THE COUGAR

CHRONICLE

ISSUE I VOLUME XXXIX

- CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SAN MARCOS, INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

TUESDAY IANUARY 31 2012

Campus switches from Coke to Pepsi

The first ever, exclusive soda provider for Cal State San Marcos campus Big Cat market, vending

STAFF WRITER
There has been a big change in the beverage de partment at Cal State San Marcos. Previously our campus provided a variety of brands of beverages, but now, through an agreement between University Auxiliary and Research Services Corporation (UARSC) and PepsiCo, our school has accepted PepsiCo provider.

"Just the minor improvements have made a huge difference," UARdiffer-SC Executive Director Dora Knoblock said

UARSC is the administrative services for all dinat CSUSM: catering, the

machines, Starbucks and bookstore and university store.
UARSC also provides support to the other four auxiliaries campus. The decision will greatly benefit the school and students financially because PepsiCo has a better sustainability program for our recycling refunding for our

new program that will benefit our students," Knoblock said.

All over the campus, the beverage departments have received makeovers. The vending machines have a new look and are more technologically advanced in that they now accept debit and credit cards.

"The vending machines are more modern, and I really like the Pepsi products better," freshman Koresh Dashtizadeh said.

The beverage switch to PepsiCo is cheaper in the stores, but costs an extra 25 cents in the vending machines.

The new soda change features Pepsi, Dr. Pepper, Mountain Dew, Sierra Mist, Crush, Aquafina, SoBe, Lipton, Gatorade, AMP and Rockstar. They can be found not only in the vending machines, but also in the soda

"It is a Pepsi continued on 2. positive

ns honors the ountry team for the pions. Who else will



details about the

Page 6 - The "Nerd Side" is back and this nerd has an opinion on a new

Also, still adjusting to the spring semes-ter? Can you relate to "Back to School



Page 7 - CSUSM owns and operates a new student art gallery in Old Cali-Restaurant fornia Row. Who can sub-

February 14

Copyright infringement, intellectual property theft brought to Congress line Piracy Act (SOPA) and ment, unauthorized fixation

KRISTIN MELODY STACE WOITED

Recent protests online by websites and individuals have caused Congress to delay the vote regarding inter-net privacy and intellectual property rights.

The two major acts in the spotlight are the U.S. House of Representatives' Stop On-

the U.S. Senate's Preventing Real Online Threats to Economic Creativity and Theft of Intellectual Property Act (PIPA).

SOPA seeks to take legal action or shut down "U.S.-directed foreign Internet site[s] committing or facilitating online piracy... including criminal copyright infringeincluding

and trafficking of sound recordings or videos of live musical performances, the recording of exhibited motion pictures, or trafficking in counterfeit labels, goods, or services" the bill summary states.

The due course of action available to the Attorney General is to censor the web



univer-

sity.

infringement rather than remove the infringed material

site that commits copyright and allow the website to continue to function. Congress continued on 2.

In Memoriam Professor Radhika Ramamurthi

A member of the CSUSM Mathematics at CSUSM. community, Professor Ra-dhika Ramamurthi, passed

away on Friday after a long and brave struggle with can-

Professor Ramamurthi joined CSUSM in 2002 as a faculty member in Mathematics, where she was the model of a true teacher-scholar. She brought to the classroom a dedication to the success of her students and the beauty of mathematics. She believed deeply in the transformational power of education, and she spent many hours encouraging students to pursue mathematical study as the faculty advisor of the Hypatians, a Mentoring Program for Women in

Professor Ramamurthi's commitment to scholarship was evident in her own work and throughout her years as Faculty Center Director, where she made it her mission to increase research opportunities for faculty. Her infectious laugh and smile are legend across campus and will be greatly missed by all who experienced the joy of knowing and working with her. She is survived by her husband, Professor Ar dre Kundgen, and a daughter, Mira.

A memorial event is being planned and details will be announced when they are available

Editor's Note: New year, new name ASHLEY DAY EDITOR-IN-CHIEF of the student body and improve readership. The Counewspaper should include newspaper should ne our mascot's identity. The

Hello CSUSM students, staff, faculty and supporters. You are currently reading the new official university newspaper, The Cougar Chroni-

Last semester, our staff decided the name The Pride did Chronicle serves the student not fit the current message of body better because it inthe university. We wanted cludes our mascot name. We to represent multiple aspects

gar Chronicle plans to cover different classes, clubs, student organizations, professors and events throughout lish bi-weekly, not daily or the semester. By doing so, students can become aware cle, formerly know as The of the social and educational

Left to right: Morgan Hall, Jessie Gambrell, Chris Giancamilli, Kyle M. Johnson, Melissa Martinez, Rogers Jaffarian, Ashley Day, Amy Salisbury, Kristin Melody. Not photographed: Alex Franco.

services our campus offers.

The name The Cougar are the Cal State San Mar

staff decided on the word 'chronicle' because we pubweekly.

The Cougar Chronicle wants to report on the important parts of college life, so if you have an event or story related to CSUSM contact us at csusm.cougarchronicle@ gmail.com.

FIVE DAY FORECAST Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday





High: 75 Windy Windy Windy High: 76 High: 76 Low: 42 Low: 42 Low: 44

Mostly Sunny Sunny/Sunny/Sunny/

EDITORIAL

STAFF

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF ASHLEY DAY

DESIGN EDITOR MORGAN HALL

COPY EDITOR AMY SALISBURY

KRISTIN MELODY

SPORTS EDITOR ALEX FRANCO

FEATURES EDITOR KYLE M JOHNSON garchron.features@gmail.

OPINION POSITION OPEN

A & E EDITOR MELISSA MARTINEZ

COMIC ARTIST FAITH ORCINO

CHRIS GIANCAMILLI

ADVERTISING MANAGER ROGERS JAFFARIAN

JESSIE GAMBRELL

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STAFF WRITERS MARCOS CHRON REBEKAH GREEN

tioned through out the CSUSM campus.

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CSUSN ommui

ROGERS JAFFARIAN STAFF WRITER

If you haven't paid the \$338 for your campus parking permit, then taking the Sprinter could be a cost-effective alternative. Students should be aware of the temporary construction and know times and

One-way Sprinter tickets are \$2; tickets are \$5 for an all-day pass that includes the Breeze bus system. The day pass is recommended for those that wish to ride the 340 bus from Craven Circle

PALOMAR

POMERADO

HEALTH

to Barham Dr. and La Moree Road, which runs every half hour Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

The last westbound Sprinter departs at 8:41 p.m. from CSUSM station. The last eastbound train leaves CSUSM stations at 9:16 p.m. Service hours are extended on Friday and Saturday nights.

On the first day of every month, a subsidized CSUSM student pass is offered for \$29 a month until supplies last; afterward, the price is \$49. Passes run out fast, so

San Marcos Health Center

purchase yours early at Parking and Commuter Services with valid CSUSM ID

Travelers should be aware of Sprinter track construction that began Jan. 24. Workers will be fixing a damaged retaining wall near Rancho Oro Station. To avoid costruction. riders can take the non-stop bus between the Vista Transit Center and Oceanside Transit Center or switch trains at College Boulevard to Ocean-Transit Center with possible 15 minute delays. Students leaving CSUSM to Escondido should not be affected by delays.

Even with delays, the Sprinter is cheaper, quieter and more efficient than AM Track or Coaster. The Sprinter Light Rail is more like a trolley with its half hour stops and two-minute loading and unloading times. A one-way AM Track ticket costs \$14, and a one-way ticket on the Coaster run



ning from Oceanside to San Diego costs \$5.50.

For Palomar students attending the San Marcos campus, the first couple weeks is a predatory hunt for parking spaces. The Sprinter gives them front door service at Palomar College Station. For students taking classes at Palomar's Escondido campus on Midway and Valley Parkway, they can take Breeze busses 351 or 352 from the Escondido Transit

avoid the bus, car and Sprinter, ride your bicycle-it's free. Staff and students who own a motorcycle or scooter and have purchased a parking pass can obtain a Lock ing Permit Holder. This is a high impact PVC sleeve that holds a CSUSM parking pass which locks securely around handlebars. Go to www. LoginParking.com and order Model 45 for \$20.

For those who want to

Congress from 1.

The PIPA and SOPA acts are supported by the media industry, musical recording companies and Hollywood video producers. The opponents of PIPA and SOPA include YouTube, Wikipedia, the 4.5 million people who signed Google's anti-SOPA petition, 1.5 million people on activists' websites, and 103,785 signed the We The People petition according to The White House blog.

On January 18 websites Wikipedia, Reddit and others "blacked out" for 24 hours in protest of the SOPA and PIPA bills.

"As a consequence of failing to act, there will continue to be a safe haven for foreign thieves; American jobs will continue to be lost; and consumers will continue to be exposed to fraudulent and dangerous products peddled by foreign criminals" said Senator Chris Dodd, Chairman of Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA).

"Online piracy by foreign websites is a serious problem that requires a serious legislative response, we will not support legislation that

sion, increases cyber security risk, or undermines the dynamic, innovative global Internet" said Victoria Espinel, the Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator for The White Hous

The House of Representatives SOPA act is due to resume voting in February according to the leader of the bill House Judiciary Committee Chairman Lamar Smith (R-TX),

President Obama publicly opposed the bill because believes it would hinder business and lead to online

The Cougar Chronicle is published twice a month on Tuesdays during the academic year. Distribution includes 1,500 copies across 13 stands posi-tioned through out the CSUSM cam-

HIV awareness, testing event planned for Feb. 7 p.m. on Feb. 7. The event MARCOS CHRON

One in 500 American college students is infected with the HIV virus. For a campus the size of Cal State San Marcos, that means about 20 students are carrying the Human Immunodeficiency Virus, which without treatment causes AIDS, according to American College Health Association

Although the transmission of HIV has slowed since it was epidemic in the late 1980s and early 1990s, it still remains a potent force on college campuses. According to a report from the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, young people ages 13 to 29 accounted for 39 percent of all new HIV infections in 2009. The highest rate of infection occurs in people ages 20 to 24, with a disproportionate infection rate among gay and bisexual men and young blacks. AIDS suppresses the body's immune system, making it susceptible to secondary in-

To spread the word about the dangers of HIV, the university's Student Health & Counseling Services (SHCS) department will have free HIV testing from 1:15 -

Pepsi from 1.

fountains at The Big Cat Bistro and the Big Cat Market.

"I'd rather drink Rockstar than Monster; and I like Pepsi much better," freshman Michael Dalupan said.

There is a conflict of preference among the students with regards to the beverage product change. Some students agree and are happy about the new change, but others liked the old, Coca Cola products better.

"They used to have Sprite

is geared toward enrolled students and will include an information fair. HIV testing will be held at the center, which is located just east of campus at 120 Craven Road, Suite 100.

Through a partnership with North County Health Services, students can receive free HIV testing with Ora-Quick Rapid, a test that requires just one drop of blood and produces a result in 20 min-

The testing is anonymous meaning that the results of the HIV test will not be entered into the student's medical record. The student will be given a code, and only the student and the counse lor will know the result of the test. As a result, the test results cannot be linked to the student. Center staff can provide pre-test and post-test counseling, as well as referrals to trained counselors.

Free testing services will be offered on the first Tuesdays of each month from 1:15 to 4 p.m. Upcoming dates are March 6, April 3 and May 1. No appointments are required. Service is first come, first served.

The center can be reached at 760-750-4915.

and now they have Mountain

Dew and its not that great' student Ramon Villhgoz said.

This alignment of enterprises has turned out to be successful so far, and now UARSC is set to start the same process for all the food vending machines on cam-

For more information or concerns regarding the beverage switch, call 760-750-4700, or visit their website at: www.csusm.edu/uarsc

Dream Act just one of more than

laws in

MARCOS CHRON

new

750

Although the California Dream Act got the most attention when it passed into law on Jan. 1. there were more than 750 other bills that also became law in California this year, and many could affect students at Cal State

San Marcos. AB 130, better known as the Dream Act, has been a hot topic on campus since Governor Jerry Brown signed it into law last year. It allows illegal aliens who've attended California public schools for at least three years and graduated from a California high school to apply for state-funded financial aid at UC and CSU campuses as well as community colleges.

Tim Torlakson, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, said the Dream Act will help many young Californians afford a college education that was previously out of reach.

"Our goal for the new year and every year is to make education accessible and effective for all children," Torlakson said in a statement.

"These new laws will help ure children are safer, enter kindergarten at the appropriate age, learn what they need to know to succeed in life and careers, and fulfill the dream of a college edu-

Cal State San Marcos spokeswoman Margaret Lutz said some other new laws that also may affect students here are AB 194, which offers priority enrollment to any former foster at any CSU, UC or community college campuses through 2017, and SB813, which grants priority enrollment to former members of the military (within four years of leaving active-duty service).

Other new laws on the California books this year include:

·A ban on the sale of caffeinated beer

•A requirement that schools intervene in cases of bullying of gay students

·A restriction on the sale of cough syrup containing destromethorphan (found in Dimetapp, NyQuil and other over-the-counter products)

·A ban on the sale of shark

California fins (used as a delicacy in soups by the Chinese)

•Governments or other agen cies cannot gather information on people's online reading habits without a court

•Mandatory instruction in the public schools on the contributions of gay people ·A ban on allowing employ ers to check applicants' credit reports

•Student athletes who sustain a possible concussion cannot play until receiving a doctor's clearance

·A ban on the use of tanning beds by anyone under the age of 18

·A requirement that children under the age of 8 must be restrained in a booster seat while riding in the car

·A ban on the right of citizens to openly carry handguns

·A requirement that apartment buildings begin recycling programs

•Police can no longer im pound a vehicle at a sobriety checkpoint if the driver's only guilty of driving without a license

rematch for the ages: San Francisco 49ers in the be looking to win his fourth **Super Bowl XLVI Preview**

Super Bowl ring and solidi-

fy his hall of fame status in

football lore; with a win next

Sunday, he will surpass Joe

Montana as the quarterback

with the most playoff victo-

ries with 17. Eli Manning is

also looking for his second

Super Bowl title, and could

become the Manning brother

with the most Super Bowl

titles with a win against the

After what has been a season to remember, the 2011 NFL season will culminate in Indianapolis with Super Bowl XLVI. With the season full of prolific passers leading their teams to victory and breaking records left and right, it's no wonder that this year's Big Game will feature two of the league's best quarterbacks when Eli Manning's NY Giants (9-7) representing the NFC take on



conference championship to reach their fifth Super Bowl in franchise history, winning three of their previous four appearances.

The Patriots will be making their seventh super bowl appearance, their fifth appearance since 2001, winning three out of the six. Tom Brady of

> Pats. This isn't the first time these two quarterbacks have met in the league's title game, the two teams met four years ago in Super Bowl XLII, where Giants upset the Patriots, 17-14 and thwarted New England's run at a perfect season. If history tells us anything, then the Patriots should come out champions. In their last super bowl meeting, the Patriots' loss to the Giants after already beating them earlier in the regular season. This year they met again in the

regular season with the

giants coming out the victors in that meeting meaning the patriots should prevail.

The Patriots are three point favorites in the Las Vegas line. This is not surprising considering these two high power offenses have the potential to put up points in bunches and should go down to the wire, as it did when they last met. Look for the Pat's defento

backs have their hands f u 1 1 tain-

dual threat at receiver in Hakeem Nicks and the red hot Victor Cruz. The same can be said about the Giants defense when they take their shot at holding the Patriot's incredibly athletic tight ends

Aaron Hernandez and Rob Gronkowski

The Patriots look to avenge their super bowl loss this time around when they meet Feb. 5 at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, ID, Game time is scheduled for 3:39 p.m. Sunday night and can be seen on NBC



Question: Who do you think will win the 2012 Super Bowl?

New York Giants

New England Patriots

Voting ends Feb. 5, at noon

SCORE REPORT

1/26 Men's Basketball v.s

L 73 88

1/28 Men's Basketball v.s. Arizona Christian,

W 73 41

W 66 60

UPCOMING HOME GAMES

Thursday, Feb. 2. Men's Basketball takes on Fresno Pacific at Mira Costa College at 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 3. Baseball plays Menio on the CSUSM field at

Saturday, Feb. 4. Baseball plays Menia again on the CSUSM field at 11 a.m.

Sunday, Feb. 5. Men's Golf participates in the 13th Annual CSUSM Cougar Invite at Lake San Marcos Golf Course. The event goes to Tuesday, Feb. 7. Time TBD.

Saturday, Feb. 11. Women's Basketball faces off against La Si-erra University at Mira Costa College, 7:30

Men's Basketball Record

14 W -10L

Bay Packers in the divi-

sional round, and finally the

5 games left

Women's Basketball Record

12 W -13L

5 games left



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Women's Cross Country to be honored by Hall of Champions

BRETT CAMPFIELD CONTRIBUTOR

The Cal State San Marcos Cougars women's cross country team, winners of three consecutive NAIA National Titles, will join Olympic Gold Medalist Shaun White and NFL Pro-Bowler Arian Foster, along with many other standouts from the professional and amateur ranks as part of the annual Salute to the Champions February 15, at the Town and Country Convention Center in San Diego.

Attending the banquet and receiving an award will be the seven CSUSM athletes who competed in this year national championships; Suzanne Cornwell, Kelly Thompson, Chelsea Cortez, Cady Villareal, Carol Schryver, Cassidy Reich, and Heidi Swanson. Cornwell will also be one of 16 individual athletes who will be honored as Stars of the Year, following her All-

cross country and track and field. Also receiving recognition for being named Stars of the Month in 2011 will be CSUSM softball's Alex Miller, volleyball's Nichole May, and men's basketball

player AJ Chamberlain.
Other notable athletes receiving an award will be San Diego Chargers Pro-Bowler Eric Weddle, MLB All-Star Adrian Gonzalez, San Diego Padres MVP Cameron Maybin, and San Antonio Spurs forward Kawhi Leonard.

The San Diego Hall of Champions is an undisputed national leader in recognition of amateur, collegiate and professional sports excellence; youth sportssportsbased education; and sports memorabilia exhibition. The Hall was launched by the Breitbard Athletic Foundation, which was founded in 1946 to recognize significant athletic achievement in San Diego, and the HOC muse American seasons in both um is located in Balboa Park

SPRING FITNESS CLASSES

Zumba Monday, 4 - 5 p.m. Thursday, 5 - 6 p.m.

Running, Mangrum Track Wednesday, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Indoor Cycling, UVA C3 Monday through Thursday, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, noon -1 p.m.

Ashtanga Yoga, Com 206 Monday, noon - 12:50 p.m., Tuesday & Thursday, noon - 12:50 p.m.

Hip-Hop Tuesday, 5 - 6 p.m.

Tuesday, 4 - 5 p.m.

Turbo Kick (New) Monday, 6 - 7 p.m.

Circuit Boot Camp Wednesday & Thursday, 4 - 5 p.m.

Jiu-Jitsu Monday & Wednesday, 5 - 6 p.m.

All fitness classes will start on Monday, Feb. 6, and end May 11, 2012. Unless stated, all classes will be held at the Clarke Field House/University Student Union. Free for students. \$60 for an all access staff/ faculty pass or cycling class for \$35.

Starbucks to offer alcoholic beverages on menu

Stores in Atlanta, Chicago, Southern California to sell beer, wine by end of 2012



STAFF WRITER

Starbucks will be adding beer and wine to the menu at several locations in Atlanta, Chicago and Southern California

After much customer feedback requesting a relaxing evening atmosphere in their stores, Starbucks has responded by offering this transition which is said to occur by the end of the year. Starbucks intends for these expansions to take place at five to seven stores in Chicago and four to six stores each in Atlanta and Southern

In October 2010, a location on Olive Way in Seattle, WA began successfully experimenting with this "evening day-part" concept of serving beer and wine, as well as pre

mium foods. Currently there are five stores in the Seattle area and one store in Portland, OR which have adapted to this expanded menu.

On the Starbucks News page, spokesman Zack Huton wrote, "The wine and beer list will be hand-selected to reflect local customer tastes and preferences." He went on to share that stores will also incorporate flexible seating to accommodate individuals, small groups and larger parties.

"At select stores where it is relevant for the neighborhood, we are focused on creating an atmosphere where our customers can relax with a friend, a small bite to eat and a cup of coffee or glass of wine," senior vice president of U.S. Operations, Clarice Turner said.

Palomar College to open planetarium this spring

KYLE M JOHNSON

Construction is currently underway at Palomar Col lege as a new planetarium is being built to replace the former planetarium, which was demolished in 2008.

The presence of the new building, which will be located in a different area of the school than the previous one, will lead to an expansion of the Palomar campus.

According to the webpage for the new Palomar College Planetarium, funds received from the passing of Proposition M in 2006 have allowed this development to take place. The webpage

describes the planetari new, larger and state-of-theart, open to the college and the general public.

The webpage also features a New Planetarium Construction Blog, which features descriptions, photographs and videos depicting the construction taking place. In the blog posts, it is revealed that the planetarium will possess such features as a 50-foot dome, 142 seats and a Digistar 4 projection system with surround sound and LED lights.

According to "The Starry Messenger," Palomar's official planetarium newsletter, the new planetarium will offer shows to the public

regularly, guided tours of the current night sky and topical shows about popular subjects of astronomy.

The most recent developments to take place at the construction site have been

carpet installation, fire-lifesafety work and audiovisual technology.

The grand opening of the planetarium is scheduled for early March 2012.

Bi-annual fair offers opportunity for involvement

JESSIE GAMBRELL

Today, Jan. 31, at Library Plaza, Student Life & Lead-ership (SLL) hosts another Student Organization Fair from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

The fair gives students and staff the opportunity to learn about clubs, athletics and the Greek Life present at Cal State San Marcos.

"The students get to look forward to a presence of visibility from the student organizations, and it is a great opportunity to learn. Staff members have an opportunity to show leadership development as well," Coordinator of Student Involvement, Shannon Nolan, said.

The fair is also an opportunity for students who are interested in joining a club, sorority or fraternity. It also provides an informative way to find out how to start a new

There are a total of over 100 student organizations at CSUSM, providing students with a broad variety of interests from which to choose

"There will be about 40 organizations present, ranging from cultural to academic to campus recreational sports to political and religious that are all willing to share with

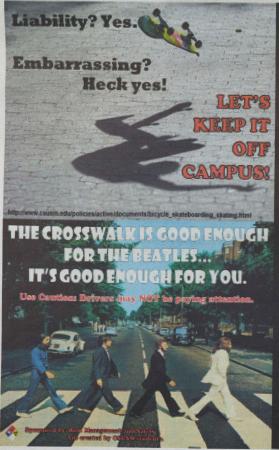


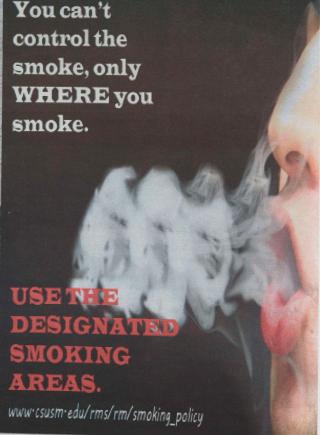
Joshua Galeai, said.

CSUSM's Greek Life, membership. which has doubled since last semester, will be present as to www.csusm.edu/orgs

well in an effort to attract student involvement and

For more information, go





CSUSM faculty member to present solo piano recital



STAFF WRITER

Cal State San Marcos music Professor Ching-Ming Cheng will host and perform in a solo piano concert on Jan. 31.

Following her arrival to the university in fall 2011, this will mark the debut performance of Cheng on campus. The concert will be a musical journey from the classical era to modern romanticism, featuring compositions from Haydn, Chopin, Ravel and Busoni.

Although she started piano lessons at the age of five, it was around the second or third grade when a teacher suggested that Cheng audition for a musical program that offered formal training at no charge to those selected. It was at her teacher's suggestion that Cheng felt a sense of maturity in her training.

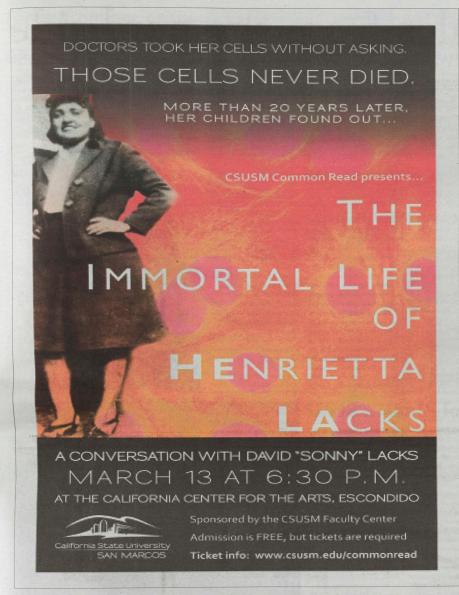
Cheng has since grown into an experienced performer with such credentials as having been part of the New World Symphony as a keyboardist and in the Taipei Century Symphony and National Symphony Orchestra playing the double bass.

phony Orchestra playing the double bass. Prior to joining the faculty at CSUSM, Cheng taught in the music department at Humboldt State University. Even though she felt it was a great program with devoted students, Cheng decided to take an open position as an assistant professor in CSUSM's music department.

She has high aspirations for the music department including the recruitment of piano major students and composition students. "I hope we can build a thorough and complete department," Cheng said.

The free piano recital will take place Jan. 31 at 7 p.m. in Arts Building, room







Opinions on

CSUSM's spring 2012 fees and costs



Parking is pretty high, almost too

-Lisa Moniz

Books are ridiculously high. [The Bookstore] charges outrageous prices when you can find them so much cheaper on Amazon or online. I had to pay \$170 for one book because it was a specific addition.

-Jannelle Andrews

Parking is way too expensive, even a day pass is

-Nathan Choi

Parking is expensive compared to other Cal State's. What they pay for an entire year we pay a sester, it's unfair to pay double and be at a smaller campus. I think all of the other fees are for good benefit.

-Ricardo Campos

It's ridiculous that I have to pay fees for things I don't use. Paying \$10 for a child care facility, when I don't even have children, seems stupid to me.

-Sarah Green

Tales from the nerd side

"Star Wars: The Old Republic"- The force is strong with this one

CHRIS GIANCAMILLI STAFF WRITER

On Dec. 20, the gaming world saw the release of "Star Wars: The Old Republic" and since then it has quickly become one of the biggest massive multiplayer online (MMO) games of all time. With a heavy emphasis on story, Bioware's latest venture is keeping gamers, such as myself, thoroughly engaged in the Star Wars universe

"The Old Republic" takes place several thousands of vears before the events of the films during a time of galactic unrest. The game is a sequel to Bioware's single-player role playing games (RPG) "Star Wars: Knights of the Old Republic" and "Knights of the Old Republic II. "The Old Republic," the Sith Empire has reclaimed their world of Korriban and the Galactic Republic was forced to retreat to the planet Tython. Players join the Sith Empire or the Galactic Republic

Within the Sith Empire

players are given the choice of four main classes: Sith Sith Inquisitor, Bounty Hunter, or Imperial Agent. Those who join the Galactic Republic can choose to be a Jedi Knight. Jedi Consular, Smuggler, or Trooper. Players can customize their characters appearance and choose from a number of races familiar to

Though the game plays much like other MMOs, "The Old Republic" differs by giving players dialogue options during cutscenes which can alter the outcome and rewards of missions. Some scenes also have lightside and darkside choices. Gaining lightside or darkside points can open up more weapon and armor options.

Throughout their storyline, players will meet Non-Player Character (NPC) companions who will aid them in combat. Each NPC companion is unique to the player's class. Companions each have their own special roles. For

defense, and some heal the player. Players are limited to one companion's assistance at a time.

Space combat is another unique feature to the game. Players are given their own spaceship to travel to other planets and upgrade to engage in space combat missions. The space combat missions take place in a set path, but players can some what maneuver their ship to dodge obstacles. Ship upgrades work much like item upgrades to characters themselves. Some upgrades boost attack power or defensive power.

However, most of the game takes place on foot. "The Old Republic" has players hooftheir through Sith temples,

train-



Back To School Blues... Still?

STAFF WRITER

There's no shame in driving to school on the first day of spring semester with Christmas music playing in the stereo. It is still winter, and not everyone has packed away her holiday lights. I haven't quite packed the vacation away-at least not mentally. If you spend the holidays the way that makes you the happiest, leaving that feeling can be a bit sad. People spend the holidays in diverse ways, so it's safe to assume that people transition to school-mode in different ways as well. Some students have to travel long distances from home to return to dorms or nearby apartments. Others, like me, commute from home to school. Once late January nears, it is as though you can go in one

of two directions: preparation mode or denial. I can honestly say that denial comes in full force for me after New Year's, and preparation mode sets in right around a day or two before class transition from winter break to spring semester is signifi cantly different and yet still similar to the semester transition

The pressures vary at the

1. Trying to work out that "perfect" schedule that gets necessary classes in and still manages to fit well with a work schedule.

2.Feeling uncertain about a class once you are in it and having to rearrange said "perfect" schedule.

3.Even deciding which books to buy and which ones to possibly skip on for the

sake of saving money. Switching to school mode could include some or all of the things above and more, but as a student I realized that it comes with the job. And if this is your first year in university, you will begin to notice the trends of these pressures and figure out how you can handle each one. When you think of the transition that way, it becomes

to school. I realize not everyone may have as tough a time dealing with this. The anxieties are still a reality though, and it's important to remember that as a student, you are

Going back to schoolmode was tough as a child, though no one really told me that it would get easier as I got older. Soon, once all of the initial pressure to get reorganized at university dies down, the time will speed up and we will wonder where it went. All of this reminds me of the quote that many believe Dr. Seuss said: "Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened." I'll keep that note in my planner.

Feel the same way? Send us your opinion to cougarchron.opinion@gmail.com







Campus gallery opens on Restaurant Row

Cal State San Marcos now offers an off-campus art gallery in the Old California Restaurant Row on San Marcos Blvd. Old California, TERI Inc. and the San Marcos Arts Council hope the center becomes a new hub for local artists, including CSUSM students. It will be open on Fridays from 5 -

If you:

p.m. The gallery officially opened on Jan. 27, 2012, but there will be a grand opening reception on March 9 at 4 p.m. The Funes Fund Photography Exhibit is currently showing with others following that have yet to be announced. The VPA department is curating the gallery and looking for volunteers. For more information, contact Marilyn Huerta at mhuerta@csusm.edu

HILLEL AT CSUSM

FREE TRIP TO ISRAEL:

-Have never been on a peer-group trip to Israel

REGISTRATION OPENS FEBRUARY 15TH

For information and to register go to freeisraeltrip.org or contact Breanna at bfurlong@hillelsd.org (760) 978-9797

MILITARY ETHICS AND MORAL

DILEMMAS ON THE BATTLEFIELD

-are between the ages of 18-26

-Have at least one Jewish Parent

ISRAEL'S APROACH TO

Elad Morad, Israeli Special Forces Veteran and

International Relations Scholar will speak at this event Co-sponsored by Army Future Leaders Association and

Contact Ben Hall: 408-757-9692 benhllO@gmail.com

Hillel of San Diego. WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 15 Markstein Hall 103 12-1pm

UPCOMING EVENTS!









Community and World Literary Series resumes next month

KYLE M JOHNSON STAFF WRITER

On Feb. 9, the Community and World Literary Series will be restarting for the spring 2012 semester.

The series hosts on-campus literary readings performed by visiting authors. Past CWLS events have included such guests as Rae Armantrout, Clayton Eshelman. and Kate Greenstreet.

This semester, the series is scheduled to feature Claudia Rankine, Harold Jaffe, Susan Schultz and Craig Perez San-

Claudia Rankine is the author of four collections of poetry titled "Don't Let Me Be Lonely," "Plot," "The End of the Alphabet" and "Nothing in Nature is Private." She is also a playwright and has many anthologies. Rankine currently teaches at Pomona College.

Harold Jaffe is the author of nineteen books, including collections of fiction, novels and essays. His work has been translated into numerlanguages. Jaffe currently teaches at San Diego



State University and is also the editor of "Fiction Inter-

Susan Schultz is the author of several volumes of poetry and prose. She is also the editor of Tinfish Press in Hawaii and currently teaches at the University of Hawaii.

Craig Perez Santos has written two books of poetry and is the winner of the 2010 Poets & Writers California Writer's Exchange Award. He is the co-founder of Ala Press and currently teaches at the University of Hawaii.

Rankine will be reading on Feb. 9 at 6:30 p.m. in Markstein Hall, room 125.

Jaffe will be reading on

UPCOMING ART EVENTS

Digital Arts Information Session

6-8 p.m Foundation Classroom Bldg. 104.

event everything From Web page design to ad-vertising graphics to publishing, entertainment promotions, game design and animation.

Digital artists play a key role in how today's companies conduct business communications and promotions. Having an artist's imagination is helpful. But, getting the skills and competencies needed to launch or advance a creative career is indispensable In this exciting program series you'll learn the latest tools of computer design, Web development and animation in an innovative training format which is both immersive and project based.

Friday, Feb. 3 PG, 107 minutes Chronicle PG-13, 119 minutes The Women in Black PG-13, 95 minutes

Friday, Feb. 10 Journey 2 PG, 94 minutes Safe House 115 minutes Star Wars: Episode 1 PG,134 minutes
The Vow PG-13, 99 minutes

April 12 at 7 p.m. The room is to be determined.

Schultz and Santos will both be reading on April 26 at 7 p.m. The room is to be determined.

And the award goes to....

MELISSA MARTINEZ STAFF WRITER

Part of the excitement in starting a new year not only consists of "beginning it right" or keeping your new year resolutions, but for artists of all traits in the music, television and film industry to be recognized with the highest honors their indus-

tries could present to them. Michelle Williams's role in "My Week With Marilyn" (who has already won a Golden Globe for Best Performance by an Actress in a Motion Picture - Comedy Or Musical) was one of many performances nominated for a Screen Actors Guild Award as well as an Oscar for Actress in a Leading Role. Popular television shows "Modern Family," "The Office," "Glee" and new shows like "American Horror Story" were also awarded

nominations for Screen Actors Guild Awards.

Musical artists like Mumford & Sons, Nicki Minaj and Adele have made their mark on the nominations for The Grammy's list, one of the most prestigious awards

in the music industry. If you are curious whether Kanye West will take home the most Grammy's or if Adele's power over love will win her all of her six nominations, you can tune into The 54th Grammy Awards on Feb. 12, 2012 at 8/7c only on CBS.

For the film industry's most exciting night, tune into The 84th Academy Awards live on Feb. 26, 2012 at 7e/4p only on ABC.

Who do you think got the biggest snub at the 2012 Screen Actors Guild Awards?

SAG Winners MOVIES: Actor: Jean Dujardin, "The Art-

isi"
Adress: Viola Davis, "The Help"
Supporting actor: Christopher Plummer, "Beginners"
Supporting actress: Octavia Spencer, "The Help"
Stunt ensemble: "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2"

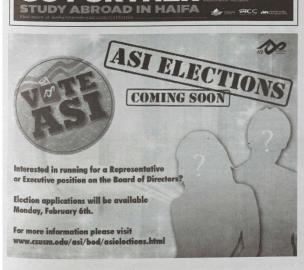
TELEVISION:

TELEVISION:
Actor in a movie or miniseries:
Paul Giamathi, "Too Big to Fail"
Actress in a movie or miniseries:
Kate Winslet, "Mildred Pierce"
Actor in a drama series: Steve
Buscemi, "Boardwalk Empire"
Actress in a drama series: Jesica Lange, "American Horror
Story"

Story"
Actor in a comedy series: Alec
Baldwin, "30 Rock"
Actress in a comedy series: Betty
White, "Hot in Cleveland"
Drama series cast: "Boardwalk

Comedy series cast: "Modern Family" Stunt ensemble

Life Achievement: Mary Tyler



Dropping this week CHRIS GIANCAMILLI STAFF WRITER

In Time (DVD/Bluray)



In the future, lifespan has replaced money as currency. Everyone is given a set age of 25 years to live unless they can earn more life. Will Salas (Justin Timberlake) is a poor man living in a bad neigh-

fix the broken society he finds himself in.

Soulcalibur V (PS3/Xbox 360) "Soulcalibur V"



set sixteen years after follows a new protagonist. Patroklos.
The game will feature over 25 playable characters. acters, some returning as veterans and others

that gives players the ability to unleash more tions throughout the story.



Former Beatle, Ringo Starr returns to the spotlight with his 17th solo album "Ringo 2012." The album features the single "Wings" which is a re-recorded version of the 1977 song by the same name. Other songs include a cover of Buddy Holly's "Think It Over" and a re-recording of Ringo's 1973 song "Step



Drive (DVD/Bluray)
"Drive" follows the exploits of a nameless Hollywood stunt driver and part-time getaway driver for thieves. The driver (Ryan Gosling) meets and helps a woman and her son whose father, Standard (Os-

borhood and working in a factory. When he car Isaac), is recently released from prison. finds himself framed for a murder, Will is When the driver discovers that Standard pull off a heist that would clear Standard of his debt.

Final Fantasy XIII-2 (PS3/Xbox 360) Square-Enix continues



its "Fabula Nova Crystallis" series with "Final Fantasy XIII-2." This entry follows the events three years after "Final Fantasy XIII." The previous protection of the previous pr previous protagonist, Lightning, has mysteri-

brand new to the series. Both Playstation 3 ously gone missing. Her younger sister Seand Xbox 360 versions of the game will feature the crossover character Ezio, a central time-travelling villain. "Final Fantasy XIIIcharacter in the "Assassin's Creed" series. 2" revamps the battle system of the previous New fighting mechanics include a meter game and gives players new dialogue op-

The Comic Book Corner: "Anya's Ghost"

STAFF WRITER

For those who'd like something different from the mainstream comics like figure out whether she could be trusted before it's too late.

Brosgol's art style is different from the mainstream comics like figure out whether she could be trusted before it's too late. League," there are many independent comics that are story of a teenage girl who

with drama and angst. Her interested. life takes a turn when she

"The Avengers" or "Justice ent from those found in Marvel or DC comics, definitely offering a refreshing break as hidden treasures. "Anya's she works as a cartoonist and Ghost" by Vera Brosgol is a has a talent in comics. Her writing and plot twists are tries to get through life filled sure page turners for anyone

Though "Anya's Ghost" meets a new friend and must is Brosgol's first book, her figure out whether she could other published comic stories are in Image Comics' anthology series "Flight." Brosgol also worked on the storyboard of Henry Selick's "Coraline." You can find "Anya's Ghost" at your local comic shop or online

THE COUGAR SHUFFLE

STAFF WRITER

This month is mainly known for the hope of keeping promises and beginning the year anew. More glamorously, if is known for artists of all traits in the film and television industry to be recognized with the highest honors they can possibly receive. This playlist is dedicated to those nominated for the 54th Grammy Awards, airing Feb. 12, at 8/7c.

Feb. 12, at 8/7c.

1. This year has been amazing for London native, singer/songwriter Adele. Since her single "Rolling in the Deep" made its debut, her music has become a worldwide sensation. Her strong voice offers sense of empowerment which guaranteed a Grammy nod for Record of the Year.

2. Lady Gaga has not only made her mark on the music industry, but more importantly, her fans that she affectionately refers to as "monsters," Her beliefs in living in a world where differences are not only disregarded but celebrated immediately made her a worldwide sensation, winning her the nomination for Album of the Year. Her album, "Born This Way" debuted hit, "You and I" making it a great song to listen to whether you are spending time with a loved one or driving in the car, reminiscing about a special interest.

3. Mumford & Sons, a British folk bond who released their album "Sigh No More"

3.Mumford & Sons, a British folk band who released their album "Sigh No More" in the United States in February 2010 has successfully made their debut with four singles. The Grammy nominated Song of the Year titled "The Cave" presents a me-

singles. The Grammy nominated Song of the Year titled "The Cave" presents a melodic story that gives the courage of leaving doubts and fears behind.

4. Though many fans were disappointed in the delay of Dr. Dre's much anticipated album, they weren't foo disappointed since he, close friend and rapper Eminem & Skylar Grey released "Il Need a Doctor" that has been nominated for Best Rap/
Sung Collaboration as well as Best Rap Song.

5. Though many fans thought it hard to say goodbye to what, to some, has been their childhood for the past 11 years, fans will be please to know that they haven't yet heard the last of the Harry Potter legacy. "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 2" was nominated for Best Score for Soundtrack for Visual Media by composer

Book of the Month Chronicle Games Ellen DeGeneres's, "Seriously... I'm Kidding"

Ellen DeGeneres, televiher third book, "Seriously... I'm Kidding." Diary entries, ters across 240 pages. DeGecelebrity gossip, the secret to rage of Ellen fans. Memoan Emmy for her daytime talk show "Ellen" on NBC, a season of "American Idol" and the formation of her own record label complete the unexpected content of her book while maintaining her comedic style.

the pages allowing her to Portia de Rossi.

speak and connect directly with the reader as if she were conversing with an old friend. Though the book sion host and stand-up co-median, strikes again with reads like a breezy monologue divided into 30+ chapneres also includes several life and even coloring book self-help chapters, which in-pages surprise and delight a clude, "how to be a supermodel," "what would Jesus ries which include winning do?" and "random things that might help you but probably

This best was to describe this book is that it is simply Ellen: loud, funny and honest. Although DeGeneres' novel is about her opinions and thoughts, she is private or her interesting interviews DeGeneres's witty and co- when it comes to her personmedic voice shines through al life and marriage to actress love this anecdotal read.



Whether you are a huge fan of the hilarious comedian with A-list celebrities, you'll

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7	1			9	-	8		
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Student A: "False Alarm" by Faith Orcino







