

Breaking the Spring Break tradition

BY JONATHAN THOMPSON
Pride Staff Writer

Spring Break 2007 will mark the fourth year for ASI's Alternative Spring Break program.

Domanic Thomas, the ASI coordinator for campus recreation and Sara Gallegos, the ASI coordinator of student activities, and seven CSUSM students will be traveling to New Orleans during the upcoming Spring Break to assist with the destruction created by Hurricane Katrina.

Hurricane Katrina formed in late August during the 2005 Atlantic Hurricane Season. Katrina mainly affected the Gulf Coast states of Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi; the hurricane also created an estimated damage of \$81.2 billion and took the lives of 1,836 people. Controversy started after people became enraged at federal, state, and local governments' reactions to the aftermath of the hurricane. Kanye West responded on a news program with "George Bush does not care about black people." The former director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Michael Brown, resigned shortly thereafter, stating it was for "The best interest of the agency and best interest of the president."

Over one year has passed, and yet the damage inflicted by the hurricane has not fully been repaired.

Gallegos said, "This year we will be taking a group of seven students to New Orleans to work with Habitat for Humanity Collegiate Challenge. This is a week

See **SPRING BREAK**, page 2

Keeping the Promise



Photo by David Gatley / The Pride

The AIDS memorial quilt is made up of more than 40,000 panels in commemoration for those with AIDS. Professor Gilbert Valdez worked with the North County AIDS Coalition to bring the panel (above) to CSUSM. The panel is currently on display on the fifth floor of Kellogg Library.

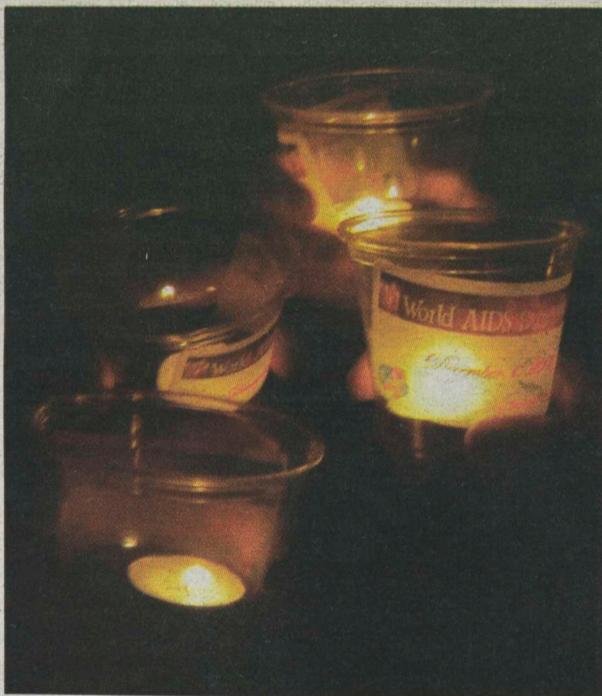


Photo by Kelly Corrigan / The Pride

Established in 1988 by the World Health Organization, World AIDS Day serves to acknowledge the devastating impact of AIDS around the world. On December 1st, CSUSM students and members of the community participated in a candlelight vigil where participants walked from Chavez Circle to Library Plaza where they listened to speakers whose own lives have been impacted by AIDS.

ASIST mentors lend a hand to first generation college students

BY PAMELA CASTILLO
Pride Staff Writer

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, "first-generation college students run the highest risk of dropping out of college." Luckily though, there is group at CSUSM named ASIST comprised of first-generation college students and alumni that aims at changing that statistic. Founders of ASIST formed the group to help first-generation students achieve their aspirations of attending college. Historically, high school students who do not have at least one parent with a higher education are faced with much greater difficulties when trying to make the transition from high school to the university.

ASIST is a community service group that began five years ago from a simple conversation between several first generation students discussing their own difficulties with the educational system. ASIST reaches out to local high school students as mentors. It works as a big brother and big sister program that specifically helps high school students make the transition to college.

The mentors of this group lend a helping hand to local high school students by making themselves available to answer any questions about college. Simultaneously, they attempt to gain the support of the student's family. The mentors share their own struggles with their college experience as they make the idea of transferring to college a less intimidating one and transform it into the idea that college is an experience of a lifetime.

Irais Sandoval, a Liberal Studies Major and historian for the

See **MENTORS**, page 3

Nursing Program welcomes new spring students

BY KELLY CORRIGAN
Pride Staff Writer

On Dec. 1, at the second School of Nursing student orientation in CSUSM's history, 43 future nurses gathered in the new Villa Pomerado Health Center. Program Director Judy Papenhause, and Registered Nurse JoAnn

Daugherty along with nursing advisor Laurie Lindeneau were among many who welcomed the 43 students who make up the Spring 2007 nursing cohort. Less than 50 students have gone before them.

By the means of providing care, coordinating care, teaching, and advocating, the nursing

program stresses the traditional concepts of nursing, including health, person and environment.

Since the program's initial beginning, CSUSM has thus far achieved a goal they will continually strive to accomplish. The program's goal is to recruit a student population which is representative of the ethnic and cul-

tural diversity in the local community and to prepare students to serve the nursing needs of our culturally diverse society.

During the orientation, Daugherty informed students on clinical lab requirements such as course prerequisites, heather blue scrubs, student drug screens, and nursing identification tags.

She also encouraged students to join the CSUSM chapter of the National Student Nurses' Association.

All nursing students are required to take an introductory course where their professors will place a strong emphasis on how

See **NURSING**, page 2

Happy holidays from The Pride *Good luck on your finals*
There will be no Pride until Jan. 23, 2007

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The Pride is published weekly on Tuesdays during the academic year. Distribution includes all of CSUSM campus, local eateries and other San Marcos community establishments.

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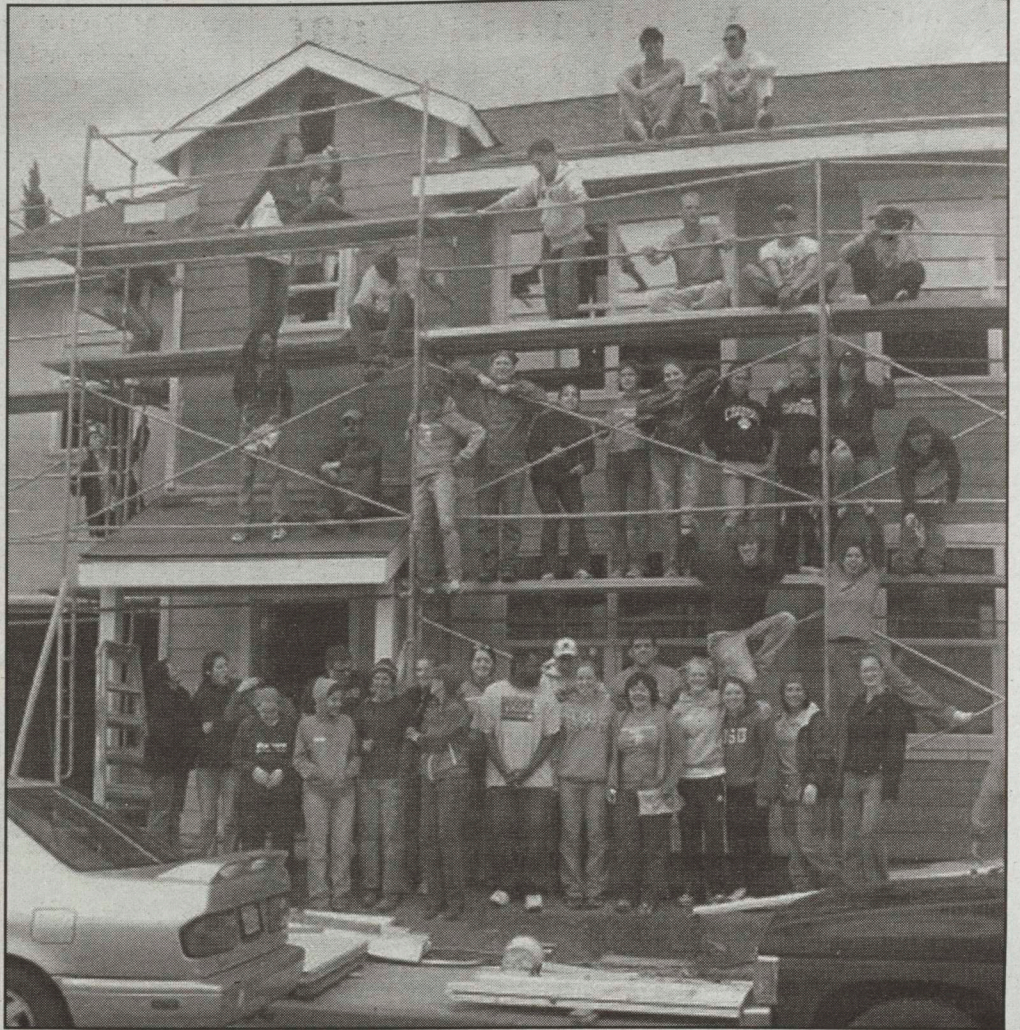
From **SPRING BREAK**, page 1

of service and also a substance-free week, meaning no alcohol or drugs; hence the 'alternative.'

Habitat for Humanity states seven reasons why students should participate in the Collegiate Challenge. The seven reasons are: to improve leadership skills, develop and strengthen friendships, see the impact the work is having on communities, learn more about poverty housing issues and how one can help, visit new areas of the country, affect a global cause by advocating on behalf of poverty housing issues, and help provide a simple, decent, affordable place to live for people in need.

"We will be staying at Camp Hope," said Gallegos, "which is the volunteer camp. There will be other volunteer groups from around the country there the same time we will be there so it will be a great opportunity for our students to interact with others that share a common goal. Also we won't just be working the whole time; we plan fun activities for the evenings so that the students have a well-rounded trip," she explained.

Students who wish to participate in ASI's Alternative Spring Break must fill out an application. The application consists of required basic information, a community service resume, and a two-page essay of intent. The application can be found on the ASI website and must be completed by January 15, 2007. Applications can be emailed to dthomas@csusm.edu or dropped off at ASI at Commons 207. A \$50 deposit must be given to ASI by January 29, 2007. A remaining balance of \$200 must be given to ASI by March 9, 2007. "The remaining costs of the trip, food, travel, lodging, will all be covered by ASI," said Thomas.



Photos courtesy of ASI

CSUSM students and ASI members at the house they helped build in New Orleans last spring after Hurricane Katrina devastated the region.

"This is a great opportunity, probably once in a lifetime," said Gallegos. "Even if a student does not apply for this particular project, they should try to get involved with the community. It is a great way to give back to

those who are less fortunate. Also it perpetuates one of the University's Values of Community."

For more information please visit: <http://www.csusm.edu/asi/>

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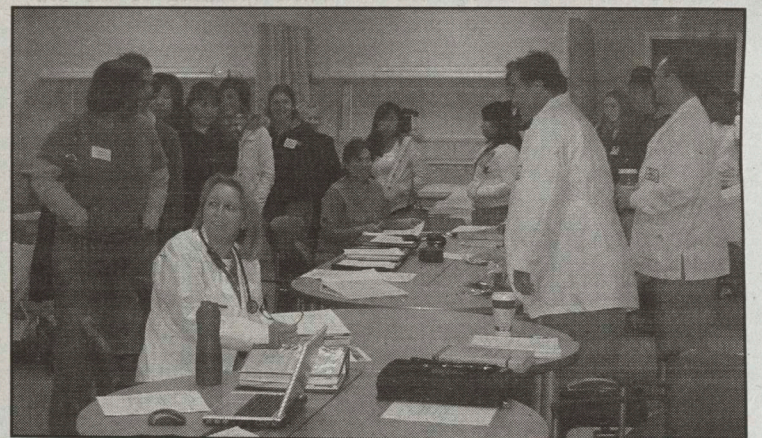
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From **NURSING**, page 1



On their first tour of the Pomerado Health Center, newly admitted nursing students are greeted by nurses as they see where they will undergo nursing training this spring

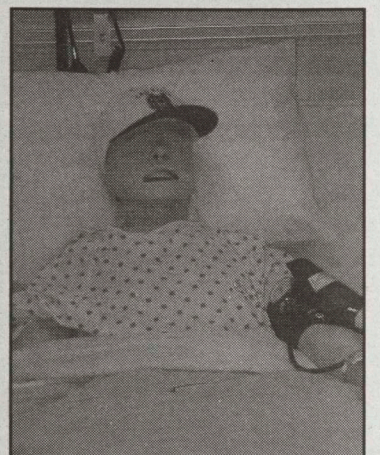
to change dressings on patients who have undergone surgery along with how to properly wash hands and what the importance of the skin is to the body.

Many students are anxious but eager to begin working in the labs of the new Pomerado facility.

Freshman Abigail Pangilinan is nervous about making the transition from classroom discussions to the hands-on clinical work she will do in the labs. "It's kind of intimidating. You actually have to know everything."

During the orientation, Dr. Papenhausen gave a tour to the newly admitted students. The students toured the patient rooms, the computer lab and the lunch room. Dr. Papenhausen said, "It's really exciting to see it from the beginning and to have another 43 students this spring with a wonderful facility."

Sophomore Randy Reyes admitted he was nervous but equally excited. Reyes said, "With all the new stuff it's a pretty nice facility."



Photos by Kelly Corrigan / The Pride

A mannequin in a patient room of the Pomerado Health Center where nursing students will learn new skills.

Senior Sharrise Germain transferred from SDSU to CSUSM specifically for the nursing program. Germain was thrilled when she learned she was admitted into the program and has been readily awaiting the spring semester since then. "Now that I got accepted, the orientation is making me feel like it's finally here."

Students weigh in on what they want the CSUSM Alumni Association to be

BY KELLY CORRIGAN
Pride Staff Writer

As an assignment for their Group Communications course, five CSUSM students created an alumni-student survey this semester. They asked freshmen students in GE Oral Communication classes about the CSUSM Alumni Association; 50 freshmen completed the survey. Group members Michael Wu, Sandi Fouts, Misty Sharkey, Kristen Boggs and Amanda Perez worked together on the project from the Communications 310 class.

Out of 42 students who answered the question of whether they would be interested in a student alumni association, 30 of them marked 'yes.'

When asked why they would be interested in the association, most replied that they would like to be a part of social activities or campus events.

Out of 48 students, 36 of them didn't know what an Alumni Association was, but 31 of them marked 'yes' when asked if staying connected after they graduated was important to them.

As an alum, most surveyed believed that reconnecting with former classmates and professors was important, more important than receiving special discounts and services. Interim Director of Alumni and Parent Relations, James Richardson, and the Alumni Association are working together to increase the ties between Alumni and students. "With respect to the students who said he/she did not know what an alumni association is, but who said staying connected to CSUSM after graduation is important, this is consistent with the history of CSUSM which is built on relationships at the degree program level. The challenge is to make the alumni association an additional interface between the campus and alumni after leaving the university. Before that, however, the alumni association will be taking steps to increase its presence on campus and is being encouraged to make visible 'investments' in the lives of the students. For example, last spring the association funded new banners for a number of student organizations. Each spring it participates in Grad Fest. It has for several years awarded scholarships as well."

All group members were initially surprised by the results of the survey. Wu said, "I was quite surprised to see the number of responses from the survey. I thought more students would reply since there were 600 GEO students. But Jim [Richardson] and the rest of my group took this experience as a stepping stone to further improve upon the survey and the number of future responses. I hope that

Jim will be able to take this experience and implement it in the future with greater response."

Having transferred to CSUSM from the University of Utah, Fouts said, "To form and maintain a stronger bond between alumni and CSUSM students, the administration needs to find a way to connect the students to this school, through athletic programs or campus clubs and student-faculty relationships - i.e. mentoring, etc."

Group member Perez said, "What I think the school can do to bridge the gap between alumni and CSUSM students is to offer information to students who are transferring as well as entering freshman, so that way we don't have to go out and find information, because we really don't know what this school has to offer to us. The university hour is a great way to set up a booth and advertise to students as well. If the school is excited on what they have to offer then the students will be too."

All group members find that University Hour is an ideal time for clubs and organizations to use in order to make themselves known on campus by making connections with students.

When speaking of the students who do not plan on graduating from CSUSM, Perez believes that the Alumni Foundation should ask what the students want. Perez added, "Getting the students involved with what the school has to offer will keep them here because they are connected and feel like they should belong and they want to belong so they stay here building our school from within. The school should get into the habit in asking what the students want, because after all, we come here so why not make it a place where we want to be, this is the idea of what we had in mind in doing this survey to get the students involved in making this an environment where they would like to be, even after they leave." Group member Sharkey transferred to CSUSM from a school in Oklahoma that had an impressive, yet older Alumni Association. Sharkey said, "I don't feel a connection. I don't know if I'll get that here."

Richardson added, "The Office of Alumni and Parent Relations, in University Advancement, will be the coordinator for commencement beginning with the 2007 spring graduation. This will allow the Alumni Association to encourage graduating students to consider the benefits, networking particularly, of active participation as alumni. Additionally, there are steps underway to link alumni to recruitment and admissions efforts and to increase the number of alumni who return to campus as mentors, speakers, prospective employers, etc."

From MENTORS, page 1
group, explained, "As a future teacher, I believe that obtaining an education is extremely important. However, due to economic instability or lack of support, many students are not able to acquire a proper education. Fortunately, through ASIST I have found a way to help individuals who are lacking such support and who deserve the opportunity to become educated."

Research shows that first generation students are more likely to prolong the time between high school and college, or to attend college part time, putting them at a higher risk for not completing a degree, or lastly, not attending college at all. The National Center for Education Statistics conducted research in correlation with the U.S. Department of Education. According to the report, "First-generation students were less likely than other students to attend college within 8 years after high school. Roughly four in 10 (43 percent) first-generation students who entered post-secondary education during this period left without a degree by 2000, while 24 percent had graduated with a bachelor's degree. The opposite pattern was observed for students whose parents were college graduates: a large majority (68 percent) had completed a bachelor's degree, while 20 percent left without a degree."

High school students who are the first in their family to attend college are faced with all kinds of questions from how to apply, where to go, what major to choose



Photo courtesy of ASIST

ASIST advisor Bill De La Fuente stands with mentors on the Chavez stairs during their retreat last spring.

and financial aid opportunities. Many times these high school students are already working full time, balancing school, work, home and a social life.

According to the National Center for Education, "Choosing an undergraduate major appeared to pose a greater challenge for first-generation students than for others. One-in-three first-generation students (33 percent) had not identified a major after entering post secondary education, compared with 13 percent of students whose parents had a bachelor or advanced degree."

With programs on campus such as ASIST, first-generation college

students will now have the ability to gain the support that they need to reach their goals, and to defy the statistics. As is the case with many student organizations, the students of CSUSM aspire to be active in community service. For this group of students, that means making the choice to continue the cycle of education by reaching out to fellow students and returning the valued support that they have received in their college experiences.

For more information about ASIST or possibly becoming a mentor, email Secretary Gricelda Alva at alva043@csusm.edu.

POLICE BEAT

Grand Theft Auto

On November 21, sometime between 11:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. a vehicle was stolen from UVA parking lot N. The 2004 Black Toyota Tacoma was recovered in Escondido the next day. The keys to the car were taken from Arts 111 sometime after 11:30 a.m. Due to circumstances, Campus Police are still looking for the person who stole it. If anyone saw any suspicious occurrence take place in Arts 111 at this time, please contact the campus police. To leave an anonymous tip, dial extension #8477.

Traffic Accident

On November 28, at 2:30 p.m. three cars going North on Campus View Drive toward Barham were involved in a speed primary collision accident. A Beetle collided into a Toyota Corolla then a Ford Expedition collided into the Beetle. There were no injuries but the Toyota Corolla and Beetle were both towed from the scene.

Any information on any of the ongoing investigations should be reported to Campus Police at 760-750-4567 or my emailing Lt. Miller at dmiller@csusm.edu

Cougar Words SS

"HOLIDAY FUN"

ACROSS

- 1 Milk based beverage for the holidays
- 5 Christian holiday
- 7 Poisonous holiday plant
- 9 Santa's musical instruments, usually adorning a sleigh
- 10 Jewish top of sorts
- 12 Drink of choice for the new years
- 14 Warm place to snuggle with your holiday loved ones
- 15 The French word for Christmas
- 17 Snowboard's arch enemy
- 20 Seven branched candle used in Hanukkah
- 22 Apples perfect stocking stuffer
- 25 "With a corncob pipe and a button nose And two eyes made out of coal..."
- 27 Arguably, "the point" of the holiday season
- 31 Mini-marshmallows hot tub or sorts
- 32 Metal Christmas Tree decoration
- 33 "widgets" to santas production shop

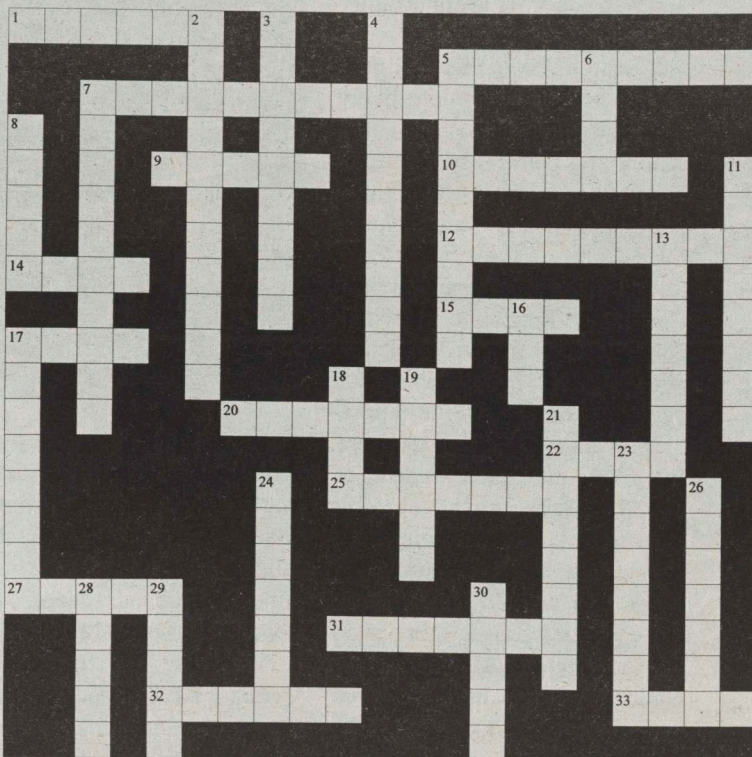
DOWN

- 2 people-shaped cookies
- 3 If you want some holiday action, hang out underneath this plant
- 4 Tchaikovsky's Famous Ballet
- 5 Edible Ornaments
- 6 Tobogan of death for children of all ages

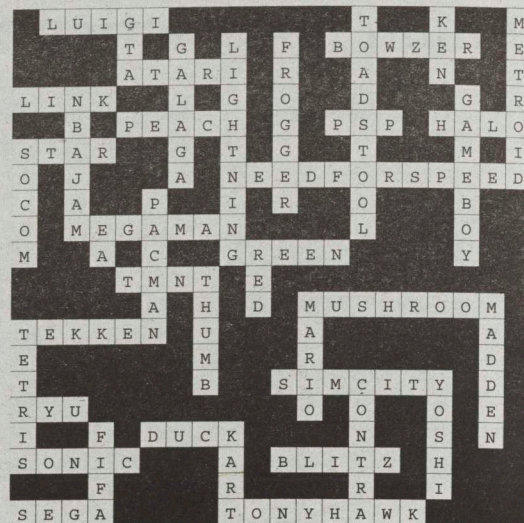
- 7 20 down's added flavor
- 8 Winter wardrobe addition for your neck
- 11 Boxes of joy under the Christmas Tree
- 13 Popular green decoration for the Holidays
- 16 Santa's little

- helpers
- 17 Coals' home for "naughty" children
- 18 A wrapped presents compliment
- 19 Christmas songs for the singing
- 21 Sweet Holiday Spice
- 23 Earrings of sorts for the Christmas Tree
- 24 Wear these to keep

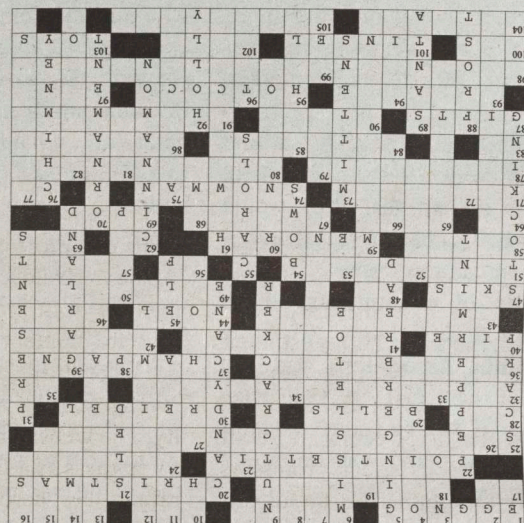
- hands warm and toasty
- 26 Santa's "front door"
- 28 Jack _____ nipping at your nose
- 29 Jolly old fat man
- 30 Pointy leafed, green and red holiday plant



Last weeks key:



This weeks key:

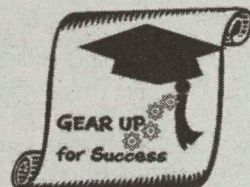
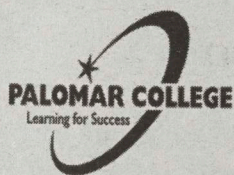


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Farewell from David Bauer: Features Editor and man of mystery

BY DAVID BAUER
Features Editor

The first time I saw The Pride newspaper was my second semester at CSU San Marcos. It was the first issue of the semester, and my first thought was that I didn't like it. That afternoon I went to the journalism class for the newspaper, found out who the editors were, asked for an article assignment and I've been writing for The Pride every week since. This article will be my last one though; this is our last issue for the semester and I graduate in a few weeks. Before I go though, I'd like to give

you the reader some advice: before you graduate, write something for The Pride.

Many times, when I've suggested that someone write an article for the paper, they complain that they can't because they "don't have time," or that "writing is too hard." To them, I say that writing for the paper is as hard and takes as much or little time as you want it to.

This semester we have writers that are enrolled in the journalism class for the newspaper, attend class every week, and write several articles every week. On the other hand, we have freelance

writers who are not in the class and have only written a single article during the entire semester. Both groups make valuable contributions to the paper and both are appreciated and get something out of the experience. Experience writing for the paper is surprisingly effective in getting attention on your résumé from potential employers, and if you'd like, if you invest enough time in the paper you can get class or internship credit. Newspaper writing is also surprisingly easy. The Pride has excellent Editors and Copy Editors who can help with picking a topic, writing the article

and will polish it for you before it gets published to make sure it looks great.

Writing for The Pride is also fun. Personally, I don't have any particular love for writing just for writing's sake. But I enjoy writing for the newspaper because it's always an open ended assignment. No matter what the subject, what ever you're interested in can potentially be made into a newspaper article. Whether you want to do investigative journalism and expose corruption of local politicians, or write about a concert you enjoyed, or just write an opinion piece about the excessive number

of steps on campus, you can do it.

Some students say that they won't write for The Pride, because they "don't like it"; to them I say that is the best reason to write for the newspaper of all. The Pride newspaper is a student newspaper. If you don't like it, if you think it's bad, you can write an article and make it better. When I read that first issue of The Pride a year ago, I didn't like it either. Hopefully through my work as a writer and as an editor, I've helped to make it a better paper in some way. If not, you can do it for me—write something better than I ever could. That's my advice to you.

Website of the Week Ratemyprofessor.com

BY JONATHAN THOMPSON
Pride Staff Writer

Last month most CSUSM students began creating their schedules for next spring semester. Students mainly chose classes because they fulfill a requirement. Some students chose classes that fit neatly into a condensed schedule. Other students chose classes merely because they are interesting; and yet, other students chose classes because they like certain professors. Behind every CRN lies a professor. CSUSM has numerous great professors, as well as numerous awful professors.

One way to distinguish the great professors from the not as great professors is to visit Rate-MyProfessors.com. The website allows students to anonymously rate their professors. The ratings are then compiled and are available to all registered users. Students can search by either school name or a professor's name.

The website contains six ratings for each professor. The ratings are, number of ratings, average helpfulness, average easiness, average clarity, and overall quality. The website has a sixth rating for hotness as a fun category. The ratings are derived from a one to five scale. The website also

allows students to add a comment after each rating to create a more in depth review.

Currently the website has over 6,200,000 reviews, more than 770,000 rated professors, and over 6,000 schools listed. The website was created in 1999. "Every semester, millions of students use the site to help plan their class schedules, and improve the quality of their educations," says the site's president and founder, John Swapceinski.

The website also has a general discussion forum and a list of the top 20 funniest comments about professors. The current funniest comment is: "You can't cheat in

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Image courtesy of ratemyprofessor.com

her class because no one knows the answers."

Use the website with caution as some ratings and comments are not fair minded. Some of the ratings and comments can be from disgruntled students who put forth no effort and were ironi-

cally outraged when they failed the class. Instead of taking personal responsibility for their actions they post inaccurate ratings and pitiful comments about their professors.

Symposium for Global Studies

BY AMANDA RUTHERFORD
Pride Staff Writer

A Global Studies symposium took place on Tuesday and Wednesday, November 28th and 29th, to promote campus awareness of the importance of global affairs and to get students aware of the Global Studies Program. This was the second symposium that the Global Studies Program has sponsored in two years. Eight students participated in the symposium by giving their views on certain topics dealing with the Global Studies minor. Next semester Dr. Kim Quinney, Dr. Vicki Golich and Dr. Scott Greenwood will be teaching the new class that the symposium was also advertising.

Professor Greenwood was kind enough to tell us more about this soon-to-be major and newly updated minor. "The Global Studies minor began Fall of 2005 and was revised in Fall 2006 to include new interdisciplinary core course for the minor and future major: GBST 300. The title of Global Studies 300 is 'Global Economics, Politics, and Society, and will be offered spring 2007.' The team-teaching tactic for next semester is to help students learn about the process of globalization from a variety of perspectives. The new class will "analyze globalization as a historical process and explore how it is shaping human cultures, economics, and politics." For the students who are going to minor in Global Studies, this GBST 300 course is required and is also required for the Global studies majors. "The Global Studies major is projected to begin in Fall

2008," Dr. Greenwood explained.

The first day of the symposium took place in UNIV 443 and four students participated in the Individual Paper Panel. Those students and their topics were: Robert Carrier, "Religion as a Coping Mechanism for Female Workers in Mexico"; Martin Gala, "United States Foreign Policy and Nuclear Strategy: The Impact of 9/11"; Sandra Gotlaufa, "Why Do Citizens of West European Countries Vote For Extreme Right-Wing Parties?"; and Amanda Hanson with "The United States and Sweden: A comparative Study of Health Care Systems." The Best Paper Award was won by Ms. Sandra Gotlaufa who has a major in Political Science and a minor in Global Studies.

The second day was made up of four students discussing the 2006 war between Israel and Hezbollah, the students of which are in currently enrolled in PSCI 364B Arab-Israel Conflict: 1948 to the present. These perspectives were given in ARTS 240 by Rawan Ayyash with the view from Israel, John Brohamer with the Iranian Perspective, Amanda Hanson with the Hezbollah angle, and Jonathan Hunter with the perspective of the Bush Administration.

Approximately 60 students and faculty showed up to the Global Studies Symposium. Just like this year, next year's symposium will be to promote interest in Global Studies, its classes, the major and minor, and to let students share their own research with the campus community. For those who would like to attend this event next time, the next symposium will take place in the 2007-2008 school year.



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Oral presentations: Friday, March 2, 2007

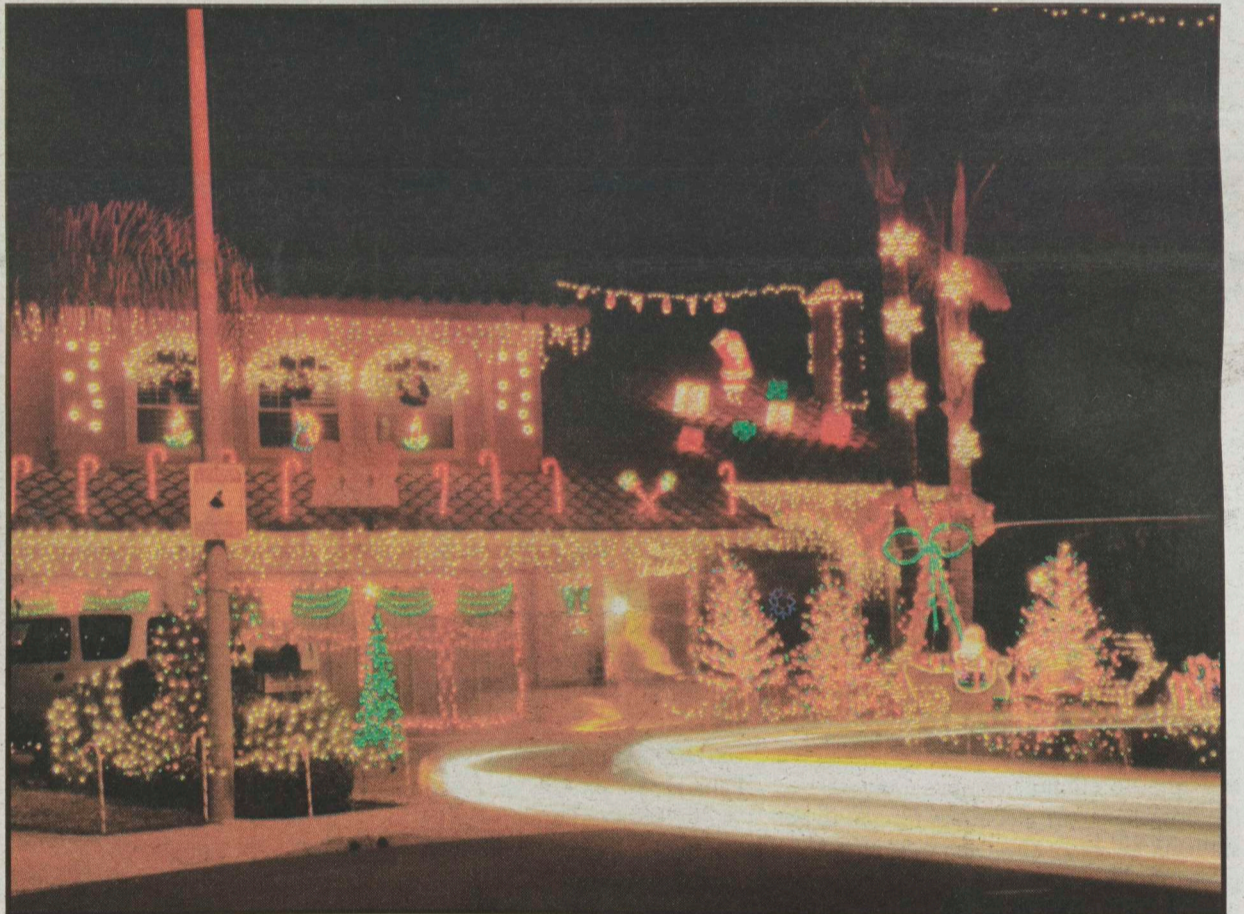
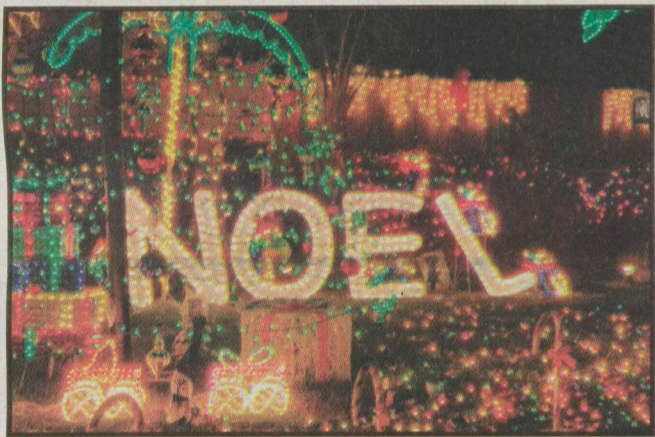
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DECEMBER 5 - 18

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Thurs
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Human Development Research Conference (9-2:15pm Founders Plaza)	Academic Senate Meeting, 12:30 to 2:30 p.m., Commons 206. In Search of Quality lecture by Dr. Menton, (12-1pm Arts 240) "Relaxation & Stress Management," 12/6 12-1pm CFH 110)	Annual Employee Service Awards (3:30-5pm CFH Grand Salon) Human Anatomy & Physiology Club Study (12pm- 2:30pm UH 441)	Last day of classes! The Space Between: End of Semester Projects. (6-9 pm Arts 3rd floor) Student Tutors to be Honored (12:30-2pm CFH Grand Salon)	First Day of Final Examinations! 94.9 presents Modest Mouse, the Shins, Pete Yorn, Silverspun Pups (6:30pm RIMAC Arena UCSD \$32.50)	Final examinations Bayou Brothers Cajun, zydeco and other Louisiana styles music (2pm Schulman Auditorium Carlsbad City Library)	Final examinations Palomar Jazz Ensemble Featuring Mike Wofford; (8pm Dec. 11 Howard Brubeck Theatre, Palomar College \$12)
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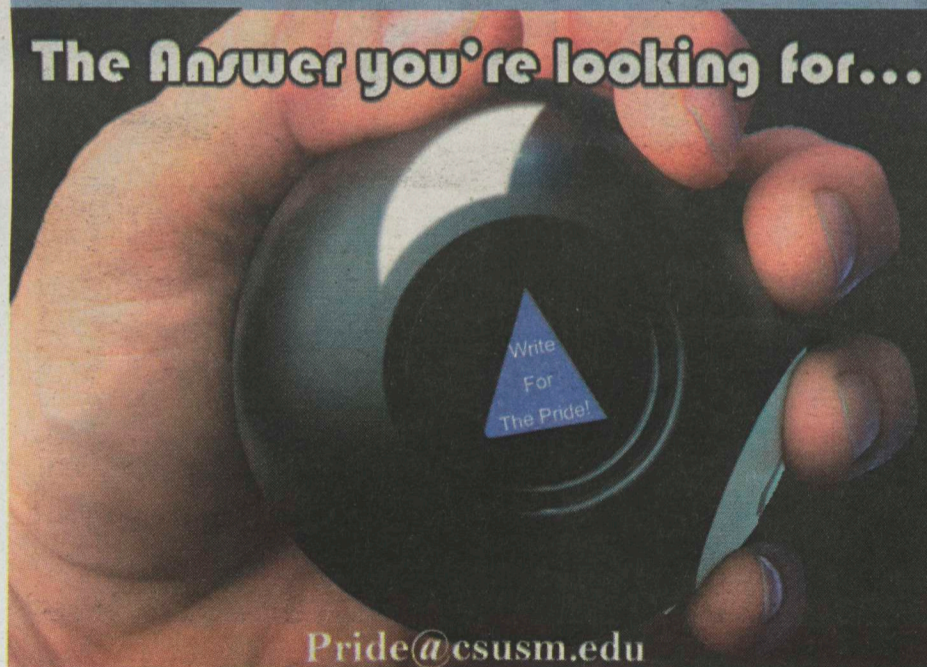
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Final examinations Final Day of the San Diego Regional Law Enforcement Teddy Bear Drive	Final examinations Flutist Wout Wynants: works by French composers (7pm Carmel Valley Library)	Final examinations Campus Holiday Reception (3-4:30pm CFH Grand Salon)	Final examinations Last day of "Veterans: Photographs by Waldo Nilo," exhibit (8am-5pm Library)	First Day of Winter Break! 	Winter Break! Devotchka (9pm Belly Up Tavern, \$14-\$16) The Vandals (8pm House of Blues San Diego \$15)	Winter Break! 
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Jock Talk With Josh: Pro Boxer promotes CSUSM rather than 'selling out'

BY JOSH SANDOVAL
Pride Sports Writer



We live in a world where anything can be sold for the right price; especially in the wonderful world of sports. It is sad that it has got to the point where the Chicago White Sox Major League Baseball team is starting its home games at 7:11PM, rather than the usual 7:05PM or 7:10PM, because the team sold their start

time to the 7-Eleven franchise.

That's why my I was stunned when I was notified that boxer Manny Pacquiao was spotted wearing a sky blue CSUSM sweatshirt during press conferences after his victory over Erik Morales on November 18.

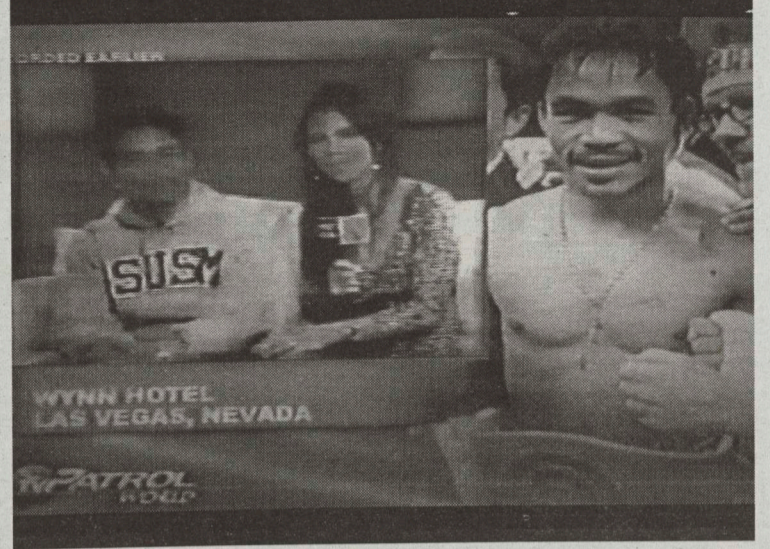
When any athlete knows cameras will be in the area, the athlete will generally pimp themselves out. It's pretty much written into the ten commandments of sports. That is why racecar drivers only drink certain beverages and grab their sponsor's hat when they step out of their vehicles. That is why

many athletes will only do interviews if they are allowed to promote their sponsors.

It's really impressive and heartwarming that a boxer the caliber of Manny Pacquiao was promoting education across his chest rather than the newest casino or the latest feature film.

The sweatshirt was given to Pacquiao as a gift from a CSUSM student, and was seen on television across the world. I personally don't know Pacquiao but the fact that he would rather promote education than some cereal really shows me a lot about what kind of person he is.

The accompanying pictures were taken from "TV Patrol" on the Filipino channel. The woman sitting next to him is Diane Castillejo and the interview took place on November 20. During the interview, he was asked questions about his victory over Erik Morales at the Thomas and Mack Center at UNLV. The fight was a battle of two heroes from their respective nations, which resulted in several Filipino and Mexican politicians to attend the match. Other celebrities in attendance that night were Oscar De La Hoya of Golden Boy Promotions, "Dancing With The Stars" contestant Mario Lopez, Filipina pop star Sarah Geronimo, who sang the national anthem, and many CSUSM students.



Photos courtesy Aamara Ysrael

Pacquiao proved that he is a draw on any card. The rubber match with Morales generated an estimated 350,000 pay-per-view buys which generated around 17.5 million dollars in revenue for HBO PPV. It is also believed to be the highest grossing lightweight fight in HBO's PPV history.

A little background on what's next for Pacquiao. The 27-year old

now has a career record of 43-3-2 and he should be considered the number one challenger to WBC junior lightweight champion Marco Antonio Barrera (63-4). Pacquiao actually beat Barrera in their only prior meeting in 2003. They are both with Golden Boy Promotions, so it should be fairly easy to set up the rematch.

I think we know who CSUSM will be rooting for when Pacquiao-Barrera II takes place.

Comments can be sent to Sando026@csusm.edu or pride@csusm.edu.



Michael Richards and the media's 'comedic' hypocrisy

BY JOSH SANDOVAL
Pride Columnist



"If you don't like what I have to say, then don't listen to me." That is what comedian

Michael Richards, better known as "Kramer," should have said to the African-American hecklers in the now infamous incident. That is what I say to people who berate me about something I've written.

Right off the bat, I can guarantee most of you aren't going to like what I am about to say, so go ahead and start your e-mail, but I will simply point to my lead sentence for my sentiments on your criticism.

For those of you who may not be aware of this story, Richards shouted racial slurs towards two black men who were heckling him and talking aloud towards one another during a show.

When I first heard this story, I knew one thing for sure; every media outlet in the world would be uneducated about the world of stand-up comedy. Luckily for you, I have been around comedians my whole life, since my Uncle is a comedian, which has allowed me a pass into the comedy world.

Richards was performing at the Laugh Factory on the Sunset

strip in Hollywood. One thing about that club is that it's notorious for hecklers, so when I heard it was at the Factory I wasn't shocked one bit. Most clubs don't tolerate hecklers the way the Factory does. The two men who were heckling were sitting in balcony stage left. In that club you are basically guaranteed to have a heckler in the balcony, because people think they are far enough away from the show to have a personal conversation, even though they are only 15-feet from the stage.

Let me remind you, I am not defending Richards at all. As you may know by now, I am very outspoken when it comes to social injustices. On that note, the tape of Richards doesn't even rank on the top 25 list of the most racially insensitive comments I have heard while around comedians, whether on stage or in the green room.

The only thing that happened here is that the media chose to run this story.

Someone brought up the point to me that Richards was unlucky to be taped on stage. Well, something you may not realize about clubs like the Factory is that every comedian who steps on that stage is being taped, whether it's by the house or by someone in the audience. Once again, the media chose to run this story. Go to any club at any time and you will see a similar incident.

Another thing that the media

did, which is just ludicrous, is that they made this news on Monday, November 20 when it really happened on Friday, November 17.

Our society picks and chooses who we want to lambaste and when we want to do it. In the same week that "Kramer" was being cooked for racial slurs, Sacha Baron Cohen had the number one "movie" in the U.S. with "Borat", which is one of the most racially insensitive "films" I have ever seen. If you are going to throw a stone at one person for something stupid, then you need a boulder for the rest of this world. Take Chris Rock for example. I think the guy is a comedic genius, but how is he any different than Richards when he goes to some town in Tennessee and calls audience members a derogatory white name? It is not alright for any comedian of any race to go on stage and call another person of an opposite race a derogatory name. It's also not right for two people of the same race to call one another racially negative names.

Now, I must relate this to sports, since this is supposed to be a sports column.

Someone brought up the point, "Well how is this any different from when an athlete gets heckled? They don't react with a racial slur."

First off, go stand on a sideline of any major sporting event and you will hear something similar to what Richards said. Secondly, a comedian is the one with a mic,

which means that he is the guy who has the right to talk. If you are an audience member at a club, the other people in the audience aren't there to hear you talk. If you are at a game, you are given the right to boo and talk when you buy that ticket. You aren't deemed that right at a club, so let's not forget that the two audience members are also at fault for the incident.

For years now, racism has been allowed to hide behind comedy. It will continue to stay that way, because in one week the media will stop telling you to think about "Kramer." It happens all the time. Bill Parcells, the Dallas Cowboys coach, used a derogatory term towards people of Japanese descent, and a week later it was forgotten. Peyton Manning sexually harassed a woman in college. How many of you sports fans remember that story? That's because the media chose not to cover that story in depth.

I really don't have one general point. I have a bunch of scattered frustrations with the hypocrisy of the way this world operates. I am frustrated with the racism that is prevalent in this world. I am frustrated with audiences who lack mutual respect for the person with a mic or pen. I am frustrated with the media telling the public what, when, and who is relevant to throw daggers at.

Comments can be sent to Sando026@csusm.edu and pride@csusm.edu.

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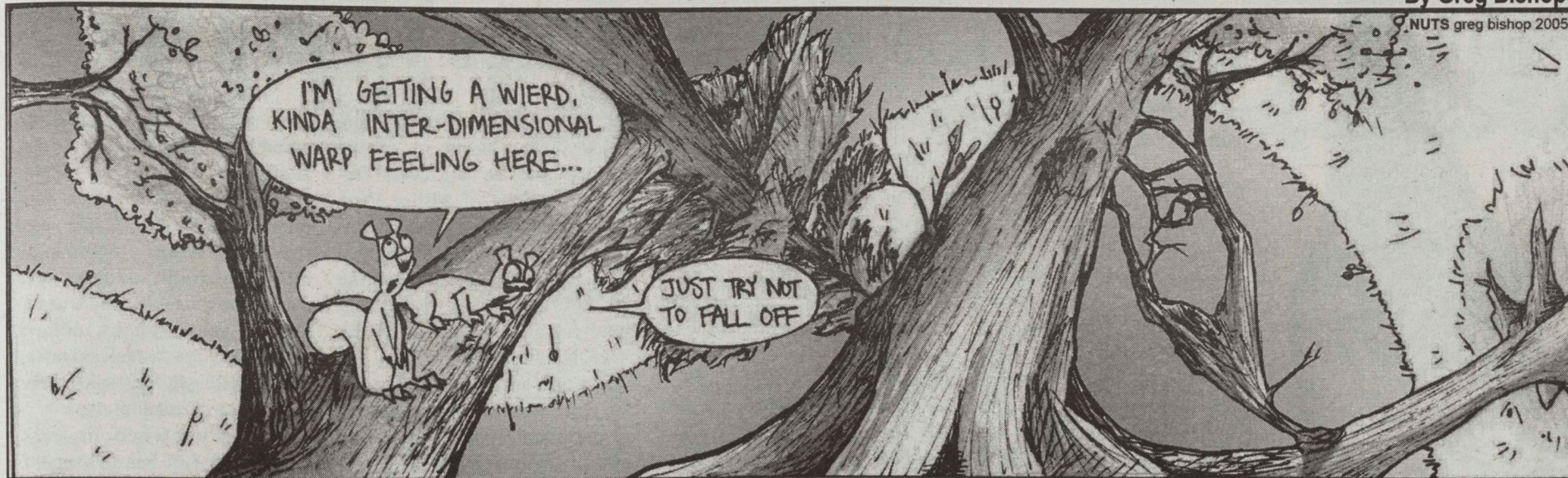
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NUTS

By Greg Bishop

NUTS greg bishop 2005



Just for Shiggles

By Jenny Bigpond



Aries

Mar. 21 – Apr. 19

So, you feel really bad right now for saying all of those horrible things about your so-called “friend,” right? You know what to do, and your friend is sitting by the phone waiting for your apology. If you make amends quickly, you’ll both be able to move past this little road bump quickly and painlessly; if not, you might just lose your best friend over something really stupid. Suck it up and let go of your pride, it’s the only thing stopping you right now.

Libra

Sept. 23 – Oct. 23

The weather outside is frightful indeed as it is interfering with your holiday tomfoolery yet again. Well, it’s a good thing you’re adaptable, isn’t it? Time for Plan B to spring into action, and you might surprise even yourself as it will be better than you originally anticipated. Enlist your friends and foes to help and kick the holiday season off right with a night to remember (and to forget for some of you!). Remember, designated drivers, water, and Tylenol are all your friends at times like these.

Taurus

Apr. 20 – May 20

Unexpected seasonal travel plans will fall upon you this month. The excitement and

drama will prove to be just what the doctor ordered though, to ease the finals blues. As the textbooks and papers pile up, that is when your spontaneous trip will develop. Remember, it’s not the destination that’s important, but rather the journey itself and what you learn along the way. It will cause you to emotionally stretch and grow as you never have before.

Scorpio

Oct. 24 – Nov. 21

Even though your budget is slightly strained at the moment, you know just as well as everyone else that you love to shop and absolutely love to shower your loved ones with presents during this time of year. No matter what you celebrate or believe, ‘tis the season to give, and no one embodies that motto more so than you my friend.

Gemini

May 21 – June 21

Even though your budget is slightly strained at the moment, you know just as well as everyone else that you love to shop and absolutely love to shower your loved ones with presents during this time of year. No matter what you celebrate or believe, ‘tis the season to give, and no one embodies that motto more so than you my friend.

Sagittarius

Nov. 22 – Dec. 21

An escape is looking pretty good about right now. The risky fashion statements you made last week might have said a little too much, and you’re feeling pretty precarious about your social status at the moment because of the fashion no-no’s you hastily wore. Perhaps a calmer and more traditional look better reflects the inner you. However, with finals coming up, comfy clothes and sweats are about all the style you’ll be flaunting for the next week or so. Good luck!

Cancer

June 22 – July 22

You say to-may-to, I say to-mah-to. What’s the difference? Nothing. Stop hassling your professor over a few measly little points that he or she miscounted on your last exam. It really isn’t going to change your grade, and all you’re doing is hurting your reputation with that particular professor, and who knows, he or she might just be your faculty advisor or future professor for another class. No use burning the bridge now. Apologize and drop it, that way you’ll save face in time for them to grade your test favorably.!

Capricorn

Dec. 22 – Jan. 19

Baking is the answer to all your

prayers this week. Not only is it therapeutic and entertaining, but the results are yummy and pleasant. With your belly full and your sweet tooth sedated from all the consumed sugary delights, you’ll have no problem cranking out finals and gearing up for yuletide merriment. Better double up the recipes, as your friends and family will most definitely indulge in the baked goodies as well.

Leo

July 23 – Aug. 22

A new job opportunity downtown sparks interest in a possible major change. Though your scholastic career thus far has carried you down one path, new and exciting experiences in a different field of study have recently stirred up mixed feelings, creating just cause for you to re-evaluate your goals and degree aspirations. Much thought and careful analysis is required to make the right decision. Elicit advice from peers and colleagues to help you make your final decision.

Aquarius

Jan. 20 – Feb. 18

Give yourself a little credit. Sure, a little self pity never hurt anyone, but there’s a point when you need to snap out of it and celebrate all the great qualities you possess. No one sees your flaws to the detail you scrutinize them, and frankly, no one cares.

Just be happy to be you, and when you begin to see how beautiful you really are—inside and out—then your whole outlook and self-perception will begin to change.

Virgo

Aug. 23 – Sept. 22

Live and learn, forgive and forget. It can be draining expecting so much of everyone all the time. People are only human you know, and it can be unfair to both you, and those around you to keep such high expectations, that even you cannot live up to. Try to see the best in people even when you feel you deserve better. An open mind is the key to relationships, and if you always want the same thing, you’ll never allow anyone to surprise you; and sometimes, surprises can be a good thing, especially in your case.

Pisces

Feb. 19 – Mar. 20

Things never are what they seem, and nothing ever goes as planned. As life continues to throw you unexpected curves, all you can do is take it with a grain of salt and say, “Se la vie!” With the right frame of mind and a dash of courage, you’ll be able to get through this with no problems. Be strong, be brave, and never falter from what you believe in.



Beer of the week: Miller High Life

BY DAVID BAUER
Pride Staff Writer

As the final Beer of the Week for the semester and for the 2006 year, we've saved the best for last. After a long semester of cold nights of studying, and long days of classes, we all deserve the best reward for our hard work, and that reward is Miller High Life.

The label itself is awe inspiring: the proud Miller logo with its swooping underline on the top of the label, and proudly and boldly below, golden letters proclaim "HIGH LIFE"—as if the beer is announcing your arrival to a new luxurious life of delicious beer flavor. Under the name is scrawled in an elegant cursive font, "The Champagne of Beers," signifying that it is

signed and guaranteed to be the best.

Miller High Life is not available at just any establishment. In fact, Miller High Life is not served at many establishments on account of it not being available on draft. But it is readily available at liquor and grocery stores, generally towards the back of the store, bottom shelf of the cooler, down and to the left between the Mickey's and Steel Reserve. It is a bit expensive, with a 40 oz. generally costing between \$1.60 to \$2.25, compared to other 40 oz. beers and malt liquors such as Country Club and Bud Ice which run between \$1.10 and \$2.00. But it is well worth the extra fifty cents to live the high life.

High Life comes in a variety of sizes, 16 and 24 oz. cans, 12,

22, 32 and 40 oz. bottles. Many enjoy pilsner beers in special pilsner glasses; however, frequent drinkers of Miller High Life all know that "The Champagne of Beers" is best enjoyed from the bottle, preferably of the 32 or 40 oz. variety. To prevent your hands from warming the beer, which generally alters the flavor and aroma of the beer, it is typical to use the bag that is given to you by the liquor store as a single use beer cozy.

While High Life is slightly low on alcohol content for a pilsner at 4.7% ABV, it makes up for it in taste. In 2002 at the World Beer Cup, Miller High Life won the gold medal in "American-style Lagers" against 17 other contestants. It has a rich golden color and a frothy head with good retention. It has a distinct

lack of smell and goes down smooth, provided it stays cold. If allowed to warm, the 'Champagne of Beers' spouts a bouquet of corn adjunct and yeast smells, becomes increasingly difficult to drink, and sometimes causes inexplicable headaches in some drinkers. It has a uniform and simple mouth-feel and tastes sweet, with slightly spicy hops and strong corn adjuncts.

Originally brewed in 1903, Miller High Life has an over 100 year tradition of providing only the finest to distinguished drinkers. In just a few weeks we will get a chance to toast the New Year and say goodbye to the last. Do it in style, and become part of the distinguished tradition, with a 40 of the "champagne of beers."

Drink of the week:

Searching for the perfect peppermint potable *Peppermint Martini*

BY BRANDI BLAHNIK
Pride Staff Writer

Ahh... the crisp winter air, aisle after aisle of tree ornaments, and the decadent glow of over-decorated houses. 'Tis the holiday season and a time for joy. One of my greatest joys is found in the sweet and refreshing peppermint flavor that flows in the frosty, wintry season. But how exactly does one incorporate this tasty temptation into a quick and easy party drink? Soothe your Christmas spirit with the Perfect Peppermint Martini.

Rest assured this was no easy task, finding the perfect holiday martini. Peppermint schnapps was an easy enough choice, but what to use for a foundation? The spicy, party-friendly white rum? The flavorful and potent Tanqueray? Perhaps a more mild gin, like the delicate and sophisticated Bombay Sapphire, or the always faithful and flavorless-in-a-wonderful-way vodka? Well it was no easy task (no, seriously, four martinis is no easy task), but we tested and tried each to find

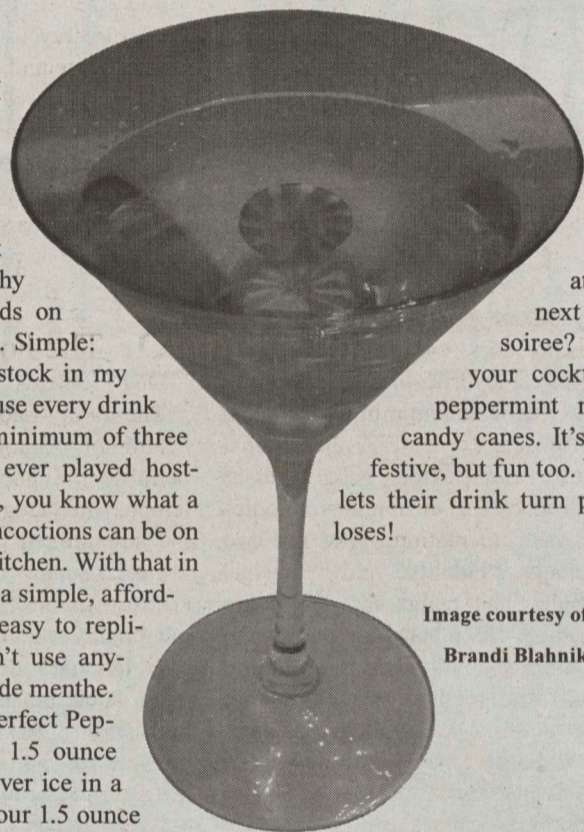
our favorite.

White rum seemed a valid enough choice. It's rather beach-appropriate and, given the San Diego climate, might have made a nice "Christmas in SoCal" cocktail. Be glad we tested this one for you, and save your rum for summer fun. It was by far the only combination which left us asking, "What peppermint?" Next we tried the gins. Being a martini lover myself, I have a fondness and bias towards Tanqueray. But our cocktail was overpowered by the flavor and tang of this gin which battered the peppermint into a bitter aftertaste. Our next choice was Bombay Sapphire, a gin so delicious and delicate it could confidently sit in a glass by itself. This combination won my favor and a listing in the recipe below. The peppermint schnapps was neither overpowered nor overpowering; instead, the herbal infusion which makes this gin so special complimented the icy mint flavor of the schnapps and the whole drink went down smoothly. The vodka, an obvious choice, won favor with my husband but was not the favorite. Here

our icy cocktail was—I hesitate to say it—too peppermint-y, offering nothing to complement the schnapps.

Now I realize that you might be asking why we didn't get our hands on some crème de menthe. Simple: this is not a liqueur I stock in my cupboard at home because every drink it's paired with has a minimum of three ingredients. If you've ever played hostess, and 'tis the season, you know what a pain these elaborate concoctions can be on your time, wallet, and kitchen. With that in mind, I aimed to create a simple, affordable cocktail that was easy to replicate and, frankly, didn't use anything as sissy as crème de menthe.

To make your own Perfect Peppermint Martini, pour 1.5 ounce peppermint schnapps over ice in a martini shaker. Next, pour 1.5 ounce Bombay Sapphire gin into shaker. Shake, pour into a martini glass, and serve. But



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ing
your
mar-
tinis
at your
next holiday
soiree? Garnish
your cocktail with
peppermint mints or
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festive, but fun too. Whoever
lets their drink turn pink first
loses!

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Brandi Blahnik

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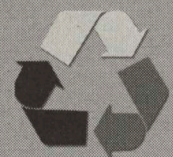
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Top 10 records of 2006

BY AMANDA ANDREEN
Pride Staff Writer

1. Taking Back Sunday

Louder Now

Warner Bros. Records

It's too bad the volume knob in my car doesn't go any higher. "Louder Now" could not be any more appropriately titled. This release from TBS is the perfect companion for a brutal workout session or some much needed alone time that requires anger management therapy. I suppose "MakeDamnSure" is my favorite track off "Louder Now," as it is the reason why I picked up the album in the first place, but every track on the 11-track disc is absolutely killer. TBS doesn't miss a beat on this release, from the final snap of the snare down to the precise guitar lines and passionate screaming, every second of "Louder Now" is ridiculously perfect and thoroughly energizing.

2. Regina Spektor

Begin to Hope

Sire Records

Regina you smitten devil, you! For those of you whom are unfamiliar with Regina Spektor, she is purely magical. In my opinion, Regina Spektor's "Begin to Hope" is the best female record of 2006 from any and all genres, hands down. Not only does her story-telling style of writing songs inspire a feverish fire deep inside of me, but her delicate and minimalist vocal prowess is just as exquisite. A phenomenal artistic effort on Spektor's behalf, the 12 tracks are chock full of timeless melodies and epic instrumentation. Take my two favorite songs, "Fidelity" and "Samson" for example. The piano and lyrics are so stunning I can't help but pause and become entirely engulfed in the building momentum and meditative melody that each one captures so explicitly. Upbeat and unabashed, Regina Spektor pulled out all the stops on "Begin to Hope" and came away with one of the best things I've truly ever heard.

3. Justin Timberlake

Future Sex / Love Sounds

Zomba Records

If anyone on earth can bring sexy back, by all means it's Justin Timberlake. No one has ever questioned his undeniable song-crafting ingenuity, though he did rise to the top as the bleached blonde boy toy of the heartthrob band N'Sync. He's back though,

ladies, but this time Justin is no boy; he's a man, and man does he bring the heat in his provocative, seductive, sexy, and downright scandalous songs. "Future Sex / Love Sounds" will get your heart beating fast within the first few seconds of the album's title track opener. Followed by "SexyBack" and "Sexy Ladies," have no fear; there is plenty of 'sex' to go around on this love-filled record.

4. Snow Patrol

Eyes Open

A & M Records

It's rare when a band is able to grab a hold of your heart—onto the fragile strings of your emotional core—and run away with it. Snow Patrol does no less, and yet, much more than that. From Ireland of all places, Snow Patrol isn't new to the scene. With their invigorating attitude, once again they open their mouths and aptitude for musical catharsis and dare listeners to become vulnerable. "Eyes Open," the latest full-length to travel across the seas from the Celtic homeland, is as intimate as it is rock. Empowered with the ability to leave listeners speechless and simultaneously bursting at the seams with incredible emotional realizations, "Eyes Open" demands not only your ears, but also your soul, and every ounce of your physical being.

5. The Format

Dog Problems

The Vanity Label

Full of "Sha-la-la-las" and "Ou-ou-ouou's," the pop melodies and speedy tempos on "Dog Problems" bounce off the streamlined guitar work effortlessly. On each song a myriad of "Oo-eh-Oh's" are thrown into the air and caught with the bubbly vocals and sugary chops as they fall back down. I've had The Format's latest release, "Dog Problems," by my side for a few months now, and at first I struggled to find the words to do them justice. But I think I finally have narrowed down what The Format's "Dog Problems" means to me: whom do I listen to when the Internet goes down at work? The Format. Whom do I listen to when my best friend's grandma passes away? The Format. Whom do I listen to while I get ready to go out on a Saturday night? The Format. Whom do I listen to when I take my dogs for an afternoon stroll? The Format. And whom am I listening to at this very moment? That's right. The Format.

6. Rascal Flatts

Me and My Gang

Lyric Street Records

There is nothing sadder than the love-sick themes and depressing life experiences that gush from through the plastic wrapper of Rascal Flatts' 2006 release, "Me and My Gang." So sad in fact that I can't help but love every second of it. Call it cruel, call it painful, call it whatever you like, but the fact of the matter is that Rascal Flatts' style appeals to a younger demographic of country fans, and I am one of them. By way of the numerous singles off "Me and My Gang," like "What Hurts the Most," "My Wish," and the title track, their latest album has the potential to be their greatest thus far. In addition to "Me and My Gang," Rascal Flatts also had a number one single, "Life is a Highway," from the animated film "Cars" this past year. When it comes down to it, "Me and My Gang" is all about friendship: the friendship of band mates, the friendship between the band and fans, and the friendship with the rating charts.

7. The Wreckers

Stand Still, Look Pretty

Maverick Records

Pretty they are indeed. Michelle Branch and Jessica Harp are no ordinary musicians; they are beautiful and incredibly talented country rockers. With the dreamy looks and catchy hooks, there is no denying that The Wreckers would have any problems wrecking the country gals and hardcore femmes that stood in their way this past year on the Billboard charts. As the songs on "Stand Still, Look Pretty" range from cool and collected to brash and twangy, this duo successfully breeds quality songs that celebrate our nation's country roots with a rock 'n roll flare in one polished, fun, and down-to-earth album.

8. People in Planes

As Far As the Eye Can See

Wind-up Records

The members of People in Planes may be weird, but they know how to rock like no others. Hailing from the British mother ship, these sizzling rockers can only be taken seriously when one has the opportunity to witness their mind-blowing, indescribable live show. Splashes of paranoia line their lyrics and graphic imagery, mimicking airplanes and travel, setting the stage for a pseudo-hallucinogenic rock experience that doesn't compare to any other earthly

experience. Attracting comparisons to Muse, Supergrass, Jefferson Airplane, Pink Floyd, Al Kooper and Radiohead, the boys of People in Planes mean business. Strutting their guitar-laden, leather-pants-wearing, beer-drinking, grungy-bass-line-dancing, abusive-electric-rhythm-looping, and seductive-vocal-attack of the techno-jazz-swaying-legendary-rock-overdose-kind, People in Planes' "As Far as the Eye Can See" is definitely an album you're not going to want to miss out on.

9. John Legend

Once Again

Sony Records

John Legend might just be the perfect man. He knows all the right things to say, and just when to say them. His colorful and vibrant style paired with simple rhythms and his seductive voice are all the right ingredients for a successful album. Songs like "Stereo," "Save Room," "Each Day Gets Better," and "Maxine" are emotionally coercive and pleasantly haunting. John Legend has done it again, and I can't stop listening to "Once Again" as the perfect man has once again created the perfect album.

10. Margot and the Nuclear

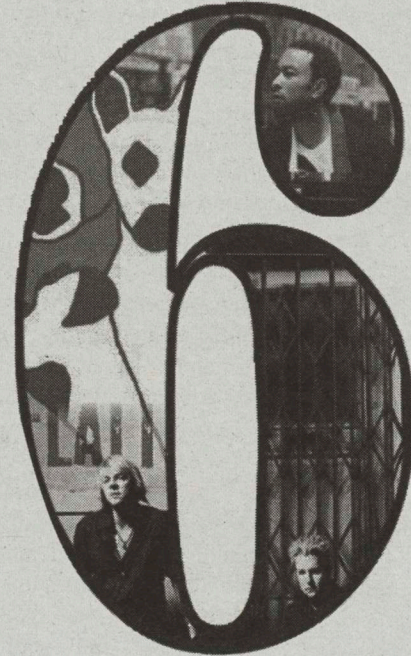
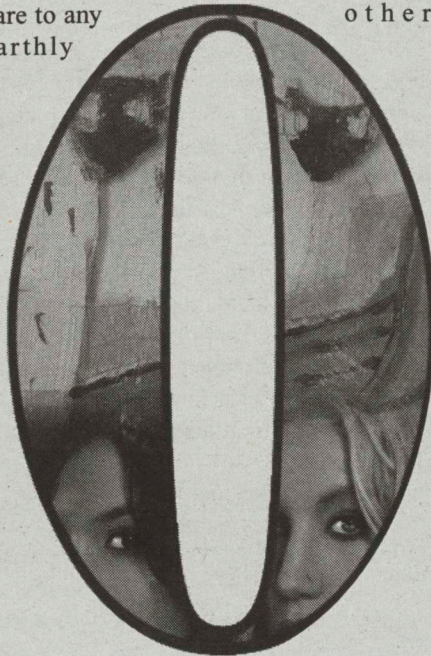
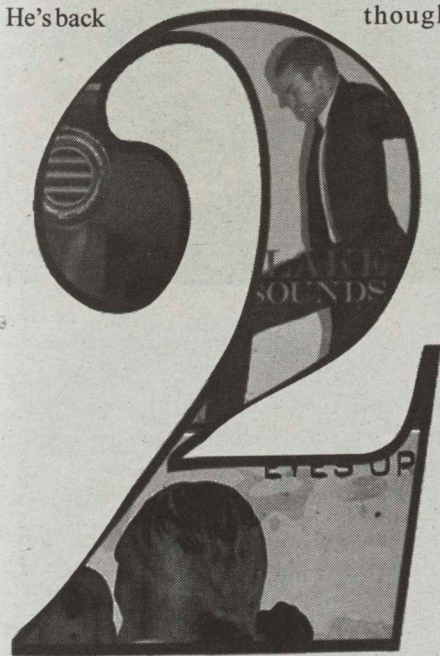
So & So's

The Dust of Retreat

Artemis Records

With striking prose and sounds that drive to the core of emotion, this Indianapolis band does everything right on "The Dust of Retreat" with their savvy chords and "I know we're good, that's why we do what we do," attitude. With a roster as long as their name, the eight members of Margot and the Nuclear So and So's put forth a deliciously garnered album, lush with imagery of the wild, childhood nostalgia, vampires, the sea, cats, mice, betrayal, drugs, and passion; much of the imagery serves as metaphors for their lives and encounters no doubt and is potent to say the least. A collection of 12 sturdy tracks, each with its own forlorn tone and a catalog of instruments into the dozens—a few of which include "meows," steel lap, banjos, synths, guitars and percussion—the Margot's most certainly have enough ammo to make it to the next battle.

Photo Illustration by Mary Foley/ *The Pride*



The Pride sits down with Atreyu's guitarist

Atreyu live at UCI

BY AMANDA RUTHERFORD
Pride Staff Writer

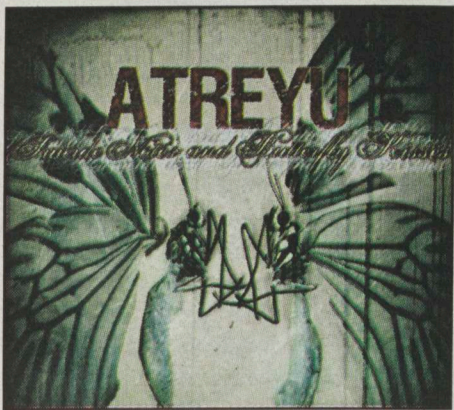


Image courtesy of Victory Records

November 18 was a night many Atreyu fans will never forget. Atreyu headlined their mini tour with a few other rock bands. UC Irvine was lucky enough to host them on this Saturday night. And I was lucky enough to be able to interview Atreyu's guitarist, Travis Miguel, before the show.

The night started off inside the tour bus with Travis, other band members, and family. Irvine is Atreyu's hometown, so it was a big show for family and friends. When I asked Travis what got him started in the band, he chuckled a bit at the question and told me, "I actually worked with our singer at Hot Topic. He came up to me one day and he was like, 'Yeah, my band needs a guitar player. Do you want to come by and maybe jam a few songs?' As everybody was leaving, we were like, 'Alright, I'll see you next Sunday,' and I said 'Okay, cool.' Next thing you know I'm signing a record contract. And then it all went from there."

When I asked Travis if he ever thought he'd be where he was now, he answered, "No, not in a million years. I mean we've all been fans of music and we've all been in bands. It was all just for fun to begin with. Then Victory came knocking on our door, and for us that was a huge deal. When we first recorded a demo and sent it out, we didn't even bother sending it to Victory because that was so far off the radar. We grew up listening to all the Victory bands

like Snap Case, Blood Line, and stuff like that. I remember getting a call from Alex saying 'Dude, Victory Records is really interested in us.' And I was like 'are you kidding me?'"

Travis was a lot like most college students here at CSU San Marcos. He was 21 and getting ready to finish school. He was attending California State University Fullerton and had one semester left. That's when his band member informed him of Victory's interest. Travis didn't just drop school and go live the rock star life, however. He admitted that he was "really torn" and "didn't know what to do."

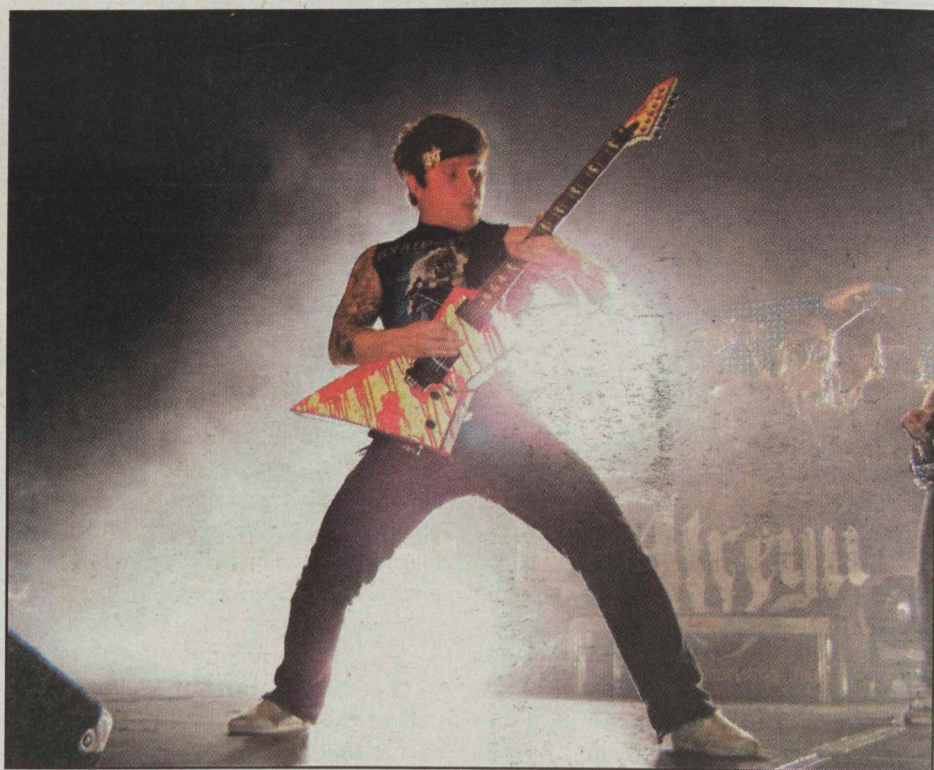
Travis told me how he made his decision to leave school: "Should I attempt to live this far fetched dream or should I do the more responsible thing and finish school? I actually asked my parents what to do. They were like, 'You know this opportunity is not going to present itself probably ever again. So you may as well just go with it. School is always going to be there.'"

I asked him if he'd ever want to go back to school. "My mom really wants me to," he answered. "But then again it has been so long the requirements for graduating have probably changed. But so far I haven't had to worry about that. I'm sure one day I will. We take everything in stride and we know this isn't going to last forever."

All the fans always want to know what got their band or favorite band member started in music. So, I asked Travis what got him interested in music.

"Honestly I was 11 or 12 and I saw the video 'One' by Metallica, and that was the first time I'd ever seen double bass or music that aggressive. That's what sparked my interest in music. My sisters' boyfriend at the time knew a lot about music and he passed that knowledge onto me. He taught me the bass line to 'Wild Thing.' I couldn't even hold the thing up, the bass itself. I was so small and it was so big. It kept creeping down my lap. Then I picked up the guitar and started taking lessons. Now here I am playing to a couple thousand kids each night. It's pretty damn cool."

To sum up the interview before the show



started I asked Travis if there was anything he wanted to say to the students of CSUSM.

"I don't want to say live each day like it's your last; everybody says that. [But] it's true. Take advantage of the opportunities you have. Don't be afraid to take risks, but weigh your options. Don't just go into anything blindly. Have fun because we only live on this planet once."

Not only was the interview very interesting but so was the show. Before Atreyu even started playing the crowd was screaming for music. Lights of all colors flashed randomly onto the crowd. The dimly lit UCI Bren Center soon rumbled with music.

Atreyu played songs in what seemed to be no particular order but covered all the different albums they have. The main singer got the crowd to sing along, and the drummer, who also sings, got the crowd to sing parts he wouldn't. Atreyu kept the crowd going and kept moving around the stage. There was so much thing as a dull moment at this concert. But sadly, like all things, the concert had to come to an end. And it did with a song I'd never thought I'd hear a band like Atreyu play: "You give love a bad name." The singer started to sing the classic Bon Jovi song and hit each note perfectly. The crowd went wild,



Photos by Amanda Rutherford / The Pride

though it was hard to believe they could get any crazier. There was never a second where some person wasn't running back to the mosh pit because they got passed over the line and needed to go around the seats to get back to the center of the building. The way to the parking lot was full of excitement even after the concert, and for the people who attended it was a concert they would never forget.

Book review: "Fairest" 🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾

BY SARAH PULTZ
Pride Staff Writer

Gail Carson Levine is the author of the Newberry Honor book "Ella Enchanted," which was made into a movie starring Anne Hathaway in 2004. Levine's latest book for children, "Fairest," is a loose sequel to "Ella Enchanted," but it also stands on its own just fine. "Fairest" is an adaptation of the story "Snow White," told in Levine's own special style. Although it is well written and engaging, out of all of Levine's fairy tale adaptations, it's not my absolute favorite. It lacks some of the dramatic tension that makes Levine's other books the page-turners they are, and the character development isn't always very convincing. In spite of its small shortcomings, "Fairest" stands out as more than just a good book because Levine is doing more than just telling a story. What seems on the surface to be a frivolous piece of teeny bopper fiction actually packs some very interesting and positive messages.

"Fairest" is set in the same world as "Ella Enchanted," but takes place in the neighboring kingdom of Ayortha, where singing and music are the most important parts of the culture. Levine's version of Snow White is a girl named Aza. Aza is

not a princess and certainly not beautiful. Like Snow White, she has skin white as snow, lips red as blood, and hair black as night, but freakishly so. She is very tall and very ... wide, but she can also sing more beautifully than anyone else in the kingdom.

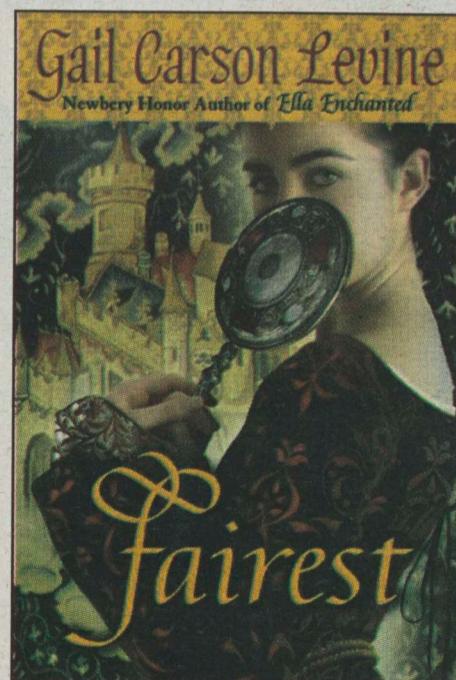
When Aza is invited to the king's wedding, she meets and befriends Levine's version of the wicked queen, an impossibly beautiful young girl named Ivi. Soon the vain new queen discovers that Aza has a special talent and decides to use it for her own benefit. At first, Aza believes she is doing no harm by helping the queen, but when the king is injured and the queen takes over the throne, Aza finds herself trapped in a dangerous deception that could destroy the whole kingdom. From there the story follows your standard Snow White plot. There's a handsome prince, a magic mirror, and a poisoned apple. If you've seen the Disney movie or read the Brothers Grimm, you'll know how it all goes down. But as I said before, it's the message, not the plot, which makes this book special.

One intriguing theme is respect for other cultures. As a wicked queen, Ivi's greatest transgression is not cruelty or murder. It is disrespecting the culture of her subjects. When she first becomes queen she refuses

to participate in the singing rituals of her adopted country. When finally she does, it is with disdain. She constantly makes it clear that she thinks her new country is inferior, and Levine makes her attempts to abolish Ayorthan culture, the ultimate cause of her downfall.

Levine's strongest message is about the unimportance of physical appearance. I love fairy tales, but I hate the traditional fairy tale heroine – beautiful, passive, silent, and helpless. That's why I love Levine. Aza is a true heroine, but she is also a real young girl. She's horribly aware of what the standards of beauty are in her society. She believes that she is ugly and offensive to everyone around her, but she is really very kind, loyal, brave, and talented—traits that earn her love and respect. When she realizes that the queen's beautiful face hides a self-centered heart, she learns to see herself as her loved-ones do, and her happily-ever-after ending is not becoming beautiful, but gaining self-confidence and self-respect.

Most fairy tales are written to reinforce the social order of their time, but Levine has taken the genre and turned its purpose around. Her ideas about good and evil are not always what you would expect and she uses love and patriotism in some uncon-

Image courtesy of
www.harpercollinschildrens.com

ventional ways. In short, there's enough there to keep an adult reader just as interested as a teenage girl. It would make a good addition to a classroom library. Or if you have a thirteen-year-old girl on your gift list, or are just hiding one somewhere in your heart, "Fairest" is a great Christmas present that you can give with a good conscience.