A Fireside Chat With President Rush

The economic condition of California’s State Universities is currently under great strain due to the $24 billion budget deficit resting on California’s shoulders. Relief from these financial pressures has resulted in drastic cutbacks in higher education, totaling almost $600 million by next year for four-year institutions alone. CSUCI faces these drastic cutbacks with mock optimism, and can only hope for a reverse of the state’s economic crisis. In a one-on-one interview with President Richard Rush I was able to learn more of our university’s current economic position and what is being done to assure a prosperous future.

J: As President, especially given the state’s financial crisis, how do you plan on preserving the University’s viability?

R: Channel Islands will remain at the same enrollment target this year as the next which will provide financial support for the University. If the bond issue does not pass on March 2nd then we will have a problem. Proposition 57 is a $15 billion bail bond intended to buy time to get California back on track. With this the University will have the funds needed to continue growth and development. If voters turn it down, we have to find some way to cover a $15 billion hole.

J: Recently Gov. Schwarzenegger stated that students should first go to a community college and then transfer to a four-year university, how do you respond to this?

R: As Governor he is looking at the situation from an economic perspective, and students attending community colleges will cost the state less than if they were attending four-year institutions. The master plan for higher education in California maintains that 60% of the students are upper division while the remaining 40% are lower division, which encourages upper-division transfer students. However, I think the Governor is looking to cut costs rather than addressing the issue of education.

J: Another way that the University gets funding is through the Extended Education/Open Enrollment program. The short term benefits are funding and increased student population, but what are the long term benefits of this program?

R: Open Enrollment is a program which allows students to pursue a course of study, however, they are not able to attain a complete bachelor’s degree without ever enrolling as a student in a university. Financially, the program provides non-penalized funding for the university since the students are not FTEs. This way we are able to enroll as many students who are interested without being taxed by the state for exceeding our enrollment numbers. A long term benefit to open enrollment is that we are able to float programs that are under consideration to measure the community response to these programs to determine their success before they are a normal part of the curriculum.

J: As a start-up university it’s hard to distinguish ourselves from the other 22 campuses. What is our competitive advantage against other state universities, and how is this being communicated through the ranks?

R: Our competitive advantage is the foundation upon which all of our mission statements, strategic plans, policies, and courses are built upon. First is our focus on student success as our reason for being. Second is our interdisciplinary approach in courses of study. We are a forward-looking university and try to anticipate what our future needs may be. Lastly is the close relationship between students and faculty, and our hands on approach to learning in the real world. These ideas are communicated through our strategic plans, mission statements, committees, and by constant repetition. It is not just I that am saying it, but we that are doing it.

J: Concerning communication on campus, how do you propose that we can increase the lines of communication?

R: Currently I meet with the President’s Council which is composed of members from every section of the campus, including students, and it is through these people that I hope we are able to connect to the rest of the campus to distribute information. The minutes to all of the meeting held on campus are public documents and are published for anyone to read. The purpose of the numerous committees on this campus in to ensure communication takes place among the members of the campus, so that we may develop a sense of community. A lack of communication is not atypical of a start-up university, and at times it is difficult to ensure that you are reaching all members of the campus community. It takes both sides, students and faculty/administration to come with the attitude that they will do what it takes to succeed.

J: What is one things that you would like to communicate to the students here at CSUCI?

R: That we are here for student success. If students come with the determination and willingness to learn, our part of the bargain is to help them achieve their dreams.
A Few Words From the Editor

Hello and welcome back members of the Channel Islands campus. You all had a long break and hopefully are ready to jump back into the fiery pits of heated discussions and the dangers of opening a book. We have a few new faces around campus and I hope that you do not find yourself lost amid the confusing hallways of the Bell Tower. Returning students - if you see a fellow student standing in the middle of the hallway with a blank look on their face as though they have spent the last few hours pacing the same hallway without ever finding the door to their classroom, please either direct them to where they are supposed to be, or gently guide them to the nearest corner. We cannot have stationary bodies clogging the already claustrophobic corridors. I would like to extend a welcome to our one new faculty member this semester, Dr. Julia Balen of the English Department, she has traveled far to join us here on the sunny southern California coast, and if you see her standing lost in the hallway, please direct her to her classroom. It seems that despite all the drawbacks of the current budget crisis, we are steadily growing and this means more students with more opinions and ideas of changing and/or improving our campus. I want to hear from you! We’ve all got opinions and contrary to what many say, they don’t all stink, some of them are really good. The Channel Islands View is looking for writers. If you are interested in becoming a contributor to the paper please submit your piece or idea or a writing sample to me electronically. We are also looking for writers to cover events on campus and write critical pieces evaluating programs on campus. So, as you sip your soy chai latte on your way to class and ponder the weighty issues of California’s economic crisis and our campus' impact on the environment, remember that you have a vehicle to communicate these ideas, and possibly make them a reality.

Letter to the editor (author Anonymous)

If us is a wake up call to all freshmen: Class of 2007, you make up this campus' future so I strongly suggest that you all take advantage of the many opportunities available to you. In being an involved freshman myself I have come to acknowledge the hard work put into the many activities that are so often taken for granted. I have also come to hear in many of my classes how unhappy many of you are due to the lack of social events and the frustration of not experiencing what you all think of as the "complete college experience". Speaking about how upset you are to your peers in class will do nothing to help your campus become exactly what you want it to be.

Let your voices be heard to people who can make a difference, and even better make your voice be heard by becoming one of those people who can make a difference. CSUCI offers so many more ways to get involved and to get to know the people who are making important decisions on your behalf. All it takes is a little, an absolute minimum amount of effort, trust me. Someone could easily walk into the Office of Student Development, CHAPS, EOP and many other departments and find ample ways to get involved. It makes me deeply upset to know that so many of you have opinions and extraordinary suggestions for events, policies, and overall future plans but yet have no intentions of making them known. How are the people running our campus supposed to know how to satisfy the students if no one is expressing his or her ideas? How can we, as a class of freshman, blame organizations for not running certain programs, canceling classes, or not putting on enough events relevant to our interests if the school's Student Government and Student Programming Board do not know what we actually want. I know that there is a simple way to fix this major problem we have on campus. In order to put an end to this complete lack of communication between the decision makers and the students, I say that all students try their very best to make their voices heard. Students need to proclaim how they feel and what they would like to see or not to see on campus. Take advantage of the times when organizations are sitting out in the fountain courtyard and asking for suggestions (they really do read them and take them very seriously). As I stated before, in being an involved freshman I have come to learn so much more about how ignorance can hinder a growing campus. We need more people to step up and become leaders or else what do we all have to look forward to in the future?

We have a beautiful campus with amazing facilities. We have a perfect size student body and all we need to do is understand that CSUCI is much more than a school, it is a community. A community that needs to learn how to cherish what we have and help to make it what we want it to be. Thank you.

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Student Voices

Writing is...

gold in river, life in words, voices stories preserved
pen and paper and thought, experiences, style,
painting a picture, critical thinking tool
someone's inward expressions, communication of thought
expresses must says, saying stuff silently
expression and communication, expression with revision,
representative text,
my painful pleasure
Bloody hard work.

- first collaborative composition by members of English 460

VA by Bus  As I ride through the affluent streets
of a nation unfamiliar with war on its corner
I look at the refugees piled on the seats
men made old and folded like paper bags,
Vietnam veterans out of place in their own country.
Worn and bruised as much as the seats that carry them,
I feel the weight slug across their shoulders each morning,
as it sinks heavy into my own,
pressing together the lower disks of my spine,
a burden you must shoulder when you enter their world.
As passengers they are permanent, creased and worn,
tucked away into their respective corners,
seeing another world flickering through obscured windows,
a slideshow against their dirty clothes.
Wives crowd the bench seats, oversized purses tucked under their arms,
small hands clasped tightly in laps, helpless and completely isolated
from the man who has replaced her husband, eyes
silently imploring for details of the man whom she had known before.
Before the bombs, the guns, before death had grown so insubstantial,
and I understand her desolation, her sense of unrest,
unable to make a difference in the light that is no longer reflected in his eyes.
The feeling that she does not deserve the simplicity her life has always contained,
that there is nothing she or I can do to fully understand the pain of those men,
stacked in corners, shoved deep into pockets.
That there is nothing to comfort their suffering but suffering itself.

-by Jennifer O'Toole
Welcome Back Dolphins!

Herein and heretofore, the initial installment of the musings of your favorite Pretzel Boy - shamelessly offering profound insight into the nefarious enigmas, conundrums and baffling policies in our local campus community and the world at large. Before tackling current events lets review some of our favorite leftover puzzlements from last semester:

Recall Tsunami

Our Dolphin still maintains the nickname of ‘Tsunami,’ despite the efforts of the mysterious SEMANTIC - i.e. the Student Electorate for a Mascot Alias/Name that at least Tries to make Implicit sense Campaign - whose sole mission, indeed purpose for being is to recall the current inappropriate and meaningless mascot alias - I am woe to report that No Action has been taken.

Why do we, the Students of CSUCI Care?

Because the nominated choices posted on the ballot did not reflect an unbiased selection from those proposed by the students - The choices did indeed ignore the massive grassroots campaign of one Christopher McKee, Artist at Large who proposed the highly personal and meaningful Mascot Name, Chester. Despite a multitude of support from fellow students, this nomination failed to even make the ballot?????? I smell a rat!

Again, why do We Care?

Even if you're not a supporter or fan of the name Chester, we supposedly are participating in a Democratic Student Government - represented by elected peer representatives (intentionally redundant).

Why then the omission?

I propose that somebody cringed, (possibly a faculty or administrative advisor?) at the possibility that Chester would actually WIN the election! ...And spoil the carefully cultivated image and reputation of our fledgling campus. Chester, therefore and suspiciously, failed to even make the ballot! Again, I Smell a Rat!

I'm reminded of the ruckus that ensued following the Student's of University of California, Santa Cruz proposal that their mascot be The Banana Slug, which won despite a torrent of desperate Administrative Intervention...

Fellow Students we can't stand for this, simply on principle!

RECALL Tsunami ~ Viva Chester!

Sidetnote: One of the classes cancelled this semester - The Friday session of:

Scientific and Professional Ethics

At Minimum, I openly call for a rebuttal from our Student Government (to be reprinted in this column next issue) which lists all of the nominations for a Mascot Name and the number of nominations garnered by each... hmm... how many nominations do you think 'Tsunami/received, find out here next issue!

School Colors : Red & Silver?

Red and Silver? Whose idea was that?

We go from having an attractive, unique, appropriate, warm, soothing, reassuring and appropriate color scheme to a generic, sterile, an I, Stanford/USC wannabe, cold, spiritless, spineless, run of the mill, did I say GENERIC, Red and Silver? For those that may not know, the original colors were a warm burgundy, and a classy, chi chi, sophisticated, elegant Gold. Red and Silver? Yech! I mean have you seen it? I've heard the justification was to enable the correct shading of our Mascot, Chester... I mean Tsunami's silver skin, in the immortal words of The Valley Girl, What... ever! a dolphins not a fish.

CSUCI sells out and rolls over for Hollywood

Ok, we need money. That's a fact. Hollywood has it... we want it... BUT... in the occupied sections of the school and during the final 6 to 8 weeks of the Fall Semester up to and including FINALS WEEK. Attention: Administration, Hello... we paid to be here to. A number of observations: The shoots Art Director instructed a minion to paint over a decorative mural/painting on an arched doorway near the Art Department... irreplaceable artistic heritage, legacy, history, etc. DESTROYED - The shoots Grounds Keeper instructed a minion to fell, uproot and remove a large tree, still in bloom in late October and visited frequently by a family of Hummingbirds, DESTROYED - The Director actually had an attendant with a walkie talkie stationed in the sculpture studio, DURING FINALS, telling students when they could ...or couldn't use their power tools so as not to interrupt the shoot. Priorities?

- What about parking? Initially the members of the cast and crew all but rendered the southeast corner of the campus inaccessible to students by dominating and hording the already inadequate parking. Kudos to the administration for fast-tracking an expansion lot, which alleviated the problem, some five weeks after it started.

Now my question is this: Why couldn't the entire shoot have taken place in the courtyard opposite the Bell Tower building and behind the Police Station? We would have never known they were here. Or they could have shot it around the Hub, no one uses it anyway. Just wondering...

The Student Lounge

Speaking of the Hub... Whose idea was that?

First, more semantics... A hub is at the center of a wheel. What is our Hub at the center of?

Second, we had a great Student Lounge in a great location, just inside the Bell Tower, for the first year... which in year two is now a store? Some massive intellect must have figured if the convenient and highly popular Student Lounge was removed everyone would flock to the extremely inconvenient Hub. 'Uh... I don't think so.

...and In National News:

I'm running out of room for my rant, but a final quick note: if you value a Democracy you may want to boycott CBS - for a couple of reasons - First, they refused to air an ad from www.moveon.org because its political message was contrary to that of their right wing CEO - Check it out at their website and see all the other winning anti-Bush ads as well; The Truth Hurts. Second, if the media, already dominated by less than Five Major players continues to maintain and increase their control over everything we see and hear (read censorship, manipulation and coercion).

Where will we hear the Truth?

Program your remote to skip CBS and its affiliates, Oh Darn! You may have to miss Survivor, instead you could Go to the Gym, read a book, take a walk... Study... or take a minute and visit: www.moveon.org/

Until next time,

Pretzel Boy
English Professor Joan Peters gives Brown Bag Lecture on the End of Gender:

By Jennifer O'Toole

Professor Joan Peters gave a lecture February 10th at noon in the Banquet Room of the Administration building, discussing the phenomenon of the transgression to heteronormative gender roles in the wake of the 60s revolution of gender equality. Peters argues that in order to attain sexual equality, we must first end the rigid ideals of gender. Within the context of her lecture the focus is primarily drawn from the jobs assigned to the different sexes, male versus female. Over the last twenty years women have made steady progress towards a gender neutral society- specifically the workforce- however, Peters proposes that their mobility is based upon their recognition of the male identity as power, rather than a balance between the sexes. Thus women, in order to gain a high position of power, learn to shirk the duties and images that represent them within society, and move towards a more masculine appearance and attitude. The men are left to remain as they are, with little or no change made to their male gender identity, they are the model to which the women construct themselves.

This effect was evidenced by an image Peters presented of the Nigerian woman sentenced to be stoned to death for her crime of adulteration. The woman was rescued by the international interest and support her case received. The image contains the accused woman, her baby girl, and her female lawyer. The most interesting component of this image, which Peters emphasized, is that the woman who stands trial is dressed in the traditional female clothing (a dress with a cloth wrapped around her head) representative of the female submission to patriarchal rule, whereas the female lawyer who is defending her is dressed in a suit and wearing a male judicial wig. The lawyer has recognized that if she wants to succeed she must emulate the masculine apparel of her fellow lawyers, men. The accused woman has also recognized that she is more likely to win her case if she is viewed in the least threatening manner, which is as a highly feminine woman.

Concern regarding reduction of procreation in certain countries serves as a factor in their transgression to a more gender-differentiated society, where it is preferred that women fulfill the roles typically assigned to them. Women in the workforce oppose traditional values and in turn misplace men who are uncomfortable with adapting gender roles characteristic of females (changing diapers, household chores, etc). Women with incomes, no matter how small, are able to build their economic status, which provides them the power to make financial decisions, and eventually gain a higher social position. However, many see this shift from family to money as detrimental to the overall growth of the population. In countries such as Bangladesh, women comprise more than 80% of the workers in factories, which means that the driving force behind the success of the economic market are the women who sustain it. Women have also feminized migration, Peters states, and are now leaving their homes and countries in search of better jobs and lives. An estimated 120 million legal and illegal immigrants per year are women, which means that the men are being left at home to care for families. In many instances the women send their earnings home to financially support their families, and it is within these households that analysts have seen the greatest economic success.

Grand Opening of the Multicultural and Women's & Gender Center

We would like to invite you to the Grand Opening of the Multicultural and Women's and Gender Center!

The Opening Ceremony will be held Monday March 8th, and will begin on the lawn outside of the student lounge and then move into the Center located in the Bell Tower rooms 1223 and 1224. Speakers will include President Rush, Student Body President Becca Glazier, Professor Renny Christopher and Vice President Greg Sawyer. Raudel Banuelos will be performing a traditional Chamash blessing.

Opening Ceremony 3:00 pm - 6:00

The Reception will begin at approximately 4:00 pm and will include light refreshments and live music. The purpose of the Center is to facilitate an increasing multitude of programs that provide educational and insightful information to the campus community through campus events, guest speakers, and written literature. The Center will be a resource center that students can utilize for class and personal needs. Also it will be a great place to meet new people and hang out!

Multicultural and Women's & Gender Center:

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Multicultural and Women's & Gender Center is to educate the students of Cal State University Channel Islands on issues of diversity and equality, to be an advocate for underrepresented groups on our campus, to affirm and celebrate the unique heritage of our students, promote awareness, understanding, and appreciation for all peoples and cultures, to be a unifying force on our campus, and to foster an environment that is emotionally, mentally, physically, and spiritually safe, and beneficial to all areas of a student's life and development.

It is the Center's goal to be more proactive than reactive by encouraging collaboration and dialogue among students, faculty, staff, and administrators of diverse backgrounds, and by being a forum through which people can communicate, voice their concerns, and learn from one another.

The Center will especially focus on how racism, sexism, homophobia, and other forms of discrimination work together and reinforce each other. By exploring these intersections, we hope to find meaningful ways of combating these issues as they arise on our campus, in society at large, and in students' personal lives.

Through our mission we hope the students of CSUCI will be able to achieve their personal, professional, and intellectual goals. We honor the intrinsic human worth that cuts across lines of race, religion, gender, sex, class, and culture, and we are working to take this message to the campus community and beyond.
African American Women in History

Dr. Renny Christopher

February is Black History Month; March is Women's History Month, so this is a good time to look at the contributions of some African American women to our history. African American women have been an integral part of American life since colonial times, when countless slaves and free blacks toiled to build the foundations of this nation. In colonial times Phyllis Wheatley (c. 1753-1784), born in Africa, brought to North America and sold as a slave, became one of the first poets whose work was published here and in Great Britain.

One of the most famous women who moved from slavery to freedom in early U.S. history was Sojourner Truth. She was born into slavery in New York state in about 1797 and named Isabella Baumfree (she renamed herself later in life); her first language was Dutch, since she was owned by a wealthy Dutch-speaking family. She was sold as a young woman, and forced by her owner, a man named Dumont, to marry another slave, with whom she had five children, some of whom were sold away by Dumont. In 1827, she escaped and was given refuge by a family of Quakers, who took a pro-abolitionist stance. She successfully won a lawsuit, with the help of the Quaker family, the Van Wageners, to have her son Peter returned to her. The following year she was freed under the New York State Anti-Slavery act, which phased out slavery. She became a speaker, traveling around and lecturing on abolition and women's rights. She was illiterate all her life, but crowds of people listened to her powerful speeches.

Sojourner Truth was over six feet tall, and physically powerful from doing hard labor. She claimed in her speeches that women could do anything that men could do; audiences sometimes accused her of being a man dressed as a woman. Once, at a meeting, she unbuttoned her blouse to show her breasts to prove that she was, indeed, a woman. In one of her most famous speeches, she proclaimed that she had an arm as strong as a man, but she had borne children, and asked rhetorically, "Ain't I a woman?" She died in 1883, after devoting her life to the cause of freedom and equality.

In the twentieth century, and African American woman left the earth and went into space. Mae Jemison became the first African American woman astronaut. She was born in Alabama in 1956, and earned a BS in Chemical Engineering and a BA in African American Studies in 1977. She earned a Doctor of Medicine degree from Cornell in 1981, and subsequently joined the Peace Corps, serving in West Africa. Subsequently she went into private medical practice and applied to join NASA. She was turned down the first time, but applied again. Her second application was accepted in 1987 and she began astronaut training. When she completed her training she became the fifth African American astronaut and the first female African American astronaut.

On September 12,1992, Jemison went into space as a Mission Specialist on the space shuttle Endeavor, becoming the first black woman to do so. She orbited the earth 127 times on the mission.

She has left NASA and currently has her own research and development firm that concentrates on supplying appropriate medical technologies to the third world. She says on her website (www.maejemison.com), "I had to learn very early not to limit myself due to others' limited imaginations. I have learned these days never to limit anyone else due to my limited imagination."

One African American woman who has worked extensively in the realm of the imagination is Toni Morrison, winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1993, the first African American and only the second American woman (after Pearl Buck in 1938) to win this most prestigious award.

She was born Chloe Anthony Wofford in Lorain, Ohio, in 1931. She was the second of four children of a working-class family. Her mother worked two jobs so that her daughter could attend college. She earned at BA from Howard University in 1953, and an MA from Cornell in 1955. She married Harold Morrison, a Jamaican immigrant, in 1958, and had two sons; she was divorced in 1964. She taught at Texas Southern University, then at Howard, then became an editor at a New York publishing house in 1965, where she served as a mentor to many young writers, including Angela Davis. She published her own first novel, The Bluest Eye, in 1970, and has since published seven more novels, including Beloved, which examines the way the memory of slavery still haunts America, and which won the Pulitzer Prize in 1987. Her most recent novel is Love, published last year.

At the Nobel banquet; Morrison said that being in the company of all the Nobel Laureates who went before her "is both daunting and welcoming, for among its lists are names of persons whose work has made whole worlds available to me." Morrison's own work has made a world—the world of African Americans as she envisions it—available to millions.

Truth, Jemison, and Morrison are just three of the main African American women who have made enduring contributions to American history, and are three women that all Americans can be proud of.
Welcome Back!
By Becca Glazier

As Cal State Channel Islands grows and develops as a university, it seems like every new semester brings another ‘first.’ As your Student Body President, I am looking forward to all the baby steps and milestones this semester will offer. For many students, myself included, this is their last semester at Channel Islands. I personally feel a great deal of attachment and affection for our university and I am going to try to make the most out of my last semester here.

Whether you are about to graduate or in your first year at CI, Student Government is one way that you can make the most out of your college years. Student Government is the place where the student-centered attitude of Channel Islands becomes tangible. The students who are involved in Student Government help to keep the lines of communication between faculty, administrators, staff, and students open and make the voices of the students heard. Student Government also works to honor members of our campus community, make progress towards a better functioning and more involved and informed student body, and to identify and address student concerns. Additionally, Student Government has some programming events planned for Spring Semester that will prove to be entertaining and enjoyable for our students.

Student Government is currently made up of six main students: myself, Becca Glazier, as President and Sarah Toner as Vice-President, in addition to four student senators. John Stewart is one of our senators who was elected in last May’s election. Three new senators have been appointed to Student Government to serve during the spring semester: Karissa Predmore, Jen Eaton, and Lily Harrison. Senators make up the legislative portion of our Student Government and Cabinet members round out the executive. Matt Anderson, Jennifer O’Toole, Kori Wilcox, and Katie serve on my cabinet and work with me to plan events and keep me informed about what’s up on campus and what the students need.

Student Government is always looking for enthusiastic students to be a part of the organization in any area. You can drop by our office in the East Wing of the Bell Tower, room 1217, if you are interested in getting involved in your university. Elections are coming up at the end of April—it is never too early to begin planning your campaign and building experience. Thanks for being a part of our Channel Islands community; I wish all of our students a successful semester.