

SURREAL



One of the many signs posted throughout the campus, while wildfires tore through San Diego County.

Photo By Adrian Cundiff/*The Pride*

University Village students directly affected by wildfires

By ADRIAN CUNDIFF
Pride Staff Writer

Fires devastate San Diego County sending a snow-storm of ashes and smoke into the air that consumed everything. The fires directly or indirectly affected all students living on campus. Many students who live on campus complained about problems relating to breathing due to the large cloud of smoke that hovered over the campus all week. Others got sick and complained about having flu-like symptoms.

Not only was the campus closed for students who live off campus but also for students who live on campus as well. Students who live on campus were not able to use the computer lab, study or do research in the library, or workout in the gym for one week.

The air quality around campus caused one student to have an asthma attack that sent her to the emergency room last Monday. Olivia Roldan, Liberal Studies major, said that her limbs got numb and as she waited in the emergency room her hand got paralyzed as she checked in.

Roldan lives on campus and according to her the smoke was unbearable. The smoke around campus caused her asthma to act up even though her seasonal

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Massive Campus Clean Up

By ELIZABETH BALDWIN
Editor in Chief

Last week the San Diego County wildfires engulfed Cal State San Marcos with unhealthy air and spread soot and ash all over the campus. Although President McTarnaghan closed the campus to students, faculty and administrators, Facility Services were on hand cleaning up the campus and replacing air filters in all the buildings to ensure the campus would be safe for classes to resume on Nov. 3.

In response to the hazardous atmosphere surrounding the campus, Facility Services spent Friday changing all the air filters in each building.

"We're taking preventative measures by changing all the air filters in the buildings," said Chuck Walden, Director of Facility Services.

Although there was no testing done inside each building to determine how much unhealthy pollution there was, new filters were ordered and replaced as preventative maintenance.

Steve Holbrook of Facility Services said, "We're staying ahead of the game before people become affected."

The buildings on campus each have an air-handling room where outside air is sucked in and distributed through the air conditioning system. Filters are used on the outside

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McTarnaghan closes CSUSM for a week

By JONATHAN RODLEY
Pride Staff Writer

Students and faculty at CSUSM spent time away from school last week after Interim President Roy McTarnaghan cancelled classes due to the fires raging through San Diego County.

McTarnaghan closed the campus last week after emergency services requested roads be kept clear and because of poor air quality at CSUSM. As a result of the polluted air, more time was needed to replace air filters for air conditioning systems.

The call to close the campus came after Chancellor Charles Reed of the California State University (CSU) system advised McTarnaghan last week. Faculty and staff are determining the effects of the closure and how to fix any problems.

Except for essential personnel such as police and facilities crew, the closure barred students and staff from entering the campus.

"The major effect is how we will make up a week—that is the big question," said Rick Moore, CSUSM director of communications.

On Sunday night McTarnaghan decided to close the campus and planned Monday to assess reopening the

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The Pride

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The Pride

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Photo by Elizabeth Baldwin/The Pride
Jimmy Brumback, Facility Services, replaces a filter outside the Science Hall air handler room.

CLEAN UP

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and inside of these systems to stop large and small particular matter from getting into the building. After filters are replaced the air conditioning system will clean out any unhealthy particles in the buildings.

"We will run the system all weekend to make sure buildings are completely aired out before Monday", said Walden.

Another large part of the campus clean up effort was getting rid of all the debris left on the ground. Facility crews were spread throughout the campus on Friday removing soot and ash from walkways, stairs and sidewalks. The ash and soot covering the campus contributes to an unhealthy environment as it gets picked up by the wind and redistributed into the air.

"Focus is health and safety", said Walden, "We didn't want to expose anyone to unhealthy air."

STUDENTS

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asthma has not acted up for some time now. Roldan is still feeling the after effects of the smoke and does not know if she is going to be well enough to attend class.

Student Derek Westerfeld, Chemistry, was also affected. Westerfeld's house in Ramona was nearly consumed by the fire but only got as far as the backyard that burned the grass. Other friends of his in the community were not as lucky as they returned to the site that used to be their homes.

"My parents saw a small fire at a distance and thought nothing of it because it happens all the time in Ramona. Around 3:00 a.m. they decided to evacuate," said Westerfeld. There was no warning other than that of their neighbors. "They (his parents) saw cars driving about 90 M.P.H. in residential areas."

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Photo by Elizabeth Baldwin/The Pride
Fausto Lopez & Jim DiMartino, Facility Services, clean up ash in between The Dome and Craven Hall.

CLOSURE

continued from page 1

school on a daily basis.

Vice Chancellor for the CSU Jackie McClain sent a letter to McTarnaghan Monday granting leave for CSUSM employees for one or more days.

"By Tuesday it seemed clear that the devastation was wide spread and air quality was very bad," McTarnaghan said.

University police turned students away from CSUSM Tuesday morning. Moore said information about Tuesday's closure was posted on the CSUSM website, but it was too late for students coming from far away.

"We acknowledge that, and I apologize to students who didn't hear soon enough," Moore said.

The provost and deans are creating a "make-up" plan on how to solve lost class time due to the week-long closure, Planning Officer Terry Allison said.

Because of the closure CSUSM might incur additional expenses to pay for employees Allison said. "Since we don't have a plan yet, I'm not able to say there won't be any new costs; we will try to

minimize the cost," Allison said.

Because some students lost homes to the fires, McTarnaghan said numerous people offered to financially assist victims and their families in need.

CSUSM is providing a way to donate through the non-profit organization the Foundation. McTarnaghan said that donations are tax-deductible and anyone making a donation could address it "for fire victims."

"Our concern is to reach out and council and support the people who have had a loss," McTarnaghan said.

For future emergencies, McTarnaghan said that communication with the public media could be improved.

He also said that how CSUSM deals with phone messages and computer systems could be re-examined. Computer systems at CSUSM overloaded Monday.

"I think given the sudden nature of this disaster that our campus responded very well; you know there's always room for improvement," Allison said.

Robin Martens, support assistant for the provost said the provost and the deans of the colleges are scheduled to continue working on a "make-up" plan today.

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Any questions related to this stipend can be directed to: Dr. Gilbert Valadez, co-director, Teacher Diversity Project, College of Education, X 8514, gvaladez@csusm.edu

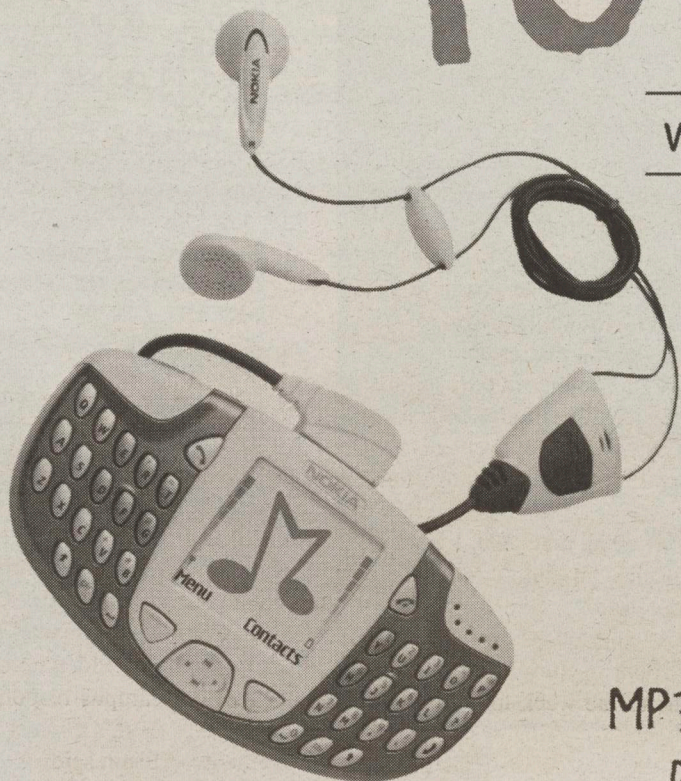
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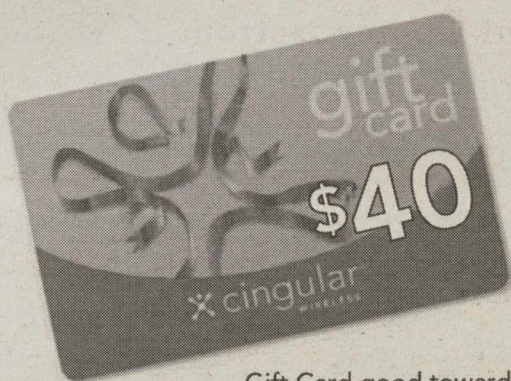
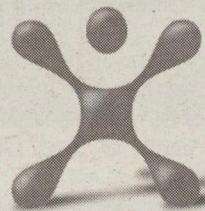
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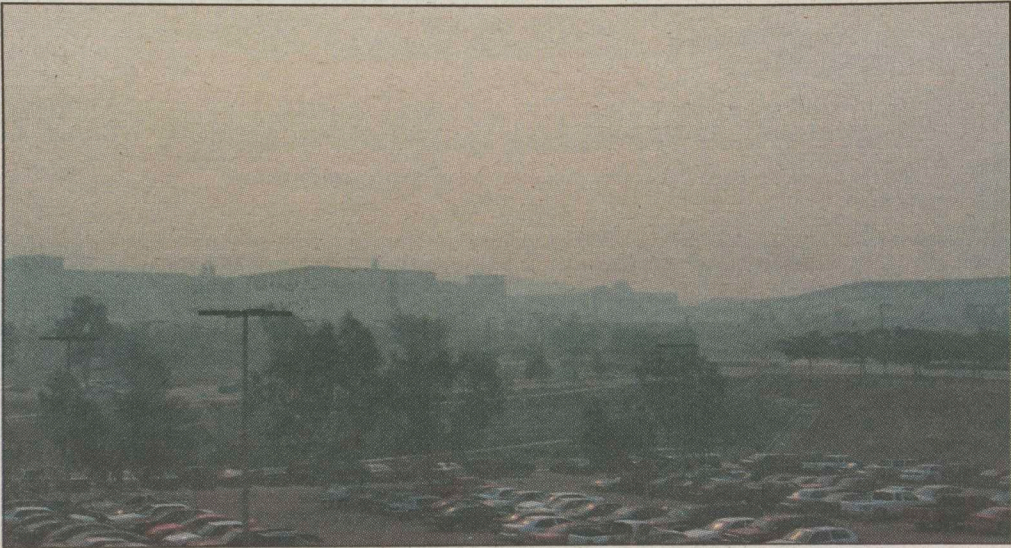
Left: Onlookers stop on the shoulder of a road in Ramona to watch the flames engulfing the hillside. The Cedar fire killed 14 people, burned 281,298 acres, and destroyed 2,232 homes. (Courtesy of Derek Westerfield)

Below: Smoke and then flames rush over an eastern hill in Ramona on Monday, Oct. 27. The fire eventually changed its path of destruction, sparing homes of residents in the area, as the winds altered their course. (Photos courtesy of Christina Spinks)



Above: Flames race over the countryside in Ramona. The genesis of the cedar fire, started by a flare lighted by a lost hunter, originated in this rural town of San Diego county. (Photo courtesy of Christina Spinks)

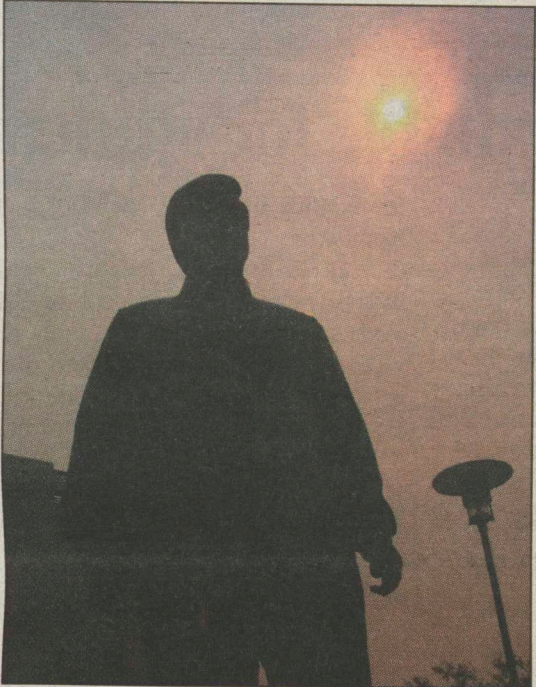
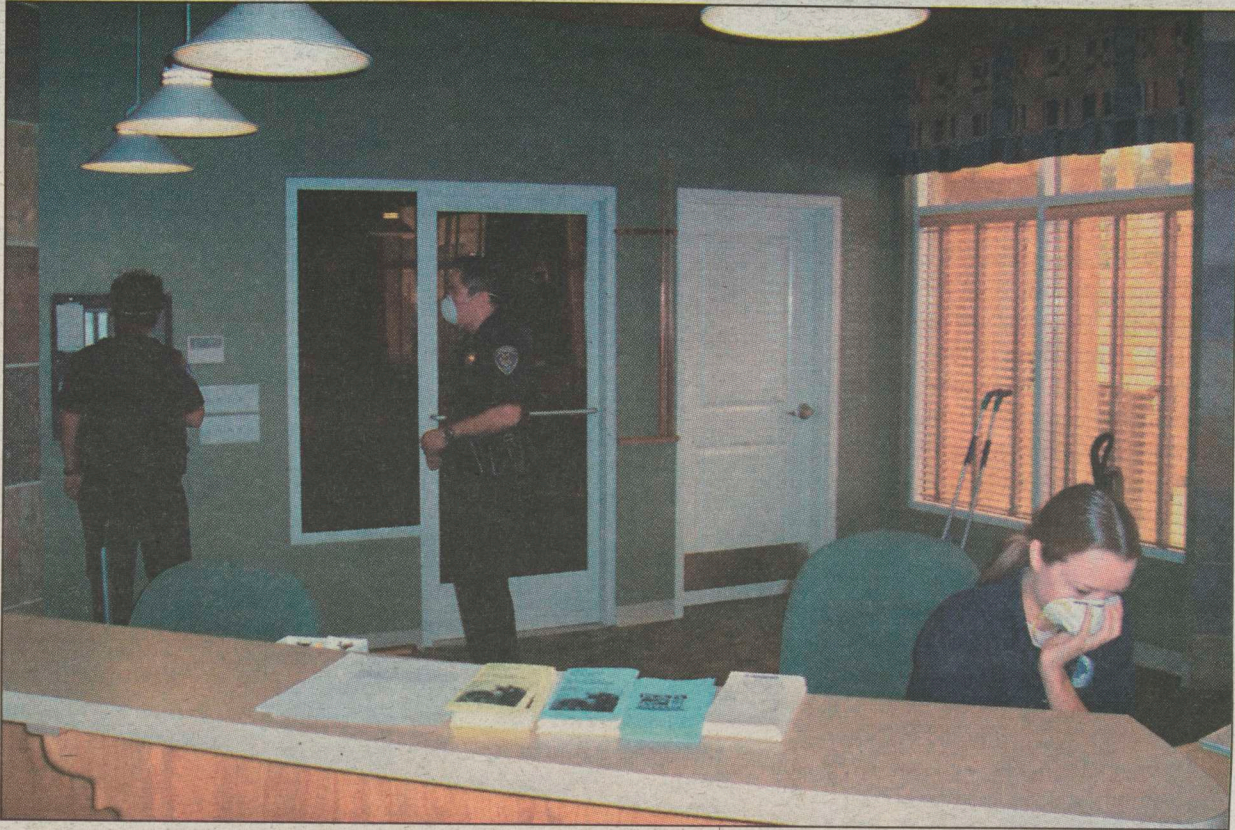
Below: Smoke looms over Cal State San Marcos on Monday, Oct. 27. The main campus was difficult to see from the University Village Apartments through the haze. (Photo by Adrian Cundiff/Pride Staff)



WERE OUT

Right: CSUSM Police Officer Forest, Officer Estepa, and Residential Advisor Bree Daniels continue to work as the calls flood the office from people concerned about the fires close to CSUSM. (Photos by Adrian Cundiff/Pride Staff)

Below: The statue of Cesar Chavez stands solitary amidst an empty campus. Air quality around campus became a huge problem forcing classess to be cancelled the week of October 27.



Left: Signs diverted students from entering the campus all last week.

Right: Police and Parking services posted signs around campus not allowing any students to roam the campus.

Below: The haze from the Cedar fire rolls through CSUSM.



CSUSM student realizes what matters most

By MELISSA RODRIGUEZ
Pride Staff Writer

It was supposed to be all about baby booties, silly games, girl talk and presents at the baby shower we were throwing for my sister-in-law at our house in Escondido on Sunday, October 28th. We never expected what was to come of the day.

My parents and I woke up early to wrap gifts, decorate and set up the tables in the back yard for the lunch mom was preparing for our guests.

It was a hot day, outside the air smelled of smoke, and ashes were falling on our tables like snow.

Every television channel was broadcasting the destruction wildfires were causing all over San Diego County.

Guests would be arriving from all over Southern California and we worried that we had invited them to Hell.

Hopefully no one would put themselves in danger to come to our house. Hopefully everyone we knew would be safe. Hopefully this was all a bad dream. Hopefully it would all be over soon.

Everyone we were expecting showed up. I turned off the TV and for the next few hours focused on family and friends and the celebration for my yet unborn niece.

At lunch we joked that the ash falling into our sodas was good for us. Doesn't carbon absorb toxins in the body?

Once most of the guests were gone I went upstairs to my room and looked out the window. It was dark and I could clearly see flames burning over the second hillside to our east. I learned later this was the Valley Center fire which was less than

eight miles away from us.

"Papi, ven aca," I called my dad upstairs, but my anxious voice alerted my mom that she should come too. The fires we had spent all day ignoring were now very real. Quickly we decided it was time to get packing.

Important papers, pictures, heirlooms, treasured gifts, clothes, essential toiletries, my dog's food and leash, the computer tower, anything we could think of that we considered irreplaceable or essential was thrown in laundry baskets and suitcases and piled in the living room.

Finally, exhausted and mesmerized by the news reports, we went to sleep, thinking we would need all the rest we could get in case we had to evacuate at some time during the night. I woke up often to look out the window, but the flames never came closer.

No fireman ever came to knock on our door. No evacuation notice was announced for our street. We were safe. We were lucky, during the night the winds shifted to the east and away from us.

Some of our things still sit on the living room floor as we are a little afraid to put them away. However, these things no longer seem as important as they did that night. They are just things. It is the people who are suffering from great losses that are in my heart now. They are important, essential and irreplaceable unlike the things on the living room floor. You and me and everyone we know, everyone that lives here in San Diego, everyone that lives in our world. They are what really matters.

LTWR department accepting donations

By ELIZABETH BALDWIN
Editor in Chief

As of Monday, Nov. 3rd, three members of the Literature and Writing Department community had suffered devastating losses resulting from the San Diego County Fires, a lecturer for LTWR and Film Studies, a graduate student, and an undergraduate student.

The LTWR department has responded by setting up a collection to provide support and some financial relief to these individuals. "We've taken the lead for our own community," said Susie Lan Cassel, Associate Professor and Department Chair of Literature and Writing.

Cash or check donations can be dropped off at The Writing Center located at CRA 3106 or at Anita Nix's office located at CRA 6209.

"A number of people are dropping off cash or checks for the general fund and some are writing checks for particular people," said Dr. Robin Keehn, Director of the Writing Center.

"The general fund will be divided up among those identified as having severe loss," said Cassel.

Anyone who would like to donate items, such as books, clothes, or misc. household goods is asked to email a list of these items to Anita Nix at: anix@csusm.edu.

The University is working on setting up a foundation that will help out all students, faculty and staff affected by the San Diego County fires.

Support available for students

By LISA GEORGE
Pride Features Editor

The aftermath of an unexpected tragedy brings many needs and concerns. In the midst of the chaos it is important to discuss personal reactions, strengthen friendships we have and reach out to those in need.

One psychological side effect of tragedies is Posttraumatic Stress Disorder, or PTSD.

PTSD is a psychological disorder affecting those who have experienced or witnessed a major trauma. The symptoms of PTSD include nightmares, irritability, anxiety, fatigue, forgetfulness, and social withdrawal.

If you experience feelings of anxiety, depression, and social withdrawal CAPS is here to help. CAPS is the Counseling and Psychological Services at Cal State San Marcos. They are a group of professionals and pre-doctoral students from Alliant University majoring in clinical psychology.

CAPS is located at Suite 102 in the San Marcos Ambulatory Care Center, they are open Monday through Friday, 8-5 pm, and can be reached at (760) 750-4910.

According to Dr. Kreisler, the full time psychiatrist with CAPS, the most important service they offer is one-on-one counseling.

Dr. Kreisler suggests that victims of the

fire confide in a close friend or a clergy member.

Dean of Students, Jonathan Poullard, has also responded to the needs of CSUSM students by opening his door to those who want to discuss concerns about the devastating effects of the San Diego County Fires.

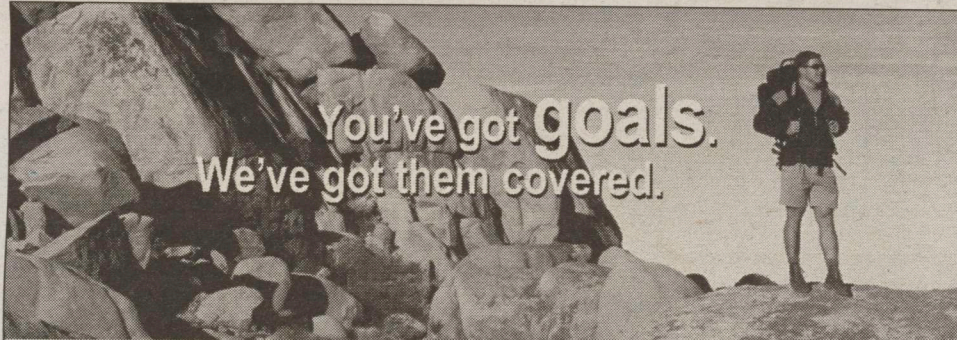
Poullard's office is located in Craven Hall 4935. It is recommended to call first and make an appointment, (760) 750-4056.

Air quality is also a health concern. The American Lung Association recommends southern California residents to monitor breathing and exposure to airborne contaminants.

The Air Pollution Control District of San Diego reported that the air quality is good, with the exception of the areas that are still burning or downwind of fires.

To maintain good health, drink plenty of liquids that will aid in flushing the air particles out of the body and avoid hard labor as much as possible. Children should be monitored more closely due to their developing respiratory systems that take in more air than adults do, which means more air pollution.

Dr. Nicholson from Student Health Services warned that air borne particles will continue to affect air quality for the next one to two weeks. She advised students to minimize time spent outside and to breathe through the nose.



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OMBUDSMAN'S notes

By MICHAEL DOLAN
Pride Staff Writer

I woke up Sunday morning to the smell of smoke, the sound of sirens, and a red sky. I imagine that this was the manner in which most everyone who lives in North San Diego County also woke up on that morning. A quick reference to the television confirmed my suspicions that there was a fire of dramatic proportions very close by. My senses did not prepare me for the images that I saw on the television; the reality of these fires was far worse than I expected.

These fires are different than the Harmony Grove Fire of 1996 or the fires that burned near Lake Wohlford in 1993. In those fires, both houses and lives were lost, but not on the scale that we experienced over the past week. The Cedar, Paradise, and Crest Fires that are our reality as

I write this column brought sheer destruction the likes of which we have never seen before. Whole neighborhoods were lost under a wave of flame that had the same ferocity and speed as a tidal wave. Dramatic images of the flames racing along side State Route 52 into Miramar suggested that the fire was in control, that the human firefighter on the ground stood no chance against the flame's brutal onslaught.

Also, unlike those previous fires, San Diego County was unprepared to properly handle these flames. The County's resources were allocated to other fires in the state thus vanquishing our own defenses. Furthermore, the bureaucratic red tape that had to be dealt with in order to return these resources in addition to providing additional resources to fight these fires were insane. Most certainly heads will roll when more stories come to life that agencies, like the CDF, were fighting jurisdictional battles

regarding firefighting equipment rather than bucking the procedure to get that equipment to the fire lines.

This week, The Pride will focus exclusively on coverage of the fires that have impacted our community. It is our intent to provide complete coverage of the fires and the effect they have had on our community. We will return to our normal format next week. As such, I have put on hold my usual duties of responding to the criticisms for last week's paper since the circulation was so limited and many of you did not get an opportunity to read that edition. Besides, the impact of these fires is a far greater concern to us than a critique of The Pride at this point in time. In addition, I will collect the corrections for last week and include them in next week's edition. As always, I encourage and expect your feedback regarding this disaster and our coverage of the events. My email is dolan005@csusm.edu.

Emma's Week Off...



Letters To The Editor

Students react to Interm President McTarnaghan's late decision on Tuesday Oct. 28th to close CSUSM.

Mr. McTarnaghan,

I am a 37 year-old student at CSUSM with a family. Yesterday, my children, who attend Vista Unified Schools, were notified there was no school for them today, 10/28, and their schools Website said, "Stay away from school tomorrow 10/28." My wife, who works for the Oceanside Unified School District, was notified at 2pm yesterday that school would be closed today, and was ordered to stay at home because of the bad air quality. Naturally, I thought that it was just a matter of time before CSUSM notified us via the Internet, email or phone message that there was no school; no such thing happened—not even this morning before I left for school. I had a test in my first class, so being the responsible student that I am, and trusting the leadership of our school to not put us in harms way, I headed for campus at 5:30 A.M. to study. I arrived on Campus, and went

to the cafeteria. At 6:45 A.M., I was finally notified by campus Police that the decision to close the school had been made this morning. Needless to say, I am quite frustrated.

What took so long for you to make the decision to close campus? A person in your position has a lot of authority affecting thousands of people's health. I have a hard time believing that you even took a moment to think it was actually healthy to allow students and staff to exit the safety of their homes and venture out into this ashtray atmosphere we have today. It appears to me that you put education ahead of the safety and well-being of the students and the faculty. I even saw one of the café workers coughing up a storm and having a hard time breathing. How is it that all of the other Universities and school districts in the county took it upon themselves to put the health and safety of their community first, yet CSUSM, who

is closer to the fires than several of the closed schools, felt it okay to wait out the decision? I am no meteorologist, but it was clear to me that with a slight change in the weather pattern, slowing and shifting winds and a rise in the moisture level, would be good for firefighting but poor for cleaning the atmosphere of the harmful effects of smoke and ash. There was absolutely no reason to delay the notification to students to stay home and to avoid going outside. Hundreds, maybe even thousands of us unjustifiably went outside and exposed ourselves to the dangerous elements of the atmosphere because of that decision.

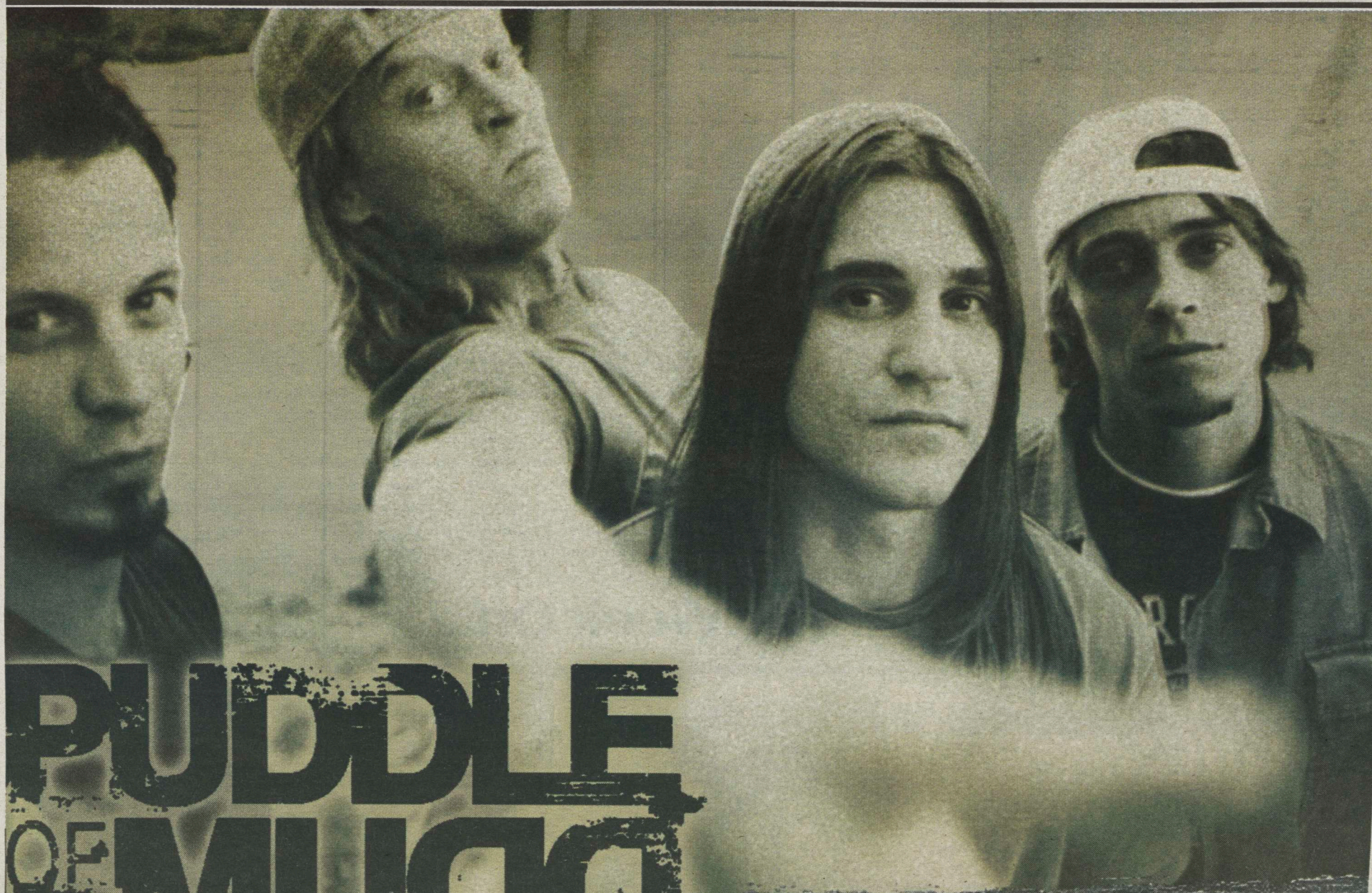
The students and faculty deserve an apology for your lack of initiative in making the decision to close the campus in a timely manner, sparing the students and faculty from undue physical and emotional harm.

Chad M. Osborn

As a student at Cal State San Marcos, I am very disappointed in the way the school handled the closure for today, 10/28. As of 6:30 this morning, the website said the school was open; this is a time most of us would check to make sure before we leave. When all the other schools county-wide were closed today, it seems only logical that last night CSUSM would have made the same announcement both for TV news and on the website. What a n idea--letting students know in advance so they can plan! Many showed up early this morning for classes, following the announcement on the CSUSM homepage, and were turned away by police who said the campus was closed. Luckily, a friend called to tell me this right before I walked out the door and embarked on my forty-five minute commute. I know

other students who even travel further than that to get to school! It is sure a shame that so many ventured out in this horrible weather with all the particulate matter floating about, only to have it be a wasted endeavor. How long did it take to occur to someone that it would be appropriate for CSUSM to follow the admonitions of our fire officials and encourage students to stay at home? It should have been a quick and easy decision based on the health experts' warnings on the news. I hope that CSUSM will be more considerate of its student's health and time in the future.

Jolie Miller
Junior, Literature and Writing
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