



Emily Shapiro / The Runner
Nazar Atajanov, Dorte Rasmussen and Maiko Yoshioka.

Foreign students find home at CSUB

By Emily Shapiro
Assistant News Editor

Dorte Rasmussen, Maiko Yoshioka and Nazar Atajanov are all students from foreign countries, with varying interests. The one thing they have in common is that they are part of CSUB's diverse international community. Every year a number of international students come here to study and learn about the American culture. The above-mentioned students are just a few of the ever-expanding community who shared some of their insights about CSUB, America and campus life.

Dorte Rasmussen is a foreign exchange graduate student from Svendborg, Denmark. She is studying American studies and will write her thesis once she returns home.

"I wanted to go to the United States to learn about the culture and to see it with my own eyes instead of reading it from a book," Rasmussen said. Although CSUB was not her first choice, a school in California sounded "nice and warm," said Rasmussen.

Maiko Yoshioka is a sophomore, with Liberal Studies as her major. She is from Yokohama, Japan. She chose CSUB because "I took a tour of the school and the people I met were very friendly," said Yoshioka.

Nazar Atajanov is from Ashgabat, Turkmenistan. He is a Computer Science major and will be studying at CSUB for one year. He is part of the U grad program under the IREX (the International Research and Exchange programs) office, which is part of the U.S. State Department.

"I didn't choose to come to CSUB; it was the choice of my program, the US. Department of State choose CSUB," said Atajanov.

They were quick to point out some of the major differences between college here and college at home.

"In Japan, we all have to take an entrance exam, and if you don't pass you can't get in to college. Once you do get in, you party. Here anyone can get in, and you have to study," said Yoshioka.

"In my country we don't live on campus, and

we have classes in one building," said Rasmussen pointing out the biggest difference.

When asked the question of what do you dislike about CSUB two of the students were hard pressed to find an answer.

"I don't know what I dislike. I'm okay with everything," said Atajanov.

"I really like this school, I can't think of anything," said Yoshioka.

Rasmussen, was a bit more vocal about her dislikes, which ranged from general campus life to the dorms.

"There are too few campus activities for the student populace. The dorms are not as pretty as they could be. They need more classes to be offered," said Rasmussen.

According to Rasmussen she applied here online, and a variety of classes were listed under her program. However when she came here only two classes were being offered under her program, she needed three.

When it came to the likes of the school, the answers were numerous.

"I like the size. I get to know everyone better than at bigger schools," said Yoshioka.

"I like the friendly atmosphere," said Atajanov.

The number one consensus among the group was that CSUB was filled with friendly people and professors.

A little advice from the group,—as far as improvements— would be to increase the size of the campus, provide more entertainment for the student populace, shine up the dorm rooms, offer more classes, provide more opportunities for the foreign student to voice their opinions, to let people know they're here.

When not busy with schoolwork, classes or clubs these three hope to do some exploring.

"I hope to meet people, visit places and sight-see," said Atajanov.

"I want to make a lot of friends, and gain a lot of experience in my field of study," said Yoshioka.

"I am going to go and drive around California with my mother. When she leaves I'm going to New York and Washington, D.C. I am looking forward to experiencing American life," said Rasmussen.

Concert Review: Plain White T's

By Ashley Sizemore
Staff Writer

The Plain White T's concert on Sept. 25 was definitely an experience worth having.

If you have ever been to a concert, you know you'll find a wide variety of people. At the Walmart center on Rosedale Highway you could find different generations rocking out to the pop rock band "Plain White T's" and their opening band "Boys Like Girls."

The audience's age range included babies to men in their mid 60s. One participant even brought her small Yorkshire terrier.

Who would bring small children and even animals to a venue despite its mosh pit?

"Boys Like Girls" took the stage, and even received a good review from the audience. However, as a rock concert, the band could've opened with a fast-paced song to get the crowd pumped up for the show. Their first song was mellow.

After they finished, it took a good 20-30 minutes to get the crowd settled for the "Plain White T's" to come out and perform.

"It was awesome, I had a fun time except for all the people around me sweating on me," said freshman Jonathan Ferrer.

Security had the audience back up due to people in the very front who almost became crushed.

Overall, the concert was deemed a success. There were the common mosh pit participants, people actually thinking that it was a heavy metal venue and dressing for the occasion, and also junior high students thinking it was typical Friday night at the Marketplace.

"Plain White T's" front man Tom Higgenson claimed that Bakersfield was their biggest turnout. As in approximately four to five hundred people arrived to enjoy these two bands.

To truly enjoy this concert, one would have to bring his or her own personal bodyguard to avoid getting hit or pushed by the mosh pit, and six-inch

tall shoes in order to see the band. Otherwise you are staring at the back of a very tall stranger.

You might also have wanted to provide a helmet, because water bottles were being thrown into the air with apathy despite, and also an extra set of lungs because the further into the crowd you went, the more difficult it got to breathe. Not to mention, people smoked in the crowd.

Freshman Cyndie Brackett was amazed with the concert.

"I thought the music was great, however I thought it was a little weird having it in a parking lot, but since it was free it made up for it," said Brackett.

The "Plain White T's" set was amazing and immensely relatable to their demographic. The lyrics conveyed that life should be fun no matter what the situation.

They performed songs from their most recent album "Every Second Counts."

Freshman Diana Melgar thought the venue was exciting.

"I had only heard of 'Hey There Delilah' but the songs were great once you've heard them," said Melgar.

Higgenson portrayed optimism and hope in his voice. Their melodies expressed triumph and seeing the happier side of things.

According to starpulse.com "Plain White T's" consists of five members. Higgenson sings vocals, De'Mar Hamilton plays drums, Dave Trio and Tim Lopez play guitar and Mike Retondo plays bass guitar.

The band started in 1997. Higgenson and Trio played cover songs in a basement in suburban Chicago. They've achieved venues at Bamboozle, which is a two day long music festival in New Jersey, the Nintendo Fusion Tour and the Vans Warped Tour.

Their first self-titled album debuted in 2001 and their second album "All That We Needed" came out in 2005.



Photo courtesy of www.spin.com

The Plain White T's concert was held last Monday in the Walmart parking lot.

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