



Looking back

Top news stories from the Fall '07 semester

BY BEN ROFFEE
Pride Staff Writer

Executive compensation

On Sept. 18, the CSU Board of Trustees approved controversial pay raises of an average of 11 percent, sparking opposition from the California Faculty Association, students, and various government officials.

Prof Imamura dies

Professor Mikiko Imamura-Seyller, head of the Japanese Program department at CSUSM, died of cancer in her home on Sept. 27.

Traffic signals

CSUSM installs traffic lights on campus for the first time to help combat congestion and increase safety for pedestrians and drivers.

Generals on campus

Retired Army Lt. General Robert P. Gard and Marine General Joseph Hoar visit CSUSM and speak on the current state of U.S. policy in the Middle East.

AB 262 and AB 1584

Governor Schwarzenegger signs postsecondary education reform laws to alleviate financial burdens for California college students. AB 262 counters the targeting of students by credit card companies with luring tactics and gifts. AB 1584 places tighter restrictions textbook prices and requires publishers to clearly indicate important changes made from older editions in new editions.

So. Cal Wildfires

23 Fires plagued Southern California, burning over 500,000 acres and destroying more than 1,500 homes during the week of Oct. 21. The Coronado Hills fire burned precariously close to the CSUSM campus but was quickly contained.

CSU audit

On Nov. 9, the California Bureau of State Audits released an audit of the CSU compensation policies, calling for tighter regulations on "questionable" compensation practices.

X-Country National Championship

The CSUSM Cross Country team competed for the first time in the NAIA Cross Country National Championship on Nov. 17 in Kenosha, Wisconsin. CSUSM placed 11th overall with the Men's team placing 9th and the Women's team placing 13th.

Tuition freezing

CSU and UC students made California legislative history on Nov. 14, filing the first-ever student-led ballot initiative to freeze tuition in the CSU and UC systems.

Parking- A student movement to curb parking pass increases swelled in late November as students gathered signatures for a petition and addressed President Karen Haynes on the matter at an open forum on Nov. 28.

President Haynes hosts second open forum with students

Parking permits and fee increases are hot topics in President's Boardroom

BY JACKIE CARBAJAL
Pride Staff Writer

With news of the parking fee increases to the Cal State San Marcos campus, students met with President Karen Haynes, bringing along signed petitions and increased frustration to the semester's second open forum on Wed. Nov. 28 in the President's Boardroom.

"Most of us are here for the parking issue." Said student Amethyst Hills. "Why don't we have private or public funding for the parking structure?"

According to President Haynes,

the state does not pay for parking facilities, student unions or athletic fees. Therefore, the only way those services are covered is through student fee increases.

In regards to funding from donors, President Haynes stated, "It's not highly likely that a donor wants to build a parking lot. Donors want to build academic buildings or make enhancements like they did for Markstein Hall. But parking facilities is generally what the public donors or philanthropists see as something that we need to fund through our own mechanisms by the users of the facilities."

One concern for students was where the increased fees would go and whether or not current students would see the effects of the increase in the structures planned in the near future.

"What we've done from the beginning and what we continue to do is some of that money that you and staff and faculty pay in parking fees goes to the actual maintenance of parking structures now and some of it is put away in an account that can't be touched for anything but the next parking lot or fees for a new

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University Bookstore expansion



Photo by Jason Encabo / The Pride

Construction of the new expansion of the University Bookstore on the fifth floor of Craven Hall continues and is expected to be complete by late December.

A look into CSUSM's parking structure

BY VIRIDIANA
PACHECO-ISAAC
Pride Staff Writer

The news of parking permit increases at Cal State San Marcos has left some students irate, confused and with scores of questions.

With the rapid growth of the university, the inevitable expansion of the campus has called for more parking spaces as it did when parking lot F was built.

But the building of such structures is not free nor state funded.

"CSUSM is one of the newer campuses, and with that 'new-

ness' comes a lot of rapid growth, infrastructure construction and future planning," said Director of Campus Parking and Transportation Services Dora Knoblock. "This status also means that as a new campus we don't have the years of collecting revenue for self-support programs as many of our sister campuses have done for many years."

Knoblock said all 23 CSU parking departments are self-supporting and receive no state funding for the operation, maintenance and construction of such parking programs.

Assistant Director for Parking

Services Belinda Garcia explained the increase is part of a three-tier plan which was approved in 2003, with parking prices taking a \$90 increase in 2003, spring of 2006 and fall of 2009 when they will be a total of \$338.

"The lots are paid for directly from parking revenue," she said. "But the reason for the increase is not to replenish the fund. Rather, it is to ensure that we will be able to repay our bond obligation each year."

Knoblock said while each campus administers parking

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Happy Holidays
from everyone here at The Pride



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parking structure." President Haynes said.

With The Pride's last issue in hand, student Yolanda Castaño pointed out the discrepancy among CSU campuses and parking permit prices.

"It's ridiculous the amount of money we have to pay," Castaño added.

President Haynes cited two simple reasons behind the \$90 fee increase; the campus is growing and construction costs are higher. She explained that while the excitement of a new campus and the new technology it has to offer is something that draws in admittance, "the downside is some of these other campuses built their parking lots twenty years ago. They're not continuing to build parking so they don't have to bank on it and they're not building parking lots at today's construction costs which are dramatically higher than even when I came here four years ago."

The conversation eventually shifted from parking permits to student fee increases. If the state does not approve a motion for addi-

tional funding to cover the increase in costs of operations, the CSU Board of Trustees have approved a ten percent student fee increase. While many students explained that tuition costs are much higher than expected at such a small campus, President Haynes was quick to point out that CSU campuses as a whole are less expensive than other state colleges.

"When you look at the state fees you pay and the local fees for student health, parking, miscellaneous costs, I have to tell you that while I understand for many people it is a struggle to pay, California State University is one of the least expensive public universities in this nation by \$1500 a year," said President Haynes.

With no opportune way to change the fee increase of parking permits, students asked where they could go to be heard. President Haynes offered three ways for students to involve themselves with these campus issues.

"One, student voices to the legislatures about funding. Two, if you want more information about what's banked in parking, certainly go get it from the people in parking and the Vice Presi-

dent in Finance. Three, if there are other creative solutions let us know. We're really not trying to be malevolent people. We are trying to provide quality instruction, balance a budget and grow. The only way we get more money from the state is if we grow."

Students asked President Haynes if a possible forum with the Vice President of Finance and others responsible for the parking permit increases would be possible. While expecting a solution to arise from such a meeting is unlikely, President Haynes agreed that if students wanted more information, she could arrange a more in depth meeting.

Student, and The Pride news editor, Ben Roffee directed the conversation back to student fees and the possibility of a freeze in tuition increases.

"Our Lieutenant governor made a proposal to the Board of Trustees and the UC Regents to freeze student fees for five years and increase it in accordance with inflation. Is Cal State San Marcos prepared if that does get passed and the tuition got frozen?" Roffee asked.

"Are we prepared at this

moment? No. Would we immediately have to run scenarios? Absolutely. Would it likely mean turning away qualified students? Probably. Would it mean increasing the size of classes? Probably. Would it mean reducing some of kind of student support services? Probably," President Haynes responded.

Towards the close of the forum, ASI President Caitlin Gelrud offered another solution for students.

"There's a California State Student Association which comes together and all the issues that are brought up on each individual campus are discussed. We write up resolutions and the chair of the association presents those to the Board of Trustees meetings so all the concerns that are voiced are being heard by the chancellor and trustees," Gelrud said.

Throughout the meeting, most students' concerns were met with little to no solution. In order to fund parking, money must come from the permits. With a campus that will continue to see an increase in admissions, there are no other options. Even student petitions and frustration cannot assuage an already complex situation.

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operations locally, there is still bond issuance and borrowing still occurs in partnership with the Chancellors office and local campus.

"Yes, we have the highest park-

ing prices compared to all the CSUs," said Knoblock. "However, we are still considered a young campus and in 'building mode.'"

Knoblock also explained about 11 years ago the Chancellor's office decentralized parking programs' method of administer-

ing and allocating funds. Back then, campuses had full financial responsibility to make sure they met all parking related expenditures, including parking operations, future maintenance and repair, and capital outlay projects. Before that, she said, borrowing

money was managed by the CO's office from each campus.

She said parking fee revenue is very restricted by law, in accordance to Education Code 89701, and can only be used for the construction and maintenance of campus parking facilities.

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Homeless in San Marcos

BY JESSICA SANDOVAL
Pride Staff Writer

Students may not be aware of the growing number of homeless people that surround San Marcos. According to the Regional Task Force on the Homeless, there were a total of 12 homeless people counted in San Marcos in 2006. They were found behind Palomar College, Mission Rd, Bradley Park, San Marcos Blvd, and Town Center. Outside of the city limits in Escondido where the population is 140,766, 894 homeless people reside.

One problem that revolves around this issue is the minimal amount of homeless shelters. The Regional Task Force on the Homeless mentions that there are no homeless facilities in San Marcos. The only assistance available to these people comes from social service agencies that provide care to them.

So who exactly are the homeless? According to the National Coalition for the Homeless, out of the 3.5 million people estimated to experience homelessness, 39 percent are children. Families make up nearly 33 percent of the homeless. In 2004 the homeless population consisted of 49 percent African Americans, 35 percent Caucasians, 13 percent Hispanics, 2 percent Native Americans, and 1 percent Asians. Most people that experience homelessness are victims of domestic violence, drug addicts, people with mental illness, and war veterans.

Students interested in helping can volunteer at nearby homeless shelters like Interfaith in Escondido and Brother Bennos in Oceanside. Students can also donate money and food to these shelters. The North County Food Bank, located in San Marcos, is especially needy. The North County Times recently reported that food banks are worried about whether they will have enough food to distribute to the homeless after the holidays. This shortage was caused in part by the recent fires that devastated our county.

Cromartie, Tomlinson guide Chargers to win

BY TIM MOORE
Pride Staff Writer

The Chargers came into Sunday's game in Kansas City, fresh off of a huge 34-14 win over Baltimore at home last week.

The Chargers looked to carry that momentum into Arrowhead Stadium, where they took on the Chiefs in a heated AFC West contest.

Defense got the job done on Sunday, and thanks to a pair of interceptions by rising star, Antonio Cromartie, the Chargers got a much needed win; 24-10..

These two teams faced off on September 30, resulting in a 30-16 Chargers loss.

The Chiefs put the first points on the board on Sunday, thanks to a 38-yard John Carney field goal.

The Chargers answered back with a 25-yard Nate Kaeding field goal at the 5:25 mark in the first quarter.

Chargers quarterback, Philip Rivers showed some weakness early on, throwing an interception to Kansas City cornerback, Ty Law.

Chargers cornerback, Antonio Cromartie intercepted Kansas City quarterback, Damon Huard for 28-yards, on the following possession.

The score remained at 3-3 up until the 5:23 mark in the second quarter Huard put the Chiefs up by a touchdown on two-yard pass to Jared Allen.

Philip rivers displayed his air game, passing 38-yards to meet wide receiver,

Vincent Jackson in the end zone for an impressive touchdown that tied the game up at 10-10.

The score would remain the same going into the halftime, only for LaDainian Tomlinson pick things up in early in the third, rushing for 31-yards and a touchdown.

Tomlinson struck again, this time, early in the fourth quarter, with another long run for a touchdown. The touchdown was Tomlinson's 111th in his career, passing the legendary Walter Payton for third place on the all-time rushing touchdowns list.

Antonio Cromartie intercepted yet another pass, this time, with three minutes left in the fourth quarter. Cromartie leads the league in interceptions, with eight.

Cromartie's interception sealed the game at 24-10, but it was Tomlinson's achievements that took over the post-game interviews.

On passing Walter Payton on the all-time rushing touchdowns list, Tomlinson said "It's definitely an honor just to be mentioned in the same breath with, in my opinion, the greatest running back that has ever played the game."

The Chargers appear to be running away with first place in the AFC West with a record of 7-5. The Denver Broncos are in second place with a 5-6 record.

The Chargers go into Tennessee next Sunday to take on the 7-5 Titans at 10:00 a.m. on CBS.

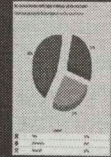
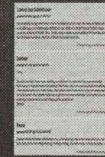
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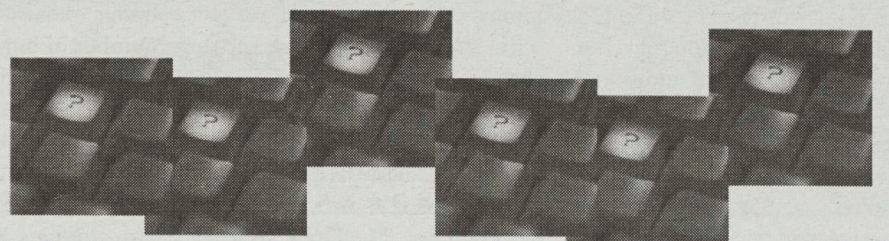
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Spread a little cheer this December, and all year

Donations accepted for many charities throughout the year

BY JACKIE CARBAJAL
Pride Staff Writer

In the spirit of the season, the phrase 'it is better to give than to receive' takes on a whole new meaning. All around the county and the rest of the nation, various organizations and charities set up fundraisers and donations to make sure everyone receives a little holiday cheer.

On campus, ASI is hosting a toy drive with the national charity foundation, Toys for Tots until Friday Dec. 7. All toys must be new and in their original packaging. Anyone with donations can drop off the toys at the ASI Business office, Recreation Center, or UVA Lobby. For more information, contact Jamie Inarda at inard001@csusm.edu.

The Southern California wildfires in October left thousands without homes for the holidays. The American Red Cross is accepting donations to help aid fire victims. For information on stations in the area, visit www.redcross.org.

The Native American Alliance for Emergency Preparedness is also looking for donations to help assist families of the eleven tribes in San Diego affected by the wildfires. In addition to damage of homes and land, the fires from the La Jolla reservation melted away the water lines, severely damaging their water source.

To offer donations through the Native American Environmental Protection Coalition, visit www.naepc.org.

The San Diego Foundation is currently seeking donations for their 'After the Fires Fund 2007' campaign. Their website offers donors the opportunity to select from which specific

mation on how to help, contact www.fatherjoesvillages.org.

Being away from loved ones during the holidays is especially tough. Operation Homefront is a non-profit organization designed to provide emergency assistance and help increase moral to United States troops and their families. Anyone interested can visit www.operationhomefront.net.

Operation Homefront also sponsors the program eCarePackage, available at www.ecare-package.org. Through the program, people can sponsor a service member and therefore send gifts and necessities to service members through a safe distributor. Sponsors can also contact their service member through the website.

All of these organizations and charities are available year round but if the urge to give strikes during this time of year, it may be best to act now. These examples are just few of the hundreds of thousands available. Local churches and schools are also great places to contact to help out families and children.

Whether its buying an inexpensive gift at Wal-Mart or picking out canned food from the pantry, no effort will go unappreciated. For those who have grown used to expecting the worst, a little bit goes a long way.



Photo illustration by Nick Strizver / The Pride

fund they would prefer to donate to. Visit www.sdfoundation.org/fire2007/ for more information.

Father Joe's Villages in San Diego is an organization that helps the homeless. People can help out by making cash donations, donate clothing, appliances, furniture, personal hygiene products and other dry goods, food donations, vehicle donations and through volunteer work. The best way for students to volunteer is by helping serve meals. For infor-

He's handsome and he's fly, he's Mr. Alpha Chi

Alpha Chi Omega puts on a pageant to raise funds to aid battered and abused San Diegans

BY JONATHAN THOMPSON
Pride Staff Writer

The 52-member Iota Tua chapter of the nationally known non-profit sorority Alpha Chi Omega will be hosting a fundraiser at CSUSM on Dec. 6 at the Clarke Field House in the Grand Salon at 6:30pm. Victims of domestic violence signify the main philanthropic cause for the sorority. The fundraiser intends to raise money for the also non-profit organization Casa De Amparo. Casa De Amparo provides shelter and treatment for abused and neglected residents of San Diego County.

Typically, the event would have been held one semester earlier. Due to administrative changes, the sorority rescheduled the event for the fall semester. The annual event should end around 9:30 p.m. The event will host a bake sale and a raffle. The raffle includes items ranging from tanning packages to X-box games. Tickets for the event are seven dollars presale and ten dollars at the door. Tickets can be purchased through any Alpha Chi Omega member.

Sorority members are planned to be in Kellogg's Library Plaza promoting the event one last time on Tuesday, Dec. 4.

"Between ticket sales, donations, and raffle ticket money we are hoping to donate a large amount. The more people that

attend, the more we can donate to Casa De Amparo," said Junior Psychology Major Anna Meldau.

The annual male beauty pageant Mr. Alpha Chi contestants compete during three rounds that are themed to reality television shows. The contestants must be male students from CSUSM and be active in an on campus organization. The eight contestants are David New (ECON Club), Jeff Stephenson (Baseball Team), Adel Wahab (USUAB), Zack Delapena (ASI), Christian Pederson (O Team), Jason Miller (Sigma Alpha Epsilon), Sean Richards (Track Team), and Francis Yambao (Zeta Beta Tau). The contestant that raises the most money for the event gains immunity from elimination.

The champion wins the crown and title of Mr. Alpha Chi 2007.

"By coming to this event you would be supporting a great cause. The [amount of] money we donate depends on the students and the community who attend the event. It is not expensive, the money goes to a good cause, and it is a good time," said Junior Business Major Khristina Cook.

All students, staff, and the general public are highly encouraged to attend the event. For the results of the pageant please visit <http://www.myspace.com/csusmaxo>.

In today's technology

Apple unveils their new cat with big claws

Attention Mac users – that rejoicing you hear is the familiar sound of sweet bliss

BY ELBERT ESGUERRA
Pride Staff Writer

The nation was graced recently when OS X v10.5 Leopard went on sale at all retailers.

Apple is determined to revolutionize the interface of their existing platform and throw it into overdrive.

This was the first major update to their existing OS in more than two years, which in Apple's lifetime is considered two years too long. OS X 10.4, or Tiger, came across as everything people wanted in an operating system with useful applications like Spotlight, Dashboard and VoiceOver.

Packed with more than 300 new and improved features over Tiger, Leopard is available at a price point starting at a modest \$129. New Macs bought after October requires an additional \$9.95 to have Leopard installed.

Minimum requirements to run the new system are 867 MHz G4 or G5 system with an Intel processor and 512 MB of RAM

with at least 9 GB of storage. A DVD reader or burner is also required.

Among the major features users will encounter almost immediately include Time Machine, which backs up files after they've been modified. It checks every hour for files that have been modified and copies them to the hard drive. That being said, it would be a good idea to think about purchasing an external hard drive as well.

Screen Sharing allows remote access to your computer and vice versa through another via iChat. Leopard utilizes progressive rendering to recreate desktops so that if you're slowed down by a long connection, the process doesn't happen pixel by pixel. This enables people to share photos or music or anything else with friends without having to share an entire hard drive.

The Finder has a glossy new facelift as well. Some features now share similarities to the UI in iTunes 7, which includes Cover Flow. The Dock sports a

nice reflective shelf for applications to reside to incorporate a stacked view of icons in both a fanned and a grid arrangement.

Even Spotlight, which first introduced on Tiger, has received a very substantial upgrade. Users can now search across multiple computers on the same network – useful for those with a laptop and desktop, or for homes and businesses in which files are randomly stored all over the place. But like any good household, why make the computer a mess?

Simply put without expanding on all 300-plus features, Leopard exceeds Apple's vision of perfection.

The expectations for it aren't as daunting unlike the arrival of Windows Vista which came under heavy scrutiny for a number of bugs and lack of software compatibility. Asking to compare the two would be like arguing over the same side of a coin.

The bottom line is that Leopard provides an elegant UI that



Image Courtesy of Apple Inc.

The Leopard introduction video now sports a starry background to complement the outer space theme of Time Machine.

makes productivity or leisure on a Mac a pleasurable experience. It is a sophisticated, well-crafted

piece of technological tool packed with many surprises that does very little to disappoint.



2007's top five websites

BY TIM MOORE
Pride Staff Writer

The web has grown quite a bit in 2007. The shift to an emphasis on user created content continued, social networks got stronger, and a new wave of websites offering unheard of capabilities have emerged.

5. Weebly.com

Weebly offers the simplest web page building functionality of just about any site on the web. It used to be that creating a free website online meant compromising design and style. Not any more. Weebly has the power to create professional looking web pages in literally just a few minutes.

4. Mogulus.com

Mogulus takes user created video to the next step, offering the capability to not only stream a live broadcast from a web cam or DV Camera, but to run an entire production studio; all out of a web browser. The ability to add titles, video clips, and other users' live webcam feed for interviewing are all features that bring the feeling of running

a live television show to the desktop.

3. Tumblr.com

Tumblr takes a user-friendly approach to the micro-blogging scene. Users are often swayed from popular blogging platforms such as WordPress.com and Blogger.com because of their complexity. Tumblr offers the tools for users to quickly and easily post their content to the web in a simple yet effective medium.

2. Splashup.com

Splashup brings all of the basic functionalities of Photoshop to the browser in a slick web app that is truly ahead of its time. Splashup utilizes the layering system which sets it apart from just about every online photo editing suite available. Splashup flawlessly syncs with Picassa, Flickr, and Facebook for easy sharing.

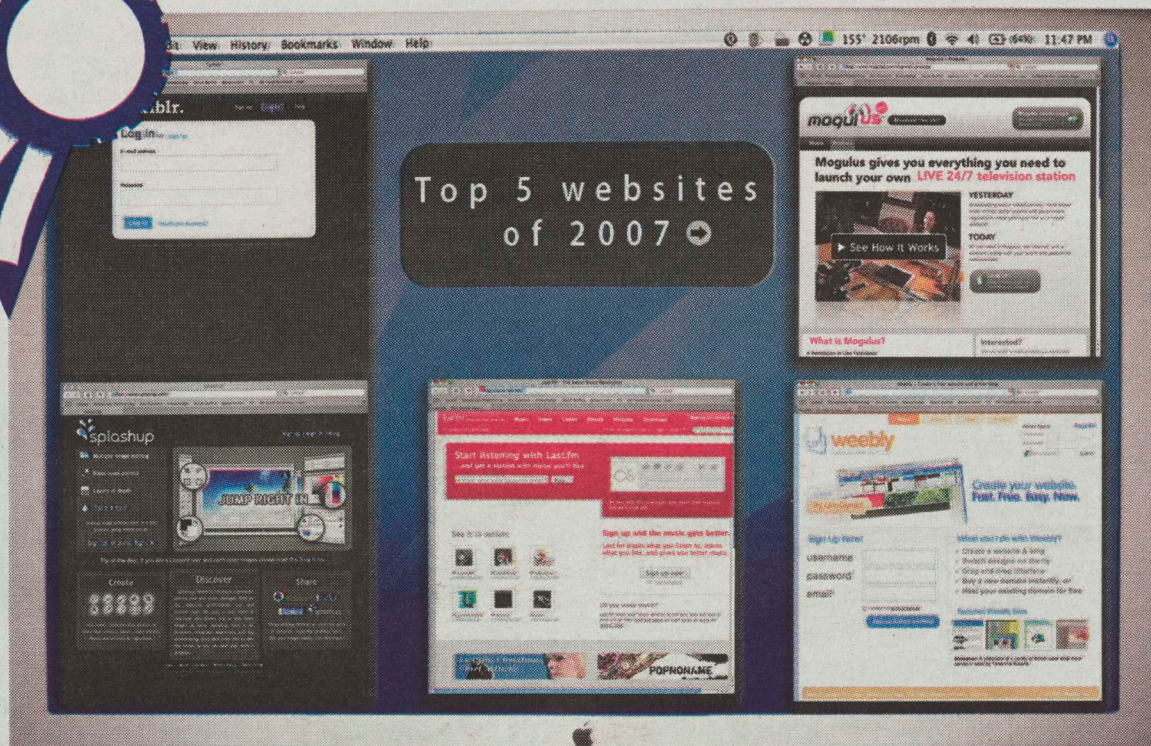
1. Last.fm

Last FM is a must-use website for music connoisseurs

everywhere. Last FM works similar to the popular, Pandora.com, but goes a step further than simply offering streaming radio. In addition to playing music, Last FM incorporates in-depth user profiles that track recently played tracks, overall top artists, and

overall top tracks. The feature that puts Last FM over the top

is its third-party integration with iTunes, allowing users to send data from tracks played on iTunes and all models of iPods to the user's profile. Last FM analyzes the music that a given user plays, and makes recommendations to similar artists accordingly.



Vespa of Oceanside inc.

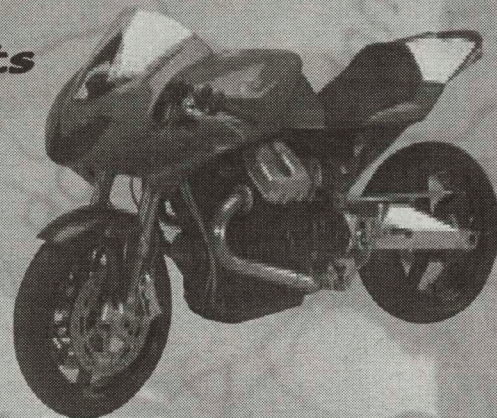
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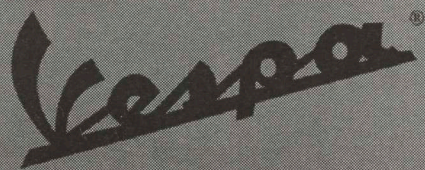
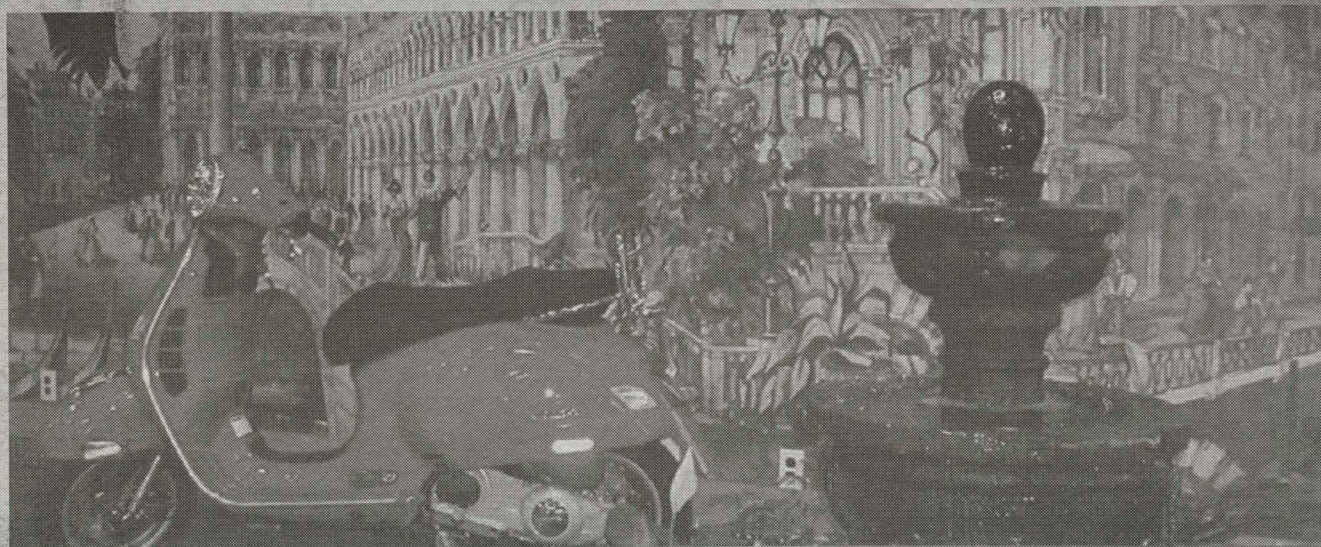
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Farewell from the editor in chief

Well it's official, after over four years on staff, I will be leaving The Pride to live life outside of Craven Hall 3500 (The Pride office) and beyond the confines of the CSUSM campus.

When I think back to how I felt when this year began, I couldn't have been more excited about having merely a year to finish up what I started back in kindergarten. Everyone says that time flies when you're having fun, but apparently time also flies when you're occupied with work, papers, exams and the many facets of earning a college degree.

With my career as a student coming to an end, also ending is my time spent being apart of an organization that, for me, has consistently been challenging, stressful as well as a whole lot of fun.

Everything from the Tuesday brainstorming bashes, the Sunday production parties, to the Monday editing extravaganzas, I can honestly say working at The Pride has in every way been a great experience for me. Although we faced many problems,

conflicts and challenges, we always seemed to find a way to overcome them.

Over the past four years, each staff I've worked with has been unique and exceptional in its own way. It's true what they say that organizations are only as good as their people, but it is especially true when an organization's staff only consists of about seven people. It takes a lot of work to produce a newspaper with limited resources, and I'm proud to have been apart of so many groups of individuals with a true passion for journalism.

I've had the pleasure of working with a lot of great people while here at The Pride, and first, I'd like to thank specifically Michael Dolan, Patrick B. Long and David Gatley for showing me how being an editor is done. I'd also like to thank each of the section editors and writers I've worked with over the past four years, for your efforts are what keep the paper's quality at a continuous progression.

The Pride would not be where it

is today without the constant support from the great individuals of the VPSA office and the College of Arts and Sciences. Bridget Blanshan, Patricia Worden, Michael McDuffie, and Dawn Formo, your efforts have kept The Pride afloat and on the path towards sustainable support, and I'm very thankful. I'd like to especially thank my colleague and friend, Patty Diaz, you're certainly The Pride's greatest unseen asset and I'm grateful to have had the opportunity to work with you.

I'd also like to thank all members of the campus community, for your efforts in helping us help you through providing us with needed information and sharing with us your opinions, ultimately supporting our drive to be a true voice of the campus. And let's not forget our readers, who have given us a reason to put the paper together each week. Without you, we'd simply be keeping our bins filled to prevent them from being blown away in the wind.

Last, but not least, I'd like to thank my staff, Nick, Ben, Viri, Toria, Tim and Tiffanie, for all of hard work this semester. We've certainly produced papers with little to work with at times, but each of you always found ways to come through. You've all made this past semester an enjoyable experience for me, and I hope that you've learned as much from me as I have from you.

I leave the paper extremely proud of the work I accomplished, knowing well that this staff I leave behind will continue to produce work beyond my expectations.

It's time for me to pass on the torch as leader of The Pride and move forward to life after college and The Pride. I've seen all the editors before me survive, so if I play my cards right, I should as well.

Good day, good year and good life. I'm out.

Jason Encabo
Editor in Chief

Church's Influence on Sports

BCS: Bull Crap System

BY DAVID CHURCH
Pride Staff Writer

Hawaii is going to the Sugar Bowl thanks to 28 unanswered points against Washington on Sat. Dec. 1. With a big performance by Colt Brennan needed to deliver in the big game.

With Hawaii's victory, Hawaii knocks last week's No. 1 Missouri out of a BCS game and my prediction of LSU losing to Tennessee failed to come true crushing my dream bowl game between Hawaii and Tennessee.

Now LSU jumps in to the BCS championship game against Ohio State with the 38-24 victory over Tennessee. A game that they were being dominated but costly turnovers gave LSU the SEC championship.

Here arises the problem with the BCS: it is a terrible system.

In a season with only one team going undefeated (Hawaii) and many other teams failing to control the No. 1 and No. 2 seeds in the BCS, it only seems right to create a playoff instead of letting a computer system pick who plays. Imagine taking the top eight teams in the nation: Ohio State, LSU, USC, Illinois, Georgia, Hawaii, Virginia Tech and Kansas playing in playoff.

Then rank the teams and you will have No. 1 Ohio State, against No. 8 Illinois, No. 2 LSU playing No. 7 Hawaii, No. 3 Virginia Tech playing No. 6 USC, and No. 4 Oklahoma playing No. 5 Georgia.

Then with the teams battling it out for the BCS championship game, you would be able to watch ratings go up for college football as meaningful games would be getting played in early December instead of the small bowl games that are being

covered on ESPN U and ESPN 2.

Then at the end of the day, you will have a clear No. 1 and No. 2 playing in the BCS championship. You will have a clear No. 3 and No. 4 playing at the Rose Bowl. And then the four teams that loss in the first round, you match them up and let them play one another in the Sugar and Fiesta Bowls.

But then again, there are still flaws to the system. Just like one can always argue that this team deserved to be in the BCS championship game instead of this team, which always becomes easier after the games are played and there is a blowout. Or this team didn't win their conference; therefore we aren't going to give them a chance at a championship.

No matter what happens, or what satisfaction comes for some schools like Hawaii who are finally going to have a chance to

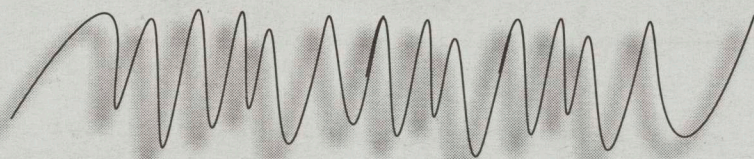
prove themselves to a competitive team that felt like they were robbed out the BCS championship game.

Now Georgia, like USC are going to have to come out firing on Jan. 1 as Georgia had a chance to make it the BCS championship game but were unable to capitalize like LSU did with a victory over No. 14 Tennessee.

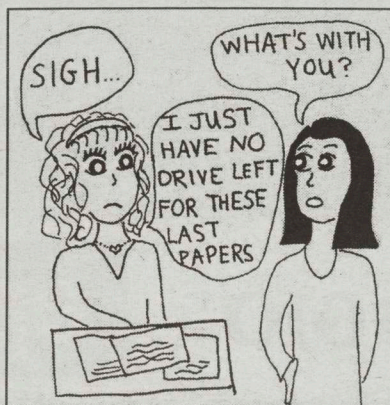
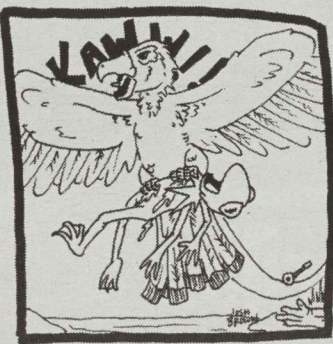
But Georgia is going to have a hard time defending one of the most efficient quarterbacks in the league. In a must win game against Washington, Brennan completed 42 of 50 passes for 442 yards and 5 touchdowns. Now with a month of rest, Brennan will be the healthiest he has been in a while and will be looking to lead the Warriors to one last victory.

Any comments or questions can be sent to churc009@csusm.edu or pride@csusm.edu.

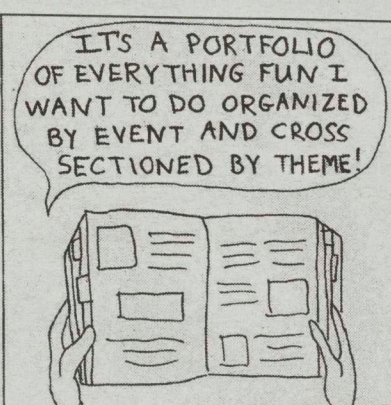
PrideComics



Kermit By Josh Brown



Just for Shiggles By Jenny Bigpond



Film Review

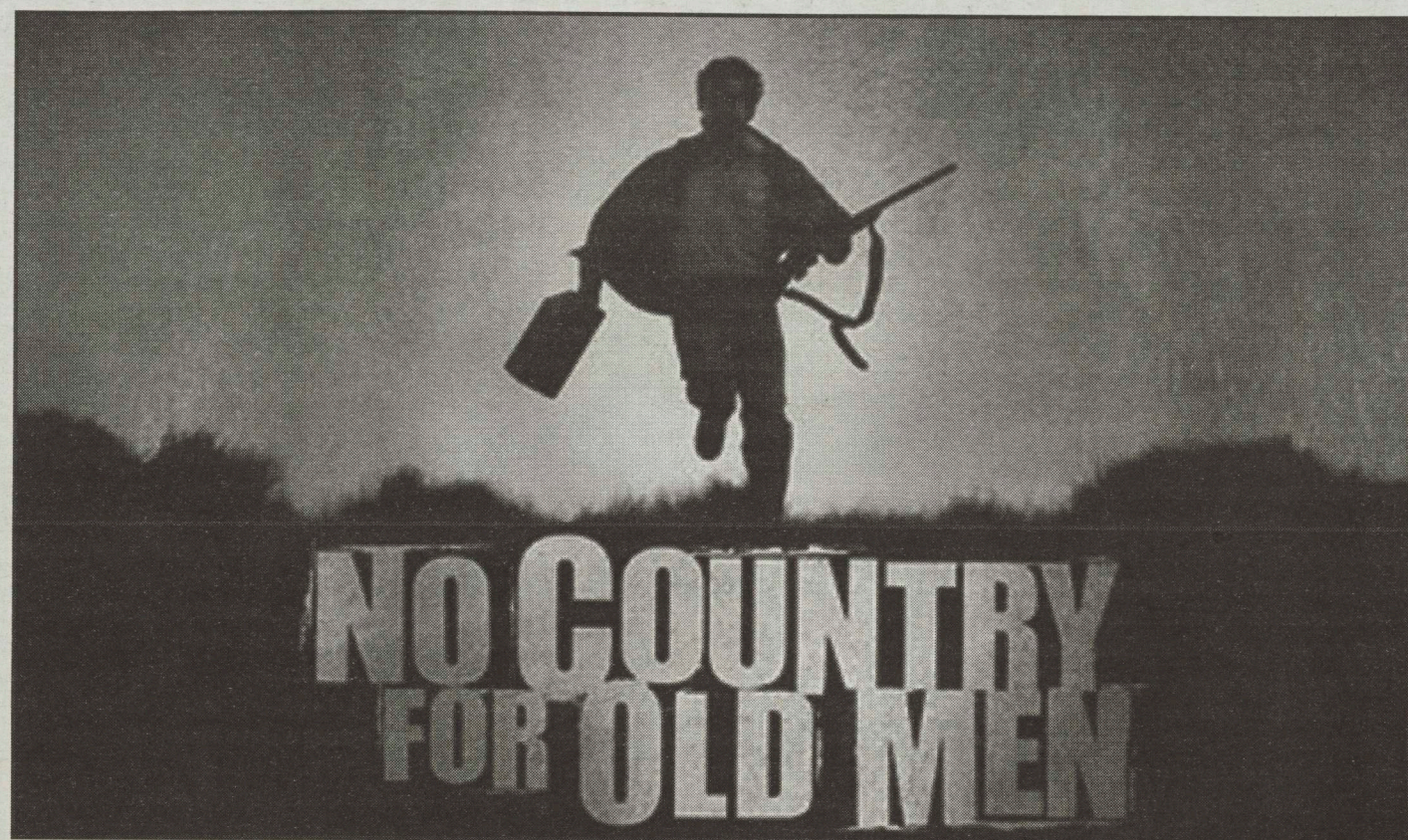
The Coen brothers can do no wrong

BY BILL RHEIN
Pride Staff Writer

With one or two exceptions, everything the Coen Brothers touch turns to gold. They alone have mastered the skill of making movies with humor and action. Each one has something familiar to each other, but they are all original and refreshing. "No Country For Old Men" is the same. This film has me laughing out loud one moment and out of my chair from tension the next. The direction and performances are doses of brilliance seen so rarely these days.

Even though this film has strong hints from their other flicks such as "Fargo" and "O Brother, Where Art Thou" it stays completely original and entertaining. The story follows many characters who become intertwined after a drug deal gone wrong in late 20th century Texas. We follow Llewellyn Moss (Josh Brolin), a country man who stumbles upon \$2 million while hunting one day. Since the cash was involved in a bloody drug traffic incident, he is in big risk. When angry Mexicans, Sheriff Ed Tom Bell (Tommy Lee Jones), and a psychotic killer named Anton Chigurh (Javier Bardem) enter the scene, the chase is on.

But where this movie soars is in the details. The cinematography and acting are brilliant. Tommy Lee Jones, who has



recently been reduced to bad comedies, is on top form. For more proof see "The Three Burials of Melquiadas Estradas", which he also directed. As well Brolin is excellent as a man on the run. But the real award for acting goes to Bardem who gives one of the best performances of a killer in

a long time. He has depth unlike so many other villains. And though he is extremely clever, he also makes mistakes, adding to the realism of the piece.

I cannot speak highly enough for this film, "No Country For Old Men", is one of the best of 2007. Already it is number

Image courtesy of Paramount Pictures
23 on the IMDB top 250 films of all time with an astounding rating of 8.9 out of ten. This film is only for those who can handle intense visuals and tension, but it so worth it. Be prepared to jump from your seat and yell "Oi!" This is one to watch over and over, so be sure to see it.

Rock Band- It goes to eleven

BY BILL RHEIN
Pride Staff Writer

After you master Dragonforce on "Guitar Hero 3", where do you go? There is not much more to do besides practice going between the green and orange buttons faster. Well, if you want a little bit more, whether it be new songs, or even a different instrument, "Rock Band" is the game for you.

You can still play guitar or bass, but this game takes it two steps further and allows you to hammer it out on drums or wow the crowd with vocals. That's right you have to sing.

This game follows very heavily in the vein of the "Guitar Hero" series. The

button structure on the stringed instruments is the same from green to orange. Plus the game is just as difficult on expert. But this one has something that sets it a little bit higher, it is simply more fun.

With the capability of having four people, all on different instruments, it naturally is more enjoyable. It is not just about who is better, but also working together to score big. When one person fails, it is up to the rest of the band to "save" them.

Playing the drums is addicting and laughs cannot be more bountiful than watching someone trying to keep up singing. The graphics may be a bit weak, but when you are playing with three other people, it feels like you are actually performing.

As for the selection of songs, they could not have done better. They took the best songs from some of the greatest bands through rock history to make this game soar.

So whether you drum, strum, or sing, anybody can enjoy the pure fun in "Rock Band". I can honestly rate this game very highly. But as you may be aware there is a big problem with this game, namely the price.

If you want to rock, you have got to pay. Those who can afford it, go for it. Otherwise, write Santa daily. This game is the perfect blend of fun, difficulty, and rock.

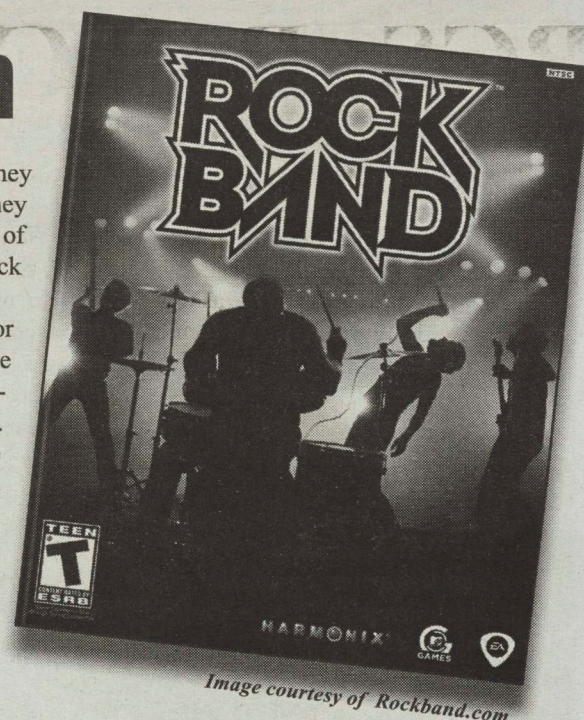


Image courtesy of Rockband.com

Only in San Diego can you ice skate by the beach

BY BREANNE CAMPOS
Pride Staff Writer

Well, the season is coming upon us, and I think every college kid knows what time it is; it is the Holiday vacation. The time to sleep in, not have to worry about test dates, and most importantly not wait in the line of a million cars just to find a parking spot in the Markstein parking lot. Most students leave when the break begins, but if some of you live or are staying in the area, I took it upon myself to conjure up some events that are happening over the seasonal break.

Holiday of Lights

Located at the Del mar Fairground. This seems pretty interesting; you ride in your car and go through the racetrack that has been decked out with lights,

music, and a Big Santa. It last for about 10-15 minutes. It is \$13.00 for a vehicle with five people, \$18.00 with six passengers or more. It goes on from today until Jan 1st, 2008, and opening at 5:30 p.m.-10:30 p.m. if you have any questions call (858) 793-5555. Really, just take some friends and split the cost would be \$5.00, including gas. It would definitely create memories.

Knott's Berry Farm

What is so awesome about this event is that it helps both you and children in need. All you have to bring is a wrapped toy with a \$10.00 or more value and you will receive free admission to the park. It is going on through the next three weekends starting with Dec. 1-2 and going on till Dec. 14-15. If you have any question, contact (714) 220-5200.

Skating by the Sea

This is a very classic event that we San Diegans are so fortunate to have this privilege of the land. This is an outdoor ice skating ring looking over the Pacific Ocean. It is located at Hotel Del Coronado and will be running till Jan. 1, 2008. It may seem a little pricy but I would definitely recommend it. The total cost for the skating fantasy is \$25.00 including your skates. They have two skating sessions that will introduce how to use your skates at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. Have any question call (619) 522-8091.

So now my fellow classmates, whether you see these events or not I just wish you all a happy holiday.

A VERY SPECIAL

DROPPING

HOLIDAY ALBUMS
For your listening pleasure

By Tim Moore / Pride Staff Writer

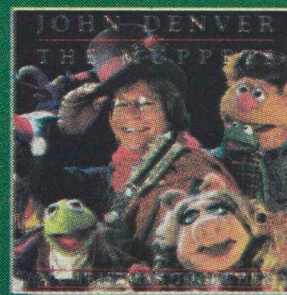


HANUKKAH ROCKS

The LeeVees
Inspired by Adam Sandler's "The Hanukkah Song," The LeeVees take an indie rock approach to the musical celebration of Hanukkah, embracing their culture, and telling some jokes on the way.

A CHRISTMAS TOGETHER

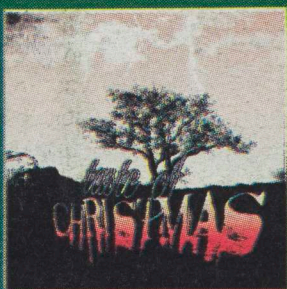
John Denver and the Muppets
If John Denver's timeless voice combined with a group of singing puppets is your thing, then A Christmas Together is the album for you. As with the five other John Denver holiday-inspired albums, this heartwarming record makes for a great fireside soundtrack.



TASTE OF CHRISTMAS

Various Artists

Adapted from the popular alternative/punk rock worldwide tour, Taste of Chaos, this Christmas album captures the edgy side of the holiday season, with songs titled Christmassacre and Alone This Holiday.



MERRY MIXMAS

Various Artists

Merry Mixmas takes some of the most famous classic holiday tunes, and revives them with fast paced, energetic remixes.

BONUS TRACK: Christmas in Hollis
RUN-D.M.C.

Off the album *Tougher Than Leather*, Rev Run, D.M.C., and Jam-Master Jay pay homage to the holidays in Hollis, Queens.

Images courtesy of amazon.com

CHRISTMAS ALE

BY JONATHAN THOMPSON
Pride Staff Writer

Anchor Brewing Company brews Christmas Ale in San Francisco, CA. The seasonal brew marks the brewery's 33rd annual winter seasonal ale. The history of ownership for the brewery dates back to the California Gold Rush. Ownership of the brewery has changed multiple hands throughout the years. Sudden deaths, the San Francisco earthquake and fire of 1906, Prohibition, and closures have plagued the brewery. However, the brewery has survived and even thrived under these circumstances.

The brewery distinguishes itself amongst other breweries by brewing steam styled beer. Steam beer exemplifies a west coast styled beer brewed under old traditions and without ice. The

during the 19th century.

The label on the dark brown glass bottle contains a picture of a tree. The brewery utilizes a different tree for each stock of the ale. A mellow eggnog cream shade dominates the label. Traces of red and green adorn the lettering on the label. The brewery protects the recipe and alcohol by volume which changes annually. The bottles are capped with a red bottle cap adorning the brewery's trademark anchor stenciled in a bold flashy gold color.

The ale pours slow and murky creating a thick brown creamy head. Spicy mint and sweet succulent eggnog aromas arise from the thick dark brown ale. The ale enters the mouth packing more punch than a high school prom. The ale continues to send surges of powerful and bold tastes to all areas of the mouth. Seconds after the exciting and energetic ale has disappeared behind the curtains, a tingling sensation lingers for several moments thereafter.

Christmas Ale seems like a delightful treat to enjoy over winter break while maxing and relaxing with family and friends. Have a happy and safe winter break. Cheers until next semester.



Photo by Jonathan Thompson / The Pride

Top 5

Non-Christmas movies to watch on Christmas

BY BILL RHEIN
Pride Staff Writer

So, after you've worn out your copies of "Home Alone" and "It's A Wonderful Life" what do you watch next? If you want so celluloid entertainment these holidays, but are tired of re-watching "Elf" and "Christmas Vacation", then here's the list for you

5.) "The Wizard of Oz"- This one is classic, if you have not seen this movie yet, it is about time. Sure you can watch this anytime of year, but this is a great movie to watch with the family. Both children and adults can enjoy this magical film about leaving Kansas and following the yellow brick road.

4.) The "Harry Potter" films- With magic galore and the fifth one coming out to DVD soon, these are excellent viewing over the break. Even if you have already seen them, these are always worth watching again. The mischief and wizardry make for an entertaining time. Despite which one is your favorite, the whole family can enjoy these amusing flicks.

3.) "The Lord of the Rings"- With all that time off this is perfect film to get caught up in. The decade is not even over, but this trilogy is bound to be in the top ten movies of the twenty hundreds. For real fun, make a weekend of it and do one a night at a time. But if you are really bold, watch all three in a single day. Just be sure in following the journey of the Ring that you get the extended cuts. They may be twice as long, but they are so worth it.

2.) "Toy Story"- Disney and Pixar combined, and the rest was history. Since then they have put out some great films, and this is a great one to watch with the whole family. The humor works well with adults, and kids enjoy the memorable story of toys coming to life. All these animated films work great, from "The Incredibles" to "Monsters, Inc." The holidays are about families, and there is no better way to enjoy your time like watching a great movie with them.

1.) "Die Hard"- Though it is set at Christmas, this is not really about Christmas. But when you have the themes of getting the family together and taking out the terrorists that have kidnap it makes for a great movie. "Die Hard" has great action that sets the benchmark in this genre. Nothing is more exciting or fun to watch over winter break. As for the sequels, the second and third are okay, but stay away from the fourth.

Hope you enjoy these, have an enjoyable Christmas, Hanukkah or Kwanza!