**FRESNO STATE**

**SERVING CAMPUSES SINCE 1922**

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**STUDENT LOANS: WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW**

By Jessica Chamberlain
The Collegian

As tuition and fees begin to increase for CSU’s and UC’s alike, students are turning to various ways of paying for their education.

According to research done by the National Postsecondary Student Aid Study; 65.6 percent of four-year degree students graduated with some sort of student loans.

The average amount of debt for undergraduate degree students for the years 2007-08, was $23,186 for graduating seniors.

Among those students who applied for federal aid, the best federal student aid of some sort, 86.3 percent took out a student loan that averaged an amount of $24,651 by the time they graduated.

This means that only 14 percent of students that apply for financial aid receive enough support financially from family or from grants that they are able to avoid this situation.

This is a problem, especially with the poor economy and 1.4 million students that graduate from Fresno State not being able to find a good paying job, according to a previous article in The Collegian.

**AVG. DEBT FOR GRADUATING SENIORS**

$23,186

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**Global events foreign to some students**

By Clara Norton
The Collegian

Although anti-government protesting in Egypt has been in the news for weeks, their struggle might be recent news in the news for weeks, their protesting in Egypt has been affecting us then we have no faith in the media,” McCoy said. “Very few raised their hands.”

Social work major Lilliana Villalobos heard about the protests in Egypt through a friend before she saw them on the news or heard about them through other media.

“For some reason our country is just not really interested in social involvement,” Villalobos said. “We are concentrating on our personal priorities rather than politics. A recent survey conducted by the Pew Center for the People & the Press found that 52 percent of Americans have heard little or nothing regarding the anti-government protests taking place in Egypt.

“Many Americans, because of the United States’ geographic isolation and economic military strength, are lulled into a false sense of security,” McCoy said. “There is also a certain arrogance, a sense of exceptionalism that I think shapes our perception of ourselves in regard to others.”

The Pew survey showed that the American public’s news habits have been greatly changed by the Internet and 24-hour cable news.

“In the Middle East, people have no faith in the media,” the Egyptian student said.

“Sometimes they are interested in listening to the enemy as much as they are interested in listening to the news.”

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**By Dana Hull**

The Save Mart Center’s “Get Motivated” event caused some chaos for Fresno State students and staff.

Heavy traffic caused delays for students getting to their classes, and even resulted in some classes being cancelled.

The Save Mart Center issued a formal apology to students, faculty and staff.

“Our goal is to bring a variety of events to the bulletin and our community, but, in hindsight, this decision did not serve the best interests of our campus community ... which is our priority,” Debbie Adishian-Astone, associate vice president for Auxiliary Operations, said in the statement. “On behalf of the Association and the Save Mart Center, I apologize for the problems caused by today’s event and I want you to know that we will closely evaluate future non-university events of this size to be held on weekdays and during the University’s regular business hours.”

In response to the traffic problems, the University Police Department sent several e-mails to students and staff warning them of the congestion and suggesting areas to enter and exit campus that may not be so crowded.

The university also relaxed parking in yellow parking lots and metered parking to aid students in the problem.

Illustration by Michael Urbina / The Collegian

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**Get Motivated**

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Where were Fresno State officers on Wednesday, Feb. 17? Why weren’t they directing traffic for the “Get Motivated” seminar, one of the most crowded events in Fresno’s recent history? Were they attending the signs directing seminar attendees to the Save Mart Center parking lot? Why were attendees permitted to park illegally on campus while those with the legal right to park were denied access? Why were the officers blocking, permitting only Fresno State students, faculty and staff to enter? Where was the announcement “Traffic heavy near Save Mart Center” posted on the Fresno State website before 12:47 p.m. on Wednesday? Did one at Fresno State or the Save Mart Center foresee the traffic problem that would arise from an event featuring such profitable people as Joe Mashburn, Craig Powell and Rudolph Giuliani? My question is, “How could they not have?” Publicity for the “Get Motivated” seminar had flooded the airwaves for months. The questions are numerous, the answers are few. Perhaps one word could summarize the disaster — MISMANAGEMENT! Who were the victims of such mismanagement? The answer is simple: the university community. Students braved the elements under a driving rain, buses were canceled. Students commuting long distances faced traffic gridlock. Faculty and staff had no place to park amid the colossal debacle. Mismanagement, indeed! Although the “Get Motivated” seminar was not sponsored by Fresno State, the university should have taken the initiative to ensure that the campus community would not endure hardship as a result of such an event. — Patricia LaBran, Ph.D.

Culled each week from discussions on The Collegian’s website.

Response: "The universe at our fingertips"

Response: "RAMIREZ TAKES MORE HEAT AT ASI MEETING"

Response: "THE BEST AND THE WORST PRESIDENTS OF ALL TIME"

Response: "THE 80s REMALLY BACK?"

The AIDS pandemic, the beginning of the Iran-Iraq War, the Chrysler LeBaron, cocaine, famine in Ethiopia, headbands, assassinations, acid wash jeans. Mount St. Helens erupted and mullets were in — oh, the 80s. Probably the most memorable decade in the history of mankind. It was a memorable decade, but one that I, for the most part, would rather erase from my memory. Really, what was going on in the world during the 80s? I’ll be glad when it’s over. Maybe it was just a peace-loving Led Zeppelin decade. It’s easy to go through a timeline of any decade and create a laundry list of tragedies, and the same can be said for our current period. Although there were some particularly heartbreaking events, I would rather discuss the more lighthearted aspects. Now there seems to be limited hit fashion flashback among teens. The interesting thing is that these teens weren’t around during that time. Well I was, so let me clear something up for them. The 80s sucked! I hope teens don’t feel as if they missed out during the 80s and are trying to relive a pegasus. If please don’t take the ‘80s flashback any further. Certainly, there was no one word to sum up the decade. — Daniel J. Harrison, Political Science and Economics Major

Web-Speak

"Sarah:" I also think that this holiday is a bit overrated, and the iPhone is a bit too expensive and a bit less romantic to be a good present for this occasion. I’d be moved sooner by some heart-shapened chocolates and a teddy bear than by a gadget. Of course, maybe it’s all just due to my young age."
ACLU raises concerns at ASI meeting

By Michael Kincheloe
The Collegian

The Associated Students, Inc. meeting returned to the University Student Union Wednesday afternoon, and legal tensions concerning two members of the executive branch took center stage again.

Following the public comment segment of the meeting, the senate went into closed session. The public was asked to temporarily leave the room, with the four senate executive officers leaving as well. During the interval, the senate passed a motion allowing a limited waiver of the attorney-client privilege to permit a local attorney to make a public presentation.

Olga Balderama, an attorney with Baker, Manock & Jensen, the local law firm that advises ASI, explained that her office “was asked to respond to certain concerns that were raised by the ACLU regarding the process” in which formal reviews for ASI President Pedro Ramirez and Vice President of Finance Cesar Sanchez had been scheduled for Jan. 26.

The first concern raised by the ACLU was that the senate’s actions would violate the due process rights of Ramirez and Sanchez.

“We reviewed that issue and concluded that the ACLU was not correct,” Balderama said. “The ASI is a private, non-profit governmental corporation; it is not a governmental entity.”

Due process requirements apply only to governmental entities.

The second concern raised by the ACLU was valid, said Balderama, in that Ramirez and Sanchez could only be removed from office as a result of missing three or more senate or executive officer meetings in one semester, or because of academic disqualification, a process that has not been established by the university.

Balderama concluded by stating that the bylaws do not provide for removal based on a violation of the ASI Code of Conduct.

“The senate and personnel committee will be working to revise the bylaws and to fix these issues,” ASI Executive Vice President Selena Farnesi said.

The public comment segment, which preceded the legal presentation, produced a number of statements from students as well as members of the community.

Fresno State Student Neil O’Brien presented a letter to attorney Ajay Choudhary, complaint analyst for the State Bar of California. Dated Feb. 1, 2011, the letter states that Jessica S. Bobadilla [Ramirez’s attorney] is not licensed to practice law in California. She is, however, licensed to practice law in New York. Out-of-state attorneys are allowed to practice immigration law in California.

Kingsburg High School senior Paul Doran said that he was representing the Fresno State, “But after looking at the bylaws for representation, I am dropping that option.”

Chick-fil-A accused of discrimination

2 people die in Sierra National Forest shooting

By Michael Kincheloe
The Collegian

Chick-fil-A, the fast food restaurant chain that claims to have invented the chicken sandwich, has been accused of discriminating against employees in some locations nationwide.

The restaurant was accused of discrimination after allegedly sponsoring a group called Focus on the Family—a organization that is against gay marriage and abortion rights.

The company has more than 1,500 locations across the United States, and is the only national fast food chain that is closed on Sunday.

Our decision to close on Sunday was our way of honoring God,” the company’s founder, S. Truett Cathy said.

Those who operate Chick-fil-A franchises are expected to utilize their Sundays by going to church and spending time with their families, and those who don’t go along with the rules will see their contracts terminated.

You don’t have to be a Christian to work at Chick-fil-A, but we ask you to base your decisions on the principles because they work,” Cathy, who opened his first restaurant in 1946, said.

There are disagreements about non-Christians being allowed to work at one of Cathy’s restaurants. Aziz Latif was a Chick-fil-A restaurant manager in Houston when he refused to participate in a promotion that would have made him appear to be celebrating gay marriage.

Aziz, who is Muslim, sued for employment discrimination. His attorney said that Aziz was fired “for not conforming.”

Religion should not be brought into the workplace,” attorney Ajay Choudhary said. “Prayer should be, if anything, a private purpose, not a corporate purpose.”

The suit was settled on undisclosed terms.

Mark Baldwin, senior communications supervisor for Chick-fil-A, turned down an interview at this time, but sent a press release titled Chick-fil-A’s Closed-on-Sunday Policy. The policy states that “more than 60 years ago, Cathy [the founder] would not deal with money on the Lord’s Day.” The Closed-on-Sunday policy is reflected in the company’s Corporate Purpose. “To glorify God by being a faithful steward of all of that is entrusted to us, and to have a positive influence on all who come in contact with Chick-fil-A,” Baldwin said.

Chick-fil-A has promoted religious groups through their children’s meals in the past, including toys from the Christian television series “The 700 Club,” a movie based off the Christian radio program “Adventures in Odyssey,” which is produced by the evangelical Christian organization Focus on the Family.

Chick-fil-A funds the WinShape Foundation, whose endeavors include summer camps for boys and girls, foster homes and a 15-acre retreat. The stated purpose of the latter is “to minister to couples in strengthening their marriages.”

Not everyone is welcome, however. While Chick-fil-A will serve chicken sandwiches to gays, same-sex couples are not accepted at the marriage retreat.

“We do not accept homosexual couples,” was the official reply from WinShape.

At Fresno State’s Chick-fil-A, assistant manager Mariol Martinez referred all interview requests to corporate headquarters in Atlanta.

“The campus Chick-fil-A does not have a fund,” Martinez said. “There’s never a line,” freshman Kaylen Burton said. “It’s easy and convenient.”

GLOBE: CONTINUED from page 1

According to The Pew survey, the emergence of instant media in the American public has not helped to improve its knowledge of national and international affairs.

“I think our media concentrates a lot more on pop culture rather than what is really going on in the world,” Villalobos said.

The Pew survey also showed that the average American’s citizens are about as able to name their leaders, and are about as aware of major news events, as was the public nearly 20 years ago.

“It’s sad to think that it would take gas going up by $6 a gallon for many Americans to become interested in foreign news, but that’s what it would take,” McCoy said.

2 people die in Sierra National Forest shooting

By Associated Press

RASS LAKE, Calif. (AP) — A SWAT team surrounding a home in rural Madera County Wednesday night after two people were shot and killed at a resort restaurant near the Sierra National Forest, authorities said.

SWAT officers went to the home after two women were fatally shot around 1 p.m. Wednesday at Ducey’s on the Lake, a restaurant on Bass Lake, said Madera County sheriff’s spokesmanwoman Erica Stuart.

The suspect fled to the home after the shooting, but because the home is in a heavily wooded area, authorities did not know if the suspect fled into the nearby woods, or remained inside the home.

The home is about three miles from the restaurant.

The suspect’s car and fresh footprints were found near the home Tuesday afternoon.

He was in the house earlier, he said.

Madera County authorities have not released the name of the two women, or of the suspect. It’s not known what sparked the shooting.

One of the victims was found dead inside the front of the restaurant, while the second victim was found inside a van parked in front of the restaurant, Stuart said.

The restaurant is on the edge of the Sierra National Forest, about 60 miles north of Fresno.
Vagina Monologues cancellation rumor this year is dismissed

By Gladys Garcia and Janessa Tyler

Every year around Valentine’s Day, Fresno State and the Women’s Resource Center are overwhelmed not only by love and happiness, but by one word — vagina.

A rumor that the annual play, the Vagina Monologues, was going to be cancelled this year circulated around campus during the past few months. But the rumor is now put to rest.

The Vagina Monologues is a performance put on nationally during V-Day season, February to April.

The Vagina Monologues is set to take place Tuesday, April 26 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. in the Satellite Student Union. The play took place last year at the end of February.

The Fresno State campus, as well as other universities around the country, put on this play in support of a global cause — to end violence against women. The play portrays the difficulties and struggles of women all over the world, and how they surpass them.

It is meant to inspire and empower women, as well as educate men in an emotional, but entertaining way.

Business major Jazmine Yepez is a former cast member in the Vagina Monologues. She said she would have continued being a cast member, but she couldn’t find the time.

“This play is a way for women to not feel alone about their issues and for men to understand women a lot more,” Yepez said. “Last year people told me they loved it.”

Yepez played a role in the Vagina Monologues for one season. She said she introduced the next cast member doing a monologue by saying a fun fact.

“It was kind of short,” Yepez said.

The play serves the community, as well as the campus. A portion of the proceeds from Vagina Monologues goes to agencies that work to end violence against women, such as the Marjaree Mason Center.

The Marjaree Mason Center is headquartered in Fresno, with three shelters operating throughout Fresno County.

Some students were worried about how the possible elimination of this performance would have affected the community.

Former cast member Starla M. Williams recited a monologue last year titled, “My Vagina was my Village.”

Williams said the community would have missed out on “the opportunity to raise money for local women’s groups and shelters and the opportunity to spread awareness and understanding about real problems women face.”

Williams said she would definitely be a cast member again this year.

Pam Williams, an intern at the Women’s Resource Center, and S.P.E.A.K., Students Providing Empowerment Advocacy and Education, are in charge of hosting the Vagina Monologues this year with Williams.

P.O.W.E.R., People Organized for Women’s Empowerment and Representation, previously hosted the Vagina Monologues.

Randi Wyatt, Women’s Alliance treasurer, said it would have been unfortunate and disappointing if Fresno State couldn’t host the Vagina Monologues this year.

“Ending violence against women is an important movement that people in Fresno are involved in,” Wyatt said.

The Women’s Alliance is also looking at holding events this semester, in addition to the Vagina Monologues.

March is considered “Herstory” month, a month for women’s history. There will be numerous events during March including “Wheel of Questions” and “Papers.”

The Women’s Alliance is planning two film screenings and a workshop and presentation for men in April.

Volunteers are welcome to send word to the Center for Women & Culture if they would like to be involved. The Women’s Alliance meetings are every other week, Mondays at 9:15 a.m. and Tuesdays at 3:15 p.m. in the Center for Women & Culture in the Thomas building, room 110A.
Testosterone rules the big screen this weekend

By Maddie Shannon

This weekend’s films have a specific audience in mind: guys.

While today brings 12 new movies to movie theaters across the country, only a few are being shown in local theaters. Among them are films that are particularly testosterone-oriented.

"Unknown," starring Liam Neeson, uses Neeson’s physical stamina to the film’s advantage in a role that Neeson fans will liken to his role in "Taken." Less intense but just as marketed to a male audience is "Big Momma: Like Father, Like Son," which will please fans of the first two films, but not so much the girlfriends of those fans.

Here is a rundown of this weekend’s movies.

**Unknown (PG-13)**

**What it’s about:** Dr. Martin Harris and his wife, Liz, travel to Berlin on a business trip when they find themselves in a car accident, sending their taxi flying into Berlin’s Rhine River. Martin wakes up four days later in a German hospital with no wife and no I.D. After his discharge from the hospital, he confronts his wife at the hotel to find she thinks she’s married to someone else – a man who has everyone convinced he’s Dr. Martin Harris. Surrounded by people who either don’t remember him or are trying to kill him, Harris sets out to prove he is the man he says he is.

**Why you should see it:** Liam Neeson, true to his taste in scripts, takes on another role where the world is out to get him, and it’s up to him to fix it. Similar to his role in “Taken,” he comes up against forces that alter his life. In this film, however, the person he has to save is himself, not his daughter.

**Starring:** Liam Neeson, Diane Kruger and January Jones.

**I Am Number Four**

**What it’s about:** "I Am Number Four," adapted from a teen literature novel of the same name, chronicles the journey of John Smith, a teenage fugitive looking to escape his enemies – who will stop at nothing to track him down and kill him. As he moves from place to place with his guardian, Henri, he meets his first love, Sarah. His special abilities enable him to protect himself and the ones he loves.

**Why you should see it:** As cliché as some young adult fiction might be, the movies they inspire always make for good cinema. Dianna Agron carries the most of the film with poise only seen in glamorous ingénues of Hollywood folklore.

**Starring:** Alex Pettyfer, Timothy Olyphant, Teresa Palmer and Dianna Agron.

**Big Momma: Like Father, Like Son**

**What it’s about:** FBI agent Malcolm Turner, in the third installment of the Big Momma Series, heads to an all-girls arts school in the south to hunt down a killer. This time, however, he has backup: his nephew, Trent. As Malcolm takes a job as a housemother to a sorority on campus, he and his nephew find themselves in plenty of cross-dressing skirmishes.

**Why you should see it:** Moviegoers who are fans of the first two Big Momma movies will like this film for the cheap laughs. More intelligent film audiences, however, will think the immature racial jokes and the way the film objectifies women makes for a terrible comedy only produced to make 20th Century Fox more money.

**Starring:** Alex Petifyer, Timothy Olyphant, Teresa Palmer and Dianna Agron.
ACROSS
1 Adirondack chair part
5 Cutting remarks
9 Address of fine women’s stores?
14 Backing for plaster
15 A party to
16 Large artery
17 Kind of mechanic
18 Ancient Greek colonnade
19 “That’ll teach you!” look
20 Places CEOs may visit
23 “Beetle Bailey” bellower
24 One not filing a flight plan
25 Become deflated
28 Pudding starches
32 Exterior house finish
34 Common joiner
37 Big name in mattresses
39 The City of Seven Hills
40 Purchase with several rings
44 Designer Christian
45 Excessive flattery
46 ASCAP has one
47 Mistake-making
50 Movie set items
52 Flag bearer
53 Bumbling one
55 Get hitched on a sudden itch
59 Money, in a phrase (with “the”)
64 Addax’s bigger cousin
68 Beth follower
69 One driving a car with two brakes, often
70 Guzzling sound
71 Honkers in a gaggle
72 45-inch measures
73 Calendar girl, e.g.
74 Become deflated
75 Aiden is Stewart and Lancaster’s second child. They have another son, Alastair, who is 5.
76 The veteran rock star has six other children from previous relationships.
77 The statement released on the couple’s behalf said they were “proud and thrilled.”
78 Sheen explained that he would ask the director to let him stand beside a piece of furniture during run-throughs so he wouldn’t fall over. He joked that his tactic was the sign of “a seasoned professional.” Production of “Two and a Half Men” has been halted while Sheen is in rehab. He said production would resume at the end of February.

DOWN
1 Concrete chunks
2 Mars with the eyes
3 Fragrant essential oil
4 Flip-flops
5 Dispense gossip
6 Very much a fan of
7 Jim Carrey often plays one
8 Big mess
9 Dalmatian, to a fireman
10 Standout standing
11 “No jeans” may be part of one
12 “Thanks, I already ___”
13 Damage slightly
21 Partner of “desert”
22 Conditional conjunctions
26 Pinnacle points
27 “Church” or “party” attachment
29 Hair goop
30 Assayer’s studies
31 Collectable that displays its original value
33 Holder of cremains
34 Birch tree
35 Beet
36 Lintel locale
38 (From) a great distance
41 “The dog ate my homework,” for one
42 Title akin to “dude”
43 Force forward
48 Kind of soup
49 Gangster’s weapon
51 Kind of hammer
52 Special talent
53 Bete ___
54 Energy source for engines
55 Special talent
56 Flattened circles
57 Calendar girl, e.g.
58 Poem of mourning
59 Unnamed people or things
60 Unnamed people or things
61 Victim of the first sibling rivalry
62 Camera element
63 “Which came first?” option
65 “The dog ate my homework,” for one
67 Great dog?
68 Beth follower
69 One driving a car with two brakes, often
70 Guzzling sound
71 Honkers in a gaggle
72 45-inch measures
73 Award from a sports cable network

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

SOLUTION: http://collegian.csufresno.edu

History of Fresno State in Pictures

In honor of Fresno State’s Centennial

Phillip Ogilvie, a Fresno State track runner during the 2001-2002 season, was featured in the Friday, Feb. 22, 2002, issue of The Collegian.

News Briefs

Brief news for the brief attention span

LONDON (AP) — Rocker Rod Stewart has become a father for the eighth time.
The 66-year-old Stewart’s wife, Penny Lancaster, gave birth to a baby boy Wednesday.
A statement released on the couple’s behalf said they were “proud and thrilled.”

NEW YORK (AP) — Charlie Sheen says he’s never been drunk or high on the set of his hit sitcom, and that he knows how to deal with a lack of sleep.
In an interview aired Wednesday, the star of CBS’ “Two and a Half Men” said he had sometimes shown up for work after long nights carousing.
Sheen explained that he would ask the director to let him stand beside a piece of furniture during run-throughs so he wouldn’t fall over. He joked that his tactic was the sign of “a seasoned professional.”
Production of “Two and a Half Men” has been halted while Sheen is in rehab. He said production would resume at the end of February.
Sheen had phoned into “The Dan Patrick Show,” which airs in syndication on radio and on satellite TV provider DirecTV.

Word of the Day
An eBook that is exciting to read and hard to put down.

Source: UrbanDictionary.com
Steve Cleveland has seen the growth of BracketBuster weekend games since its early beginnings. “It started out many years ago as something that gave exposure to mid-majors,” Cleveland said. “It didn’t involve that many teams. Today, it involves close to 100 teams and there is about 20 of those teams are going to be on television. Initially, it was exposure given to mid-majors who had an opportunity to get into the postseason. Today, it’s changed a little bit. The one good thing about it is it does help you with scheduling because it could be really difficult for scheduling.”

In deciding the matchups for the BracketBusters, NCAA uses each team’s Ratings Percentage Index to determine which teams to pit against one another. According to espn.com, the formula used calculates a team’s strength based on its winning percentage, opponent’s winning percentage and opponent’s opponents’ winning percentage.

“The NCAA used this formula to decide which team the Dogs’ would play, matching Fresno State up against UC Riverside Saturday at 7 p.m. The Dogs’ head into the game with a 12-14 record after picking up a win on Wednesday night against Cal State Fullerton. UC Riverside comes into tomorrow’s game with a 9-15 record and is currently on a three game losing streak. Although the Highlanders come in with a losing record, sophomore center Greg Smith isn’t underestimating them. “It feels great,” Smith said. “Playing against competition that we usually don’t play every year is a good chance for us to go out and play teams that are close to our level. We have won a couple games. UC Riverside is a good team. They’re physical. They’re run and gun. It will be good for us to play against them.”

The game won’t be televised on any of the ESPN networks but some of their games have been televised during the season. “It’s a really big game,” Golubovic said. “We are on the bubble right now so it’s really a big game for us. It’s a home game so we don’t really want to lose. To win another game before we finish the conference it’s really important to us.”

CONTINUED from page 8

2009 season, when he batted .250 with a career-best 23 homers to go along with 78 RBIs for Cleveland and St. Louis. DeRosa was traded from the Indians to the Cardinals on June 27 that year but was in the St. Louis lineup for three games before hurting his wrist against San Francisco. He spent a stint on the disabled list for an injury that was later diagnosed as a partially torn tendon. DeRosa ready to go after wrist surgery.

Continued from page 8

1976 that the Bulldogs reached Omaha, Neb., the road to the College World Series. Nedeljko Golubovic, a senior, said his Bulldog squad is “on the bubble” right now heading into Saturday’s matchup with UC Riverside.

Don’t play every year is a good chance for us to go out and play teams that are close to our level. We have won a couple games. UC Riverside is a good team. They’re physical. They’re run and gun. It will be good for us to play against them.

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GIANTS: DeRosa ready to go after wrist surgery.

CONTINUED from page 8

Plate, the sound of aluminum bats clashing with baseballs should be frequent.

That’s just one reason why conference coaches picked the Bulldogs to win the WAC for the sixth consecutive year and selected seven Bulldogs to the preseason All-WAC team.

But looking forward to this season doesn’t go without revisiting last year’s disappointing finish. The 2010 season marked the first time since 2005 that the Bulldogs missed out on the national tournament, and that was partly due to poor performances at Beiden Field.

The Bulldogs went just 18-17 playing in front of a home crowd while posting an impressive 15-6 record on the road.

There’s no excuse for the poor showings in front of the Red Wave, but an experienced pitching staff should be able to push the Bulldogs past that after going through growing pains as first-time starters last year.

WAC coaches selected Derek Benny as the preseason pitcher of the year in 2010, but the range 6-foot-6-inch pitcher finished 1-3 with an 8.18 ERA in 19 appearances.

Benny’s inconsistent play last season did open up the door for the reserves though. Greg Gonzalez, a junior college transfer just a year ago, surprisingly became the first Bulldog pitcher to throw a no hitter since Rob Crues did so in 1976.

With Benny Gonzalez, Tom Harlan, Josh Poytress, Charlie Robertson and closer Gene Escat taking control, the Bulldogs should be fine from the mound.

But if this team has any hope of reaching Omaha, Neb., the road to the College World Series begins at a place where the Bulldogs have struggled just recently — at home.
DeRosa ready to win a job

By Janie McCauley
Associated Press

Scottsdale, Ariz. (AP) — Mark DeRosa had barely been in the clubhouse for five minutes unpacking his things Thursday morning when Aubrey Huff arrived and the rampaging began.

DeRosa is loving it. The San Francisco utilityman feels like a new man this spring. He’s healthy at last, truly part of where we’re at with DeRo,” said manager Bruce Bochy said. “Mark, he’s a pro. He’s one of our better teams that we’ve had and we have the talent to compete with anybody this year,” Ribera said.

The opening-night starter for the Bulldogs will be Derek Benny.

“Benny has pitched a lot of big games for us,” head coach Mike Batesole said.

Gonzaga will more than likely use Marco Gonzalez, Ryan Carpenter or Tyler Olson in the two games that they will play against Fresno State.

Benny, a junior, was a 12-game starter last year and continues to improve his craft. As a freshman, Benny faced UC Irvine when Fresno State played in its last NCAA Regional Tournament.

“You look back at the past sometimes but you can’t dwell on it,” Benny said. “You have to start with a new beginning each year and just do your best.”

Fresno State also has Garrett Ribera, Garrett quarter-starter to watch, looks to build on his nation leading 27 home runs in 2010. He also batted .345 along with leading the team in runs batted in and total bases.

“This is one of our better teams that we’ve had and we have the talent to compete with anybody this year,” Ribera said.

The Bulldogs feel confident that they will have a good season.

By Tim Salazar
The Collegian

The 2011 Fresno State baseball season opens the 2011 season today with a two-game series against the Gonzaga Bulldogs. This is both teams’ first meeting.

Returning junior Brennan Gowens had 19 homers last year and will look to lead Fresno State to its third season-opening victory in a row.

Fresno State’s Jordan Rober, ranked No. 1 on CollegeBaseball360.com’s first baseball watch, looks to build on his nation leading 27 home runs in 2010. He also batted .345 along with leading the team in runs batted in and total bases.

Rober said: “Hey, if I hit, I’m in the starting lineup...”

Bochy said. “Mark, he’s a pro. He’s one of our better teams that we’ve had and we have the talent to compete with anybody this year,” Ribera said.

The opening-night starter for the Bulldogs will be Derek Benny.

“Benny has pitched a lot of big games for us,” head coach Mike Batesole said.

Gonzaga will more than likely use Marco Gonzalez, Ryan Carpenter or Tyler Olson in the two games that they will play against Fresno State.

Benny, a junior, was a 12-game starter last year and continues to improve his craft. As a freshman, Benny faced UC Irvine when Fresno State played in its last NCAA Regional Tournament.

“Benny is a realistic guy,” he said. “I’m a realistic guy,” he said.

Bochy and DeRosa met Thursday in the skipper’s office to map out a schedule.

DeRosa will take ground balls during camp at each spot of the infield, including shortstop to give the Giants some insurance behind new addition Miguel Peñada.

Bochy and DeRosa met Thursday in the skipper’s office to map out a schedule for the coming weeks, when DeRosa also will get some work in the outfield.

He had been projected as the team’s starting left fielder at this point a year ago.

“We’re so versatile because he can play different positions. I think as we get deeper into the season we’ll have a better idea of where we’re at with DeRo,” Bochy said. “Mark, he’s a pro. He says: ‘Hey, if I hit, I’m in the lineup. I’ve been in this game long enough. Sure, we’re not in a position to say, ‘Here’s your position right now’.”

He understands that.

DeRosa will play second base once games begin late next week, especially because starter Freddy Sanchez is coming off arthroscopic surgery on his non-throwing left shoulder — though it isn’t expected to slow him down at all the way a similar procedure did last spring. Sanchez began the 2010 season on the disabled list.

DeRosa isn’t taking for granted he has a roster spot.

Not given his injury issues throughout the year, he’s not really sure when he’ll be back. This will be the last time that Muno, Andy Qualls, Ribera and Weber will take the field on opening day at Fresno State together. Also, in their final year of eligibility are pitchers Gene Kickel and Greg Gonzalez.

There will be a chance that the weather will not let the games get under way due to the growing chance of rain.

“We’re just so happy that we’re getting close to opening day that if we got to put that tarp on and off a few times each day we’ll be happy to do it,” Batesole said.

Gonzaga is set to pitch Saturday against Gonzaga, followed by Tom Harlan on Sunday against Oregon State.

A starter is yet to be penciled in for the final game against Oregon State on Monday.

Fresno State will be without outfielder Dusty Robinson, who will still be sitting out the first five games.

“Dusty is one of the best players in the country,” Batesole said. “He might be one of the best two or three outfielders in the country, we’re going to miss him consider, this first weekend.”

This weekend Fresno State, Gonzaga and Oregon State will play each other twice during a four-day stretch that takes place at Beiden Field.

The Bulldogs’ will meet again on Saturday after Gonzaga’s early game with Oregon State. On Sunday Oregon State and Gonzaga will finish off their two game meeting.

Matt Weir / The Collegian

By Janie McCauley
Associated Press

Gonzaga, Oregon State headline baseball opening weekend

Fresno State baseball coach Mike Batesole opens his ninth season today against Gonzaga, and the outlook on the 2011 season has rarely seemed brighter.

The Bulldogs enter enough depth in the bullpen and dugout to set up another strong run in conference play and beyond.

With seven returning position starters from last year’s 35-28 squad, all but one had a batting average of .300 or higher. As a first-time Division I player, Garrett Weber, a transfer from Fort Lewis College, led the team in batting .375 in the opening game.

With the likes of Ribera, Weber and their Bulldog teammates taking swings at the horizon...