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THE PRIDE



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY SAN MARCOS

INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2007

VOL. XVIII NO. 7

Firestorms ravage San Diego

Winds up to 60 mph fueled fires across Southern California



Many affected by the fires reminiscent of 2003 Cedar fires

BY BEN ROFFEE
Pride Staff Writer

Although the fires have dimmed, the winds died down, and the ash has settled in San Marcos, many residents across the county are now coping with the harsh reality of life in one of the most fire prone regions in the world. Unfortu-

nately for seven Southern California residents who died as a direct result of the fires, the reality was much harsher than could be expected.

Starting Sunday, Oct. 21, San Diego County underwent yet another siege of flame and ash, consuming more than

See FIRES, page 8



Photos by Viridiana Pacheco-Isaac / The Pride

Above: Eastlake residents looked on in disbelief as the Harris fire threatened hundreds of homes in the Chula Vista community. Top right: San Diego Fire Fighters look on as the San Ysidro fire struggles to contain itself. Residents were let back into their homes after a brief evacuation.

BY THE NUMBERS

1500+
Homes destroyed

369,396
Acres burned

7
Fire-related deaths

Information about San Diego gathered from CAL FIRE / www.fire.ca.gov

SEE full coverage inside, PAGES 8-11

INSIDE

UPD keeping an eye on campus community

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Legislation for our education

Governor signs AB 262 and AB 1548 to alleviate financial burdens of CA college students

BY JACKIE CARBAJAL
Pride Staff Writer

Two bills signed into legislation recently this month are just some governmental measures reforming postsecondary education in California. While the vetoing of AB 1413 earlier this month may have discouraged students and campus faculty members, California assemblymen are still pushing for legislation that addresses the needs of students in the postsecondary public school system and are starting to receive some success in return.

Governor Schwarzenegger recently signed AB 262 and AB 1548 into law. Both legislations help alleviate the financial burdens of college for students across the state.

AB 262, commissioned by Democratic Assemblyman, Joe Coto, looks to dispel credit card companies from targeting college students on campus with gifts and other luring tactics. Also called The College Student Credit Protection Act, AB 262 advises university executives to revise regulations on credit companies on campus.

Student debt is quickly becoming an epidemic throughout college campuses across the country. While student loans also add

to the problem, credit card debt is the most troublesome problem for students to control. Many credit companies are aware that freshman students know little about credit and annual percentage rates and target them accordingly.

According to student lender, Nellie Mae, in 2004 more than 75 percent of students had a credit card and more than 40 percent had more than four credit cards.

Upon introducing AB 262 in his April 2007 newsletter, Assemblyman Coto stated, "Many California public university students, of all incomes and backgrounds, are graduating into severe credit card debt. AB 262 will help to protect the students who represent the future of California's economy."

Democratic Assemblyman, Jose Solorio, proposed AB 1548 to help control textbook prices for students. Governor Schwarzenegger vetoed a similar measure, SB 832, explaining in his veto message that the "bill focuses strictly on textbook publisher policies and fails to recognize that the affordability of textbooks is a shared responsibility among publishers, college bookstores, and faculty members."

AB 1548 calls for improvements among publishers, distrib-

utors and faculty members. The governor went on in his veto message to state, "Therefore, instead of this bill [SB 832], I am signing Assembly Bill 1548. Many of the same concepts in SB 832 are in AB 1548, but AB 1548 recognizes the shared responsibility and attempts to address the issue in a more comprehensive manner"

The bill requires publishers to include important changes made to new editions compared to previous editions, provide faculty members with a list of wholesale distributors upon request, and print on the cover of instructor edition textbooks that the copy is not available for resale.

College institutions and faculty must consider costs of textbooks when selecting reading lists and order books with enough time for students to purchase them. AB 1548 also requires that they not sell instructor copies or accept any personal profit for requiring certain textbooks or materials for course instruction.

Campus bookstores must also post a disclosure of new pricing policies for both new and used textbooks in the store or through store websites.

"As the former student body president of UC Irvine, I know firsthand that high textbook

prices are a huge issue for college students." Assemblyman Solorio said in an Oct. 13 press release.

According to the General Accounting Office 2005 report, textbook prices increased 186 percent between the years 1986 and 2004; nearly triple the rate of inflation during that same time period.

AB 1548 does not decrease textbook prices but it does offer students more opportunity to make better textbook purchasing decisions. The bill also holds those who select textbooks accountable for taking students best interests into consideration during the process.

"AB 1548 provides a comprehensive approach to controlling college textbook prices by placing additional disclosure requirements on all parties involved in creating the high prices. That's why the bill was supported by the California State Student Association, the California Teacher's Association, the Association of American Publishers and the California Postsecondary Education Commission," said Assemblyman Solorio.

Students will soon be able to see how these bills affect life on campus and if they set a precedent to pass similar bills in the future.

Cougar Challenge christens new cross country course



Above: Contestants, including the CSUSM Women's Cross Country team, line up for the start of the 5K portion of the Cougar Challenge. Right: Seniors, Sergio Gonzalez and Juan Mejia battle for position in the 8K.

Photos courtesy of Kyle Trembley, Sports Information Director

BY TIM MOORE
Pride Staff Writer

The Cougar 5K/8K Challenge took over the front end of campus Saturday, and though the stakes were not particularly high, the competition was fierce.

The race, which was a part of the USA Track and Field Dirt Dog Cross Country series, was not an official NAIA event, so the results did not affect the official scores or rankings.

The race was open to the public for participation. Nearly 200 took part in the event, with the 5K kicking off at 9:00 and the 8K starting at 9:45.

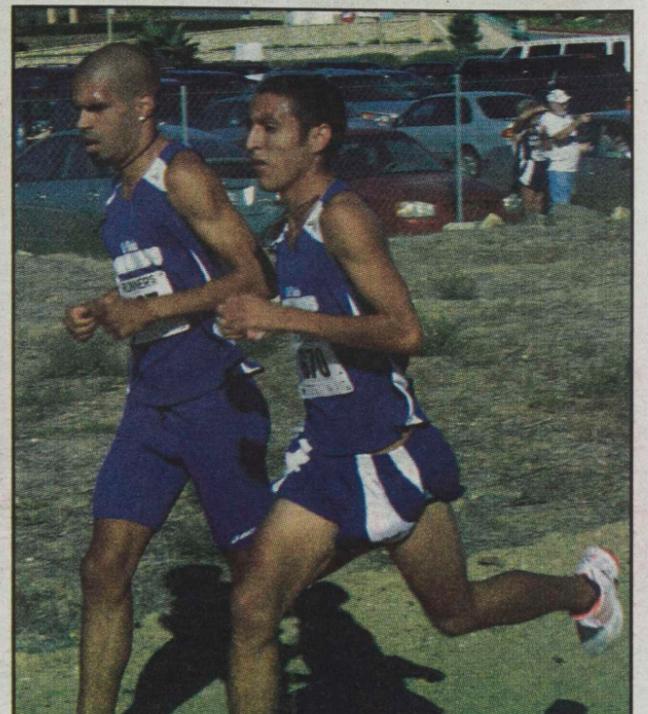
Former CSUSM runner, Anne-Marie Byrne took first place in the 5K with a time of 17:40. Byrne, who graduated in the spring of 2006, was

considered one of the best runners in school history.

The CSUSM Women's team took part in 5K, and had a big presence in the top ten. Morgan Sjogren finished fourth with a time of 18:21, Jessica Sandoval finished sixth with a time of 18:31, and Whitney Patton finished eighth with a time of 18:38.

The CSUSM Men's team ran in the 8K, and standout senior, Juan Mejia finished impressively in first place with a time of 24:57. Just four seconds back in second place was senior, Sergio Gonzalez. Former CSUSM runner, Jesse Armijo finished third with a time of 25:06.

CSUSM Cross Country travels to Fresno for the NAIA Regionals on Nov. 3.



Nominations begin for The President's Award for Innovation in Teaching

Students given opportunity to recognize innovate professors

BY JACKIE CARBAJAL
Pride Staff Writer

For anyone who knows a faculty member that goes above and beyond, now is the time to put that thought into action. Nominations for two faculty awards are currently open to Cal State San Marcos students.

The President's Award for Innovation in Teaching relies solely on student nominations. The intention of the award is to encourage faculty to find new ways of teaching that impact a student's ability to learn and have interest in the subject.

Last year's recipient was College of Business Administration Professor, Dr. Soheila Jorjani. "It felt wonderful. I love teaching so that by itself is a big award. The nomination by a student and winning the award was doubly exciting and gratifying!" Said Jorjani.

The President's Award for Outstanding Contributions to Student Success is new this year and opens for nominations from students, faculty and program directors. The award looks to recognize temporary or part time faculty members who contribute to student learning encourage student diversity and promote academic

excellence.

The deadline for the Outstanding Contributions to Student Success Award is this Friday, Nov. 2.

A selection committee is currently in place consisting of last year's awardee, a faculty member chosen by the President, one member of the Academic Senate Executive Committee, one academic administrator, and a student selected by Associated Student Inc. The committee will review all nominations and make at least two nominations to the President by Dec. 7 and in turn, the President will make the final decisions. President Haynes will make the award announcements on Dec. 10.

Commenting on the continued benefits of the award, Dr. Jorjani added, "It has given me even more energy to go forward! I demand excellence from my students and I challenge them to be independent and intelligent thinkers. They always rise up to this challenge and with this award they have told me they appreciate my style."

Students should take full advantage of opportunities to recognize effective teaching methods. In pointing out what works, other faculty members can also learn from their nominated colleagues.

Additionally, no respect holds greater significance than the appreciation of a student to their teacher.

British author Gladys Bronwyn Stern once said, "Silent gratitude isn't much use to anyone." The President's Awards are the best opportunity students have each year to honor faculty members in a big way. In lieu of the upcoming Thanksgiving season, it is important to not only be thankful for faculty members that enable student success but also to make that gratitude a public affair.

To vote for The President's Award for Innovation in Teaching, e-mail the Office of President Karen Haynes via Carol Bonomo at cbonomo@csusm.edu. The deadline for the Innovation in Teaching Award is Friday, Nov. 9. Nominations should include how the proposed faculty member displays innovative ways of teaching and how these ways help the student retain knowledge.

For complete criteria of both awards and information on the nomination process, visit President Haynes' website at www.csusm.edu/president.

Conservative movement Islamo-Fascism Awareness Week passes

BY KATHRYN MCBRAYER
Pride Staff Writer

Islamofascism Awareness Week was held Oct. 22 to 26. The David Horowitz Freedom Center organized and promoted the event in conjunction with conservative student organizations across the United States.

The intent of Islamofascism Awareness week was for conservative groups to inform the American student population of what the David Horowitz Freedom Center calls the "two Big Lies." These lies, according to The Terrorism Awareness Project website (<http://www.terrorismawareness.org>), are, "George Bush created the war on terror and that Global Warming is a greater danger to Americans than the terrorist threat."

The Terrorism Awareness Project also stated the purpose of the protest is to "rally American students to defend their country."

200 universities and colleges across the United States participated in the event, including Palomar College. CSUSM initially appeared on the list of participating campuses but was later removed. When asked why the Terrorism Awareness Project removed Cal State San Marcos, among other schools, from the

list, a representative from the group declined to comment on the matter.

The events included keynote speakers, panels on oppression of women, showings of *Suicide Killers, Obsession, or Islam: What the West Needs to Know* and the ABC mini-series *The Path to 9/11*, a petition encouraging students to claim their allegiance, and a memorial service for the victims of terrorist attacks. There will also be a petition "denouncing Islamofascist violence against women, gays, Christians, Jews and non-religious people."

In response to the event the Muslim Public Affairs Council instructs Muslim students to do the following: "demonstrate Islamic ethics and restraint, support free speech, not respond, contact campus administration, talk to other student groups, report hate crimes and incidents." They also provided workshops for students under the banner, "Truth Over Fear: Countering Islamophobia."

The MPAC pamphlet provided to help Islamic students navigate through the demonstrations states, "programs such as Islamofascism Awareness Week (IFAW) seek to isolate and divide communities, thereby dislodging their place as contributing members of society."

Cougar Watch, keeping an eye on the campus community

University Police Department introduce program to increase campus safety

BY PAMELA CASTILLO
Pride Staff Writer

On Oct. 16, 2007, University Police introduced the Cougar Watch program, one of several new projects the department planned for CSUSM. The new program is all part of a goal for building a safe community by utilizing positive communication throughout the campus. Members of the department served barbeque to the campus while informing students about the program.

Cougar Watch is similar to neighborhood watch programs, and is one method UPD is using to counter act a projected rise in Part I crimes in 2007.

Based on the past nine months, according to Chief of Police, Ronald J. Hackenberg, Part I crimes are projected to rise about 50%. The Chief pointed out, that as the population on campus is rapidly growing, now is the time to do some strategic planning for preventing crime to maintain a safe campus. In previous years, 2003-2006, CSUSM Part I crime rates were some of the lowest scores in the state, and consistently decreasing.

UPD is offering weekly meetings for campus community to stay proactively informed about the police department and things individuals can do to keep the campus safe. At the meetings, they plan to discuss themes

such as finger printing, personal weapons like pepper spray, hate crimes, and travel safety.

For staff, faculty, and students that can't make the weekly meetings: UPD encourages the campus to remain aware of surroundings, lock your vehicles, and make use of the evening safety escort program. At the debut event, officers encouraged the audience to call UPD when something does not seem right, and program the UPD number into your cell, 760-750-4567. "If it turns out to be a false alarm, all you'll get from us is a thank you," said Hackenberg. For situations not in progress, there is also e-mail, cougarwatch@csusm.edu.

UPD also announced the start

of the Emergency notification system. In order to receive text messages in the event of an emergency, students, staff, and faculty can register his/her cell phone number by going to <http://www.csusm.edu/ep/>

In recent events, UPD is said to have benefited from the Cougar Watch program. Within the past few weeks, several Honda vehicle crimes have taken place on campus. According to Chief Hackenberg, thanks to the many eyes on campus, on Oct. 17 officers believe they located a suspect in the Honda cases.

During a routine traffic violation stop on Barham, the driver and passenger fled the vehicle. Officers chased one suspect in

a foot pursuit running past the UVA, Cesar Chavez circle, up the stairs, and through the Arts building. Student bystanders facilitated officers by pointing which direction the suspect ran. In spite of a manhunt including canine units and a helicopter, one of the suspects evaded arrest. UPD and SD Sheriffs are continuing the investigation.

Chief Hackenberg stated in a campus-communication email, "University Police wish to thank those students that enthusiastically pointed out the location of the fleeing suspect to pursuing officers, and those students who called in to provide helpful information."

Police Beat

10/1/07

UPD assisted SD Sheriff Dept, with a sexual assault investigation that occurred off campus.

10/1/07 4-7P.M.

Petty theft. A parking permit was stolen from a vehicle in lot F with no evidence of forced entry.

10/3/07 12:30P.M.

Liability report. An injury occurred in ACD.

10/3/07 1:30P.M.

Liability report at Student Health Center.

10/5/07

Liability report. Two UPD student workers inhaled dust from the sand blasting, while working in the intersection of Craven and Palm Canyon. They reported headaches, but are okay.

An officer injured his thumb while assisting with the R.A.D. instruction at Palomar Community College.

10/6/07 11:00P.M.

Minor in possession. Officers contacted a resident in the Prominence complex, and cited her for minor in possession of alcohol. Upon further investigation, officers also cited a male for minor in possession of alcohol.

10/8/07 12:45-3:00P.M.

Vehicle theft. A student parked his/her car in lot F. Upon return, the student discovered the car missing and reported it stolen. After searching the vicinity, officers were unable to locate the silver Honda Civic.

10/8/07 8:30-3:00P.M.

Burglary. In Parking lot B an unknown suspect forcibly entered a white Honda Civic, and stole a Honda tuning computer, jumper harness, 15in tire without rim, driver's license, Military I.D., and gas card. Estimate of damages is \$383.00.

UPD tip of the week:
Pedestrians shall not begin crossing the roadway, once the upraised red hand begins to flash (21456(b)CVC).

COUGAR WATCH

KEEPING AN EYE ON THE UI!
(760) 750-4567

CSUSM women's soccer headed to playoffs

BY TIM MOORE
Pride Staff Writer

The #6 ranked CSUSM women's soccer team is headed to its first ever playoff appearance wednesday, as the Cougars face off against the #3 ranked Concordia Eagles in the first round of the NAIA Region II playoffs on Wednesday. The game is at Concordia at 1:00pm.

This is only the second season of women's soccer at CSUSM, and with only four seniors, the playoff berth shows plenty of potential.

In a press release from the university, coach Ron Pulvers said, "For our young team, this is going to be a great opportunity to get experience in a playoff setting."

The Cougars will look to capitalize on the skills of senior defender, Annica Perez who was the October 2007 women's soccer athlete of the month.

This match-up may look familiar to the Cougars, who faced Concordia on September 8th, in a fatigued game that ended up being the worst CSUSM loss of the season. One day earlier the Cougars played #1 ranked Azusa Pacific, losing by a score of 0-1.

This time the Cougars will be well rested due to the cancelation of their final regular season game, against La Sierra University on Sunday.

The Cougars finished the season with a 6-6-4 record, coming down the stretch with two tough ties at Cal State San Bernardino and Cal Poly Pomona.

Chargers please San Diego in emotional 35-10 victory

BY TIM MOORE
Pride Staff Writer

In a game that was almost not played in San Diego, the Chargers took over Qualcomm and boosted the morale of 60,439 fans; even if it was for only four hours.

As San Diego County was being ravaged by the wildfires, Qualcomm Stadium was being used to facilitate over 10,000 evacuees.

After some 45 Chargers employees, including around 24 players were displaced from their homes Monday, the Chargers were forced to board a plane to Arizona to carry on with the week's practice schedule.

When the Los Angeles Lakers announced the cancellation on Tuesday of their annual preseason game in San Diego that was scheduled for Thursday, the idea of the Chargers returning home seemed doubtful.

The Chargers faced similar circumstances in 2003, when their Monday night game against the Dolphins was moved to Sun Devil Stadium in Arizona due, ironically enough, to Qualcomm being used as an evacuation center for the Cedar Fire.

Arizona and Los Angeles were speculated for the relocation of the

game, as well as Oakland, Seattle, and Fresno.

With the numbers of evacuees steadily dropping as the week progressed, the focus soon shifted on distinct possibility of the game actually being played at Qualcomm.

San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders announced late Thursday that the stadium would be ready and capable to host the game, stating "The City will be able to provide sufficient public safety personnel to manage a professional football game without impeding ongoing wildfire recovery efforts."

The team returned to San Diego Friday morning allowing time for players and staff to return to their homes-all of which still standing.

Throughout the week's tribulations, the Chargers managed to stay focused for their match-up with the Houston Texans en route to their third consecutive victory; 35-10.

The Chargers got the party started with 5:49 left in the first quarter with a Philip Rivers to Antonio Gates 49 yard crowd-pleasing touchdown reception.

Later in the first, Chargers cornerback, Antonio Cromartie recovered a Bryan Pittman fumble and took it to the house, pushing the Chargers

lead to 14-0.

Houston got on the board early in the second quarter with a Kris Brown 40-yard field goal.

Antonio Gates made the highlights again with a 31 yard touchdown reception to the left. Antonio Cromartie followed soon after with an interception from Houston quarterback, Matt Schaub that was returned for a 70 yard touchdown.

Philip Rivers got the newly acquired wide receiver, Chris Chambers involved with a 14 yard touchdown pass near the two minute mark in the second quarter.

The Chargers took a 35-3 lead into halftime, and needed nothing more from the offense to secure the victory.

The Chargers won by a score of 35-10, in a game that brought out the best of the Chargers in the midst of a crisis throughout the county.

"It was kind of like a win for the San Diego Chargers, but at the same time it was a win for San Diego itself," said Gates after the game.

The victory improved the Chargers record to 4-3, putting the in a tie for first place in the AFC West with the Kansas City Chiefs.

The Chargers travel to Minnesota next Sunday to face the Vikings at 10:00 a.m. on CBS.

CSUSM SPORTS SCHEDULE

Oct.31 **Womens soccer** at Concordia

Nov. 3 **Mens CC** at Woodward Park, Fresno
Womens CC at Woodward Park, Fresno

Nov.17 **Mens CC** at Wayne Dannehl Park, Kenosha, Wisconsin
Womens CC at Wayne Dannehl Park, Kenosha, Wisconsin

(For more information on CSUSM sports visit www.csusm.edu/athletics)

Up to date SOCCER RESULTS

Mens

Sept. 24	CSUDH - Carson	1-6 L
Oct. 12	Chapman	3-0 W
Oct. 13	Southern Wesleyan	2-0 W
Oct. 19	CSUSB	1-3 L
Oct. 21	Cal Poly Pomona	0-2 L

Womens

Sept. 24	CSUDH - Carson	0-3 L
Oct. 7	Cal Lutheran	1-1
Oct. 10	La Sierra	2-0 W
Oct. 12	Chapman	1-0 W
Oct. 19	CSUSB	3-3 T
Oct. 21	Cal Poly Pomona	1-1 T

The Lost Boys of Sudan

Renowned author Benjamin Ajak shares his story of survival

BY BEN ROFFEE
Pride Staff Writer

On multiple occasions in the past few weeks, Cal State San Marcos hosted several distinguished guests of various backgrounds to speak to students, faculty, and staff on a variety of topics. Last week was no different as Sudanese native Benjamin Ajak visited CSUSM on Oct. 16 and 17, bringing with him an unrivaled story of survival and triumph of the human will.

From a village of mud brick to a sprawling city of steel and concrete, Benjamin Ajak traveled tens of thousands of miles in his 14-year exodus from his war torn home of Sudan. Benjamin is most famous for "They Poured Fire on us From the Sky", a book he co-authored with cousins Benson and Alephonsion Deng and mentor Judy A. Bernstein. The book documented their accounts as part of nearly 20,000 displaced and orphaned Sudanese refugees popularly referred to as "The Lost Boys of Sudan."

With the help of the International Rescue Committee, Benjamin Ajak and thousands of other "Lost Boys" resettled across the United States. En route to San Diego, Benjamin's flight was diverted to Canada due to the attacks of September 11, 2001. He finally arrived in San Diego two weeks later.

Of the few things Benjamin brought with him from Africa, his unquestionable passion for learning and education accompanied him throughout his various travels. Sharing his experiences, Benjamin spent

two days on campus, kept busy by a dense itinerary involving class visits, book signings, and an address before an audience of students, faculty, staff, and community members.

In one such engagement, Benjamin took the time to respond to questions from students with topics ranging from the Sudan People's Liberation Army to favorite educational experiences in the United States.

One student asked Benjamin how he felt in his first encounter with a lion, to which Benjamin responded, "Living with the lion is not scary for us...because we live in the jungle."

Another student asked Benjamin if he misses anything from his life in Africa.

"Yes, I miss a whole bunch," replied Benjamin. "I miss a whole lot of friends."

Despite the seriousness of his story, Benjamin's lighthearted demeanor throughout the discussion carried over to the audience, who laughed along with his stories.

In keeping with the tone of the discussion, one student jokingly asked, "some men in the village had many wives, are you bummed out that in America you can only have one?"

Of his father's eight wives, Benjamin's mother had 13 children of which only himself and his brother survived the civil war in Sudan.

Prior to becoming a full time speaker, Benjamin worked as a truck driver and has been to all of the lower 48 states. Benjamin plans to continue to visit schools and other organizations to share his story and insight with others.

In today's technology The iPod Touch

BY ELBERT ESGUERRA
Pride Staff Writer

If you thought Apple had finally hit the ceiling when it comes to must-have gadgets this year, think again.

The iPod Touch has just been released on the market and is being hailed as iPhone's hip, retro baby brother. Here are the basics – there are two models available— an 8GB and a 16GB respectively starting at \$299. So then the question people should ask themselves is "why should I get my hands on this neat little device?"

It's justifying to know Apple is getting all the praise it deserves, especially for all the Apple owners. On that same token, is there anyone that can stop them at this point?

The lingering question remains

whether this sleek, little MP3 player is a must have. How does it compare to the iPhone that is already been on the market for 4 months? The answer is simple – having the iPod Touch is like owning a Cadillac when you're actually driving a Buick. Had the iPod Touch been released before the iPhone, it would have been the device that launches Apple into the upper stratosphere of technical mastery.

With that said, here are 5 tips about the iPod touch:

Get your web applications. From checking Facebook to creating personal calendars to checking personal email, Apple has created a link enabling users to download vital web applications. It is a good idea since it integrates well with the already user-friendly touch screen

browser. And speaking of web browsers...

Try to figure out Safari. Sure the menus on the device move fluidly, but that doesn't mean people will figure out the web browser in a day. Safari is touted by Apple as a great tool to use to check out the web, but it is unable to support Flash or Java. Still, it is awesome to check out clips off of YouTube wherever you go.

Buy a gel skin. The gadget can be probable to survive a hurricane but that doesn't mean it still shouldn't have some snazzy protection to prevent those inevitable

drops. Check out gelskins.com for some stylish skins that are both artsy and fun. Skins are available for older models too.

Pause a song or adjust the volume while locked. This is probably going to be looked at as

a drawback to the more traditional iPod owners who are accustomed to a click wheel for volume control. Simply double-tap the home button and the volume control, back, next, and pause/play controls will come to your screen.

Don't like the icons? Well change them. It's hard to fix what already seems to look so good. The Playlists, Artists, Songs, Albums and More buttons can be customized to look anyway you like.

Just what Grandpa wanted. The design means more to younger folks than to the tech-impaired. With intentions of bridging the technological gap, the user friendly navigation, gorgeous visuals, and bright menus are fused so that grandparents can rock out to their great rock and roll icons.

"...having the iPod touch is like owning a Cadillac when you're actually driving a Buick."

We're Expecting!

It's true! A new addition is about to join our family and we can't wait to share the news with you. Joining the NCTD line up of BREEZE buses, COASTER trains and other transit services will be the SPRINTER light rail trains beginning operations later this year. With a station conveniently located on campus at Cal State San Marcos, we're expecting you to love it!

SPRINTER
gonctd.com



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WE MOVE PEOPLE

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If you would like to put in a classified, contact our advertising department at pride_ads@csusm.edu

Study Abroad Fair!

Wednesday, October 24 10:00am -2:00pm
Forum Plaza (In front of the Library)



Study Abroad Information Meetings

In the Office of Global Education in Craven 3200

Monday, November 5 at 12 Noon

Business and German language study. Meet Prof. Gilbert Girard from Reutlingen University, Germany.

Tuesday, November 6 at 12 Noon

Learn about CSU International Programs
Applications now available - Due February 1

Global Education • CSU San Marcos • Craven Hall 3200•PH 760.750.4090
goabroad@csusm.edu • www.csusm.edu/global/studyabroad.htm



Calendar of Events

Tuesday Oct. 30

Writing Center Workshop on Sentence Joining: Commas, Semicolons, Colons and Rewording
University Hour
Kellogg 1111.

ASI Alternative Spring Break Informational
University Hour
Markstein Hall
Room 102

Wednesday Oct. 31

CLIMB - In The Executive's Chair
Executive speaker Barbara Bry, CEO, Blackbird Ventures
11 a.m. to 12:50 p.m.
Markstein Hall
Room 125.

Thursday Nov. 1

Community World Literary Series featuring K Silem Mohammad
7 p.m.
Clarke Field House
Grand Salon.

(Email event submissions to pride@csusm.edu ATTN: Calendar of Events)

University Voice

Who is the mack daddy of all movie monsters?

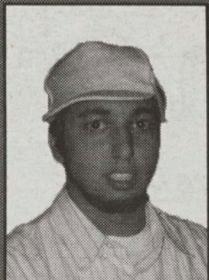


"It's gotta be Freddy Krueger. It's just trippy- his face, the claws, how he gets into people's dreams, and how he kills."

*Danielle Joseph
Freshman
Kinesiology Major*

"It's gotta be It [from Stephen King]. Dude, I hate clowns. Enough said."

*Mike Rodriguez
Senior
Literature & Writing Major*

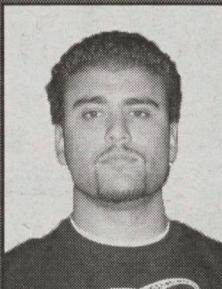


"Jason Voorhees. I played hockey a lot and didn't like seeing that mask. It ruined hockey for me as a kid."

*Sean Fahmy
Sophomore
Biology Major*

"Chucky. That little doll scared me a lot as a kid."

*Wally Weiss
Freshman
Political Science Major*



Do you have a question you would like answered?
Submit it to The Pride by emailing it to pride@csusm.edu with the subject "University voice"

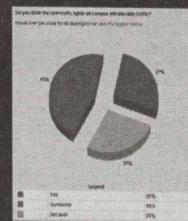
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College Bill Disapproval
Do you support the proposed college bill?
Yes 50% No 30% Maybe 20%

College Bill Disapproval
Do you support the proposed college bill?
Yes 50% No 30% Maybe 20%

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A place to be who **you** are

CSUSM's LGBTQA encourages acceptance and tolerance

BY BREANNE CAMPOS
Pride Staff Writer

As students know, throughout the month we interview organizations and clubs to give readers a look into individual groups on campus. This week, I was very fortunate to have the pleasure of interviewing Josh Lovelace, co-president of Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transsexual Students and Allies (LGBTQA).

LGBTQA was founded in 2002 and has been running for five years. Currently there are 40 students enrolled and it is predicted to increase over the next couple of years.

LGBTQA's main motive is of two fold. The first is to provide a support network for LGBTQA students in hopes of students learning and appreciating their self worth. The second is campus education. LGBTQA's goal is to see society change. The organization hosted numerous activities on campus.

Last spring, for example, LGBTQA created a wedding ceremony right on campus during University hour. At first your eyes are deceived when you see two women and two men walking down the aisle. Half way through the ceremony, the religious leader screams "I can't marry or authorize same sex marriage, it's not right." As he storms off, each wedding partner says a speech on current issues today in society associated with the hardship of same sex marriages to children being adopted by a so called "Gay" family.

Each wedding partner opened my eyes to what individuals have to feel each day by not being accepted in society.

Lovelace said LGBTQA had previous issues with possible hate crimes. In 2005/2006 an LGBTQA banner that was placed on campus was stolen; they tried to register a hate crime, but there was no hard evidence of hate. It was stolen a second time. Now the students were debating on putting cameras to watch the banner.

Finally students and staff found others who were just as passionate as they were about this crime and decided to create a safe place for students. Even with those hardships under their belt, Lovelace said he is amazed and blessed he is with the organization and the students.



Photo illustration by Jason Encabo / The Pride



Have your laptop in class? Click on this

Backpackit.com makes it easy to organize class notes, study groups and more

BY TIM MOORE
Pride Staff Writer

For students who take lecture notes on laptops, the standard word processor may provide adequate capabilities for simply maintaining its namesake: word processing.

While there are numerous web-based solutions that aid in the process of organizing and maintaining notes and documents, such as Google Docs, but none stand out more than Backpack.

Backpack, which can be found at backpackit.com, provides one of the most comprehensive ways to stay organized on the web. The note taking functionality of Backpack is merely an attribute to the host of features offered in the Backpack Suite.

Backpack takes an innovative approach to organization, utilizing the basic design principles of a standard personal website, while offering users effortless data entry under five categories; list, note, file, picture, or whiteboard.

After registration, users are prompted to create a new page. I would recommend creating a page for each class, this is the most efficient method for applying the service to a scholastic setting, though creating pages by topic may also be efficient depending on the user's needs.

After naming the page, users can enter a brief summary that can include anything from teacher contacts, to the main points of the course.

Backpack offers a great to-do list feature

that allows users to create tasks, and check them off when complete.

The note taking functionality of Backpack is simple and effective. Users simply name the section of notes, and enter them

in the text box below. Notes are organized by date.

Using a simple upload form, users can add files to the page as well. Files could include the course syllabus, or other course content documents.

Backpack's reminder feature is a small and sometimes unnoticed element that allows users to create email reminders for events that range from "later today" to "next year." The Reminder functionality also strikes a chord with Macintosh users by its ability to subscribe to reminders through Apple's iCal software.

Users can also share pages with other users, thus making group studying convenient for everyone.

Backpack is an extremely diverse service, offering thousands of other uses, including: planning an event, listing items for sale, organizing and preparing for a meeting, and planning a trip.

Backpack offers seemingly endless opportunities for users to organize their lives with technology. From taking notes, to creating lists, to planning events, Backpack is at the front of the pack when it comes to a simple and comprehensive solution for organization.

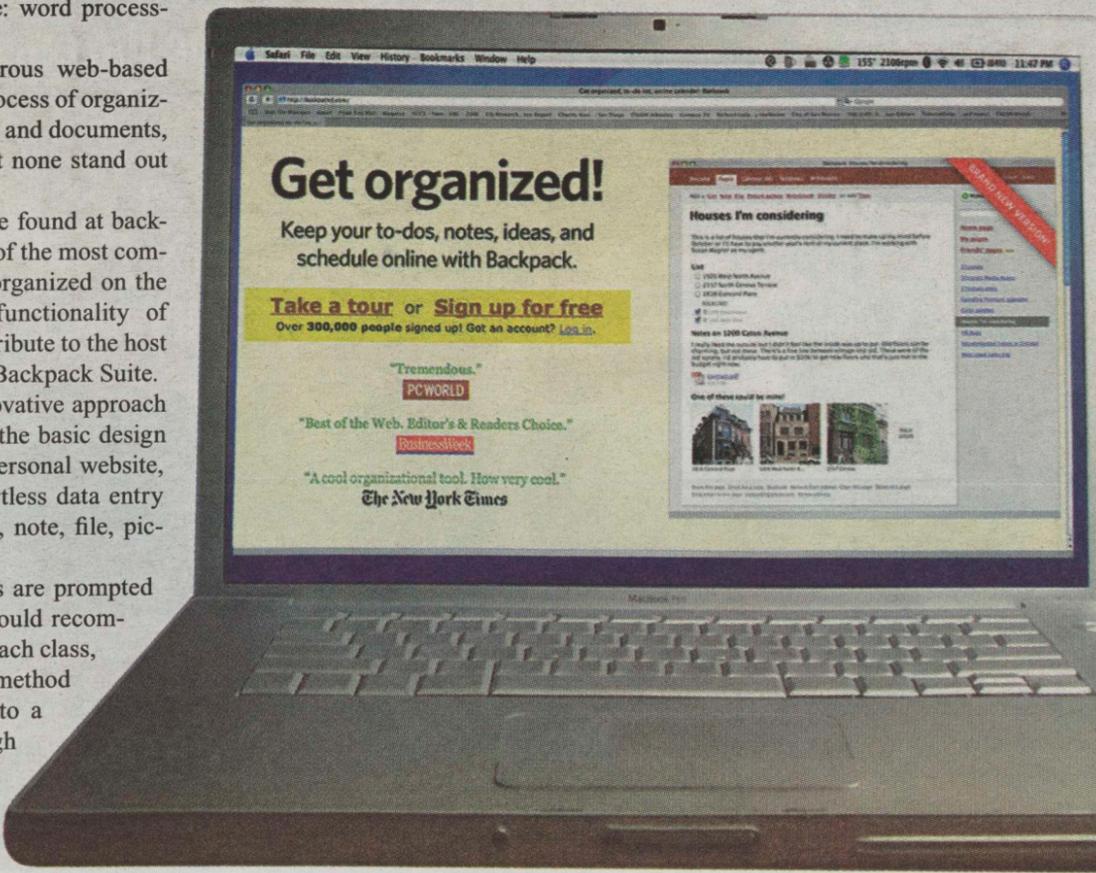


Image courtesy of Nick Striver / The Pride

From FIRES, page 1

1500 homes and scorching nearly 370,000 acres of San Diego County's land. Powered by unusually powerful Santa Ana winds, California experienced arguably its worst series of fires in its history last week.

Of the 23 fires identified in Southern California, San Diego County harbored two of the largest fires, and seven other smaller fires. The names of the nine fires that affected San Diego County are (in order of severity): The Witch Fire, the Harris Fire, The Poomacha Fire, The Rice Fire,

The Horno/Ammo Fire, the Wilcox Fire, the Cajon Fire, the McCoy Fire, and the Coronado Hills Fire. As of Oct. 29 Cal Fire reports all but the Witch, Harris, and Poomacha fires are 100% contained.

Cal State San Marcos and nearby residents felt the heat in

a close encounter with the short-lived Coronado Hills Fire. Many students living near campus awoke early Monday morning to the sight of flames and the sound of sirens on South Twin Oaks Valley Road. Only claiming 300 acres, fire fighters quickly snuffed out the Coronado Hills fire by late Monday afternoon, lifting mandatory evacuations for residences near CSUSM and San Elijo Hills. The proximity of the fire coupled with extremely poor air quality forced CSUSM to close its doors for the remainder of the week. Classes resumed on Monday, Oct. 29.

The latest figures place the number of people in Southern California displaced by the fires—temporarily or permanently—at 950,000. Residents of San Diego County account for roughly 640,000 of those the fire displaced.

Devastation of the scale caused by these fires has evoked comparisons to Hurricane Katrina, the last major disaster to draw national attention of the same caliber given to Southern California over the past week. San Diego County Sheriff Bill Kolender said the number of victims evacuated as a result of these fires has exceeded the number of victims evacuated from New Orleans during Hurricane Katrina.

Early on Sheriff Kolender predicted, "This fire will probably be the worst this county has ever seen—worse than the Cedar Fire," prophetic words that would resound through much of the week. Whether or not the cumulative damage of these fires in San Diego County exceeds that of the Cedar Fire remains to be seen.

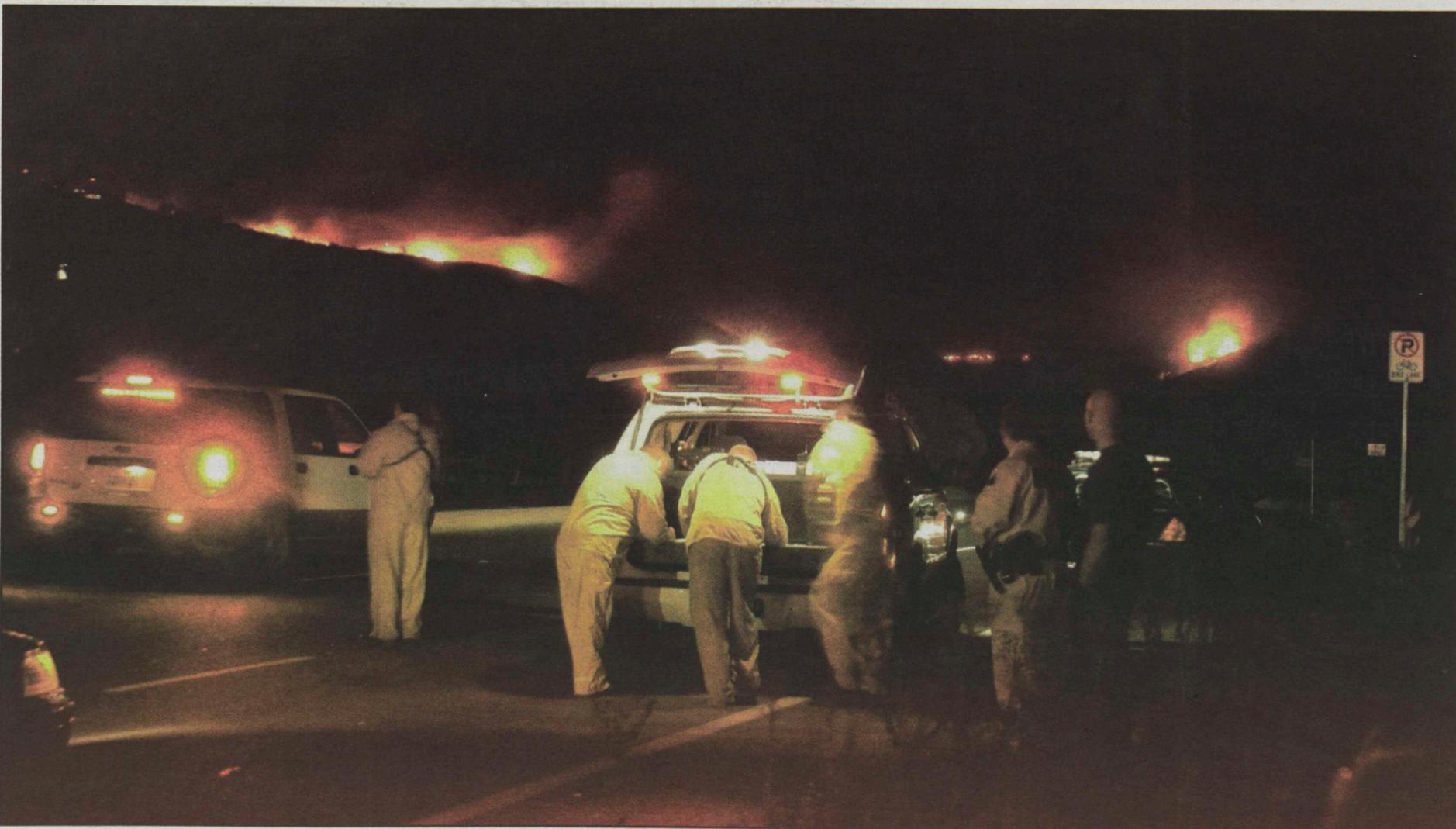
See FIRES, page 9

Left: Smoke from the Witch Creek Fire looms over the Carmel Mountain/Rancho Bernardo area. Bottom: The Coronado Hills fire threatens CSUSM and nearby residences as firefighters coordinate efforts on S. Twin Oaks Valley Rd early Monday morning.

Photos by Ben Roffee / The Pride

Below: Road closures all over the county often forced people to stay where they were at until further notice.

Photo by Viridiana Pacheco-Isaac / The Pride





Photos by Ben Roffee / The Pride

Above: Santa Ana winds uproot a large tree in Rancho Bernardo. Middle left: Fires approach one of the hardest hit neighborhoods in Rancho Bernardo, Westwood. Middle right: Some of the first to arrive at the Mira Mesa evacuation late Sunday night. Bottom: Traffic moves slow on Interstate 5 North near Del Mar and Solana Beach under a blanket of smoke from the approaching Witch Creek Fire.

From FIRES, page 8

President Bush visited San Diego on Oct. 25, 2007 to survey the destruction. At a press conference in Rancho Bernardo, the President stated, "To the extent that people need help from the federal government, we will help. I am here, really, to make sure that the federal effort works hand-in-glove with what the Governor has been doing."

Later on in the day, President Bush declared before Escondido residents, "We're not going to forget you in Washington, D.C."

After declaring an official state of emergency, President Bush sent Director of Homeland Security Paul Chertoff and head of FEMA R. David Paulison to over-

see relief efforts in the region.

Unlike the Cedar Fire, the handling of the various fires in San Diego County and across Southern California has met praise from the media, government officials, and citizens alike. This time around, a multitude of factors and response mechanisms contributed to a smoother handling of the crisis.

One of the most critical tools put to use was the newly implemented "Reverse 911" system, a communications tool used to rapidly send evacuation notifications to residents in endangered areas.

Hasty responses by local and state government also played a vital role in mitigating some of the damage. Within hours of the start of the Witch and Harris fires

on, Governor Schwarzenegger had officially declared a state of emergency for San Diego County as well as for the counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, Santa Barbara and Ventura. By the next day, Governor Schwarzenegger was on location, visiting evacuation centers, holding press conferences, and evaluating recovery needs.

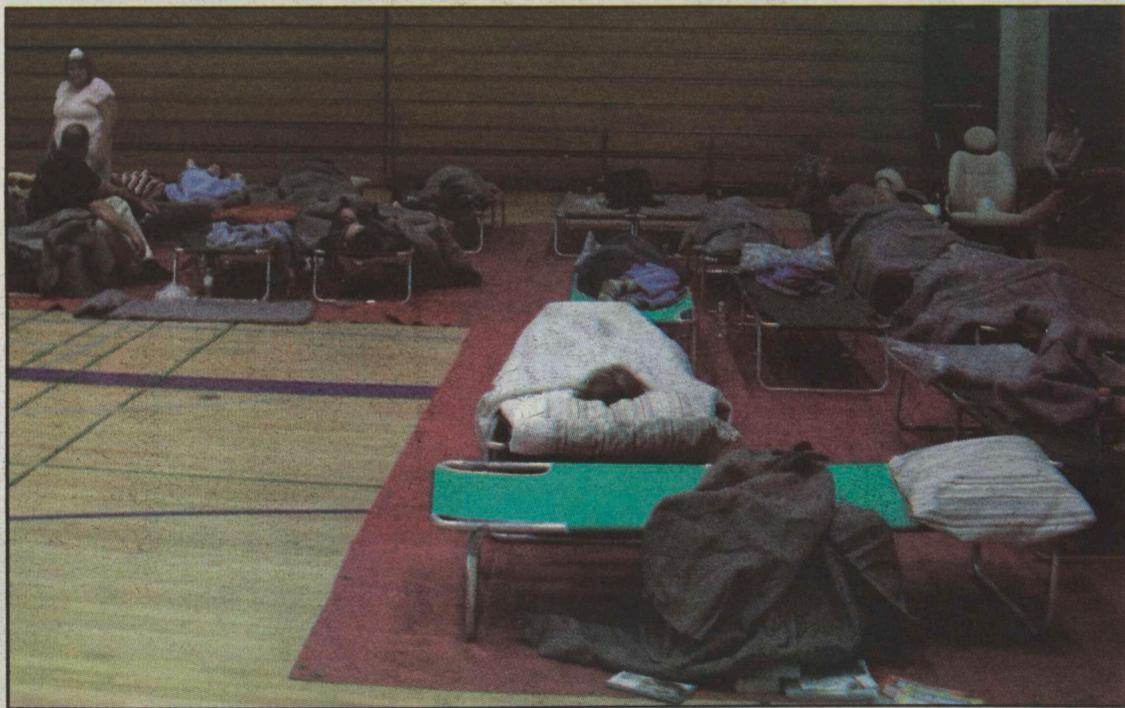
As many San Marcos residents witnessed, the swift and overwhelming response to the Coronado Hills fire was indicative of the degree of cooperation seen across Southern California as the

efforts of fire fighters and police meshed seamlessly.

Additionally, newly renewed legislation proved to be indispensable in efforts to contain the fires and restore infrastructure. Earlier this month, Governor Schwarzenegger extended the expiration of the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) by signing AB 1564, an agreement authorizing the California government to cooperate and coordinate with neighboring states during catastrophic events, allowing for the sharing of emergency response

resources as necessary. The presence of fire fighters from several nearby states reinforced the overall containment effort already spread thin across many fronts.

"I have spent the past several days touring the wildfires all over southern California and the damage is overwhelming," said Governor Schwarzenegger earlier this week. "As leaders of this state, we have an obligation to put aside partisan differences and address how we can work together to help our citizens recover from this tragedy."



CSUSM shaken by evacuation, losses

Many have returned home, but some were not so lucky

BY VIRIDIANA
PACHECO-JSAAC
Pride Staff Writer

When CSUSM student, Zenia Zambrano, woke up early last Monday morning, she did not expect nor understand the commotion happening outside her San Marcos apartment. She had been woken up by one of her roommates who told her to look

outside—she could not believe her eyes.

What she saw foreshadowed the long week ahead for many San Diego residents who had to evacuate their homes—many to never see them again—due to the many fires that threatened and took much of San Diego County.

“The first thing I saw was a guy outside my roommate’s window,” said Zambrano. “He kept yell-

ing, ‘Don’t worry about it, just get out.’ One of my roommates thought she saw one of the apartments burning down and as soon as we stepped outside we saw all the cars trying to leave”

Zambrano is one of many students living at Prominence Community right next to campus. The Apartment community holds more than 550 apartments with more students than families or

elderly living there, said Thomas Peterson, Leasing Agent at Prominence.

“[Between] late Sunday and early Monday we witnessed a fire on the hillside in back of the complex,” said Peterson. “It was not a major threat, but just to be on the safe side we started to tell people.”

Peterson said the evacuation was not mandatory, but the majority of people who decided to evacuate left Monday around 2 a.m., although some stayed until Wednesday, and some decided to stay.

The apartment community counts on 24-hour security, which was responsible for knocking on doors and informing people, as well as monitoring how close the fires got, he said.

Zambrano and her roommates, like many residents there, fled the apparent danger and found shelter at a friend’s home in the area.

“I had no idea what was going on,” she said. “Everyone was honking their horns because I guess there was no time to call everyone because there are so

many apartments. In that moment I just grabbed whatever I could. I took shoes and stuff for work, as well as my purse which at that time had my credit cards and birth certificate.”

She said she started trying to exit the gate community but was afraid they were not going to be able to get out. Once out and on the road she saw the fires burning on Coronado Hill up closer.

“I saw the fires from my car, where you could see a view of the campus and the apartments,” she said. “It looked like lava coming down.”

While Peterson stressed the traffic trying to leave was not chaotic—the complex has the front exit as well as an emergency exit through the back—the worst of the rush was early Monday morning. He said the fire was put out quite rapidly, and by the end of the week people began returning to their homes.

But not everyone was so fortunate.

CSUSM student and Pride Layout Editor Nick Strizver was one of many whose family lost



Left: John Strizver looks on as an insurance agent crouches down, examining the rubble. Below: Janice Strizver picks out dishes from the debris at her house in Ramona. Bottom: A picket fence stands untouched next to a collapsed house.

Photos by Nick Strizver / The Pride





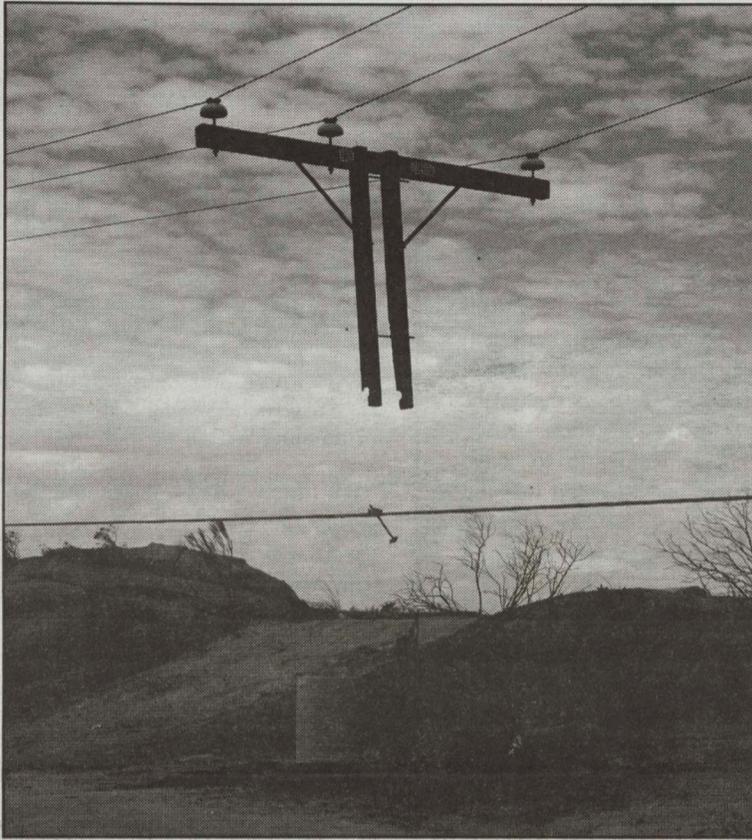
their homes to the wrath of the fires.

He said he was working on The Pride Sunday evening on campus when his brother called him and informed him about the fire near his home. While his neighborhood in Ramona was not under mandatory evacuation at the time, his family decided to start packing and planning to get out. His mother, father, brother and his brother's fiancée began gathering childhood mementos as well as his computer, keyboard, yearbooks, notes and memories from his girlfriend and family photographs.

Strizver's father stayed behind because although he had many reasons why he said he wanted to stay, "his real reason was that he wanted to see if he could fight the fires. He was also making sure all the neighbors knew about what was going on," he said. Once he believed his home was no longer in danger, he slept in his truck at the North County Fair Mall parking lot, while the rest of the family stayed with family friends in the San Marcos area, only to have to be evacuated once more, at which point they moved to Lemon Grove.

"While my dad was there I remember listening to the radio all the time to see what was going on." He said.

"Our neighbor stayed in his concrete bunker and he said he said he saw our house catch fire," said Strizver. "He waited out the fires



Photos by Nick Strizver / The Pride

Top: A gutted Volkswagen stands as a ghostly reminder of the ferocity of the flames as they ravaged Southern California. Above: Wires support the weight of a telephone pole which was burned in the Witch fire.

and said he could hear his own home catch fire."

The feeling of anxiety was spread throughout the county as many experienced the horror and fear of losing their belongings.

"I was really shaky and freaked out," said Zambrano. "I called my mom and told her what was going on, she said she was praying for me, and hoped we all stayed safe."

While the experience was a bad one, Strizver said he and his family found comfort in knowing everyone was safe.

"My mom was pretty upset, but after a while it is something you can fix up," he said. "Sure, some things cannot be replaced but they are just things. What's most important is that everyone got out safe."



Wildfire recovery resources for students

HEALTH & COUNSELING

- Any students in need of medical assistance or counseling can go to Student Health and Counseling Services at 120 Craven Road at the San Marcos Ambulatory Care Center.

- Hours of Operation: 8:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., Monday through Friday.

- Call 760-750-4915 to schedule appointments.

ACADEMICS

General

- Contact Dean of Students Office, Craven Hall 3600, 760-750-4935 for any questions regarding student resources, semester withdrawals and course withdrawals.

Computers

- Laptop computer checkouts extended to 24 hrs on first come first serve basis.

- Contact Bill Ward at 760-750-4791 for long term computing needs due to damages from fires.

Books

- Go to CSUSM Foundation Bookstore about borrowing textbooks for the rest of the semester.

Financial Aid

- Visit Cougar Central in Craven Hall Third Floor for financial aid, student fees and student records information.

- Special Emergency Loan Program for Students available up to a maximum of \$1000.

- Campus Based Loan Programs also available year round.

HOUSING

- Contact Student Life and Leadership office at Craven Hall 3400, 760-750-4970, <http://www.csusm.edu/sll/housing/index.htm>

- See "Crash Board" to view available housing.

VOLUNTEERING

- Any students interested in volunteer work to help those affected by San Diego wildfires can contact Sara Leonard at 858-342-0849 or

- Leona045@csusm.edu.

Additional information for any students, faculty or staff affected by wildfires available beginning 8 a.m. Tuesday at resource tables located in front of University Hall across from main entrance to Starbucks and the Library.

Students affected by the fires: From Nick Strizver, Pride layout editor

I was at CSUSM working on designing the latest issue of The Pride when I was called by my brother at around 2:00 p.m. on Sunday afternoon. He was the first to tell me of the Witch / 78 fire that was at that time burning in between Santa Ysabel. I decided to leave school and go back to my house on the western edge of the Ramona city limit.

Driving to the Pomerado Road exit on the I-15, I was met with a wall of thick smoke blowing westward. Reaching my house, I quickly went to work clearing additional brush and other vegetation around our house. After

we did as much as we could do, I returned to school after telling my dad to call me if I needed to come back home.

After reaching school around 7:30 p.m. and working about 30 or 40 minutes, I received another call from my dad, calling me back home. As I drove south along the I-15 by the North County Fair mall, I could see the flames off in the east. By the time I got home, my mom was already gathering photo albums and other irreplaceable items. I went through my room, gathering only three days worth of clothes, pictures, childhood mementos and not much else. By 11:00 p.m. we left

our house in three vehicles. My dad stayed behind with our last vehicle, despite our attempts to convince him to leave. We took Highland Valley Road going west towards Escondido / Rancho Bernardo. With traffic, it took about 20 minutes to get to Pomerado Road when normally it takes only 10 minutes.

Just before Pomerado Road, we encountered an overturned motor-home, blocking part of the road. We went to my brother's fiancée's house in Poway off of Espola Road. We were there only minutes before the power temporarily shut off. Taking into account the smoke, extreme wind

and possible power failure, we decided to move again. We settled down shortly after midnight near CSUSM off of Rancho Santa Fe Road. I stayed up for another two hours listening the the news on the radio and on TV and calling my dad, continually asking him to leave our house.

Around 2:00 a.m. on Monday morning, I heard of an unconfirmed report of a fire near Twin Oaks Valley Road. Driving north on Rancho Santa Fe Road, I caught sight of the flames just after passing San Marcos Boulevard. During the rest of the night, I checked up on the fire several times, heard that my dad

got out safely and slept about two or three hours. In the morning, we moved from San Marcos to Lemon grove. Later the day we heard that our house was gone by word of our neighbor who stayed in the neighborhood and weathered out the storm in a concrete bunker he had previously built.

Currently we are still staying in Lemon Grove. Some advice that has already been said: If you are in danger err on the side of caution and don't wait until it is too late. Possessions can be replaced whereas your or your loved ones live's can't. Stay safe and my and my family's thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Church's Influence on Sports The Good, the Bad and the Worse

BY DAVID CHURCH
Pride Staff Writer

After a week of sitting on my butt watching Fire Storm 2007 and working everyday at Island's caring to those looking for a brief escape. It is time to talk about the good the bad and the worse in sports this week.

First we will talk about the good. The number one story around the United States this week was the fires in California. But with hundreds of thousands being forced to evacuate their homes and businesses, San Diego residents were able to find shelter at Qualcomm Stadium.

Now with the fires still pushing some residents to remain evacuated and others losing everything, San Diego is being forced to move on once again. And the first step to moving forward was the decision by mayor Jerry Sanders to allow the Chargers to play their home game in San Diego. Now San Diego will be showing to the world how strong of a community we are as the Chargers will be one of the many healing processes for the commu-

nity as a whole.

While all this was going on here at home, the World Series was underway and it was bad. Game one was a blow out. A 13-1 victory for the Boston Red Sox was the last thing that I wanted to watch. The Red Sox just proved to that Red Sox Nation that they are the real thing, which is really bad as they can now rule the league as they dominated teams all season long and have done so again this postseason.

Now the Red Sox are making their stand and will more than likely win their second title of this century, which will be one more than the Yankees who last won a championship in 2000. But with the tides turning in favor of the Red Sox, it is only a matter of time before the Yankees go and buy young talent instead of the washed up team they are putting on the field now.

The first step is resigning A-Rod for \$40 million a year as he is going to be keep the price of YES network in near a billion instead of half that without him.

Finally there is the ugly. And there is nothing uglier than Kobe Bryant and his "trade demand". Here is the problem with this situation. Kobe Bryant is desperate to leave LA after he requested that the Lakers "make a move or trade me" remarks at the beginning of the summer.

Now Kobe is finding himself in a tough situation as he will need to make a decision. He wants to leave the second biggest basketball market or will he do the right thing and stay with the Lakers and play out his contract and when the time comes he can do what A-Rod is doing and opt out of his contract for more money.

But for the time being, Kobe needs Jerry Buss the same way Buss needs Kobe. But with the Lakers developing young players instead of getting key marquee players to support Kobe, it is no wonder why Kobe wants out of the Lakers organization. He wants to win.

Comments or questions can be emailed to me at churc009@csusm.edu or pride@csusm.edu.

Blood, sweat, tears, slight edge

BY TORIA SAVEY
Pride Staff Writer

It's time we had a talk about the slight edge.

You may not know it by that term, but you know about it. To explain anything properly, one must start at the beginning, so here we go. No, just kidding. I'll explain how things are, starting right now.

RIGHT NOW: One of our editors has ring worm. One had to plan a child's birthday party. One is out making sure his house doesn't burn down. One is staring wild eyed at a computer, hunched almost into the screen of a Mac G5. One is at home, sicker than sick. I myself feel like I got hit by a bottle of tequila, and I haven't even been drinking.

The Beer of the Week guy is in the ER. I can't figure out how to end an article. Half the county is on fire apparently. It's 80 degrees in the middle of fall.

Perhaps it's bad karma or juju or all those sins I so thoroughly enjoyed. No. It's the slight edge, and right now, it's going against

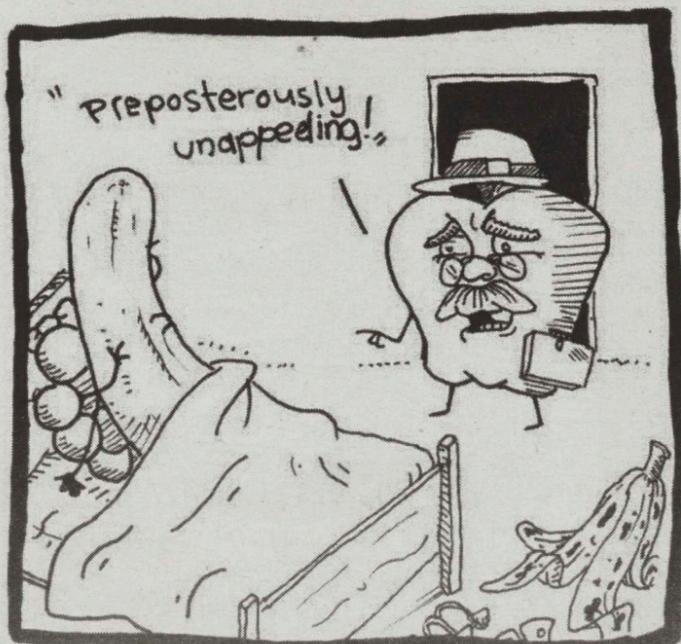
me. Times at which the slight edge is more likely to be working against you include midterms, starting a diet, or right before a massive travel undertaking. Oddly, all of those things are happening this week. The slight edge knows.

I like to think of it as the scary Muppet from the Dark Crystal. Albeit, that movie was a little bit of a crack dream, but still. It is a wrinkly, feathery thing with a scratchy voice trying to hold you back from the things you most desire. Like a milk shake, or eight solid hours of sleep, or free drinks on a flight to Tahiti. Ahhhh, Tahiti

Can you fight the slight edge? No. So the best way to attack it is to do whatever you want. Go get your milkshake. Lay down and grab those eight hours, morning meetings or classes be damned. Press the flight attendant call button to get your margarita before the Tahiti-mobile even takes off.

Just remember to send me a postcard. Unless I'm sitting next to you on the flight, in which case, cheers.

PrideComics



By Josh Brown

Just For Shiggles



By Jenny Bigpond

Want your voice to be heard?

Write a Letter to the Editor and email it to pride@csusm.edu

Social and economical problems, unfair conditions for students, stair related injuries on campus, problems with articles or previous letters to the Editor, compliments of how flawless the Pride is every week; all are encouraged.

WRITERS WANTED

- GET PUBLISHED •SERVE THE CAMPUS COMMUNITY
- BUILD A PORTFOLIO •NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED TO JOIN

Contact The Pride student newspaper: Phone 760.750.6099 Email pride@csusm.edu Come by our staff meeting: Tues / 5:30pm / Craven 3500



Top ten scariest movies to watch on Halloween night

1. The Exorcist
2. The Shining
3. The Sixth Sense
4. The Haunting
5. Halloween
6. The Silence Of The Lambs
7. Alien
8. Psycho
9. Nightmare on Elm Street
10. The Texas Chainsaw Massacre

Honorable Mention : Night of the Living Dead



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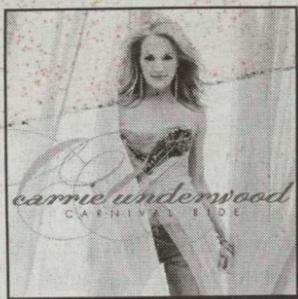
By Elbert Esguerra & Toria Savey / Pride Staff Writers

Tuesday, Oct. 23



ROCK

Elect the Dead
SERJ TANKIAN
 The frontman for the heavy-hitting System of the Down puts out his first solo effort filled with the inimitable vocal range of political lunatic.
 Essential tracks: The Unthinking Majority, Empty Walls.



COUNTRY

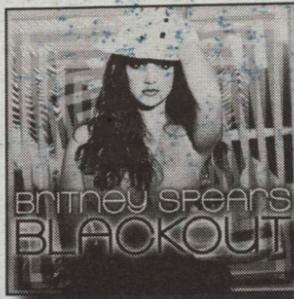
Carnival Ride
Carrie Underwood
 The Grammy winning singer lays it out in her second solo record. This time, the pressure is on to follow up the last album which sold 6 million records and for her, the sky is the limit.
 Essential tracks: So Small, I Told You So.



ALTERNATIVE

Hourglass
DAVE GAHAN
 The transcending voice of Depeche Mode has been quietly producing solo projects for a while now. The new album, laced with more electronic synthesizers, gives listeners that same, captivating chill.
 Essential Tracks: Kingdom, Miracles.

Tuesday, Oct. 30



POP

Blackout
BRITNEY SPEARS
 She's a complete mess. But can she still, how shall I phrase it, "bump the phat tunes"? If not, this album could be her worst crash-and-burn since...well, her last crash-and-burn.



POP

Unbreakable
BACKSTREET BOYS
 What is this? "Has Beens Week" for CD releases? If you liked them a hundred years ago, you'll probably still like this one. Though it must be hard to get on the Billboard Top 100 again when their songs are already on the easy listening radio station.



GENRE

Dirt Farmer
LEVON HELM
 An album choice that will make you popular with all your friend's parents. Levon Helm of The Band (see Wikipedia) releases a solo album so anticipated that it's already a best seller on Amazon.com. Proving that even if you haven't released anything for 25 years, you can still outsell the Backstreet Boys.

Vespa of Oceanside inc.

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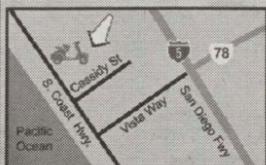
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The movie mail war



BY BILL RHEIN
Pride Staff Writer

Gone are the days of going to the store to rent movies. Seeing as DVD's are much more manageable than video cassettes, it was only a matter of time before someone realized you could put them in the mail.

Now, instead of having to go to the store for movies, through the services offered by different providers, you can get DVD's right in your mail. I had both of the most popular services, Netflix and

Blockbuster Online. Having switched back and forth twice so far, I know all about this oligopoly competition.

In the beginning, there was Netflix. The company with the red envelope pioneered the system, being the first to offer DVD's in the mail. Their system of requesting films online and getting them in your mailbox was revolutionary.

Then came Blockbuster, which saw an

opening in the market and has taken a share of Netflix users. Both are great for several reasons. In terms of speed, while Blockbuster ships movies fairly fast, Netflix is faster on delivery. Also a plus for Netflix is their extensive selection. Many movies I have only been able to get through Netflix either because they are extremely rare or Blockbuster does not have enough in stock. That being said, Blockbuster has its benefits as well.

The major is the option to return mailed DVDs to any Blockbuster store in return

for a free rental. This bonus provides a chance to get many movies, provided they are available in the store. Netflix has tried to combat this with the opportunity view movies online, which works fairly well.

So it boils down to this - if you are not picky about having a wide variety of films, such as foreign and independent, and you frequently find yourself renting movies in store, Blockbuster is for you, but if going to the store is out of your way or if you prefer specialty films, Netflix is your best bet.

Buffalo Bill's Brewery's Pumpkin Ale



BY KATHRYN MCBRAYER
Pride Staff Writer

Fall is in the air. When the sun starts setting earlier and grocery stores begin stocking up on candy and costumes for Halloween I feel the urge to make caramel apples and carve pumpkins.

In the spirit of Autumn I thought that I would sample Pumpkin Ale to experience all the flavors of Fall. One option available for the seasonal sensation is Buffalo Bill's Brewery's Pumpkin Ale.

The ale is brewed with baked and roasted pumpkins combined with spices such as nutmeg, cinnamon, and cloves. Some other pumpkin brewers include Post Road, Smuttynose, The Shipyard, Dogfish Head, and Blue Moon.

The tradition of brewing

pumpkin ales goes back to colonial America. According to money.cnn.com the native pumpkin was chosen as an alternative to British barley and hops. The result was a uniquely American flavored beer.

As I taste the ale the pumpkin flavor seeps slowly into my conscious and leaves a spicy taste lingering. A cool and refreshing beverage paired well with any squash or pumpkin-carving event.

For those of you who love pumpkins as much as I do I am sure that this will be something to look forward to every October. For the rest of you - give it a try and you may find something you like about pumpkins.



Photo by Kathryn McBrayer / The Pride

Boo & Mee Japanese Cuisine



BY JASON ENCABO
Pride Staff Writer

It's rare to find the combination of great Japanese food and great prices. The best places to get the most bang for your spicy tuna roll are the mom 'n pop restaurants.

Not too far from campus is a Japanese restaurant that is tiny in square footage, but can fill a large appetite. Boo & Mee Café, located northwest of San Marcos Boulevard and Bent Ave, offers a variety of quality Japanese dishes for moderate prices.

Sushi is a true testament to the notion that 'you get what you pay for,' and when you see a roll of sushi priced anywhere from 75 cents to \$1.99, you can't help but get suspicious. Keeping with the thought that price reflects quality, for college students looking to step outside of the California roll but unwilling to empty their wallets, Boo & Mee just might be the ideal situation.

With a menu consisting of Japanese specialties such as udon, yakisoba, curry, of course sushi, tempura and more, you won't find yourself looking for something that isn't on the menu. Boo & Mee offers rolls of sushi ranging from \$2.90 to 9 dollars, offering the standard rolls of tuna, yellowtail, eel and more. They also offer their own specialties such as the Baja California roll, which is a California roll topped in crab and spicy sauce.

The restaurant also offers a "pick two combo," where you can choose two dishes from a variety of tempura, teriyaki, sushi, stir fry and deep fry, for under 6 dollars. These dishes can fill the average appetite, but for the truly hungry, I'd recommend ordering a roll of sushi in addition.

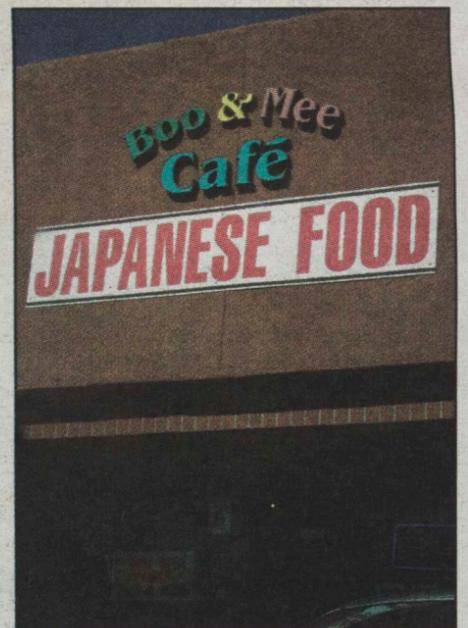


Photo by Jason Encabo / The Pride

As for the environment of the restaurant, you won't find any fancy paintings on the wall, nor are there golden chop sticks to get your hands on, but don't think that will offset your appetite. With a TV on each end of the restaurant playing The Food Network, along with a random swordfish nailed to the northeast corner of the place, you'll be entertained as your taste buds await your meal.

The restaurant from the customer's perspective is a one-man-show, with the sushi chef also acting as host, server and bus boy; the true signs of a mom 'n pop restaurant.

From sushi to tempura to fried oysters, Boo & Mee offers a little more than what you pay for, and what the restaurant lacks in fanciness, it certainly makes up in food quality.

UNDERGROUND

HIP HOP

By Toria Savoy / Pride Staff Writer

Spoken word hip-hop collective Ill-Literacy comes to campus

There are places that are alive with music. People perform on street corners and beats rise out of potholes and drift out of clubs and coffeehouses. Or any place with a roof, a door and a microphone. Those who look hard enough agree that San Diego is one of these locales, with lyrics embedded in its very blueprint, but on Friday night, one didn't have to go into the city to seek the energy. The music came directly to CSU San Marcos.

The CSUSM Arts and Lectures Series in conjunction with campus' Kamalayan Alliance (KA) brought spoken-word hip-hop collective Ill-Literacy to campus. And Ill-Literacy brought songs that were relatable, hilarious and tragic; an entire world.

The evening opened with Irene Castruita, a former member of San Diego's own Los Able Minded Poets, another spoken word collective. Her introduction to her pieces, stating, "I don't call it spoken word, I call it spoken soul because we express our souls," may have made some mem-

bers of the audience roll their eyes. However, when minutes seemed to fly as she covered topics like war, truth, poverty and beauty with a mixture of poetry, beats and a cappella singing, skepticism was quickly replaced with fascination; Castruita was, in her own words, "singing songs in the key of life."

Up next, it was time for the main act. After being announced and welcomed by a member of KA, Ill-Literacy took the stage. The welcome by the KA, while proper, may have been somewhat unnecessary. The group is made of four members who would own the stage whether it was offered to them or not. Reminiscent of many concerts, a single member was sent out to warm up the audience. Slowly, each member of the group came on stage, performing a segment of the opening number, and asking the audience to come with them on a "journey".

While there were all sort of influences for the various songs, most involved some

form of societal commentary. Ruby Veridiano-Ching called for a return to chivalry and a realizing of one's inner beauty. Adriel Luis, in addition to having the dubious job of being the first one on stage, performed an amazing piece from the point of view of self-hatred. "Stop trying to find me in everyone else, and maybe, just maybe you can find me in yourself," he spat as he literally jumped around the stage. Dahlak Brathwaite, offered some of the most scathing commentary, beginning his time on stage by announcing that "the club looks nothing like the Yin Yang Twins says it does." Perhaps some of the most powerful moments on stage were during his tongue-in-cheek explanation of the usage and ownership of the word "nigga" and its relationship to oppression. Two of the pieces that brought the most laughter and empathy from the audience though came from Nico Cary, the first a "f*ck you list", including everything from conservative politicians to people who had Lunchables and never

shared. The second was about his desire to be a revolutionary, but being too bombarded by different types of "revolution" recruiters on the campus of UC Berkeley to decide on a cause, and mocking the inability of each group to find common ground.

At the beginning, Adriel announced Ill-Literacy's intent to "reawaken a culture". They spoke to the audience, provoking everything from uncontrollable laughter to shouted agreement during statements about society's stumbling blocks. A throw back to beat poets and early DJs more than the violent "gangsta" rap that's become popular, the group showcased hip hop at its finest, exhibiting unbelievable word flow without a single gang shout out or misogynistic reference. Looking around at an auditorium full of wide eyed people hanging on the group's every word, it would seem that Ill-Literacy's goal is well on its way to becoming reality. On Friday night, even if only for a moment, CSU San Marcos was not only awakened, but ignited.

Keep your ear to the ground Hip-hop albums

Have you recently heard someone use the word "participle" while rapping? A verbal flow strong enough that it defies the separations of verses and choruses? If not, maybe it's time for a little less 50 Cent and a little more Jurassic 5 in your record collection. Welcome to underground hip hop and spoken word. The same beat you love from mainstream hip hop, but the bar for innovation is set significantly higher. Here's a few discs, out of millions of possibilities, to expand your musical knowledge.



Gil Scott-Heron The Revolution Will Not Be Televised

One of the original beat poets, Scott-Heron was talking about the harsh hopelessness of the ghetto before the word "rap" had even hit social consciousness. The album is from the 1970s, and it sounds like it. The messages contained in it however are ageless, particularly "Whitey on the Moon", about poverty in the ghetto in comparison to the millions spent to put a man on the moon



Jurassic Five Power In Numbers

Jurassic 5 has definitely moved further towards the mainstream in the years they've been together. The group's sophomore album will take you far from the land of Lil' Jon, while still maintaining the contagious beats that draw people to hip hop in the first place. Start with track 7, What's Golden, to have your faith restored in the verbal ability of emcees (the group has 4, and 2 DJs). Jurassic 5 is "sick of phony mobsters, controlling the dance floor", and after hearing what hip hop SHOULD sound like, you will be, too.



Mos Def & Talib Kweli Black Star

The group is composed of Mos Def and Talib Kweli, who each have plenty of albums that could have been included in this list. When the two are combined, they create Black Star, and some ground-breaking rap, more concerned with the state of culture than booty calls. Check out "Thieves in the Night": *Not strong, only aggressive, 'cause the power ain't directed / That's why, we are subjected to the will of the oppressive.*

Speaking with spoken words Ill-Literacy interview

One of the main appeals of Ill-Literacy, in comparison to others in the field of spoken word and hip hop, may be their accessibility, with audience members coming up to them after the show and interacting like long-lost friends. When the flock thinned a little, the Pride had a chance to ask the group a few quick questions. As gleaned from their interaction on stage, the members of Ill-Literacy are friends as much as they're band mates. There was constant laughter, as they gave the same answers and finished each others' sentences.

So, two of you are still in college. If you could quit tomorrow, and just do this, no degree, would you?

Nico: Oh yeah, definitely. In a minute.

Ruby: I've already graduated, and this is what I'm doing full time. I love it.

You talk about texting in your show. How often do you guys talk or text each other?

R: We talk constantly. If it's not calling or texting, it's email.

Dahlek: Yeah, we get, what would you say, like withdrawals. Without each other.

What's the smallest show you've ever played?

Adriel: Man, I think like 6. Probably 6.

So would you rather play for six or 1,000?

D: Depends. If you get all 6 of those people in, it could be your best show ever.

What do you guys do after shows?

D: I don't think you can print it.

R: (laughter) We usually have dinner. Eat. Celebrate.

So how long are you staying? (group laughs)

A: We're driving back up tonight (to the Bay Area).

R: It's really beautiful here though. The ocean and everything.

Finally, what's your drug of choice?

D: Pepsi. Lots of Pepsi.

N: COFFEE. Coffee, coffee, coffee.

R: Definitely music.

A: People.

N: That's such a typical spoken word thing to say.