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SPORTS

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FEATURES



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OPINION

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6 - We have a hot button issue with the Campus Ministry USA showing up on the CSUSM campus. Read a Letter to the Editor submitted my a concerned students and also read one staff writers opinion about the events that took place on March 12.

A & E

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OUR NEXT ISSUE

April 4

ASI presidential candidates express common goals for students on campus

BY JULIANA STUMPP
A & E EDITOR

With the scandal from last year's elections, students are looking forward to what interesting things might happen with the 2013 ASI elections. So far, ASI Presidential candidate Daniel Cruz has dropped just a week before elections started leaving Matt Walsh and Israel Irizarry on the ballot.

The week of March 25-28, candidates will be campaigning during U-Hour and in between classes. Signs encouraging students to vote have already been placed around campus.

Candidates for ASI President are competing with what they believe students are looking for in an ASI President. Irizarry, a fourth-year Marketing major who held the position of College of Business Administrative Representative this past year states, "I've seen the other side of campus and have met people I haven't met before. Therefore I feel there needs a different face for president, coming from a different background."

In his campaign video Irizarry states "I feel the communication and diversity could be improved here." Past and current candidates have expressed this as an issue. However he argues that



ASI Presidential candidates campaign on campus.
Photo by Kristin Melody

"the other candidates are great but I'm a listener." He also explains his plans on how to change this epidemic, "My major is marketing so I have that background. I want to focus on social media like newsletters, YouTube links, etc."

Since being actively part of ASI Board of Directors, Irizarry knows what it takes to improve student involvement. "People still don't know who to go to on campus. I want the students to know that I am available through email, phone, text, Facebook. However, ASI is the face of the ASI President, not me. It's a team effort."

Irizarry mentioned how the controversial Student Success Fee has a miscommunication among students and the faculty. Walsh, who has been actively participating in the process as a student

representative on the Task Force states, "Well I'm part of the Task Force and they don't have a say. Our goal is to solicit information to the students and back to the Student Fee Advisory Committee (SFAC). We are more behind the scenes like what the website will look like or dates that work for the students."

In addition to his focus on the Student Success Fee, Walsh has three main goals, "There are three groups on campus that don't have a voice and they are graduate students, extended learning students and the veterans center. They pay for ASI fees so they should be given the appropriate resources. Second, I don't want just one student sitting on a bunch of committees but more students to participate. There

ASI CONTINUED ON 2

Weaver pleads guilty to rigging ASI election; faces up to 3 years in jail

BY COUGAR CHRONICLE
STAFF WRITERS

Matt Weaver, the former CSUSM student charged last month with attempting to rig the 2012 ASI student elections with stolen identities, pleaded guilty to three charges in federal court March 21.

According to court records, the 22-year-old former business major from Huntington Beach will be sentenced on June 17 in the federal dis-

trict court of Judge Larry A. Burns. He is facing from 27 to 33 months in federal custody.

As part of the plea agreement Weaver signed with prosecutors from the U.S. Attorneys Office, Weaver pleaded guilty to counts of wire fraud, unauthorized access of a computer and

identity theft. The complaint detailing the charges said that Weaver admitted to devising a scheme to defraud

WEAVER CONTINUED ON 2



Matt Weaver



North County Transit District announces 'sprinter-ruption'

BY MELISSA MARTINEZ
NEWS EDITOR

Unfortunately for many commuter students on campus, the North County Transit District (NCTD) Sprinter light-rail system is out of service due to maintenance issues and safety concerns with the current braking system.

Effective Monday, March 11, the Sprinter will continue to be out-of-service for an unknown amount of time. NCTD officials have stated that there is no set date for when it is expected to resume running.

For students, this means the reliable train won't be stopping at its convenient locations for some time.

"It came at a bad time, having been before school finished for the semester for CSUSM students. It is what it is, though. They can't sacrifice safety and at least they are providing an alternative with bus transportation in the meantime," second-year-student Brett Goudy said.

Since the Sprinter is a main source for transportation for many students and residents ranging from Oceanside to Escondido, the NCTD has provided alternate bus routes to accommodate the lack of

service throughout North County. Two supplemental bus routes are the 618 Sprinter Express to travel from the Oceanside Transit Center to the Vista Transit Center operating from 4:35 a.m. until 12:18 a.m. (Monday-Friday), and the 620 Sprinter Express traveling from the Oceanside Transit Center to the Escondido Transit Center every 30 minutes beginning at 4:10 a.m. until 9:40 p.m. (Monday-Friday).

To offer further accommodation to passengers, NCTD staff, also known as the "Blue Crew" will be stationed to aid passengers with information to alternative routes to make the transition from train to bus easier.

According to Tom Tulley, the Chief of Safety at NCTD, a Recovery Task Force has been assigned to aid information and questions as long as the Sprinter remains out-of-service.

According to the "Back-on-the-Track Blog" written by Tulley, the main issue causing the Sprinter service to be temporarily suspended occurred during testing of the brakes on March 7. Management was alerted when maintenance discovered a potential issue with the brake

SPRINTER CONTINUED ON 2

'The Dream is Now Campaign' targets college students for advocacy of immigration reform

BY MELISSA MARTINEZ
NEWS EDITOR

The Dream is Now Campaign, following the hopes of The DREAM Act, is currently holding a contest from March 5 through April 5 to encourage students throughout the country to sign an online petition and submit art (videos, songs, drawings and poems) displaying their support for The DREAM Act.

The bipartisan legislation, originally developed by Sen. Orrin Hatch [R-UT] and Sen. Richard Durbin [D-IL] aims to allow undocumented students to be eligible to complete their college degree or two years of military service in providing them a 6-year-long conditional path to citizenship, according to dreamact.info.

The Dream is Now cam-

paign is targeting college students for outreach in the hopes of spreading the word throughout campuses and advocating for reform.

The contest is to win a chance at screening the Dream is Now documentary on the campus of their college or University.

The students who gain the most signatures from their college or university will also receive an all expenses paid trip to Washington, D.C. to watch the premiere of the documentary.

TheDreamIsNow.org was originally created by Laurene Powell Jobs—widow of the late Apple co-founder Steve Jobs—and filmmaker Davis Guggenheim ("An Inconvenient Truth" and "Waiting for Superman"). The Dream is Now aims to allow "DREAMers" to

convey their experiences through video in effort to offer personal testimonies of the impact of being an undocumented student as well as a chance for people who are documented to display their support.

TheDreamIsNow.org highlights a student named Terrance attending UC Berkeley, majoring in mathematics and applied statistics who has recently been accepted to the Masters Program for biostatistics at Yale University.

Terrance breaks down the numbers in dollars of how much it would cost to deport him and other undocumented students (\$23,000 for every person) and how much the economy will gain if undocumented students were given an opportunity to complete college and receive their citizenship.

DREAM CONTINUED ON 2



Rollin' with UPD

BY BEN CARLSON
STAFF WRITER

Everyone owes it to themselves to ride along with a police officer at least once in their lives, preferably not after an arrest, of course. Though I knew the chance of witnessing some action on the safest campus in California would be minuscule, riding with the University Police Department (UPD) had its moments.

I started the day at the UPD headquarters where Sergeant Troy Holmes performed a quick background check on me, making sure, as he put it, "I wasn't a terrorist." I then took a tour through the building with the sergeant, viewing the UPD holding cells, interrogation room and the police armory which stores most of their weapons. The most eye-opening room in the building, though, was the surveillance room. Dozens of screens fill the dark room, all of them displaying multiple camera angles on campus. This room runs 24 hours a day and there is constant focus on all of the buildings, hallways, and walkways on CSUSM.

According to Chief McManus, there has been over 100 cameras installed on CSUSM since a few years ago. The rise in surveillance is not just an effort to keep the campus safe, but was a response to the Virginia Tech shootings in 2007. "Virginia Tech changed everything," the chief said in between drags of his cigarette. "Security measures were installed that is now common on most universities in California."

As for the ride itself, I cannot seem to convey the experience of striking fear into fellow students as they walked by without some sort of glee. The joy of wearing aviators and staring down students with a stern expression is something every person should experience before they die. I also found the banter between myself and the officers enjoyable, though my stories were pathetic compared to their own tales of close calls and heroism.

Despite the quiet day, I enjoyed my time with the officers of the UPD. CSUSM should be grateful to have such an outstanding group of men and women patrolling the campus. Though we may not always be thrilled when a cop rolls by, it doesn't matter. They can see you anyway, and at least if they can see you, you'll be safe.

SPRINTER FROM I pads, causing them to create a squeal when they were used. After replacing the brake pads, maintenance discovered the rotors (a metal plate that applies pressure to the brakes) were wearing out quicker than projected.

On his blog, Tulley offers a two-step plan to bring the Sprinter to recovery; safely and efficiently including a testing of the trains and a

plan of action, consisting of testing the brakes, temporarily interrupting operation, and working with specialists of brake systems in testing stopping distance, efficiency and predicting projected usage of equipment.

Tulley stated in his two-step plan to bring the Sprinter to recovery, "As soon as any irregularity or issue with a vital system like the brakes is discovered, the safety stand-

ards of all of our regulatory agencies and NCTD's own safety standards are boldly clear—the trains must be taken out of service."

For more information and updates regarding the interruption of the Sprinter service and alternative routes, please visit gonctd.com/sprinter.

Check out an opinion article on page 5 related to this story.

DREAM FROM I zenship if The DREAM Act is passed. According to Terrence's video, he is one of 2.1 million youths in America brought to the U.S. as a young child.

"On top of that [the estimated \$23,000 per person it would cost to deport undocumented citizens], we stand to lose an estimated \$329 billion by 2030 by denying them the chance to become taxpaying citizens and economic innovators. We can't afford to waste their talents,"

stated the TheDreamIsNow.org website.

Opposition to the DREAM Act references the hidden costs of the program, the lack of restriction and the lack of holding participants to standards.

"I think it's a back-door amnesty and I'm not in favor of it," former senator Scott Brown (R-Mass.) said.

The Dream is Now campaign is currently partnered with associations such as the American Civil Liberties Union, NAACP, Teach

for America, as well as Bill Clinton. The DREAM Act is currently supported by both Republican and Democrats --- even though both parties disagree over the issue of immigration reform.

In December 2010, The DREAM Act passed in the House but only received 55 votes in the Senate. To avert a filibuster, 60 votes are required from the Senate.

To learn more visit TheDreamIsNow.org.

Extended Learning gets high marks at conference

CSUSM addresses the Latino male shortage in education and attempts to find solution

BY BOBBY RIVERA
STAFF WRITER

The lack of Latino males in education was the topic of discussion at the "Changing Face of the American Educator" symposium conference held earlier this month. CSUSM addressed the issue and has taken action by appointing Arturo Ocampo as the university chief diversity officer.

The conference at the Mt. San Jacinto Meniffee campus on Saturday, March 9 was co-sponsored by Extended Learning and the local non-profit group Encuentros Leadership.

"Encuentros Leadership was organized in 2003 to address the alarmingly high school dropout rates of Latino males within North County San Diego," Antonio Mora, board chair of Encuentros Leadership and CSUSM alumnus, said. "Encuentros Leadership was formed to address the critical educational, social and economic issues impacting the quality of education and life opportunities for Latino boys within our community."

Approximately 130 men and women attended the conference led by CSUSM the College of Education's professor Patricia Olmos and Dean of Extended Learning Mike Schroder. A few days later, the conference continued with an on-line dialogue.

"With Latinos representing over 40 percent of our local population and [with] only about 13 percent earning four-year degrees, the relative lack of representation, particularly among males, is a disturbing metric," Schroder said. "[The March 9] event was a step in the right direction in terms of bringing together community thought leaders and identifying ways that we can work together to meet the challenge."

The conference was motivated by a January 2010 report by the College Board of Advocacy & Policy Center

entitled "The Educational Crisis Facing Young Men of Color."

The conference was broken down into four workshops, which addressed areas such as financing a college education, as well as creating a

on the human condition. The conference ignited the desire to help find new ways to bring more Latino males into higher education and change the campus demographics. The Encuentros Leadership's mission statement is

to "To encourage and support boys of Latino descent to achieve optimal performance in education."

More information regarding Encuentros Leadership can be found at their website, <http://encuentros-leadership.org>

On March 15, nearly a week after the conference,

the CSUSM president's office announced the hiring of Arturo Ocampo. As the chief diversity officer and ombuds, Ocampo is expected to be a significant aid in getting more male Latinos involved in education.

Since 1999, Ocampo has been heavily involved with diversity, equal employment and compliance in higher education. Most recently, he

candidate) and Arthur Silverstein (VP External Affairs candidate).

Running for the College of Humanities, Arts, Behavioral and Social Sciences Representative are Tiffaney Boyd, Brett Medeiros and Cameron Tugwell. For College of Business Administration, Tyler Bahneman and Jeff Gutowski were nominated. Alex Evzerov, Daniel Geiszler and Jonathan Molina are candidates for College of Science and Mathematics.

Haley Perko, candidate for College of Education, Health and Human Services Rep, and Tricia Alcid, candidate for Student at Large Representative, were the only two running for those categories confirming their win for the election.

The rest of the winners will be announced Friday Mar. 29 after all the votes are finalized. Visit csusm.edu/asi/bod/asi-elections to see candidate campaign videos and other information.

"With Latinos representing over 40 percent of our local population and [with] only about 13 percent earning four-year degrees, the relative lack of representation, particularly among males, is a disturbing metric"

- Mike Schroder

pipeline for future students at the K-12 level and then universities. As the coordinated conference ended, many said they left with the impression of a need to develop leadership skills for the young men in North County and within the campus community.

The comments of those who attended were well received and positive towards the symposium by improving

department noticed strange voting patterns from a single computer in Academic Hall. The IITS staff were able to remotely access Weaver's computer to watch him cutting and pasting other students IDs into online ballots, and another technician entered the computer lab where Weaver was sitting and filmed his activities with a cell phone camera.

As part of the plea agreement, Weaver also admitted

that in an attempt to deflect suspicion about his guilt to his opponent in the ASI election, he created fake Facebook pages that purported to show conversations among other candidates attempting to manipulate the election.

Weaver was ordered Thursday to forfeit his computer, memory sticks and cell phone as part of the plea deal. He also negotiated an agreement that will allow him to travel to Missouri for

a family obligation (March 28-April 3).

ASI election season is now under way on campus again. Since last year's incident, the university's IITS department has taken steps to prohibit vote tampering. Weaver's crime was the largest case of identity theft in CSUSM history.

Have an opinion on this issue? Feel free to email cougarchronicle@gmail.com with a Letter to the Editor.

WEAVER FROM I Cal State San Marcos by rigging the Associated Students Inc. elections in March 2012, where he was one of two candidates running for ASI president (a job with an \$8,000 annual salary).

From January to March 2012, Weaver admitted that he installed keylogging devices on several on-campus university computers to obtain the user IDs and passwords of 745 students and

staff, which he stored in electronic spreadsheets on his Apple MacBook Pro laptop computer.

During the weeklong election in March 2012, he used the students' identities to cast more than 480 votes for himself, and for four of his friends who were running for other paid ASI positions.

Weaver was arrested on campus on the final day of voting, March 15, when staff in the university's IITS

THE HEART BEAT: How to boost your brain health

By CURTIS BOVEE
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Most would agree our brain is pretty important. Arguably, it is the most important organ in the human body.

How come we don't maintain our brain like we do the rest of our body?

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Alzheimer's disease is the 6th leading cause of death in the United States. Currently, greater than 5 million Americans are living with the disease.

Fortunately, there are many everyday things we can do to increase brain health and prevent its deterioration.

Certainly the easiest way to promote brain health is through diet. The following brain-boosters will help with brain function and health:

- Berries: blackberries, raspberries and blueberries contain powerful antioxidants important for improving motor skills and enhancing memory. One cup per day will suffice in contributing to brain health and can substitute for a healthy dessert.
- Dark, leafy green vegeta-

bles: green veggies including kale and spinach are full of B-Vitamins and aid in remembering old information and increasing cognitive function.

- Nuts: basically all nuts are helpful in improving brain health. Full of omega-3 and omega-6 fatty acids as well as different vitamins, nuts are great for memory, cognitive function, and brain nourishment.
- Dark chocolate: luckily, we can still eat sweet foods while reaping benefits (remember, moderation). Dark chocolate also yields high levels of antioxidants. In addition, it helps increase oxygen to your brain, increasing awareness and concentration. Just don't eat too much of it. Consuming a few ounces a day is plenty.

In addition to diet, exercise helps to keep your brain sharp. The idea "you use it or lose it" is applicable to brain health as well as your muscles. Exercise of any kind will reap brain health benefits by increasing heart rate which will help deliver more

oxygen to the brain. Exercise also helps to release a wide array of hormones in your body that contributes to cellular health and homeostatic balance.

Combining diet and exercise with minimal stress will significantly contribute to improvements in brain health. The brain is arguably the hardest hit organ when stress invades your body. A chronic overreaction to stress wreaks havoc on your brain, creating a battlefield. The result? An over-secretion of detrimental hormones, an increasing amount of sugar in your blood, an elevated heart rate and high blood pressure. These consequences will certainly decrease awareness and concentration, impair your memory, and contribute to declining cognitive function.

Bob Marley said it best, "Don't worry, be happy." Living a social lifestyle with others and just being happy has proven to not only increase brain health but longevity as well.



Cougars take down PLNU twice

By ALEX FRANCO
SPORTS EDITOR

Saturday afternoon the 20-2 Cougars' baseball took on Point Loma Nazarene University who will be a familiar foe of the Cougars in the coming years as CSUSM leaps into the NCAA.

The Cougars wasted no time setting the tone for the first game of the scheduled doubleheader when they sprinted out to a 3-0 lead in the first inning. With the bases loaded, Kody Sepulveda came through with a hard ground ball to the shortstop to bring around Kyle Secciani for the score. Kyle Kuck brought around two more runs with his single which found its way in between the first and second basemen to take the 3-0 lead.

Kuck came through in the third inning with another 2 RBI single to the right field to score Bentson and Belzer to finish 2-3 with a team

high 4 RBIs. Marcus Meraz and Mike Guadagnini would both add 2 more RBIs to put the Cougars up 7-0 at the end of the third inning.

PLNU scored 2 more runs in the seventh inning to pull within one of the Cougars before Kenny Belzer belted a solo homerun to left field to increase the lead 8-5. The solo homerun by Belzer would ultimately be the deciding run in the game as Point Loma scored 2 runs early in the eighth to come a run within the Cougars and finishing the game 8-7.

The second game was more back and forth run scoring battle between the Sea Lions and Cougars with Point Loma scoring 2 and ending the third with a 3-2 lead.

Brandon Bentson and Kenny Belzer would come through for the Cougars in a big way when they would hit back to back clutch hits in the fifth inning. Belzer doubled to left center field

to score while Tyler Bernard, and Bentson singled right after to bring around Belzer. In the game's final frame, Hertzmann would once again be called upon to shut the door and seal the win for the Cougars.

"Hertzmann had a great in closing, he came in twice and did a great job for us, but we are playing great as a team and winning the close games we were losing last year," coach Dennis Pugh said. "Today was a great example that we can do something other than pitch, our pitching wasn't the best but today we did a good job with the bat with the comeback in the second game."

CSUSM now sits 22-2 this season going into a stretch of games which Coach Pugh says will be a good test for them against teams like San Diego Christian who they play today and tomorrow at home.

Athlete Spotlight: Hunter Brown

By JULIANA STUMPP
A & E EDITOR

This baseball season, our Cougars have been on their top game with impressive win-loss ratio of 22-2. The team has started the season off right and by the looks of it, will end the season even better. The Cougar Chronicle sat down with one of the team's pitchers, Hunter Brown, a right-hand pitcher from Encinitas who is in his junior year as a business major.

Question: How long have you been playing baseball?

Answer: I've been playing my entire life. I started in tee-ball and played for a couple teams. I stopped playing in sixth grade but joined my high school's team when I was a senior. I was scouted by Indiana University when I was at Grossmont Junior College.

Q: What is the best thing about playing at CSUSM?

A: I like that we have

more freedom, the freedom to what will make the game better. The coaches are good at catering to what the player's skills are and what they need personally.

Q: How do you balance athletics and academics?

A: I kind of have to find the time. It's the same for any college student, except baseball takes the place of a job or working, but it helps at the same time because I need to be eligible to play so it motivates me to do well in school. I'm a student first.

Q: Who is your inspiration?

A: My father has always been there. Ever since I was a little kid, he would come to the games and support me. I've traveled around the country for baseball on his dime so he is really supportive and has given me so many opportunities I never thought were possible.

Q: Do you have any pre-game rituals to get you

pumped up?

A: I usually try to stay calm and relaxed; I don't want to get stressed about it. I've learned to balance my adrenaline and how to turn it on or off. I just treat game days like its practice, any other day.

Q: What is your practice schedule like? Do you have your own personal regimen?

A: We have practice from noon - 2:30 p.m., four to six days a week. I need to take care of my arm and make sure it stays in shape or else my body will break down. For me, it's year round. Last year I was playing competitive baseball in Maryland. Since it was over summer, it's not as strict but it kept me in shape.

Q: What is your future plans with the sport?

A: Ideally, I'd like to get drafted, but in the meantime I'm going to school for a degree in business marketing.

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Jessie's Recipe Corner

Lucky five-cup salad

Want to keep the spirit of St. Patrick's Day going throughout the entire month of March? Need a fun, cheap, decorative and tasty side dish to bring to a party? Well, I have the perfect five-cup recipe that a friend passed down to me, that I am now sharing with you. There are only five ingredients needed for a world of flavor, color and fun.

What you'll need:

- A mixing bowl and spatula
- One cup of mini marshmallows
- 1 cup of sour cream - 1 cup of coconut flakes
- 1 cup (or one 8 oz. can) of mandarins
- 1 cup (or one 8 oz. can) of crushed pineapple
- Green food coloring (optional)

Directions:

In a mixing bowl, add together the coconut flakes, mandarins (drained), crushed pineapple (drained), sour cream and lastly the mini marshmallows. Stir thoroughly till all ingredients are mixed together. Then, if you wish you can add about five drops of green food coloring until you find the green you want. Stir together once again and then serve into a pretty decorative bowl. Serve it to your friends and voilà! Enjoy!

Dolce Italia: A taste of Italy right in San Marcos

By BOBBY RIVERA
STAFF WRITER

In one meal, we cross the Mediterranean Sea and go to the south part of Italy to Palermo, where romance and food go hand in hand.

Located across the street from San Marcos High School, Dolce Italia is hidden within the Vons shopping center. The restaurant has only been open for a few months and the line is already starting to get long for those wanting to have the favorable desserts that fill the restaurant.

When you walk inside, you immediately notice that Dolce Italia is filled with the smiles of customers who eat the various delectable food options. Italian music filled the background as many students from the high school walked in, ate and took a break from their daily routines.

All food items ranged in price from \$5 to \$6.50, except for the pizza that starts at \$13. The owner, Salvo Amoroso, lived in Palermo



The dessert counter at Dolce Italia in San Marcos. Photo by Anne Hall

and described how hundreds of bistros fill the city. She brought her business savvy attitude and teamed up with her family to have what may be San Marcos' best-kept secret for Italian food and value.

Dolce Italia is also a great lunch or dinner option. The eggplant Panini sandwich, priced at \$6.50, bursts with flavors. It is combined with a salad, making the sandwich one of the best value items on the menu. The eggplant spaghetti is also very flavorful, with a unique, colorful

marinara sauce that is just as tasty. Dolce Italia also offers daily specials in the \$6 price range.

What sets Dolce Italia apart from other restaurants is the Italian desserts that fill your senses with great taste, design and smell. The combination of fruits with custards and tarts and food entrees let you taste the cuisine of Italy. They also have Wi-Fi for all who dare to cross the diverse collection of desserts that fill the front display.

The city of Palermo is Greek for, "always fit for

landing in." Land yourself at Dolce Italia just once, and I bet you'll be a regular.

Dolce Italia is located at 679 South Rancho Santa Fe Road, San Marcos, CA 92078. The phone number is 760-304-6939.

BuenProvecho; BonAppetit (If you have any recommendations for a restaurant, café, coffee shop, or bistro for review, let us know at The Cougar Chronicle. If the eatery is selected, you'll win yourself a \$25 gift certificate for Acapulco's Restaurant in San Marcos.)

Champions in the community: Dr. Laura de Ghetaldi, a professor who inspires students and faculty alike

By CURTIS BOVEE
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Dr. Laura de Ghetaldi's relentless commitment to helping others, combined with her selfless demeanor, is truly changing the lives of many CSUSM students.

Dr. Laura is very involved on campus. She is a Civility Champion and the primary reason for the wonderful twice a month food distributions at Summit Church, which has helped feed so many in need. In addition, she also co-teaches the kinesiology internship course. Dr. Laura is always look-

ing for more opportunities for her internship students. There aren't many other programs that offer these kinds of opportunities, and she ensures that her students are taking advantage of it. Dr. Laura makes it her personal mission to give every student the opportunity to succeed.

Dr. Laura is unquestionably popular amongst her students and colleagues. As a graduating senior, I have witnessed first-hand the impact that Dr. Laura has on her students and the CSUSM faculty. Having developed a great relationship with her, she has become a mother to

me in so many aspects of my life. I honestly cannot recall one thing she has done that wasn't for someone else. It certainly isn't everyday that you come across someone so special.

"What makes Dr. Laura so special is her selflessness, her eagerness to help others. Rather than acknowledging her own accomplishments, she acknowledges everyone else's instead. She cares for all of her students as if they were her own, and that's what I love about her. She's our teacher, advisor, guru, mom, friend, support system and inspiration," kinesiology

major and Kinesiology Club president Junemy Pantig said.

Dr. Laura not only inspires others but also finds joy in what she does.

"Here is the thing, it is a selfish thing for me when I give to others. I think I always receive more than I give," Dr. Laura said.

Dr. Laura embodies the spirit of giving in everything she does. Whatever you need her to be, she will try to be that for you. The world would be a much better place if Dr. Laura's eagerness to help others existed in all of us.

The Catholic Club from a member's perspective

By JESSIE GAMBRELL
OPINION EDITOR

The CSUSM Catholic Club allows myself and other students to learn, embrace and actively participate in the Catholic faith on campus.

With the club meeting every Wednesday night, 7 - 9 p.m. in room 110 of the Clarke, we have a set time every week to come together as a group and discuss our religion.

"I'm proud to say that my best friends are people that I met through Catholic Club. I have enjoyed seeing the club grow throughout my four years at Cal State," Catholic Club President, Andrew Reed said.

We have rotating scheduled activities such as a speaker night, a social night, Bible study night with Matthew Rossio and mass with Father Patrick from the Miles Christi religious order, followed by confessions and questions for a priest. The club also occasionally takes our meetings off campus and into the community.

On March 13, myself, and nearly 20 members of CSUSM's Catholic Club, walked in silence from our regular Wednesday meeting to light candles and pray in front of stairs of the PPH medical facility in remembrance of aborted fetuses. Within the PPH facility is

the North County Women's Medical Clinic that does offer abortion services.

"It was beautiful, a bunch of college kids taking a good chunk of time out of their schedule to walk to the abortion clinic and pray the rosary; asking for the intersection of our Mother Mary to protect these babies," club member, Kaylee Toole said. "It was a beautiful night with a great and dedicated community."

The club also ventured out to a Habitat For Humanity volunteer project down in La Mesa on March 22, to help rebuild a house for the homeless. We put paneling on the side of the house as well as planted fresh landscaping around the yard.

The club is also in the process of planning a food-packing event that is to be determined sometime in April.

The Catholic Club also goes out after our meetings to In-N-Out Burger or other local fast food restaurants to hang out and enjoy a late night snack together as a group. The Intervarsity Club has joined us on multiple occasions.

People who wish to become involved can like the Catholic Club on Facebook or email Club President, Andrew Reed directly at: reed052@cougars.csusm.edu.

Students given opportunity to learn about healthier living

By RYAN DOWNS
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The Clarke inspires students on ways to take care of their bodies, and this coming April they plan to celebrate this with their annual Wellness Fair.

The 2013 Earth Day Wellness Fair, which will be held on April 17 at the Clarke, will showcase new ways to promote student wellness on campus. The idea behind the fair is to raise this awareness for health and wellness by giving students new ways

they can physically better themselves and their environment while celebrating good health.

In the past, the Clarke has conducted the fair by working with various local businesses dedicated to health services in order to reach students in a unique way.

However, as Melissa Martinez, coordinator of the Wellness Fair, pointed out, there are far more dimensions to "wellness" than just physical health. The event is a celebration of multicultural, occupational, financial and spiritual wellness as well, with plenty of free food, prizes and activities for those who attend.

"This year, the fair is targeted towards Earth Day

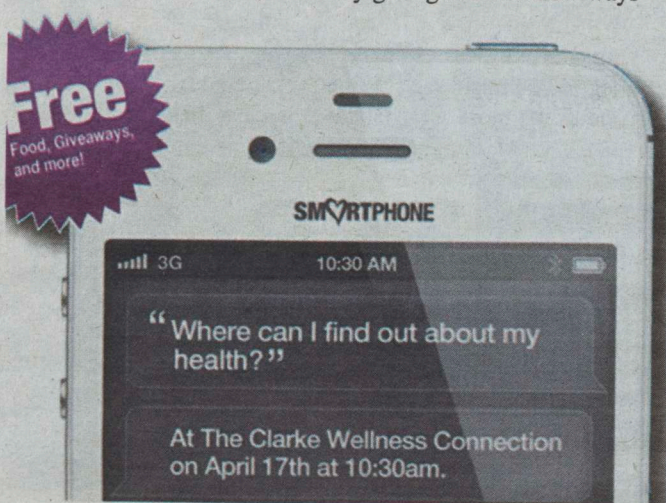
and conserving resources to better our environment," Martinez said.

According to Martinez, the fair is generally successful, with an average of three hundred students in attendance.

"Specifically, our goal is to provide information to students as well as a fun, interactive event to get students together and involved," Martinez said.

The fair is more than just a fun event for students, however. The fair has historically been a very successful promoter for local businesses looking to advertise to students, who can expect a lot of benefits upon attending.

The Wellness Fair will be from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on April 23 at the Clarke and is free to attend.



Are you part of a CSUSM club
and want to share your perspective?
Email cougarchron.features@gmail.com

Sprinter being shut down causes major inconvenience

By JESSIE GAMBRELL
OPINION EDITOR

As many of you may be aware, on the Sprinter's fifth anniversary of existence they shut it down for "two to four months" to repair the breaks. Many students take the Sprinter as a means of transportation to get to and from the university each day. If you yourself are not a Sprinter rider, I am sure that you know many people who do. Given the fact that about 400 CSUSM students a month ride the Sprinter every day to get to school according to the parking and commuter services. Now that it has shut down, CSUSM has had to provide bus support for those who would otherwise have no means of getting to campus.

"Having to take the bus everyday to and from where the Sprinter would normally drop you off takes longer, since there are no certain times when it comes and goes," Sprinter commuter student, Josefa Gregorio said.

"Plus there are less seats on the bus than the Sprinter so you have to stand up. Since the buses use the freeways, there is more traffic and there is more potential for the bus to break down more often. My friend got stuck in that situation."

Knowing how the state works, the claimed two to four months of repair will probably turn into six to eight months which would really be an inconvenience to the students and the school. Now that we have seen the other side of the fence, we realize just how essential the Sprinter light rail way is to us and how desperately we need it back. Hopefully they can repair the breaks as soon as possible so that commuter transit can go back to normal before people get fed-up with the Sprinter system.

If you have any opinions on the Sprinter shutting down, please send them into cougarchron.opinion@gmail.com and we can put them on our website or our Facebook.

Cougar Ask?

By ALISON SEAGLE
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

"What would be your ultimate spring break?"



Alexandra Munoz,
"Go kayaking in Australia"



Victoria Steele,
"Going to Hawaii"



Jimmy Joseph,
"Go to Spain"



Natalie Soldoff,
"Go to Europe"



Jamie Whiffen,
"White water rafting on the Colorado River."



Jason Gormally,
"Go to the beach every day and hangout with friends"



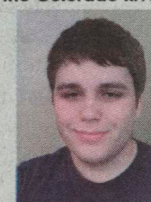
Daiki Ikeda,
"Go to Las Vegas, do some gambling"



Akhiro Saito,
"Go to Las Vegas too"



Gemma Robles,
"Visit a beach house in Tahiti"



Evan Gallenson,
"To go to Russia to see family. I've never been there before"

Editors' Topics: Ceasar Chavez Day vs. Presidents' Day?

As you all may well be aware of, since many students look forward to their allotted days off of school; some students feel they are being robbed of a day off for Ceasar Chavez Day and Presidents' Day. Our school is the only state school in California that takes Ceasar Chavez Day off instead of the national holiday, Presidents' Day. Many have mixed feelings about this due to the fact that it falls during spring break. See what the editors think:

"I am in favor of having days off in general. TThat

being said, I see it as just for the school to honor Ceasar Chavez, especially considering the history with the school allowing for him to be honored with the Chavez Stairs. I find it so curious that people are getting worked up over this, when some of them aren't exactly well versed in the why." – **Copy Editor Keandre Williams-Chambers**

"Caesar Chavez Day and Presidents' Day should be days that students do not have classes. I think that if there are times when we should not go

to school because of a holiday, it should be days where we are celebrating people that have made a significant difference in our lives. However, Caesar Chavez Day should be a separate day off from spring break." – **Features Editor Katie Sweeney**

"We do get presidents day off during winter break, the CSU system just celebrates it earlier than the K-12 school system, we do get it off, it's just celebrated earlier. It's not really choosing between Cesar Chavez

and Presidents' Day since we get them both off." – **News Editor Melissa Martinez**

"Being that Presidents' Day is a national holiday and Ceasar Chavez day is memorial day of sorts; I feel it is unfair that our school is the only school in the state that takes Ceasar Chavez day off instead of Presidents' Day. True, Ceasar Chavez was a great man and should be honored for it, but it does not mean replacing it with the national holiday that honors our great presidents." – **Opinion Editor Jessie Gambrell**

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Loss of interest in human capital

By ANNE HALL
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

I attended the open forum for the Student Success Fee proposal a week or two ago. After the meeting, I had discussed the option of petitioning to the state as concerned students, with the director. She basically informed me that, "Yes, students have tried to petition to the state in the past about funding when the budget was cut in previous years," and, "No, there has never been any success."

People are strong in numbers. We're not the only school that is going through this, other colleges have already implemented such fees and students have been forced to pay. If we were to petition, we have to make that petition statewide, or even national. Going beyond that, we need students and faculty to join together from all schools, including parents and students, even those that have been denied admission. We should write detailed letters asking why the funds need to be increased, what it is going towards, and how negatively we feel that we have to pay additional fees. Especially when our tax dollars are supposed to be supporting these things so that we don't have to take extra money out of our pockets to get a decent education from the State funded schools.

"Our best investment is in people and in educating people. I am very concerned about the lack of funding at all levels, federal, state, and

local. Since taxes pay for education, the issue is clearly political. I wouldn't put it solely on the government, though. We all have a stake in education and we need to speak up and advocate for the best possible education for all of our children. I am especially concerned about inequity. Kids in more affluent neighborhoods have more opportunities than kids from impoverished neighborhoods. I've never met a kid who wasn't capable, but I have met a many kids who haven't had opportunities and that really saddens me." Dr. Merryl Goldberg said.

People are homeschooling their children more now than ever because the education within public school systems has continued to decline in quality, as well as continued to become more and more unsafe for grades K-12. Standards in California have been raised over the years and no one without a bachelor's degree is going to work anywhere in this state without starting at or just above minimum wage for a number of years without already having work experience and a degree. Considering we're one of the most costly states in the nation, and our state obligates us to have to commute to do anything within our cities, the expense of living is already a great burden on our inhabitants. More and more youths are being denied the privilege of a higher education and depleting the quality of knowledgeable individuals within our communities.

"Students, young people are the most basic form of wealth in our country. They are the future and reflect what will come. People are human capital that fundamentally creates wealth. Instead of our society investing in our own human capital through education as an investment in our future and prosperity we are seeing something downright criminal, with 5 percent of GDP spent on weapons, the military and surveillance of our population as student debt surpasses credit card debt. I don't agree that our government is completely to blame. It's clear the American population seems to have limited interest in changing this situation. With limited exceptions around the country, students were silent about the wars, confused about the economy and seem to be generally disinterested in creating change. We have so many other things to do with all of our distractions that we cannot see how the bigger picture in our lives has already shifted and don't realize that intermission is coming." Professor Marcos Martinez said.

The government has made it clear that they are creating this environment on purpose...so as individuals, we all have to make our positions clear as to how we truly are being affected. If we are ignored after showering lobbyists with detailed letters and statements I'm afraid to see what would happen next.

WANTED: Appropriate Cesar Chavez day off...for once!

By JULIANA STUMPP
A & E Editor

For weeks, students have been anxiously looking at their calendars to count down the days until spring break.

After a tough month filled with essays and tests often known as "midterms," there is a whole new meaning to "March Madness." But alas, our well-deserved break is just around the corner.

But wait, whatever happened to Cesar Chavez Day, which we are supposed to have off also? Two years ago, Cesar Chavez day fell on a Wednesday and last year it was on a Friday, when most students don't have class. This year, Cesar

Chavez Day is on a Monday, during spring break.

If you haven't gotten the hint yet, the students and faculty are cheated of a day off. Obviously the university has no control of what days holidays are on, but they are in control of the week we have spring break or possibly rescheduling the day off in April.

On Feb. 18, it was Presidents' Day, or Washington's birthday, where most universities and schools all over the country have the day off, but Cal State San Marcos is not a part of that majority.

I remember last year, I had a professor that taught at San Diego State University as well as CSUSM in the

same semester. Come Presidents' Day, the class waited for 15 minutes but he was a no show because SDSU had the day off and he thought CSUSM did too. I'm not complaining, but it's not just the students that want a free day to hang out with friends or catch up on school work; professors do as well.

It seems it would have been more appropriate to have Presidents' Day off, instead of Cesar Chavez Day off even though no one would have been on campus anyways. We all have busy schedules and the university should give the people on campus the courtesy of a day off during the spring semester.



The Cesar Chavez statue that sits on campus. Photo by Morgan Hall.

Moreover, this is an American university. Why should we study about these famous national icons but not celebrate them when they even

have their own day...that happens to fall on a day that is ideal for all students to have off?

Next year Cesar Chavez

Day falls on March 31, hopefully the university will be considerate enough to schedule spring break around that date.

Hot button issue: Campus Ministry USA

Letter to the Editor

To: Editor, Cougar Chronicle and any other interested persons:

With regard to the man (with the atheist sign) and woman (with the bullhorn) on campus this past Tuesday, March 12, 2013:

I respectfully request that they be asked to give up the bullhorn or leave campus when next they visit. In case no one on staff was aware of their presence, the following is a summary of their actions and the reasons for my request.

The gentleman with the sign was relatively respectful of the CSUSM community. He simply stood in the common area outside of Starbucks and the Kellogg Library holding a sign proclaiming, "It is easy to be an atheist....I can show you proof of God's existence in the bible." I don't find his actions objectionable and feel if he simply wishes to stand on campus with a sign; his right to free speech should be acknowledged. An open conversation regarding opposing views should be encouraged. For example, can he prove God's existence without the Bible? I'm just asking....

The woman, on the other hand, requires some education about the CSUSM community and civility. With bullhorn in hand she stood in the same area outside of Starbucks and the library yelling about different diseases caused by oral sex, "back door" sex and made other unsubstantiated claims. I felt that her rhetoric was aimed solely at CSUSM women. However, she may have been targeting our members of the LGBTQ community as well. She also spoke of persons who would refute her claims as those who also deny "...the judgment that is to come."

As for my reasons, they include aspects of civility, mutual respect and freedom of speech issues. Representatives from different faiths routinely visit our campus and hand out literature. We also have members of the Jewish, Krishna, Christian and Muslim faiths, agnostics and atheists in residence at CSUSM. As students at CSUSM, many of us are just learning about the critical thinking process and exercising our free will without close parental guidance. Critical thinking and free will are two of the cornerstones of any good educational process. While many of the visiting and in-house organizations offer information about themselves; they do it in such a way that we exercise our free will in the taking or leaving of offered literature. We can choose to be part of the conversation.

The woman's bullhorn and the yelling essentially removed us from the conversation and turned us into a congregation for this woman's opinions. I am unwilling to listen to the judgments and unsubstantiated medical claims this woman made. I had the option of walking away. I did. I find it unreasonable and disrespectful of this woman to shut out involvement of the community using a bullhorn. She has an opinion, I respect that. I don't respect her way of disseminating it to our community.

We, as students and community members of CSUSM, have the right to embrace or walk away from groups offering information about themselves. We have the right to offer a reasonable opinion in rebuttal to what we are hearing or reading. I feel that the open exchange of ideas or opinions is essential for mental growth, civility, understanding and respect.

If CSUSM does not have a policy regarding the actions and behaviors of visiting groups, perhaps it is time to make one and respectfully escort those visitors who won't comply with it to the curb. They should be held to the same standards we are when they are in our community.

Respectfully,

Susanne Montague, student

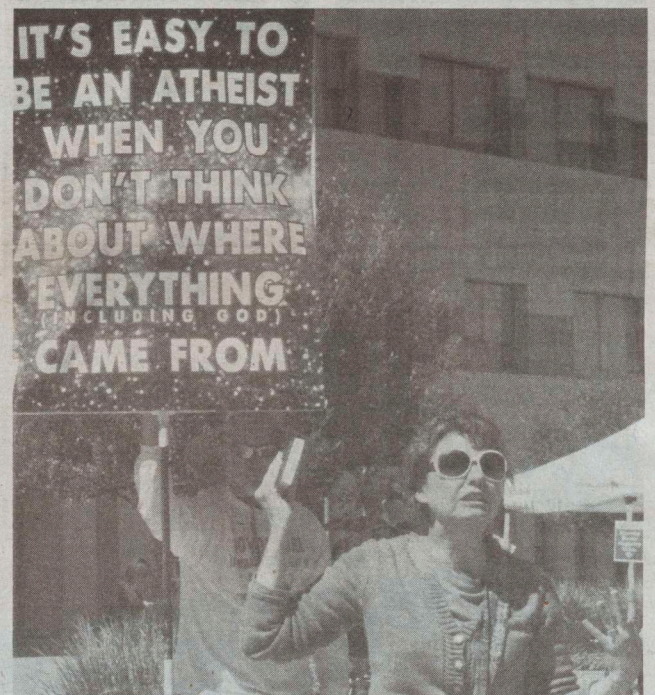
Apparently God hates us all Campus Ministry USA has the right to free speech

By BEN CARLSON
STAFF WRITER

On the afternoon of March 12, members of Campus Ministry USA stood around yelling and preaching about "man's fallen nature" and our "inherent sinfulness." Unfortunately, these bitter pilgrims attracted a large crowd of students whom they hoped to convert through their convincing arguments. Among these brilliant tirades included the insight that all women are "whores" if they sleep with a man before marriage.

"She was ridiculous. Calling all males disease infested individuals," student Christopher Dods said, recounting listening to one of the female ministers preach. Apparently, fellow CSUSM students, we are all going to hell.

While I may not agree with the members of Campus Ministry USA, I do support their right to... well, you know. That being said, there seems to be a need for critical response. While many of the students who stood around the ministry decided to fire back with obscenities and additional colorful language, I must insist on writing a clean rebuttal. One sign the ministry brought to campus read "It's easy to be an atheist when you don't think about where everything (in-



Preaching members of the Campus Ministry USA in front of Library Plaza on March 12. Photo by Kristin Melody.

cluding God) came from."

Students at CSUSM think about philosophical and existential issues everyday, but most of us understand that yelling our personal convictions at one another with condemnation and calling women "whores" is wrong and intolerant. We also understand what Socrates meant when he stated "The only true wisdom is in knowing you know nothing." The men and women of CSUSM are too smart to entertain deranged arguments by men and women who obviously need to go back to school.

I think it is best to avoid these preachers on campus as it will show a sign of maturity, for, as the late-great Christopher Hitchens put it, "the person who is certain, and who claims divine warrant for his certainty, belongs now to the infancy of our species." The men and women of Campus Ministry USA don't deserve our attention. They deserve our pity and indifference. Didn't they hear that CSUSM was rated the safest university in California? We're already peacemakers for God's sake.

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Letters to the Editor should include a first and last name and should be under 300 words, submitted via email. It is the policy of The Cougar Chronicle not to print anonymous letters. The Cougar Chronicle reserves the right to reject any Letter to the Editor for any reason.

Contestants from 'RuPaul' make an appearance for LGBTQA event

Pandora Boxx, Morgan McMichaels and others perform at 'Glitter on the Highway: A Gender Bending Extravaganza'

By JULIANA STUMPP
A & E Editor

On March 22, the LGBTQA Pride Center and ASI partnered together to present "Glitter on the Highway: A Gender Bending Extravaganza," which featured drag queens and a king from the hit television show "RuPaul's Drag Race," at the San Marcos Civic Center.

The event featured MC Regina Styles and two contestants from season 2 of "RuPaul's Drag Race," Pandora Boxx and Morgan McMichaels, as well as Mayhem Miller. In addition to the three women performing was

Landon Cider, a drag king.

Styles came out first to perform before introducing the other four entertainers. McMichaels lip-synched and danced to P!nk's "Blow Me (One Last Kiss)." However, the lights and sound weren't cooperating causing her to act like a diva yelling, "fix the fu**ing sound," before leaving the stage. Next came Miller looking fierce in bright red contacts and walking around the room like she owned it.

Crowd favorites were Boxx and Cider for their humorous performances. First Boxx came out in a 50's inspired dress with black cats

singing along to a song titled "Eat S**t and Die." After a couple sets, she returned incorporating quotes from the movie "Bridesmaids" into her performance of "Fly Like an Eagle."

Cider first came on stage sporting a bald cap impersonating the pop star Pitbull singing along to songs like "Hotel Room Service," "I Know You Want Me" and "Back in Time."

After a few more sets of performances, there was a small intermission that was immediately followed by a drag queen and king contest in which audience members could win the title of the

night. There was a women's and men's side that each would walk down the walkway strutting their stuff. At the end, the audience chose Viv Nyugen's alter ego "Psycho," a drag version of the Asian pop star "Psy," for drag king and Evan Long for drag queen as "Ms. Applebaum."

Coming from someone who has never been to a Drag Show, I did not know what to expect. My friend watched the television series and always talked about it so when I mentioned the event to her, she was quickly on board. Although I felt uncomfortable at first, I relaxed as the



night went on. I went in with an open mind and left having fun memories. The night was about expressing yourself and accepting others and all troubles and judgments were left at the door.

"RuPaul's Drag Race" is aired on both the "Logo" and "VH1" station. For more information about LGBTQA Pride Center events, visit www.csusm.edu/pridecenter

For your entertainment

By FAITH ORCINO
CARTOONIST



"Xamd:
Lost Memories"

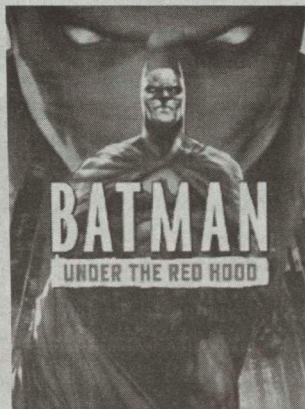
★★★★★/5

Created by animation studio Bones, "Xamd: Lost Memories" was its first on-line exclusive project with Sony's Playstation Network in 2008.

Two years later, Sentai Filmworks picked up the English licensing rights to the series. The story begins with the postal ship named Zanbani and its confrontation with an armada.

Viewers then shift to Akiyuki Takehara, a young high school student who lives in island similar to the present-day Japanese country side, excluding the large flying airships.

The day Akiyuki arrived on time for the school bus was fate, for that bus ride changed his life and him into an Xamd. For those familiar with Bones' works, the world of "Xamd" seems very similar to their previous series "Eureka Seven." The team also reunited with composer Michiru Oshima who worked with their first Fullmetal Alchemist project. There are many wonderful action sequences and drama fills in the gap between them. At times, it seems that some of the progressions of characters go too fast, but there is only so much the creative team could fit in the whole series.



"Batman:
Under the Red Hood"

★★★★★/5

Though an animated film, this cartoon movie deals with the dark history of Gotham City's Batman.

Released in 2010 from DC Comics and Warner Bros, "Under the Red Hood" starts out with the end of Batman's second robin, Jason Todd. It then skips five years to the city where crime lords scramble as a new threat appears under the name "The Red Hood."

The film is an adaptation to Judd Winick's story arc under the same name. The voice cast includes Neil Patrick Harris from "How I Met Your Mother," Jensen Ackles from "Supernatural" and Bruce Greenwood as Batman.

For some, this movie's version of the Joker may be an issue for viewers. It is a unique design and a bit different compared to its other manifestations such as in the comics or Dark Knight Films.

But rest assured, voice actor John DiMaggio brings the villain back to a level of familiarity. Even if you have not read any of the comics, this film would be able to bring you up to speed and bring you into the mystery and action in Gotham City.

A girl's view of 'Girls'

By MELISSA MARTINEZ
News Editor

As a female college student in her 20s, I must say that HBO's "Girls" is a perfect coming-of-age series for those moments in life that you can't believe actually happened.

"Girls," which is created, directed and starring Lena Dunham, writer of the Netflix-Instant available "Tiny Furniture," chronicles the mishaps and adventures of Hannah Horvath, a previously spoiled 20-something-year-old woman who has just been financially estranged from her parents.

While Hannah is dealing with her lack of a job, she finds herself in a complicated friends-with-benefits relationship with Adam, played by Adam Driver, while aiding her uptight roommate Marnie, played by Allison Williams, and dealing with getting over the traumatic ending of a four-year relationship and finding time to spend with her carefree and British-accented companion Jessa, played by Jemima Kirke.

The series documents the hardships in job searching with a Bachelor's degree without glamorizing the being of an actual college-graduate in New York.

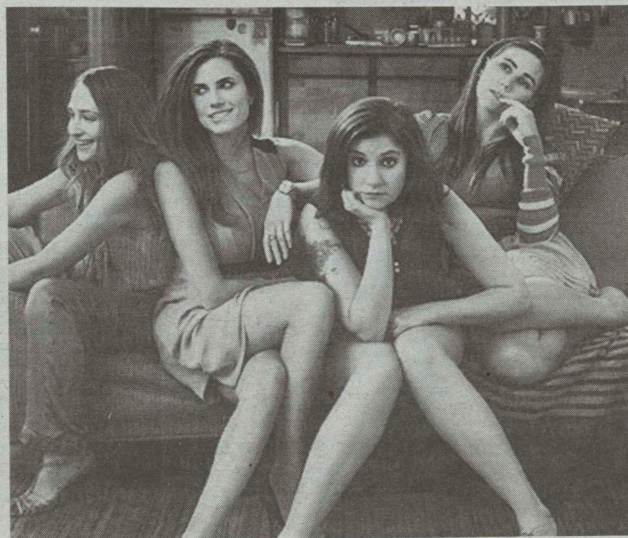
However, though the girls of "Girls" are completely

interesting to watch as their lives unravel, the series has received negative feedback regarding poor handling of race and sexism. However, Dustin Rowles discussed in his article, "HBO's 'Girls' and Our Resentment Toward Privileged, White America" that though these girls are unlikable, spoiled and lazy, the issues that they deal with are identifiable.

Rowles states, "The reason why I do like 'Girls,' and why I think there is something very noble about it, is that it does something that those others shows about unlikable people don't and what very few shows have ever done: it follows complicated women dealing with their own complicated messes."

Regardless of their socioeconomic status, the series revolves around four girls that aren't yet "women," or adults in the sense of financial independence. They discuss the controversy with being happy in life versus being independent, the issues of not being comfortable in their own bodies, wanting to be an "artist" instead of working a steady nine-to-five job, and other uncomfortable issues of sex, STDs, and what would be considered as promiscuity in society.

"Girls" is available via hbo.com/#/girls with an HBO subscription.



THE SHUFFLE

By KEANDRE WILLIAMS-CHAMBERS
COPY EDITOR

Spring has arrived and with it comes a set of sounds to keep with the season. These songs are sure to represent the essence of spring. Earthy and upbeat sounds with just a touch of expressive elements to lounge around to over break.

"Now is the Start" by A Fine Frenzy
Definitely the track to announce the beginning of spring. A chipper song from Alison Sudol's recent release of her album, "Pines", the song carries a lackadaisical tone despite its lyrics about moving on from current.

"That Time" by Regina Spektor
Let's be honest, we can't truly have spring without remembering all the things we've done before it and how we can all top it. For the reminiscing part, queue up this song and see if you remember that time you did something interesting, or a time something interesting happened to you. Maybe it could be a call to step up your game or stay inside this upcoming break.

"Dance, Dance, Dance" by Lykke Li
This wonderful and whimsical song featured on a Bing commercial makes you want to move a bit. The Swedish singer-songwriter's song about losing yourself in the moment when there may not be much need for trivial things such as empty conversation. Sometimes doing what is natural is just...well, necessary.

"Got it All Wrong" by Wakey!Wakey!
Perhaps spring might just be the time to reflect on the things we've done and the relationships we've formed. Given that Valentine's Day is long behind us, maybe this song can give the motivation to think if the foundation of a relationship formed for that day is stronger than its meaning. With the added bonus of the band that was featured on the television drama, "One Tree Hill," perhaps this is more reason to explore this group.

"It's Time" by Imagine Dragons
This familiar song featured on the trailer of the movie "The Perks of Being a Wallflower," this Imagine Dragons song from their debut studio album "Night Vision" has become a popular tune. With its upbeat rhythm and catchy tune, it carries along it the theme of a new beginning. Did I mention that it's catchy?

Student A: "Sick Days" by Faith Orcino



Spring Break's almost here!!! Hang in there!!!

'The Good Earth' By Pearl S. Buck

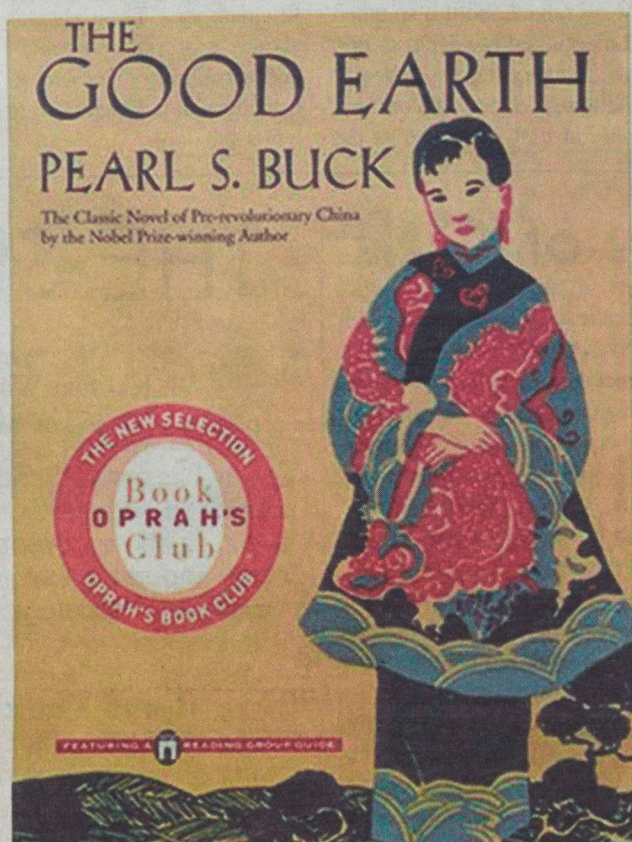
By JESSIE GAMBRELL
OPINION EDITOR

This classic novel of a compelling story placed in turn-of-the-century China will plunge you into the very pages of the book. You will practically be able to live the life of the poor Chinese farmer Wang Lung.

"The Good Earth" was Pearl S. Buck's second classic novel and it won a Pulitzer Prize in 1932. Having grown up in China with her missionary parents, Buck grew accustomed to the culture and was immersed in the history of ancient China. This gave her the inspiration to write one of the most compelling and heart-wrenching historical fiction novels of all time.

The idea of a poor Chinese farmer during the twentieth century seems simple enough, but the way Pearl S. Buck writes makes you feel as though Wang Lung's story is the most important story you will read about China.

In the story, Wang Lung inherits his father's land and consequently the charge of the rice crops he now owns. He is married to a young slave woman, O-Lan, who is



to bear his children, hopefully bringing about many sons for the honor of his family name. The story takes you through the turmoil's and emotions of Wang Lung and his family during the time of rising opium addicts and political changes in the country.

Although Wang Lung had his ups and downs, he still

showed his true character and his ability to survive the pitfalls of life. This book may have been published in 1931, but the plot of a man having to keep on going for the sake of his family, his family's honor and the dignity of his land, is not much different than what many families are going through today.



'Spring Breakers' film turn Disney actresses into 'good girls gone bad'

By JULIANA STUMPP
A & E EDITOR

It seemed with spring break quickly approaching, many college students would rush to the box office to see "Spring Breakers" and actually like it.

For months now, we have been seeing commercials and other forms of advertisement to get people to go see the movie that created a buzz regarding the actors involved.

Disney sweethearts Selena Gomez, from "Wizards of Waverly Place," Vanessa Hudgens, from "High School Musical," and Ashley Benson, from "Pretty Little Liars," shed their good girl appearances for this raunchy and wild film about spring break.

The plot focuses on Faith, who is played by Gomez, Candy, who is played by

Hudgens, Brit, who is played by Benson and Cotty, played by Rachel Korine, who are all college friends looking forward to a memorable spring break in Florida. However, they come across the problem of being a few hundred dollars short. Their solution, like every other college student, is to rob the customers of a local diner. The girls end up making it to Florida but are later arrested after some hard-core partying and intense drug use. After spending the night in jail, they are surprisingly bailed by a sketchy rapper named Alien, played by James Franco.

While the idea and trailers make the movie to be the first film in 2013 to be a Blockbuster hit, "Spring Breakers" fails to deliver any depth of the characters or obvious plot line. Within the first half hour, the problem regarding

making it to Florida to celebrate their youth is quickly resolved. It's apparent that many of the characters have serious mental problems such as Hudgen's character constantly pretending to shoot others and putting guns to her head or mouth.

The main actresses make it apparent that they want to break out of the "Disney" mold and it reflects in their characters.

With a title like "Spring Breakers" audiences should expect nudity, underage alcohol consumption and drug use, but there is such a thing as too much. It's safe to say that a good 30 minutes of the film shows nothing but girl's breasts and skimpy bikinis, which could be basically the stereotypical male fantasy.



'Saga:' Something strange and wonderful

By FAITH ORCINO
CARTOONIST

"Saga" is the newest comic series to get into this spring break.

Released by Image Comics last year, writer Brian Vaughan and illustrator Fiona Staples created this story with the help of iconic letterer Fonografiks, who is also known as Steven Finch.

This "Saga" begins with the birth of the comic's narrator, Hazel. Her parents, Alana and Marko, have been on the run from their planet's government and will continue to run once they are reunited with Hazel. Alana is of the winged-folk, while her husband Marko is a horned magical being. Their races have been in a war for an indefinite amount of time and now both sides changed their focus to capturing the family. This intergalactic search



gained the involvement of characters such as royal Prince Robot IV and a bounty hunter named The Will.

Staples's art is visually stunning and the perfect manifestation for Vaughan's writing. The characters' facial expressions truly capture their emotions while the backgrounds and scenery transport readers into worlds they have never imagined before. A much-needed warning, it received a mature rating due to its graphic con-

tents, including sex and violence, especially when they have a planet called Sextillion. Still, this comic is worth your time and money.

The first six issues are in the volume one collection, available both in hardcover and trade paperback. Volume two will be out in July, but if you want to grab the single issues, check your local vendor. For more information of "Saga", visit imagecomics.com.

'Psycho' spinoff excites and thrills viewers

By JULIANA STUMPP
A & E EDITOR

It's been more than 50 years since the film "Psycho" hit theaters and made an impact on the industry by defining the new horror genre.

With "Psycho" being a huge success and nominated for four Academy Awards, it's a wonder why there has never been a spin-off of the taunting movie until now.

"Bates Motel" is a prequel to the 1960 film and features Vera Farmiga, from "Up in the Air," as Norma Louise Bates and Freddie

Highmore, from "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," as a teenaged Norman Bates.

On March 18, the premiere began as Norman finds his father dead and his mother insisting they move to Oregon to "start over" and run a motel. Displeased with the move, Norman attempts to make the most of it by making friends and joining a sports team, which his mother resents. While working on the motel one afternoon, the former owner of the property expresses his dissatisfaction with the newest owners. Without giving

too much away, the first episode keeps you at the edge of your seat and finishes with you wanting more.

Throughout the episode, you could tell the cinematographer adapted some of the camera work that was used in "Psycho" to give the series that Alfred Hitchcock eerie essence. The audience can expect more twists and turns in this adaptation set in modern day.

Watch the series premiere on www.aetv.com/bates-motel and tune in at 10 p.m. Monday nights on the "A&E" station for new episodes.

