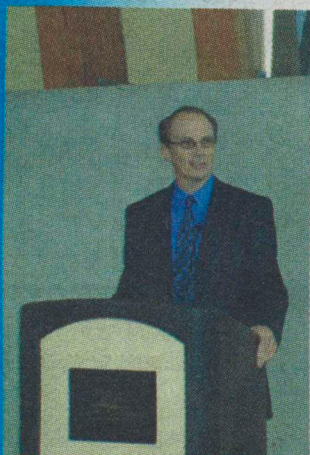




WHAT'S INSIDE

Features
Athletics Fee
Increase



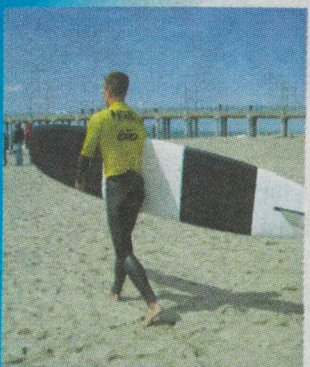
See Page 4

Equality Protests



See Page 5

Sports
Surf Team at state
Championships



See Pages 7

March 4th teach-in and rally spark motive for change

BY BEN ROFFEE & SANDRA CHALMERS

Mar. 4—Four distinguished members of CSUSM's faculty convened in Academic Hall 102 today for a teach-in to speak out against the stripping of funding for California's Higher Education programs. Coinciding with the statewide "day of action," an eclectic panel of professors from a multitude of academic fields offered their critiques of the CSU and UC systems and offered solutions based on their respective fields of study.

Many students were forced to stand in the back or sit on stairs and in passageways as the room was filled to capacity. Organizers simulcasted the teach-in live to dozens of locations on campus and over the internet, reaching hundreds more who had class or were otherwise unable to make it to the event.

First to speak was Dr. Ranjeeta Basu, professor of Economics, shedding light on the effects of cuts to public education as they relate to the economic wel-



Photo by Ben Roffee

fare of the state. Like an investment, said Dr. Basu, public education is capable of garnering valuable benefits for the public if the public chooses to assume the responsibility of paying for it.

According to Dr. Basu, "as a college student, when you graduate, you accrue a personal rate of return, which currently in the U.S. is about 15%. So you are making an extremely good investment by being here because that 15% is much higher than any investment you could make anywhere else."

"There is also a social rate of return—this is only looking at what the state gets back from education—and that is about 9%, which means that even for the government, for the state, it's a very good investment to invest in education as opposed to other areas."

Dr. Scott Greenwood, a professor in the Political Science and Global Studies departments, assessed the political implications in California of the budget crisis in its public higher education programs. At the core of this

issue, said Dr. Greenwood, is the dependency of the CSU and UC systems on a volatile tax base bound to unpredictable economic forces.

According to Dr. Greenwood, "Ideally what we want to is try to find a way to stabilize the revenue source, not just for the general fund but also for public education. One possible solution is this bill [A.B. 656] that's going to tax oil extraction in California. This would provide a nice permanent

See Teach-In, Page 3

Loss of local teens Community mourns two San Diego area students

BY KATRINA KISTLER
Pride Staff Writer

The San Diego area experienced a heart wrenching past few weeks with the local loss of Chelsea King, 17, of Poway, and Amber Dubois, 14, of Escondido.

King disappeared on Feb. 25, 2010 while running in the Rancho Bernardo Community Park. After an immense search and rescue effort, King's body was found five days later. John Gardner, 30, is the main suspect in her disappearance, and has been charged with her rape and murder, in which he pled not guilty.

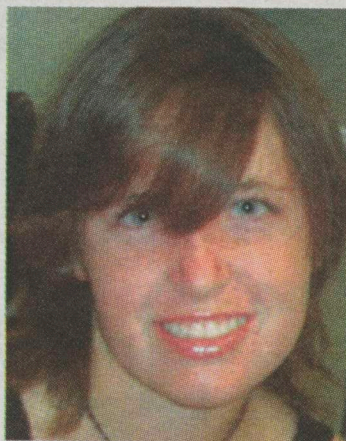
The San Diego Superior Court Judge David Daniels scheduled a preliminary hearing on Aug. 4, 2010 for Gardner in the Chelsea King case. Daniels has also ordered law enforcement officers and attorneys not to speak with

the media and ordered the court to unseal Gardner's probation report.

In the case of Amber Dubois's disappearance, Escondido police say Gardner is the focus of their investigation. Assemblyman Nathan Fletcher sent a letter to state prison officials, asking the department to cease the destruction of documents. In Gardner's case, three years of field notes from parole agents were destroyed.

On Thursday, March 11, 2010, Escondido police seized a gold 1999 Grand Prix sedan from Cardinal Auto Wrecking. The junkyard owner said he bought the vehicle from Gardner in January. The car matched the description of the vehicle used in the attempted abduction of a teenage girl in Lake Elsinore in Oct. 2010.

With all of these new develop-



ments, the State of California has a heightened awareness of this issue. The governor ordered an investigation into how the state prison dealt with Gardner and if the policies in place need to change.

Chelsea King's memorial service was held March 13, 2010 with

thousands attending. Now San Diego residents, family, friends, and supporters await the memorial for Amber Dubois, which will be held at Escondido High School, 1535 North Broadway, on Saturday, March 27, 2010. The time of the event is pending until the release of further information.

Computer Competency Requirement officially eliminated

BY AMY SALISBURY
Editor-In-Chief

CCR officially eliminated
by Amy Salisbury

Students registering for the fall semester need no longer fear holds placed on their records after the March 10 announcement of the Computer Competency Requirement's elimination.

The CCR was formerly a graduation requirement for CSUSM undergraduates unless an approved computing course satisfied the requirement. It then moved to being mandatory for all students to pass before graduating.

As per an expired campus

mandate, undergraduates must complete a three-part exam consisting of displayed proficiency in Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Viruses, and ethics associated with software and the Internet.

The decision to eliminate the requirement originated from a recommendation by the Aca-

demic Senate, according to the Office of the Provost and Vice President for Affairs.

Should students still feel the need to educate themselves on content necessary for computer competency, it is recommended they enroll in CS 100. The course provides a brief overview of computing and focuses on the same

topics covered in the CCR.

"The Student Technology Help Desk (STH) also provides support and training for students," the announcement said. The Student Help Desk is located on the second floor of Kellogg Library. The staff is well-versed in a variety of applications for both PC and Mac.

THE PRIDE

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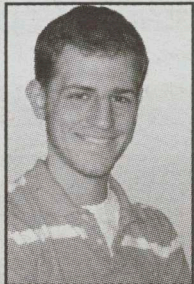
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Bill of Rights

Our community shines in dark times

BY BILL RHEIN
Senior Staff Writer



The inconveniences and frustrations of furloughs and bad budgets has stretched the fiber of our school, and the recent graffiti inciting hate created even more disappointment. But the student and staff response has been very encouraging.

The rally against the pay cuts, furloughs, enrollment caps, and other problems we face because of the budget cuts on March 4 was an inspiring event. I was skeptical of how much of an effect a rally and teach-in would have, but the climate on campus that day was hopeful. I was glad to see so many people come together because it is easy to forget this

problem is bigger than one individual is.

However, what impressed me the most was the protest organized by many student organizations against hate crimes and discrimination. The

words scribed on the wall of our campus were ignorant and upsetting, but I do not want to draw attention to that.

It is a shame that this happened, that someone felt strongly enough to do that. But out of this dark moment, it was emotionally moving to see the student body come together. Our community did not respond with anger or a backlash, but with unity and support.

It would be nice if we could

take these problems away. But since we live in the real world, we have to deal with them. There is no longer a need to be discouraged or hopeless in these situations. We have already proved we can come together and do something unexpected.

Now is the time to keep tumbling dominos to improve

the quality of our classes as well as push for awareness and acceptance. Keep writing your representatives. Promote diversity and awareness in positive ways. It might not seem like much, but if we remain united, we can make change. The proof lies in what our school has managed to do in the past two weeks.



Photo by Sarah Gaddis

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Letters to the editor should include an address, telephone number, e-mail and identification. Letters may be edited for grammar and length. Letters should be under 300 words and submitted via electronic mail to pride@csusm.edu, rather than to the individual editors. It is the policy of The Pride not to print anonymous letters.

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Police Beat - March 16

-March 3, 2010 12:00am - University Police stopped a vehicle for speeding. The driver, a male non-student, was arrested for driving without a license. Driver was issued a misdemeanor citation and was released.

-March 3, 2010 12:25am - University Police arrested a female non-student at a vehicle stop for equipment violation. The non-student had no proof of insurance and UPD discovered that she was in possession of marijuana. Non-student was arrested and issued a misdemeanor citation and UPD seized about 1 gram of marijuana.

-March 3, 2010 1:40am - University Police stopped a vehicle for non-working headlights. Driver was discovered to have a suspended license. Individual was arrested for misdemeanor violation and released after being issued a citation. Driver was a non-student.

-March 3, 2010 9:00pm - University Police responded to call about vandalism in a stall in the women's restroom in Markstein Hall. The vandalism was

a graffiti message hostile to numerous minority groups. The crime was classified as a Hate Crime.

-March 4, 2010 11:25am - University Police were notified of another vandalism on campus. Damage was similar to the March 3rd crime, a graffiti message in the women's restroom of the FCB building. This message was similar to the first and is also being investigated as a Hate Crime.

-March 4, 2010 1:50pm - The third Hate Crime is discovered and University Police are called. The message was discovered in the women's restroom in University Hall.

-March 4, 2010 2:15pm - Fourth hate crime discovered on campus. University Police responded to another graffiti message in the women's restroom in Academic Hall.

-March 8, 2010 12:00pm - University Police received a call from a student who witnessed a tree branch fall onto a parked car in parking lot C. The car, a Toyota Camry, was not totaled

but the branch was 37 feet long and did cause considerable damage. UPD contacted owner, a student, with the news. The University will discuss liability with the student's insurance.

-March 8, 2010 5:35pm - University Police responded to a medical aid call from a professor on campus in University Hall during a class. Student was transported for a medical emergency to hospital by paramedics.

-March 9, 2010 10:35am - University Police responded to a call about a suspicious package left in the men's bathroom in Academic Hall. The San Diego County Sheriff's Department was called on campus to determine if the package was an explosive device. All necessary caution was taken and Academic hall was evacuated for a brief period. In a campus wide email on March 9th at 1:58pm, UPD declared package



harmless.

- March 9, 2010 3:00pm - Vandalism of a car parked in lot F is reported to the University Police via the Women's Center. According to a UPD press release the car was marked with a derogatory term concerning sexual orientation. The crime is classified as a Hate Crime and makes the fifth offense in one week.

From TEACH-IN, page 1

source of revenue for public education and we wouldn't have to worry about this up and down that we have been experiencing."

From the Sociology department, Dr. Sharon Elise discussed public education in California as it relates to race, gender, and class issues. Against the backdrop of recent racist events on campus, Dr. Elise took aim at what she described a system of "entitlement" that has emerged in California's higher education. "There has always been something particularly threatening about educated people of color, something threatening to the status quo of race and property distribution in the United States," said Dr. Elise.

"The provision of free public higher education is fundamental to creating social justice and equity, and so it is also central to the fight against racial injustice."

Dr. John Halcon from the Department of Education gave his opinion on some of the structural shortcomings California's approach to public higher education. Remarking on the theory of "deliverology" and the CSU's "Master Plan, Dr. Halcon said, "I believe that when higher education becomes a privilege, only the privileged will afford higher education. Deliverology is top-down management and anti-democratic."

"In my opinion, we can expect that Deliverology will change future graduates from that of well-rounded articulate thinking to competent technicians capable of following orders but fundamentally incapable of thinking for themselves," added Dr. Halcon

Rally at Library Plaza

Last Thursday began a nation wide protest against education budget cuts that have left campuses frustrated and demanding a change.

CSUSM held a teach-in rally that allowed for students, faculty, and staff to voice their feelings and struggles on how the budget cuts have affected them.

In the academic year of fall 2009 - spring 2010 students have experienced tuition hikes, furlough days for faculty and staff, fewer classes to choose from and a cap on the amount of units that may be taken per semester. These changes have crippled our campus, leaving students, faculty and staff aggravated, but motivated to implement change.

Students are paying more for tuition and student services but are receiving less than in years before. Furlough days have taken 10 percent of student's education, by representing the 10 percent pay cuts that faculty are enduring. Although students are receiving less education they are spending more in tuition than in 2008 when no furloughs were in practice.

The rally called for all who are disgruntled to gather together to respond in protest to the current situation. Many student clubs and organizations responded by supporting the rally with hand made signs that shared their feelings of misfortune with the education system.

The political science club held a "poster making party" that encouraged students to bring markers and other decorative items in preparation for the rally. The student organization also created an event page

on facebook concerning the rally. "Tell your friends, classmates, and people in your community! Everyone needs to know that CSUSM is participating in this call to action for public education," said in the description of the event.

This sort of buzz and excitement for the rally and teach-in event was easily generated and passed on to students and faculty members and united them by creating this event as a outlet for expression as well as a movement for change.

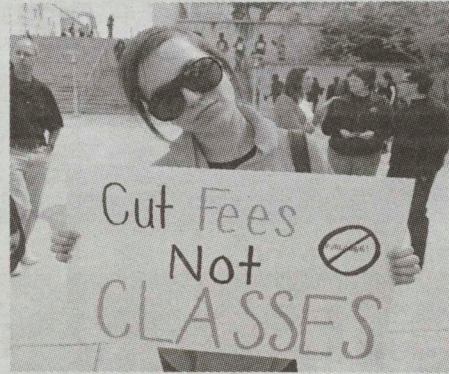


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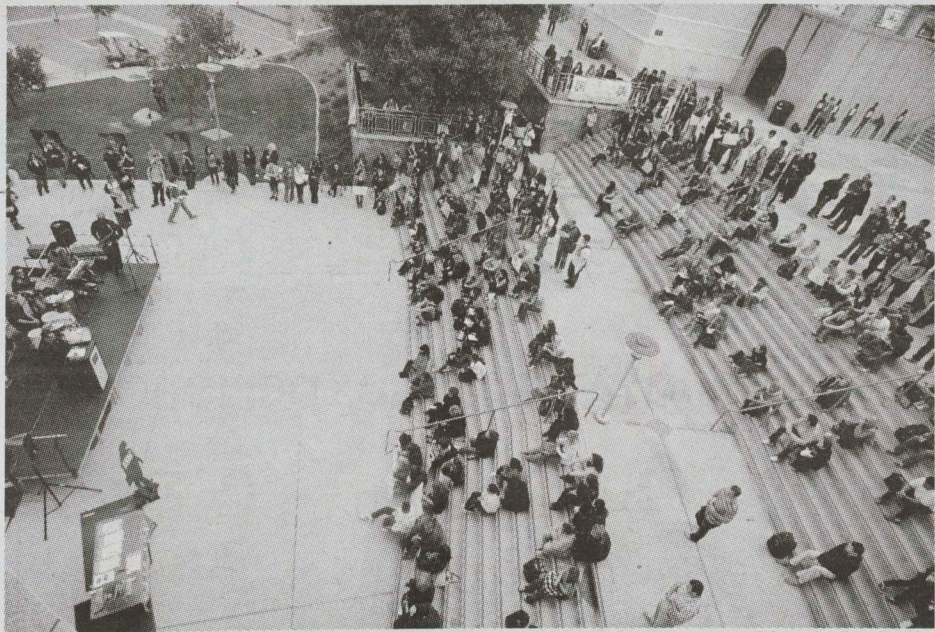


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Students vote to pass athletics fee increase

BY JAMES ROCHE
Pride Staff Writer

Students voted to pass the proposed Athletics Fee Increase, which allows the athletics department to introduce new sports to the campus.

The resulting vote allows Cal State San Marcos to introduce men and women's basketball, dance/cheer programs and women's volleyball.

The athletics fee referendum will consist of a \$40 increase over a three-year period, starting from the next academic year. Students currently pay \$80 a year.

This increases to \$120 a year for the first year, \$160 a year for the second, and \$200 a year for the third year, according to the campus athletics website.

There were 1,266 student votes cast on the athletics fee increase between Feb. 15 and Feb. 28, according to CSUSM sports information director, Kyle Trembley.

"There were approximately twelve hundred voters and about 70% of those were voted yes, so we feel like that is a good indication that students really felt strongly that this was an important part of campus life and [will] be good for Cal State San Marcos. So we're pleased that it was an

overwhelming support for the vote," said athletics fee director, Tom Seitz.

Adding these new sports also allows CSUSM to leave the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) and join the National Collegiate Athletic Association, division two (NCAA). With membership accepted in to the NCAA, CSUSM can join the California Collegiate Athletic Association, which consists of 11 Cal State Universities and UCSD.

Tom Seitz, also spoke of the importance this fee increase will have in the long term for athletics programs at CSUSM.

Seitz said, "It helps lay the foundations for the future of the athletics program here. Without this, I'm not sure where we would have gone for the future. We can't stay where we are. So this in not only the ability to add these new sports, this keeps the existing sports in place because otherwise I don't know what we would have done in terms of association and where we're going to go, so it really lays the foundation for the future of all the athletics teams in the program."

When asked about the next immediate steps for the athletics program, Seitz said, "Next year, next fall, we will start looking to hire a men's and women's head basketball and volleyball coach so we'll start that advertising process and going through screening and so forth for next year."

Seitz said they will then try to get future coaches on board so they can recruit players by the following year.

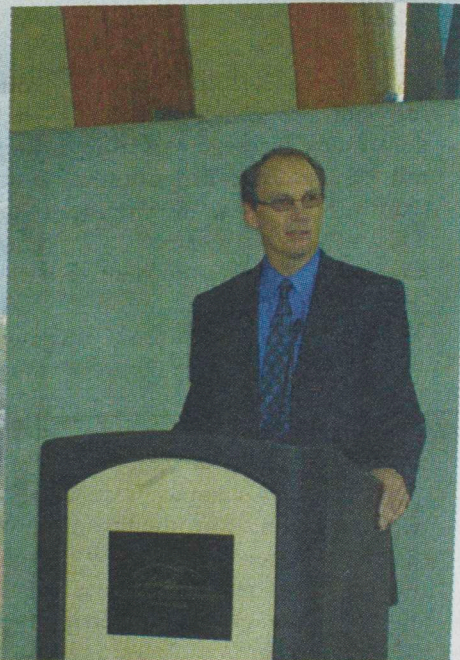


Photo by James Roche

Along with the announcement of the vote passing, Tom Seitz also announced the formation of the Cougar Athletics Advisor Club, which will help the athletics department in off the field matters.

"In addition to the fee referendum, which will give us money from the students, we need to also go out and raise money from the community externally. So they will help us go out and raise money externally to go along with the fee revenue to increase the amount of money we have to be able to build a strong athletic program," said Seitz.



Photo by James Roche

UniversityVoice

Photos by Sarah Gaddis / Pride Staff Writer

"What are your thoughts or feelings about the recent Hate Crimes on campus?"



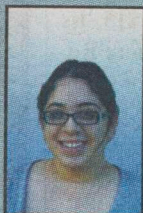
"The hate crimes to me, on campus, really just offended me, because it just listed all these people as problems, and to me, I think that anyone going to college is 'benefitting society.' It was just really hurtful, that someone even did that. I'm really glad that this school is taking it very seriously and not taking it light heartedly."

Polett Shamieh
JUNIOR



"I was actually really surprised that this campus had [hate crimes]. It's a small campus so of course we would all find out about the hate crimes, but I was actually surprised that it actually happened and the fact that it kept happening over and over after protests and the rally. It surprised me even more that people just kept going and going with it. I think people have a right to, you know, express themselves, but in a more appropriate way."

Roberto Barragan
SOPHOMORE



"About the hate crimes, well, they could have their own opinions, but when you express them like that it hurts a lot of people. Like me, being called a 'beaner' is just really mean. Everybody eats beans so, it's just not cool. I'm proud to be a Mexican and I won't hide it from anyone, because that's me. That's my culture."

Anna Pantoja
FRESHMAN



"I think that free speech is important, but not when it infringes on the rights of other people. So if it is affecting and hurting, and affecting the lives of other people, then you're also infringing upon their rights, so I don't think that that is fair. You have a right to have your own opinion, but not when it affects the lives of other people."

Kate Venitelli
SENIOR



"I think there is a time and place for free speech. I'm not sure if it's either them trying to gain attention or if it's them just pretty much being, you know, ignorant. It is a constitutional right to have the freedom of speech, but like I said, there is a time and a place for it. Vandalism is obviously illegal, so that in its own right is wrong. So I guess, if they really had something to say, there would be a [better] appropriate place to [saying] it."

Michelle Garnache
JUNIOR



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Hate crimes spark student involvement in equality protests

BY SARAH GADDIS
Pride Staff Writer

On March 3, 2010, University Police responded to a call that vandalism, a derogatory message targeting multiple minority groups, had occurred in the women's restroom in Markstein Hall. This would be the first of five Hate Crimes reported on campus within a week.

The vandalized bathroom stall featured a graffiti message about seven by seven inches in diameter. University President, Karen Haynes notified staff and students of the event early the next day in a campus wide email. "I will not tolerate any attempts to intimidate or threaten our University community," wrote President Haynes. Despite the strong language, University Police

responded to a call about the next hate crime just an hour and a half later. Three different vandalisms occurred on March 4, 2010.

While the next three hate crimes were being written, different minority groups and clubs on campus were already at work setting up an impromptu protest outside Markstein Hall. Students gathered in the early afternoon on March 4 around the outside of Markstein.

While chanting various equality messages including, "Who's here to stay? We are," and answering different racist scenarios with, "F**k that, Fight back."

Students also wrote messages in chalk on the concrete outside the building against racism and intolerance.

Allie Moreno, a senior and transfer student to CSUSM, was one of the most vocal during the protest.

"We had been angry for a while. This morning we all found out what had happened at Markstein Hall and it was kind of like the last straw. We just got angry,"

she said. "A lot of us just don't feel safe on campus anymore."

Melina Rodriguez, another student with strong feelings regarding the message in the bathroom, said, "This is our way of saying that we aren't going anywhere, that we're here to stay and you're a coward for writing that. We're not going to feel guilty about having financial aid. We're here to stay."

In the email President Haynes sent out, included was a picture of the first message. Referencing the budget cuts and financial aid the offensive message blamed budget woes on certain groups of people.

University Police kept the campus updated with press releases sent out via email. In the press release from Police Chief Ronald Hackenberg, UPD asked for any assistance from students or staff.

"This is the type of crime that impacts the entire community," said Lt. McManus.

At this time, University Police know

that it will take community support to be able to solve these crimes, and any witness cooperation would be very helpful.

Activity died down and various clubs and organizations planned a "Stop Hate Crime" rally during U-hour on March 9, 2010. The protest was very successful with staff and students involved. Three hours later, University Police answered the call about the latest Hate Crime: an insulting message on a car regarding sexual orientation.

The recent activity parallels hate crime action on other campuses as well. Lt. McManus confirmed that UPD has been in contact with other campuses and at this time there are no similarities. If you have any information regarding past or future hate crimes on campus, report to the UPD or www.sdcrimestoppers.com.

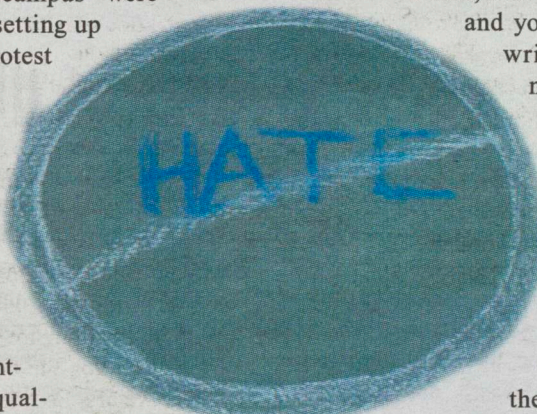


Photo by Sarah Gaddis



Photo by Sarah Gaddis



Photo by Sarah Gaddis

Celebrating St. Patrick's Day proudly close to home

BY KATRINA KISTLER
Pride Staff Writer

St. Patty's Day serves as a religious holiday, but now has become a public holiday in the early twentieth century, that students enjoy to celebrate.

This year Saint Patrick's Day falls on Wednesday March 17. St. Patty's Day is an annual celebration of Saint Patrick, one of the most commonly recognized patron saints of Ireland. The color green and shamrock leaf represent this enjoyable Irish celebration. With St. Patty's Day just around the corner, there are many activities going on and around the CSUSM campus area.

On campus students are celebrating and honoring St. Patty's Day during U-Hour with ASI presenting Shamrock Shindig in Forum Plaza. This friendly celebration will include free entertainment, food, and drinks for students, faculty and staff.

For students, faculty and staff that are interested in picking up St. Patty's Day attire an optimal location would be located in Carlsbad.

ulty, and staff of age there is also another activity to participate in on St. Patty's Day a party called the Paddy Bash 2010. Come dressed in your best attire and ready to have some fun. The party benefits Veterans Memorial Association and is held on Wednesday, March 17th. Doors open at 7:00 PM and tickets are \$15. Its location is VFW Hall 136 Chambers Rd. in El Cajon, CA 92020. With all of these activities around San Diego for CSUSM students, faculty, and staff to participate in St. Patty's Day will be full of Irish celebration.

For students who are of age there is a block party, the ShamROCK 2010 held on March 17 located in the Gaslamp district in downtown San Diego. The event starts at 4:00 PM and ends at midnight. It is located on F Street, between Fifth and Seventh Avenue.

For students, faculty, or staff that are interested in picking up St. Patty's Day attire an optimal location would be located in Carlsbad.



Image courtesy of www.rosullivanirishpub.com/

O'reland specializes in unique Irish attire and is a great place for anyone who is interested in purchasing gear for St. Patty's Day. It is located at 575 Grand Avenue and is open Monday through Saturday 10 AM-5 PM and Sunday 10 AM-3 PM.

Another local Irish pub, R.O's Sulli-

van's Irish Pub and steakhouse in Escondido features authentic Irish cuisine such as Irish nachos, thinly sliced potatoes covered in avocado, cheese, fresh salsa and your choice of grilled chicken or steak. It is located on East Grand Ave. in the historical district of Escondido.



Image courtesy of sandiegoshamrock.com



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COUGARS

VISITORS

Across the board in Sports

Baseball completes four game sweep of Illinois Tech

BY KYLE TREMBLEY

Cougar baseball completed a four-game sweep of Illinois Tech on Thursday, winning a tense game one 5-4 and getting a dominating 12-0 victory in game two.

CSUSM improves to an impressive 13-6-1 this season. Illinois Tech drops to 0-5.

In the more competitive game, CSUSM took what seemed to be a safe 5-0 lead in the third inning thanks to a big two-out rally. With nobody on, Kyle Secciani drew a walk, Matt Jenkins ripped a single off the first baseman's glove down the right field line, and red-hot Kevin Silvett drove in the first run with a base hit. Josh Miller was then hit by a pitch, loading the bases for

Ryle Parks, who delivered a huge two-RBI double. Johnny Omahen then hit a ball to second which was booted and subsequently thrown away, allowing Parks and Miller to score to make it 5-0.

With Travis McCracken on the mound, the game felt like it was over, but Illinois Tech responded well. McCracken ran into trouble in the fourth, due in part to his own error and a seeing-eye swinging bunt single – surrendering four runs and leaving with the bases loaded and one out.

Hard-throwing reliever Kyle Smart was called on to put out the fire, and he did so brilliantly, striking out two batters to close out the frame.

With CSUSM up 5-4, each team threatened to score, but neither could push any more runs across. Ricky

Chavarria did an excellent job on the mound for the Cougars, working the final three innings and allowing just one hit. He picked up the well-earned save, with Smart getting the win.

Game two would feature no such drama, as CSUSM took a commanding 6-0 lead in the bottom of the first before recording a single out. Secciani drew a leadoff walk, and Ricardo Moran and Silvett recorded back-to-back doubles to make it 2-0. After a walk to Miller and single by Parks to load the bases, Steve Harris unloaded on a no-doubt-about-it grand slam to right center.

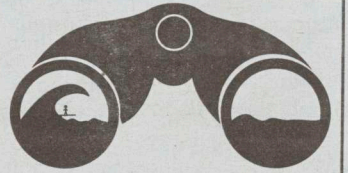
The hit parade would continue in the second, as Silvett blasted a two-run homer, and Miller followed with a solo shot of his own to make it 9-0.

Meanwhile, Brett Miller was in complete control on the mound for CSUSM. He worked four easy innings, striking out six while allowing just two hits and a walk. The win improves him to 2-0 this season.

Secciani singled in a run in the fourth to make it 10-0; and in the fifth, doubles by Jordan Polchow and Mike Pena, along with an Omar Manzanarez sacrifice fly made it 12-0.

The shutout was preserved by McClinton Heil, who worked 1 2/3 hitless innings, and rocket-armed shortstop Johnny Omahen, who in his first ever appearance on the mound threw a scoreless seventh.

Cougar baseball will face off against Concordia University on Monday at 6:00 PM at Poway HS.



Surf Report

TUES



Sunny

High Tide: 10:21 AM

Low Tide: 4:17 PM

Wave Height: 2-3 ft

WED



Sunny

High Tide: 10:53 AM

Low Tide: 4:37 PM

Wave Height: 3-4 ft

THURS



Sunny

High Tide: 11:29 AM

Low Tide: 4:58 PM

Wave Height: 4 ft

FRI



Sunny

High Tide: 12:11 PM

Low Tide: 5:20 PM

Wave Height: 3-4 ft

SAT



Sunny

High Tide: 6:55 AM

Low Tide: 1:06 PM

Wave Height: 3 ft

Numerous Cougar Track athletes punch ticket for Nationals

BY KYLE TREMBLEY

Competing at the massive Occidental Distance Carnival on Friday night, a dozen athletes from Cal State San Marcos punched their tickets to the NAIA National Championships.

Leading the way was a trio of women in the 10,000-meter run, and a trio of men in the 5,000-meter run. In the 10K, Jessica Sandoval, Jen Albright, and Lindsey McKown

all earned their way to Nationals by meeting the "A" qualifying standard for the event. Sandoval ran 37:00.00, beating the qualifying mark by a minute and 45 seconds and finishing fifth in the loaded field. Albright and McKown were close behind, running 37:40.20 and 37:48.12 and finishing 8th and 9th, respectively.

In the 5K, Brett Campfield, Muluken Beressa, and Dave Edwards all easily cleared the "A" qualifying

standard, guaranteeing their spot in the field at Nationals. Campfield ran 14:30.00, finishing a very impressive third in the large field. Beressa wasn't far behind, posting a time of 14:40.00 and placing eighth. Dave Edwards took eleventh place with a time of 14:41.81. Pat Fitzgerald also met the "B" standard in the race with a time of 15:00.00.

Also earning their "A" standard were Western Nelson and Chris

Capeau in the 10,000-meter. Nelson ran 31:00.00 to take fifth in the field, and Capeau ran 31:30.00 to place tenth.

Three Cougar women met the "B" standard at the event as well. Suzanne Scrimeti and Carol Schryver each met the mark in the 1,500-meter, running 4:44.90 and 4:44.50, respectively; and Kelly Thompson go the mark in the 5,000-meter with a time of 18:06.78.

Sandberg, Dronenburg, Villalpando lead Softball to Sweep of Biola

BY KYLE TREMBLEY

On Saturday at CSUSM Softball Field, Brenna Sandberg's pitching and Alyssa Dronenburg's hitting led Cougar softball in game one to a 3-1 victory over Biola University, and Kimi Villalpando's 4 RBI propelled the squad to a come-from-behind 6-4 win in game two.

The sweep improves #20-ranked CSUSM to 12-6 this season. Biola falls to 12-10.

It's a pair of big wins over a quality opponent for the Cougars, who, aside from a lapse in the second inning of game two, looked very good on the day.

Game one was dominated by Sandberg, who through six innings had allowed just one baserunner. She

ended up going the distance, striking out ten batters while surrendering just one unearned run on two hits and one walk to pick up her 10th win of the season.

The offense came from Dronenburg, who led off the fourth inning by lacing a ball over the fence in right-center to put her team up 1-0. It's her team-leading sixth home run of the season.

From there, CSUSM would pick up an insurance run in the fifth, with Elizabeth Bush scoring on a wild pitch following a base hit and an Alicia Ingram double. The Cougars would tack on another in the sixth, with red-hot Erica Coelho leading off with a single, advancing to third on a Ciera Ashman double, and scoring on a solid Shanti Poston single up the

middle.

The 3-1 margin would hold, as Sandberg worked through a little trouble in the seventh to preserve the victory.

Game two would require some perseverance, but the Cougars rose to the challenge. Biola played small ball in the second, taking advantage of a Cougar defense that committed three errors and made some questionable decisions to take an early 4-0 lead.

But CSUSM responded immediately, cutting it to 4-3 in the bottom of the frame as Villalpando delivered a big two-RBI single that plated Coelho and Ashman, and Ingram then singled in Villalpando.

And in the third, the Cougars would take their first lead of the contest. Coelho continued to mash the

ball, doubling to lead off the inning. Ashman drew a walk, and a base hit by Poston loaded the bases. That brought up Villalpando again, and once again she knocked a two-RBI single right up the middle to give CSUSM a 5-4 lead.

That score would hold for most of the contest, as Sandberg righted the ship on the mound and the defense settled in. In the bottom of the sixth, Lauren Nelson drilled a solo home run to push the lead to 6-4. Sandberg would finish it off, as Poston made a nice leaping catch at shortstop to record the game's final out.

Sandberg improves to an impressive 11-3 on the season.

CSUSM will be back at home on Saturday to host Bethany University for a double-header starting at noon.

Track & Field competes at Point Loma Invitational

BY KYLE TREMBLEY

A day after the Cougar distance runners competed at the Occidental Distance Carnival, the rest of the team participated in the Point Loma Invitational, hosted by Point Loma Nazarene on Saturday.

And for the second straight day, plenty of Cougar athletes punched their tickets to Nationals.

On the women's side, the 4x100-

meter relay team earned the "A" standard, guaranteeing them a spot at Nationals. The team of Aimee Rassavong, Krystle Osby, Mary Spinharrey, and Monika Valenzuela posted a time of 48.48 seconds, good for second place at the meet.

The 4x400-meter team got the "A" standard as well. Lucia Asbury, Tiffany West, Osby, and Valenzuela won the event with a time of 3:54.28.

Valenzuela also met the "B" standard in the individual 400-meter dash, running 57.67 seconds to win the event.

In the field, Andrea Talhami earned the "A" standard in the triple jump with a distance of 11.48 meters. She finished in second place.

On the men's side, the 4x100-meter relay team earned the "A" standard and won the race. The

team of Thomas McDougal, Anthony Harbour, Nicholas Stein, and Nicholas Henderson posted a time of 41.78 seconds. That same team also met the "B" standard in the 4x400-meter relay, winning the race with a time of 3:17.73.

Harbour also earned his individual "A" standard in the 400-meter hurdles with a time of 52.6 seconds. He won the event as well.

Surf team competes at state championships

Team members advance toward national title

BY MALLANE DRESSEL
Pride Staff Writer

The CSUSM Surf Team competed in the NSSA Interscholastic State Championships on March 5-7 at Huntington Pier, and placed 8th among the other 21 competing teams.

Huntington Beach offered the competitors decent weather, and 2-4 foot surf on Friday and Saturday. Then on Sunday for the final rounds, the wind increased to bring the surf up to a peaky

5 feet, and made the surf somewhat inconsistent. SDSU was a dominant force that crushed the rest of their competitors in the finals leaving their score at 162. The runner-up UCSB only scored 132.

The surfers competing are judged on their best two waves in a given heat of only 15 minutes, so concentration and correct wave choice are key to advancing. Unfortunately luck can be a variable as well.

The team didn't fair well in

round one. Kaitlin Maguire and Mick Rogers were the last surfers on the team competing on Sunday in the semi-finals for the long board division. The long board division is co-ed, and Maguire is the only woman who has been able to break into the final round in previous events. Her rank right now for the conference is 17th with only competing in 3 out of 4 events.

Mick Rogers is ranked 6th after competing in all four events. He said, "I started off the event on a positive note, managing to string together a couple of good turns with some nose rides, but on Sunday, due to crappy waves and not performing the best, I couldn't really put it all together."

Rogers said that the benefits of being part of the CSUSM surf team are, "To be part of a team, with people that all share similar interests." He said he enjoys "The rivalry of competing against other universities up and down the California coast."

Both Rogers and Maguire see surfing as something they can enjoy easily while still making time for school. Maguire said "School is a once in a lifetime opportunity, and you can't really rely on surfing to support you in



Photo by Mike Rogers



Photo by Mike Rogers

the future. These days it seems that even the best of the pros are struggling to make a life out of surfing." The team represents the school in competitions, but also allows these individuals to be able to do what they enjoy while still planning for their future.

Even though the other team members didn't advance into final rounds, the experience of competing will be useful to prepare them for the NSSA National Championships in June, where they will defend their title. Last year, the team won their first National Title for the school in

a tiebreaker finish against west coast school UNCW.

Scott McBride, who took 4th place in the men's short board division at last year's National Championships, will be returning. For women's short boarding, the team has Alexa Thornton, who is ranked a promising 7th out of 63 other competitors. Last year she finished 6th when competing at the high school level.

Laura Thatcher and Summer Meyer are contenders as well, ranking in the top 25. The team also has the assistance of their veteran advisor Amber Pua to help them capture the title again.

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Coming to theaters

BY BILL RHEIN
Senior Staff Writer

WIDE RELEASE

The Bounty Hunter

Starring Jennifer Aniston and Gerard Butler

Directed by Andy Tennant

Butler plays the titular hunter sent to retrieve his reporter ex-girlfriend, played by Aniston. The plot twists when they are both hunted as the story Aniston was researching has deeper implications in this screwball comedy.

Diary of a Wimpy Kid

Starring Zachary Gordon and Robert Capron

Directed by Thor Freudenthal

This story of life as a seventh grader is based off the books and web comic of the same name. This story of junior high and suburban life may be the stepping-stone for several up and coming child actors.

Repo Men

Starring Forest Whitaker and Jude Law

Directed by Miguel Sapochnik

This film, which is not related to the cult classic "Repo Man," is a sci-fi story with traces of "Minority Report." Law plays a repossession agent in a future where organs are grown and sold, and he is the one taking back organs from people who miss payments. But he must go on the run he fails to pay for his new heart.

LIMITED RELEASE

The Runaways

Starring Kristen Stewart and Dakota Fanning

Directed by Floria Sigismondi



Image courtesy of Columbia Pictures

Starring Leonardo DiCaprio
Directed by Toni Myers

Myers, who also directed the documentary "Space Station 3D," puts together this visual feast in space. This feature follows the true events of the astronauts aboard the Space Shuttle Atlantis along their mission to do some repairs to the Hubble telescope.

This biopic of female rockers Joan Jett and Cherie Currie admits to serious historical inaccuracies, so it will be relying on its star-power to draw audiences. Stewart and Fanning play the leading women who went on to form the band "The Runaways" in Los Angeles during the 1970's.

IMAX: Hubble 3D

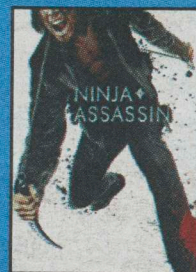


Image courtesy of Universal Pictures

DROPPING: DVD RELEASES

Tuesday, Mar. 16

By Bill Rhein / Senior Staff Writer



"NINJA ASSASSIN"

There is nothing complicated about this film with a redundant title. It is a splatter fest featuring sleek action starring Korean star Rain.

Rotten Tomatoes: 26/100

Internet Movie Database: 6.5/10

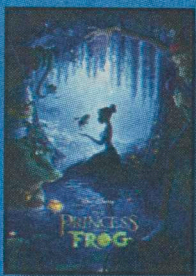


"BANDSLAM"

This breakout film featuring stars from the Disney Channel was surprisingly entertaining. Despite the over-saturation of "High School Musical" and "Hannah Montana," this is a refreshing story about high school students and their musical talents.

Rotten Tomatoes: 80/100

Internet Movie Database: 6.2/10



"THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG"

The Walt Disney studio's return to hand-drawn animation was a success. This interpretation of the classic fairy tale of royalty and reptiles combines lively animation and new music in a story set in New Orleans.

Rotten Tomatoes: 85/100

Internet Movie Database: 7.5/10



"DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE MORGANS?"

Another major box office flop was this flick starring Sarah Jessica Parker and Hugh Grant. They play an estranged couple forced to reconcile their differences when they are put into the witness protection program. The best part of this movie is the premise, which it does not live up to.

Rotten Tomatoes: 13/100

Internet Movie Database: 3.6/10



"ARMORED"

This heist movie is relatively short, and the majority of it is predictable. A crew of security experts decides to plan a hold up of the armored trucks they protect when they fall on hard times. The stars, including Matt Dillon, Jean Reno, and Lawrence Fishburne, may make this worth a rental.

Rotten Tomatoes: 41/100

Internet Movie Database: 5.6/10



"ASTRO BOY"

This animated film flopped in box offices and it seems to be sneaking out to DVD only a few months later. This story is a simple combination of "Pinocchio" meets super hero comics. A robot, designed to look like a small boy, must learn to control his powers and find acceptance for being different.

Rotten Tomatoes: 48/100

Internet Movie Database: 6.4/10

Rotten Tomatoes scores are based on a percentage of critics who liked the film and are found on rottentomatoes.com.

Internet Movie Database scores are based on the average rating of voters on imdb.com.

Images courtesy of amazon.com