

Out to save 'Tookie' Williams

CSUSM professor helps rally for Williams' life

BY PATRICK B. LONG
Pride Staff Writer

Stanley "Tookie" Williams, death-row inmate in San Quentin State Prison for 24 years, is set to die 12:01 a.m. on Dec. 13. Williams, now a Noble Peace Prize nominee, was convicted in 1981 for murder, and has been on death row ever since.

Dr. Lance Newman, associate professor, Literature and Writing Studies at Cal State San Marcos, has helped arrange, "with a city-wide coalition that includes many organizations and individuals," protests and vigils against the execution. The protests and rallies will be held at 4 p.m., on Dec. 7 and 12, outside the Hall of Justice in downtown San Diego.

"Tookie's case highlights everything that's wrong with the death penalty in this country," stated Newman in an email. "Above all else, it's racist."

Newman cites "African Americans are 12 percent of the U.S. population, but are 43 percent

See **TOOKIE**, page 2

Ceppi appointed to assist with university goals

BY CHRISTINE VAUGHAN
Pride Staff Writer



Matthew Ceppi

President Haynes announced the welcome of Matthew Ceppi, the recently appointed Director of Institutional Planning at Cal State San Marcos.

"Mr. Ceppi brings with him a portfolio of skills and experiences which will be important to our progress along with an excitement for the model we are building. I trust that he will become a values

See **CEPPI**, page 3

Vagina Monologues

CSUSM students speak out for women

BY CHRISTINE VAUGHAN
Pride Staff Writer

Women's Studies 300L welcomes back the classic rendition of Eve Ensler's Vagina Monologues. Performed by students, the fast-selling campus favorite, opens Thursday, Dec. 8, for three consecutive evenings at 8:00 p.m. in ARTS 240.

With 29 students enrolled in the course, 17 students will stand in front of fellow students, staff, faculty and guests to bare all in the name of the Vagina, according to Jennifer Gonsaullus, adjunct professor of WS 300L. Students not participating in the oration of monologues will be behind the scenes, manning ticket booths and assisting in a smooth running production.

The Vagina Fest kicks off at 7:00 p.m. each night an hour before the show. "We will be raffling prizes, having live music, and featuring different vendors with unique gifts and souvenirs," mentioned Julie Bennington, a student and performer in the Vagina Monologues. Attendees may want to have money on hand for refreshments, souvenirs, must-have t-shirts and a rare holiday commodity premiering at the event, and Vagina tree ornaments made by students in the class. All proceeds made through ticket sales and student-made retail items will benefit the Women's Studies Department.



Eve Ensler, founder of the Vagina Monologues, performs.

Photo courtesy of Joan Marcus

Tickets are \$5 for students with ID and \$10 for guests, and advance purchase is advised. Prior shows have been sold-out. The show usually has long wait lists with many perspective attendees being turned away. Interested participants are advised to purchase tickets early, or be prepared to arrive early for standby. Tickets are available through the ASI box

office, payable by cash, check, credit or debit.

"The Vagina Monologues are really about awareness more than anything. The monologues open up dialogue about our bodies. It then opens dialogue for violence against women. And that's really what it's all about,"

See **V-DAY**, page 3

Whiteness Forum

COMM 454 hosts event educating attendees about white power and privilege

BY SHELLEY MONROE & ANTOINETTE JOHNSON
Pride Staff Writers

Communication 454 held its annual Whiteness Forum: White Power and Privilege, on Thursday Dec. 1 at Commons 206. The event brought in a fairly large turnout, from students and faculty alike, who engaged in the active discussion of white supremacist implications through institutionalized forms. The forum featured numerous booths that focused on aspects of how society and popular culture might reflect some of the ways that our perceptions of the world are influenced by white supremacist thinking.

The displays spotlighted some of the possible racial inequities that are in our nation's police departments, democratic history, toy manufacturers such as Mattel, adoption services and cosmetic product manufacturing and



Photo courtesy of Christine Vaughan

placement. In openly discussing such societal factors, the participants of COMM 454 hoped to raise awareness in the CSUSM community about white privilege, power and benefits, and how, in their view, we are all impacted by whiteness.

Much of the information offered at the forum served to overturn preconceived notions about racial equity and colorblindness in social regard. At a booth devoted to media representations of the justice system, Julie Bennington, a student of COMM 454, noted that she thought it "interesting how statistics show that

See **FORUM**, page 3

Committee soliciting nominations

Awarding honorary degrees for excellence and extraordinary achievement

BY CHRISTINE VAUGHAN
Pride Staff Writer

President Haynes has the opportunity of endorsing two nominations for people to be awarded with an honorary CSU doctorate. The deadline to recommend nominations is noon, on Friday, Dec. 9.

Each year, the President has the privilege of selecting two nominations to be forwarded on to the CSU Board of Trustees to be reviewed and considered for receiving the honorary doctorates. The campus committee on honorary degrees is currently

See **COMMITTEE**, page 3

The Pride

Fulbright Scholar Award

BY SHELLY MONROE
Pride Staff Writer



Professor Vourlitis

Professor George Louis was honored with the Fulbright Scholar Award. Vourlitis, the professor of biological sciences at Cal State San Marcos, received the award to conduct research at Universidade Federal de Mato Grosso (UFMT) in Cuiaba, Brazil, for the 2005-2006 academic year.

The Fulbright Program was developed by former Senator J. William Fulbright and provides grants for Graduate Students, Scholars and Professionals, and Teachers and Administrators from the U.S. and other countries. The traditional Fulbright Scholar Program sends 800 U.S. faculty and professionals abroad each year. Grantees lecture and conduct research in a wide variety of academic and professional fields.

The Fulbright Program is sponsored by the United States Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural

Affairs. Under a cooperative agreement with the Bureau, the Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES) assists in the administration of the Fulbright Scholar Program for faculty and professionals.

Vourlitis will study the ecology of transitional tropical forests in Brazil. Transitional tropical forest is considered an ecotonal ecosystem, which exists between a tropical rainforest and savanna ecosystems.

The main objective of the research is to calculate the links between carbon and water cycling and then to understand how these relations are affected by seasonal and interannual variations in average temperature.

One other important goal of the project is to strengthen Brazilian tropical ecology research by instituting continuous research and training programs. Vourlitis and his colleagues have developed short courses for students and faculty at Universidade Federal de Mato Grosso that will focus on ecophysiological theory, instrumentation, and analysis.

Since 1999, Vourlitis has been leading the binational

group who has been quantifying the mass and energy exchange of the Amazonian tropical transitional forest and pasture ecosystems.

Vourlitis' wide-ranging research projects have taken him from the Alaskan Arctic, to Brazil, and to Southern Chaparral.

Many faculty and professionals will be traveling abroad to 150 different countries during the 2005-2006 academic school year through the Fulbright Scholar Program.

The Fulbright Scholar program was founded 59 years ago. During its time, thousands of U.S. faculty and professionals have taught, studied, or done research abroad. The program has fulfilled its purpose, which is to build mutual understandings between the people of the United States and other countries.

Professor George Vourlitis was unreachable and did not respond to inquiry immediately. More information on the Fulbright Scholar Award program please go to <http://www.cies.org/morenews.htm>

TOOKIE, from page 1

of prisoners on death row. Although Blacks constitute 50 percent of all murder victims, 83 percent of the victims in death penalty cases are white." More statistics can be found at nodeath-penalty.org.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has slated a Dec. 8 private clemency hearing in order to review the case, according to a Dec. 3 CNN online news article.

Williams claims he is innocent of murders of four people in two different robberies. In 1997, The co-founder of the Crips gang apologized for the formation of the gang in a formal letter.

During his years in San Quentin prison, Williams has written several books, including children books with anti-gang messages, to help curb the desire to enter the gang life. "He has been nominated 5 times for the Nobel Peace Prize for his work in helping to prevent gang violence," according to www.savetookie.org/bio.html.

Other rallies and protests include: The national president of the NAACP is holding a press conference on Dec. 6 at 10:30 a.m. at City Hall, Prof. Sharon Elise will be performing at a spoken word poetry event on Dec. 6 at 6 p.m. at Malcolm X Library in San Diego, there will be a protest on Dec. 7 at the Hall of Justice in downtown San Diego, the governor's clemency hearing is on the 8th in Sacramento, there will be a vigil and protest on Dec. 12 at 4 p.m. at the Hall of Justice.

For information about the protests, rallies, and vigils send an email to either lnewman@csusm.edu or zoochia@gmail.com.

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Nursing room

CSUSM nursing mothers have a room in the library

BY KIMBERLY RAYMOND
Pride Staff Writer

CSUSM has designated a private nursing room in Kellogg Library 3017. It opened on Monday, November 14, and so far has yet to be used.

The room is located through the doors behind the front desk in Kellogg 3000. It can be accessed

on a first come, first served basis by asking the front desk for a key.

The nursing room is for mothers who need a private area.

"There have been mothers coming to ASI asking for a place to go for them to hook up their breast pump machine through a wall outlet and be able to relieve the pressure of breast feeding on campus," claims ASI member,

Cheyenne Barr.

The nursing room is a requirement for the library, since it is public property. The room is very tiny with just a chair and a stool.

ASI is working on adding three lockers to the room. It promotes privacy and can be used for anyone else who feels sick and needs a place to go.

"The room provides a place to

be, not a service," says Delfina Mayer, administrative support coordinator for the library.

Students are working on putting together a women's center on campus. It is expected to come online this March and will include information on the Mother's room as well as services regarding health, gender, sexuality and more.

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V - DAY, from page 1

according to Bennington.

The Vagina Monologues, although geared towards women, is not directed only to females. Stan Newman, the only male student enrolled in the course explains, "I respect women. They have a chemical composition that cannot be compared in any man. Women have energy and are vibrant and full of life."

"It will change your life," said

Sarah Leonard about why students should attend. "It creates unity among fellow students and helps to build solidarity."

The Vagina Monologues are based on the personal interviews Eve Ensler had with over 200 women. It was Ensler's composition and performance of the monologues that inspired her to create V-Day, a global campaign and movement to stop violence against women and girls. The 'V'

stands for Victory, Valentine and Vagina.

The Vagina Monologues are filled with "humor and grace and the piece celebrates women's sexuality and strength," according to vday.org. "Through V-Day campaigns, local volunteers and college students produce annual benefit performances of the Vagina Monologues to raise awareness and funds for anti-violence groups within their own communities. V-

Day also generates broader attention for the fight to stop violence against women and girls, including rape, battery, incest, female genital mutilation (FGM) and sexual slavery."

The students of WS 300L look forward to shocking, insulting, and getting down right O!-dirty. For more information on the campaign for V-Day, visit www.vday.org.

'Finals Frenzy' in full-swing

BY KIMBERLY RAYMOND
Pride Staff Writer

Finals are a stressful time for all students. Deadlines and the desire for achievement create high levels of anxiety. A successful and stress-free exam period is not guaranteed, but there are ways to ease the tension.

ASI is sponsoring Finals Frenzy event week, giving students the opportunity to relieve the stress that surfaces during finals week. Monday through Wednesday, Dec. 12-14, the Clarke will be open until midnight, offering laptops, printer access and individual and group study space, making the studying process less painful and more convenient. Coffee and a catered "mystery" dinner will be provided each night to boost energy and help keep students focused.

The Kellogg Library at Cal State San Marcos is extending its hours starting on Monday, the sixth. The library will be open on Monday through Thursday from 7-10, on Friday from 8-5, on Saturday from 10-5, and on Sunday from 1-8. The media library will open at 8, Monday through Friday, and is open from 1-5 on Saturday and Sunday. By having that extra hour, students will be able to be more flexible with their study schedule. Not only does the library provide important resource tools for studying, but it also gives students a comfortable, relaxing environment to study in with little distractions.

The first thing you need to do while studying for final exams is to get yourself organized and not wait until the last minute. You should start studying a week in advance, allowing yourself to budget time for each class. It is impossible to cram an entire semesters worth of work into two nights of studying.

An effective way to budget your time is to make a schedule including your work, school, sleep and social schedule for the week leading up to finals. This will give you a rough idea of how much time you have for studying. Remember that one to two hour study sessions are more efficient than long ones. If your study schedule means missing out on the 3-kegger on Saturday night before finals, than so be it. Finals only grace us with their presence once a semester and reflect all the time and energy that we put into school. During finals week, try to resist the urge to party on your off days. Look at it as more of a jump start for your upcoming final.

The most important thing to remember during finals week is to stay healthy. It is better to be well-rested than to stay up all night cramming. Eating healthy plays a huge role in staying healthy. Eat a balanced diet and try to decrease your intake of junk food; it will help your brain focus more. Hopefully this information will help you get through this dreaded week.

CEPPI, from page 1

member of our strategic planning team," mentioned Haynes in an email dated Dec. 2.

The strategic planning team works in collaboration with President Haynes to further achieve the university's mission, vision and values. The team is dedicated to promoting a collective effort to mold the campus to "become a distinctive public university known for academic excellence, service to the community, and innovation in higher education," according to the Campus Strategic Planning website.

Ceppi is an ideal candidate for the position. He has been instru-

mental in contributing to the development of CSU system-wide programs that aid in promoting "accountability, efficiency, quality and improved results. He has also assisted a number of the CSU campuses in developing quality improvement, balanced score-board and strategic planning models, along with the WASC institutional portfolios that place an emphasis on student learning outcomes," according to Paige Jennings, communications specialist for California State University San Marcos.

Ceppi has an extensive resume, receiving his Bachelors of Arts in Political Science at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and completing his

graduate studies in educational leadership and administration, in addition to working with high-end companies such as Motorola and HealthNow Blue Cross/Blue Shield. His knowledge, expertise and training skills have also aided in his prior selection to serve with several organizations in Kenya, Africa, seeking to improve business strategy, perform a thorough analysis and restructure management.

"I'm both honored and excited to join an institution with so much opportunity and promise," Ceppi said, according to the email. "I look forward to working with President Haynes and the many dedicated individuals on campus

to build a planning process that effectively engages the university community and furthers Cal State San Marcos on the path to success. Having begun my CSU career at a campus, I will especially appreciate being back in that environment and the interactions with talented students and outstanding faculty and staff."

The search to fill the vacancy of director of institutional planning had been underway since summer, with Neal Hoss, strategic planning task force member, advising the selection process. Ceppi will be joining the campus planning team beginning January 9, 2006.

FORUM, from page 1

blacks or Latinos are three times more likely to have their cars or purses searched by police officers." According to the booth's information pamphlets, media representations of persons of color give way to racial profiling of minorities as crime-committing individuals.

At a different booth devoted to the racial exclusion tendencies of Mattel's pilot product Barbie, displays highlighted the reality of Mattel's under-representation of non-white dolls. Forum participants Marie Ferguson, Laura Hansen, Christine Vaughan and Breann Montes shared the misleading efforts Mattel has extended in attempts at introducing cultural diversity for Barbie and her friends. The

dolls of color are actually constructed with slightly darker skin tones, but the dolls showcase the identical features and eye colors as their Caucasian counterparts, making them difficult to distinguish as black, Latina, or Asian. As also pointed out by Ferguson, Barbie's little sister Kelly has a "Friends of The World" collection leading one to believe that her playmates originate from all ends of the globe. The collection features girls from France, Switzerland, Ireland and Spain. The array features no girls from South or Central America, Asia, or Africa. "The collection should be called 'Kelly's Friends of Europe,'" commented Ferguson.

At a booth devoted to the deciphering of racial messages as they are transmitted to America's youth, Lisa Renfro commented on

the statements, that in-her view, Disney sends to child viewers about good versus evil.

"Evil villains are portrayed as dark figures and the good guys are white and ride on white horses," said Renfro in referencing Disney's character trends. Renfro also shared information about Disney's tendency to feature ethnic characters such as Pocahontas, Princess Jasmine, or Mulan as having dark skin, but Caucasian-like features such as straight long hair and white female voice-overs.

In response to the information shared at the forum, junior Chris Sanchez proposed that the most impacting information he received from the event was statistics on what ethnicities populate the prisons around our country.

"The information showed that in 1995 40 percent of inmates were white while 43 percent were blacks," said Sanchez. "Now the statistics show that 38 percent of blacks occupy prisons and 45 percent are white. I had believed that more minorities were in prison than whites."

COMM 454 professor Dreama Moon began teaching Communication Whiteness in Fall 2003 to further her cause for anti-racist activism. As Moon states, "the course engages whites in the racial conversation in a critical way that encourages whites to take responsibility for ending racism and become advocates for social justice." The Whiteness Forum functions as an event that CSUSM students can participate in to gain a feel of what is discussed in COMM454.

COMMITTEE, from page 1

soliciting nominations from the campus community for names of people who should be considered for this honor.

Marion Reid, special assistant to the president, requests that those interested in nominating individuals send suggestions, including both the name of the person and information about the achievements for which he or she should be honored.

The honorary doctorate was developed to "recognize excel-

lence and extraordinary achievement in significant areas of human endeavor, within which are embodied the objectives and ideals; to honor meritorious and outstanding service to The California State University, collectively, or to California State University San Marcos, individually; to the State of California; to the United States; or to humanity at large; and to recognize the men and women whose lives and significant achievements should serve as examples of aspirations

for the diverse student body," detailed by the Official CSUSM Policies and Procedures website.

"Nominees for honorary degrees must be distinguished in their respective fields, and the eminence of persons nominated must be widely recognized. Nominees must have demonstrated intellectual and humane values that are consistent with the aims of higher education; with the highest ideals of the person's chosen fields, and with the

goals and aspirations of California State University San Marcos as specifically set forth in its Mission Statement," according to the Official CSUSM Policies and Procedures. "Service or benefaction to California State University San Marcos does not in themselves justify the awarding of honorary degrees."

For more information about the award, or to submit nominations, please email Marion Reid at mreid@csusm.edu or contact her by phone at 760-750-4330.

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SPRING BOOKLIST OUT ON JANUARY 5TH

Teaching abroad in China

BY PATRICK B. LONG
Pride Staff Writer

Global expansion in the economic arena gives opportunity to the areas of growth in aspects of education and learning. The Global Affairs office and the Literature and Writing Department at Cal State San Marcos worked together last summer to send two student teachers to China. This opportunity afforded both Marc Scott and Richard Hunt the chance to teach in China at Guangxi Normal University.

The roots for the CSUSM / Guangxi Normal University China Teaching Fellows Program go as far back as 1960, according to Dr. Susie Cassel. Dr. Cassel's father, Dr. Russell Cassel, an education specialist with the U.S. State Department, and Dr. Paul Ma, an agricultural inspector with the United Nations, began a friendship in the 1960s and expressed an interest in the formation of the program. Dr. Russell Cassel knew of his daughter's interest in China, and her love for teaching English. He kept in contact with Dr. Ma and sought to arrange for both Dr. Cassel and Dr. Dawn Formo, also of Cal State San Marcos, to travel to China. Dr. Susie Cassel and Dr. Dawn Formo arrived in Guilin to begin the China Teaching Fellows Program in summer 2004. The unfortunate passing of both Dr. Russell Cassel and Dr. Ma, prior to the trip in 2004 prevented both of them from seeing the collaboration to its final development.

"There are hopes to expand this program in the future beyond faculty and graduate students to undergraduate students," says Dr. Susie Cassel.

"There were many things about teaching in China that were exciting for me, but if I had to isolate just one it would be

the opportunity for me to teach Chinese American literature to Chinese students," Dr. Cassel writes, regarding her experience in China.

"My American students often see works like 'The Woman Warrior' and 'The Joy Luck Club' as 'very Chinese,'" added Cassel. "Conversely, Chinese students found these works to be 'very American' and an equal amount of time was spent explaining American."

The summer of 2005 saw the return of a Cal State San Marcos teachers to China and the Guangxi Normal University. This time Scott and Hunt ventured out to the school in order to teach English.

"The most important aspect of my time in China was the connections I made with students over there," wrote Marc Scott. "I stay in contact with several students I taught in China, and I enjoy hearing about their studies and future plans."

"One interesting thing I took from the experience was a heightened awareness of how people from the United States are perceived abroad; it seemed a hurdle was cleared between me and the individuals I talked to," wrote Scott.

Dr. Susie Cassel feels strongly about the experience that both Americans and Chinese can get from sharing cultures and experiences in our abroad programs.

"Participating in these experiences can be paradigm-altering; sharing these experiences in the classroom, in the hallways, and in the community benefits us all," wrote Dr. Susie Cassel.

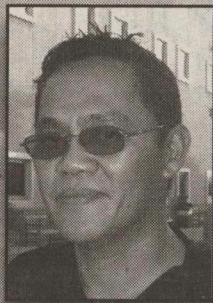
The five to six week long program for teachers will begin again a week after the Spring semester ends (approximately May 21-June 30, 2006). Students can receive up to 6 units of credit

towards your MA degree for your participation in this program. "The deadline for applications is the first day of the Spring semester (Jan 16). We expect to make decisions that week in order to help you finalize your schedule for the Spring as quickly as possible."

For information, interested teachers can contact Dr. Susie Cassel at scassel@csusm.edu.

UniversityVoice

"What do you think people will remember most about 2005? You personally?"



Ben Molina

"I think the tsunami and the hurricane, but every piece of news has equal importance to me."

Senior
Communication Major



Danny Case

"Definitely Katrina. But for me personally it'll be my twenty first birthday"

Junior
Business Major



Whitney Booz

"I think the tsunami because our world hasn't felt that much grief since 9/11. I personally will remember 2005 because that's when I decided to go back to school so that I could teach disabled children"

Graduate Student
Teaching Credential



Helena Bristow

"I think world-wide people responded more to Katrina than the tsunami. I personally will remember the Calit2 building dedication at UCSD, where I work."

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Cash Corner: Where to start

BY NICK MCSPADDEN
Special to The Pride

So where do I start? That seems to be the first question one should tackle as they take on their finances.

The best place to start is to know where you are starting from. What are your finances like today? Get out a piece of paper and draw a line straight down the middle. At the top of the left column write "assets" and at the top of the right put "liabilities".

So, what are assets? Start with checking and savings accounts (and if you have neither, then getting these accounts will be a good starting point, Wells Fargo, Washington Mutual, Bank of America, and almost all other banks have accounts specifically designed for college kids) and put the value of these in the asset column. Do you have any stocks or bonds? If so, these are assets and should be placed in the, you guessed it, asset column. If you do not know the current value of the bond your grandmother bought you for your first birthday, go to <http://www.publicdebt.treas.gov> and look it up. 401(k)'s, IRA's, home equity, current market value of any vehicles, jewelry, home furnishings, et cetera, should all be included. Basically, if you turned everything you have into cash, how much would you have? This is the value of your assets.

Liabilities are the opposite of assets. This includes credit card debt, student loan debt, auto loans, home loans, any unpaid bills, and anything else that you owe to another party (a 'party' being a bank or your mom... not what we college kids do so well at the beginning of every weekend, a.k.a. Thursday).

Total assets, less total liabilities, will be your current net worth. Hopefully this is a positive number, but it is usually a negative; the goal is to make a positive number grow as fast as possible or shrink a negative number to zero a.s.a.p. Easier said than done, but at least an understanding of your current position will allow you to take steps in the right direction.

Soon we'll discuss your personal cash flow and how to maximize its potential. For now, let me leave you with a quick tip. If, at the end of every month you have no money left over because you paid all your bills and had a little fun, consider a couple options to increase your monthly cash flow. First, if you receive a tax refund at the end of every year, call your human resources representative and adjust your tax withholdings. A yearly refund of \$500 roughly translates into an extra \$40 a month in your pocket. Also, shop around for different auto insurance quotes and compare rates. This can reveal a huge savings you may never have noticed.

Cash Corner: cash flow

BY NICK MCSPADDEN
Special to The Pride

Every paycheck is the beginning of the same cycle: money in, bills paid, fun had, now wait to get paid again. Many affectionately call this cycle The Rat Race, but it seems we are more like the mouse running in the wheel. We work hard and run fast, but we are not going anywhere. My advice is to get off the damn wheel; but how? In the last article we identified our current net worth by subtracting liabilities from assets. This time we are going to calculate our monthly cash flow.

Cash flow is the cycle that begins with each paycheck and is not quite as easy to determine as our net worth. Get out a piece of paper and draw a line down the middle again. On the left side we will identify our monthly income. This includes take home pay (your income after taxes and any fees or union dues), dividends from stocks, bonuses, or even money your mom gives you on a regular basis. Do not be general with these numbers. The more exact you are the better.

The right column, money-out, can also be designated as "expenditures". This can be a little tricky. There are the obvious expenditures: rent, food, utilities, transportation costs, credit card bills, cell phone, but there are also the more obscure expenditures: medical bills, new clothes, new tires for the car, gym fees, tuition and books. This list can go on and on and these expenditures that do not occur each month must be broken down to a

"per month" basis. Also, make sure to include fun and entertainment as an expense. Be realistic with these numbers and DO NOT sugar-coat it.

Finally, total each column and subtract the total of the right column from the total of the left. This number is the surplus (if positive) or deficit (if negative) of your monthly cash flow. Basically, after all is said and done, how much money do you have or how much do you owe?

Now you are in one of three categories: your income is greater than your expenses, your expenses equal your income, or your expenses exceed your income. If you are in either of the last two categories, try to identify where your money is escaping. Are you spending too much on fast food, clothes, fun...? Are you genuinely doing everything you can to minimize expenditures? Set your priorities with an understanding that money-in must "at least" match money-out, but if the only expense that is pushing you into the red is education costs, take out a student loan and stay in school. These losses are acceptable and you will recoup them later in life, but every dollar you borrow today is \$1.25 (not exactly but you know what I mean) you will pay back tomorrow, so borrow as little as possible and avoid racking up credit card debt.

A quick tip for those with high credit card bills: on the back of your credit cards is a phone number for customer service. Call it and ask them to lower your interest rate, you'd be surprised how often they say yes.

Catch eye:

BY LILLIAN POZOS
Pride Staff Writer

For some reason I can never make it on time to my History 201 class on Mondays and Wednesday. So I arrive 5 minutes late and sit in the back of the class, the last row next to the wall. Sitting to the side of me are always three friends, Matt, Eric and Karen. Matt, 19, has always for some reason caught my eye, maybe it's the lip piercing. I don't know. A few weeks ago I noticed Matt working in the Parking Information Booth and had seen him many times following that day around campus.

I had never spoken to Matt before, and to my surprise he had lived in the University Village last year, as did I. I sat down with him on Wednesday afternoon when he was working at the Info Booth and questioned him on

life in general.

I learned that Matt is a really busy guy. He told me that he worked two other jobs in addition to the booth, one at American Eagle, the other at the front desk of the UVA. On top of that he is also Treasurer for the Residence Hall Council.

Matt told me that he "was just your normal college student" that goes out and likes to have fun. He loves going to clubs and likes to go to Hollywood with his friends on Thursday nights to attend "Tiger Heat", an 18 and up dance club.

I asked if he had any special passions and his face lit up.

Volleyball, anything do with volleyball. He says he lives and breathes it.

Amazing what you find out about a person if you just sit and talk with them.

Inverted Christmas tree

BY MELISSA BAIRD
Pride Staff Writer

In news writing we follow a concept called The Inverted Pyramid. The inverted pyramid says to write the most general facts in the beginning of your story, gradually going deeper into specifics as the article wears on. Thanks to the return of the inverted Christmas tree this year, I now associate Christmas with reporting to the masses.

Upside-down trees were common in Europe during the twelfth century. Europeans hung their Christmas trees from the ceiling and watched them dangle there for a few weeks during the holiday season.

The current inverted trees are all artificial and can be hung from the ceiling or shoved into a base by their pointed tips. They are thought to be more logical than the typical trees, as they take up less floor space. But the more popular sales pitch is that the upside-down trees allow more room for presents.

Considering that the typical inverted tree costs around 600 dollars, I am guessing the children living in such an affluent household can do without piles and piles of presents.

There is another, more subtle problem with this flip-flopping of foliage. The Christmas tree's shape is symbolic. It is said to be pointing toward Heaven. When the tree is turned upside-down for reasons of practicality, it is symbolically pointing toward Hell. So, in addition to taking the "Christ" out of the "Merry Christmas" greeting (I predict that next the ACLU will claim mistletoe promotes sexual harassment, but that is a different article), the tree has turned quite sinister.

Lately Christmas has become less about magic and tradition and more about economics and logic. It is more logical to conserve space in Christmas tree-filled department stores. It is more economically beneficial to buy extra presents to put under our trees.

Yet there is a price to pay for our pragmatism. Our consumer-friendly trees won't have stars, our children will be spoiled beasts, and our houses will be perpetually absent of the smell of pine.

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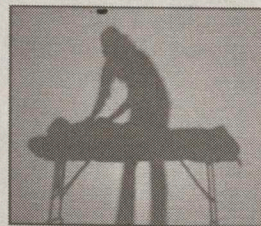


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Students organize all-encompassing exhibition

BY ZACHARY J. SIMON
Pride Staff Writer

Though many students feel finals amount to till little more than a little blue book and a big headache, the "Fall 2005 Visual and Performing Arts Department Process Event" is determined to prove otherwise.

This Friday, Dec. 9, from 5 to 8 pm, students enrolled in a course focusing on the process of art making, with a special focus on interdisciplinary/multimedia, will meet their final requirements by planning, hosting and running a successful exhibition comprised entirely of student work.

Free and open to the public, with live DJs and free food, the event will fill the Arts Building with a collaboration of nearly every conceivable medium.

Pride corresponded via email with professor Diekman of the arts department to get a better feeling for what would be in store. A few hours of study time might indeed be a small price to pay.

How would you promote this event in only a few sentences?

Students from all disciplines in the Visual and Performing Arts Department will show their work in diverse media. Aaron Simon will be spinning, live performances are scheduled by Luann Corpus and Brandon McCray, live noise rock will be played by Anthony Sanudo and Gavin Barnes, and several multimedia artworks will be on display in the arts studios. Over sixty students are participating, and everyone is providing food. This will be a high energy student oriented event, and everyone is welcome.

Has there been a showing like this before at CSUSM?

Every semester the students show their work from the Process of Art class.

In the class, students learn the process of art making, from creating a project proposal to writing press releases to putting on an exhibition and art event. It is completely organized by students.

How might it compare to similar events at other

schools?

It is a large multimedia event, which differs from other art schools. Most art schools have smaller, more focused exhibitions of student work in single media, such as painting, sculpture, etc. This show encompasses film, video, music, multimedia installations, paintings, sound art, etc.

Did you use any kind of model or formula when approaching this event?

It is quite like a European Arts Festival--inclusive, hip and happening where dance, music, performance, film and art collide. We want to bring a sophisticated yet fun atmosphere to student creativity.

Are there any websites or other publications that would give students more info?

Yes--www.csusm.edu/vpa and click on arts events. The event will be published there and there will be documentation after the event. All Visual and Performing Arts events can be found at this website.

Musical hopeful

BY ANTOINETTE JOHNSON
Pride Staff Writer

Pull out a pot and add one cup ambition, three teaspoons of soul, ½ pint creativity, a dash of hot sauce, the color blue and alas, what do you have? No, this is not a recipe for grandma's fruitcake, rather this is a brief rundown of all of the elements that comprise the acoustic soul pop singer Alyssa Jacey. Alyssa is a new artist that is rising fast right under our CSUSM noses, and her spirit is taking our campus, as well as the rest of San Diego County, by storm.

Alyssa's career began when she started attending karaoke in November 2004. Upon witnessing her talents, Alyssa's friends advised her to make something of her vocal abilities, and with this notion Alyssa began pursuing music. By January 2005 she was recording professionally with no prior vocal training.

This year proved promising for Alyssa as she gave her first performance at the San Diego County Fair in June and has since played over 40 shows at venues such as The Belly Up Tavern in Solana Beach, RT's Longboard Grill in Pacific Beach, Canes in Mission Beach, and at the CSUSM campus promoting for groups such as Alpha Kappa Psi.

"I used to sing for people when I served in restaurants," said Alyssa, crediting her success to persistent self-promotion. Other methods of gaining publicity and recognition included distribution of her music and business cards at shows. Her popular Myspace page offers samples of her music and a calendar of upcoming shows.

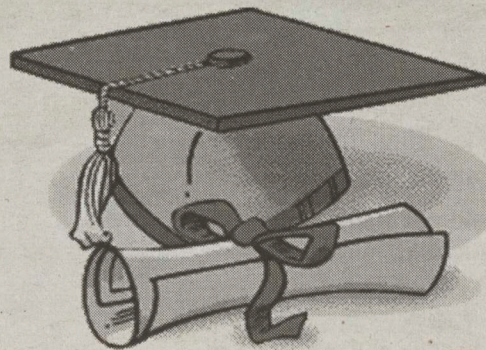
"I think the majority of succeeding at any talent is to have dedication,"

Alyssa reflected as she shared the reasons for why she feels she has come so far since the start of the year. Major inspiration comes from artists such as Shawn Colvin, Sarah McLachlan, and Tracy Chapman as well as bands like Matchbox Twenty. When asked if she considered herself a role model, Alyssa answered yes, justifying her response with recalls of mistakes of her previous situations. She states, "I've been to the bottom, and climbed back up." This low came in the form of living in Los Angeles, aspiring to be a dancer, but falling in with the wrong crowd and thus losing focus. Since leaving Los Angeles she has gotten back into school full time and regained control of her life as she dedicates herself to the pursuit of her career. "Don't let seemingly large obstacles intimidate you," is what Alyssa had to say after moving off track but recovering.

On the verge of turning 24 years old, Alyssa Jacey has singing, songwriting, dance, choreography, and guitar skills under her belt, and she still finds time to do other things with her life such as teaching dance, as well as volleyball, soccer, and surf in the summer. She finds it difficult to juggle school and her career, but because she believes she is meant to sing Alyssa strives to fit everything into her busy schedule.

Currently, Alyssa is working to have her CDs sold in Starbucks coffee shops as well as being added to Starbucks' artist tour that will be happening this winter. Alyssa will be performing three shows for the Vagina Monologues at CSUSM on Dec. 8-10. For information on Alyssa Jacey's upcoming shows visit www.alyssajacey.com and www.myspace.com/alyssajacey.

CONGRATULATIONS to all Graduating Seniors!



Cal State San Marcos Alumni Association
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Extended Studies: update professional skills

BY PIYAMAS J.Y. SABLAN
Pride Staff Writer

The Extended Studies' winter/spring 2006 catalog is now available for those interested in registering for classes.

"Practically anyone can take one of the non-credit classes and students do not have to be enrolled in the university," said Mary Kenny, director of marketing and communications for Cal State San Marcos Extended Studies.

A lot of students already have a degree but take the Extended Studies' classes to keep their professional skills updated or because they are interested in certain subjects and want to learn more about them. Some occupations do not require a bachelor's degree but require knowledge in a certain field.

"The mission of Extended Studies is to serve as the academic outreach arm of the university. We're an integral part of the institution's Academic and Student Affairs division, and our primary purpose is to extend the academic and instructional resources of the university to the region, and expand access for audiences that the university may not be able to serve through more traditional channels", explained Kenny.

Classes are offered to the general community for professional and personal growth but are also designed to provide training and

a gateway for students who desire to obtain a degree but have not been admitted to the university yet.

Academic credit can be obtained through Open University, Special Sessions, and the Over 60 Program.

"Open University allows members of the community to take courses from the regular Cal State San Marcos catalog of offerings on a space-available basis without going through the formal admission process.

For example, if you have the necessary pre-requisites (if any) for the courses selected, you're not limited to taking only Extended Studies courses to continue your education. Open University is a program designed for those who: want to update professional training, missed the deadline for admission to the university, want to examine a particular field before actually enrolling in

a degree program, are considering re-entering an academic program, or want to take courses besides those offered through Extended Studies.

Through Special Sessions, Extended Studies offers regular Cal State San Marcos courses at times other than the regular semesters. These courses may be offered concurrently with the regular semesters, but these special sections are designed primarily for non matriculated students. There is no limit to the number of Special Sessions courses a student may take; however, only 24 semester units may be applied toward an undergraduate degree.

Through the Over 60 Program, California residents age 60 or older may enroll in any regular Cal State San Marcos class during the academic year on a space-available basis at a special, low rate per semester. Kenny explains that, "they may enroll in credit or non-credit courses and can even earn a degree."

According to Kenny, the classes offered through Extended Studies are determined by listening to the needs of current and prospective students, from learning what is needed in the work force through Extended Studies' memberships in various organizations such as the North County Chambers of Commerce and the North County Economic Development

Council, and from local hospitals and teacher associations.

Winter session runs through May 2006 and if certain classes have a high demand from students, they will most likely be offered again during the next session.

"Extended Studies is the only continuing education provider affiliated with a four year institution of higher education in North County and due to the anticipated population increase in San Diego and Riverside Counties over the next few years, more classes may be offered to accommodate this growth," stated Kenny. Extended Studies' classes are usually held on campus in the Foundation Classroom Building in rooms 104 and 106 but there are some classes available off-campus.

Class fees vary and there is a 30 percent discount on most classes to CSUSM employees and a 15 percent discount to CSUSM alumni. Students can register for classes or obtain class information on Extended Studies through their web site www.csusm-es.org or by calling their office at 760-750-4020.

Students may also stop by the office located in the Foundation Classroom Building between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Students can e-mail comments or class suggestions to es@csusm.edu.

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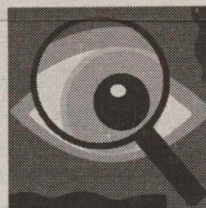


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Tukwut Transcript helps students build resumé

BY SHELLY MONROE
Pride Staff Writer

The Tukwut Transcript serves as an official record of CSUSM extra-curricular and co-curricular activities or accomplishments of undergraduate and graduate students. Gezai Berhane, of Student Life and Leadership said, "This program started in an effort to recognize our students' involvement in so many extra-curricular and co-curricular activities through their involvement in student organizations and service learning classes."

The transcript, signed and stamped by the vice president of Student Affairs, can be used to supplement scholarship, graduate school, and job applications. "The program started to be implemented in the year 1998 but the process of starting this program started at least a year before that, said Berhane.

Students who want to begin building their Tukwut Transcript must pick up data entry forms and transcript requests at the Stu-

dent Life and Leadership office in Craven Hall 4116. Students need to submit transcript entries to the SLL office by the end of the semester following the activity. For example, if a club puts on events throughout the fall semester, the submission form must be filled out by the end of spring semester.

For submissions describing ongoing involvement with a club or program, a new entry must be submitted for each year of membership. For example, if a student is the president of a club during the 2001-2002 academic year, the "Leadership" entry should be submitted to SLL by the end of the spring semester in 2002. Even if a student remains active in a club from year to year, a new entry form must be submitted at the end of each academic year.

An on-campus faculty advisor or staff member will validate the entry upon submission. If a student is having problems obtaining a valid signature for the entry form, contact Julie Wright in the Student Life and Leadership

office. It will take the office 3-5 working days to process each transcript request. The SLL office will not accept entries that describe involvement or participation that occurred more than a year prior to application. Each student is eligible to receive five free copies per year. Additional copies are available for a nominal cost. The Tukwut Transcript will be held indefinitely. It is up to the student to request extra copies of the transcript prior to leaving the university.

The transcript is divided into nine sections:

-Career Development: Includes part-time university employment, internships, and involvement in professional organizations.

-Community Service/Service Learning: Includes campus supervised volunteer service on- and off-campus, either as part of a service learning course or coordinated through the Office of Service Learning.

-Honors/Awards/Schol-

arships: Includes any type of formal recognition given by the College – Dean's List, Outstanding Student Awards, etc.

-Leadership/Student Organizations: Includes any leadership role or membership position held for at least one semester in a campus club or organization.

-Presentations/Travel: Includes written or oral presentations that can be verified by a faculty or staff member but are not required for a course. It also includes student travel or participation/involvement in a conference sponsored through university channels.

-Published Writing/Creative Activities/Other: Includes published scholarly or creative works, documentary productions, media publications or works, and computer projects.

-Recreation/Athletics: Includes involvement in intramural activities or club sports.

-Research Activities: Includes participation in independent research coordinated by

faculty or staff at CSUSM.

-Visual and Performing Arts: Includes participation in choirs, musical ensembles, and theatrical or dance productions performed outside of class.

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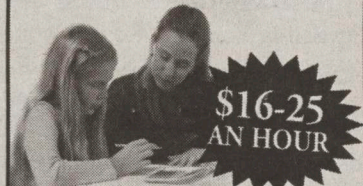
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Jock talk with Josh

BY JOSH SANDOVAL
Special to The Pride



Several weeks ago in my COMM 360 class, Professor Fredi Avalos said something that caught my

attention: "Do you want to be right, or do you want to change the world?"

What I think she was saying was, what are your intentions when you set out to do something? What are you trying to accomplish? Are you trying to prove yourself right or are you trying to make the world a better place?

I think most people in sports, especially sports writers, are just trying to prove themselves right. I certainly have done my fair share of that. I know that proving myself right doesn't do anything but boost my own ego, but all you have to do is ask some of my friends to realize how sure of myself I am already.

I look around the sports world and see plenty of people who

have an influential voice, but don't use it for positive things. Can you imagine if Tiger Woods or Michael Jordan spoke out on social issues the way Charles Barkley does? Jordan would rather pimp his clothing line and latest book on Oprah's show, while Tiger goes on the Tonight Show to talk about his new video game. My voice only goes out to several thousand people at the moment, but I am not going to sit back and just talk about easy issues that don't make you think.

I don't always want to write about what the Chargers should do with Phillip Rivers (trade him), or which player Kobe Bryant needs to win a championship (a decent center a la Amare Stoudemire, which clearly isn't going to happen since he is locked up long term). You can get those topics from "Sports Illustrated" or "ESPN". From those outlets you can't get someone like me talking about how the NHL and NBA are just another form of segregation.

I have received more e-mail this semester than in the two previous combined. I have also had a lot of people approach me

on campus in an attempt to tear into me regarding the topics that I have written about, most notably regarding my take on homosexuals in athletics.

Apparently, there are some people who don't appreciate the topics that I cover. Take Evan Pellecchia, for example, "Write more about sports," said Pellecchia. "Not issues that are dealt with everyday with a sports swing to it."

I think Pellecchia's concern can be addressed with a phrase that Professor Avalos uses quite often, "Open your eyes folks". If you can't see parts of everyday life in sports, then I worry for you.

I know that many people turn to entertainment such as sports and music for an escape from everyday life. The same people who are telling me they don't want to read about racism and homosexuality in sports are probably the same people who tell Kanye West to stick to rapping about "gold diggers", stop rapping about Jesus, and don't talk about the President.

I have lost count of the e-mails that question my sports knowl-

edge. Take Cassandra Lelek, for example, "As I assume you are the sports 'go-to' guy," said Lelek, "It would be nice if you actually knew something about sports before you wrote about them."

Let me address the concern of Lelek and so many of you. Do research before you send personal attacks my way. Go do a google news search on "Joshua Sandoval". Then see what pops up. I think if my work appears in the "San Diego Union-Tribune", then I might actually know a little something about sports and journalism.

Then there is the wonderful e-mail that I received that wants me dismissed. "As an avid reader of The Pride, I finally decided to take it upon myself to call for your dismissal as a sports columnist," said someone by the name of Mike. He didn't use a CSUSM e-mail address or give a last name; probably because he knew he would end up in a future article or has a fear of running into me on campus.

What's funny about the developments over the semester is I now realize that people actu-

ally read this. I knew I had a few loyal readers (shout out to Jade Zwinger). However, now that the issues are more controversial, the readers are coming out like homosexual basketball players. I could care less if you hate what I have to say, just as long as you read it.

I spend a lot of time around comedians and I now understand what so many of them say. "You don't remember the thousands of great sets that you have. You remember the few where you were booed off the stage." As you can tell, the comments that stick out in my head are the ones that tell me I suck.

However, I will be back next semester because of comments from people like John Jacobs: "Your column in The Pride is so hilarious," said Jacobs. "You're a funny guy and a great writer. Keep up the good work, bro!"

Send all comments to Sando026@csusm.edu. I do respond to every single e-mail that I receive. However, you may want to be careful what you say, now that you see that there is a possibility you could be quoted.

Women's Volleyball

Athletes prepare for spring sports

BY HEATHER ZEMAN
Pride Staff Writer

With the fall season coming to an end, many of the spring athletes are just getting ready for the games to begin. Women's volleyball is preparing for its second season here at CSUSM. Women's volleyball is an ASI sponsored team, with the hopes of becoming a division sport. Tryouts were held at the end of September, when the team picked up four new girls for a total of 12 on the team.

The traditional volleyball season starts on January 17, but the team is currently competing in tournaments in southern California. Team captain Melissa Hughes said, "The tournaments are to get out and to play teams

that aren't necessarily in our league, and to get playing time in." The ladies' next tournament will be at San Diego State University on Dec. 10 and 11. Teams will be coming from schools such as UCLA, Berkeley, and Arizona State University. Following this tournament, the ladies will have about a month off from games. The team will continue preparing for the league tournaments to start up on Jan. 17 and continue to be held every Tuesday night for about eight weeks.

CSUSM's women's volleyball falls under the San Diego or Southern California league. Other teams in the league are SDSU, UCSD, Pt. Loma, and USC. These teams will also play each other at Regionals and have the option to attend Nationals in

Salt Lake City in April. Another anticipated tournament will be held over spring break in Las Vegas. Last season, the women's team traveled to Las Vegas along with 37 other teams. CSUSM ended up taking 12th place overall.

Melissa Hughes is anticipating an exciting season to come. "We have a very dedicated team. We are each other's best friends and that makes for a great chemistry on the court as well."

Although the ladies are preparing for the season already, another tryout will be held in the near future. The team will be losing four girls to the study abroad program. For more information regarding the team and upcoming tryouts, contact Melissa Hughes at hughe018@csusm.edu.

Stipends Available for Future Teachers at CSUSM

CSUSM'S College of Education's mTeacher Recruitment Project is pleased to announce the availability of stipends for undergraduate students interested in becoming teachers. If you are planning to teach students from diverse populations, are a member of a diverse population, or if you are interested in pursuing a career as a secondary science/math teacher you are encouraged to apply. Applications for stipends of \$500.00 are now available and can be obtained from Linda Fuchs at the main desk of the College of Education, 4th Floor, University Hall. Completed applications are to be submitted to Linda Fuchs no later than December 10, 2005.

Any questions related to this stipend can be directed to: Dr. Gilbert Valadez, Co-director, Teacher Recruitment Project, College of Education, X 8514, gvaladez@csusm.edu.



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Podhead:

A personal trip to the musical highlife

BY JESSICA DAMBKOWSKI
Pride Staff Writer

They walk around CSUSM everyday, and we all see them, the "Podheads". You know, the iPod people who are "tuned" to their music all the time.

I decided to become one of them and go undercover to investigate the world of the Podheads. I borrowed my boyfriend's iPod, and the next morning had a quick self-learning session on how to work the tiny machine, before I struck out in the musical underworld. Listening to a new techno song, I took to the stairs. The hike at 8:45 a.m. was, as ridiculous as it sounds, fun! The music made my heart start pumping and by the end of the trip to Sociology 320, I was really "amped" for class to start.

At my usual break between classes I tuned myself again and set off for ACD's open access computer lab. I counted four other Podheads on the way over, and wondered what sort of music their lives were jamming to. I was actually having a good time just walking around campus and listening to the music I normally had to leave at home or in the car.

I couldn't help thinking how awesome it was to have my life's own personal soundtrack playing everywhere I went. That is what is so great about being Podheads, each and every person has a personal soundtrack.

At the end of my day I seriously did walk PAST my car. I was so pleasantly distracted I forgot where I had parked my car.

In the end, while I don't have an iPod of my own, being a Podhead for a day was definitely an experience worth repeating. It was so much fun, I'll probably put the iPod on my Christmas list. Music for life anyone?

Student retrospective

BY J.R. SAPP
Pride Staff Writer

The best mother is the one who, by virtue of doing a good job, renders herself obsolete – not in the hearts of her children, but in the daily minutia, the chores, and childrearing that consume her days and drive her a little crazy. As the time of my obsolescence approached, I decided to go back to college and finish the degree I had started to earn some (well, many) years ago.

I did the paperwork, filled out the forms, and ordered my transcripts and SAT scores from the archives of various high schools, community colleges, and universities in another state. By the grace of God, and the kindness of Kitty Lucero-Egger, who reviewed my dismal transcripts and let me in anyway, I was accepted into CSUSM with a 2.0 GPA. My college-age daughter gave me a brief and depressing explanation of why, no matter how many classes I took to complete my degree, my GPA would never recover from my wasted youth. But I persevered, kicked my Type A personality into high gear, and earned some report cards that were worthy of posting on my refrigerator next to those of my children.

And so I am graduating, finally, at the end of this semester. We autumn graduates don't warrant a ceremony, a cap, a gown, or the privilege of shaking the hands of our professors

as we are handed our diploma covers. I guess there just aren't enough of us. It would probably be anti-climactic to walk the line in the spring, and I wouldn't want to steal the thunder from my younger daughter who will be graduating then. So although I'll never make the valedictorian speech (see GPA discussion above), there are some people I would thank for helping me along on this journey. (Cue "Pomp and Circumstance.")

To my husband – for all the dinners I didn't cook, the shirts I didn't iron, and the hours I spent studying, thanks for not complaining too much. You may never really understand what this has all meant to me, but you try to, and that's good enough.

To my daughters, Jennifer and Stephanie, who have encouraged me every single step of the way, I couldn't have done this without your kind words and absolute conviction that I'm the smartest woman you

know.

To my son Michael, thank you for the laughs and for doing your own laundry. And to my son's favorite line – "It's taken you almost thirty years to get your degree and you're not even a doctor!"

To my professors – I think you know how important this is or you wouldn't be doing what you do. You taught me that I could stay the course, and that improving my writing was a worthy endeavor. To my fellow scholars – thanks to every one of you who never thought twice about sitting in class next to a woman twice your age. Thanks for your willingness to answer my honest questions with thoughtful answers, and for letting me engage in the academic process as one of you.

Tuition, books, & parking - \$10,000. Gas, mileage, and wear and tear (on me and my car!) - \$1,000. Earning a degree after 27 years – priceless.

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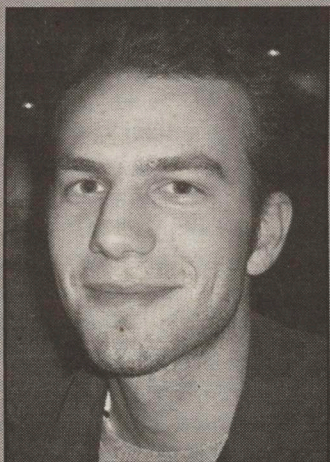
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OMBUDSMAN'S NOTES

BY MATTHEW SCHRAMM
Pride Staff Writer



So here it is... the end of the semester, and the last Ombudsman, at least for now. But therein lies the problem, what to say? I almost feel like I should try to impart some sort of philosophical wisdom in this, the last issue of The Pride, for 2005. Although perhaps that's because I've been sitting up too

late at night, listening to emo-style rock, and thinking about girls I used to date, my childhood, and about why we exist, and a million other things I think about at moments like those. So, in the spirit of thinking about the past, we're going to take a quick look back at The Pride this semester, and have a jog down memory lane, if you will (is that not the worst intro I ever came up with, seriously).

We could start with the last issue, the one that came out two weeks ago; note to the editors: there was a full week of classes last week, where was the paper? Although The Pride did finally go to 16 pages, so props for that. Anyway, so in the last issue of The Pride we learned that CSU Presidents are getting a \$30,000 pay raise, added on to an already great salary (i.e. \$200,000+). Now I think I finally know what job I want after college.

The last issue also reported that over 60 percent of CSUSM students are female; a fact I personally found inter-

esting... Before I forget I also want to give props to Joelle Frankel for her article on alternatives to eating a dead bird on Thanksgiving; I've been doing it her way for almost 12 years now, so it's nice to see that kind of variety in The Pride.

As for the previous issues of The Pride scheduled on our flashback journey, well... I don't recall everything so clearly. I mean it's not like I keep a stack of old issues on my floor, but lets give it a shot at recalling some of the highlights. There was news that a new brewery is going to be opening nearby next semester, that's sort of worth remembering. But then again, if my mind serves me right, there was some stuff worth recalling: the sexual battery at UVA, the Lost Boys of Sudan, university hour, 'Sluts Unite,' that thing on tenure denial, the Katrina 'whiteness' thing, and several articles about the state of alcohol on campus. Then The Pride also gave everybody some articles on Veteran's Day (with

a military slant), CSUSM's part in the Katrina relief, follow-ups on the Williams' case, future construction projects at San Marcos, numerous events on campus, more construction, and a bevy of reviews, sports, and opinion pieces. So there, it's like a time machine; we've just traveled through about fourteen (give or take) issues of ink in a few seconds. Now, if you're one of those people who didn't think The Pride had anything interesting in it, you officially stand corrected.

There you have it; that concludes our journey. I leave you to ponder the meaning of these stories and any others you can think of while vegetating through winter break. Remember: stay safe, have fun, stay out of jail, have a drink, and enjoy what little is left of 2005. The Pride will be back (and continuing its in-depth and improving trend) and in racks in January, starting the semester, once again, with you. And lest we break with tradition, one last time at schra009@csusm.edu.

Letter from the Editor-in-Chief

BY PATRICK B. LONG
Pride Editor-in-chief

This "Letter From the Editor" will be read by more students than my first. The is only by the mere fact that The Pride has definitely picked up readers this semester, and it is all thanks to the new staff and writers.

Collaboration is important in the making of a great newspaper. Checks and balances, like that of a good government, are needed. We made some mistakes, but we learned from them and moved on.

So, to all of those who participated in The Pride this year, I thank you. It is a daunting task to put out a weekly paper, and it takes more than whining about

the quality of the work; it takes courage to stand up and do something about it.

If you, the readers, know a staff writer, or a student who regularly participated in the efforts of making this a great school paper, I ask you to thank them.

Now I shall name names. First and foremost, Jason Encabo is the reason the paper looks so good. His eye for layout is only second to his dedication to getting the job done, no matter how long it takes. He stuck it out into the late nights until the work was done, sometimes the newspaper didn't make it out until midnight on Monday for Tuesday delivery. Christine "this story has to go in" Vaughan, Zachary J. "sit down, we're going to edit this

together" Simon, and Erin "oh my gosh, that's so cute" Young make the paper diverse enough to attract a large audience. I look forward to another semester with them.

Last, I want to thank both Dr. Anthony Hurst and Cindy Hanson, who took time to listen to writers complain about me. If everybody is happy, I'm not doing a good job.

Now it's time for the call to join. COMM and LTWR 316 are waiting for you. Yes, it's late at night, and yes, you'll work very hard, but let's be narcissistic about it, you'll get to see your name in print. Even if you do not join the class, feel free to join us next semester at ACD 404 Tuesdays at 5 p.m. The first hour is dedicated

to assigning stories and gathering story ideas.

To make this a better paper, I'm seeking more beat writers. No, not the next Kerouac, but writers that cover only one specific area. This semester we had "Jock Talk with Josh" and a couple of newcomers to the fall '05 Pride team, "Robbins Report" and "Cash Corner." These topics cover the political climate on campus, finance strategies for students, and, of course, sports. Antoinette Johnson will be returning as our new police liaison.

We are looking for students who can cover other areas as well. This would be a weekly column that entails a topic that you are knowledgeable about. Areas of

interest for the paper include campus sports, business and the business department, art and the art department, and movies. As always, the editors are here to help the writing process if you are not comfortable.

Next semester also welcomes the arrival of the 2006 Pride Literary Supplement (PLS). This publication comes out every spring semester and is made up of art work, poems, short stories, and other art related material.

The bad news is, since the change of the email system, we lost all of the submissions from this semester. We need everybody who submitted to re-submit their work. Please place "PLS" in the subject line of the email to pride@csusm.edu.

Coming from a divorced family

BY LILLIAN POZOS
Pride Staff Writer

Coming from a divorced family, the holidays have always been a yo-yo fiasco for me.

When I was a child, my holidays were literally cut straight down the middle. I would be handed off at either midnight or noon to the next parent in a relative's drive-way.

For Christmas and New Year's, it would be one parent

on the Eve and another on the day, with a switch off at midnight on Christmas or a switch off at noon on New Year's Day. And, oh, so much bickering in between.

All my holidays from the ages of five to seventeen were handled that way, except one, Thanksgiving. I went with whichever parent it would be most convenient for because of my week-long school vacation. It became especially dif-

ficult when my parents fought over Thanksgiving. I was left in the middle with no say, even though they posed the tricky question of "where do you want to go?"

Growing up with Thanksgiving as a literal toss up, I am left today with so much confusion and a growing dislike of holidays in general. Now that I am an adult, and living away from home, I am now able to make decisions on my own, what am

I to do when Thanksgiving and other holidays, like Easter, have been a sole parent holiday my entire life?

I'm in my third year of college, and, sadly, I have learned the hard way that no matter what decision I make, no parent will be happy.

And so again, I enter another holiday season with the same growing discontent.

My parents don't understand how nerve-racking it is for

me to choose where to spend the holidays. I know I am not alone with my distraught feelings of the holidays, because many other students of CSUSM deal with similar issues. The conflict may come from being a child of divorce, or just being a student, trying to juggle college life and family time. It basically becomes an issue of priorities. Who's more important in your life? Who deserves your time the most?

'Harry Potter' review



BY JASON SAUMUR
Pride Staff Writer

Wizards, gnomes, dragons, and house elves descended upon theatres for the midnight opening of "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire" on Nov. 17. The movie is an adaptation of J.K. Rowling's fourth book in the Harry Potter series.

The director and screenwriter had to omit some themes and scenes because of the length of the book. Even with that, the movie is masterfully done.

The movie opens to a small house on the property of an abandoned mansion. The caretaker of the grounds stumbles onto the discussion between Lord Voldemort and Wormtail. The movie then blacks out and shows Hermione Granger trying to wake Harry Potter and Ron Wesley. The trio will be attending the Quidditch World Cup with Ron's family.

After the match, a cloudy and ominous signal of Voldemort's followers, the Death Eaters, is seen in the sky above the event. The Quidditch enthusiasts run for cover as Voldemort's followers are signaled to action. Harry, Hermione, and Ron ride the Hogwarts Express to school where they learn that it will not be a

normal year at Hogwarts. This year, Hogwarts hosts the Triwizard Tournament with guests from the Beauxbatons and Durmstrang, two other schools of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

In order to compete in the Triwizard Tournament, the students must be 17 years old. Three contestants, one from each school, are chosen to compete. However, mysteriously the Goblet choosing the contestants spits out the name of Harry Potter, who is only 14.

Harry and the other contestants battle dragons and locate precious loved ones from the depths of the Black Lake. During Harry's third and final challenge, he rescues Cedric Diggory, a Hogwarts participant, from the clutches of maze vines. Cedric and Harry decide to get the Tri-Wizard Cup at the same time, as both would be winners. However, unnoticed by tournament officials, Harry, or Dumbledore, Voldemort places a trick portal key on the cup, sending Harry and Cedric to an empty graveyard. From the shadows, Wormtail and Death Eaters emerge, intent on bringing their master fully back to life.

By taking the blood of Harry Potter, Voldemort is fully reborn into a physical body. Voldemort challenges Harry to a duel. The

two lock energies as two equally strong men would during tug-of-war when his parents help him escape from Voldemort and back to Hogwarts' grounds.

Under the direction of Mike Newell, with the screenplay by Steven Kloves, the cast of "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire" plays a masterfully funny, dark, and heroic performance. Ron, Hermione, and Harry exchange their organic wit throughout the movie, both in the context of a friendship crisis, and when Ron is in danger.

Harry shows genuine courage when he saves both his friend Ron and another captive loved one from the depths of the Black Lake, and he shares the Tri-Wizard's Cup with Cedric.

The movie doesn't end with the death of either Harry Potter or Voldemort but with the love bond



Images courtesy of Warner Bros. Entertainment

that Harry's mother showed when she was killed many years prior. Selfless sacrifice is what Lilly Potter and Harry exhibit, Lilly on the night of her tragic death, and Harry at least once a year at Hogwarts.

The ultimate message, in both the book and the movie, resonates with moviegoers and readers alike. It is the belief that the

common and ordinary man can overcome obstacles with courage and selfless sacrifice. It is because of this underlying idea -- the peril, kindness and wit -- that both cast and story portray, that makes this movie the best of the lot so far.

Dumbledore: "Now is the time that we must choose between what is right and what is easy."

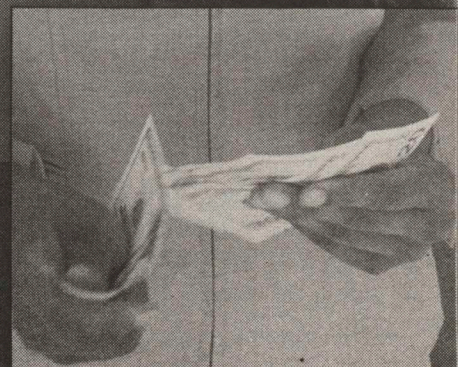
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2006 Winter Gift Guide

BY SHELLY MONROE
Pride Staff Writer

Gifts? What do you get your loved ones for the holiday?

Take a look at some of the hottest gifts for this holiday season ...

While searching on the Internet for a perfect gift for you're loved one you may have to search many websites and it can become a very time consuming shopping venture. One website that makes shopping for that perfect holiday gift easier is gifts.com. This website features many great holiday gift ideas and tells you the price and website you can purchase the item. The details of the item are all on the website and you can be confident you are buying a quality item. Hurry because there's holiday specials such as free shipping or an extra gift with purchase, you don't want to miss out. Featured is our favorite holiday gift list for men, woman, boys, girls, babies, and personalized gifts that will suit everyone.

Men ...

APPLE 2GB iPod NANO

The IPOD is a great gift for your man. He can take it to the gym, work, business ventures, school, and leisure. This gift can hold all of his favorite songs right at his fingertips.

Great American Days NASCAR Racing

This heart pounding, g-force pulling, sweaty palms, white knuckle, fist pumping, high five, adventure will have him begging for more. NASCAR racing is a trill of a life time; you can't go wrong with this gift.

South Park Chess Game

This cult-animated classic will knock your mans socks off. Enjoy playing this game of chess with all his favorite characters including Kenny, Stan, Cartman, Kyle, Chef and even Big Gay Al as the Queen.

ELECTRONIC ARTS Madden NFL 2006 (Playstation 2)

There's nothing like videogames and football, so why don't you kill two birds with one stone, give in and make his holiday all about him. This game is proudly on the number one gift list for all men for years.

Family Guy Presents Stewie Griffin - The Untold Story

This is a must see, must buy must have. If you're man is a fan, this movie will bring rolling laughs to him all year long.

Par-Scription Golf Ball Set

This is the perfect gift for the golfer. These golf balls are packaged in pharmacy bottles just what the doctor prescribed.

The Little Black Book of Cocktails

On the Rocks please! This handy book of cocktails will be the hit of the evening. You learn how to mix them, drink them and of course enjoy them.

Women ...

Spa Package

Ladies you can enjoy a day at the spa with a click of a button. 1-800-SalonSpa which is located on gifts.com has carefully selected over 1500 Salons and Day Spas nationwide. You simply enter your zip code for the spa nearest you and begin to purchase any spa package you desire.

Six Berries Gift Box

Who doesn't like chocolate ... or better yet with strawberries? This classic gold gift box includes six gourmet chocolate dipped strawberries nestled in a black velvet lining, perfect for the chocolate lover.

Days of the Week Boy Shorts

Here's your sneak preview of the sleek and sexy boy shorts days of the week ...

Monday: the saying is, just another juicy Monday on rear.

With these cute underwear your girl won't miss out on any day of the week.

Philosophy the Gingerbread Man Suitcase

Having bad luck with your man? Well, this gingerbread man will never let you down. The bath set including luxurious shower gel, bubble bath, a pampering shimmer body soufflé, and a delicious flavored lip shine. This Gingerbread Man set will be sure to bring you some sugar and spice this holiday season.

COACH Hamptons Signature Small Wristlet

Is there much more to say than Coach? This seek sexy red wristlet is great for any occasion.

Flowers for the holiday at Flowers.com

What says I love you more than flowers? Order your loved one a bundle of love at flowers.com something she can look at and smile during the holiday season.

Boys ...

Hasbro VCamNow

Have your kids asked to try to film on your digital cameras? Well now your kids can film their own digital movies, take photographs and create their own personal video discs with a digital video camera made just for kids.

GyroMagz Mini Magnetic Construction Set

Your child will have hours of fun building creatures, buildings, and imaginary things. The building pieces are held together by strong magnets and are a great toy for kids of all ages.

Virtual Reality Snowboard

This is a for sure winner for all boys. Your child will break speed records on this virtual snowboard without breaking a bone. This virtual reality snowboard gives you the thrill of swooshing down the hill at home, anytime.

Girls ...

Tink Digital Mix Stick MP3 Player

Tinkerbell is brought to life with this Disney MP3 player for girls.

Jewelry making set from Red Envelope

Release the creativity in you child with this jewelry making set. The do-it-yourself kit includes jewelry-making essentials: beads, alphabet letters, colored string, animal charms and instructions for pulling everything together.

Electronic Password Journal

Girls you will be able to jot down your innermost thoughts about your stinky little brother and relax, because the information is only accessible with your secret password, spoken in your voice.

Ice Cream Maker

Children can make gourmet ice cream with this no fuss ice cream maker. Simply prepare the raw ingredients, pour into the handy ice cream maker, push mix, then the freeze button and pop into your freezer for four hours and there you go homemade ice cream, just like that.

Babies ...

Aqua Doodle Mini Mats - Sesame Street Elmo

Little artist watch out cause this is the perfect way to bring out your talent. No mess, just magic! Colors will magically disappear in less than 60 seconds!

Discovery Lullaby Light Show

This amazing light display projects soothing sounds and pictures sure to please your little one. Light show automatically turns off after five minutes.

Baby Gift Baskets for boys or girls

This gift basket will come right from the heart and will keep that new special one warm for the holidays ... warm with love.

Personalized Gifts ...

Personalized postage stamps with photo

Simply take a photo and your photo will be displayed on a 37cent postage stamp. This gift is perfect when you send out holiday cards or just so your loved ones can get a glimpse of their family from a uniquely design postage stamp.

Photo Mugs, calendar, or mouse pad

These are all gifts that will last your family members a lifetime.

Memory Maker Bracelet

This is sure to make anyone smile ... An album for your wrist! This is a gleaming silver metal bracelet that has six 1 1/2" square frames.

HOLIDAY RECIPES

Crème Brulee with a peppermint twist

This amazing desert is perfect for holiday get-togethers. Nothing will impress your guests more than this peppermint dish. Recipe yields about 5 servings and takes some patients but well worth it, don't forget to add a dash of love while cooking.

Ingredients:

6 egg yolks
6 tablespoons white sugar, divided
½ teaspoon vanilla cream
2 ½ cups heavy cream
2 tablespoons brown sugar
5 candy canes

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 300 degrees F (150 degrees C).
2. Beat egg yolks, four tablespoons sugar and vanilla in medium mixing bowl until thick and creamy.
3. Pour cream into saucepan and stir over low heat until almost comes to boil. Remove cream from heat immediately. Stir cream into egg yolk mixture, beat until combined.
4. Pour cream mixture into top of a double boiler. Stir simmering water until mixture lightly coats the back of a spoon, about three minutes. Remove mixture from heat immediately and pour into shallow dish.
5. Bake in preheated oven for 30 minutes. Remove from oven and cool to room temperature. Refrigerate for one hour.
6. Preheat oven to broil.
7. Crush candy canes on small cutting board to sand like appearance.
7. In small mixing bowl combine remaining two tablespoons white sugar, brown sugar and candy cane bits. Spread mixture lightly/evenly over custard. Place dish under broiler until sugar melts, about two minutes. Watch carefully so it doesn't burn.
8. Remove from heat and allow cooling. Refrigerate until custard is set again.

Potato Latkes

Served with apple sauce, sour cream and chopped green onions, you can't go wrong with these potato latkes. Serving 10-12 these crispy hotcakes are a perfect addition to a traditional Hanukkah dinner.

Ingredients:

2 cups peeled and shredded potatoes
1 tablespoon grated onion
3 eggs, beaten
2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
1 ½ teaspoons salt
½ cup peanut oil

1. Place potatoes in a cheesecloth and wring, extracting as much moisture as possible.
2. In medium bowl stir potatoes, onion, eggs, flour and salt together.
3. In large skillet over medium heat, heat oil until hot. Place large spoonfuls of the potato mixture into the hot oil, pressing lightly to form ¼ to ½ inch patties. Let brown, flip and brown on the other side.
4. Drain on paper towels and serve hot.

Holiday movie guide

BY ALFRED CHU
Pride Staff Writer

In the month of December, when kids are off from school and parents take off from work, one of the things to do during the holidays is go see a movie, or maybe two. In the same month, the year's best family oriented comedies, as well as films that would become front runners for the Academy Awards and other film recognitions, are released. But what's coming out in the following weeks?

In the science fiction/fantasy corner, we have "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe." Based on the novel by C.S. Lewis, four siblings enter a door that travels them to a fantasy world filled with elves, dwarfs and giants. "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" graces theaters on Dec. 9.

Let's move on to the action genre. "King Kong," need I say more? Master storyteller Peter Jackson expands his vision and CGI technology in this highly anticipated remake. A filmmaker (Jack Black), his leading lady (Naomi Watts), and a group of explorers travel to a remote island where a mythological monster lives. "King Kong" invades theaters on Dec. 14.

If independent films are more of your taste, go see "Brokeback Mountain," starring Jake Gyllenhaal and Heath Ledger. Directed by Ang Lee, same director as "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon," and "Brokeback Mountain" is

about two cowboys that fall in love, but deal with the consequences of having a homosexual relationship. We've recently seen more independent films being recognized, this would be no exception.

If you're into comedies, "Fun with Dick and Jane" has great potential. Starring Jim Carrey and Téa Leoni in a 1977 remake, where as a married couple, commit robberies to pay the bills. "Fun with Dick and Jane" hits theaters on Dec. 21.

For the drama and romance crowd, "Memoirs of a Geisha" is the obvious choice. Geishas are females trained at a young age to dance, act and sing to entertain wealthy men. Ziyi Zhang plays the geisha where she falls in love with a powerful and wealthy man (Ken Watanabe). I predict Oscar nominations for Zhang and Watanabe. Already released, "Memoirs of a Geisha" expands into a wider release on Dec. 23.

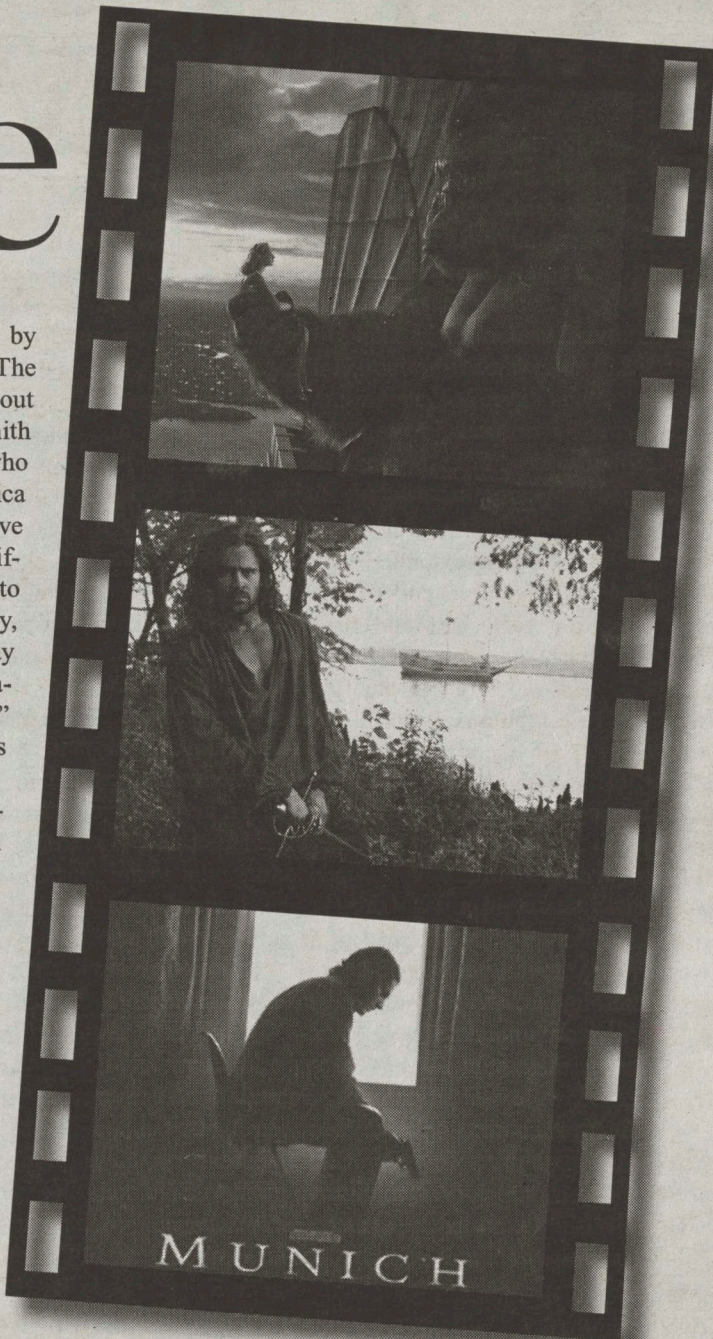
For the straight forward drama fans, Steven Spielberg's "Munich" looks promising. Based on the 1972 Munich Olympics, where 11 Israeli athletes were killed, authorities are assigned to find the suspected 11 Palestinians involved. "Munich" stars Eric Bana and cruises into theaters Dec. 23.

If a battle epic as well as drama is your cup of tea, check out "The New

World." Directed by Terrence Malick, "The New World" is about the explorer John Smith (Colin Farrell), who travels to America and encounters Native Americans where differences erupt into warfare. Hopefully, Farrell will shed away his "Alexander" debacle. "The New World" explodes into theaters on Christmas day.

My recommendations are based on the film trailers I've viewed, interviews by the filmmakers, the filmmakers past reputations, promotional materials, and aspects of the films (special effects, storyline, etc.) that make them stand out.

To see the trailers and view other media, visit each film's respective website.



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Holiday getaways

BY AMANDA KEELEY
Pride Staff Writer

When the winter winds begin to blow and the semester is coming to an end, it's time to start planning a fun holiday getaway; be it romantic or a family affair, there's an excursion for everyone.

What better time to take a little trip when the stresses of finals are over and the holidays are just around the corner? It doesn't have to be a long extended vacation; it can be a quick weekend jaunt to leave you feeling refreshed and ready for the holiday season. Traveling doesn't have to be stressful; there are plenty of getaways that are fabulous, but are close to home so airport chaos can be easily avoided. Here are four great suggestions that are close to home to inspire you get up and get going.

Idyllwild: For those looking to heat things up when the weather gets cold, places like Quiet Creek Inn might just do the trick. Keep in mind, this is for adults only, rather it's for loving couples that need a little isolation or for relaxing with best friends. These cozy cabins are located on Strawberry Creek and have no televisions or telephones so there are no interruptions. All cabins have wood burning fireplaces to snuggle up next to. Sit and enjoy the sounds of the creek and the smell of pine trees on your very own private deck, or upgrade to the deluxe suit and sit on the deck in the hot tube. If you want to venture in town there are plenty of shops and restaurants to check out, there is even a pottery painting shop so you can make your own souvenir. Otherwise, you can do nothing but sit by the fireplace, drink hot coco, or maybe

enjoy a nature walk on one of the many trails through the woods and come back to your cabin to dip your toes in the jacuzzi.

Del Coronado Island: If you're looking for something the whole family can enjoy, as well as love birds, Hotel Del Coronado has some fun holiday activities for all ages. The hotel is full of holiday cheer with its 50,000 twinkle lights, the new outdoor ice skating rink that overlooks the ocean, a sleigh ride and of course s'more roasting. Just because you brought the children doesn't mean you can't have some alone time. Call the hotel babysitting service and have a romantic dinner with a night stroll along the beach. Don't worry; the kids won't be bored with the room's 26 television channels and a Nintendo Game Cube.

Temecula: Once again adults only, but what better way to ring in the holiday season than a weekend trip to one of Temecula Valley's many wineries? The South Coast Winery Resort and Spa is a great place to spend the weekend. Forget about all the holiday stress with a day of wine tasting, once a little tipsy walk back to your villa for a little rest and romance. Each villa is separated from the other villas, so there's plenty of privacy; each has a fireplace and jacuzzi tub. If your feeling up to it, try out their spa and get a relaxing massage or swim in their heated pool, which plays underwater music.

Big Bear: There are many resorts in Big Bear and plenty of activities for the whole family. For the adventurous types, Snow Summit Mountain Resort is a great place to get your energy out while snow board-



Photo courtesy of www.hoteldel.com

ing or skiing down one of many trails. Golden Bear Cabins are only minutes away from Snow Summit, and they welcome the whole family, even pets. There's a playground, basketball and volleyball courts, wireless internet, television with a DVD player and video rentals so the family can cuddle up in the comfort of their cabin after a long day of activities.

All the locations above are close to home, but make you feel like you're really on vacation. So escape the stresses and pressure of everyday life and enjoy this time alone. Whether you want a romantic weekend with the one you love, or time to bond as a family, there are plenty of resorts that will accommodate your needs and prepare you to have a stress free holiday.

How To ... Bring in the New Year

BY SHELLY MONROE
Pride Staff Writer

It's not too soon to plan your New Year's Eve night. With finals right around the corner and final papers due, Cal State San Marcos students may be too busy to plan how to bring in 2006. Students new to North County San Diego may be overwhelmed with the large area and places to go. With a budget ranging from 10 to 200 dollars, students can attend an all inclusive festival. Both North County and San Diego have several options for the single cougar or families looking for a fun night before starting their resolutions.

Big Night San Diego at Qualcomm at the Sheraton San Diego Hotel & Marina presents New Years Eve Ball from 9 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. Food will be served from 9 to 10:30 p.m. and the beverages from 9 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. Guests can expect an enjoyable, all-inclusive package featuring: 12 large themed party areas, six dance floors, 10 bands, six DJ's and a midnight countdown to fireworks. Some of San Diego's popular party bands performing will include: Lady Dottie & The Diamonds, Flock of 80's

and Rookie Card and many more popular acts.

Some extra areas around the event will include The Vegas Casino Lounge, where you can try your hand at lady luck, The Retro Zone and the Electronica Zone groove to spark your groove, Luau Lounge for a good time. The VAVI VIP Sports Bar is fun for the sporting San Diegans, or if you prefer the N'Orleans style of fun, toss your beads around in the CityBeat Mardi Gras Zone. Tickets: 110 to 210 dollars. More info e-mail: info@hiballevvents.com

Some hit clubs around San Diego are offering some unforgettable party's to bring in the New Year.

FM 94/9 presents Matisyahu at Belly Up. Matisyahu is a Hasidic reggae artist who sings and raps in Yiddish and English. This sold out show will be fun so try winning tickets. Tickets: \$35. Info: (858) 481-8140.

The Casbah presents Mother Hips. This 1960s styles band from San Francisco will bring in a psychedelic New Year. Tickets: \$32 or \$35 day of show. Info: (619) 232-4355.

BB King will perform at Pechanga. Blues legend King will



rock in the New Year. Tickets: \$TBA. Info: (951) 303-2507.

Latin rhythms of Kinky & the B-Side Players at 4th & B. Tickets: \$45. Info: (619) 231-4343.

Chris Isaak swoons at House of Blues breaking girls hearts. Tickets: \$125. Info: (619) 299-BLUE.

Karl Denson's Tiny Universe will be terrestrial at Canes. Tickets: \$50. Info: (858) 488-1780.

First Night New Years eve celebration in Escondido starts at 6 p.m. First Night celebrations have gained in popularity because it's fun and alcohol-free, great for families. This year, the First Night New Year's Eve celebration brings together North County for more than 10 stages. Music



genres include Latino, rock, country, classical music and dance. Food, hands-on art activities and two firework displays will also be an attraction. Fun for the whole family fireworks will be at 8 p.m. with an encore at midnight. Attendees can also look forward to face painting and jugglers, hands-on art activities, art demonstrations, music and dance performances. Tickets: \$10-\$15. Info: (760) 420-9701.

New Year's Eve "Celebricktion" at Legoland Kids is for the whole family. This party gets started at 3 p.m. in Miniland. Kids can

dance in the streets with the park's characters, share your New Year's resolutions and check out all the cool Legoland creations.

Special guests will offer a mini-concert at 4 p.m. At 5 p.m. a year-in-review countdown will rock audiences. Legoland's fireworks will kick off at 6 p.m. for young tykes to enjoy a midnight style New Year's Eve show. Open at 10 a.m., Legoland will kick off the New Year for the entire family. Info: (760) 918-5346.

Be sure to plan ahead and designate a driver to get home safe.