Counterfeit cash threatens businesses

By Michael Mygind
The Collegian

The economic climate in the Central Valley has brought about numerous obstacles including joblessness and bankruptcy among small businesses. Lately, reports of another serious problem have arisen - counterfeiting.

Several local businesses have come across fake currency. In a previous article from The Collegian, William Covino, provost and vice President for Academic affairs confirmed the expansion of courses provided for online students. Fresno State is currently providing services to students with about 10 percent less faculty than previous years. Budget cuts to the University have resulted in class shortages, tuition fee increases, and faculty are also on the way.

By Ana Mendoza
The Collegian

NEW FACULTY, COURSES
SPRING UP FOR NEW TERM

With the addition of 199 million of ongoing funding and another $108 million in one-time funding, the California State University is accepting spring students and as President John Wilty confirms, more courses and faculty are also on the way. Although the exact number of new professors to facilitate the extra courses could not be stated, Wilty assured there would be more. About 400 courses were added during the July to November interview that the additional sections will not be used for any salary increases or toward campus athletics.

In a previous article from The Collegian, William Covino, provost and Vice President for Academic affairs confirmed the expansion of courses provided for online students. Fresno State is currently providing services to students with about 10 percent less faculty than previous years. Budget cuts to the University have resulted in class shortages, tuition fee increases, and faculty are also on the way.

By Ana Mendoza
The Collegian

I hope [Fresno State] really does [what they say].

— Allison Clark, Student, Fresno State

Central Calif. waste dump fined

By Garance Burke
Associated Press

A vast toxic waste dump at the center of a birth defects controversy in Central California has been fined more than $300,000 for allowing cancer-causing chemicals to leach into the soil, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said Tuesday.

Residents near the Kettleman Hills landfill previously expressed concerns that the largest hazardous waste dump in the West was linked to a high rate of birth defects among infants.

State health officials said they have not identified a common cause of the birth abnormalities plaguing the community.

EPA officials said Chemical Waste Management was being fined because the dump failed to clean up soil tainted with PCBs, putting workers at a higher risk of exposure. The facility is one of just 16 dumps nationwide that handles polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs, which were used in transformer fluid.

"Companies charged with safely disposing of society’s most toxic materials need to rigorously follow the protective laws established to secure both the public safety and public trust," said Jared Blumenfeld, the EPA’s Regional Administrator for the Pacific Southwest.

Jennifer Andrews, a spokeswoman for the dump’s parent company Waste Management, did not immediately return telephone and e-mail messages seeking comment.

The landfill is adjacent to Kettleman City, an impoverished San Joaquin Valley farm town where 11 cases of cleft palates and other birth defects have been reported since 2007.

EPA officials did not immediately say whether the diagnosis problems had any ties to health risks but noted the company is in the final stages of completing a study evaluating the potential human health and environmental risks of PCBs migrating off-site.
Taking down USA’s political religion

Americans have become the state religion that the First Amendment explicitly rejects. In this political religion, several roles from the Judeo-Christian heritage are repressed by American leaders and ideals. Father Abraham is George Washington, the father of our country. Moses, the lawgiver, is James Madison, the father of the Constitution; Jesus, the savior of the world, is Barack Obama.

The Ten Commandments are replaced by the Bill of Rights. The greatest amendment, love the Lord with all your heart and love your neighbor as yourself, is now freedom of speech, religion and the press.

“Thou shalt not” is now “Congress shall make no law.”

With this comes a complete separation from reality—in the real world, the political has been replaced by the philosophical.

Modern-day constitutionalists have taken this religion further than any of America’s founders envisioned it. It seems that when the Bill of Rights was written, the country was in a懵懂 state of mind, believing that without limits, government would be limited.

The constitution protects the freedom of speech and of the press did not prevent the government from punishing what they saw as seditious and seditionist speech—the Alien and Sedition Acts passed in 1798 were passed by many of the same people who helped write the Constitution, and was signed by John Adams, one of the most important Americans of the time.

The point is, while the men who wrote the Constitution revered it as much as the rest of us do today, they understood that rights are not unlimited. The Constitution does not overlook the rights of the people who enshrined free speech into the Constitution could hardly envision the United States as a striplingly protected constitutional right.

Americans should stop worrying so much about their constitutional rights and begin worrying about what is right.

An oft repeated claim is that you can legislate morality. It is not? What else are laws against child pornography, prostitution, polygamy, gambling, indecent exposure and the like? These acts offend the moral sensibilities of the people who vote to ban them as illegal.

In the moral argument works for these things, why does it not for others.

For a country that specifically denies the establishment of religion, this belief in the absolute rights of God-given rights is ingrained into the country’s heritage. To modern-day constitutionalists, this is considered by many Britons as anathema to democracy. The country’s economy is considered by many Britons as an inappropriate place to draw wedding funds from. In an interview with the Daily Mail, the Middleton’s social clubs prevented protests in front of the established religions—a few states had official churches until well into the 1800s.

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In the moral argument works for these things, why does it not for others.

The time for another Great Awakening is upon us. If the moral sensibility of this nation is going to change, it must do so from the ground up. For we elect our leaders; if our elected officials are corrupt and immoral, the people that elected them are corrupt and immoral also.

Instead of placing such an emphasis on the rights of human beings, let’s focus on the human beings themselves.

Correction

An article on the front page of The Collegian on Nov. 22 incorrectly referred to Associated Students, Inc. Vice President of Finance Cesar Sanchez as the president of ASI. Pedro Ramirez is the ASI president.

Clarification

An editorial on Page 2 of The Collegian on Nov. 19 said that Sanchez denounced The Collegian’s questions regarding Ramirez’s citizenship. Sanchez told The Collegian of Ramirez’s status at the ASI president’s request.

An article on the front page of The Collegian on Nov. 22 quoted student Adriana Sanchez at the DREAM Act rally, not Cesar Sanchez.

Taking down USA’s political religion

That’s what the people are saying...

"I can’t walk or stand straight. If there’s no fixed point of reference, we just walk in circles and inevitably get lost.”

— Joan Baez, Grande
CONTINUED from page 1

recently hosted a seminar for the Secret Service on finding counterfeit bills in which local business owners were allowed to attend, according to a report by Fresno’s CBS broadcast affiliate, KJEO Channel 4.

The overall message detailed in these seminars was “How to indentify counterfeit and what to do.” Vickie Sanders, assistant director of business services for the Better Business Bureau’s Fresno branch said.

“We provide seminars that we feel will benefit the consumers,” Sanders said. “We’ve done about five or six of these in the past three years.” Sanders noted that the demand for these seminars is brought on by the Secret Service receiving calls regarding instances of cash counterfeiting as well as their tracking of business trends.

She also stated that seminars before major holidays can be helpful particularly when it’s a crucial and sometime tough time for some businesses and consumers alike.

“If you get a fake bill, you lose a bill,” Sanders said. Keeping a business running smoothly during an economic downturn can be a daunting task. But maintaining a firm stance against cash counterfeiting all the while is necessary when so many resort to crime during tough times.

Valley businesses are standing by strong rules and procedures to ensure they don’t fall victim to petty financial crimes.

Javier’s has been serving Mexican food in Fresno since the 1970’s. It continues to follow a long list of tell-tale signs to make sure the money that they receive is what it appears to be and isn’t just a doctored piece of paper. Duran said that they still follow all of the “old school” methods.

“We can just purchase a marking pen from Smart and Final or Cresco, the kitchen supply store, to check the bills,” Duran said. Using a simple pen was the only the start for their procedures in exposing fake cash. Duran noted that examining the physical features of the bill can confirm its validity.

“If it looks like it doesn’t have the red and blue hair fibers, it’s fake.”

— Javier Duran,
Cook and Kitchen Manager, Javier’s

Duran says that they still mark the counterfeited bill that is given to a dealer seems to be the counterfeited bill that is given to a dealer seems to be the fundamental block in exposing fake bills. We have our dealers trained and if they get one that’s bad, they’ll tell them and we’ll confiscate the bill,” Danisi said.

According to Duran, “There’s no law against keep- ing them, but you can’t use them.” He then added, “If you take them to a bank, you can turn them in and it will be investigated.”

Richard Danisi, Director of Security at Club One Casino, added his commentary on the matter of finding fake bills.

“We have our dealers trained and if they get one that’s bad, they’ll tell them and we’ll confiscate the bill,” Danisi said.

Danisi summed up the problem that this poses to the casino as a small margin.

“It’s not that often that it happens, but if I had to guess, we get an average of three to four a month, maybe. It depends on the amount of cash that comes in, that’s not a lot.”

The Secret Service has made information available online to combat counterfeit bills as part of their “Know Your Money” campaign, which delves into the many signs that a bill may or may not be genuine, as well as general information on American currency.

This information as well as a form for reporting fraudulent currency can be found on their home page by visiting http://www.secretservice.gov/know_your_money.shtml.

Richard Danisi, noted that if an investigation needs to be carried out, they will fill out a form and send it in to the Secret Service.

In terms of policies, Danisi said that they have two that their Casino staff follows based on the situation. They base their decision on whether the counterfeited bill that is given to a dealer seems to be the counterfeited bill that is given to a dealer seems to be the counterfeited bill that is given to a dealer seems to be the fundamental block in exposing fake bills.

“The lapel isn’t rough on the president, it won’t make a clicking sound when you rub your finger nail against it,” Duran continued. He likened the sound to that of a card stuck in bicycle spokes. Hearing this sound can tell you that the bill is definitely real.

Other tests were explained by Duran. “You can get a small dump sponge or towel and rub it on the bill,” he said. “If it smears, it’s fake.” In a similar test, Duran said if anything rubs off the bill when rubbed with a napkin, it is most likely a fake bill.

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Gibson Farm Market spreads holiday spirit

By Philip Lochbaum
The Collegian

The Rue and Gwen Gibson Farm Market is offering much more than wine and produce this holiday season—they’re giving customers the opportunity to experience the university’s agriculture department in a new way with seasonal items and events.

The Gibson Farm Market is preparing for the holiday season by using the help of student assistants, chairmen from various agriculture departments and by offering organic workshops head-ed by Dr. Sajeevas “Mint” Pasakdee.

“There are a lot of customers who shop for organic products in the valley and we are able to work with Dr. Pasakdee to organize monthly U-Pick events,” Jennifer Sobieralski, Enterprise Product Marketing and Gibson Farm Market Manager, said.

The organic workshops teach customers about the science and work behind the production of the plants, and allow them to pick what they want straight from the field.

“We take full advantage of being a smaller operated store in a city that is surrounded by other large markets, by offering our customers this chance to become a part of our team and a part of the food they love,” Sobieralski said.

Sobieralski has been in charge of running daily operations and maintaining the image of the Gibson Farm Market for the last five years.

“The Gibson Farm Market’s annual Give A Gobbler drive started last week to give shoppers an opportunity to support local community banks by donating $20. The donation will give a Fresno State turkey to a family in need through the Community Food Bank or the Poverello House for Christmas.

“People normally come in during this time of the year for our fresh quantity of almonds, raisins and dairy products that they use for baking, but our drive is focused on ensuring that those in need can enjoy our quality food this holiday,” Sobieralski said.

Student assistants at the Gibson Farm Market are in charge of maintaining the amount of products on the sales floor, and they are able to give knowledgeable advice on how to prepare for holiday meals.

Student assistant Billy Jones said the Gibson Farm Market carries Fresno State Peppermin Candy, Pumpkins and Eggnog ice cream right after Thanksgiving.

The Gibson Farm Market started selling eggnog three weeks ago as a drink too.

“We have special holiday raisins that you can bake your cookies with, three different holiday wines which are great gifts, and we also carry fresh hams and turkeys two weeks before Christmas,” Jones said.

January also said the Gibson Farm Market’s success during the holiday season is due to the fact that everything sold at the store comes from Fresno State’s agriculture department.

“Other stores seem to push out a lot of products for the holiday season, but our customers come back every year because they know how much work we put into bringing them the very best,” Sobieralski said. “I will admit that some of the items at the Gibson Farm Market will be more expensive than other stores, but our products stand apart because they are locally grown and have a quality of freshness straight from the farm.”

Agricultural education major Chelsea Cushing said she feels proud to be part of a school that offers fresh-quality products grown and sold by Fresno State students.

“I like the fact that I can purchase something that was in the field a few hours before I bought it,” Cushing said. “It doesn’t get much fresher than that.”

Jones also said the Gibson Farm Market’s success during the holiday season is due to the fact that everything sold at the store comes from Fresno State’s agriculture department.

“One store came in early and showed that we are prepared to serve our customers for the holiday season, but our customers come back every year because they know how much work we put into bringing them the very best,” Sobieralski said. “I will admit that some of the items at the Gibson Farm Market will be more expensive than other stores, but our products stand apart because they are locally grown and have a quality of freshness straight from the farm.”

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The Give A Gobbler drive will continue until Christmas. Donations can be dropped off at the Rue and Gwen Gibson Farm Market.

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Weekend of movies

Suspenseful films premiere Friday

By Maddie Shannon
The Collegian

This weekend, four movies that will make you think are scheduled to release in theaters.

Highly-anticipated movies as well as lesser-known indie films bring up important issues, including cultural roles and what really happens after death. No matter what your preference, each of these four movies are sure to cater to their specific audiences.

All Good Things (R)

What it’s about: David Marks, the black-sheep son of a wealthy real estate tycoon in New York, falls for a middle-class girl named Katie. Pressured by his family to stop displaying apathetic behavior towards the multi-million dollar family business, David marries Katie out of rebellion. Seemingly overnight, David becomes cold and violent, manipulating her and the people around them.

Interesting fact: The movie is based on the real-life disappearance of Kathleen Durst in 1982. Durst’s wealthy real estate-tycoon husband, Robert, was suspected in the disappearance but never tried. Kathleen Durst’s body was never found.

Starring: Kirsten Dunst, Ryan Gosling, Frank Langella, Lily Rabe, Phillip Baker Hall, Michael Esper, Diane Venora, Nick Offerman and Kristen Wiig.

Black Swan (R)

What it’s about: Nina, a ballerina in New York City, competes with a rival dancer in her company, Lily, for the lead role in Swan Lake. As Nina throws herself more and more into dancing, she starts experiencing delusions that revolve around the ballet. The line between delusions and real experiences is soon blurred as the pressure builds.

Interesting fact: Darren Aronofsky, the film’s director, compared this film to shooting a werewolf movie.

Starring: Natalie Portman, Mila Kunis, Vincent Cassel, Barbara Hershey and Winona Ryder.

Night Catches Us (R)

What it’s about: Marcus, an African-American man who grew up in the 1960s and was a part of his hometown’s Black Panther movement, goes home to Philadelphia after years of being away only to find out his family and friends are convinced he helped assassinate a key figure of Philly’s Black Panther organization. How the characters cope with their past makes up most of the storyline.

Interesting fact: This film is expected to be a complicated film that represents the Black Panther movement’s last days, as opposed to another informational documentary that centers on the movement’s early years.


See MOVIES, Page 6
**News Briefs**

Brief news for the brief attention span

**MOVIES: Twists and turns in several this week**

CONTINUED from page 5

**Dead Awake (R)**

What it’s about: A young man named Dylan, who works at a funeral parlor, tries to solve a murder that took place ten years ago. After taking his own death, he blurs the line between reality and dreams as his sleep disorder gets the best of him.

**Interesting fact:** While confusing, it brings up points about life after death.

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**Starring:** Amy Smart, Rose McGowan and Nick Stahl.
Coaches, players want FieldTurf

BY JONGNI YANG
The Collegian

It was 4th-and-1 at the Idaho 47, and instead of electing to punt to pin the Vandals deep inside their own 20, head coach Pat Hill decided to gamble for the first down.

On fourth down, running back Robbie Rouse took the handoff, sprinted left, and before he could cut up field for a first down, Rouse slipped and fell a yard short to turn the ball over on downs to Idaho.

That’s how slippery the playing surface is at Bulldog Stadium during this time of the year.

“During the year, our field is a great field to play on. It’s hard, it’s fast, it’s low cut,” Hill said. “Then at the end of the year: It’s fast, it’s low cut, it’s hard and then when it gets wet… It’s like your sliding on slick marks. It’s a different kind of slick. It’s a very slick field.”

Fresno State and New Mexico State are the only schools in the Western Athletic Conference that still play on a natural surface. While most Football Bowl Subdivision schools have updated their fields to an artificial playing surface. Fresno State hasn’t and it shows on game day.

“The field is going to be—until we get FieldTurf—the field is going to be an issue,” Hill said. “(Against) Illinois, it’ll be an issue for both teams.”

Ellis prefers playing on FieldTurf as compared to the natural grass because he likes the artificial playing surface. Ellis said that his ability to make cuts is not limited by weather on FieldTurf as compared to a natural field.

“The artificial turf, you have a little more leeway to make cuts because especially on our grass it’s real thin—it’s almost like playing on mud,” he said.

While the artificial turf does have its benefits, many argue that because the weather in Fresno reaches above 100 degrees and cramping. Many players and coaches prefer FieldTurf because the surface isn’t affected by mother nature.

“People are going to FieldTurf for the simple reason that it never effects the game—no matter what it is,” Hill said. “We’ve played in some downpours on FieldTurf and (the rain) real doesn’t affect it. (That’s) the biggest reason why we are really trying hard for FieldTurf. We need to have a field to play on.”

According to running back A.J. Ellis, playing on natural grass can be dangerous for players this late in the year, especially when the weather conditions are slippery and poor.

Ellis said that players have to play with caution on a slippery and grassy field.

“You have to be more careful about what kind of cuts you make, you get too make sure you just run straight ahead,” Hill said. “You can’t make too many cuts or you’ll slip. Your legs (can) get caught or your legs might twist something in a wrong way. So, you have to be careful.”

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Early in the year, FieldTurf will not be the choice of many teams compared to Fresno when its 100 degrees and the FieldTurf is 115, but there’s a lot of people who do it in very hot weather, Ellis said. “The tradeoff is amazingly great.”

Hill has campaigned for FieldTurf, and a synthetic and artificial turf, for the last few years, but the athletics department have not been able to fundraise enough money for the artificial surface.

Ben there, done that

JUST more than three months ago, Fresno State athletics made a monumental decision to jump ship and join the prestigious Mountain West Conference.

Three months later, on paper, Fresno State’s new conference in 2012 doesn’t look much better than a leg up on the up-and-coming Mountain West Conference.

But the MWC at the beginning of the summer had a strong selling point to become a seventh Bowl Championship Series automatic qualifying conference. It boasted the likes of Texas Christian, Utah, Brigham Young and its latest addition Boise State. Three of those four nationally recognized programs have won a BCS game four out of the last five seasons.

Three of the aforementioned mentioned teams have found more desirable homes, making Fresno State’s new home (beginning in June 2012) a glorified WAC that cost a pretty price of $800 million.

The first to leave was Utah, who accepted an invitation to be the Pac-10’s 12th member, followed by BYU choosing the Notre Dame route of independence in late August.

Big losses, sure. But the conference still had some marquee names in Boise State, fellow WACioneer Nevada and of course TCU, the 112-year old program that openly expressed its wish to be among the elite non AQs.

The wait for TCU is over.

The school announced Monday its plans to bail on the MWC and pursue a future in the Big East Conference, arguably the most hapless automatic qualifier, but an automatic qualifier nonetheless. It will begin athletic operations starting in July 2012, the same time Fresno State and Nevada join their new conference.

So where does this leave the Bulldogs? Fresno State athletic director Thomas Boeh insists the move is still a good one, despite dodging a multi-million dollar lawsuit. Head football coach Pat Hill said all parties were on board even though the prize at the end of the tunnel lost plenty of its shine.

The fact of the matter is Fresno State’s near $1 million WAC buyout is now met with a conference that top to bottom looks like the WAC on creative when it used to look like it was on steroids. Fans are likely to question their schools like Boise State kicker Kyle Brotzman shank away the Broncos’ BCS dreams last Friday, you have to for Boise State which is now, once again, the lone premier name.

When Fresno State finally jumps ship in 2012, the conference will be made up of Boise State, Fresno State, Nevada and returning members Colorado State, Wyoming, San Diego State, Air Force, New Mexico and UNLV WAC member Hawaii is selling a possibility of joining forces in the MWC as well.

As the MWC currently sits, its teams have a combined record of 56-57, not great but respectable. Without TCU, Utah and Boise State, however, the conference has a combined record of 25-47.

If you shake it all down, crunch the numbers and hit the reality check button, the move has severely lost its luster. Obviously this was an unavoidable situation, but when TCU is ripping apart the Big East, Utah is feeling its oats in the Pac-10 and BYU is enjoying its newfound freedom, Fresno State will be found in the now depleted Mountain West.
**Fighting Illini strong on both sides**

By Ben Ingersoll

The Collegian

Fresno State has just five days of practice to prepare for a familiar—and not-so-friendly—attack in its last home game of the 2010 season.

In his regular Monday press conference, head coach Pat Hill compared the Illinois defensive front his young offensive line will face on Friday to a team that ‘Dogs got “manhandled” by just 12 days ago.

“This will probably be the second-best defensive front we’ve played against this year… The best front we’ve played to date is Boise, and watching this team on film, this is going to be that kind of challenge,” Hill said. “[They are] a big, physical defensive front that can really run.”

In Fresno State’s 53-52 thrilling victory at Illinois last season, the Bulldogs’ offensive line controlled the game up front, racking up 233 rushing yards and allowing no sacks on quarterback Ryan Colburn. But through 11 games, the Fighting Illini defense has piled up 20 sacks and allowed just two teams to rush for over 200 yards in a single game all season.

“Get here for [the] pregame stretch because you’re going to see some good-looking bodies,” Hill said of Illinois. “This is a good-looking football team. I thought it was a good-looking football team last year. They’re physically a very strong looking team.”

Across the board, the Fighting Illini front four average 6-feet-2-inches and 283 pounds in Illinois’ 3-4 defensive scheme. But in comparison, the Bulldogs’ offensive line, made up of three seniors, a junior and a freshman, averages 6-feet-5-inches and 312 pounds.

But against athletic and physical fronts this season, the Fresno State offense has taken its share of lumps. In week three, Hill also compared Ole Miss’ defensive front to Boise State’s. The Rebels stifled the Bulldog run game to a season-low 30 yards on the ground.

“Hill will be as good a running back as has been in this stadium for a long time to play.”

— Head coach Pat Hill, On Illinois running back Mikel Leshoure

If Fresno State is going to reverse its fortune against talented defensive lines Friday night, center Joe Bernardi says the battle in the trenches will be won in practice.

“You have to have good technique, that’s what we come to practice every week for, but you have to make sure you work hard on your technique and use your hands,” Bernardi said. “You want to make sure you obviously know your assignment and the technique to execute that assignment. It’ll play a big role.”

The physicality of the Fighting Illini defense is mirrored on the other side of the ball, as Illinois presents a barrage of offensive firepower ranging from the spread option to a power run game.

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Martez Wilson (2) is third in the Big Ten in tackles with 100, while Akeem Spence (94) anchors a powerful line.

— Pat Hill, head coach

On Devan Cunningham’s improbable two-point conversion in 2009

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We’re going to try and work that two-point play again. A lot of things had to go wrong for that play to work the way it worked. But it worked out well.

— Pat Hill, head coach

On Design Commissioner’s unremarkable two-point conversion in 2009