



Nations Mourn Columbia Crew

National Tragedy for the US Space Program Falls Near the 17-Year Anniversary of the Challenger Disaster



Columbia's crew: Seated in front, astronauts Rick Husband, Commander, and Willie McCool, pilot. Standing are (from left) mission specialists Dave Brown, Laurel Clark, Kalpana Chawla, Mike Anderson (payload commander) and payload specialist Ilan Ramon, representing the Israeli Space Agency. Photo courtesy of NASA

By ALYSSA FINKELSTEIN
Lead Editor

For the second time in the last 30 years, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has lost a space shuttle with astronauts aboard. The explosion of the space shuttle Columbia early last Saturday morning is the first time in NASA's 42-year history that a shuttle has been lost upon reentry to Earth's atmosphere. Within the last week, NASA has observed the anniversary of its only two other space tragedies, the Challenger explosion, which killed all seven astronauts on board on Jan. 28, 1986, and Apollo 1 spacecraft fire that killed three on Jan. 27, 1967. This was the 88th space flight since the Challenger mission.

Like the Challenger mission, there were seven astronauts aboard Columbia, which had been aiming for 9:16 a.m. landing on Saturday in Cape Canaveral, Florida. Comprised of four US Navy, two US Air Force, and one Israeli Air Force personnel, the crew members lost to the tragedy were Shuttle Commander Rick Husband, Michael Anderson, Kalpana Chawla, William McCool, David Brown, Laurel Clark and Ilan Ramon, who were on their way home from a 16-day mission to space when their craft broke apart. Mission Control in Houston immediately warned residents of the Dallas and Ft. Worth areas in Texas to stay away from any falling debris from the shuttle "due to the toxic nature of the propellants used aboard the shuttle."

The shuttle was 207,000 feet above the Earth's surface when it disintegrated, ruling out any possibility of a surface to air missile impact, according to White House press secretary Ari Fleischer. The shuttle was also estimated to have been traveling upwards of 12,000 miles per hour just before it broke up and disappeared.

According to Fox News Channel, bystanders were supposed to hear double sonic booms as the shuttle reentered Earth's atmosphere; experienced observers knew something was wrong.

The shuttle was traveling approximately 4500 mph at breakup, at mach 18 (18 times the speed of sound), according to Ed Campion, a NASA

spokesperson. A debris field was found in north central Texas. The flag in front of the countdown clock at Mission Control in Houston, TX, and in Cape Canaveral, FL, were lowered to half-mast by mid morning Saturday, unofficially acknowledging that the astronauts of the shuttle Columbia had lost their lives.

Security had been tight for the 16-day scientific research mission because of the presence of Ramon, the first Israeli astronaut.

Ramon, a colonel in Israel's air force and former fighter pilot, became the first man from his country to fly into space, and his presence resulted in an increase in security, not only for Columbia's launch, but also for its planned

landing. Space agency officials feared his presence might make the shuttle more of a terrorist target.

On Jan. 16, during Columbia's lift off, a piece of insulating foam from its external rocket boosters came off and was believed to have struck the left wing of the shuttle. Leroy Cain, the lead flight director in Mission Control, assured reporters Friday that engineers had concluded that any damage to the wing was considered minor and posed no safety hazard. The foam break is currently under investigation, and it is possible that the debris caused damage to Columbia's heat protection tiles.

There was an unusual increase in temperature on the left side of the fuselage just

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Columbia Crew from page 1

before the explosion, right around the area where the foam had broken off over two weeks earlier. The increase in temperature and recorded wind resistance caused the shuttle's automatic pilot mechanism to change the course of the shuttle during reentry, which should not have caused the shuttle to disintegrate, but may have been an attempt by the ship's computers to avert the inevitable explosion.

Another speculation about the demise of Columbia's reentry is that it was first scheduled for liftoff in July of last year, when the mission was delayed due to a leak in oxygen lines. Columbia had been given all new equipment and instrumentation since that

time. NASA has offered no conclusive reasons for the explosion.

Over the Feb 1 weekend, NASA engineers, search and rescue teams, and police crews were involved in a massive search for debris and remains that spanned most of East Texas and Louisiana. The Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the National Transportation and Safety Board, and the Texas Department of Public Safety were all involved in the search. Among the remains recovered were a charred torso, thigh-bone, a skull with front teeth, and a charred leg. An empty astronaut's helmet was also found. A global position-

ing satellite is recording the placement of human remains and all shuttle debris before being moved to a location where they can be gathered and examined. The remains are being taken to the Charles C. Carson Center for Mortuary Affairs at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware. The pieces of the shuttle will be taken to Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana, where engineers from the shuttle contractor United Space Alliance will try to piece together what caused Columbia to break apart.

The future of NASA space flights has yet to be determined. In 1986, 73 seconds after lift off, a glow of light could be seen between the shuttle Challenger and its

fuel tank, and the spacecraft soon after burst into flames. There were no space missions for a full two years after the Challenger tragedy. The next scheduled NASA mission was for the shuttle Atlantis to leave the Kennedy Space Center in Florida on March 1, 2003, in order to deliver more supplies and equipment to the international space station. Immediate word is that the mission will be postponed until further notice, however the Atlantis mission was supposed to deliver a relief crew to the members currently aboard the space station, and bring the current members home. NASA is currently exploring their options for the space station crew.

Sadly, both the Challenger and the Columbia space

flights had important firsts aboard their mission. Among the Challenger crew was a woman by the name of Christa McAuliffe, a schoolteacher and mother of two, and the first civilian to venture into space. All members of the Challenger mission were honored with burials at Arlington National Cemetery.

Barbara Morgan, Christa McAuliffe's backup replacement, was at the Kennedy Space Center waiting for Columbia's arrival. She was scheduled to go on Columbia's next mission, scheduled for this coming November, in order to be the first educator since Christa McAuliffe to attempt space flight.

Cal State San Bernardino Student Charged With Murder

CSU college student and his half-brother were arrested and charged for the grizzly murder of their mother

By JULIE MYRES
Pride Staff-Writer

Local law enforcement arrested Jason V. Bautista, 20, and Matthew B. Montejo, 15, for the murder of their mother, Jane Marie Bautista. Jane Bautista's dismembered head and hands were found in a duffel bag in an apartment in Riverside; the remains of her body were located down a ravine off of Ortega Highway in Orange County.

Police stated that the two defendants allegedly dismembered their mother's body after her death to conceal her identity. One of the defendants told investigators that the idea to dismember the body came from an episode of "The Sopranos," which is a series about New Jersey mobsters on HBO.

According to Orange County police, the brothers first attempted to get rid of the headless body in a sleeping bag in a garbage dumpster at an Oceanside construction site, but

were apparently interrupted and scared off by a security guard named Pete Martinez.

The San Diego Union Tribune reported that Jason Bautista's legal representative, attorney John Kremmer, said outside of the courtroom that the two boys and their mother "had a tumultuous relationship."

Prosecutors have not released an official statement of possible motive. Attorneys believe that there is more to the story than it may seem. Abuse is speculated to be a part of the family's trouble. The LA Times reported that neighbors to the Bautista's witnessed the mother screaming and yelling abusive comments at the boys on many occasions.

The police have speculated that the mother was killed in the family apartment on Jan. 14. The boys were seen attempting to dispose of a sleeping bag at about 2 a.m. on Jan. 15 in Oceanside. Martinez, the security guard, saw the boys loitering around

a dumpster in the construction site and jotted down their license plate number.

The LA Times stated, "He (Martinez) told police the two males saw him approaching, hurriedly returned the bundle - with a foot protruding from the end - to their car and drove off."

"After seeing news reports later that day about the discovery of a headless body off Ortega Highway, he notified Oceanside police, who passed the tip along. It was not clear why the guard did not call police when he first spotted the suspicious bundle," reported the LA Times.

Jason Bautista's registration matched that of the license plate seen in Oceanside and he was later tracked down, after difficulty because of the family's recent move six months earlier.

While attending class on Friday, Jan. 24, at Cal State San Bernardino, Bautista was approached by authorities. Police searched Bautista's car and apartment with his permission and in the process, Bautista confessed that he and his brother had killed their mother.

Preliminary autopsy reports lead to the conclusion that the mother died of strangulation, but further test results are still being

processed to better determine the official cause of death.

The boys came from different fathers and the family was known to be unstable. Jason's father committed suicide when he was one year old. The family moved many times and the mother changed jobs often. She was unemployed at the time of her death and Jason was a student and hotel desk clerk.

Prosecutors intend to try Montejo as an adult under Proposition 21, a juvenile crime reform law that allows them to make that decision in serious crimes without the approval of a judge.

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Bone Marrow Recruitment Drive Coming To Campus

By GERALD JONES
Pride Staff Writer

The San Diego Blood Bank Stem Cell Donor Center brings "Faces of Hope 2003" to Cal State San Marcos, on Feb. 11 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Founders' Plaza. "Faces of Hope 2003" is a bone marrow and stem cell recruitment campaign that is attempting to recruit a larger and more diverse pool of volunteer donors by targeting members of minority groups.

Every year thousands of African Americans, American Indian/Alaska Natives, Asian/Pacific Islanders and Hispanics are diagnosed with leukemia, aplastic anemia or other life-threatening blood diseases. The only hope for a cure is finding a donor for a bone marrow or stem cell transplant. However, there are not enough members of these communities donating

bone marrow or stem cells.

These transplants require matching certain tissue traits of the donor and patient. Because these traits are inherited, the most likely match would be a family member. The problem therein lies due to the fact that 70 percent of the people diagnosed cannot find a match within their own families. Although it is possible for a patient to match a donor from any racial or ethnic group, the most common match is someone from his or her own ethnic group. Although many minority patients are finding donors for their transplants, they are still less likely than Caucasians to identify a matched donor. More donors from these ethnic minority groups are still needed, so patients of every racial and ethnic background will have a chance of finding a matched donor.

The key qualifications that must be met by possible donors are for her/him to be between the ages of 18 and 60, have no medical history of asthma, cancer, diabetes, heart or circulatory disease, be willing to be a donor for anyone who needs a transplant, and be within 20 percent of her/his ideal weight for her/his height and age.

The North County Times, local radio stations, and other media outlets will cover the event. For information those interested can contact the CSUSM coordinator of the event and CSUSM student, Araceli Catalan at catal008@csusm.edu or Veronica Sateler, the Recruitment Specialist with San Diego Blood Bank/ Stem Cell Donor Program at (619) 400-8197.

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Students Join Petition to UC President and CSU Chancellor

Students and Community Groups Form a Coalition to Fight Against the High Cost of Text Books

By ADRIAN CUNDIFF
Pride Staff Writer

Because a significant number of students believe the costs of textbooks are too high, community groups, multi-ethnic advocates, and students themselves are trying to remedy the situation by filing a protest with University of California (UC) President Richard Atkins and California State University (CSU) Chancellor Charles Reed.

The protest, which was sent in the form of a letter, addresses the issue of the high cost of books for undergraduate students, and was signed by a coalition committed to minimizing the negative effects the recent tuition increase will have on minorities or other underprivileged students "Earlier this month UC's Board of Regents approved a \$400 per year tuition increase, with the expectation of another \$800 increase for the 2003-04 academic year," said Tammie Y. Gilkerson, academy and program director at the Greenlining Institute.

According to Gilkerson, CSU students spend approximately \$4,500 on books over a four-year period, while UC students pay almost \$5,000. Gilkerson believes that the high cost of books can be significantly lowered if Atkins and Reed take action and address the problem.

The Greenlining Institute estimates that students could save approximately 20%-40% each year on the cost of books if price competition was supported.

Suggestions offered by The Greenlining Institute:

Provide online versions of high-cost textbooks.

Give students the option to buy their books online.

Investigate the relationships between publishers, authors, and bookstores, and its impact on pricing methods.

Pass legislation that would give private booksellers the ability to credit the sale on the student's financial aid account.

Universities could distribute their reading list to private booksellers who are affiliated with the university to promote price competition.

The exact date has not been set, but the coalition of student advocates who filed the protest, along with their supporters will meet with Reed and Atkins in about one week to discuss their findings on how textbook prices can be lowered. A committee made up of students and faculty will also be established to investigate the high cost of textbooks.

What Will Happen to CSUSM When California Runs Out of Money?

By MEG EPPEL
Pride Staff Writer

Last November, California voters passed Propositions 47 and 49, in part to provide the necessary funds to build new classrooms and provide after school care. However, since California is now facing a multi-billion dollar deficit, the money allocated for these propositions no longer exists. The loss of these funds will adversely affect the California schools system and its students.

According to Ray Sotero, the press secretary for the Budget Department of the Assembly of California, the state budget has an overall deficit of 26 billion dollars. However, Sotero says that Governor Gray Davis has estimated the deficit to be approximately 36 billion dollars. In order to offset the largest deficit in California history, Davis plans to make cuts throughout all state funded agencies. A one-cent increase in sales tax is also planned.

The public education system, including K-12, community colleges, UC and CSU schools, will see a loss of approximately 5.4 billion dollars. The CSU system alone will sustain a loss of 59.6 million dollars. The reduction is unallocated to allow the CSU the flexibility to determine where to make the cuts in order to minimize the effects at the schools, according to the Mid-Year Spending Reduction Proposal released by the Governor's office last December. The CSU system has also experienced an influx of 24,000 new students, requiring the schools to maintain the standards expected by the applicants despite the decreasing funds.

CSUSM has dealt with the deficit this semester by increasing tuition fees by

10 percent. Unfortunately, this will not be the only fee increase that students will experience, because the state has approved a 25 percent increase in tuition fees for the 2003-04 academic year.

CSUSM, as well as other state schools, will be receiving more money than in previous years, due to the tuition increase, but it will not be state funded, as explained by CSUSM Director of Communications Rick Moore. He explained that the uses of this money might not be visible to the student body, since it is difficult for the school to allot the money as the numbers of enrolled students is always in question. Moore explained that although the school is able to determine how many students will be accepted as new students each semester, it is a "guessing game" as to how many students will return each semester. The official number of students is not known until after the beginning of each term.

Increases in tuition will not be the only changes at the campus. The school will feel the financial crunch as it tries to grow while keeping within its budget. The small campus feeling that has become common at CSUSM will change, as the campus and number of students expands within the coming years. Moore explained that class sizes will remain predominately small, at least when compared to other CSU campuses, due to the fact that the existing classrooms cannot support many more students. Moore added that there are only five or six lecture halls on campus, with even fewer sites able to support class sizes of over 100.

Moore claims that CSUSM did a good job of keeping a large number of class sections

open in the spring 2003 semester. Spencer McWilliams, dean of the college of arts and sciences, commented that the school would make every effort to provide the classes that students need in order to fulfill their requirements, but may not be able to offer the courses that students want. McWilliams also added that students would have fewer ways to fulfill their course requirements and fewer electives.

Moore stressed that CSUSM will try to maintain its high academic standards, particularly the writing requirement. He explained that the school is attempting to find a way to regulate the 2500 word standard for each class, but it is possible that it too will be affected by the budget cuts. Moore admitted that it might not be feasible to keep the pressure on professors to enforce the writing requirement, despite its obvious benefits to students. However, he made it clear that CSUSM will keep the writing requirement in effect for the time being.

The state budget crisis will be particularly challenging for the many liberal studies majors who are planning to become teachers. As local districts are being forced to cutback, they are unable to hire new teachers, instead they are trying to hold on to the teaching staff they already have.

Hopefully, the state will be able to use these cuts to bring the budget out of the red, but in the mean time, CSUSM students as well as all Californians will feel the crunch.

[For more information about the California budget deficit, visit www.ca.gov. The North County Times contributed to this article.]

Murder from page 2

Jason and Matthew appeared in Orange County Superior Court on Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2003, but did not enter their plea. They were charged in Orange County courts, where the body was found and most of the work has been

done in their jurisdiction. Jason and Matthew were each charged with one count of murder in the first degree. Jason Bautista is at the Central Men's Jail in Santa Ana and Matthew Montejó is in Juvenile Hall. They are each being held on \$1 million bail.

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Alzheimer's Project at CSUSM

By JEANNE RAUPP SAPP
Pride Staff Writer

It's hard to think of anything more devastating than looking into the eyes of a loved one and seeing a lack of recognition, or even fear. That is what the families of later stage victims of Alzheimer's Disease (AD) face every day. Much research has been done on the stress faced by primary caretakers, typically the adult children and spouses, who are called the "sandwich generation." Little research, however, has been done on the effects that this caretaking has on the next generation, adolescents between 10 and 22 years old, living in the homes of the caretakers.

Dr. Sharon Hamill, who received her Ph.D. in social ecology from UC Irvine, is a develop-

mental psychologist at CSUSM. She has received a grant from the National Institute of Aging to study families who are caring for an Alzheimer's patient. "I have always been interested in how family members respond to one another's development," said Dr. Hamill.

As Americans are living longer and the average age of the population increases, Dr. Hamill states that the fastest growing segment of the population is people who are 85 years and older. The risk for developing Alzheimer's is expected to increase by between 30 and 50 percent. According to Hamill, the care for these people will fall on the families, "contrary to the myth that Americans abandon their elderly."

The Alzheimer's Association web site, www.alz.org, features educational information about the disease and provides contact information, but does not mention teens, or the special needs or challenges they face when their families are confronted with caring for an AD patient.

Another Alzheimer web site, the National Institute of Aging at www.alzheimers.org, under the auspices of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, makes a brief mention of teenagers as "secondary caregivers." The site acknowledges that the teens do suffer as a result of their parents' caregiving activities, but gives no specific suggestions about how to help teens cope with the stress.

Hamill is particularly inter-

ested in adolescence because it is a period of intense change and growth. "In the case of looking at how Alzheimer's impacts the family, it is important to look at how young people in the family view the disease. Those young people are the future caregivers," she said.

Along with a staff of graduate students and research assistants, Hamill will conduct phone interviews with the primary adult caregiver, the spouse, and one teen in the family. The family will be paid \$15 for participating in a 30-minute phone interview. The study is open to Mexican-American and white families that meet several specific eligibility requirements. These requirements can be found at the Alzheimer's Project web site at www.csusm.edu/shamill/about_the_project.htm.

Hamill will use the information gathered in the study to create "interventions" for helping multi-generational caregivers. Although there is much to be learned by studying the difficulties in caregiving situations, the study goes beyond that. Hamill said, "By identifying those aspects that are rewarding – and there are some, believe me – we will be able to teach families how they can increase the positive experiences that they have."

To participate in the study, or for more information, call (760) 750-3684 or e-mail Hamill at care4ad@csusm.edu.

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Faculty Mentoring Program

By JENNIFER RHODUS
Pride Staff Writer

Arguably, higher education has its own culture; a large family with a shared system of meaning. For some students, adaptation to the university culture can be difficult and may result in the student dropping out to avoid ambiguous situations. Conversely, students who are integrated into their campus culture are more likely to have a positive college experience.

At CSUSM, the Faculty Mentoring Program (FMP) has courageously and successfully created a common and shared community for students who are at risk of having a negative college experience. The primary goal of FMP is to increase retention and graduation rates among these students. The program features mentor-protégé relationships, multiple support services, and socio-cultural opportunities.

Since its inception in academic year 1991-1992, the FMP has acted as a bridge between students and the educational system. Co-Directors Vicki Golich and Edward Pohlert uniquely manage the program with a conscious blend of academic and student service support organizations.

At the heart of the program is the mentor-protégé relationship. Mentors consist of volunteer faculty members who are partnered with student protégés on an individual basis. According to Anna Fleming, FMP support assistant and CSUSM student, the mentor-protégé ratio can be 1:3 but overwhelmingly is 1:1 with approximately 80 mentors and 85 protégés. The mentors and protégés meet at an orientation breakfast at the start

of the school year, where they receive handbooks that explain their respective roles and responsibilities. Thereafter, they are encouraged to meet or make contact monthly and to participate and interact in various FMP-sponsored social and cultural activities. Mentors offer protégés wisdom, guidance, and support in such a way that facilitates adjustment to college life and bolsters the returns that the protégés derive from their college experience. The mentor, as trusted advisor, provides guidance for both baccalaureate and post-baccalaureate objectives.

FMP protégé Michelle Demont is a senior with a major in sociology and minor in criminology. She explained how the FMP program and her mentor, professor Donna Goyer of the sociology department, have been very influential and important to her college career. "They just give you moral support and help find ways to motivate you," Demont said. In fact, she explained how she was motivated in part by her mentor to help organize the Sociology Club and was subsequently elected as the sociology club president by her peers. "Donna really encouraged me to become involved," said Demont. Demont is planning to attend law school as well as earn a doctorate degree after her graduation from CSUSM. Demont articulates her career goals with enviable clarity and confidence.

Goyer says of her experience, "It's great to know students on a personal level outside of the classroom." She adds that the process is rewarding for her in that she is able to experience first hand the success of a once "at-risk" student. "It's a great program," she added.

A second objective of the program is to help students determine their goals after graduation; this includes providing clarity to expectations of graduate studies and the job market. Toward this end, activities are designed to help in career and professional development and include career planning, graduate school researching, and financial aid research. Activities include graduate school workshops, field trips to at least two different schools, and career/professional development seminars.

In an effort to expand post-graduate opportunities, the program offers the FMP Post-Grad Test Registration Scholarship which will pay for four test fees per Academic Year, i.e. LSAT, GRE, GMAT, CBEST, RICA, etc. The program also provides books and software on select exams. Fleming explained "not only does the program increase graduation rates but it also increases the number of students who go on to graduate school. These students really never believed before that they could."

Another goal of FMP is to raise socio-cultural awareness and provide opportunities for mentors and protégés to foster their relationships. Toward this end, FMP sponsors two major social events per academic year, which include the Holiday Dialogue Gathering in December and the Year-End Graduate Awards ceremony in honor of graduating students. At the Holiday Dialogue Gathering, the participants enjoy food, games, and a gift exchange. The Year-End Graduate Awards ceremony is the highlight of the academic year as the protégés have an opportunity to share how important the program was for them to reach their goals. Both Golich and Fleming expressed how compelling the end-of-year stories are. Fleming says, "At the graduation ceremony, we see tears of joy and appreciation." FMP also purchases a limited number of tickets to a diverse amount of cultural events at the California Center for the Arts, Escondido, and offers them to mentors and protégés on a first response basis.

To be eligible for the program, students must be enrolled at CSUSM, be a junior with 60-89 units or a senior with 90 or more units, and be a first generation student in college and/or be financially disadvantaged. The application deadline for spring 2003 is Feb. 10. Students who are interested in the Faculty Mentoring Program can visit their website at http://www.csusm.edu/faculty_mentoring/ by following the link on the CSUSM website or can call their office at (760) 750-4862 for more information. Students who are interested in a support service but do not meet FMP's student classification requirement should contact the Student Support Services office at (760) 750-4014.

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Rescue from high laptop prices

Notebooks for students offers warranties, tech support, and a buyback program

By JENNIFER ACEE
Feature Editor

The year was 1998. The heroic agents were two fed up students at Glendale College. Their mission was to tackle the vice of notebook computer prices. These laptop price warriors, David Puzo and Raymond Issaghollian, came up with a plan for securing reduced rates on portable computing devices. They put their plan into action for the benefit of all of their fellow students, and so began the epic of Notebooks for Students.

Today, Notebooks for Students (NFS) is a small organization that is steadily gaining popularity and renown. NFS offers anyone with a current student identification card the opportunity to purchase a refurbished laptop computer with a one-year warranty, at almost too-good-to-be-true prices.

Puzo, a business major, and Issaghollian, an information

technology major, merged their conviction and expertise and came out with a concept and a plan: NFS. Their program takes advantage of notebook manufacturers' inventories of off-lease refurbished laptops in order to sell them to students at 1/2 to 1/3 of the market prices. SONY, IBM, Toshiba, Compaq, and DELL are partner manufacturers offering NFS their refurbished products at reduced rates.

"There is no better feeling than experiencing the excitement when a student walks away with a notebook they thought they could never afford. You can just feel the GPA rising," commented co-founder Puzo. The organization, currently four members strong, is adamant that their relationship with students is symbiotic. "We succeed when you succeed," reads their website.

Remarking further on what NFS does "to succeed," Puzo

said, "we need to fill all the needs that students have." Hence, along with affordable laptops, NFS offers warranties, tech support, and a buyback program.

The warranty guarantees the hardware for one year from the date of purchase. The buyback program enables customers to sell their notebook back to NFS up to two years after the purchase for 50% of the original price, so long as it is still in good condition. Additionally, the original purchaser may contact NFS members for support during the first year. All-in-all, Puzo said, "We feel that we have a program that supplies a good product and all the support services necessary to fully serve the student population."

The organization has served students at Cal State San Marcos, SDSU, UCSD, Cal State Northridge, Cal Poly Pomona, Cal State Fullerton, UC Irvine, Cal State San Bernardino, and UC Santa Barbara.

Theodore Shove, a senior at Cal State San Bernardino, recently purchased a laptop from NFS and is pleased with the product and the "excellent" service he received. "It really helps out a lot [to have the laptop]. I've actually been taking it to class to take notes, and it's been working out really well," said Shove.

Shove also mentioned that the notebooks from NFS generally come with only the most basic of programs. Therefore, clients should make sure to be clear about what they are purchasing beforehand, and may request additional programs prior to making the purchase.

"They are not always the latest models but [are] more than adequate to run professional Office and the Internet," remarked Puzo.

In December, just in time for Christmas, Lisa Payne purchased a Dell 700 for her daughter, a CSUSM student.

Of her transaction with NFS, Payne said, "I would certainly use them again and felt they have very good prices." The only complaint she had was over payment methods, as online PayPal transactions are the only accepted form of payment. "We just wanted to pay with our own credit card, like every other web site," said Payne.

The models are not the newest, making a large purchase online can be intimidating, and some find the payment method inconvenient. Yet, in spite of the drawbacks, Notebooks for Students may be worth remembering when shopping for an affordable laptop.

Students interested in Notebooks for Students may telephone a member at 1-866-467-8213 or email at Info@notebooksforstudents.org. The company website, including descriptions of the available inventory, is www.notebooksforstudents.org.

Be Ora-Sure about AIDS

Health Services offers anonymous free aids tests

By JASON PADILLA
Senior Pride Staff Writer

If there is any doubt in mind about the possibility of having Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), or known exposure to the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) that causes it, students interested might want to take advantage of the Student Health Services (SHS) department located across the camps on the corner of Craven and Twin Oaks in suite 100. SHS will be giving anonymous, free AIDS tests starting Wednesday Feb. 5 between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. to all registered students, who may plan scheduled or walk-in appointments.

The anonymous testing does not even associate a student's name with his/her result; the information is highly confidential for the applicants' well being. Dr. Karen Nicholson of SHS assures that, "Students are counseled before the test by the HIV educator from the San Diego County Health and Human Services department, and during the pre-test counseling, students are informed about the nature of the test, the risk of the test, the expected benefits, and any alternatives to the test as well as their risks and benefits." This is done to further educate students, and to provide an extra level of comfort.

After taking the AIDS test, students may return to the HIV educator for their results. Results are never given over the phone, e-mail, or mail. They can only be given in person.

SHS gives an oral AIDS test, known as the Orasure test. The Orasure test involves swabbing the inner cheek of the patient with a harmless instrument, commonly a swab on a stick, which breaks off cells

from the inner cheek and is then tested for HIV. The Orasure test does not involve any needles and is reported to be quite easy and painless.

According to Dr. Nicholson, "During the 2001/02 academic year, there were 158 visits for HIV testing and results. During the fall semester of 2002, there were 80 visits for testing and results at Cal State San Marcos." It is encouraged that students get tested if they have any doubts, or if they have a higher risk lifestyle for contracting AIDS.

Lifestyles chosen by individuals are also largely related to the spread of AIDS. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), of the 0.3 percent of the United States population living with aids, 42 percent of the carriers contracted the virus from male-to-male intercourse, 33 percent from heterosexual intercourse, and 25 percent contracted the virus from intravenous drug use.

For students who are not sure about how common AIDS can be or how it can be contracted, the CDC provides facts that are commonly overlooked. According to the CDC, California ranks 14th highest among all states in North America that have a percentage of people infected with the AIDS virus.

So as not to become a statistic of the virus, registered students interested should go to the SHS clinic for free, anonymous AIDS testing. For further information about the AIDS tests, or Student Health Services, call 750-4915, or visit them on the web at www.csusm.edu/shs. The SHS is a clinic for students, which offers a broad variety of benefits from AIDS tests to seasonal flu shots.

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PROTOCOL, a full service direct marketing company conveniently located in Poway California, seeks a college student to serve as a marketing intern for approximately one semester. A senior or graduate business or marketing major is preferred. This is a paid internship at \$10.00 per hour.

Responsibilities Include:

- Telephone and web contact for companies in six to eight vertical markets
- Identify appropriate contacts and develop basic marketing and direct marketing information about each company
- This project is research only; there is no selling or proactive promoting at this time

Requirements Are:

- Excellent telecommunication skills, including the ability to be politely persistent in obtaining information
- Strong organization and time management skills
- Internet navigation skills and user knowledge of MS Word, Excel, Access, etc.
- Ability to write and develop reports and spreadsheets of information obtained

Contact Instructions:

Qualified applicants should send email response specifying your interest and availability to morel@protocolusa.com. Please include your current student resume as a Word attachment.

Debbie Morel
12650 Danielson Court
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Tel: (916) 278-6906
E-mail: calstudies@csus.edu
Website: www.csus.edu/calst
Application Deadline: February 26, 2003

ASI Continues to WOW Students

By CHRIS MARTIN
Arts Editor

The Wild on Wednesdays Concert Series Opened Last Week

Last Wednesday at 12:00 noon in the Mezzanine Plaza, the Wild on Wednesdays (WOW) Concert Series opened for the spring semester. The WOW Concert Series is a sequence of intimate shows that are sponsored by the Associated Students Incorporated (ASI) Programming Board featuring local bands right here on campus.

ASI has planned to bring a total of five WOW shows to campus. However, the show headliners and dates are still somewhat in question. "We do have a show in mind for each

of our five WOW shows this semester, but because they are all tentative until the show actually begins, we have no concrete schedule. Luckily we have had only one band quit on us so far," says ASI booking agent John Gehris. Schedule conflicts, flat tires and band members quitting are at times unavoidable, and for this reason ASI has opted to offer no official schedule.

The next scheduled show will be on Feb. 19. For questions about the Concert Series or to book a band contact John Gehris at gehri004@csusm.edu, or stop by Commons 203.

Wednesday's Headliner: Elevated

Elevated is an all CSUSM student band that offers its listeners an interesting blend of a variety of musical genres. Their unique sound is semi-acoustic and incorporates hip hop, rap, spoken word, rock vocals, and is accompanied by live guitar, a conga drum, and other assorted percussion instruments.

The music and overall feel of

the show was somewhat reminiscent of a sixties anti-war rally with the edginess of a Fugees concert. "We're those damned Americans that feel that positive change can be brought about by speaking out for it. We do not believe that free thought is hazardous to our health," says poet and percussionist Richard Hunt.

Elevated consists of six core members. They met on campus and have only been playing together for a few months. For this reason, there were some technical problems. The harmonization was somewhat in question and feedback was a reoccurring theme. Highlights included a thought provoking poetry reading from the lone female voice Lameka Ingram, and some excellent musicianship by Hunt (percussion), Rob Smith (lead guitar) and Ian Skolnik (guitar).

Elevated will be performing and hosting a monthly open mic beginning Feb. 7 at Fyre Zone on San Marcos Blvd. The Show starts at 8:00 p.m.

City of Vista Rallies Behind Two Victims of Drunk Driving

By JARED THOMPSON
Pride Staff Writer

boy the lower half of one leg.

On Sunday, Nov. 24, 2002, Eric L'Heureux and Sam Sherman's life changed forever. The two boys were loading theater scenery into a truck, in front of the Avo Playhouse in Vista, when a drunk driver smashed into them. The tragedy cost each

In order to subsidize the costly medical bills, both now and in the future, the City of Vista, in association with the Encore Youth Theater, Guajome Park Academy, Premiere Products and Theatre West, is sponsoring the benefit concert: "Let's Hear It for The Boys: A Salute to Eric and Sam." The concert takes place 6:00 p.m., on Feb. 10, at the Avo Playhouse. The event consists of a silent auction, comprised of donations from local businesses, which will then be followed by a concert comprised of music from local talent in North County, including Broadway veteran Gina Felicia.

Tickets are \$25 and may be purchased through VISTIX, phone number (760) 724-2110, or at the door. All proceeds go directly into "The Fund for Sam and Eric," which the City of Vista will then distribute evenly between the two young men.

To donate to "The Fund for Sam and Eric," send financial contributions to Encore Youth Theater, P.O. Box 1988, Vista, Ca 92085-1988 and mark the contributions as: The Fund for Sam and Eric. To give goods or services for the silent auction, contact Laurie Quattrone at (760) 631-0403 or at lquattrone@cox.net.

Commencement 2003 Auditions for Speaker, Vocalist/Instrumental

SPEAKER: To qualify, you must be a Fall 2002, Spring or Summer 2003 candidate for a degree or credential and have the ability to articulate a vision for CSUSM graduates attending the designated Commencement ceremony for your major. You must be able to vocally project as well as motivate and inspire the graduating class.

VOCALIST/INSTRUMENTAL PERFORMANCE: Students have the option of participating in the Commencement ceremony as a vocalist or instrumental performer. To qualify, you must be a Fall 2002, Spring or Summer 2003 candidate for a degree or credential.

- To audition as a vocalist candidates must have a strong, clear voice as well as a desire to perform "America the Beautiful".
- To audition as an instrumental performer candidates must have demonstrated skill and expertise in performance of a musical instrument as well as a desire to perform "America the Beautiful." (Please note that for logistical reasons accommodations cannot be made for large musical instruments at this time.)

For more information and to obtain application materials, please stop by the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs in Craven 5306 or call (760) 750-4056.

Application Deadline: February 28, 2003

*Commencement will be held May 17, 2003
Del Mar Fairgrounds*

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Cal State San Marcos

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Except Tuesday & Wednesday
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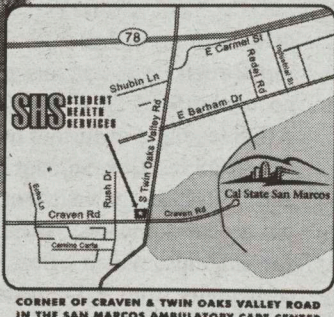
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TDD Line: 760.750.4924
Fax: 760.750.3181
Email: shs@csusm.edu

LOCATION

120 Craven Road, Suite 100
San Marcos, CA 92069



¡A contribuir con la sección en español!

Por MARTHA SARABIA
Editora Principal

¡Hola a todos! Espero que hayan empezado bien su semestre y que por fin hayan escogido sus clases.

Como los estudiantes que regresan del semestre pasado ya saben, su periódico estudiantil *The Pride*, tiene una sección en español. Así que aprovecho este espacio para invitar a todos Uds. que escriben en español, sean nativos o no y sin importar su licenciatura, a que contribuyan con esta sección.

Mándenos sus opiniones, críticas de arte, y/u otros artículos periodísticos a pride@csusm.edu para publicación. El tema es libre, así que tienen toda la

libertad de escribir sobre el tema que Uds. prefieran. Las mismas reglas aplicadas a las contribuciones en inglés son aplicadas a las de español y las editoras se reservan el derecho de publicación.

Otra manera de contribuir es mandando ideas de temas que les gustaría que nosotros cubriéramos en ediciones futuras. Así que si tienen alguna sugerencia, háganoslas saber. Si tienen preguntas, favor de dirigir las al correo electrónico antes mencionado.

Estaremos esperando sus artículos y contribuciones. Buena suerte para el resto del semestre y no se les olvide leer su periódico estudiantil cada semana. Hasta pronto y gracias por compartir con nosotros ésta aventura.

La ignorancia racista

Por MARTHA SARABIA
Editora principal

En los últimos meses el racismo acompañado de una gran cantidad de ignorancia ha estado en su máxima expresión. Si no es un político fracasado es una revista incompetente e inmadura como es el caso de la revista *Vanity Fair*. En dicha revista, el comentario racista ha sido muy público, directo, y extremadamente ignorante. A pesar de que la revista tiene a la actriz mexicana Salma Hayek en la portada, dentro de ésta misma edición hay un comentario muy racista y extremadamente ignorante.

A lo que me refiero es al comentario en la sección "Ask Dame Edna". En dicha sección, un lector pregunta si aprender español es buena idea ya que se dice que todos vamos a tener que hablar español en 10 años. A esto la Dame Edna, la cual ni se merece ser tratada de usted, contestó que lo único que vale la pena leer en español es *Don Quijote* pero que éste se puede escuchar fácilmente en un CD.

Pero esto no es todo, la ignorante e insípida Dame Edna, da a entender que las únicas personas que hablan español son las personas que trabajan en el sector de limpieza doméstica y de jardinería. Por favor, apenas y se puede creer el analfabetismo de ésta persona que todavía no se ha dado cuenta que las personas que hablan español no solamente hablan español y son capaces de salir adelante teniendo trabajos de limpieza, sino que además pueden aprender inglés y muchos otros idiomas y no tienen el prejuicio que ella tiene. Además el desempeñarse en trabajos de limpieza, no les quita nada de valor como personas. Al contrario esto dice mucho de ellos que con tal de tener un trabajo honrado y poder mantener a sus familias, son capaces de trabajar tan duro y por tan poco dinero.

Es tan poco el conocimiento y sabiduría de esta persona que no sabe reconocer el talento del gran escritor colombiano Gabriel García Márquez, la chilena Gabriela Mistral, los mexicanos Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz y Octavio Paz y por supuesto el del español Federico García Lorca, del cual dice que pertenece al último nivel de intelectualidad. Estos sólo son algunos de los muchos grandes escritores que se han hecho famosos al

escribir en español. Muchos de ellos han recibido premios Nóbel de literatura, ¿y esta persona no lo sabe? Que puedo decir, la barbarie e incultura le sale a flote.

Pero claro, ¿qué se puede esperar de alguien que dudo. mucho sepa más de un idioma y que obviamente vive en su pequeño mundo? Oh quizás tanta película de Hollywood la haya trastornado hasta creer que las personas que hablan español solamente se desempeñan en trabajos de limpieza, lo cual vuelvo y repito es un trabajo muy honrado, digno y decente. Lo mas seguro es que ni siquiera tiene televisión lo cual impidió que escuchara las miles de veces que en las pasadas semanas han estado diciendo que los latinos, que en su gran mayoría hablan español, son la minoría más grande de este país. Así que cuando menos se lo imagine, el español va a ser más hablado que el inglés y quien sabe a lo mejor hasta ella lo va a tener que hablar para poder sobrevivir y sobresalir en este país. ¡Pobrecita! Lo mucho que será torturada.

Mi consejo para Dame Edna, que si supiera que hasta su nombre parece estar en español y que hasta suena chistoso se moría de un ataque cardíaco, es que antes de irse a dormir le agradezca mucho a Dios, o al ser superior en el que crea, que existen personas que le ayudan con la limpieza de este país ya que si no fuera por ellos, ella lo tuviera que hacer. Además, creo que se debe de animar a salir más de su casa, a explorar el mundo que la rodea, para que logre abandonar ese estado tan grande de ignorancia en la que vive. Y para los editores de *Vanity Fair*, por favor, si van a tener a alguien dando consejo por lo menos que esta persona sea suficientemente capacitada para hacer comentarios validos y coherentes. Pero sobre todo que dé respuestas de las cuales sus lectores puedan aprender algo en lugar de dar lástima por los comentarios que hace. Quizás deben de ofrecerle un mejor salario para que pueda aprender algo de literatura y cultura mundial, después de todo la educación es la única manera de terminar con la ignorancia. Ah, y algo más, su decisión de publicar dicha respuesta deja mucho que desear y si fueran un poco inteligentes, se podrían dar cuenta que actitudes como esta no sólo afectan su reputación sino sus bolsillos.



The
North County
Higher Education Alliance
NCHEA

A Higher Education Consortium of
MiraCosta College—Palomar College—CSUSM

Student Representatives For Its Board

One From Palomar & One From MiraCosta

What? The North County Higher Education Alliance seeks two students to represent transfer students to CSUSM from Palomar and MiraCosta.

Eligibility? Any student who completed the first two years of their college/university education at either Palomar or MiraCosta College and who has completed at least one semester of work at CSUSM may apply for this position.

Responsibilities? The Student Representative to the NCHEA Board must be willing and able to:

- ❖ Meet monthly — the fourth Tuesday of the month from 3-5 p.m. — with the Board;
- ❖ Represent to the Board the issues, concerns, and needs of transfer students as they make the transition from the community colleges to CSUSM; and
- ❖ Perform one of the following tasks:

- serve as web weaver for the NCHEA web site @ www.csusm.edu/nchea, or
- help with editing and publishing official NCHEA documents, or
- some other task as arises during the year.

Compensation? Each Student Representative will receive \$250.00 per semester to compensate them for completion of specific tasks such as those delineated above.

To Apply? Please submit a **Letter of Interest** in which you explain — in no more than a paragraph — why you want to represent transfer students on the NCHEA Board. In addition, please submit a copy of your CSUSM transcript and your Palomar or MiraCosta transcript. Be sure to include your telephone number and e-mail address so that we can contact you for interviews and/or information about the Board.

Submit to Vicki Golich, Director, NCHEA Board
CRA 1255 — Faculty Center
California State University San Marcos

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Response to Parking Illustration

I want to play a game of word association. I say a word or phrase and you think tell me what comes to mind when you hear it.

Adolf

Hitler.

What did you come up with? If you thought about Mein Kampf, Nazism, Third Reich, Holocaust, or even the 1938 TIME Man of the Year, you would be wrong.

No, the editors of The Pride associate Hitler with an increase of parking fees here at CSUSM. In the January 28th issue of The Pride, an opinion article entitled "Stop 'Spinning' And Just Say Thank-You" was accompanied by an image of Hitler, superimposed on a no parking logo.

I assume the editors of The Pride

were trying to make a connection between the propaganda from parking service to that of German war and genocide propaganda. I say 'I assume' since the article fails to mention any link to the German Dictator, nor does the picture carry any type of caption.

My hope is that this was a newspaper office prank and was never intended to go into the paper. My hope is that an apology is offered to anyone who may have been offended by this piece. My hope is that an apology is given, not because it is asked for, but because it is the right thing to do. My hope is that if any apology is offered, the normal banter of 'freedom of the press' as an excuse for the poor taste of the image is left out.

A Response to Vincent Williams

Mr. Williams, first of all thank you for taking the time to write to *The Pride* with your views, and for taking part in this public forum regarding last week's illustration depicting Hitler in front of a "No Parking" sign.

The "Stop 'spinning' and Just Say Thank You" opinion article with which the illustration was

printed was not a complaint about having to pay high parking fees. The article and the Hitler graphic were both intended to address issues of propaganda and being disrespected. Hitler has become an icon and in the context in which his image was employed, it represents a reprimand and a cautioning to the institution with regard to propaganda. It was intended to be offensive, and to retaliate for the offense the author of the article took when presented

with propaganda.

The illustration I created using these images could be injected with any number of meanings (as can anything symbolic), but the intended meaning can only be properly understood based on its context, in this case, the article. Nothing in the context of the article suggests that "losing your life is the same thing as spending an extra \$98 to park your car."

I am a white, middle class student at Cal State San Marcos. How many white, middle class students have brought down commercial airliners? None. For that matter, how many elderly and disabled ladies have attempted to hijack a plane? None. There must be a better way.

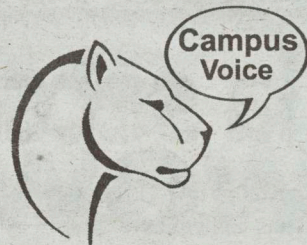
I suggest we turn to a hi-tech solution, one that would require all citizens who travel by air often, or even at all, to obtain identification cards similar to a driver's license. This ID card would be linked to a computer database system that could keep track of every misdemeanor and felony one commits. I propose even a wider base of information that would be monitored, such as: country of origin, citizenship status, student status, and other distinguishing factors.

On November 19th, 2001 President Bush signed into law the Aviation and Transportation Security Act (ATSA), which among other things created the monster we know now as the TSA. This was in the great outcry over the September 11th bombings of that same year and the lack of airport security that could have stopped them. I believe the saying is "too little, too late" but in this case its "too much, too late."

During another incident at San Diego International Airport, I observed TSA employees demanding a disabled and very elderly lady get up out of her wheelchair for a security pat down. Have we gone completely nuts?

Who in their right mind would have thought this elderly lady would have had a plot in order to bring down the airplane that she would be riding on? I'm sure she had trouble sitting upright in her wheelchair and here, as two other employees of the TSA held her up, a witty TSA employee patted her down. What a champ. I believe the TSA is subjecting many innocent travelers to unwarranted and unreasonable searches of their person.

I believe that an overhaul was needed for airport security, but seriously folks, let's work



The freedom of the press allows The Pride to print whatever they wish; good taste should have kept them from printing this picture. The "spinning" of fee increases is in no way comparable to Hitler's propaganda of war and genocide.

If the editors of The Pride continue to feel the connection is accurate, I urge them to visit the Holocaust Memorial Museum. You can go online and visit <http://www.ushmm.org/>. Look at a picture of someone who either lived through the time or did not make it. Then tell me if losing your life is the same as spending an extra \$98 to park your car.

Vincent Williams
Student, Liberal Studies

About Peggy Adams

A full life is lived in many human contexts, and Peggy Adams' life was indeed a full one. I know that it was, even though I knew her only in the limited context of the classroom and the campus, because of the kind of person she was.

At the beginning of the fall semester in 2001, I began teaching a new class on gender and sexuality in American history. I was worried about the class, because it would raise questions that students might find difficult to talk about. I needn't have worried, for a marvelous group of students had enrolled. On the second day, one brought a friend --Peggy Adams, an articulate, pleasant looking woman of about 50. A woman of extraordinary intelligence, humanity, and a

great, self-deprecating sense of humor, she quickly became a class leader. Her emotional maturity and verbal gifts gave her a remarkable ability to talk about experiences of love, human bonding, parenthood, and loss. When it came time to talk about the sixties, seventies, and eighties, she shared her experiences with a (mostly) younger group of students. Students gravitated to her, and the class was a great success. We had wonderful conversations outside of class. She was more like a colleague than a student.

It was a great pleasure for all of us to get to know Peggy. I admired her, and I will miss her. A lot.

Anne Lombard
Faculty

Obviously, PR is important and necessary to the university in order to attract new students, but when the university addresses current students, it should talk straight to us and not insult us with a spun version of the situation. The article and the illustration were intended to strongly express our dissatisfaction with the handling of this issue.

I also feel that your comments concerning good taste require

response. Taste is subjective. Our nation is founded on the idea that unpopular ideas or beliefs, which are often described as "in bad taste," can and must be voiced for the free exchange of ideas to occur.

Desmond Barca
Design Editor

Unreasonable Searches at the Aiports

Well, another winter break has gone by, and I'm wondering just how many other students here at CSUSM traveled by air during the break? Did anyone notice the new Transportation Security Administration (TSA) employees at the airport? I did. Did anyone else find the man with the rubber glove to be surprisingly gentle?

My fellow students, yes, we are now being subjected to what I like to call 'unreasonable searches' as outlined in our United States Constitution (Fourth Amendment). On a recent flight to Alaska, my shaving kit was given a search that would have turned the cheeks red on a stripper. The faithful TSA employee inspected and probed every inch of my Edge Shave Gel canister and closely eyed my suspicious looking hair gel.

What was the cause of this search? Who knows? I stood in awe as the employee manhandled my dangerous looking backpack's contents. The contents of my backpack, otherwise known as 'private' personal belongings, were strewn across a table for all other passing travelers to gawk at. What if I had had embarrassing personal items in my backpack? I'm sure it has happened to others, and that is why I'm saying enough is enough already!

On November 19th, 2001 President Bush signed into law the Aviation and Transportation Security Act (ATSA), which among other things created the monster we know now as the TSA. This was in the great outcry over the September 11th bombings of that same year and the lack of airport security that could have stopped them. I believe the saying is "too little, too late" but in this case its "too much, too late."

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Who in their right mind would have thought this elderly lady would have had a plot in order to bring down the airplane that she would be riding on? I'm sure she had trouble sitting upright in her wheelchair and here, as two other employees of the TSA held her up, a witty TSA employee patted her down. What a champ. I believe the TSA is subjecting many innocent travelers to unwarranted and unreasonable searches of their person.

I believe that an overhaul was needed for airport security, but seriously folks, let's work

smarter not harder. How about suspect and racial profiling? Is it so wrong? I have been submitted to nine searches, numerous pat downs and several extensive probings with the 'beeping' wand (as I've come to fondly call it) within the last year. On occasion these searches have been performed within minutes of each other (one at the security checkpoint, before reaching access to the gates, and then once again at the gate from which I was departing).

I am a white, middle class student at Cal State San Marcos. How many white, middle class students have brought down commercial airliners? None. For that matter, how many elderly and disabled ladies have attempted to hijack a plane? None. There must be a better way.

I suggest we turn to a hi-tech solution, one that would require all citizens who travel by air often, or even at all, to obtain identification cards similar to a driver's license. This ID card would be linked to a computer database system that could keep track of every misdemeanor and felony one commits. I propose even a wider base of information that would be monitored, such as: country of origin, citizenship status, student status, and other distinguishing factors.

A 'profile' then would be considered for search based on system that would be able to identify someone who fits the characteristics of a hijacker. Similar searches are performed each time we apply for a job or loan. Why couldn't we administrate this system to monitor travelers? I project that on a long-term basis, it would reduce government spending (mostly on thousands of unnecessary and redundant TSA employee jobs) and greatly reduce the amount of unwarranted and unreasonable searches performed everyday by TSA employees.

On my way back from Alaska, I was again subjected to a search of my person. As I walked through the metal detector at Anchorage International Airport, I had unknowingly put my hand in my pocket. Wow! Immediately I was treated as a suspect that was about to commit acts of terror that the world had not yet seen! The lady who 'apprehended' me for putting my hand in my pocket yelled to another TSA employee (a man) to come over and give me a 'full inspection'. He proceeded to take me behind a partition, which really wasn't a partition at all as it was made from see thru plexi-glass, and wand me furiously.

My shoes beeped. He then commanded I remove my shoes

for further inspection. Again he passes the wand over my entire body and socked feet. This time my metal belt buckle beeped. Now I had to unbuckle my pants in front of numerous other travelers and allow the inspector to take a peek at what I had behind my belt buckle. After he determined I carried no weapons or bombs and that I wore boxers from the GAP, he let me go.

As I sat down to put my shoes back on (they had been submitted to a bomb testing device) the man voluntarily explained the processes and procedures of the TSA and in an almost apologetic tone he stated that he was just doing his job. Well good for him. I'm glad that my taxes are paying for my inconvenient searches.

Attention CSUSM students! Next time you fly, be aware of the new and 'improved' airport security. You may be patted, wanded, and probed, but I guarantee you will feel completely free of any violation. Until it happens again. And again. And again. Then you too will begin to wonder how the TSA has improved airport security, if not only to irritate, violate, and harass thousands of innocent Americans everyday.

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