

## Pay increase accompanies fee increase

President Haynes receives five-figure salary raise in the wake of student tuition fee increases

BY SHELLY MONROE  
Pride Staff Writer

The CSU Board of Trustees raised the salaries of 23 CSU presidents an average of 13.7 percent, not including an increase in housing and car allowances. The salary increase is set in place for five years, giving 23 of our CSU

Presidents an average of \$30,000 a year in salary increase. The increase will total to 49.5 percent increase at the end of five years.

University Presidents also received a jump in their annual housing allowance, doubling \$30,000 to \$60,000 and car allowances raised to \$1000 a month. Our current President

Karen S. Haynes salary was \$203,376, but with the salary increase she now brings home \$230,232, not including her \$60,000 dollar annual housing allowance and a \$1,000 monthly car allowance. As a result, many campus presidents now get a housing allowance that's larger than the starting salary of most assistant professors.

"Realistically, this won't have much effect on students financially. For example, at CSUSM, our President got a raise of \$27,000. If you divide that by approximately 7000 students that means that it cost each student about \$4. So it's likely to have a greater effect on students' morale than their pocketbooks," says Dr. Linda Holt, chairperson for Academic Senate.

The trustees recognize compensation for presidents and

system executives as a key element in the California State University's success. The Board of Trustees say that the ability to offer a competitive salary increase is critical to the CSU's ability to recruit and retain key executives who are competent and visionary leaders. Higher education in California shares in a national system that has a very limited pool of qualified executives, and not only do we compete with these key institutions for new executives, but CSU executives are under pressure to consider highly competitive offers from these same institutions. The executive salary increase for campus presidents and system executives has the objective of maintaining a competitive market position.

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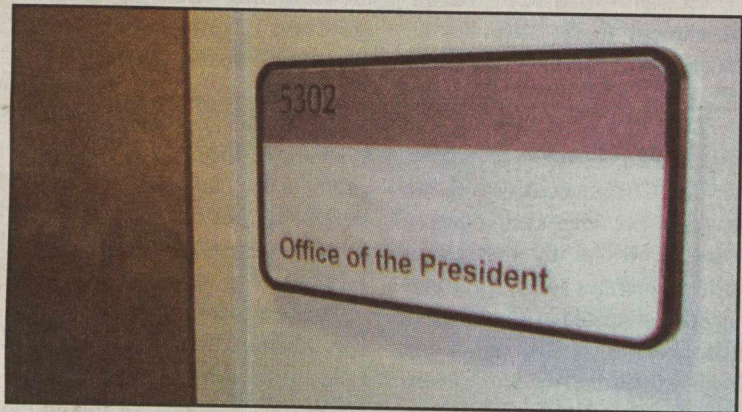


Photo by Patrick B. Long / The Pride

## Bringing the holidays closer to Camp Pendleton

Marines receive the opportunity to celebrate the holidays with their families before deploying

BY CHRISTINE VAUGHAN  
Pride Staff Writer

Local Camp Pendleton Marines from the second Battalion, fifth Regiment, first Marine Division gathered at Camp Mateo on Friday, Nov. 18 to celebrate the holiday season with family and friends before preparing to deploy in the upcoming days.

Lt. Cmdr. Diconti, U.S. Navy Chaplain declared the festivities an "all hands event" projecting an estimated 1000 attendees to enjoy togetherness and good food. These events help boost and "promote morality, which is especially crucial with the approaching holidays being cut short for these Marines,"

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Photo by Patrick B. Long / The Pride

Albertsons prepared dining area for holiday feast, Camp Pendleton.

## United Nations meets at the Clarke

Sorenson promotes the fostering a healthy relationship between the U.N. and the U.S.

BY CHRISTINE VAUGHAN  
Pride Staff Writer

CSUSM's Model United Nations Club welcomed Senior Adviser of the United Nations Foundation, Gillian Martin Sorenson to her first visit to Cal State San Marcos to discuss her experience in the organization and to promote a healthier U.S. relationship with the United Nations. Sorenson was received by a full audience exceeding hundred attendees filling chairs and lining the back wall of room 113 in the Clarke, on Tuesday,

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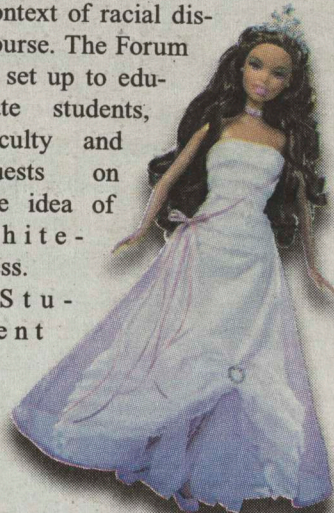
## Exposing Whiteness

Forum to discuss white supremacy

BY SHELLY MONROE  
Pride Staff Writer

COMM 454: Communicating Whiteness, will be hosting the second annual Whiteness Forum, held on Thursday, Dec. 1, bringing notions of white supremacy and privilege into the context of racial discourse. The Forum is set up to educate students, faculty and guests on the idea of whiteness.

Student



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PUBLISHED NOV. 29

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# A watchful eye on campus

University Police monitor crime alerts and provide additional clarification regarding pending cases

BY ANTOINETTE JOHNSON  
Pride Staff Writer

Last month's sexual battery incidents at the University Village on Cal State San Marcos, are still in the hands of the District Attorney's office. The DA ultimately decides which cases to prosecute based on the evidence provided by the University Police Department.

In answer to much speculation about why a 16-year-old was at University Village, Lt. Douglas Miller explained that the young woman had been dropped off by a parent to visit friends and relatives at UVA. "The 16-year-old was here visiting her sister and some friends on the night of the incident," said Lt. Miller. Miller went on to explain that the young

woman was taken to the hospital on the night of Oct. 20 due to alcohol poisoning, and while at the hospital she divulged that she had been approached and touched against her will. As stated in The Pride article titled Sexual Battery at UVA, printed on Nov. 8, it was through the investigation of this incident that a second victim was found who gave descriptions of a suspect that matched those of the first victim, further implicating the case's suspect.

Because the incidents of last month are identified as sexual battery cases, and sexual battery is a misdemeanor, the process for prosecution requires that the University Police Department identify all elements of the incident, but does not necessarily mean that arrests must be made

first. This includes examining the police report to see what descriptions the victims gave versus the evidence uncovered by the police department's investigation. This also includes using the responses given in an interview with the suspect of both cases and comparing his claims to those of the other two women involved. The suspect has denied any involvement in acts of sexual battery at University Village, but has been made aware that he is considered a strong suspect in the matter.

The suspect's name and descriptors are available, for anyone who seeks it, at the University Police Department. According to the Public Records Act sections 6250-6270 of the Government Code, such details about a person can become public

record if the information will not endanger the safety of a person or endanger successful completion of an investigation. Information can also be released if factual circumstances surround the crime or incident.

"University Police has completed its investigation of this matter and offered up all substantial evidence to the District Attorney for review. Therefore, releasing the suspect's name will not interfere with our efforts," said Chief of Police Aaron Woodward. To obtain more information about these cases, contact University Police at 760-750-4567. For more information about sections of the Government Code or the Public Records Act visit the Legal Information website at [www.leginfo.ca.gov/](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/).

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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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**SALARY**, from page 1

"The CSU Board of Trustees has recognized that salary gaps exist across all categories of employees. The increases they have outlined are necessary to ensure that the CSU can attract the best faculty, staff and administrators. If we are not competitive, we risk losing many qualified faculty, staff and administrators to other states with better pay and lower housing costs," says Hoss.

CSU executive pay is considerably lower than other competitive universities, stated the Board of Trustees. A national survey conducted by the system showed that top executives in the CSU system earned 49.5 percent less than their counterparts at similar-sized universities across the U.S. The 13.7 percent increase over five years will total a 49.5 percent total increase and bring this gap to a close.

Dr. Holt says, "On the one hand, it's important that we pay our pres-

idents salaries that are competitive with those at other institutions, so that we can hire and retain the best people. But on the other hand, the timing of this increase is unfortunate - we are giving large raises to presidents at the same time as we are asking students to tighten their belts." At the same time they boosted the President salary increases, the Board of Trustees raised student fees another eight percent, and proposed that their fees increase ten percent each year for the next five years.

"Twenty-seven of the Board's executive friends must be very happy today. They walked out with big raises as well as hefty housing and car allowances. But 40,000 faculty and staff, and 400,000 students have nothing to celebrate about. The Trustees have forgotten what the CSU is here for. They are strangling the university with inadequate funding. It's unacceptable," California Faculty Association President John Travis said.

The Board of Trustees also

implemented a housing allowance for CSU executives. Some university presidents are required to live in official university provided residences. CSU provides official residences at Dominguez Hills, Fresno, Fullerton, Long Beach, Maritime Academy, Monterey Bay, Northridge, Pomona, San Diego and San Jose. Where official CSU residences are not available, the Board of Trustees provides CSU presidents assistance with their housing. The presidents' residences are used for university business including an executive office, university meetings, university-related entertainment, social functions and fundraising.

"It is clear to everyone that housing costs in California are much higher than in other parts of the country. If presidential salaries are 49.5 percent less than at comparable institutions, and there is, on top of that, no adjustment for the high cost of housing, we're asking a lot for someone to accept leadership positions on our campuses. Also, keep in mind the demands that are placed on presidents for opening up their personal homes to the campus and the community. Offering different amounts to presidents in different parts of the

state allows the CSU to adjust the payment to local needs within the state," says Neal Hoss, vice president of finance and administrative services.

The last comprehensive change was made in the summer of 2000. Housing assistance has been reassessed this year in view of equity, housing maintenance costs and services, real estate market changes and housing market relationships.

In addition to the housing assistance, the Board of Trustees' adopted a resolution that provides presidents the option of receiving a \$750-1,000 per month automobile allowance in lieu of a University vehicle, to support university related business travel requirements.

Students, staff, and faculty members have been deeply disturbed by the direction the Trustees are taking the people's university. On the one hand, they are making the system increasingly unaffordable to eligible students. On the other hand, they are failing to pay its faculty and staff enough to survive in this high cost of living state. For more information please see the California Faculty website at <http://www.calfac.org>.

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# Professor brings the luck of the Irish to CSUSM courses

Irish Professor will be offering unique courses on Irish politics and history for the Spring 2006 semester

BY PIYAMAS SABLAN  
Pride Staff Writer

The political science and history departments will be hosting a visiting scholar, Professor Anthony O'Halloran, from Ireland to teach courses in Irish politics and history in the Spring 2006 semester. The courses Professor O'Halloran will be offering are: The Politics of Irish Nationalism, Politics and Society in Ireland, Conflict Resolution in Northern Ireland, and The Politics of European Union Integration. Course information and class schedules are available on the web through the SMART system.

According to Cynthia Chavez Metoyer, professor, department chair and internship coordinator for the political science department, "The courses are open to students of all majors. However, students will want to check with their faculty advisor if they are unsure how the courses might count toward the University or major requirements." Currently, the politi-

cal science department does not have a tenure-track faculty member who teaches eastern, western or central European politics, said Metoyer.

"Students will have the opportunity to learn about three important cases, namely Ireland, Northern Ireland and/or the European Union. Each case study raises interesting questions and offers important lessons---economic, social and political---that are relevant for citizens in a global society," said Metoyer.

"Approximately 50 million Americans claim some Irish ancestry so students can gain more knowledge about their Irish roots and ancestral homeland," stated Patty Seleski, professor and department chair of the history department.

"Given his experience and expertise, and add this to his background as an international scholar, O'Halloran can offer students a global view of the world and an opportunity to look at issues from a completely different perspective,"

said Seleski. O'Halloran has taught in the United States, Ireland, and the Ukraine, among other countries, so he is aware of the differences between the Irish and U.S. university systems. He has a great sense of humor and is dedicated to his students and interested in creating courses that will be interesting to American students, according to Seleski.

O'Halloran mentioned that his courses will provide students with a sense of past and present Ireland and will be a unique opportunity to study Irish politics and history, taught directly from an Irishman. "The concepts of change and transformation will be central to both my Irish politics and history courses. Ireland is quite simply a fascinating country to study. The past fifteen years have been ones of profound transformation," said O'Halloran.

"Politically, socially and economically, the Ireland of 2005 bears little resemblance to the Ireland of 1985. Ireland has one of the best performing econo-

mies in the world. The authority of the Catholic Church has collapsed. As such, modern Ireland is becoming quite secular. This compares with the 1950s, for example, when the Church was a major social and political actor and when Irish society was fragmenting because of emigration. Whilst contemporary Ireland is a very dynamic country, there is also a great sense of unease. Many commentators argue that citizens have become too selfish. We are, it is suggested, a nation of self regarding consumers rather than other regarding citizens," commented O'Halloran, about the ample information behind what can be gained through studying Irish politics.

"My focus in the Northern Irish politics course will be on conflict resolution in a deeply divided society. After thousands of deaths and injuries, Northern Ireland is currently at peace. The course will trace the historical origins of the conflict. It will emphasize that the

conflict must always be understood as a human tragedy," said O'Halloran.

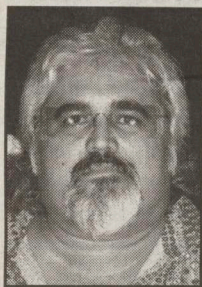
O'Halloran promotes class participation because he sees teaching as a dialogue, and he is not traveling from Ireland to merely deliver monologues, stated O'Halloran. Ideally, students will finish the courses having gained new perspectives with a desire to learn more about the course topics and will have also developed their critical analytical faculties.

According to O'Halloran, he loves his job and the classroom interaction it provides and feels students and teachers are privileged to be given the opportunity to study and learn. He is excited about his first visit to California and hopes to learn more about Californian politics, culture and history.

"So if you see a lost Irishman on campus please point him in the right direction...to the nearest blue ocean where the sand is warm and the sun shines," said O'Halloran.

## Graduate student shares study

BY SHELLY MONROE  
Pride Staff Writer



Chuck Bailey

Educating students, faculty and campus guests about fetishes and 'culturally poetic sexual expression', guest speaker and Cal State San Marcos graduate student, Chuck Bailey, explored the psychological and socio-cultural dimen-

sions of sexual arousal and expression, on Wednesday, Nov. 16.

Fetishes are defined as something, such as a material object or a nonsexual part of the body that arouses sexual desire and may become necessary for sexual gratification.

Bailey says, "I think there is a certain stigma associated with fetishes. A fetish always implies a dysfunction, and not every fetish is a dysfunction. Fetish then becomes a junk work."

Fetishes can often be defined by culture. According to Bailey's presentation, the U.S. has popularized sex and fetishism. Body modification was one of the topics discussed in the forum. The U.S. is well-known for practicing body modifications including breast implants, body piercing, bras and corsets. The idea expressed by Chuck Bailey was to understand that all cultures have different practices regarding body modifications.

The Chinese had a tradition called feet binding, practiced for over 1,000 years. Feet binding usually began when the girl was four and took about five years to complete. If the process was started too late, the feet would be too large and not supple enough to bend, but starting too soon would carry the danger that the girl would be crippled for life and possibly be unable to walk. Bound feet was a mark of the Han Chinese considered in that culture to be the mark of belonging to a more civilized echelon of people. Those who did not participate in this process were considered barbarians.

There were sexual reasons behind bind-



Image courtesy of Chuck Bailey

ing feet; it was the longest-lived fetish in the world. After binding the feet, the lower legs atrophied. The woman would use her hip muscles to move relying less on leg muscles resulting in enlargement of the hip muscles and also of the perineum muscle. The perineum is the small area between the anus and vagina. Binding did increase the shrinkage power of the vagina, which was an appeal of this process. In 1895, foot binding was outlawed in China and is no longer practiced.

Other topics discussed in the forum were paraphilias, which are recurrent intense sexuality arousing fantasies, urges, behaviors, generally involving non-humans, objects, or the suffering or humiliation of oneself or partner. Some of the paraphilias focused on clinical fetishism. Clinical fetishism is when the fetish becomes a problem with fantasy,

such as Transvestism, S & M, and Bondage.

An example of paraphilias is bondage, where someone, usually persons of power, is put into a more subjective role, to fulfill their fantasies. Some of the treatments discussed about clinical paraphilias are psychoanalysis and behavior modification.

The intended purposes of the forum were to project cultural difference of various fetishes and provide a better understanding of 'culturally poetic sexual expression'. The idea, presented by Bailey, was to try to withhold judgment and understand the context presented. Bailey has offered this forum before and it has gained great interest by students, faculty, and guests. Bailey is a graduate student working towards his Masters at Cal State San Marcos. If you would like more information, please contact Chuck Bailey at cb999@cox.net.

## College Republicans invite Assemblyman to speak on campus

BY PATRICK B. LONG  
Pride Staff Writer

Assemblyman Ray Haynes (R) held an open forum on Wednesday Nov. 16 at the Mezzanine on Cal State San Marcos, sponsored by the College Republicans. The Assemblyman for district 66 was promoting his initiative for a state run border patrol and his "Board of Equalization."

The initiative, known as the "California Border Police Act," would set into place a state police department whose main purpose would be to assist the federal Border Patrol. It would also enforce state wide immigration laws. Such laws would include employer enforcement of these laws.

"We have about three quarters of the signatures we need for this initiative," said Assemblyman Haynes, during the open forum.

"The Board of Equalization", "A quasi-judicial office, the BOE hears the appeals of taxpayers (both individuals and businesses) who feel state taxing authorities have ruled incorrectly," reads the Web site supporting the initiative.

"I was happy with the turn out," said Haynes about the crowd. He stated that there was an open flow of people coming and going.

For more information regarding the initiative, visit [www.haynesforboe.com](http://www.haynesforboe.com).



# Quickstats about CSUSM available

BY KIMBERLY RAYMOND  
Pride Staff Writer

Did you know that 63.5 percent of CSUSM is female? Or that 58.4 percent of freshmen come from North San Diego County? The average student at CSUSM most likely does not know the basics of our campus. There is now no excuse because interesting facts about the demographics of our campus are readily available in the pocket-sized handbook, Quickstats 2006.

According to publications manager, George Cagala, "It's an economical way of presenting a clear, concise profile of the campus as it relates to students (age, gender, ethnicity, etc.); faculty, budgets, financial aid and other info."

The fingertip facts and figures booklet contains a map of the campus and phone numbers from the various departments at CSUSM. It also provides a brief history of the campus.

For instance, of the 210 tenured and tenure-track faculty members, 209 have a doctorate or the highest degree in their field. The annual payroll for CSUSM employees is included in Quickstats, as well as the most popular major, which is business administration, followed by liberal studies. Of the 7,500 students who attend Cal State San Marcos, approximately 3,954 received financial aid for the 2004-2005 school year.

This handy booklet was funded by the University Advancement publications budget, and is an informative and fun resource for anyone who may be interested in the campus.

Quickstats is perfect for student orientations, community events and chamber of commerce meetings. Prospective employees and students will find the booklet very convenient in learning more about their future campus. Parents of students as well as donors and volunteers will also find this compendium of campus facts and figures useful.

The basic statistical information was gathered from various departments at CSUSM and compiled into one pocket-sized booklet. To gain more knowledge about your school, go to Craven 5213, the Publications office, and pick up your 2006 Quickstats.

## UNITED NATIONS, from page 1

Nov. 15 to hear her approach toward improving national support for this world organization.

Sorenson's resume is extensive and rooted in building positive political relationships to reach compromise which fosters progress and ultimately encourage global-citizenship over nationalism.

"The United Nation does not lead by command or order, but by debate and mediation. This institution gives every country a chance to be heard," commented Sorenson. "The United Nations is not a club of democracies. We believe that there is always

a possibility to make progress; dictatorships can progress into democracies. History move forward. We are always open to the possibilities of change. But change has to be worked on and it will not be completed in our lifetimes."

The United States hasn't been utilizing its full potential to work toward developing healthier relationships with the United Nations, according to Sorenson. Institutionally, the U.S. fails to emphasize the importance or role that the United Nations has contributed in finding resolutions and promoting peace efforts encouraging open dialogue and debate. Politically,

the U.S. has put its heels in the ground and has yet to sign universal initiatives to end human suffering. Termed as "American-exceptionalism" according to Sorenson, the U.S. has yet to support and sign treaties to ban landmines, elimination of discrimination against women, reducing global warming, stopping nuclear arms, among others.

"The U.N. is not seeking to become a world government," contrary to popular myths mentioned by Sorenson. "The role of the United Nations is to bring humanity together. It's not easy, but it's not impossible either. The U.S. needs to help serve

by example. Our words and our deeds must match. Our policies and our actions must meet. Leadership is a privilege, not a right, but a privilege. It is not our obligation, but our opportunity. We must exercise our power wisely and well. We can do more; we can do better."

"I hope you will join with me to help build a stronger U.N.," wished Sorenson, "and in doing so, a stronger U.S. One person can make a difference, but you gotta step out and be heard."

For more information about the sponsorship of the Model United Nations Club, please contact Dr. Cyrus Masroori, club advisor, at [cmasroor@csusm.edu](mailto:cmasroor@csusm.edu).

## MARINES, from page 1

according to Diconti.

With the gracious support of Albertsons, the early holiday picnic and celebration had all the necessary ingredients for a delicious assortment of meal options. "We'll have turkey, ham, prime rib, and all the fixings. It's a complete holiday meal," said Fred Shuit, senior vice president of Albertsons grocery stores.

Over a hundred Albertson's associates were on site unloading

equipment, preparing food and furnishing the tables beneath the camouflage netting. Everything from the fixings to the volunteer labor force to the floral department trimmings was donated by south Orange County Albertsons stores in conjunction with the Irvine distribution center.

"This is what we do; we're in the food business," remarked Shuit. "Sometimes, people take freedom for granted. We are trying to make the situation better for them before they

deploy. Our freedoms are a direct result of the service of these men and women."

Like any true holiday celebration, there was food, family, games, music and prizes. "We'll be raffling off TVs, DVDs, and all the way down to oil changes. We'll even be offering a weekend package to a resort for four," said Lt. Col. Kozenisky proudly.

"It's unreal how much support we've gotten. Albertson's especially," mentioned Sgt. Stephen Ferguson. "This event is giving

the Marines a Thanksgiving and Christmas with families since they won't be here to celebrate with them."

Jackie Ferguson, the mother of Sgt. Stephen Ferguson, spearheaded the event acknowledging the connection she feels with the service men and women. "When you see them, your heart gets all warm and you can't stand to help think what these guys are missing," said Jackie. "I'm just trying to give them a little piece of home before they leave."

## WHITENESS, from page 1

Laura Hansen says, "Whiteness is not easy to explain; I believe whiteness means power and privilege at the expense of others' disadvantage. Most whites would say I am not a racist and I would say maybe not aggressively, but passively, we are because of the stereotypes we are fed daily through the media, laws and institutions."

COMM 454 was first offered in Fall 2003 and was the result of an independent study that Professor Dreama Moon conducted with a small group of communication students. Given her research in whiteness studies and the response that she received from students when she presented information about her research, it was decided by the department to develop this course.

"I felt that this course was imperative in terms of my goal of social and racial justice. It is important to talk about whites and white supremacy in a conscious and critical way that help students understand both the history of race, racism, and white supremacy in the U.S. and its historical legacy and present day manifestation. The old conservative politically correct

environment encourages students (and staff and faculty) to NOT talk about race and racism with one another and as long as we maintain that silence, justice cannot happen. This course takes a racial group called "whites" as a critical object, which is generally not done in most academic forums," said Professor Moon.

Students in Moon's class have been preparing for this forum by looking in depth into topics such as Barbie, beauty products and political cartoons. In the Whiteness class, the students read and discuss all aspects of whiteness.

Moon mentioned that, "It is important that young people learn that they can effect change and that they have important insights about the world to share. The forum will allow my students to realize and utilize their expertise in the area of whiteness."

Students are looking in depth at how whiteness effects the topic they are studying. Hansen, a student in COMM 454 is studying Barbie dolls and how whiteness ties in with Barbie. Barbie is one of the biggest icons in the world produced by Mattel. She represents what is considered beautiful in this country, which is represented as white. Laura commented that, "White girls

worry about how they will be skinny like her. Girls of color can never look like her (as far as being white), which sends a message that they are not as important." Studies have been conducted on nonwhite Barbie, and statistically kids of all ethnicities for the most part have chosen the white Barbie as more beautiful and more desirable than nonwhite dolls. White is desired in this country because white equals power and privilege. Mattel Public Relations Michelle Llorin says, "Mattel was the first company to have ethnic Barbie dolls plus Barbie's first best friend was Christine and African American Barbie doll."

Mattel introduced Barbie's first friend Christie, and African-American Barbie in 1968. Mattel is the first toy company to have produced ethnic Barbie's and carries them all year round. Currently, Barbie comes in Hispanic, African American and Asian versions all around the world. Mattel states three Barbie dolls are sold every second somewhere in the world. With more than \$3 billion in retail, Barbie is the number one girl's brand worldwide. The Barbie Doll continues to be a top seller for the toy company Mattel.

The forum will discuss Barbie and the impacts it holds on girls in today's society. The student will share what they know and offer support to student activism.

Professor Liliana Rossmann said, "I've attended the forum in the past and I have learned a lot. Growing up in Mexico, I had an entirely different perspective on Whiteness. In Mexico, I am considered "white" because my ancestors (some of them, anyway) came from Spain. In the U.S., the categories are different, so I am supposed to check a different box: Hispanic, which is a cultural category, not a racial or ethnic category. This box-checking reminds me of how these categories are socially constructed, as are our interpretations thereof."

The forum will be a provocative, interactive, experiential space in which students, faculty, and guests can explore assumptions and misconceptions about race and whiteness. Students, faculty, and guests will leave with a better understanding of the concepts of whiteness and be motivated to learn more.

The forum will be held from 11:15-12:45 p.m. in Commons 206 on Thursday, Dec. 1.

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# 'Thinks-giving' Quest

BY LIZZ OSBOURNE  
Pride Staff Writer

As a student at Cal State, and a fulltime professional, I rarely have time to simply relax and unwind, so I have learned to make the most of my allotted holidays.

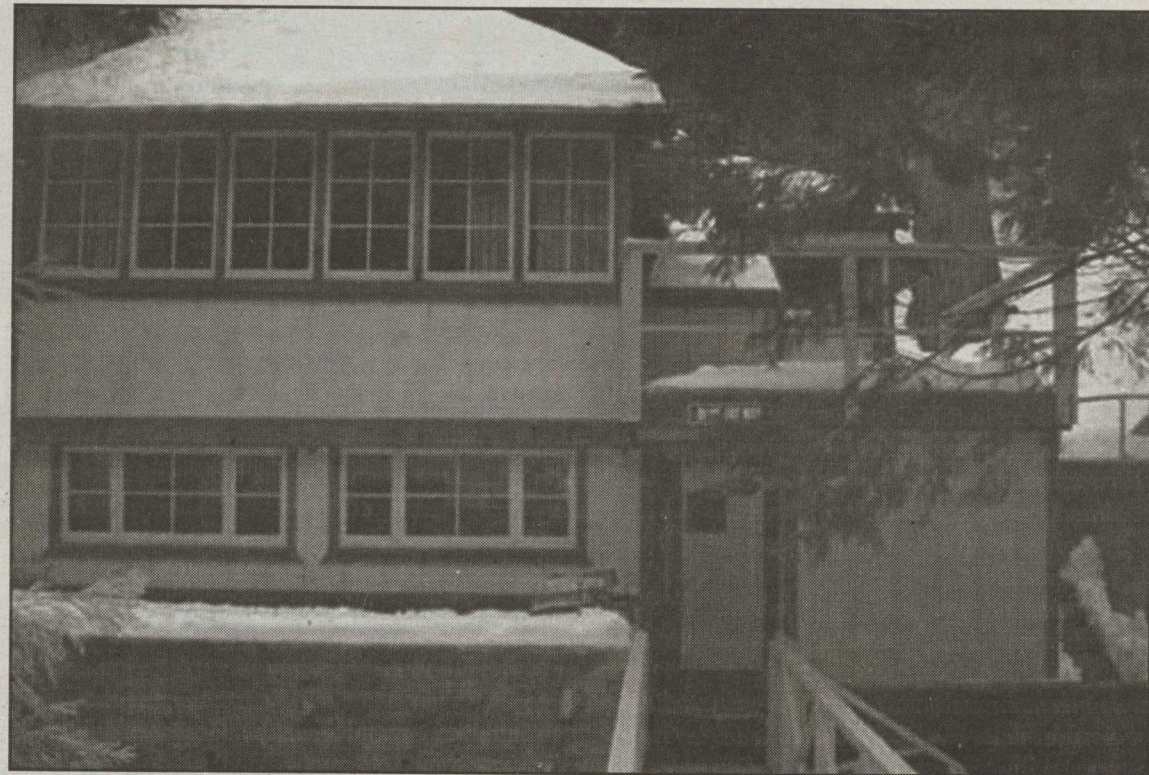
I must admit that last Thanksgiving, while bundled-up in a mountain cabin at Lake Arrowhead with the "love of my life", I would've never envisioned this year's solo trek to the bottom of the Grand Canyon. Then again, life is full of surprises. [I suppose many aspects of life could be taken in with great dread and horror, like the unexpected end of a highly romantic relationship, or they could be embraced as a part of our greater individual growth, and welcomed in with new adventures.]

The woman I was last Thanksgiving no longer exists. She was a solid, levelheaded professional investigating the possibilities of a personal life aside from college and the boardroom. She snuggled a handsome French gentleman beside a roaring fire, drank hot chocolate and reflected with

calm joy on the mundane artifacts in that simple mountain cabin, as snow fell gently against the icy windows. She danced in the kitchen, as she hadn't done in years, and lingered on his every breath as he whispered sweet fantasies into her ear. She wanted very much to be swept away, but I think that woman was very afraid, and wanted desperately to believe in something beyond her deeply guarded inner world. Yes, that woman went away, but she made room for the bolder one sitting here today, carefully packing her ruck sack for four days in the great outdoors.

This will be my first "Thinks"-giving. I am a bit apprehensive, but I thought this might be a solid and rewarding way to face my fear of isolation, to even admit to it, as I often consider myself the world's biggest loner. I'm expecting a true adventure, even a bit of a vision quest, a way to get back in touch with my own power and gentle thoughts.

I will begin Thanksgiving morning on the South Rim, and gradually make my way twelve miles below to Supai Village in



the Havasupai lands. Havasupai means "people of the blue-green water," and I too grew up around blue-green water, near Lake Tahoe in the High Sierras. Back then I was a bold mountain girl, bursting with hopes and dreams. So, as I hike down the windy paths, I will watch the sky and listen for whispers in the wind. Somewhere there might be signs of what is in store for me, or of what I now seek from without and within.

The main goal of this quest is to grab onto some new dreams, or perhaps ask the Earth to return



Photos courtesy of Lizz Osbourne / The Pride

some of my old ones, as I must have set them down somewhere.

I hope to return to finish this semester at Cal State San Marcos

with a renewed sense of spirit and "thanksgiving."

Happy Trails, and Happy Thanksgiving to all!

## A holiday reflections, a Thanksgiving pledge

BY BRIAN MASON  
Pride Staff Writer

When I think of Thanksgiving I usually think of drunken relatives watching football after

stuffing themselves with turkey.

This Thanksgiving will be slightly different. Instead of many relatives, there will only be immediate family i.e. my brother, me, my father and mother.

In retrospect, I look back at Thanksgivings when my grandmother would come over bearing apple pie, stumbling from her car because carpal tunnel and a weary spirit hindered her movement.

She is still with us, but in Michigan, where the wind blows cold, and the snow catches the shimmering sunlight, naturally blinding everything around.

This is the first time she has been gone since I was born, and the impact has taken a heavy toll on my family's spirits. Nonetheless, this Thanksgiving will be spent in best of spirits as alcohol flows and the memory of family members warms our minds.

Thanksgiving is about giving. It says it in the name. We are not a religious family, but all our thoughts go to a member thousands of miles away, as we stuff turkey and wine into our gluttonous bellies. Thanksgiving is a remembrance of good times past and of great times to come. The social anxiety that grips the

human spirit is sent elsewhere as we remember the ones we love and give thanks and praise to those we care most for.

This Thanksgiving I will be drunk, remembering all that life has offered me, and all that life has taken from me. I will spend Thanksgiving with friends and family that comfort me through the unnecessary pitfalls that we encounter on a daily basis.

This Thanksgiving I will be thankful.

This Thanksgiving I will be remembering.

This Thanksgiving I will be honoring.

This Thanksgiving I will be loved.

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# UniversityVoice

*"Are you looking forward to a large family gathering this Holiday season??"*



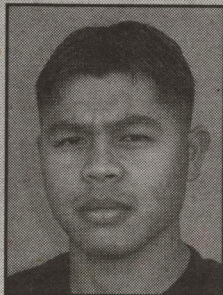
**Kahley Keefer**

"No, I'd rather do something with a big group of friends."

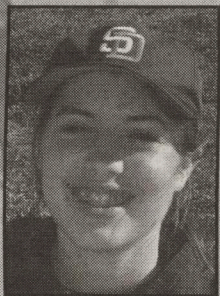
**Freshman**  
Undeclared

*"Yeah, but I wish family members wouldn't gossip and compare each other"*

**Junior**  
Political Science Major



**Alfredo Turrano**



**Melissa Aanerud**

"I'm going to have 35 people in one place. It would be nice to have something smaller, but what can you do?"

**Freshman**  
Undeclared

*"Yes, it's an opportunity for the in-laws to take care of my daughter while I relax."*

**Junior**  
Literature and Writing Major



**Curry Mitchell**

## Toy drive re-ignites holiday flame

BY MONIQUE NIESLEY  
Special to The Pride

With Thanksgiving almost here, students may be starting to feel the Grinch-like effects of too much holiday commercialism: Christmas décor went up in most stores right after Halloween, the Christmas-themed commercials began soon after, and the pre-Christmas sales have already started. Even in the midst of a nice turkey coma, many still have to figure out a way to juggle shopping with their finals schedule.

None of this does much good for fostering "peace on earth" or "good will towards men."

If you'd like a quick, sure-fire way to change all that, the CSUSM Pre-Health Society (PHS) has the remedy: make a donation to their annual toy-clothing-food drive.

"I had a magical experience when I donated toys and helped give them out to needy kids in Escondido," said Phoenix Lindgren, PHS President. "It was a Christmas morning I'll never forget." Lindgren hopes to spread the magic to her fellow students, staff, and faculty through the PHS toy drive.

"In past years, the Pre-Health Society has just accepted donations of used clothing—and we want to continue that tradition—but we also wanted to expand our effort to reach out to more people that are part of our community."

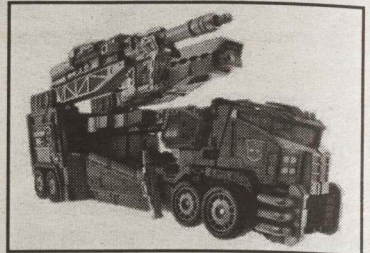


Image courtesy of Hasbro

she explained. "The Interfaith Council serves the needs of the poorest people living here in the North County—we are hoping to not only gather clothing for their homeless clients, but toys for the kids this year, too."

According to the Interfaith web site ([www.interfaithservices.org](http://www.interfaithservices.org)), their clients need everything from baby formula to bus passes, from school supplies to toothpaste.

"If you can't afford to donate a toy you can probably afford to donate a couple of toothbrushes or a stick of deodorant—everything helps."

That said, Lindgren went on to show that helping the children is what really motivates her.

"The kids started lining up outside the Interfaith Council building at 3a.m.," recalls Lindgren. "They were each allowed to choose one 'big' toy and one stuffed animal. They took such care to make their choices, older kids would pick out something for a younger sister or brother rather than something for themselves; the kids were so loving and thankful and generous... I can't wait to go back this Christmas, even if I do have to be there at 5a.m. What else am I gonna be doing at 5a.m. Christmas morning?"

Look for the big truck donated by U-Store-It/U-Haul parked outside The Dome in parking lot E starting Tuesday, November 29 through Thursday, December 1. Donations will be accepted from 8a.m. until 3p.m. each day.

The Pre-Health Society is a campus student organization dedicated to helping students achieve their dream of attending professional medical, dental, veterinary, optometry, nursing, and pharmacy schools. More information about the PHS and the toy drive can be found at [www.csusm.edu/prehealth](http://www.csusm.edu/prehealth).

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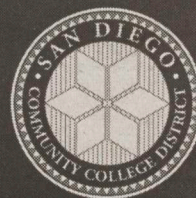
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# The hidden costs of discounted student travel

## Student learns a lesson in accomodation

BY JOELLE FRANKEL  
Special To The Pride

As a broke college student, I am always looking for new ways to cut corners, but recently my frugal nature got the best of me.

With Thanksgiving and Winter Break quickly approaching, I only hope that my fellow CSUSM students can learn from my mistakes. When it comes to holiday travel plans, be wary of deceptive student discounts.

When planning a trip to Boston this October, I searched for deals on Expedia, Priceline, Orbitz, Hotwire, and Cheap-tickets, but the plane ticket prices were astronomical, and the hotel packages they offered were equally outrageous. I had seen a student travel office in PB and was curious to see what kinds of fares they offered.

The travel agent at STA Travel was friendly and seemed interested in my travel plans. She immediately found tickets for \$150 less than I had been able to find on my own. When I explained to her that my friend and I were both racing at "Head of the Charles," a competitive regatta in Boston, she offered to find us a hotel nearby as well.

She found us lodging a mere 10 minutes from the racecourse and, to my surprise, it was only \$80 per night. All of the hotels I had searched for on my own were at least \$300, I was delighted by the good news.

In fact, I was so pleased with my initial experience that I emailed the travel agent, thanked her for her assistance and requested contact information so I could write an article about STA Travel upon returning from Boston. I hoped to title my article something like, "STA Travel: Good Deals and Great Service for Students."

Two weeks before our trip I contacted our hotel, The Battlefield Inn, and requested a non-smoking room, as my travel companion and I are both allergic to smoke, and needed to be in peak-condition for our races. The front desk assured me that our room would be non-smoking.

Our hotel seemed more like an apartment complex as we checked in at one building before walking back outside under artificial awnings.

On the way to our room, we both noticed the thick and overwhelming smell of cigarette smoke. Immediately upon opening the door the same intense smell flooded toward us, this time obviously masked by the sting of disinfectant.

We immediately returned to the front desk, requested a new room, and were taken by the manager to smell three other rooms, all of which were intolerable.

Finally, we arrived at a room on the second floor and decided that we had better take it, as we only detected a relatively faint amount of smoke.

We awoke to our first morning in Boston with sinus headaches, which later turned into migraines. Our voices were faint and throats scratchy, hindering communication with our rowers. Another unwelcome surprise was the fact that it took two busses and a subway car 90 minutes to get us from

our hotel (in Lexington) to the race course (in Cambridge) as we couldn't afford a 50 dollar one-way cab ride.

On the bus ride back from the race course, the driver asked "you do know that the upper floors of the Battlefield Inn are lower income housing?"

This explained the babies crying and cats wandering around.

From that point on, we lovingly referred to our hotel as "The Minefield Inn," and knew that we had to get out of there.

Fortunately, a friend of ours had an extra room at the Holiday Inn Select in Cambridge and let us stay there for free. After what we'd been through it seemed like The Ritz Carlton.

Thanks to a good night's sleep, my friend and I both went on to have great races.

Anticipating a lot of return traffic at the airport, we were careful to get there two hours before our flight. When we arrived at the airport, however, we were unable to check in at the electronic travel kiosk, and couldn't find our flight on the information board.

An airline agent informed us that our flight had been cancelled in August.

"Your travel agent should have let you know," he explained.

The agent was able to get us on another flight, but now we had to endure a 4 hour layover in Atlanta. We spent all four hours cursing STA Travel's incompetence, swearing never to use their services again.

After speaking with Adam Cooper, STA Travel's District Manager of San Diego, it is now clear to me that instead of complaining to each other, we should have been complaining to STA Travel.

"If you get to a destination and it's bad, you can give us a call," said Cooper. He explained that if students book a trip through their agency and are not satisfied with their lodgings, they should call the nearest office and ask what their options are.

Cooper also informed us that The Battlefield Inn wasn't one of their preferred hotels. "Nine times out of ten, we sell our preferred hotels, but at the time you booked there wasn't anything else available."

When I asked if STA Travel investigated the condition of the hotels they sent students to, Cooper responded that "it's impossible for us to check every hotel."

Had I known all this back when I planned

a trip to Mexico, also through STA Travel, I might have avoided another near-disaster.

My boyfriend and I had wanted to take a vacation to celebrate our 1 year anniversary, and found a very affordable package using the STA Travel website. After looking at pictures of many different hotels, we settled on the Marbella Suites, which featured beautiful rooms, a clear pristine swimming pool, and looked like a picture-perfect paradise.

We were greeted at the front of our hotel by a starving stray puppy, covered with mange and dragging an injured leg. It lied down on the tile stairs amid piles of dead ants.

Being an animal lover, I cried each and every time we passed it, and we ended up spending \$150 and a majority of our time helping the dog.

Although the staff at Marbella Suites was friendly and accommodating, our room was nothing like the one featured in the pictures. We had no television, no blow dryer, no closet, and our bathroom was in neglected condition.

The beautiful swimming pool we had seen online was choked with leaves, dirt and other debris.

"With hotels, you get what you pay for," says Cooper.

I guess I should have known when the description featured only three stars.

Although we are able to look back and laugh about our terribly unromantic vacation in Cabo, we didn't see the humor in it at the time.

Once again, it's possible that we could have salvaged our romantic getaway by simply picking up the phone, but I guess we'll never know.

"We have STA Travel affiliates all over the world." So if students aren't happy with their lodgings, Cooper advises that they "go to the nearest office, call the affiliate office, or call the 1-800-number. It's a 24-hour service, so someone will pick up the phone."

Remember, fellow penny-pinching students, beware of your natural inclination to use the price tag as the primary determining factor when planning a trip. Know your rights as a traveler; if you are not satisfied with your flight arrangements or hotel, call your travel agent and request their assistance.

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# Jock talk with Josh

BY JOSH SANDOVAL  
Special to The Pride



Each of the four seasons has its own alluring qualities. Winter is awesome because it's the holiday season, and who doesn't like presents? Spring is alright I guess, if you like flowers. Summer is cool since many of us have no school. I love Fall, because my birthday is in this season (November 26, for those who care). However, the season that I love the most only lasts about a month; March Madness.

Before March Madness comes around, there is a regular season to be played. By now, most teams have started playing games, so I felt it was time to analyze some of the contenders, sleepers, and busts for the season.

Many experts are picking Michigan State to win it all. I think MSU has a legitimate shot at the title behind Maurice Ager, Paul Davis, and Shannon Brown. MSU is really just waiting for the tourney to start. The regular season doesn't mean much to them, because they are stacked and they know it.

I personally don't see why Duke is so highly rated. I have

never been a big fan of Shelton Williams or J.J. Redick. All Redick does is shoot free throws and three-pointers. Eventually, Duke is going to need to play defense against an athletic team and that will kill their national championship run.

Connecticut is another team that is picked to go far. They do have a good team, but I think they are going to miss Charlie Villanueva inside the paint. Josh Boone is especially going to miss him, since he will have to take a greater role in the offense, and he hasn't proved he can't shoulder the load.

Arizona has been my team since I was a little kid. I liked the team last year a whole heck of a lot more than I do this year. The Wildcats are going to miss the inside-outside combo of Channing Frye and Salim Stoudamire. Hassan Adams is going to have to step it up if the Cats are going to dominate. Mustafa Shakur is going to need to learn how to lead, and Ivan Radenovic needs to learn how to put the ball in the bucket more often. Of course I think they're going to make a run since they are my team.

Gonzaga can do some harm this season, even though they lost some players. Derek Raivio, Erroll Knight, and Adam Morrison can flat out shoot. J.P. Batista is a beast that refuses to be moved

when he is under the basket. I seem to always pick Gonzaga to make a run; this year is no different.

I really like Kentucky. I think they could go all the way. They remind me a lot of Illinois from last year. They have three guards who can light up the scoreboard in Rajon Rondo, Patrick Sparks, and Joe Crawford. However, their inside game worries me a little bit; when you have three guys who like to shoot, you need someone in the paint to pick up the rebounds when those guys miss.

I think Boston College can have a decent season behind Craig Smith, and my former elementary school classmate, Jared Dudley. However, they don't have any perimeter shooting and just like last year, they will fall short in the post season.

I think the biggest bust this year will be Texas Tech. I don't see why so many people have them ranked in the top 20. They have way too many freshmen on one team to be successful. They have no star power, and not to mention, Bobby Knight hasn't won jack since 1987.

The two saddest teams to watch this season will be North Carolina and Illinois. North Carolina lost everyone. If they win 10-games I will be impressed. Illinois still has Dee Brown and

James Augustine, but I don't expect them to be in the top 25 at seasons end.

Now for the sleepers. Maryland is going to be very impressive this year. D.J. Strawberry is back and healthy. James Gist will become a star and a force to be reckoned with. Nik Caner-Medley and Ekene Ibekwe will fill nice complimentary roles. I honestly, see them making at least the sweet 16.

I may look like a fool now for saying this, but I think San Diego State could be a sleeper this year. Brandon Heath does crazy things with the basketball. Marcus Slaughter kills his opponents under the basket. A SDSU team with two future NBA quality players is something that I can't remember seeing in my lifetime. Not to mention they play in a weak Mountain West Conference. I can see the Aztecs

winning a game in the NCAA tourney.

However, I think the true sleeper of them all will be UCLA. Jordan Farmar Arron Afflao, and Cedric Bozeman provide the young star power. Luc Mbah a Moute could be one of those rare freshmen that have a huge impact on a team's success. The Bruins do have some tough competition in the Pac-10, with Arizona and Stanford there to challenge them in the regular season. That challenge will prepare the young team for the NCAA tourney, and don't be surprised if you see UCLA in the elite 8 in March.

My original final four picks never make it so don't go bet you college tuition, but here they are: I like Gonzaga, Kentucky, Michigan State, and Arizona.

All comments can be sent to Sando026@csusm.edu.

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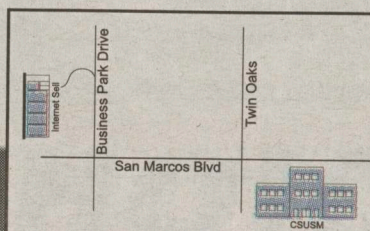
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# Cross Country Finals

BY HEATHER ZEMAN  
Pride Staff Writer

The final race of the NAIA Nationals at E.P. Tom Sawyer Park in Louisville, Kentucky marked the end of the season for the CSUSM cross country team. CSUSM's men's and women's teams joined 27 others nationwide this past weekend. The teams were competing in hopes of placing in the top four as a team or individually in the top 30

which would award them a title of All-American.

This season the men's team came in 18<sup>th</sup> overall and the women's team placed 11<sup>th</sup>. On both team's finishes, coach Steve Scott said, "Overall I'm really pleased. The kids really needed to step up and they did that. I'm pleased with their commitment and the hard work they put in to get to the level we got to. Each time you make it to nationals you see and experience differ-

ent things and learn where you have to work a little harder for next year."

For the national meet, 250 runners started out each race. This included seven from each team and several runners that came individually to represent their school. The team score was made up of the top five runners on each team by calculating the sum of their individual places. An individual highlight of this year's national race was senior

AnneMarie Byrne coming in 8<sup>th</sup> overall, placing her among the All-American team. Behind AnneMarie came Ava Jones placing 45<sup>th</sup> with a time of 18:48 and Aimee Bradley in 102<sup>nd</sup> place with a season personal record of 19:21. Coach Steve Scott said, "They came beyond my own desires and expectations and overall had a really great season."

In comparing CSUSM's national performance to their

regional performance, the women held strong at their 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish against the teams in their own region. The men slipped a little moving from their 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish at regionals to 4<sup>th</sup> place after being beat by Westmont College.

Most of the cross country runners are now preparing for indoor track in the spring of 2006. The training for these athletes is all year long. Here's to a great fall season.

## Cross Country Competes at Nationals - Returns with One All-American

The men's and women's cross country teams from Cal State San Marcos competed today, November 19, 2005, in the NAIA National Championships at Tom Sawyer Park in Louisville, Kentucky. The women's team took 11<sup>th</sup> out of 28 teams in their 5K race with 347

points. The men's team placed 18<sup>th</sup> out of 28 in their 8K race with 424 points.

Senior AnneMarie Byrne placed eighth overall with 17:46.70 and qualified as an NAIA All-American

### Women's Individual Times:

8, AnneMarie Byrne, SR 17:46.70  
45, Ava Jones JR, 18:48.80  
102, Aimee Bradley, JR 19:21.90  
139, Bonghabih Shey, JR 19:43.30  
176, Danae Hough, JR 20:01.15  
186, Anna Hough, SR 20:07.05  
215, Kristina Hill, JR 20:24.80

### Top Five Women's Teams:

1. Simon Fraser (BC), 74  
2. Black Hills State (SD), 190  
3. British Columbia, 209  
4. Cedarville (OH), 212  
5. Concordia (CA), 262  
Men's Individual Scores:  
83, Moises Alvarez, JR 26:01.65  
118, Phil Hoffman, SO 26:27.25  
122, Thomas Thys, FR 26:30.20  
123, Sergio Gonzalez, SO 26:31.00

128, Tim Irwin, SR 26:34.5  
242, Eric Gustafson, JR 28:16.60  
255, Jace Getskow, SO 29:11.50

### Top Five Men's Teams:

1. Virginia Intermont, 52  
2. Concordia (CA), 122  
3. Lindenwood (MO), 209  
4. Oklahoma Baptist, 221  
5. Azusa Pacific, 222

Full Results are available at [www.naia.org](http://www.naia.org).

Information courtesy of Paige Jennings



## 2005 Fall Grad Receptions

~ Light refreshments will be served ~

### For Graduates of the College of Arts and Sciences:

Join Dean Vicki Golich, faculty and staff at the Grand Ballroom, Conference Center, California Center for the Arts in Escondido, 340 N. Escondido Blvd., on Wednesday, December 7, 2005 from 6:00-8:00 PM  
Contact: Daphne Killion 760-750-4056, RSVP to [Grad2005@csusm.edu](mailto:Grad2005@csusm.edu)

### For Graduates of the College of Business Administration:

Join Dean Dennis Guseman, faculty and staff in the Grand Salon at the Clarke Field House on Friday, December 9, 2005 from 6:00-7:30 PM.  
Contact: Questions to CoBA 760-750-4242, RSVP to [cba@csusm.edu](mailto:cba@csusm.edu) or 760-750-8155. Students are limited to a maximum of two (2) guests each.

### For Graduates of the College of Education:

Join Dean Mark Baldwin, faculty and staff in the Grand Salon at the Clarke Field House on Friday, December 16, 2005 from 4:00- 6:00 PM  
Contact: Karen Leigh Herron 760-750-4311, RSVP to [kleigh@csusm.edu](mailto:kleigh@csusm.edu)

Students please RSVP by November 21st

For additional information, please check the following website:

[http://www.csusm.edu/student\\_affairs/fall\\_grad\\_faq.htm](http://www.csusm.edu/student_affairs/fall_grad_faq.htm)



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# Robbins Report

## Fee increases not so unfair?

BY JASON ROBBINS  
Special to The Pride

Clarifications regarding Ms. Sarah Leonard's rebuttal:

As it concerns your insinuation that I tried to deceive readers into thinking that I attended the event, if one actually reads the article it should become clear that my knowledge of the event was based on my reading about it in "The Pride"

She said: "First I would like to comment on the fact that for one to accurately report on an event, students should be able to assume that the writer actually attended the event."

Clarification: If you want to argue that folks have to attend events in order to be able to provide commentary about them, then there is heaps of literature that you may want to avoid.

She said: "Do you really mean for ASI to censor speakers simply because they are controversial?"

I say: No, I mean for ASI to be more reasonable in serving the needs of the student body, for ASI claims to be the "officially recognized voice of the students." And I simply find it hard to believe that the student body is best served by

events like "Sluts Unite".

Now, on to this week's topic: Fee increases at the CSU.

So here's the deal: On October 27, The California State University Board of Trustees (folks in the clouds twirling wands and wearing crowns) agreed on a budget request that would increase funding for the CSU at a level consistent with the Compact for Higher Education. Oh, and the budget request is also designed to increase undergraduate tuition to an average total of \$3,368 per year for California residents. This figure includes average campus-based fees.

So our fees are going up. Are you interested? Does this news upset you? I reckon that it should, for losing money is painful. And as one of my professors told me, people like pleasure and dislike pain.

I have the privilege (a privilege above all other privileges) to work with some of the folks in ASI, and they seem quite miffed. But I guess they should be quite miffed. I mean, if they were merely indifferent (as opposed to quite miffed) I'd probably be quite miffed at them for not accu-

ately representing students who should be miffed about losing money. Stay with me people.

The point is that I know ASI is upset, and I think that other students should probably be upset as well.

The question is, while it's natural to be upset about losing money, are we really being burdened that much?

I conducted a little research and discovered that even after the forthcoming fee increase, CSU students (residents) will pay less than students (residents) at state schools in New York (\$4350) and Pennsylvania (\$4906), and almost the same as students at state schools in Hawaii (\$3352). According to the *Trends in College Pricing 2005* report published by CollegeBoard, "Average total tuition and fees at four-year public colleges and universities in 2005-06 are \$5,491."

So on paper it appears that, relative to students at public schools in other states, we aren't facing that oppressive of a burden.

But then I would be a jerk to ignore the folks who argue that students in Southern California are burdened by a high cost of living. This corner claims that an

increasing tuition, combined with said high cost of living, makes it hard to survive.

Your political commentator would like to respond to this claim: Bologna. When I look around campus and talk to my peers, I don't get the impression that most CSUSM students are barely surviving. I see spiffy cars in the parking lot, expensive surf shop clothes, and iPods; I hear stories about folks killing heaps of beers, and going out for sushi.

I don't think that this sort of consumption pattern is bad, but I also don't think this sort of consumption pattern is reflective of students that can barely survive. And if students that consume like this can barely survive, I would

argue that it is their own fault. I would argue that students ought to live more modestly. It's my view that being a student doesn't entitle you to a four year vacation.

And for the students who live modestly and still struggle to survive under these fee increases, I feel your pain. My point is this: Access to higher education should be affordable; I think that it basically is; and I think that when financial crises cause fees to rise to levels that are not relatively burdensome, students ought to try to endure the burden that exists by living more modestly.

I have holes in my sandals.

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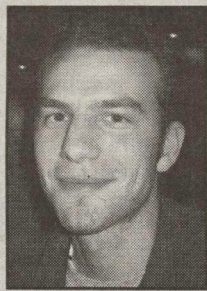
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# OMBUDSMAN'S NOTES

BY MATTHEW SCHRAMM  
Pride Staff Writer



Last week's paper, hmm... well I don't really want to talk about it too much. What, and you all thought that was my job? Right?

Well it is, but lest we all forget that I control this little Ombudsman box I'm just going to say that there were some problems with last week's edition and there was some good stuff too (i.e. three big glasses of beer on the back page). There, that about sums it all up

— no more in-depth Ombudsman's, just bad summaries that don't explain anything.

No, actually, I want to talk about politics this week, the Robbins Report just isn't getting it done (just kidding Jason). Seriously, though, the question that I want to tackle is a very real one: Does The Pride have a political bias? Last week's issue had the question in there, whether it was apparent or not. Between the Letter to the Editor accusing Jason of improperly assessing the political atmosphere at CSUSM and Jason's own column the week before, the question was subtle but there, as to whether or not The Pride is biased. Now I'm going to admit right off the bat that I'm biased on this topic; I like the Robbins Report and I agree with

most of what Jason writes in it. I also work for The Pride and have a political leaning, although I'm not going to tell you which way that leaning might be. But one thing I will tell you is that lately I've been hearing that The Pride is looking a little more conservative than it used to.

Personally I don't see it. I mean how biased is The Pride? Not as biased as the New York Times, that's for sure, or Fox News. And overall, The Pride is pretty well balanced; this semester The Pride has covered a wide range of events. There was the "Sluts Unite" fest and the "Katrina Forum," but we also had stories on "Veterans Day" and the military involvement at San Marcos in general. The truth is every newspaper is going to be a

little biased, depending on who runs it, and almost every college is going to be more liberal than conservative, including CSUSM. But, fortunately, for The Pride, it appears to be taking the balanced news approach seriously, or at least trying to. Like I said, everybody has their own biases when it comes to politics; so maybe I'm right or maybe I'm just full of it.

But think about it — how biased are you when you read The Pride? That's just to say, think about your own political views before passing judgment on the (non) political agenda of The Pride. Meanwhile, while you're gnawing over that philosophical rambling, tell me about your political biases, The Pride's, or mine at [schra009@csusm.edu](mailto:schra009@csusm.edu)

## Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Cranberry Sauce, and ... Tofurky???

BY JOELLE FRANKEL  
Special To The Pride

More than 40 million turkeys are killed each Thanksgiving. This year CSUSM students—be radical, be revolutionary, challenge tradition—give turkeys the opportunity to be thankful too.

Before these beautiful birds arrive at your dinner table, they face unimaginable pain and suffering. The majority of turkeys spend the last 5-6 six months of their lives crammed into 3.5 square feet of space. PETA's website explains that "To keep the overcrowded birds from scratching and pecking each other to death, workers cut off portions of the birds' toes and upper beaks with hot blades...no pain killers are used during any of these procedures."

Aside from terrible living conditions, the slaughtering practices of turkeys are inhumane and inexcusable. Also, according to PETA, the turkeys are hung upside down by one leg and

their dangling heads are dipped into an "electrified 'stunning tank,' which immobilizes them but does not kill them." After the lucky ones get electrified, the turkeys' throats are slit by a blade attached to a machine (although the blade many times misses its target), and finally the birds are submerged in scalding hot water.

Due to genetic engineering, poor conditions, and a constant feed of antibiotics, another organization, Advocates for Animals, reports that "an estimated 80% of turkeys are lame and unable to mate naturally - weighing over four times as much as their wild counterparts." Therefore, male turkeys go through a "milking" process (use your imagination) and female turkeys are restrained by multiple farmers so that you and your thankful family can benefit from artificial insemination.

Did I hear someone say, "I get the drumstick!"?

I didn't think so.

Many readers must be think-

ing: "Who is this crazy, rabbit-food eating hippy trying to guilt-trip me, and ruin my Thanksgiving...and how the hell does she know what I'm thinking?"

Not too long ago, I was just like you.

I used to show vegetarians my pointy teeth and say, "If I'm not supposed to eat meat, what are these for?"

For a long time I lived in denial, until I took a philosophy class here at CSUSM. Our professor showed us a video on animal cruelty, and I left class crying. I was overcome with emotion, but not guilt, just sadness and disgust. "Those terrible farmers," I thought to myself.

After the video, the professor posed a question that has forever changed my views on the consumption of animal products. He asked, "What is taste? Taste is a momentary sensation involving a chemical reaction between your mouth and your brain. Can you honestly justify sentencing a sentient being to a life and death

of terrible pain and suffering so that you can enjoy a five second chemical reaction?"

If you know that causing another being unnecessary pain is wrong but you indulge in the result of that pain, you are a hypocrite. If you are satisfied being a hypocrite, go right on ahead, but at least acknowledge your chosen identity.

I know you have pointy teeth. I have them too, but this is 2005, and you don't have to hunt down McNuggets as they run across the plains and rip them apart to guarantee your survival.

I'm not asking you to become an activist. You don't need to picket outside Foster Farms, or dress up as a turkey and gobble in front of the supermarket (although I'd like to see that). You can eat "free-range" if you want, but those turkeys usually go to the same kinds of slaughterhouses. For more information see <http://www.peta.org> or <http://www.advocatesforanimals.org>.

Respect for all living creatures

isn't just a lofty idea for tree huggers in Birkenstocks, there are many simple alternatives that can you help make a change.

Whole Foods offers a Vegan Thanksgiving Dinner for \$15.99 per person. It includes: Celebration Stuffed Field Roast, Cranberry Orange Couscous, Vegan Mushroom Gravy, Cranberry Sauce, and Roasted Harvest Vegetables. See [www.wholefoods-market.com](http://www.wholefoods-market.com) for details.

Care to try a home-cooked vegetarian meal? Find animal-friendly recipes like Forks High Shepard's Pie, Apple Stuffed Acorn Squash or Vegan Pumpkin Pie at <http://vegweb.com/recipes>

If you feel like you need that familiar taste, texture, and table centerpiece, check out pre-made vegetarian turkey substitutes at your nearest health food store. My favorite is "Tofurky." With a little cranberry sauce, your taste buds won't know the difference, but your conscience will.

Happy Thanksgiving, and gobble-gobble.

## Arguments for cougars to ponder during thanksgiving

BY JEANNE SAPP  
Pride Staff Writer

There is a point-counterpoint being argued in various arenas in our nation — government, church, and schools. This unmediated debate centers on the question of national integrity. The real question is do we have any? And whose ethics, which political party, worldview, or economic demographic, will stand for those of the nation?

The arguments are many and passionate and often contradictory: We are a Christian nation. But there is a constitutional separation of church and state.

There is a constitutional right to privacy, upon which grounds

the highest court in the land based its ruling that unborn children may be killed.

But capital punishment is, by definition, cruel and inhumane. Torturing prisoners is unethical, and as an ethical nation, we mustn't sanction it. But that part of the Geneva Convention is void because terrorists don't fight fair — they hide behind women, and in churches, and they dress like civilians.

We are a democratic republic; it works well for us, and will therefore work for other nations. But who are we to say that the Middle East should, or can, follow our form of government? And if they choose to remain a despotic theocracy, do we still send them

aid?

Do we vaccinate the children who are then inculcated with the religion of hating Americans? If they despise everything we stand for, and we stand for healthy children and helping old people and capitalism, do we continue to aid them?

It is interesting that many people are not at all uncomfortable being of two minds on any debate. The most popular spin the past few years? "I support the troops but I'm against the war." The men and woman who comprise the troops have sworn to defend and protect the Constitution, and if the nation over which that Constitution rests sends them to war, they go.

If you support the military, doesn't it follow that you support the nation that military protects? Perhaps we just want to avoid that quagmire that society found itself in when our men and women of the armed forces returned from Vietnam — exhausted, injured, sick, and demonized.

The United States of America was once the moral voice of the world. Those in disagreement with our current administration will howl at that statement, because it offends their sensibilities that any nation should hold itself above others in moral or ethical behavior.

Yet those same people would say we are morally obligated to take this stand or that stand in the

world. Some might base those obligations on faith: I'm a Christian, and Christians are supposed to feed and clothe the poor.

Or a political viewpoint — I'm a Democrat, and we believe in social equality for all. I'm a Republican and we need to provide jobs for everyone who wants one. I'm an atheist, but you don't kill another person because it's just wrong.

Either we do maintain a strong moral and ethical national identity, even as we argue, sometimes in court, about what exactly is moral and ethical. Or we crawl off into a corner under the guise of some false humility and ask who are we to say what is right or wrong.



# Thanksgiving out on the town

BY JESSICA DAMBKOWSKI  
Pride Staff Writer

Thanksgiving is a time for family, food, and fun. Make this Thanksgiving even better; avoid the mess and loads of dirty dishes with a trip to a local restaurant. Imagine, a holiday dinner without hours of cooking and cleaning. Take a break this year and try one of following three local places. (Remember to call ahead of time to place your orders and make reservations.)

## HomeTown Buffet

288 Rancheros Dr. (760) 471-9944 (and [www.buffet.com/index.htm](http://www.buffet.com/index.htm))

With over 100 menu items on their typical daily menus, every one will find something to enjoy for dinner, according to HomeTown Buffet's website. Also according to the Web site, all the holiday favorites like turkey with homemade dressing, yams, sweet potatoes, cranberries, and pumpkin pie will be on the menu as well. An extra plus at HomeTown Buffet's website is the printable dollar-off coupon for each individual (save children) dining in on Thanksgiving weekend, Friday, Nov. 25 through Sunday, Nov. 27.



Image courtesy of [www.buffet.com](http://www.buffet.com)



Image courtesy of [www.mcplies.com](http://www.mcplies.com)

## Marie Callender's

162 S. Rancho Santa Fe (760) 632-0204 (and [www.mcplies.com](http://www.mcplies.com))

According to the Marie Callender's website, holiday diners have a choice of five different feasts to order for pick-up. The "Holiday Dining Guide 2005" from the Web site lists the five dinners, that each serves six to eight individuals. The guide states the names, prices, and items which come with each selection. For example the guide said the Turkey Feast (\$69.99) comes with apple-sage stuffing, gravy, sweet yam casserole, cranberry sauce, mashed potatoes, chef's vegetables, cornbread and a whole pie (pump-

kin or apple). For other pick-up options check out [www.mcplies.com](http://www.mcplies.com), then click "what's new" for the "Holiday Dining Guide."

According to the last page of the "Holiday Dining Guide," the main entrées for dining in at Marie Callender's are the Oven-Roasted Turkey, and the Honey-Glazed Ham dinners (both served with seasonal vegetables, sweet yam casserole, and mashed potatoes.)

## Vons

671 Rancho Santa Fe (760) 471-0170 (and [www.vons.com](http://www.vons.com))

Vons stores are offering three different "heat and serve" holiday dinners this year, as it is stated on the Deli's "Complete Holiday Dinners" flyer. The list of din-

ners on the flyer are as follows: 1. Turkey Dinner (serves six to eight), with cornbread dressing, mashed potatoes, gravy, dinner rolls, cranberry sauce, and a pumpkin pie for \$39.99. 2. Spiral Ham Dinner (serves six to eight), with scalloped potatoes, corn, green bean casserole, dinner rolls, and apple pie for \$49.99. 3. Prime Rib Dinner (serves four to five), with the same trimmings as the Spiral Ham Dinner, for \$64.99.

This year, make Thanksgiving memorable and relaxing by enjoying a hot meal cooked from a local restaurant or store. Always remember, when planning to dine out or in on Thanksgiving, call ahead of time, and make reservations.

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# PIGMATA: an industrial education



BY ZACHARY J. SIMON  
Pride Staff Writer

Don't feel guilty if this item seems unfamiliar.

Deprived, maybe, but not guilty.

It's one thing to be ignored by TV, two more by radio, but this isn't even a matter for most any given sect of the under-the-radar faithful, for most of them have yet to bear Witness to the Lord of Lard, also known as Raymond Watts, also heard as "PIG".

In fact, this latest release was initially only available overseas under the moniker of 'WATTS', but we can save marketing details for later, perhaps when "Pigmata" is actually made available through the average music store.

First, let's get down to the gritty gristle of classification, of genre. No, I don't like to think of my music as predictable any more than you like yours dismissed as 'weird'. Nonetheless, this time there's really no getting around one of the most reviled labels in modern music history.

"Industrial."

Not since 'Rock' and 'Metal' began acknowledging their many illegitimate children (and parasitic twins) has there been a more nebulous sonic-flag. Some make it a family quilt, others a diaper and still others simply use it like a hanky...then there's the issue of what pocket they keep it in.

And like so many things we wished we'd discovered, 'Industrial' was probably born before you were, during the dawn of electronic music and the twilight of free-love music.

A coincidence?

Nevermind.

Two of the more often acknowledged forefathers were "Psychic TV" and "Throbbing Gristle". More performance art ventures than bands, their 'industrial music' might best be described as a liaison between punk, jazz and disco wherein all parties are as profoundly intoxicated as they are ugly.

Apart from a brief period of underground semi-popularity in the late 80s and early 90s,

when the charts were especially schizophrenic, Industrial music has remained unpopular in ways Punk could only dream of. It's almost as if people preferred electronic music for dancing rather than tearing the world apart.

Many might credit the 'band' (Industrial acts often revolve around one or two core musicians) "Ministry" with establishing the 'electro-metal' favored by fans of "Static-X" and "Rammstein" or the 'industrial-pop/rock' of "Nine Inch Nails/Trent Reznor" and "Marilyn Manson".

Indeed, other two-decades-and-counting outfits like "Skinny Puppy" and "KMFDM" have become more like unusually-diverse-rock than ugly-techno.

Raymond Watts, among the few who know the name, is best known for his contributions to KMFDM (an acronym of the German saying 'No Pity for the Masses'), but to truly prepare someone for PIG, they'd need to imagine every rocker or metal-head who ever used keyboards, synthesizers, programming etc. having a big party together.

Now imagine a lanky yet rugged Brit in the alley behind them, getting creative with their garbage and kinky with their girlfriends.

It took a week's worth of machismo to say that, but one of the best things about the mighty swine is that he's too much of a lecher to be a chauvinist, too violent to be a Neanderthal, and too unmarketably creative to be a punk.

Almost a decade ago, when "Sinsation" was released on Trent Reznor's now defunct record label, I learned something that I still hold as a personal creative philosophy:

Every single negative thing about humanity can be turned into astoundingly beautiful art.

PIG, like the best of Industrial Mass-Destructions, and the best of Punk's intentions, puts you in what I call the 'Dance Pit'. Don't cut a rug; disembowel it.

The interchange and interplay of seemingly polarized elements marks each and every track of "Pigmata" like a salad tossed with gravy. Watts has a guttural roar and a sinister croon that even the most jaded listener couldn't dismiss as a mere shock-affectation.

Though I admit it might be hard to say the same thing about song titles like "God Rod" or "On the Slaughterfront".

In some places the guitar crush splits the world, only to lay the tracks that bring you down, down, down into leisurely grooves and



Images courtesy of Metropolis Records

epic duets with divas, sirens, and the filthy whores we know as 'samples'.

Unlike his previous albums, "Pigmata" is not only noticeably more guitar-driven, yet lacking in darkly serene instrumentals, but the production is far less polished, maintaining 'live' rather than futuristic textures. It's not uncommon for artists to harness the height of technology, only to return to something comparatively organic. In this case Watts also seems to favor clunkier analog electronics, but his use of orchestral catgut, big band brass, and even mambo drums remains crisp and uncanny.

One drawback to this 'natural' production, however, is that Watts' aforementioned filthy mouth is even harder to decipher. There are some damn catchy melodies here, but damned again if I can sing along with more than half the chorus.

Music fans might question whether PIG is better for people who prefer their music ugly, yet are curious about the other side (or vice versa), and I could list off all the music I absolutely love that could pass in the old folks home, but I think there's a place that Industrial has all to itself.

There might still be some space available for a few of these garage punks pretending they have the skill or puberty to play metal.

In the end, it's often a feeling of wretched boredom with the lion's portion of music that leads to animals like PIG, who stare through stray hair and veins as the whole mess is slopped out, stirred with copper wire, and offered, to the lucky ones, as a way to fertilize all that mud in their ears.

## Skate into the holidays

BY MELISSA BAIRD  
Pride Staff Writer

Sandwiched between the NBC building and Macy's department store in downtown San Diego is a mass of ice.

Trolley bells ring and shrubbery lights flicker as skaters glide and fall on this unfamiliar ground.

The ice skating rink known as "Fantasy on Ice" sits directly in front of the Horton Plaza mall. The main appeal of the rink is its outdoor location. While the typical ice rink is surrounded by smelly hockey bags and abandoned Gatorade bottles, Fantasy is surrounded with balloons and trees.

Though it is roughly half the size of the Iceoplex rinks, Fantasy's lack of rowdy hockey players and penalty buzzers makes it preferable for those who aren't voraciously athletic.

Skate into the holiday season with your family and friends and enjoy San Diego's only outdoor skating rink. Fantasy on Ice is open until Jan. 2006 and daily from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Cost is ten dollars for persons over twelve and eight dollars for anyone younger. All skating fees and sponsor proceeds benefit Children's Hospital and Health Center San Diego. This community event has become a tradition since 1997 and will remain a fun family getaway every winter.

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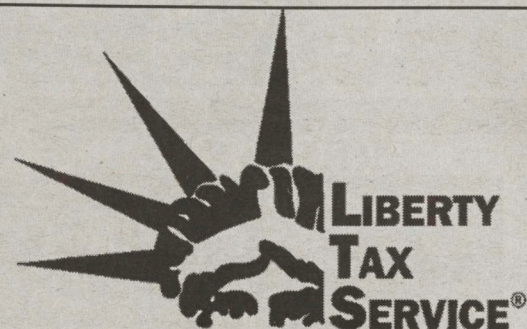
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# Get a ‘Kiss, kiss, bang, bang’



BY ALFRED CHU  
Pride Staff Writer

The best thing to admire in a buddy cop action comedy is chemistry between the two leading roles. If the plot, performances, directing, etc is up to par, it obviously only helps the film. Knowing ahead of time that Shane Black wrote “Kiss Kiss, Bang Bang”, I knew the two leading actors, Robert Downey Jr. and Val Kilmer, would not only have chemistry but develop a hilarious love/hate relationship.

Harry Lockhart (Downey Jr.), a petty thief from New York, escapes from the police after a robbery gone wrong. He stumbles into an audition of a casting call and gives an over the top spontaneous performance.

Dabney Shaw (Larry Miller), a big time producer sees him as the next big thing and invites him out to Los Angeles. At a party, Harry meets Gay Perry (Kilmer), a gay detective, hence, his name.

Also at the party, Harry runs into his childhood crush Harmony Lane (Michelle Monaghan), an aspiring actress.

Gay agrees to coach Harry, who does not how to act like a real cop, by taking him to solve a murder of a young woman.

During a series of adventures where people turn up dead and clues are found, Gay becomes more irritated by Harry’s absent mindedness. Also, Harry is prone to accidents and loses his own finger, not once, but twice.

I knew Downey Jr. and Kilmer would have chemistry, because Black has written Hollywood’s funniest action comedies (e.g. the Lethal Weapon Trilogy and The Last Boy Scout) where the chemistry between the two leading actors would carry the movie. Also, in his directorial debut, Black’s use of cinematography shows that he is competent behind the camera as well as writing. He captured action scenes with the ease of a seasoned director.

The next best thing of “Kiss Kiss, Bang Bang” is the screenplay. Word by word, line by line, you can’t help but to chuckle, and at times, burst out laughing. I know I did.

For example, during an argument, Gay says, “If you looked in the dictionary next to the word ‘idiot’, you know what you’ll find?” Harry cheerfully replies “A picture of me?”

Typical Hollywood discourse would respond with “Yes”. Kiss Kiss Bang Bang defies that logic by having Harry up the banter between the two characters by



Images courtesy of Warner Brothers Pictures

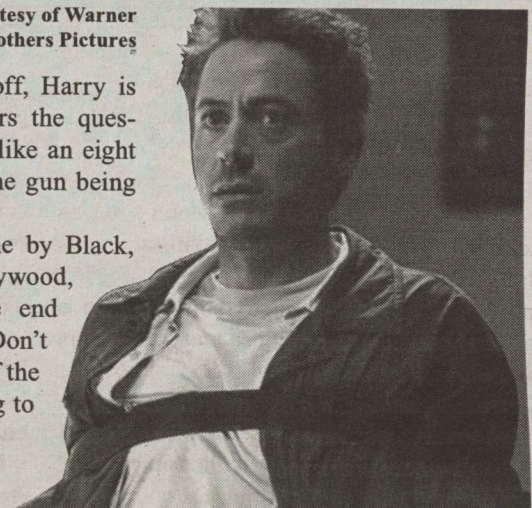
saying, “No, the definition of the word ‘idiot’.”

Black, knowing Hollywood’s clichés and movie standards, embraces them and insults them simultaneously. For example, when Harry is about to interrogate a suspect by using the Russian roulette method (he empties a revolver, leaving one bullet in the chamber and spins it).

Other films would have Harry ask his questions while pulling the trigger with no bullet being fired. But in this film, the bullet is fired on the first try, killing the

suspect. To top it off, Harry is shocked and ponders the question, “Don’t I have like an eight percent chance of the gun being fired?”

Another great line by Black, while insulting Hollywood, comes towards the end when Harry says “Don’t worry, I saw Lord of the Rings. I’m not going to end this 17 times.”



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# How To ... Spend time during a rainy day

BY AMANDA KEELEY  
Pride Staff Writer

With winter weather just around the corner, outdoor activities are soon to be put on the self. To avoid getting cabin fever, here are some fun activities that can be done inside.

For the adventurous type, Solid Rock Climbing Gym in San Marcos is the place, because it's indoors, so even if it's raining outside, one can still be active without getting drenched.

If water is your thing, but cold, windy weather isn't, then gyms with indoor pools, like YMCA or L.A Fitness, may meet your satisfaction.

If you're looking to add a little more punch to your day, Dave and Busters is an exciting restaurant with a shooting arcade equipped with service call that would make anyone forget about the stormy weather outside. Spend your time eating yummy

food like Philly cheese steak sandwiches, and nachos while playing simulated golf, baseball, basketball, surfing and any other activity that is typically meant for outdoor recreation.

If the mere fact of going outside to drive to any of these places is a turn off, then stock up now on activities that keep you busy in the comfort of your home.

First off, to take advantage of a day indoors, have a comfy pair of pajamas on hand. Movies are a great place to start, thanks to places like Blockbuster who, for a small monthly fee, allows unlimited movie rentals so you don't have to worry about late fees.

Sometimes being cooped up indoors allows one to discover his or her

creative side. Make sure to have plenty of paint, brushes, an art book and you just might find your inner artist.

Bad weather also makes for a great excuse to get organized. Go through old pictures that were stuffed under the bed and make a scrapbook, look around your home for spare buttons, ribbon, colored paper and have at it.

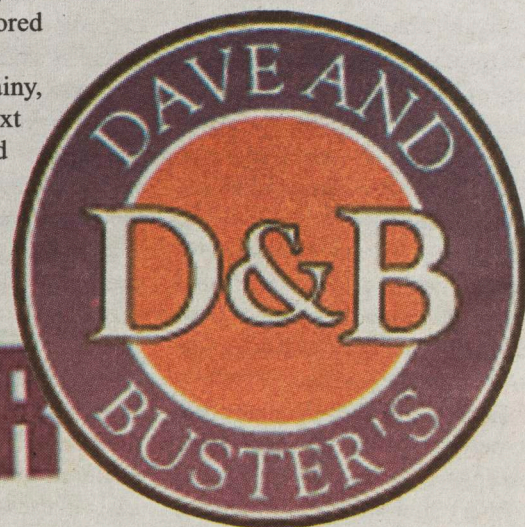
When the weathers cold and rainy, sometimes it's just nice to curl up next to the fireplace with a good book and escape mentally.

The fact is, just because the weather may hinder outdoor hobbies, doesn't mean you can't enjoy the day. Give yourself a day to catch up on some

long lost hobbies or take a much needed nap from the stress of everyday life.

Just like squirrels stock up on nuts for the long winter ahead, start accumulating things that will keep you busy indoors while the weather keeps you from the outdoors.

## BLOCKBUSTER



# 'Wal-Mart: The High Cost of Low Price'

BY MELISSA BAIRD  
Pride Staff Writer

The documentary "WAL\*MART: The High Cost of Low Price" reveals the financial destruction of having a corporation in the neighborhood.

Created by Robert Greenwald, the Wal-Mart film travels through the United States, talking with small business owners who are now out of business.

The story of Wal-Mart's impact is similar across the country: Family-owned businesses can't compete with Wal-Mart's low prices. Though small businesses provide better wages, healthcare, and vacation time than Wal-Mart corporations, the cheap price of the corporation's merchandise ultimately attracts the most customers. As the supercenter steals shoppers away from smaller stores, those stores go out of business.

In Middlefield, Ohio H&H Hardware founder Don Hunter tells how his little country store was overtaken by a Wal-Mart. In Hearne, Texas the town is described as looking hit by a neutron bomb, due to the now empty buildings and desolate streets. Cathedral City, California is short on police officers and fire fighters, due to city subsidies given to a new Wal-Mart.

"I've seen a lot of companies crucified just because of one entity...commissioners do nothing but lay down the red carpet for Wal-Mart," said Hunter. Another man likens Wal-Mart to a Chinese company with American Board members. One person calls the store a monopoly that is going on a rampage through the American economy.

At one point during the film, booklets entitled "How Wal-Mart is destroying the World" are distributed in Hunter's store.

In China, Wal-Mart factory workers are paid less than three dollars a day. They are instructed to lie to inspectors about hours worked and the cleanliness of the factory. If the workers tell the truth about their mistreatment, their employers fire them.

The factories in China have no air conditioning. One girl, referred to as "Princess" says she sits in her own sweat the entire day because her boss won't allow her to have a fan.

At Wal-Mart factories in Bangladesh, workers are paid between 13 and 17 cents per hour. One woman brushes her teeth using her finger and ash from the fire. She does this because she can't afford a toothbrush or toothpaste with the wages she receives from working at the factory.

Such instances explain why Wal-Mart can afford its 'everyday low prices', complete with a personified yellow blob.

Lee Scott, CEO of Wal-Mart, calls the company "career and family-orientated" and "vital to the community". At the same time, Wal-Mart employees talk of working off the clock, unaffordable healthcare, and not having enough money for food.

Wal-Mart is facing legal battles in three states regarding wage and hour abuses. Managers have reportedly

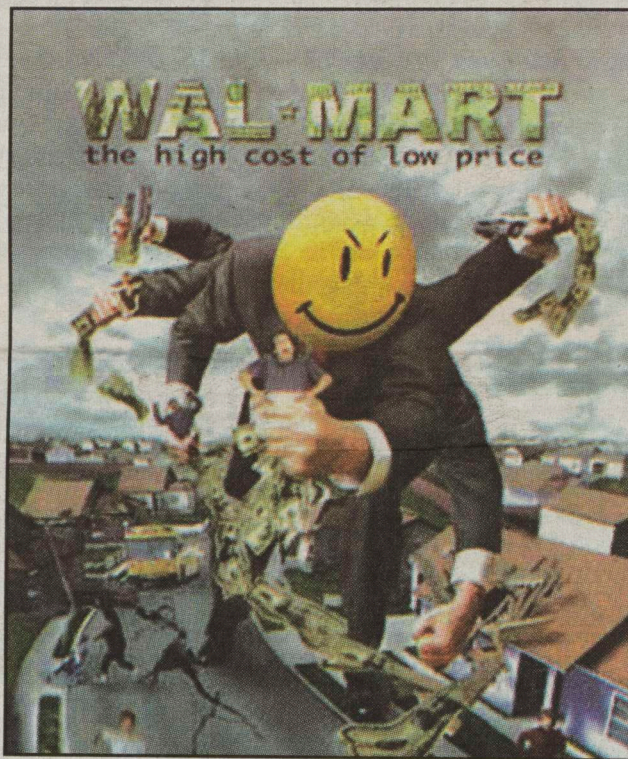


Image courtesy of [www.walmartmovie.com](http://www.walmartmovie.com)

gone into computers under false IDs and moved workers' overtime hours to the following week's check.

One employee has to choose between buying food and buying medicine when her children are ill, because she can't afford the health plan Wal-Mart offers. Another man gets in trouble for offering co-workers money to buy lunch when he sees they aren't eating during lunch breaks.

Wal-mart encourages its employees to seek help from the government, via Welfare or Medicaid, instead of paying for healthcare with company money.

A male employee explains, "You go to work knowing you aren't making enough money to make it, and yet you gotta fake it and put a smile on your face."

In addition to financial lawsuits, Wal-Marts in Texas, Okla., and Mass. were fined for Clean Water Act violations. These stores kept pallets of pesticides and herbicides in their parking lots, where many of the products tore open and leaked onto the asphalt. When it rained, the chemicals washed into nearby rivers-sources of drinking water for many homes in the area.

When a river keeper in Bentonville, AR reported environmental violations to Wal-Mart management, they didn't seem to care. Then she got a lawyer.

In response to the corporate takeover in his city, Reverend James Lawson said, "It is written in the new testament 'the love of money is the root of all evil.'" He does not approve of the way in which Wal-Mart treats its employees and feels corporate greed is to blame.

Lee Scott says a job at Wal-Mart is the path to the American dream. Lee Scott made 27,207,799 dollars last year. The average Wal-Mart employee made 13,861. It seems Scott does not understand the nightmare of minimum wage.

BY LIZZ OSBORNE  
Pride Staff Writer

Producer/Director Robert Greenwald and Brave New Films are taking viewers on an extraordinary journey that will change the way they think, feel -- and shop, as thousands of free screenings of "Wal-Mart: The High Cost of Low Price" debut in households across the nation.

Have you ever wondered how the low cost of purchasing your underwear at Wal-Mart affects individual workers, consumers, small business owners and communities across the nation, and the entire world? If so, I highly recommend watching this movie. Although one-sided, Greenwald sheds light on how retail giant Wal-Mart mistreats employees, lowers property values, puts small businesses out of business, exploits factory workers over seas, fails to provide secure parking areas, pollutes the environment and picks up perks and subsidies all in the name of making a quick profit.

In all fairness, Wal-Mart is not the only major organization guilty of the violations highlighted in this film, but it is certainly a grand example of a recent global trend of excessive greed in the name of fair-market value. This point is made quite clear near the beginning as the film centers on a series of shots of abandoned Main Streets, empty store after empty store, with Bruce Springsteen's version of "This Land Is Your Land." From there, it only gets worse.

In China, a young factory employee talks about working conditions. "I'm sitting there, dripping with sweat all day long," she says. Employees in China say they are housed in dismal dormitories; they may choose to live elsewhere, but still have to pay the dorm rent.

In a recent press release, when asked why he decided to make this film, Greenwald states, "A neighbor of mine, who had some health issues, was hired at Wal-Mart. As we were talking about it, I expressed my relief that he would now have health insurance. He replied that no, unfortunately the coverage offered at Wal-Mart was so expensive and had so many requirements; he couldn't afford it and might not qualify even if he could pay. He let me know that the really nice managers at the store had told him how to apply for state-subsidized health coverage available to low-income residents of California, paid for by tax dollars. Impossible, I thought. No way was a corporation the size of Wal-Mart using public programs for its employees, and so I started to research, read and investigate. The more I learned, the larger the scope of the Wal-Mart story became. And the bigger and more complex the story became, the more clear it was that the only way to tell this story was to go small, human and deeply personal."

I agree with his tactics, and indeed found the movie to be human, deeply personal, and even downright disturbing at times. So much so, in fact, I will not even stop at Wal-Mart to browse, despite my natural inclination as a starving student to go after bargains whenever possible.

If you are curious, put down that cheap underwear, and visit the official website for listings of where you can view this movie for free: <http://www.walmartmovie.com>.