

THE RUNNER

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The Runner
California State University, Bakersfield
9001 Stockdale Hwy.
Bakersfield, California 93311-1099

Telephone 661.654.2165
Fax 661.654.6905
E-mail runner@csub.edu

editorialstaff

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Sandra Vicuna
svicuna@runner.csub.edu

NEWS EDITOR John Paul Horn
jhorn@runner.csub.edu

FEATURES EDITOR Ranjanpreet Nagra
rnagra@runner.csub.edu

ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR Marcus Mulick
coostov@hotmail.com

SPORTS EDITOR Ariana Estrada
aestrada3@runner.csub.edu

PHOTO EDITOR Juan Torres
hoodlum1986@hotmail.com

DESIGN EDITOR Alexis Stokes
astokes@runner.csub.edu

ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR Nathan Campbell
ncampbell@runner.csub.edu

ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR Phillip Barnett
pbarnett@runner.csub.edu

ADVISER John Emig
jemig@csub.edu

newsroomstaff

Garrett Brown, Jane Callesen, Chris Doggett, Jason Friedly, Amanda Galindo, Dhanujini Hordagoda, Marc Perez, Nicole Sanchez, Emily Shapiro, Eman Shurbaji

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Letters to the Editor are encouraged; however, they must be signed and verified to be considered for publication and should be no more than 300 words in length. All letters may be edited for clarity and length.

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CSUB's own literary journal calls for submissions

By Chris Doggett
Staff Writer

Since 1974 Dr. Solomon Iyasere has published a yearly journal known as Orpheus. Thirty-two years later, the magazine that started out as an open forum for students to publish their work, has turned into a 200 page, renowned literary journal.

Orpheus, the title of the literary journal, which is the Greek "god of creativity," is what Dr. Iyasere believes as the culmination of students' excellent work. The end product is a collection of creative stories, poems, plays, several photographs and paintings all submitted by students, alumni and occasionally several professors.

Each of the volumes has roughly 200 pages representing the work of students and faculty at CSUB. The journal has now published a total of over 1,500 students in its 32-year existence. Newly added is a class devoted to creative writing, which Dr. Iyasere teaches. The course is GST 277, and currently has 15-20 students, and their main goal is to write a special piece for the journal and prepare/submit it before the deadline.

There are also several awards given out to students who show great creativity in any of their work. Last year's winner of the Orpheus Creative Achievement Award was Marisela Oropeza for some of her paintings that were used. One is entitled "Sunflower," found on page 117 of the 2006 journal.

The journal has also had several of its past student writers become national award winners, such as poet

Lee McCarthy, novelist Joe Sherman and Dr. Jeff Elsway (playwright).

Iyasere says that the magazine is very rewarding for him because he gets to publish students' work, and also help establish their reputations. This, in the end is most rewarding for the students.

ASi funds this once yearly magazine and he talks about how the cost has gone up from \$200 when it was first published in 1974 to over \$4,000 today. Each year they print roughly 400 copies of the book and send it off to other institutions of learning, and also supply CSUB bookstore with copies for students to pick up.

Written work, taken throughout the year, may be sent to Dr. Iyasere via email. However, he does have a deadline for publishing the current year's journal, but he encourages all students to give it a try and submit any form of creativity.

Since its inception the goal has always been to create a place for students to showcase their work. Dr. Solomon Iyasere has continued keep it alive year after year, and Orpheus is a great example of some of

the talented and creative students here on campus.

Orpheus is accepting submissions of creative works, including short stories, poems, plays, photographs, and paintings for publication in an upcoming edition. Submissions are invited from CSUB students, alumni, faculty and faculty emeritus.

Selection of materials for publication will begin in January and the deadline for full consideration is May 15.

Send submissions to: Solomon O. Iyasere, Orpheus Advisor, c/o Department of English, CSUB, 9001 Stockdale Highway, Bakersfield, Ca. 93311-1099. Submissions also may be sent via fax to (661) 665-6913 or via e-mail to siyasere@csub.edu. Include your name, address, phone number, and an e-mail address.

All submissions become the property of Orpheus and will not be returned.

Joe Wenderoth, a poets' poet

By Emily Shapiro
Staff Writer

Near the end Joe and Jason performed a duet, a rendition of "The Streets of Bakersfield," first performed by Buck Owens and Dwight Yoakam. It is a song that touches all of humankind about

People, rows upon rows of them were waiting.

Waiting for what? They were waiting for the show to begin, for Joe Wenderoth to take his place. The murmur of conversation is heard, rustles of paper, sounds of humanity, then a hush and darkness.

The lights were turned off, leaving only the faint glow of lights outside to shine in. Eyes were focused on two comfortable reading chairs, one in front of another, and in the middle was the outline of a human head, and the microphone.

All was quiet until a man, Jason Morpheus, stepped up and began to strum his guitar, crooning a poem set to notes, as the show opened.

Attending a poetry reading can be quite boring and uneventful. Unlike most poets, however, Joe Wenderoth is a showman.

He has learned to take his craft and combine it with the art of entertainment to make poetry come alive. Not by crazy costumes or visual effects, but by using simple tools, a flashlight and darkness, to illustrate what makes him different.

By not focusing on him or the room, the listener is able to focus on his words and his message.

Sitting there listening to his words I could feel myself being drawn into his poetry, not just hearing it, but being a part of it.

After a few poems he turned the floor over to Jason who balanced the show by providing simple songs, of love, hate and humanity.



Emily Shapiro/The Runner
Joe Wenderoth.

pre-judgment and humanity.

Lights suddenly flicker to life. Was it over?

Wenderoth settled comfortably into his chair and began to read passages from a book that he wrote. It is called "Letters to Wendy's." This reading proves humorous to all, and a great wave of laughter abounds after one particular letter.

After a few minutes Wenderoth finishes. We were given the opportunity to ask questions. One question stands out among all the others. He was asked the difference between a poem and a song.

"A poem is speech, a song is not. A poem is a pleasurable undoing, a song is bringing something together."

Wenderoth said.

Applause spewed forth from the quietness. We wanted to thank him for sharing these thoughts with us.

Noise was heard again as people extracted themselves from their seats, tossing on coats and purses, they were ready to leave.

"It was funny. He has a good sense of humor," said April Brown. "It was different, and more interesting than the last one," stated Raechel Hricik.

The next reading will be on February 15, 2007, at 7 p.m. in The Dezember Reading Room in the Walter Stern Library.

Runner on the Street

By Nicole Sanchez
Staff Writer

This Week, The Runner asked, "How do you feel about the food options on campus?"



Kyle Orndorff
Junior

"I just go to the vending machines."



Matt Elder
Junior

"It's okay. I just wish it was a better quality with more healthy choices."



Jon DeWitt
Senior

"The options in the Commons are not solicited. So students are spending more in other places."



Kuldip Kaur
Sophomore

"There should be more outside foods like Baja Fresh or Jamba Juice."



Katie Rose
Graduate Student

"I don't like them at all. There are no healthy choices. It would be nice to have a simple salad bar."