

Recycling Wins Cal State Cougars maul the competition



CSUSM's Facility Services Blue Crew collect and sort recyclable materials generated by the campus community. From left to right, Rafael Lopez, Gil Munoz, Cal Kidd, Jim DiMartino, and Mike Tili.

Photo courtesy of Carl Hanson, member of CSUSM's Green Team.

BY NATASHA HECKENDORN
Pride Staff Writer

The results are in for RecycleMania 2006; Cal State San Marcos held its title as the National Grand Champion for the second year in a row.

The Cougars took their second straight title with an amazing 50.9 percent recycling rate, easily eclipsing last year's winning mark of 43.6 percent.

For the past ten weeks, 93 colleges and universities from across the nation have competed in RecycleMania, the annual EPA sponsored recycling and waste reduction contest. CSUSM entered this year's contest as the defending champion, but with nearly twice the competition as in 2005. This year, the competition nearly doubled from 47 competitors to 93 national participants. Two schools, Kalamazoo College and Point Loma Nazarene University, exceeded Cal State San Marcos' record from last year.

Last year, Cal State San Marcos earned the "Recycling Rate" competition. In an effort to emphasize the need to reduce all waste, measuring both trash and recyclables, the RecycleMania competition introduced a new modified competition renamed "Waste Minimization". The 2006 Competition featured three categories: Waste Minimization, Per Capita, and an overall combined category of Grand Champion.

The award of Grand Champion calculates the combination of recycling per capita and waste minimization to determine the institution with the best overall performance.

Cal State San Marcos came in second place in the category of Per Capita. However, CSUSM was heads and shoulders above the rest in the special division of Targeted Material-Corrugated Cardboard competition, collecting an astonishing 72 pounds per student, almost triple the amount collected by Kalamazoo College which

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Are Course Evaluations worth the effort?

BY LORA PAINTER
Pride Staff Writer

With the conclusion of each semester, students participate in course evaluations providing feedback to professors and administrators on the quality of the curriculum and teaching effectiveness. Within a four-year academic career at Cal State San Marcos, each student will complete approximately 35-40 course evaluations, evaluating both the instructor and the course.

Many students rush through the evaluation process, and doubt that their opinions are ever read or considered. Through further analysis and interviews with key faculty members, findings negate student suspicions that course evaluations go overlooked.

"Course evaluations assist instructors in monitoring their teaching effectiveness," said Matthew Ceppi, director of Institutional Planning & Analysis. "Research has shown that ratings can be used to improve instruction delivery if utilized as part of a personal consultation between the faculty member and a mentor or

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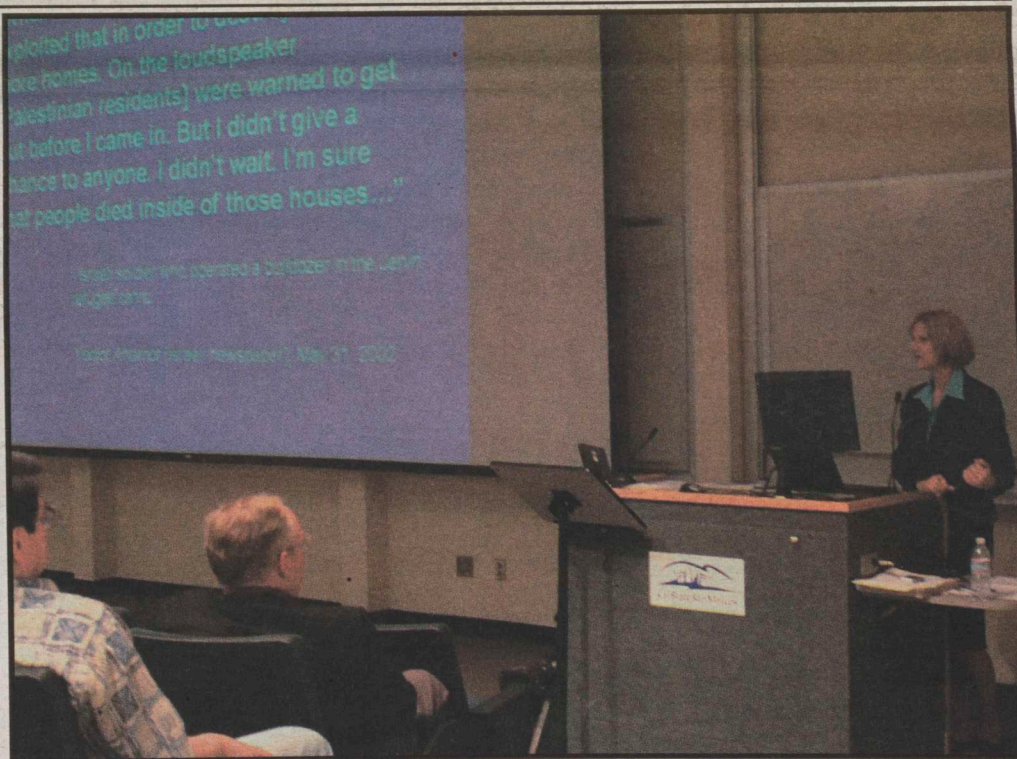
Biased media?

BY JON THOMPSON
Pride Staff Writer

On Tuesday evening, CSUSM professor Dr. Anthony Hurst introduced the group "Peace Mark." Representative Hank Kraus had contacted Hurst about having their speaker give a lecture on campus. Kraus briefly described his organization as a peace organization seeking an end to the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. Kraus then introduced the evening's speaker, Allison Weir, as a "Peace Mark" affiliate with "If Americans Knew." Although the lecture was open to the public, it was attended by Hurst's LTWR/COMM 316 Student Newspaper class and a handful of local "Peace Mark" members. The only Cal State San Marcos students in attendance were from the Student Newspaper class.

"Despite our affiliations we should get the facts," said Weir, as she introduced herself as a journalist. She went on to say, "I don't take a side; I just believe in being as accurate as possible, and reporting what the media leaves out." She expressed that "all humans are important, regardless of race, or religion." After being questioned for clarification, Weir said, "My views are not without my own bias."

Weir began the presentation with a power point of numerous graphs demonstrating the drastic slant in American news coverage of Israeli deaths, as opposed to the coverage of the deaths of Palestinians. The slides



Alison Weir presents her slideshow about the Israeli / Palestinian conflict in Arts 240 last Tuesday.

Photo by David Gatley / The Pride

showed a series of graphs taken from studies her group, "If Americans Knew," compiled with their statistics from six news organizations of television and newspapers, for lengths of times ranging from 4 months, to a year of the 2004 conflict, and what she refers to as the current conflict. The statistics taken from televised media were based upon news coverage from ABC World News Tonight, CBS Evening News, and NBC Nightly News.

According to Weir and her group, these studies take into account Israeli and Palestinian conflict related deaths of adults and children separately, and compared them to what they perceived as news coverage of the deaths, in addition to what Weir calls "omissions" of the facts by the news organizations.

"The most effective lying is through omission, although it's not really lying, just omitting portions," said Weir.

Weir's presentation claimed, that on average, these news stations aired 175 percent of Israeli deaths and 49 percent of Palestinian deaths, Israeli children 164 percent, compared to 16 percent of Palestinian's reported adults. Numbers over 100 percent were derived from what was perceived as repeated reports on later news casts. Weir then used the charts to illustrate how Israeli and Palestinian children's deaths were given somewhat equal coverage; however, Weir sought to demonstrate through her graphs that the deaths of Palestinian children were being omitted by the

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other resource person."

According to Ceppi, the campus spends \$36,709 each academic year generating, conducting and processing course evaluations.

The course evaluations utilize an academic scantron format, requiring students to provide answers to specific course quality, as well as offering opportunities for free-response evaluation. Each evaluation has specific objectives associated with the course. Students are not asked to reveal any parts of their identity; all course evaluations are confidential.

After answering general background information, the student is asked to address questions regarding the instructor and the course: was the instructor well prepared, did the course materials fit the course topic, etc. To answer each question, students choose between five options ranging from "strongly agree," "neutral," to "strongly disagree." To maintain a neutral environment, course instructors are not allowed in the room while students complete the evaluations.

The content on the evaluations is developed by the Academic Senate Faculty Affairs Committee and approved by the Academic Senate as a whole. The deployment method is handled by the Institutional Planning & Analysis committee. Evaluations are generated based on items that have been used in other institutions for many years.

According to Marie Thomas, the Faculty Affairs Committee chair, and Mary Elizabeth Stivers, assistant vice president for Academic Resources, a Faculty Affairs subcommittee works to put the evaluation forms together based on extensive research.

The University Retention, Tenure and Promotion policy addresses the use of the evalua-

tions in faculty personnel decisions, which is also authored by the Faculty Affairs Committee, said Marcia Woolf, Academic Senate coordinator. Recently, the evaluations have been reviewed for modifications by the Academic Senate. The evaluation modifications are expected to go through another review during the 2006/2007 school year.

According to Dr. Dreama Moon, Communication professor and department chair, student evaluations were born during the 1960's and '70's as a result of student resistance. Students felt that professors had a lot of power and control over their grades, while the students themselves had no say regarding the course experience. So, course evaluations were created and became a part of professors' job performance review. "I read mine and attended to the comments that are helpful and constructive, but some [are] not," said Dr. Moon.

While course evaluations were born out of Baby Boomer student activism, today's college students may feel less engaged about them, according to Moon. "Students often don't give them much attention or thought," said Dr. Moon. "I believe in student power and their voices should be heard, but it's like a mechanic evaluating a plumber."

"It's just a way of getting students' opinions without actually dealing with them," said Austin Anderson, Communication major and graduating senior. "I'm sure there's a law out there that requires [course evaluations], but I don't think the [administrators] sit there and actually read them."

In fact, Article 15 (15.14 - 15.17) of the California Faculty Association collective bargaining agreement outlines the policies on course evaluations completed by students. According to the

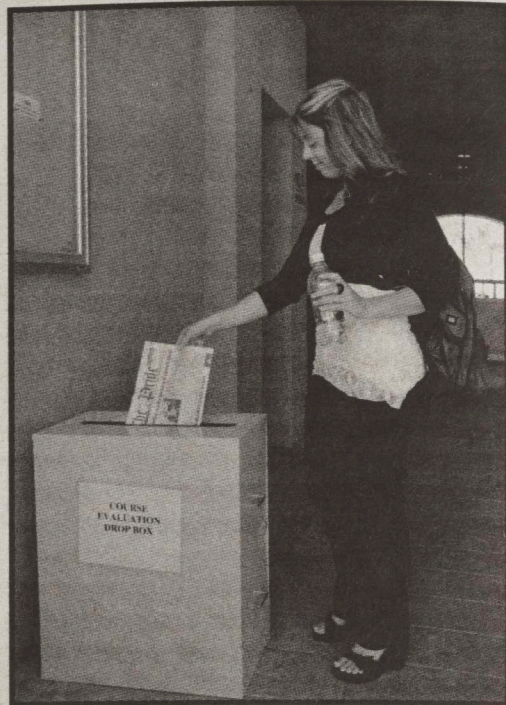
agreement, "written student questionnaire evaluations shall be required for all faculty unit employees who teach. A minimum of two (2) classes annually for each faculty unit employee shall have such written student evaluations. The results of these evaluations shall be placed in the faculty unit employee's Personnel Action File."

Also, after the evaluations have been confidentially filled out by students, they are sent to the Institutional Planning & Analysis Office for scanning and compilation of results. Every single evaluation received is read and recorded. Then, the results are delivered to the Dean's office. From there, they are then sent to the corresponding instructors. Each academic department/college at CSUSM uses the evaluations differently.

"Course evaluations are only one method for instructors to gain feedback from students," said Ceppi. "Ongoing solicitation of feedback, during the course, through email, WebCT, class and outside the class discussions enhances the instructors' ability to continuously assess and monitor their effectiveness."

Ashley Jenks, music track VPA major and graduating senior, said that the course evaluations do not allow students to provide more context and depth about their courses. Simply because a student earns an "A" in a course does not necessarily mean that the instructor was top notch.

"We should be surveyed midway through the semester [when students are more highly engaged]" said Jenks. "The way the ques-



Marina Cabrales turns in her Pride evaluations.

Photo by David Gatley / The Pride

tions are formulated obligates students to answer a certain way. It's very black and white."

After looking at a course evaluation sheet, it is evident that most questions limit students to five or so answer choices, ultimately choosing only one. On the back side of the sheet, there is a six inch blank space provided for students to write in their assessments of the course and their instructor. As stated in Article 15 of the CFA agreement, "The format of student evaluations shall be quantitative (e.g., "Scantron" form, etc.) or a combination of quantitative and qualitative (e.g., space provided on the quantitative form for student comments)."

Mr. Ceppi offers some insight as to why students should take course evaluations more seriously: "Students share in the responsibility for their learning outcomes. By completing course evaluations they are contributing to the process for assessing and improving methods employed by instructors that teach students how to learn."

Corrections and Clarifications:

Volume XV Issue No. 12. Article "International Fair: food and dance unites cultures," byline should have read Katrena Robinson

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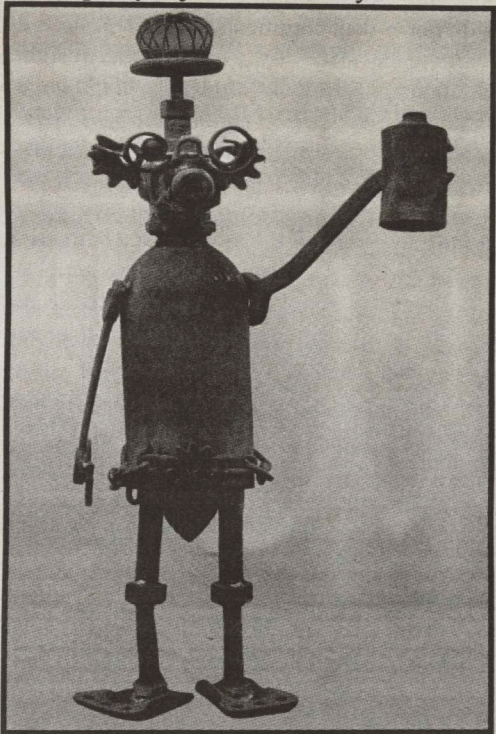
Carl Hanson, member of the Green Team, a division that operates out of Facility Services, attributes the school's success to the Blue Team's commitment to excellence, in addition to the large amounts of cardboard collected during new campus construction and renovations. "We are the cardboard kings," said Hanson. "The Markstein Hall opening produced a lot of cardboard, which we were able to capture and recycle."

RecycleMania is a ten week friendly competition created to increase awareness on the need to reduce all waste including trash and recyclables. The goal is to acknowledge the institution that was able to "collect the largest amount of recyclables, the least amount of trash and have the highest recycling rate," according to the rules at recyclemaniacs.org.

The official "Thank You Day Event" and presentation of the new trophy is scheduled for the month of September to applaud and recognize the campus' hard work and continual commitment.

"We would like to thank those who contributed to this wonderful victory by Reducing, Reusing and Recycling . . . and a special thanks to the people who made that extra effort in their own areas to help capture and claim all of those recyclables," said the Cal State San Marcos Blue Team.

"I expect the competition to get bigger and bigger with every year," said Hanson. As this event grows in popularity, Cal State San Marcos will have to do even better to defend its title. "There is always room for improvement," said Hanson. "Ultimately, our dream is to produce zero waste! We need to improve campus communication and student involvement to create a culture that when you step on campus, you just know to recycle."



Grand Master Champion trophy made from recycled material.

Photo courtesy of recyclemania.com

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stations at a rate of 22:1 and 8:1 for adults, implying that a vast number of Palestinian deaths are not covered.

Weir's presentation then went into a series of graphic photos of numerous Palestinian men and women killed by Israeli soldiers during the "recent conflict." The slides provided when and where on their bodies the Palestinians were shot, but no further information was offered. Later in the evening, when Weir was questioned as to the circumstances of these deaths, she still gave no explanation as to the circumstances. The photos went on to show a number of children injured and killed by Israelis, most of which with no explanation at all to the circumstance. The most that was offered by Weir was that a few of the children were throwing rocks. When again pressed by questioning as to any provocation of these deaths or perhaps what it was the boys were throwing rocks at, Weir again implied no provocation or reason for the actions of the Israeli's military members.

Weir then transitioned into her brief history of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and the conflict surrounding the area. Her history excluded biblical history of the region; instead, her account of the region began with the relinquishing of control of the region by England to the United Nations. The United Nations then decided, after World War II, to give what is today Israel to the Jewish people.

According to Weir, the current tensions and violence in the region resulted from the "unfair" division of the land in 1948, granting 55 percent of the region to the Jewish people and 45 percent to the indigenous Arab people.

Her historical account continued into what she said the Israelis refer to as, "the war of independence"; historically, this war is referred to as the Six Day War.

Weir's account of the Six Day War amounted to what she called the Israeli's 'Pearl Harbor-like' attack on the United States in 1967, when the Israeli "brutally attacked the USS Liberty for relentless hours killing 34 American servicemen and injuring 172 others." Weir said, it was during this attack when Israel took Gaza and the West Bank and initiated the current conflict.

Weir then proceeded to show slides and describe her 2001 trip to the region,



The above photograph features the city of Khan Yunis, in central Gaza, in February 2001. "Since then, the area has been even more destroyed," said Weir. "In the past few weeks, Israel has sent over 2,300 artillery shells and 34 missiles into Gaza," according to Weir.

Photo courtesy of Alison Weir from "If Americans Knew.Org"

where she toured the area as a freelance reporter. Her slide show featured many photographs of her trip to the West Bank. Once the locals discovered Weir was a journalist, she said the townspeople "flocked" to her, wanting to show her the damage to their homes from Israeli bullets and bombs. The homes, depicted by the pictures Weir took, showed shells of what were once homes and apartment buildings, as well as leveled fields and farm land, with border walls in the background.

When questioned as to the circumstances surrounding the pictures she displayed, Weir denied any wrong doing by the Palestinians to provoke these actions by the Israelis. Weir then went on to describe a common scenario where Israelis drive their tanks and their fully outfitted soldiers anywhere to assault the Palestinian people and their homes, "intentionally creating poverty" and "intentionally executing children."

Weir points out that the United States is currently giving "\$10 million per day in aid to Israel." On the contrary, her website suggests that \$15,139,178 per day is given in aid. Weir said that, "we (Americans) helped create this conflict through our aid," contributing to the violence.

Weir was asked what circumstances drove the Israelis to undertake these actions. Weir insisted that after conversing with and among the Palestinians, she did not see, and was not ever aware of, any provocation on behalf of the Palestinians.

When asked about her views on the Pal-

estinian group, Hamas, Weir responded saying that Hamas was primarily a "social service group," working within the communities.

Weir said "Hamas is seen as a reform party." She claimed that the creation of Hamas was the result of the people "being killed and starved under the Fatah government and the corruption of Arafat and his call for an equal secretarial democratic state." Weir claimed "that Hamas was responsible for holding a recent truce for a year."

When asked about the means by which Hamas wages war, Weir immediately started to justify suicide bombings by explaining that, "without planes, attack choppers or tanks, [suicide bombing] is the only means of delivering a bomb that the Hamas has." Responding to the question about the locations for where Hamas delivers their attacks, Weir said "Soldiers eat in restaurants and market places," stating that it's the military that Hamas is attacking in these public places, not the Israeli citizens. Weir began to tell of her time spent in Israel and related it to why Hamas would attack public buses. "When I would take the public bus in Israel, I would get on to see two or three soldiers already on board; by the time we got to the end of the line, several others had gotten onboard."

The above viewpoints are intended to represent only the view points of the speaker, and her affiliate organizations. For more information about Weir and her perspective on the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, visit IfAmericansKnew.org.

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On Campus: Job Fair gathers community

BY ZACHARY SIMON
Pride Staff Writer

The 14th annual Job Fair began with an opening speech by President Haynes emphasizing the quality of CSUSM in the workforce, followed by a raffle between the 110 represented businesses. From 11am to mid afternoon, students passed through the human resource gauntlet, armed with everything from hesitant curiosity to a stack of resumes. From one representative to the next, the immediate incentives ranged from pens to candy, the ultimate incentives from 'great experience' to 'a lifelong career.' While some employers were eager to shake hands and discuss their prospects, others hardly made eye contact.

In such an environment, it might seem daunting to decide where to begin; fortunately, a popular reptilian mascot had done his job at making his company seem friendly.

Wendy Blucater, of Geico HR, explained that she, along with attendant sales and service supervisors, like many employees, represented at fairs as part of their job description, but was eager to emphasize that they are "highly involved" both as sponsors of the Fair and the hiring of the "great students" that come out of CSUSM.

Asked why students might seem more eager to approach larger and well known companies, she described Geico as "reputable and financially stable" with "no lay-offs and tremendous career growth." Speaking with other well-recognized, and even longer running companies, representatives from the various divisions of Wells Fargo, for instance, all agreed that both employees and customers look for name recognition. More importantly, though, Ms. Blucater made clear that "Geico is open to all majors, but there are some specialized positions."

Throughout the fair many stu-

dents were likely to be asked 'what's your major' in an inviting manner, only to answer, and hear the rep. respond with 'that's cool,' and nothing more.

Sometimes the seemingly more low profile tables turned out to have the most behind them. Cory Stepanek, of Genworth Financial, in a small corner, was eager to enter into a dialog without trying to screen this reporter out in the first minute. His company was part of the financial service division of GE for 10 years. It spun off only 2 years, ago but is already a fortune 500, active in 38 countries.

In addition to such things that might impress or perhaps intimidate, we spoke of the importance of bringing in a workplace from all walks of life. "It's critical to have diversity in the workplace ... we already have 50/50 male/female, but what we really target is people who are passionate about believing in what long term care can do. Background has very little impact on what we're looking for; we love diversity because we're looking to reach everyone, because everyone deals with aging."

The conversation continued, and Mr. Stepanek discussed how good it was for businesses to work from the standpoint of a more needs-based than cut-throat, monopolizing market. "As an industry we need to work together ... not fight each other, because that doesn't help anybody; it hurts consumers' confidence, it hurts the industry, and is not solving the need." He then pointed to the auto industry, and how car lots never used to be 'auto malls' when they saw each other as competition, but now see the advantages of 'one stop shopping.'

As many other prospective employees would be asked that day, he wanted to know not only what skills would be brought to the table, but 'why do you want to work in this field?'

Representatives from Alpha Kappa Psi were also present at the Fair. VP of administration, Gustavo Santiago, was proud to note that his fraternity has always helped out at the career center. As he helped distribute lunches and water bottles to the tables, he reflected on whether his fraternity was more so looking to do some recruiting, or some 'networking' of their own. "It's a mix, but we mostly want to be involved in the community."

While company reps were generally as eager to smile and talk with their neighbors and competitors as with students, a watchful eye could catch some reps leaving their posts to do some networking of their own, scouting new jobs for themselves even as they tried to build their current 'teams'.

In some cases, students would have been hard pressed to say precisely what a given team played for at first glance, hence the value taking the first step.

With no clue as to what 'U media' was, this reporter simply introduced himself and was soon pleasantly surprised.

U media, provided both the marketing and design for our Job Fair. When asked how a company looking for comparatively more creative people might differ from companies looking for students in business or finance, rep Patrick Carmitchel was also eager to speak of his company (and someone's potential place in it) in length.

"People respond to our look, but as a creative company we ask people 'what is your dream?' But we also deal very much with finance. I myself grew up with an artistic background ... we're looking to have both sides of the brain working together, a marriage of consulting and creativity."

There were also present at the fair a number of companies that were well known, but perceived as fields primarily for undergraduates rather than graduates.

Courtney Davis, Jamba Juice, was quick to clarify that they have openings for both. "We have an interest in taking people in as undergrads, then upon graduation moving them into a management role." As for whether her business involved a different approach:

"It depends on the individuals and what they're looking for. I think we have as much a fair share in the market game here as anybody else."

This game also included a number of openings in government institutions, from the High-

way Patrol to the Drug Enforcement Agency, and from the USMC to the IRS.

Connie Blanford, now at the Internal Revenue Service, graduated from CSUSM as a business major 11 years ago, but was attending our career fair for the first time this year.

"We've had all types of students come up, but that's why we direct people towards the website; we're a huge organization and just because there isn't a position open currently it doesn't mean all sorts of jobs couldn't pop up on the website."

Although a number of companies ended the conversation after directing students to their web site, Blanford also went into detail on the number of available internships, as well as co-ops where students could work part time, and how they might bypass having to take certain tests and classes.

Many students are likely already familiar with the aggressive employee-seeking advertising of 'Vector' and the 'workforstudents.com' link. Their team, none of whom looking a day over 25, handed out flyers to anyone who'd take one amid their banner covered with vibrant, happy people promising 'skills for life,' 'income opportunity,' but no mention of what the job actually involved. Of course, anyone who's taken a closer look knows that this 'great opportunity' leads to a commission for each performance of a promotional kitchenware demonstration.

For those who'd prefer to know more about their prospective jobs before they began scattering their resumes to the wind, staffing services like attendant Randstad might be immensely helpful. They, like CSUSM's own Career Center, specialize in providing 'a better idea of what's out there.'

Though, like all other Thurs-



President Haynes addresses prospective employers and employees alike.

Photo by Christine Vaughan / The Pride

day afternoons, most students seemed too busy with their scheduled classes to flood any one event, student Elanor Williams took the time to both peruse the fair and give her opinion of it. "I am definitely in favor of the job fair because in spite of the fact that we have advanced technology, we need the human interaction in order to make good teams and it would be a shame if we no longer had job fairs and were all on the net. To me it's not a healthy way of getting a position."

Brian Degroot, a Finance major who has been here for each of the past four Job Fairs, was very happy with his experience, noting the advantage of directing his major towards the employers looking for it. "The treatment was more personalized, they can answer your questions more directly ... I go to the finance table and right away they're interested, they're definitely coming to me."

Coordinator of this event, Pam Wells, notes that as the campus has grown so has the fair, with more than half a dozen additional employers compared to last year.

Along with Geico, Enterprise, and UPS, the North County Times is also a prominent and long time sponsor of the Job Fair. As they give free advertising to the campus, they aren't charged for their booth, an arrangement predating their newsstands on campus. In that respect Wells clarifies that the Career Center was working with the NC times before ASI.

Though Wells acknowledges that some majors might seem to fair better than others, she notes that "a lot of the employers are looking for all majors. We try to get a wide range of companies, but career fairs don't always work for every employer. We try to limit how many from the same industries attend."

All job-seeking students, in all stages of their education, are encouraged to attend next year's fair and to visit the Career Center at www.csusm.edu/careers

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BY DAVID BAUER
Special to The Pride

Students tired of trudging through the muddy and puddle filled lots X, Y and Z will be grateful to hear that the long awaited F parking lot, set to open during the fall 2006 semester, begins construction this week. The new parking lot will be located behind the existing lot E which is currently predominantly faculty and staff parking. At a cost of \$3.3 million to complete, Lot F will provide over 1600 spaces close to both

Markstein and Science Halls, making the trip from car to class easier for many students who believe the lot is long overdue.

With the projected number of FTEs (full time equivalents—the metric used to measure parking needs) over the next few years, Robert Williams, coordinator of Business Operations, in the Parking Services department, believes there will be more than adequate parking for students.

Pointing to a chart with predictions of FTEs for the next several

years, Mr Williams explained that there will be considerably more spaces than students to park in for the next decade or so. "Except for here," pointing to an area between 2007 and 2008, where parking spaces and number of students were almost even.

"This is because we're closing [an existing] lot to build the new parking structure," said Williams.

The construction of lot F is the latest in a number of planned parking upgrades. The next major project being planned is the construction of the first parking structure on campus. The parking structure will be between four and six levels and accommodate up to 2800 cars, depending on the amount of funding that can be secured before its 2008 construction date.

Construction of lot F and the future parking structure are designed to reduce strain on lots X, Y and Z—considered by most students to be both inconvenient and inadequate. Located at the bottom of the hill on the north east corner of Twin Oaks Valley

and Barham, X, Y and Z are a relatively long hike up the path along the side of Barham from the main campus. The signs posted every few feet around lots X, Y and Z warning drivers not to spin their tires for fear of damaging other cars with a spray of rocks, do little to help the negative feelings of students about the dirt lots.

According to the Physical Planning office, the makeshift lots are also located on an area of campus designated for use as sports fields. While the lots are not in immediate risk of disappearing, Mr. Williams concedes that they may unexpectedly be removed if funding for the sports fields is appropriated

or donated. Even if that were to happen, though, according to the predictions of Parking Services, there should be enough parking for students.

Many students weary of hiking uphill through the elements from lots X, Y and Z to their classes don't think the new F lot can come soon enough.

One student, Eric Fiebrantz, Communications 2006, said it would be "great", citing the shorter walk to class and not having to wash his car as often as two clear benefits. In regards to the F lot and eventual construction of the parking structure, he added, "...too bad I'll be graduated before any of it's done".

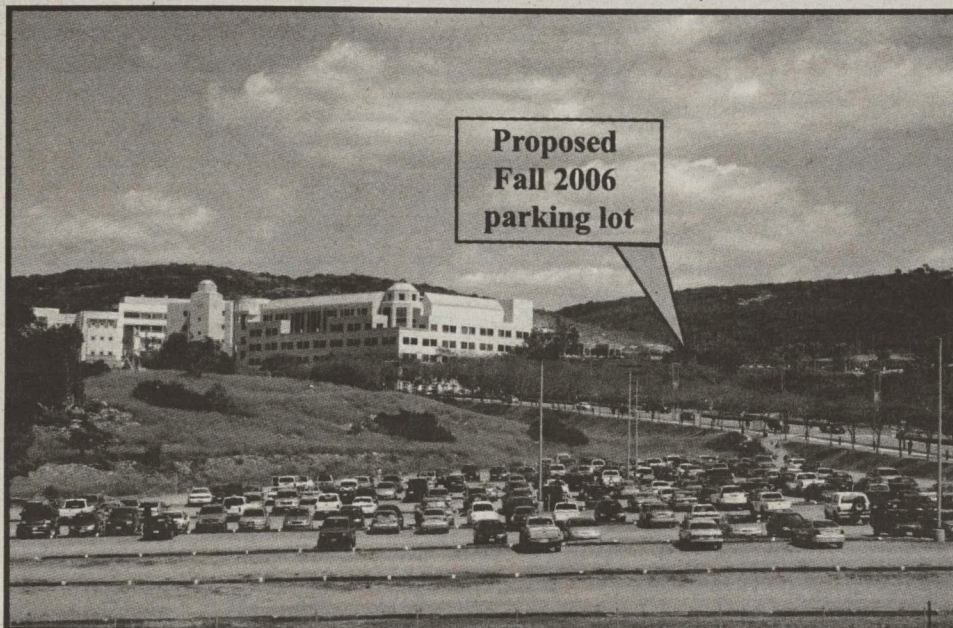


Photo Illustration by David Gatley / The Pride

Weekly Wacky Website: Deathclock.com

BY KATRENA ROBINOSN
Pride Staff Writer

I can't believe I'm going to die on Christmas!

This was my reaction when I visited the website deathclock.com which revealed I was going to die Tuesday, Dec. 25, 2063. To not be intrigued by a title that reads, "Death Clock: the internet's friendly reminder that time is slipping away..." you'd have to have no pulse. The website asks for seven things: the day, month, and year of birth, sex, mode (which is basically asking if you're pessimistic), and BMI (if you don't know yours it helps you calculate it). With these seven things Death Clock calculates how much longer you have to live. As morbid or absurd as it sounds, this site has been visited more than 100,000 times since its apparent inception early in

the century.

Sidebar links include fun archives like "Obituary" where the curious can view the departure time of celebrities like Britney Spear's, who isn't scheduled till February 2061 at eighty-one years old; I'm sure she'll be missed.

Then there's "Your Will" leading to FAQ's about the website, "The Mortuary" as a kind of Death Clock store for t-shirts, screensavers, as well as polls and quote listings. "The Dead Letter Office" is where some of the nastier (and nicer) e-mails are posted. The e-mails sent to the creator of the Death Clock website go as far as accusing the creator of pretending to play God, to accusing them of leaving others in serious distress, awaiting their day (or other loved ones day) of doom. "The Testament" displays the site operator's own rants and raves about the dying

world with a "Your Prayer" link to contact the clock maker directly. There are also insight-

ful links on the page relating to health issues like weight loss and cancer. Of course, this death clock is unrealistic in the many circumstances left unaccounted for, such as actual health (which is crucial when determining life longevity), but all the same it's random fun. There are many different outcomes possible in changing the slightest

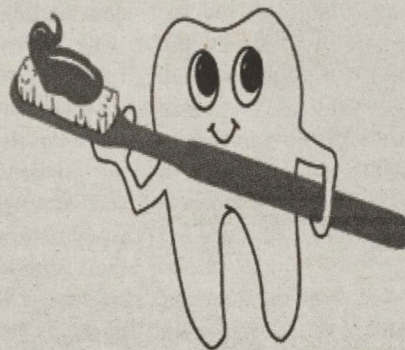
thing about your stats. It's something new (and extra gloomy) to do on a rainy day, and since

we've been having more of those lately, why not give it a try?

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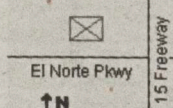
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Community Events: A tourney back in time

BY MICHELLE HEROLD
Pride Staff Writer

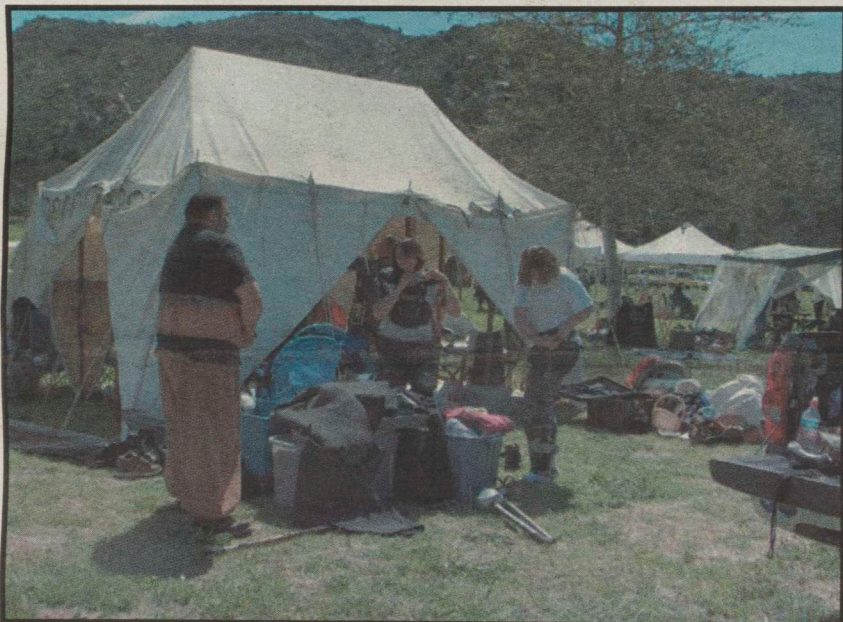
The Society for Creative Anachronism celebrated the Current Middle Ages Saturday, April 1, at Bates Nut Farm in North County. In a Medieval tournament complete with visiting royalty and nobility from both Orange County and San Diego County, the friendship of the two neighboring Baronies was celebrated with dog coursing, archery, and several kinds of weapons combat. The SCA recreates the Middle Ages by holding such tournaments and events, rediscovering the clothing, arts, handicrafts, armor, weapons, and combat methods utilized by the people of that time. Why would someone do this? In the words of Michelle, a newcomer to the SCA, "I love the bright colors and I love the people, they're so friendly and bubbly. I get to wear cute clothes!"

Members wear Medieval cloth-

included. Perhaps to our modern eye some of these might seem overly colorful, or even garish, but in an age long before television, radio, or electronic entertainment of any kind, the people had only themselves with which to entertain each other. This was done partly with fashion, and often with tournaments featuring both local and visiting nobles, knights and other armored fighters.

The Gyldenholt/Calafian Friendship Tourney, as it was called, was just the latest in a long standing tradition between these two Baronies. While Calafia is the Barony that encompasses all of San Diego County, Las Vegas, and Hawaii, Gyldenholt is located in Orange County. In the frequent mock wars in the southwestern United States, these two regions have a long held practice of comraderie, sometimes siding with each other against overwhelming odds.

Very popular among Califor-



ing and choose Medieval personas, the better to study the Middle Ages by actually doing and behaving in a Medieval fashion. The pavilions, armor, and costumes created and worn are all researched exhaustively and recreated as garb and gear that may range in period from the seventeenth century all the way back to earlier times; even pre-Roman personas and pastimes are

nia College campuses, the SCA still has strong support on the UCSD campus in San Diego, and the weekly fighter practice meetings are held in very close proximity to SDSU in San Diego. There is also a local chapter in North County that also holds their own fighter practice on Tuesday evenings.

Jennifer Jones is the head of the Newcomers Guild in North

County (Escondido and San Marcos area), a household set up particularly for new members and people who are interested in becoming involved. Jones enthusiastically invited any questions or comments be directed to her. She said she really wanted to provide a demonstration on the campus of Cal State San Marcos during Rush week, but had no one in the faculty

to facilitate communication with the College. According to the Seneschal, or spokesperson of Calafia, Lady Illora of the West Lea stressed the goals of the SCA, "We are a non-profit historical society, teaching what we have learned." When asked about the possibility of putting on a demonstration of medieval combat and pastimes, she said, "Demos are part of our charter. We love doing it."

The Baronial Fighter practice is held every Sunday at Allied Gardens Rec Center in San Diego from 10:30 until around 3:00

pm. Every first Sunday of the month the entire Brigade practice is held at the same place, with several hundred fighters in attendance. At upcoming fighter practices, Master Thorvald Olafsson will be sponsoring arts and crafts for the non-fighters attending. The first on April second will be the construction of 8th century German Bog Shoes, which he promises can be made in a single

day. There is no participation fee, and spectators are welcomed. Any persons with questions are invited to direct them to Jennifer Jones, (760) 747-5880 or Lady Guenivere Marian Coe at chatelaine@sca-summer-gate.org. To check on upcoming events, including the Mar War in Potrero, the webpage for the Barony of Calafia is www.calafia.org/.

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Any persons with questions are invited to direct them to Jennifer Jones, (760) 747-5880 or Lady Guenivere Marian Coe at chatelaine@sca-summer-gate.org. To check on upcoming events, including the Mar War in Potrero, the webpage for the Barony of Calafia is www.calafia.org/.



Heavy weapons combat is a favored entertainment at the tourney (Topright). Sirpatrick Omalley observes the fighting (Bottom left). Clan Gryphon amors up for the tourney (Middle).

Photos by Michelle Herald / The Pride

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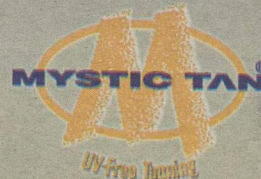
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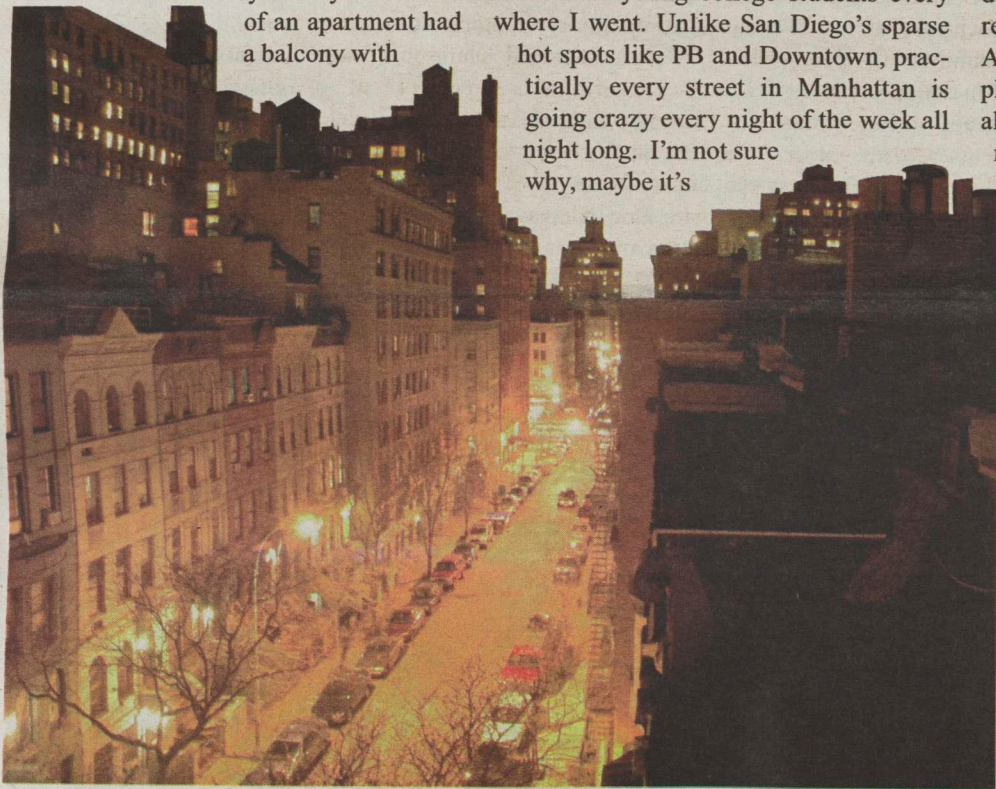


Fall in love with the Big Apple

BY DAVID GATLEY
Pride Staff Writer

Over Spring Break I was fortunate enough to spend five days in Manhattan in what turned out to be, by far, the best time of my life. With a handful of my best friends, a bunch of whom live in New York, I explored and absorbed New York beyond my wildest imaginations. With incredible pub and bar scenes, incomparably delicious Jewish delis, the world's best pizza, buildings the size of mountains, themed restaurants that defy explanation, subway systems that span to eternity, and people that are as friendly as family, the city of New York has never been more inviting.

Staying for free in the Upper West Side definitely didn't hurt matters much. In fact, my buddy's shoebox of an apartment had a balcony with



access to the roof, which was definitely the sweetest part of my entire trip. While nursing hangovers and waiting for nightfall, I was free to roam the roof tops like Spiderman, watching over my temporary home from far above the streets. The Upper West Side is geographically located, well above the majority of the city and on the western side of the island. However, once you step outside your buildings front door, all sense of

direction is lost. Having a native to guide you on your way is definitely a must.

Every night in New York was unbelievable. I found myself mesmerized by the amount of young college students every where I went. Unlike San Diego's sparse hot spots like PB and Downtown, practically every street in Manhattan is going crazy every night of the week all night long. I'm not sure why, maybe it's

because almost every residence is smaller than a closet, driving people outside for their own sanity, or maybe it's because there are more people in this city than most states' entire population, but it seems like the entire community goes out every night to meet one another in some crazy ongoing party where everyone is invited.

When you're not in the mood for a night of drunken debauchery (which was a rare occurrence for me) the city is

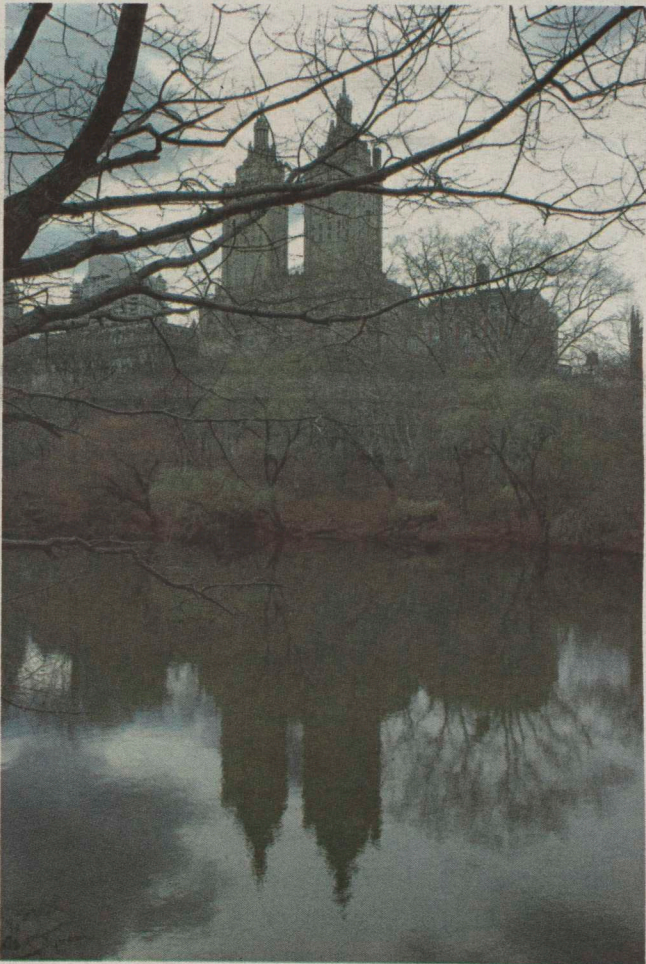
filled with incredible places to go, see, and experience. Opting to spend a little more money for dinner, we decided to go to a themed restaurant called Ninja. All we had heard of the place was something along the lines of real ninjas serving sushi. I mean, how can you go wrong, ninjas, sushi, sharp knives, and sake; most definitely ingredients for a good time. Man, we underestimated the overall experience that restaurant would offer. The restaurant itself could serve as an entire article, but I'll suffice to say that secret passageways, crazy ninja attacks, secret Japanese villages, and ninja magic await to please all of your senses in a most

unforgettable evening. The craziest part of New York has to be that no matter how much time you spend there, no matter how long you live there, you will never discover all that the city has to offer, restaurants like Ninja are tucked away everywhere in the city.

And in case the city is too overwhelming on the senses, smack dab in the

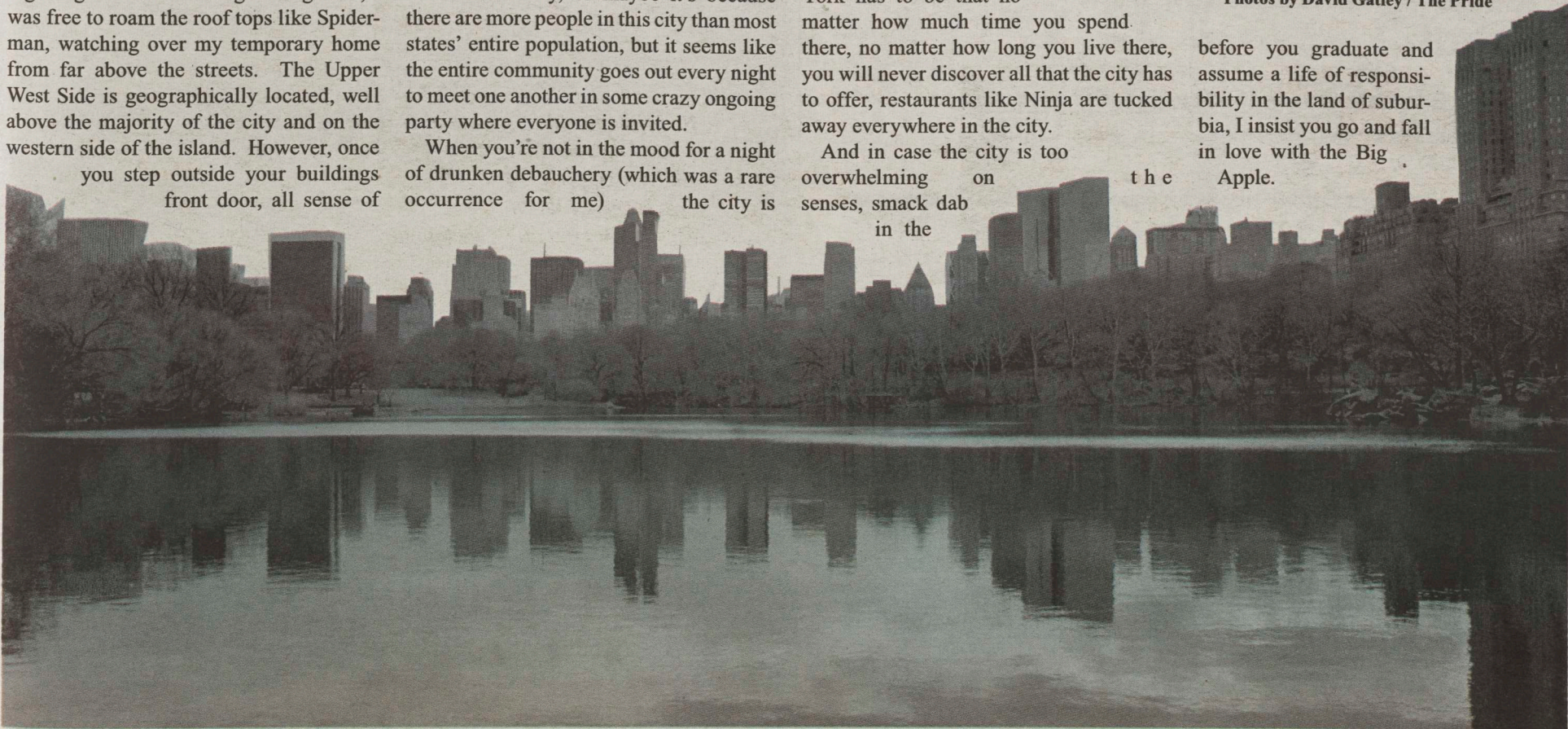
middle of it lies Central Park, quite possibly our nation's greatest city planned park, allows a temporary escape for the cement weary. Spanning grassy hills, open air concert venues, serene lakes and massive oak trees replace the hustle and bustle of the city that never sleeps. Maybe it's the stark contrast of the skyscraper skyline juxtaposed with the natural landscape of the forest, but the park serves to balance out a city of excess.

I could go on forever conveying to you how enamored with the city I am, but even then I wouldn't come close to relaying the experience. If you do one crazy thing



Photos by David Gatley / The Pride

before you graduate and assume a life of responsibility in the land of suburbia, I insist you go and fall in love with the Big Apple.



What does the Day of Silence mean to me?

Growing up in Virginia Beach, VA, I know first hand what silence meant to me. I'm from the birthplace of the Christian Coalition and in my backyard were Pat Robertson and the 700 Club! I was teased, picked on, bullied, beat up, harassed, and made to feel insignificant. Religious groups and individuals always used their teachings to justify their intolerance of me. Growing up Catholic, this caused me a great deal of pain and caused me to leave our family's church. I was no longer welcome. How can this happen? If I tried to ask questions or explain my perspective, it was assumed I must have a personal agenda or was trying to "recruit" new members.

I was quieted!

I was relegated to the fringes. If I do not occupy your space, you do not have to listen to me.

I was silenced!

In honor of those who have been silenced, some of us will take an entire day to show our support by remaining silent ourselves. Critics say that this isn't educational and it serves no purpose. However, I think it is educational. I have faith that this act of silence can and will jumpstart conversation. "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Even though we cannot see it, I believe there is a desire to find that mutual respect. We will only find it by talking – and listening – to each other.

What is the Day of Silence®?

Now in its tenth year, the Day of Silence, a project of GLSEN® or the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Educa-

tion Network in collaboration with the United States Student Association (USSA), is a student-led day of action where those who support making anti-LGBT bullying and harassment unacceptable in schools participate in events to recognize and protest the discrimination and harassment—in effect, the silencing—experienced by lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) students and their allies.

The Day of Silence® is an annual opportunity for students to tell their truths about anti-LGBT bullying, violence and harassment. A GLSEN® commissioned survey, From Teasing to Torment: School Climate in America conducted by Harris Interactive, found that sexual orientation and gender expression are among the top three reasons teens report that students are harassed at their schools. GLSEN's 2003 National School Climate Survey found that 4 out of 5 LGBT students report verbal, sexual or physical harassment at school and more than 30% report missing at least a day of school in the past month out of fear for their personal safety.

The LGBTTA will participate in the 10th Annual Day of Silence event, Wednesday April 26th. Come join us – in silence – to show your support for those who have been silenced against their will. We will meet at 12:00 noon in front of the Kellogg Library. If you would like to participate in this event feel free to stop by and receive a "Silence Card" to show your support. Jay Franklin

Exercise in Gender Normality Violation

I am a white male, six feet tall and a solid 165 pounds. I'm also a Women's Studies and Service Sector Management Major. Recently I arrived at school wearing a tight purple skirt, a poncho and carrying a red purse. Walking across campus, a guy yelled, "Sick!". The reason may be that "real men" are socialized to define themselves by what they are not (women or homosexuals). By distancing themselves from anything considered female or homosexual men can signify that they are in fact masculine. Crying out is useful as it alerts others that one is not to be identified as feminine or homosexual and in fact must be a "real man". Today on campus a man was carrying a pitchfork. Pitchforks are infinitely more dangerous than skirts, yet it hardly raised an eyebrow. What is it about a skirt that provokes such a reaction? If you're wondering why I would come to school dressed as I did, it was an exercise in violating gender norms. Gender norms or "gender scripts" are ideas associated with being either female or male. They are per formative behaviors. By per formative, I mean they are a social constructed script, "a part one plays", when in the presence of others. By following the script other people know how to react; we have all been socialized to

know how women and men are supposed to behave. We all recognize gender stereotypes. For example, if I say "nurse" what gender image comes to mind? If I say "President", what gender image comes to mind? Judith Butler, who is considered to be the creator of modern 'queer theory' and an expert on gender, argues that nothing about one's gender is fixed. If this is true, then our notions of what is female and male are not innate. Considering that Western notions of gender are not universal, Butler's point seems a valid one. Margaret Mead, author of Sex and Temperament in Three Primitive Societies, studies three separate cultures and suggests that which we call feminine and masculine are not linked to biological sex, but rather to social conditioning. In Western society the first question we tend to ask of a newborn babe is, "Is it a girl or a boy?". Based on the child's biological sex, it will be assigned a socially constructed gender. The child's gender will then determine where the child works, how much the child earns, and how the child is viewed and treated by society. Gender seems to be odd criteria to base all of this on especially if gender is not an innate characteristic. If we can accept that gender stereotypes are socially constructed and not universal or innate, then it is

possible to change our notions of female and male. It is possible to do away with the binary that woman and men are opposites. I recommend we challenge the notion that women like pink, are submissive and demure /and men like blue, are aggressive and authoritative. I recommend this because my experience of wearing a dress to school made me think about how a woman might feel when she goes for a job interview for a position of authority that has traditionally been viewed a male position. I do not think anyone would yell remarks at her backside, but I think she may be concerned that people will shake their heads and say, no that doesn't fit in our narrow view of female / male. We could learn from cultures that do not subscribe to Western notions of female/male. Blurring the gender lines would result in more women in leadership positions and more men being able to express emotion and vulnerability. I think I'm not alone in my thinking, a woman dressed in a smart looking business suit gave me ---in my dress--- a knowing smile. Maybe she understood that breaking down gender stereotypes is empowering to everyone. Maybe she was even a little bit flattered, after all mimicry is the most sincere form of flattery. -Terrence Jaffer

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Jock Talk With Josh: NFL Draft

BY JOSH SANDOVAL
Special to The Pride



The NFL draft will take place on April 29 and 30. Reggie Bush is clearly going number one over-all to the Houston Texans. After that, the draft is up in the

air.

If the New Orleans Saints stay at the number two spot, they could grab defensive end Mario Williams or offensive tackle D'Brickashaw Ferguson, unless they trade down. The Tennessee Titans are thought to be heavily interested in Matt Leinart since their offensive coordinator, Norm Chow, was Leinart's coach at USC. I think, however, that the Titans will draft Vince Young, because they already have a comparable quarterback in Steve McNair and wouldn't need to change their offense for an immobile quarterback like Leinart. The New York Jets have the number four pick and I see them jumping at the chance to take Leinart.

After the Jets, the draft is so wide open I don't know who is going to go where. The Chargers, for example, pick at number 19 and could go after a cornerback or wide receiver.

I wish Texas defensive back Michael Huff would slip down the draft, because he is an impact player, but he is definitely going in the top 15.

A more realistic pick that could drop would be Virginia Tech defensive back

Jimmy Williams. I like Williams because he isn't afraid to make mistakes. He takes a lot of chances when playing and I think that would be a nice turnaround from current Charger backs that play afraid. Tye Hill from Clemson is projected as the next best player at that position, but I don't like him because he is inexperienced since he started as a running back and he is way too small at 5-foot-9. Jonathan Joseph from South Carolina is rated right after Hill and is also inexperienced at the position, only having one full season as a starter under his belt.

Antonio Cromartie from Florida State is the guy that I think San Diego will draft. The cornerback missed all of last year because he tore ligaments in his left knee. In 2004, he also played wide receiver and was impressive at that position as well. He also impressed scouts and general managers in the draft workouts, and the Chargers have even brought him in to talk to him.

This is a very weak draft for wide receivers so don't expect the Chargers to go that route in the first round. If they do, though, look at Chad Jackson from Florida, Antonio Holmes from Ohio State or Sinorice Moss from Miami. I am not a fan of any of these guys, but I do like Jackson the most out of the three. He has a great combination of size and speed and he was only a junior last season so he does have some potential. Holmes is smaller than and not as strong as Jackson, but he does have room for improvement since he is only a junior,

too. Moss is the question mark of the wide receiver class. He kind of reminds me of Steve Smith from the Carolina Panthers. Moss is small, but has explosive speed. He could, however, also be severely undersized and be a bust in the NFL.

If the Chargers somehow found a way to move up in the draft, look for them to take offensive tackle Winston Justice from USC. They brought Justice in to talk with him, but he is expected to be a top 15 pick after impressive draft workouts. The Chargers would go this route, because they need to protect their young quarterback, Phillip Rivers. The quarterback will definitely go through some growing pains, and several offensive linemen always seem to go down, so having a young guy like Justice would only help.

What could also affect their draft outlook is that the Chargers are supposedly looking

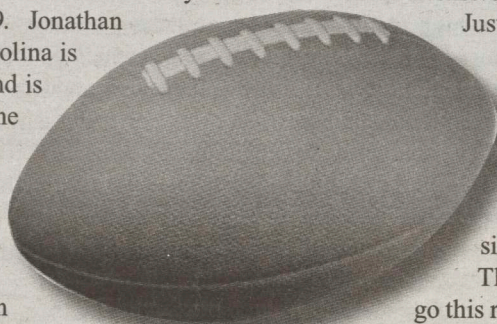
to trade linebacker Donnie Edwards, for a draft pick, most likely. If Edwards goes, then the Chargers have a linebacker spot to fill and could possibly have another pick in the first or second round.

After A.J. Hawk, Ernie Sims from Florida State is the next rated linebacker. I don't like him, however, because he is under sized.

Chad Greenway from Iowa is rated next, but he really isn't that strong, even though he does have nice size. I would love to see Bobby Carpenter from Ohio State get picked by the Chargers. He is underrated because his college teammate, Hawk, got a lot of the attention in school. Carpenter reminds me of Shawne Merriman from last season. I was very high on Merriman last season because he could play defensive end and linebacker in college and was also overlooked. Carpenter fits that exact mold and could be a steal in the late first round if the Chargers could pick up another pick.

Whatever the Chargers do, I just hope they don't draft another Ryan Leaf.

Comments can be sent to Sando026@csusm.edu.



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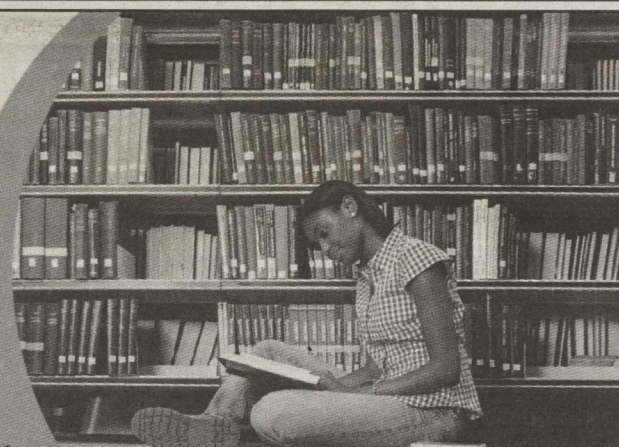
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The Worst-Case Scenario Survival Handbook: Dating and Sex

BY MICHELLE HEROLD
Pride Staff Writer

Have you been feeling unlucky lately? Could you use some help? Perhaps *The Worst-Case Scenario Survival Handbook: Dating And Sex* by Piven, Borgenicht, and Worick is for you. Have you ever wondered how to tell if your date is an axe murderer? A con artist? Or even (gasp) married? This is the book for you! In it you will find definitive hints and helps to determine these things, and so much more! In the first section, called Defensive Dating, there is even a section on how to determine the gender of your date (in case it is in question).

Full of many helpful hints, like "How To Deal With A Date Who Moves Too Fast" (to stop unwanted kisses, claim you have a cold, or merely cough or sneeze in their face); to "How To Fend Off A Pickup Artist" (Do not accept drinks, or cause an "accident" by inadvertently knocking glasses, empty or full, into their lap when you turn back to face them). But always remember to apologize (insincerely).

In "How To Escape From A Bad Date", tips range from having a friend call you with news of a family "emergency" to advice on how to slip away unnoticed, complete with quick disguise ideas you can implement in the restroom until you can make your escape. This includes addition or subtraction of clothing, cosmetics, accessories, even changes in hairstyle and posture. Even borrowing an apron from the hired help can be useful in a truly desperate situation. This chapter also contains instructions and techniques for breaking and escaping through the bathroom window (Use the wastebasket, toilet plunger, or paper towel dispenser

to break the glass, and then use your jacket or sweater to remove the shards until you can escape).

In "How To Survive If You Have Excessive Gas", tips range from limiting the type and amount of food you eat with gas-forming food identified, as well as specific postures you can assume to allow the gas to escape "Kneel on the floor, bend forward, and stretch your arms out in front of you. Keep your buttocks high in the air..." in the privacy of the restroom, of course.

In "How To Survive If Your Credit Card Is Declined" in a restaurant, advice ranges from offering collateral or providing references, to the "Dine and Dash". In a step by step process, the dine and dash option is outlined: be prepared to 1. Accept the consequences (never going back again). 2. Tell your date the plan. 3. Plan your route of escape. 4. Wait until the staff is busy. 5. Pretend to pay the bill with cash. 6. Walk confidently out the door. 7. If you are being followed, do not go directly to your car. Of course stiffing a restaurant is illegal. You can arrange to pay the restaurant through a third party, but it is probably not a good idea to go back yourself.

In "How To Determine If Your Date Is Married", (always a good idea) the warning signs to look for are: a pale band of flesh around the left ring finger, not being able to get their home phone number, refusals to allow any public displays of affection, tell-tale signs left in their car like someone else's cosmetics, pacifiers, toys, etc. Inversely, these are things to

avoid in "How To Have An Affair And Not Get Caught", as well as how to organize a series of convincing alibis and witnesses to help explain your absences. Of course, if you always pay in cash you leave no paper trail, and keeping a change of clothes in your car eliminates laundry mysteries such as lipstick stains and strange cologne smells which could give you away.

Even topics such as how to fake an orgasm, remove difficult clothing, have sex in small spaces (like elevators and airplanes) are addressed. Difficult issues like

how to survive waking up next to someone who's name you don't remember and how to properly stop a wedding are enumerated and explained. In the back there is also a helpful appendix of bad pick-up lines to avoid, and even a basic draft of the "It's not you, it's me" break-up letter, with appropriate modifiers to fit each relationship.

The Worst-Case Scenario Survival Handbook is a series that always contains loads of useful information from professionals in their field, and they are a lot of fun to read.



Comic courtesy of Robert Vaughan

Summer movies for Cougars to catch

BY KATIE ROWE
Pride Staff Writer

A diverse selection of movies hits the Silver Screen over the next few months, so whether you're a movie theater buff or a wait till in comes out on DVD kind of person, you might want to know what is coming soon.

Options for this week's moviegoers include: *American Dreamz*, *The Sentinel*, *Silent Hill*, and *Her Line of Fire*.

American Dreamz, a satire of reality talent shows like *American Idol*, tells the story of America consumed by the competition between Sally played by Mandy Moore and a young man named Omer, a lover of show tunes played by new actor named Sam Goltzari. *The President*,

played by Hugh Grant, desperate for some of America's attention, signs up for the show's season finale.

The Sentinel is a new action drama starring Michael Douglas as Pete Garrison. Garrison is a glorified Secret Service Agent who, while investigating the death of a fellow agent, becomes the main suspect and goes on the run in attempt to find the real killer.

Silent Hill is a survival horror film of a mother named Sharon, played by actress Radha Mitchell, who takes her daughter Sharon to an eerie and deserted town in a desperate attempt to find a cure for her illness, but strange events happen upon their arrival.

Akeelah and the Bee, *Clean, Heaven*, *Lady Vengeance*, *Lost city*, *RV*, *Stick it*,

Water, and the controversial film *United 93* all open on April 28.

RV, a comedy starring Robin Williams, shows one father attempt to bring his dysfunctional family together by dragging them on a road trip.

The inspirational drama *Akeelah and the Bee*, is a story of a young girl from south Los Angeles and how her gift with words unites a community.

United 93 tells the story of the actual events that took place during Flight 93 on 9/11 as passengers worked together to stop terrorists.

May is a big movie month with *Mission Impossible 3* opening May 5, *The Da Vinci Code* on May 19 and *X-men: The Last Stand* on May 26.

Mission Impossible 3 is a long anti-

pated sequel to Tom Cruise's action series which also features an appearance from his latest love, Katie Holmes. Likewise, *The Da Vinci Code* starring Tom Hanks will grace the silver screen as an awaited adaptation of Dan Brown's novel. Lastly, *X-men* fans won't have to wait much longer for a follow up to their favorite action saga; as the newest sequel features staple talents from Hugh Jackman, Ian McKellen, and Halle Berry.

The summer has many more great movies in store, including the much anticipated *Superman Returns*, opening June 30.

For a complete list of what's coming out when and more information about the movies, check out <http://www.fandango.com>.

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Liz Gateley is no fake at reality

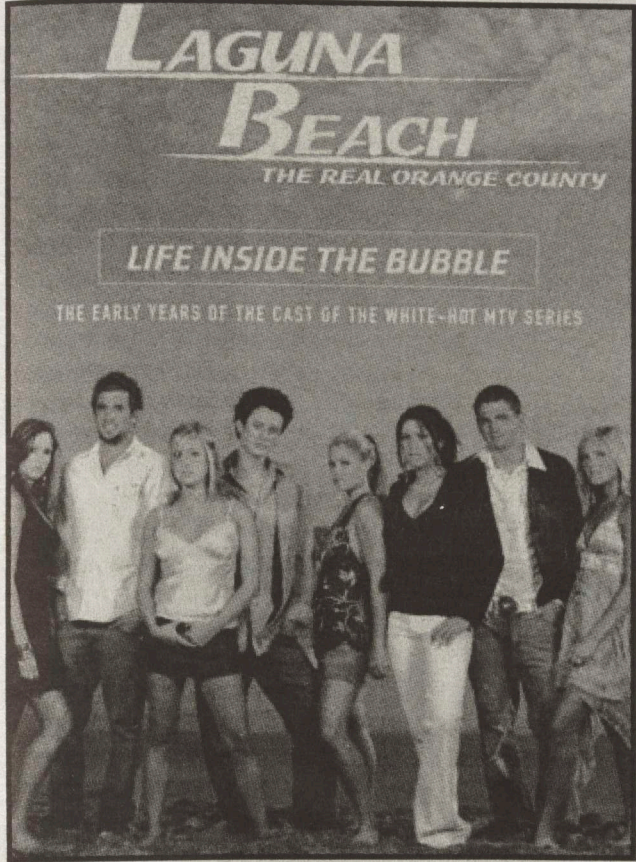


Photo courtesy of Pocket Books Publishing

BY AMANDA KEELEY
Pride Staff Writer

Whether you love them or hate them, reality dramas like “Power Girls,” “Laguna Beach,” “8th and Ocean” and the anticipated, “The Hills” are some of the most popular shows on MTV, and a woman by the name of Liz Gateley is behind them. All the shows have common production style; they are set in fabulous cities, and follow equally fabulous, young people, who are finding their way in the world, while generating lots of drama. Before the days of “Laguna Beach”, Gateley was the director of development at the Lifetime Channel and worked on the biography show “Intimate Portrait.” “Power Girls” aired in March, 2005, and focused on a New York based public relations firm owned by Lizzi Grubman and her four interns. There were only six epi-

sodes, but they made quite an impact and brought a lot of attention to the world of public relations. Laguna Beach aired in September of 2004 and was an instant hit. According to the nytimes.com, when Gateley pitched the show “Laguna Beach”, she used the 1989 movie “Heathers” as her inspiration. When asked if it would be possible to find an alpha clique of friends and have them all be interesting and beautiful; Gateley responded, “They’re a dime a dozen in Southern California; they’re everywhere,” according to the nytimes.com. The newest show that just debuted in March 2006 follows ten professional models living together in an apartment complex in the heart of South Beach as they make their way in the world of competitive modeling. “The Hills” is set to air this year in a spin off of “Laguna Beach,” but only focuses on one character, Lauren “LC” Conrad, as she moves on with life

to L.A where she goes to fashion school and interns for Teen Vogue. The shows claim to be reality, but the stories told are far from average. The shows have been criticized for being scripted, but according to Answers.com, the show is filmed with multiple cameras allowing the show to be edited as a traditional narrative rather than a documentary with confessionals, like seen in the “Real World”. Liz Gateley was quoted saying on PerezHilton.com that “there are times when something big goes down the night before and we’ll ask, ‘can you wait until the cameras are there to talk about it?’” They may be real people in somewhat real situations, but that doesn’t mean there isn’t a little help from editing to make for good T.V. Next time you’re at home watching your favorite reality show, don’t forget that there is a story to be told and the editors make it happen.

Beer of the week

BALLAST POINT IPA

BY MATTHEW SCHRAMM
Pride Staff Writer

India Pale Ale, or IPA, is a style of beer that has seen a revival in recent years. Its growth in popularity is amazingly when one considers that IPAs were primarily a dead beer until microbrewers started reviving them. IPAs are especially popular with California microbrewers, and among the forefront of these is the Ballast Point Big Eye IPA. India Pale Ale’s are known for their high hop and alcohol content, and Big Eye is no exception. Based on a style of beer invented during England’s colonial/empire days, IPAs were made by brewers who were forced to come up with ways to keep beer lasting longer for sea voyages to far off English outposts in places like India (thus double

the hops and increase the alcohol). The modern American revival of the IPA style retains these features, yet adds a lot more flavor to it as well. Big Eye IPA pours a clear golden color, with a generous amount of hops used, as promised. Topping off the hoppy flavor is a mixture of citrus and pine flavors. Strong, but smooth, Big Eye IPA is a memorable, American style India Pale Ale. Based in San Diego, Ballast Point Brewing is just over 10 years old, but has already become one of San Diego’s foremost brewers. Big Eye IPA, as well as other Ballast Point beers, such as the popular Yellowtail Pale Ale, are available throughout San Diego, and can be readily found at such stores as Beverages and More. For more information on Big Eye IPA and the brews of Ballast Point, visit www.ballastpoint.com.

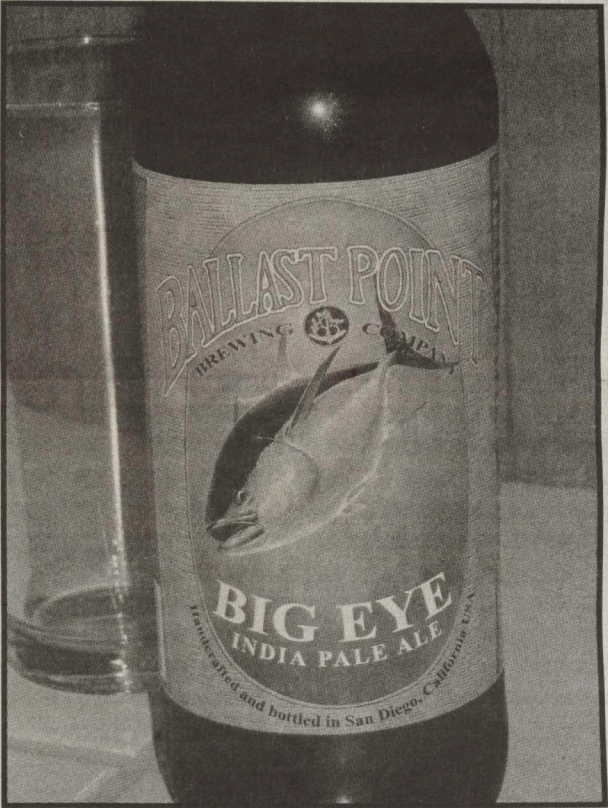


Photo by Matthew Schramm / The Pride

HAS SLEVINS’ LUCK RUN OUT?

BY PIYAMAS SABLAN
Pride Staff Writer

“Lucky Number Slevin”, directed by Paul McGuigan, is a new take on the classic theme of revenge, which has weaved its thread through the plot lines of numerous movies. Someone gets shot within minutes of the opening scene, giving the audience a peek at the action, guns, and gore to follow. Bruce Willis plays an assassin named Mr. Goodkat and is a necessary evil in the lives of the unlawful abiding head honchos of the criminal underworld. Willis plays his usual unemotional tough guy character, firing one-liners throughout the movie. Trailers of the movie might lead some to believe that Willis plays the leading role in the movie, but the main character, named Slevin, is actually played by Josh Hartnett. Slevin bobs and weaves through a series of unlucky circumstances brought about by the two main criminal bosses in New York, who have mistaken his identity for that of his friend, Nick Fisher.

The main bosses are The Boss, played by Morgan Freeman, and Shlomo, aka The Rabbi, played by Ben Kingsley. Unfortunately for Slevin, the bosses don’t believe and don’t care that he’s not Nick. Slevin is forced to repay the financial debt Nick has incurred on the bosses’ bookies’ financial records. There is a surprise plot twist towards the end of the movie, which might be deemed predictable by some avid moviegoers. Slevin’s self described “inability to worry” sometimes comes across the silver screen as arrogance. Hartnett fans may be swayed to watch the movie for pure visual enjoyment watching Hartnett traipse around New York in nothing but a towel for a good portion of the first half. The dialog was a bit forced, and it seemed like there was more than the necessary amount of incessant banter and cryptic dialog between characters. A weak attempt at romance is thrust into

the storyline with the introduction of Lindsey played by Lucy Liu. Lindsey is quirky, but her child-like awe and acceptance of Slevin’s ties to the criminal world is borderline irritating. There was no chemistry between Liu and Hartnett, so their characters looked forced into romance. The storyline jumps around from the past to the future and from here to there, so I don’t recommend missing a scene to relieve your bladder unless you don’t mind being discombobulated upon your return. Overall, “Lucky Number Slevin” is a visually stimulating movie for those who appreciate hitman induced murder scenes and for those who aren’t looking for an emotional roller coaster ride.

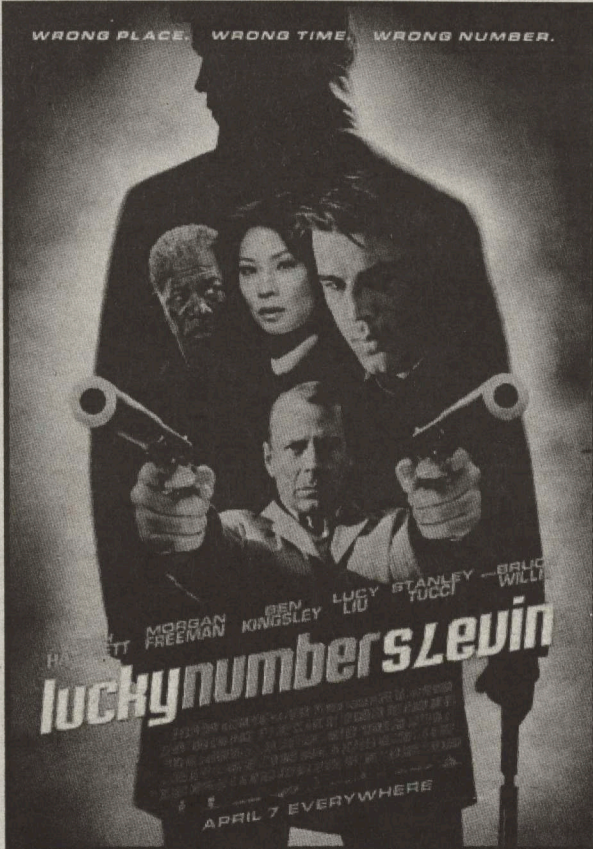


Photo courtesy of Ascendant Pictures

Dear Pride Newspaper,

I think you should include some 'bumps' in your paper like the ones on adult swim every night. That would be super cool!

-Johnny324.

BY DAVID GATLEY
Pride Staff Writer

Grab your floaties and come on in, the water's fine.

It's time for Adult Swim.

All your friends are waiting: three loveable, life-sized fast food items, a future of underwater living, loopy scientists, a group of hill-billy squids, and many more. Be prepared

to ditch

normality, lose all sense of logic and embrace absurdity at its best.

C a r t o o n

Network's late night block of 18-33 year old oriented programming is a smash hit with insomniacs nationwide. If you are fortunate enough to regularly watch Adult Swim, then you completely understand the challenge in

front of me when it comes to explaining what exactly Aqua Teen Hunger Force is or why the scientists at Sealab 2021 are actually there. And, for those of you who haven't stared at the TV, jaw dropped, abdominal muscles cramped, tears flowing and completely lost as to why you're laughing, bear with me. If at the end of this article you aren't

more confused than when you began, then I've failed

completely, and I apologize in advance.

To begin, I bring to you the Squidbillies.

Somewhere deep within the northern Georgia Mountains lives a family of yokel squids. When they aren't shooting guns and crossbows for no reason whatsoever, they are having sex with things, watching cock fights,

drinking mass quantities of cheap beer and hating all things and people different.

[adult swim]

And they're squids.

Next, we have Aqua Teen Hunger Force, a family of fast food items living in suburbia: an order of fries with mysterious powers, a solipsistic milk shake, and a naïve wad of meat, who always seems to get into and out of some kind of ill-fated trouble. Their enemies, the mooninites (oddly shaped blobs from outer

SQUIDBILLIES

space), Karl (the fat, hairy, human next door neighbor), and a variety of monster chickens, scorpions and voodoo witches frequently join the fray.

Meanwhile, Sealab 2021, details the exploits of a science colony living underwater to investigate the possibilities of ... living in a colony underwater? If they succeed at anything, it's proving to the world that living underwater makes you lose your mind entirely.

And last in my installment, we have Space

about 25 different cartoons in its lineup. Some of the shows are much more politically oriented, like the Boondocks, and some are more along the lines of anime like InuYasha. These four, however, are a good representation of the mindless absurdity that Adult Swim

has to offer. It is refreshing to watch a comedy that isn't actually forcing the humor. In fact, I'll go so far as to



Ghost Coast to Coast. A superhero turned real celebrity interviewer. Sound odd? It gets weirder, much weirder. Additional characters include Zorak the evil handleading praying mantis, Brak the childishly crazy sideshow, and Moltar the apathetic director.

Adult Swim actually rotates

say most of these shows aren't even trying to be funny at all. These writers seem to find their humor in creating a show so far detached from reality that only your imagination can find any comedy in the situations.

Dear Johnny324,

OK.

-The Pride.

