortcut to specific answers, instead of having to work through longer methods, like the Social Security Office.

The Services for Students with Disabilities continually looks for help from other students, as well. Volunteer note-takers are invaluable and quite often needed. Students can even receive credit through the 101 Community Service class for their time.

“A note-taker needs to be a student with a broken leg for instance.” Gray said. “The notes were quite often needed. Students can even receive credit through the 101 Community Service class for their time.”

To be a part of Services for Students with Disabilities, a student needs to fill out an application and provide written verification of their diagnosis and prognosis from a professional. Complete guidelines can be found at the SSD website, http://www.csufresno .edu/ssd/, under their policies and procedures.

Power restored to Yosemite National Park

By Associated Press

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK, Calif. (AP) — Power has been restored to Yosemite National Park after a nearly week-long storm related outage.

Officials say the power returned on Saturday. It went out March 20 after a powerful winter storm dropped several feet of snow in the area.

The park was closed for three days, as power lines fell and trees blocked roads. Park buildings were forced to rely on emergency generators.

All roads into the park have since been cleared and reopened.

Ready to become a Registered Nurse?

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Nintendo ready to take 3-D gaming to mass market

By Barbara Ortutay

NEW YORK (AP) — With the Nintendo 3DS, the Japanese video game company is betting that it can once again nudge mass entertainment in a new direction, just as it did nearly five years ago when it launched the Wii with its innovative motion-based controller.

This time, though, the competition from other devices is tougher.

The handheld 3DS, which goes on sale in the U.S. on Sunday for $250, lets users play 3-D games without wearing special glasses. It also adds 3-D photos. This summer, the 3DS will play 3-D movies streamed from Netflix on its 3.5-inch screen.

Reggie Fils-Aime, the president of Nintendo’s U.S. arm, calls it “the first mass-market 3-D device.”

Nintendo’s handheld gaming systems have been wildly popular since the days of the Game Boy, but in recent years people have grown accustomed (and sometimes addicted) to playing games on their smartphones. “Angry Birds,” for example, is played by millions of people a month.

And both AT&T Inc. and Sprint Nextel Corp. have announced they’ll be selling smartphones with 3-D screens soon.

Fils-Aime acknowledges that consumers have a wide range of entertainment options. Nintendo, he says, provides better entertainment experiences so that people keep flocking to its games and devices.

So far, they are. While demand for the handheld DS has slowed over the past year, video game analyst Jesse Divnich of Electronic Entertainment Research said that’s only because people have been holding out for the 3DS. As of Dec. 31, Nintendo had sold about 145 million units of the DS in all its iterations worldwide. Divnich thinks demand for the 3DS will be more brisk during its first year on sale than previously expected, such as the DSi, which went on sale in 2008.

The Wii, which hit store shelves in 2006 for $250 (it is now $129), was often sold out or in short supply as recently as last February. It’s not clear yet whether this will be the case with 3DS, but retailers say demand for it has been strong based on the number of pre-orders they received. Tony Bartel, the president of GameStop Corp., the world’s largest video game store chain, said the company is “working every day with Nintendo” to ensure that they can meet demand.

Wedbush Morgan ana- lyst Michael Pachter said Nintendo will sell “as many as they can make” over the next 12 months. While the earth- quake and tsunami that dev- astated Japan will likely affect supplies, he called an estimate of 16 million units “very fair.”

The 3DS isn’t Nintendo’s first foray into 3-D gaming. In 1995, it launched the Virtual Boy, which required bulky headphones and headgear all used to create basic 3-D gaming. It’s been more successful with the DS, which went on sale in Japan in 2004 and has sold 37 million units.

The Nintendo 3DS, the company’s latest attempt, goes on sale in the U.S. on Sunday for $250 (it is now $129), was often sold out or in short supply as recently as last February. It’s not clear yet whether this will be the case with 3DS, but retailers say demand for it has been strong based on the number of pre-orders they received. Tony Bartel, the president of GameStop Corp., the world’s largest video game store chain, said the company is “working every day with Nintendo” to ensure that they can meet demand.

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By Oscar Perez

The Collegian

A fireman, an artist and an NBA player — these are just some of the custodians at Fresno State. They may not have the same job as students, but they share the same dream as one another.

“I left my dream behind when I enlisted for service,” Melendez said. “I joined the army to fight for my country.”

Mejia said she dreamed of being an artist one day. She said her dream fell apart due to her having to take care of her family. “I don’t blame them for it, but life just takes different turns when least expected,” Mejia said.

Jones expected to be a NBA player one day, especially when he began receiving letters from different universities that wanted him to play basketball for them. “I thought I was going to be an NBA star,” Jones said. “I was an athlete until my mother passed.”

Jones added that his dream was to pursue basketball and to attend college. “I had all kinds of letters from colleges that wanted me to play for them, but I kind of quit because my mom passed,” Jones said.

After Jones’ mother died he had to learn to survive on his own, as an only child. “I was 16 and I just was bad after her death,” Jones said.

“After that I realized I need to work hard so I can go back home and see my family,” Jones said. “When I got there I had two part-time jobs.”

Mejia said she dreamed of coming from Mexico in search of a better future. “I came from Mexico in search of a better future,” Mejia said. “At first I was not sure about what I was doing or what I was doing it.”

Mejia came first with her husband to the United States, and then their two daughters came afterward.

Angel Melendez, a custodian at Fresno State for 14 years, was born in Puerto Rico. He moved to New York City soon after where he was raised.

Melendez decided to enlist in the United States Army and left New York in 1976. During his career in the army, Melendez was stationed in Germany seven years, 11 months in Korea, and around the United States.

“I got out of the army in 1981 and moved here to Fresno,” Melendez said. Melendez always imagined himself as a fireman, or a family law enforcement officer when he was a child. He stopped imagining this when he enlisted and his focus was put on other things.

Angels Melendez, a custodian at Fresno State for 15 years, was only 16 years old when his life changed after he was forced to fend for himself. “I was playing basketball against other kids when the call came in,” Jones said. “My coach got the call, and then my family rushed into the game.”

Jones received a call during the game stating his mother was passing away. “I walked off the court and drove off to San Francisco,” Jones said. “When I got there I had to tell my parents that she was already dead.”

Jones said he was left to be on his own from that moment on. “Pretty much that’s the moment I began taking care of myself,” Jones said.

Custodian Gabriela Mejia decided to begin her journey to the United States from her homeland of Mexicali, Mexico in 1985.

“I came from Mexico in search of a better future,” Mejia said. “Why I was even doing it.”

Mejia said she dreamed of coming from Mexico in search of a better future. “I came from Mexico in search of a better future,” Mejia said. “At first I was not sure about what I was doing or what I was doing it.”

Mejia came first with her husband to the United States, and then their two daughters came afterward.

“Pretty much that’s the moment I began taking care of myself,” Jones said.

Custodian Larry Jones said he did have a story. “I had to learn to find myself again,” Jones said. “I thought I was going to be a professional athlete up until that point in my life — I guess I missed my calling.”

Jones said he did have a father, but he had established a new marriage and family after his parents separated. “These three individuals have one thing in common — they all cherish and live for the betterment of their families.”

“The one thing that I want most in this world is for my children to succeed and that’s why I work today because I want to help them in all I can,” Mejia said.

Jones feels that family is the most important thing. “I enjoy spending time with my family and two daughters,” Jones said.

Melendez said she always looks forward to family gatherings and helping one another when needed. “I just want the students to know that custodians do appreciate their jobs here,” Mejia said. “I do my best to keep this university clean for their success.”

“Just want the students to know that custodians do appreciate their jobs here. I do my best to keep this university clean for their success.” — Larry Jones, Fresno State custodian

“Just want the students to know that custodians do appreciate their jobs here. I do my best to keep this university clean for their success.” — Larry Jones, Fresno State custodian

South of Fresno lies multiple wineries and vineyards in the heart of beautiful Paso Robles.
Motorcycle cops patrol around campus

By Michael Robles
The Collegian

Students, faculty and staff aren’t the only ones driving in the direction of the Fresno State campus. The motorcycle police are on patrol, and looking for motorists exceeding the speed limit.

Motorcycle Officers of the Fresno Police Department are on the job, ensuring that the streets are safe.

Students in the University Honors Program will be driving in the campus area this week as part of a University-wide project. They will be driving along the roads surrounding the University, looking for motorists exceeding the speed limit.

Fresno State Student Laura Pola drives towards the Fresno State campus on Monday. She was running late to class one day, and saw a motorcycle officer directly at the hood of her car.

Traffic violations are certainly not cheap. The maximum sentence on most traffic related infractions is $250, plus assessments and fines. That’s the cost of a few textbooks.

That’s gas for the semester depending on the commute, or three to four months worth of gas for the semester depending on the commute.

Fresno Police Department has approximately 100 motorcycles patrolling the streets and two dirt bikes. The police operate RT 1200 and RT 1150 state-of-the-art BMW motorcycles, and Suzuki DRZ 400 dirt sport custom dirt bikes.

Students and faculty members are usually out working speed enforcement, because speed enforcement is the key to everything.

— Sgt. Charlie O’Dell, Fresno Police Department

Motorcycle cops patrol around campus

By Michael Robles
The Collegian

For the second year in a row, the Air Expeditionary Force and the Battalion Student Organization will fuse together and host a 5k run to help raise money for an important cause — the Fresno Veterans Hospital.

“The recent budget cuts and government spending, this seemed like an important cause to raise money for,” Capt. David Magoc, Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps Commandant of Cadets, said.

The date for the run is April 2, starting at 7 a.m. The meeting place will be Fresno State’s North Gym. Various food items and raffle prizes will be available for purchase.

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‘Two Masters’ features strong student acting

By Karlena Franz
The Collegian

If you are looking for a good laugh, you may enjoy the production University Theatre is performing, “A Servant of Two Masters” that opened March 25.

The comedy, written by Carlo Goldoni in the 18th century, was adapted by Lee Hall for the production that is set in Italy.

The play first introduces Beatrice, pretending to be her brother Federigo Rasponi, who comes to Venice. She hires Truffaldino, a servant, whose only motive in the play is to fill the void in his stomach. He is constantly whining about being hungry, but this hunger eventually turns to love by the end of the play when he falls for a maid named Smeraldina.

Almost every situation has a comedic element to it, whether it’s in hidden context or out in the open. Audience members will feel like they are a part of the play as the actors incorporated the audience on more than one occasion. There were several instances when Truffaldino speaks to the audience about how tough the economy is being a servant, tied into some contemporary issues.

Daniel Rodriguez, who played Truffaldino, brought humorous creative energy to the role. Every time he left the stage, the audience seemed to count the minutes until his return. At several points in the play, Rodriguez flew in as Truffaldino, acrobatic moves and high energy abounding. Nearly anything he did, whether as simple as hitting his head on the swinging doors to mixing up messages, was hilarious.

What makes this play so funny is how the actors portray their roles. The enthusiasm they exhibit by how they say their lines, use their bodies, gestures and facial expressions added to their roles.

The most annoying character, Clarice, is the daughter of Pantalone. She is your average maid, but there are moments where she acts a lot like one of the actors incorporated the audience.
SERVANT: Scene sets lacking, but student acting makes up for it

age spoiled girl who runs off stage crying hysterically on more than one occasion. Her part was very convincing and had a modern feel to the way she acted in some cases that made her character real.

The stage design, overall very simple, exhibited two archways with swinging doors on each side and the occasional chair or chest made up the majority of the set. I, personally, was hoping for a more elaborate set that would give a sense of what it looked like in Venice. I couldn’t completely imagine the rooms, lobbies or outdoor settings, so the play lacked that sense of place. Luckily, the acting and funny script almost made up for the lack of setting.

The only way the audience knew the scenery changed was an actor announcing the scene change before the start of every scene.

The whole cast, for the most part, was energetic and very well connected to their roles. Everything was fast paced and lively with the exception of just a few scenes.

"Servant of Two Masters" is running until April 1 in the Dennis and Cheryl Woods Theater in the Speech Arts building.

CONTINUED from page 7

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Reese Witherspoon has walked down the aisle. A spokeswoman for the actress says the "Walk the Line" star wed her fiancé, Hollywood agent Jim Toth, in Ojai, Calif., about 90 miles north of Los Angeles. Publicist Nicole Perna did not reveal details about the Saturday ceremony. Usmagazine.com first reported the nuptials.

The Oscar-winning actress and Toth announced their engagement in December.

Toth is an agent for Creative Artists Agency, which represents Witherspoon through another agent.

The 35-year-old actress won an Academy Award for her portrayal of June Carter in 2005’s "Walk the Line." Witherspoon’s other film credits include "Legally Blonde," "Four Christmases" and the forthcoming "Water for Elephants."

LONG BEACH, Calif. (AP) — Rappers Snoop Dogg, Warren G and The Game joined family, friends and about 1,000 fans of Nate Dogg to remember the hip-hop singer, who died this month of complications from multiple strokes.

The family of Nate Dogg — whose real name was Nathaniel Dwayne Hale — decided that the ceremony at the Queen Mary Dome would not be open to the public as they previously wanted, but they made 1,000 tickets and shuttle tickets available to fans.

The dome in Hale’s hometown of Long Beach is adjacent to the historic ship Queen Mary and was the former home of Howard Hughes’ airplane folly, the Spruce Goose.

Organizers had sought a more central location for the funeral, but none proved large enough for the numbers of expected mourners. A private dinner was planned after the service.

Hale started out singing in church choirs, then formed a group with Snoop Dogg and Warren G while the trio was in high school in Long Beach. His almost monotone vocal stylings anchored some of rap’s most seminal songs and helped define the sound of West Coast hip-hop on tracks usually produced by Dr. Dre and performed by rappers like Snoop Dogg, Tha Dogg Pound and Warren G. He remained sought after as a singer more than a decade after his original success, supplying vocals to more recent tracks by 50 Cent and Ludacris.

Hale dropped out of high school, was dishonorably discharged from the Marines and dabbled in the drug trade before finding success as Nate Dogg on Dr. Dre’s classic 1992 album “The Chronic.”

Late in life, he was plagued by legal and health problems, including at least two strokes in 2008.

Position: Editor in Chief

Manager: "The Collegian is a forum for student expression. http://collegian.csufresno.edu"
The daily crossword

Edited by Timothy E. Parker
Universal Press Syndicate

ACROSS
1. He can’t get a break
6. Resistance unit
9. Chipmunk of cartoons
14. Higher than
15. Language spoken in Vienna
16. Superman portrayer
17. Showed partisanship
18. Space bar’s neighbor
19. “West Side Story” girl or song
20. Unfriendly seafood seller’s stall
23. “I never ___ a man I didn’t like”
24. Preacher’s topic
25. Unwise
27. With raised letters
32. Group of voters
33. Attempt to win over
34. White wading bird
36. Higher than
39. Narrative poetry
41. Bath flooring
43. Musical school club
44. Takes an apartment
46. Fairy-tale shoemaker’s helpers
48. Group of voters
51. Resolving, as an argument
53. They don’t get any reception
55. Showman

Puzzle by Candice Everly

DOWN
1. Dumstris girl
2. Departure info?
3. Tom Collins ingredient
4. “Yeah, but…”
5. Like flushed cheeks
6. Patron saint of Norway
7. Fifty percent
8. Recurring theme
9. T-shirt opening
10. Where the buffalo roam
11. Pasta thinner than spaghetti
12. Campus greenery
13. Under, in poems
21. Beginning
22. Blubber
26. Suit size designation
27. Fancy pitcher
28. Wear a long face
29. Wasteful project
30. Canal by Buffalo
31. They wear very little clothing
35. “Scream” star Campbell
37. Black-hearted
38. Safe cracker
40. “Cut it out!”
42. Arrange, as a meeting
45. Ghostly figure
47. Major steps
50. Reconstruction, for one
52. “The Cat Who Saw Stars” author Jackson Braun
53. Gives forth
54. Bolshoi leader
55. Keach who played Mike Hammer
56. Brought to maturity
57. One of the March women
58. He was rude to Alice
59. Black-hearted
60. Safe cracker
61. Safe cracker
62. Brought to maturity
63. They wear very little clothing
64. Bar of gold
65. Safe cracker
66. Safe cracker
67. Safe cracker
68. A proper senor has one
69. X, to Greeks
70. Like some roofs
71. Snooty look
72. Hitler’s partner
73. Call, as a remark
74. Tetris
75. Pique
76. One of the March women
77. Tuna fish
78. Best feature
79. Blochhead
80. Typical fishy animal
81. Snooty look
82. Like some roofs
83. Snooty look
84. Tetris
85. Pique
86. Typical fishy animal
87. Snooty look
88. Like some roofs
89. Snooty look
90. Tetris
91. Pique
92. Typical fishy animal
93. Snooty look
94. Like some roofs
95. Snooty look
96. Like some roofs
97. Snooty look
98. Like some roofs
99. Snooty look
100. Like some roofs

SUDOKU

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

Pillow lust
That feeling that college students experience where they feel so exhausted that the idea of their face hitting their pillow sounds so utterly fantastic, it’s almost sexual.

Source: UrbanDictionary.com

CAMPUS LIFE

The Ins, Outs, Ups and Downs of life on campus

Taco Bell, after being under construction for more than a year, reopened last week on Wednesday to the excitement of Fresno State students all over campus.
few players. After Thomas went down with an injury on the final play against Louisiana Tech, the junior Green started the final five games of the season and Jones saw his fair share of playing time as well.

But with Hill insisting Thomas should be ready to return to action by the time Fresno State squares off with California on Sept. 3, the question lingers as to who will top the defensive secondary depth chart this season.

Hill said if the season began tomorrow, due to injuries Green and Jones would get the nod, but also added spring practice is not a time to find opening-game starters.

An even bigger question lies in who will replace Lorne Bell, the 2010 Fresno State Most Inspirational Player. Bell started all 13 games last year, despite an early-career leg injury that left many wondering if he would ever play football again. Bell led all Fresno State defensive backs in tackles with 78 and added an interception.

Safety Zak Hill, Pat Hill’s son, will return this season coming off knee surgery and is expected to compete with sophomore Derron Smith, who impressed the coaching staff last year as a freshman.

“It could be Derron Smith, who played a lot as a freshman,” Hill said. “Zak [Hill] should be healthy. Terrance Dennis is now healthy. We got a few guys to work for that position.”

After starting all but one game last season, sophomore ball hawk Phillip Thomas will likely fill the other safety position. Thomas led all Bulldogs last season with three interceptions and 12 passes defended.

As a team, Fresno State was eighth in the WAC generating just eight interceptions, only ahead of New Mexico State. The Bulldogs have consistently ranked around the top of the conference in yards allowed per game through the air, but have struggled to stack up interceptions.

Since 2006, the Bulldogs have ranked dead last in the WAC in interceptions except 2009 (sixth) and 2010 (eighth). Hill also threw out names such as J.B. Dock, Sean Alston, Davon Dunn and Anthony Riggins who could make an impact in this year’s secondary.

Davon Dunn made the jump in the off-season from wide receiver to defensive back, and is the son of former Fresno State great kick returner David Dunn. Hill said he will continue to groom the players until the spring game on April 9 and when fall camp arrives in August.

“That’s giving us time to bring along J.B. Dock and [Sean] Alston and Davon Dunn,” Hill said. “They’re all making really good progress. Anthony Riggins, who sprained his foot, was making really good progress. So right now we’ve just trying to make progress with some of the young corners. We really won’t know until the fall who our two-deep is going to be.”

SECONDARY: Multiple players to compete for open cornerback, safety position

CONTINUED from page 12

SERIES: Check out every issue until the spring game on April 9 for our position battles series.

Unthinkable foursome heading to Houston

11-seed VCU to take on 8-seed Butler, 4-seed Kentucky squares off with UConn

By Eddie Pells
Associated Press

Even in the unpredictable, anything-goes world of March Madness, this is a Final Four nobody saw coming.

Kentucky, Connecticut, Butler and Virginia Commonwealth — the improbable, the implausible, the unthinkable and the downright unimaginable.

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TOURNEY: No No. 1 seed in final four for third time since 1979

CONTINUED from page 10

play No. 3 Connecticut — not a completely absurd thought as a Final Four matchup, though hardly a popular pick given their up-and-down regular seasons. In the other game, it will be No. 11 Virginia Commonwealth against No. 8 Butler — the team that was almost universally panned when its name was called on Selection Sunday against the defending national runner-up from a 4,000-student campus whose amazing success story had supposedly run its course. “It never gets old,” Bulldogs senior Matt Howard said.

Nor does the NCAA tournament, the three-week office pool that places the so-called experts on even footing with those who fill out brackets because they like a team’s colors or its mascot.

Anything goes. Anyone can win.

And never has that been more true than this year.

Four teams with a combined 37 losses.

Four teams whose combined seeding equals 26, breaking the record of 22 in 2000.

Not a single No. 1 seed for only the third time since seeding began in 1979 and, according to STATS LLC., the first time that no 1 or 2 seed will be there.

ESPN, which sponsors one of the country’s biggest bracket tournaments, said that out of 5.9 million entries, only two had this foursome making its way to Houston.

Kentucky is the new favorite in Vegas, at 8-5. VCU is listed at 7-1 — the long-shot in the field, but still quite a bit better than 2500-1, which is where the Rams were listed at the start of the season.

“It’s wild. … Because seeds are so overrated. It’s about matchups. And their players could play for us any day.”

— Kansas coach Bill Self, on losing to VCU in the Elite Eight

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Though UConn and Kentucky each struggled at times this season, they’ve had Final Four pedigrees for years (decades when it comes to the Wildcats) and they lived up to them this month.

Last season, in one of the most epic finishes in Final Four history, Gordon Hayward’s halfcourt shot banked off glass, nicked off the rim and barely bounded out to leave the Bulldogs two points short of Duke for the national title.

“It was a heartbreaker, but maybe one that set the Bulldogs up for a repeat. They’ve won one game by one, another by two and another by three on this year’s road to the Final Four. They beat Florida 74-71 in overtime Saturday to make their second straight trip.

“I think it (last year) helps you with knowing how you need to prepare and what you should do and what you should not do,” Howard said. “I think that will help us.”

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SPRING FOOTBALL POSITION BATTLE

Bell, Dunn leave secondary void

By Ben Ingersoll
The Collegian

As 2011 spring practice heats back up for coach Pat Hill’s 15th season, some questions loom as to which players will step up and fill a couple critical positions in the defensive secondary.

Fresno State’s pass defense ranked second in the Western Athletic Conference last season, behind only now-departed Boise State. The Bulldogs gave up an average of 208.8 yards per game through the air, due in part to second-team All WAC corner Desia Dunn and stalwart safety Lorne Bell.

But with Dunn and Bell now graduated and out of a Bulldog uniform, a group of eager underclassmen are being groomed to fill in. “The guys that played last year, when [Jermaine] Thomas went down, we played L.J. Jones a lot,” Hill said prior to Sunday’s spring practice at Central High School’s Deran Koligian Stadium.

“Really, with Isaiah Green, those are the two most experienced guys. Jermaine Thomas isn’t practicing right now. His knee is not quite ready to go, but it should be ready by the time the season comes.”

Dunn started 12 of 13 games last season, solidifying one cornerback spot. But across the field Hill and the defensive coaching staff rotated quite a bit.

Derron Smith figures to be the frontrunner for the void left by Lorne Bell. Smith, who saw considerable playing time as a true freshman last year, will likely compete with coach Pat Hill’s son Zak Hill for free safety.

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As vice president and assistant general counsel of The New York Times Company, George Freeman is primarily responsible for the company’s litigations. He also is involved in newsroom counseling, antitrust and distribution problems, employment relations and business counseling involving The Times’s news, advertising, circulation and personnel departments. He has worked in these areas for the company’s affiliated newspapers, magazines and broadcast properties as well, since he began working for The Times in 1981.

Mr. Freeman is chair of the American Bar Association’s Forum on Communications Law and immediate past co-chair of the ABA Litigation Section’s First Amendment and Media Litigation Committee. He is a frequent lecturer on First Amendment issues and has been on the Practicing Law Institute’s Communications Law Faculty since 1985. Since 1998, Mr. Freeman has been an adjunct professor in N.Y.U.’s Graduate Journalism School and was a lecturer-at-law at the University of Miami Law School in 1975 and 1976. He graduated cum laude from Harvard Law School in 1975 and magna cum laude from Amherst College in 1971.