

Administration responds to Editor In Chief

Vice president of finance and administrative services addresses pedestrian safety

Dear The Pride,
Regarding the editorial entitled "Something Must Be Done," appearing in your February 6th edition of The Pride, first let me acknowledge that, for this purpose, as Vice President for Finance and Administrative Services, I am the responsible "CSUSM Administra-

tion" referred to in the editorial. University Police, Risk Management & Safety, Parking and Transportation Services, and Planning Design & Construction all report to me, so identifying issues, developing resolutions, and implementing solutions are within my purview.

Second, while I responded to

several specific requests related to last semester's accident, I was more focused on working within the administration on investigating various solutions. Sharing our plans to address the issues and parameters within which we must work was not communicated, as it should have been, to the broader campus

community, especially our students who represent the greatest number of campus family members.

Please let me assure you that the safety of our campus community is of the greatest importance to all of us. The entire campus has been going through a period of adjustment to an increased population,

and current schedules now cause a large percentage of faculty, staff, and students to enter and exit the campus at similar times. Some have altered their arrival and departure times whenever possible, and some have found that

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Artist Erick Otto visits CSUSM

BY KELLY CORRIGAN
Pride Staff Writer

On Friday, Feb. 9 the unveiling of Erik Otto's paintings and installation, "Rooted Dreams," took place inside of Kellogg Library.

Members of the community, Library staff and students joined Otto as he walked through his installation, describing his art work and his motivation.

In Otto's installation, bird houses painted red and blue hang from branches above leaves strewn on the library floor. A colorful banner of cloth extends from the installation on the third floor to reach the fourth floor of the library.

According to Otto, the bird houses in his art work symbolize the human form of a home. "A place you go where you feel safe - to escape the busyness of the world and to cultivate dreams," Otto said.

With many recurring images in his work, one piece that stands out from the rest is a character Otto calls, "Rock guy." The rock character reappears in Otto's paintings along with the bird



Photo by Mary Foley / The Pride

Above: Erick Otto's installation and paintings "Rooted Dreams" now on display in Kellogg Library. Bottom-right: Erick Otto stops for a picture in front of his work.

houses. In the installation, the character appears as a 3D form. The character's sleepy eyes look upon the house. Otto mentioned how the character would like to go to the house, but he's ultimately weighed down.

In the installation, the cloth

banner behind the rock character works as the character's thought. "Sort of like a prayer," Otto said.

Otto said, "The leaves are an ode to Andy Goldsworthy." Goldsworthy was an outdoors artist, Otto further described. "They

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Photo by Kelly Corrigan / The Pride

Plan B pill now available at student health center

BY PAMELA CASTILLO
Pride Staff Writer

Plan B, or the Morning After Pill, is now available to students over the counter at the Student Health and Counseling Services, amongst various other services. In nine states, including California, the FDA has changed restrictions to allow individuals that are 18 and older to obtain the product over the counter, while individuals under 17 can obtain the product with a prescription.

CSUSM student, Laura Contreras shares her perspective. "I think the right to choose is a good idea, but it should not be available over the counter. I'm worried that younger women, who might not be informed, may use the morning after pill as a form of contraception without understanding their other options."

At the CSUSM Health Center, the cost for the pill is \$25.00. Male or female students can purchase the product, with or without counseling, up to two times per month. After the second time in a month, an appointment is required. The main reason for requiring an appointment is because the product is not intended for frequent use, nor does it substitute birth control. Users should know that the product is advertised as up to 89% effective for reducing pregnancy risk, and does not protect from STD's. Nursing Major Naomi Strong said, "I personally believe that the plan B pill is a good backup method to birth control. However, I don't think that the pill should be used as a routine. Women should take the necessary precautions and be responsible when having intercourse but people do make mistakes which also

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BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENTS

- Feb. 13 at 6 p.m. - BSU hosts fashion show at Clark Field House.
- Feb. 15 at 5:30-7:00 p.m. - "Black Market" will be the topic of the "Dinner Dialogues" presented by the Cross-Cultural Center and Educational Equity & Diversity 7pm in the Dome.
- Feb. 15 at 7:00 p.m. - "Tuskegee Airmen" film showing in the UVA classroom.
- Feb. 17 at 7 p.m. - "Rosa Parks" film showing in the UVA classroom.
- Feb. 18, departing from UVA at noon - Sunday Gospel Brunch at the House of Blues in downtown San Diego.

See page 5 for more on Black History Month

Women's Center moves to a new location

BY KIM ANDERSON
Pride Staff Writer

The Women's Center has moved from Commons 201A to FCB 102 and is near the parking services office. Senior Lissa Lim, Cal State senior and Women's Center Operations Coordinator says, "Since we've moved to a larger space, we were able to expand our services. We now have an awesome library space where students can come relax and read a book. We also have private space where women can come breast-feed or simply use

See **CENTER**, page 2

CFA holds meeting to discuss strike options

BY KELLY CORRIGAN
Pride Staff Writer

On Tuesday, Feb. 6, the California Faculty Association of CSUSM met at the Clarke Field House to discuss the CFA's available options, should they decide to go on strike this spring. In the process of bargaining for a fair contract, the CFA and CSU are now in the midst of the fact-finding process. Fact-finding is the process in which a third party gathers information on how much money the CSU has and how much money is being distributed.

Once the fact-finding process is finished, the CFA hopes that the CSU will present the fac-

ulty with a fair contract. The fact-finding process is expected to be completed in the middle of March. Once the fact-finding process is finished, the CFA can officially go on strike.

Professor David Bradfield, CFA Chapter President of Cal State Dominguez Hills, was present among the CFA members of CSUSM on Tuesday's meeting. When speaking if fact finding should fail to yield to an agreement, Bradfield said, "We're proposing a kind of job action that will have the minimum impact on students and faculty and the maximum impact on the administration." Bradfield added, "The

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THE PRIDE

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY SAN MARCOS STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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New study abroad options available

Deadlines approaching for Australia, New Zealand and South Africa

BY TIFFANIE HOANG
Pride Staff Writer

One of the many benefits of being a member of the CSU system is that it provides students with the opportunity to study in 19 different countries. Studying abroad allows students to engross themselves in an atmosphere that is not only academically stimulating, but also makes for a life-long experience. CSUSM International Programs advisor, Jan Stockey said, "Studying in another country brings a dimension to your education that you cannot imagine." As students separate themselves from what is familiar, students challenge themselves to exist in a foreign place. In meeting new people and encountering new experiences, students acquire a new understanding of not only themselves, but the world around them. As of right now, students still have the

chance to apply and study for an academic year in Australia, New Zealand and South Africa.

The application date for Australia, New Zealand and South Africa is May 1. A decision on whether the student is qualified to go will be made in late August. A complete application must contain an IP Application, two faculty recommendations and official university transcripts from all colleges and universities attended. According to the CSU International Programs website, "Admission of a student is based on academic, linguistic, and personal qualifications, and on the appropriateness of the students' proposed plan of study to their degree objective." There is no application fee, and those looking to apply are best advised to meet with an IP Campus Coordinator.

An academic year of studying abroad is beneficial to students because not only does it take

time to culturally assimilate to your new surroundings, but the extensive amount of time also crosses the line of being a visitor into becoming a true resident in the community in which you are studying. Stockey understands the importance of spending an academic year abroad and said, "Year long programs provide an even greater opportunity for a richer cultural experience."

IP enrollment fees are kept at an affordable rate because student costs are partially supported by the State of California. The cost of studying abroad is dependent on what country you wish to study and their economic situation. Students pay for their own housing, transportation, meals and any extra costs. Scholarships and financial aid are available. However, what the CSU International Programs website considers to be most important is the experience you attain by studying

abroad and considers studying abroad "A long-term investment in yourself and in your future."

Students do receive credit for all coursework that is completed while abroad. All completed coursework is considered CSU resident credit. Academic Reports are prepared by the Office of International Programs, who converts host university information into CSU campus terms. Students must meet with a counselor prior to their departure in order to understand how the work the student completed abroad applies within their scope of requirements.

Should students have any further inquiries on studying abroad they can visit the CSUSM website of global affairs at <http://www.csusm.edu/UGA/study-abroad.htm>, or the official CSU International Programs website at <http://www.gateway.calstate.edu/csuienet/index.shtml>.

From CENTER, page 1

it to vent and be alone. In addition, we have a large array of brochures and fax sheets displayed in the Women's Center. With all this, we hope to have created a safe, comfortable space for all students."

The new Women's Center is more roomy with a couple of couches, a computer workspace, chairs, a table and even a giant beanbag. There is room to work on schoolwork, eat, gather or just hang out and read. Speaking of reading, the new Women's Center Library has many books available for student use. These books

range from books on women's issues to calculus and biological sciences as well. Cheyenne Barr, Director of Men's Activism and Outreach, explains that these books are available to check out for an entire semester. If students do not have the funds to buy an expensive textbook, checking it out in the Women's Center could save those valuable dollars.

Lori Walkington, senior and women's study major, explains, "The Women's Center is a wonderful place to meet with other students, relax, chat about classes and learn about women, culture, sexuality and gender. It's a fun place to expand understanding,

get resources and connect with others." And now, with more room than before, students have more space in which to do these things.

On Tuesday, February 20, the Women's Center will be hosting an informal discussion questioning if the United States really is a melting pot. The discussion will be held from 12-1 p.m., and free soup will be served. Women's Center Programming and Events Coordinator Morgan Hoodenpyle says, "Ultimately we're trying to provide a community. This is a safe space. Everyone is welcome!"

The Women's Center offers counseling, support groups and mentoring on tough issues such

as sexual assault, rape and sexual harassment. They also provide support for couples counseling, parenting, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender mentoring. In addition to these services, they have emergency supplies such as diapers, tampons, condoms and emergency toiletry kits. Center hours are Monday 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Tuesday 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and 2 p.m.-8:30 p.m., Wednesday 9 a.m.-8:30 p.m., Thursday 9 a.m.-10 a.m. and 11 a.m.-5 p.m., and Friday 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

For more information, the Women's Center can be contacted at 760-750-4988 or by e-mail at asiwomenscenter@csusm.edu.

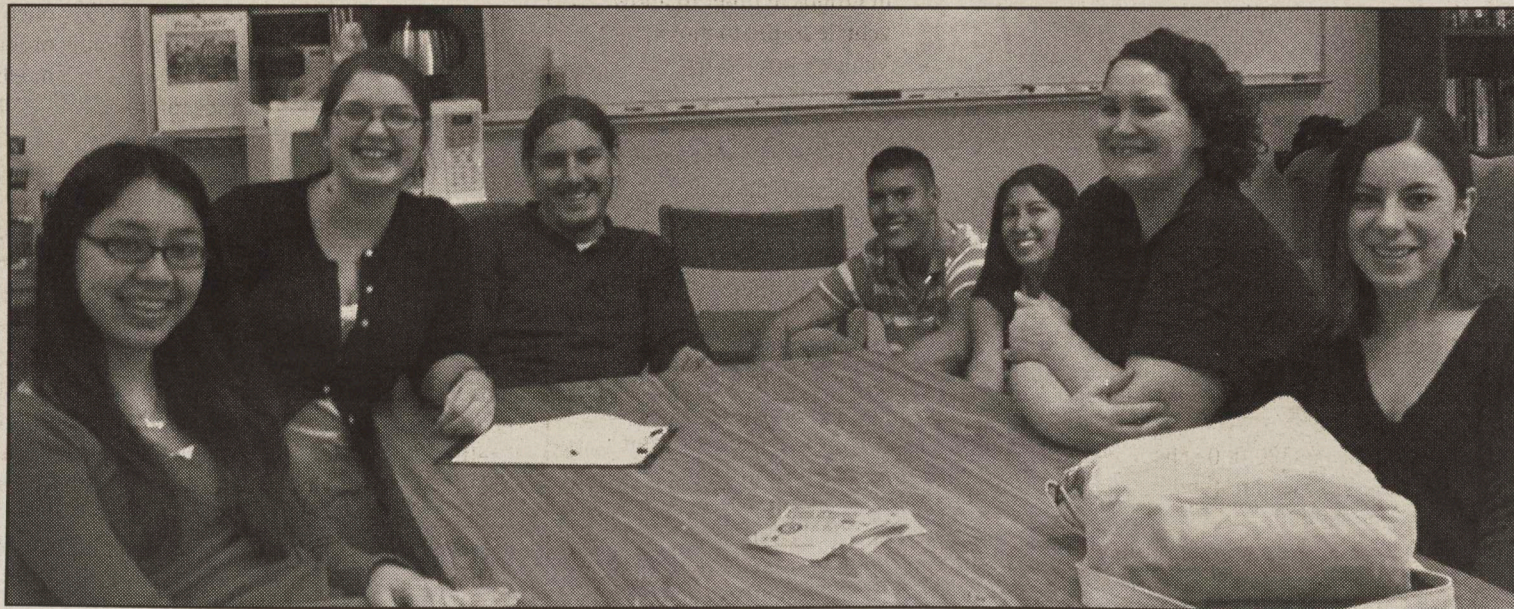


Photo by Kim Anderson / The Pride

From Left to Right: Lissa Lim, Morgan Hoodenpyle, Felipe Robinson-Zañarta, Robert Knecht, Christina Holmes, Vanessa Williams and Joranna Ramirez work and hang out in the new Women's Center.

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should be taken into account."

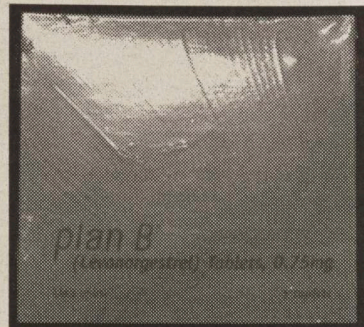
This is how it works. The student takes the first pill within 72 hours of the incident, the sooner the better. The second pill is taken twelve hours later. The main ingredient is the hormone levonorgestrel, a combination of progestin and estrogen, which is the same hormone that is offered in birth control pills. According to "go2planb.com," one dif-

ference from the abortion pill is that the Morning After Pill "will not affect an existing pregnancy." The Morning After Pill works in one of three ways according to the web site. Either the pill doesn't let an egg release, stops sperm from meeting with the egg, or prevents attachment to the uterus. The hormones in the pill cause an increase in natural mucus that prevents all three from occurring. Precautions are listed for those allergic to the hormone, as

well as diabetics. CSUSM student Philip Hoffman said, "It's pretty cut and dry. If you are opposed to abortion, you should be opposed to the morning after pill."

As with most medications, experts suggest that any individual with chronic illness, irregular menstrual cycles, or any questions should talk with a physician. Any health concerns should be discussed with a medical professional. Conversations with the Student Health Center

are confidential and helpful, so it never hurts to ask.



File Photo/The Pride

From CFA, page 1

CSU central administration has really not been bargaining in good faith. In my opinion, they've really forced us to this place when they walked out of bargaining."

Most of Tuesday's discussion examined where the CFA is at this point and how the CFA came to be in the situation they are today.

Bradfield mentioned that the CSU's budget problem dates back to 2002. Bradfield said, "There was a 500 million dollar cut back in 2002. That's enough to de-fund three campuses for a year, and we haven't recovered from those cuts. So what they're doing to backfill those cuts is they're raising student fees and they're not bargaining with us in good faith and yet their raising executive salaries."

Dr. John Halcon, CFA Secretary and Professor who works in CSUSM's department of Education was also present at Tuesday's meeting.

When speaking of the raise in student fees, Halcon said, "The plan is they'll go up 10% a year until 2011. So when you look at 2011, sitting here now, they would have raised fees 130% to 140%." Halcon added, "When you look at what's happening at community colleges, they've actually reduced their fees by 25 %." According to Halcon, students will have no choice but to attend a community college before they attend a CSU because students will simply not be able to afford it. It is the culmination of the rise in student fees, the growing amount of students to a classroom, the increase in executive pay and the lack of a sufficient pay raise for the CFA that leave professors looking to the strike as their only option.

Halcon said, "When we go on strike on this campus, nothing will be delivered on this campus. Nothing will move. We'll close this campus down like we've closed all the other campuses down. We'll make sure that they understand, and again, we

don't want to strike, but we will." Mayra Besosa, a CSUSM Lecturer of Spanish, was also present at Tuesday's meeting. Besosa also holds a position on the Bargaining Team and is the CFA Lecturer Representative for CSUSM.

Besosa said, "Statewide, CFA Lecturers' Council has passed a resolution which supports and recommends a Yes vote on the strike authorization vote, should a strike authorization vote be held." According to Besosa, the Lecturers' Council represents about 54% of the CSU faculty. Besosa believes the CFA is reluctant to strike but more than willing to stand up for certain principles. Besosa quoted the CFA slogan, "I don't want to strike but I will," and added, "What is at stake is more than a contract with a decent salary increase."

Should the CFA go on strike, classes would be cancelled over a two day consecutive period. The CFA would hold a picket line in front of the campus on Twin Oaks Valley Road. The CFA organization at every CSU campus would participate in the strike as well. Besosa said, I hope that this contract fight revives our idealism, our reason for being teachers, our commitment to improving the lives of our students and to inspiring them to do the same for others."

According to Besosa, the plausible strike will result in working for the well-being of the CSU. Besosa would like the CFA and CSU to make an agreement with a fair compensation package and improvements in the workload and benefits. Besosa added, "For the students, I hope our fight results in a roll-back in student fees. The CSU is supposed to offer a tuition-free education for the residents of the state. As public servants, the Chancellor and the Board of Trustees must renew their commitment to the CA Master Plan for Higher education."

From RESPONSE, page 1

Campus Way serves as an acceptable alternate entrance and exit during busy periods. With these things in mind, our status and the remaining steps toward completion of the signalization of the intersection at Palm Canyon and Craven, as well as traffic control at the crosswalk from Lot C to the Dome, are as follows:

- The engineer has completed the design of the intersection of Palm Canyon and Craven. The University requested this design shortly after fall semester's accident.
- The President's Executive Council allocated an initial \$75,000 to Facilities Development and Management to begin work on this project.
- The cost estimates for the project, which includes design, installation, inspection, and contingency, is \$300,000. The University will need to fund the additional \$225,000.
- The University is required to follow a bidding process which takes approximately two months. The University can now begin advertising for bidders and anticipates that it will take at least 10 weeks to procure the equipment.
- Last fall, I indicated that we anticipated completion in spring 2007. The process took a little longer than projected and we now expect to complete the project during summer 2007.

Other plans that we are developing or considering:

- Sponsor an education campaign to educate drivers and pedestrians to be mindful of the rules of the road (courtesy of Parking and Transportation Services).
- Campus roads are subject

to the same rules as regular roads.

- Pedestrian, bicyclists, and vehicle traffic share the roadways.
- The crosswalks on Palm Canyon Way are heavily used by pedestrians.
- Pedestrians should cross in groups in order to allow vehicle traffic to move.
- Vehicles need to be courteous to pedestrians and allow them to clear the crosswalk prior to proceeding into the intersection.
 - Be Alert – Whether driving or walking, don't assume that others see you.
 - Slow Down – A few extra seconds can help prevent accidents.
 - Be patient and courteous.
 - Drive slowly and cautiously.
 - Allow extra time to get to your destination.
- Continue to have Community Service Officers (CSOs) at the intersection during peak traffic periods.
- Increase enforcement of parking/driving rules.
- Use crossing guards at impacted intersections to protect pedestrians.

Finally, reducing the number of private vehicle trips and therefore the number of vehicles on campus would reduce traffic problems. The campus is now undertaking a Transportation Demand Management Program with SANDAG (San Diego Association of Governments), the City of San Marcos, and NCTD (North County Trans-

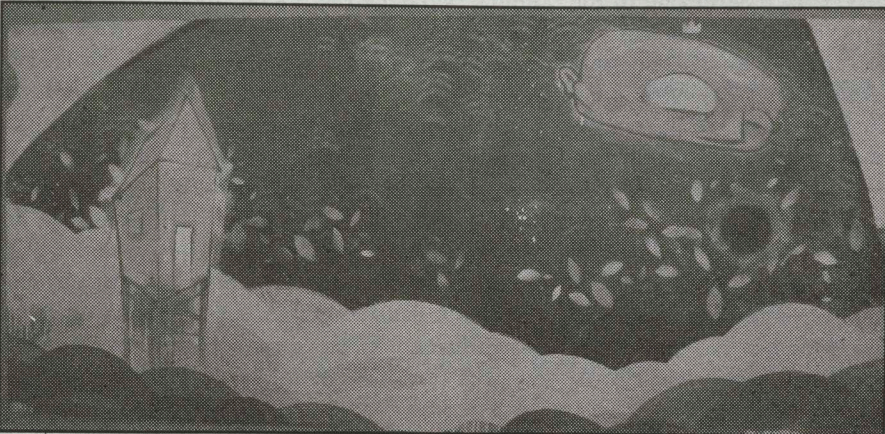
Former Black Panthers to visit CSUSM

BY KELLY CORRIGAN
Pride Staff Writer

In October 1966, at the height of the civil rights movement led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and amid events such as the assassination of leader Malcom X and the urban uprising in Watts, California, Huey Newton gathered numerous longtime friends and developed the organization, The Black Panthers. Newton was considered to be a modern day American Revolutionary. Bobby Seale and David Hilliard were two men among the members who played a crucial role in the Black

Panthers. Originally, the name of this organization was the Black Party for Self Defense; the slogan, "All Power to the People." The Black Panther was used as strong symbol for the efforts in promoting civil rights and self defense that continued through the 1970s. On Wednesday, February 14 from 12-1 p.m., in Academic Hall 102, The Women's Center and CSUSM's Sociology Department will present a film premier of "Legacy of Torture: The War Against the Black Liberation Movement." Two former Black Panthers will be present at the meeting and will share their experiences as Black Panthers.

From OTTO, page 1



A piece from Erick Otto's installation titled "The Power Within." Photo by Mary Foley / The Pride

represent a passage, going deep within yourself to find the passion within." Otto graduated from San Jose State University with a B.A. in Illustration and a B.A. in Animation. With his animation background, his art started as something very character driven. In the past six years, Otto has been supporting himself solely on his art. Otto's career as an artist has expanded to encompass art design for theatre sets, television shows and art directing for advertisement campaigns including Old Navy and The Gap. He also has his own clothing line titled New Leaf. Otto said he is most proud of his installation work. He gathered various kinds of material including old bed sheets and pillow cases from thrift stores and wood from dumpsters. "I try to collect anything that catches my eye. Living in the city, there's lots of richness. I try not to buy anything. There's so much out there that people just discard." According to Otto, using discarded materials gives him more originality to use but in an entirely new way. "The material dictates the art itself," Otto said. "Things change as materials change and what I have access to at the given time." Otto attempted to set up his installation as if it were telling a story, similar to a set design of a movie, Otto's installation is placed in the middle of the exhibit. "As if you were to walk inside a painting," Otto said. His paintings are placed on the surrounding edges. For him, Otto's art is about taking things that are already out there, putting them together and making connections. Since he moved into the artistic Mission District of San Francisco, his liking portation District) to develop alterna-

for earth tones changed with the influence of the surrounding Latin community and use of bright colors in the city. This is reflective of the brighter tones in his work. When Otto goes into his painting mode, he describes it as a form of meditation in which he is responding and reacting to it. "Three months later," he said, "I'll try and figure it out." As a part of the installation, Otto made twelve birds, from scraps of wood and painted them blue. Otto said, "They see the world from the top view down. Every once in a while we need to be pulled out of our environment. It just makes so much more sense." When speaking of his own process of creating art, Otto said, "I have to commit to the idea, execute it, then ask questions later." Professionally, Otto said he's been an artist for six years. He said he suffered greatly during the first two years, having to ask friends and family for enough money to eat. With no artists in Otto's family, Otto said, "It was hard for them to understand at first what I was doing. It was a constant battle until the last two years." But Otto said he knew he wasn't happy unless he was doing his art. His family noticed this as well. Speaking on the advice he would give to new artists, Otto said, "Take the time to find out what you want to say, how you want to say it, then execute it." Otto also emphasized the importance in learning how to draw well in order to build a strong foundation and to rely on the computer during the last stage of the art process. "Rooted Dreams" will be on display in Kellogg Library until May 18, 2007. To pedestrian and vehicular adherence to the

existing intersection traffic controls. Sincerely,
Neal R. Hoss
Vice President
Finance and Administrative Services

Cougar softball home opener

BY JEREMY ALBERS
Pride Staff Writer

It was standing room only at Mission Hills High School Saturday, Feb. 10. Coach Jennifer Milo had her ladies ready in front of a crowd of roughly 200. Mr. Taco, the Mexican eatery that also catered the baseball opener, fed the hungry crowd as the Cougars stepped foot on their home turf for the first time in the program's history. Coach Milo said of the home fans, "This is fun. It's lots of support." The field at Mission Hills is in great condition and the parking is onsite right next to the Mission Blvd. entrance.

Coach Milo put her ace pitcher Melissa Lerno out in the first game of a double header against Vanguard University, a Christian School in Costa Mesa, CA. It was the right decision, and the sophomore Lerno was toughest when Vanguard had runners on base. After a single and balk in the first allowed a runner to get to third, Lerno induced a groundball to third base and Amanda Sanchez tossed over to first for the third out. Vanguard pushed home a run in the second on a weak grounder that somehow found a way through the right side. Lerno got the next hitter to ground back to Sanchez at third and left the bases loaded. In the third the Cougars dodged a bullet after a leadoff triple by Vanguard's Sarah Howe. Lerno got the next two on strikeouts before getting a lazy fly ball to left field where Leilani Madrigal snared it for the final out of the inning. Lerno definitely had her good stuff on this day stating, "I had lots of movement." The game was a real pitcher's dual as the Cougars had trouble with the high heat of Vanguard pitcher Jennifer Olvera, who struck out 14 on the day. It wasn't until the fifth inning that the Cougars put together a rally for the home fans. Erica Coelho walked with one out. After she hustled to beat the throw to second on a bunt by Lindsey Prevolos, Madigal came up with two outs and two on. She hit a loopier towards the Bermuda Tri-

angle, the area behind shortstop and between the center and left fielders. Vanguard's shortstop had to have heard the roar of the crowd as the ball tipped just off the edge of her glove. When the dust settled, Coelho scored the tying run and Madigal stood on second with a game tying RBI double.

The game remained tied 1-1 as both teams missed opportunities with runners on base. After Lerno got a clutch two out strikeout on a close pitch with runners on first and second, Vanguard Coach Beth Renkoski was kicking up dirt near the visiting dugout. The umpire was inconsistent but Lerno said, "He got better as the game went on." The teams played into extra innings where each side gets to start their half inning with a runner on second base. Vanguard was able to get a run in the eighth despite the brilliant play by Lerno and her catcher Prevolos on a squeeze attempt. The Cougars failed to get a run in the bottom of the eighth and lost the game 2-1.

It was a hard fought game and led Coach Milo to say the team is "getting used to each other." She was also happy with the performance of Lerno in the loss saying, "she just got stronger and stronger out there."

As for the extra inning "International Rule" where the inning starts with a runner on second base, Coach Milo said, "to me it doesn't show the better team, but we both do get it. Sometimes it falls your way and sometimes it doesn't." Freshman Erica Coelho seemed to like it saying you're guaranteed "no ties." It is reminiscent of college football when each team gets the ball at the 25 yard line in overtime.

The Cougar softball program has already beaten then ranked # 10 Concordia, and appears ready to compete in this first season of play. Mission Hills High School is located on Mission Blvd a few miles east of Twin Oaks Valley Road just on the other side of the 78 from CSUSM campus. For more information on all Cougar Sports go to the CSUSM homepage and click on Athletics.

Cougar track & field: Eyes set on Nationals

BY DAVID CHURCH
Pride Staff Writer

Cal State San Marcos is preparing for its ninth season of track and field by getting the outdoor track season started at Clairemont College with the Rossi Invitational, Feb. 24. With 63 athletes competing, this event will be the largest in school history. Coach Steve Scott, who is the current American mile record holder, is proposing big goals.

Having one returning NAIA All-American from last year, senior Bonghabih "Bee-Bee" Shey, Coach Scott is looking to add a few more. Coach Scott said, "Both teams are much stronger than we have ever been and our goal is to get as many people to qualify for nationals."

But Coach Scott isn't satisfied with just having the goal to get to Nationals. He has set forth some high expectations for both teams. Coach Scott said, "Having the men's team place in the top 20 would be a big deal. I am expecting the women's team to score high, somewhere in the top 15."

The women's team is looking stronger. The relay team added freshman Lucia Asbury, who played forward for CSUSM

women's soccer team, and welcomes back the San Diego State transfer, Ashleigh Davis, who will look to break her school record in the 100 Meter Hurdles. Asbury and Davis will be joining sophomore Sarah Ivory and junior Namadhlah McIntosh in the relays.

Senior Kristina Hill is looking to become an All-American this year. Hill finished in eighth place last year at Nationals in the marathon. Freshmen Andrea Talhami is expected to fulfill many people's expectations in the triple jump, as her high school marks are beyond that of the current CSUSM triple jump record.

On the men's team, Cuyamaca transfer, Corey Dart, is a strong addition to the team this year. Dart will compete in the hurdles and the decathlon and could make a strong impact on this year's team bringing his second-place experience in the California State Championships last year to CSUSM.

Returning this season is junior Billy Walker, who made Nationals in his first year in the 100 meters, but red-shirted last year. Javelin thrower Ronnie McFadden, the 4x4 and 4x18 relay team, and 10K runner Juan Mejia will help make the men's team com-

petitive for nationals.

The dedication on and off the track, and hours and hours of preparation for each event gets the teams one step closer to their goals. The early meets are stepping-stones towards the next meet and preparation for Nationals.

Coach Scott said, "[We are] starting at the Meet of Champions, then [we will move on to] Triton, UCI, Clairemont and Occidental. These are the meets that will point towards Nationals. These meets are to get them at their best, to set new personal records and to prepare them for Nationals."

The NAIA National Championships is set for May 24 to 26 in Fresno, CA. This gives the CSUSM track teams three months to prepare and qualify for Nationals. Some of these athletes may be able to qualify for Nationals at the Rossi Invitational. As the team gets deeper into the season, more and more of the CSUSM track athletes will continue to qualify for Nationals.

So, be sure to stop by one of the many track meets and support your fellow classmates. Give them that extra adrenaline rush that will help push them over those qualification marks and reach nationals.

The San Diego Curse

BY RICHARD ESPERTI
Pride Staff Writer

In reviewing this year's Super Bowl, I started thinking about the Chargers' disappointing ending to their season. But beyond that, I began thinking about the disappointing performance of professional San Diego teams in general. San Diego is a choker town when it comes to professional sports. Both the Padres and the Chargers have a knack for building fans up and letting them down. It's like clockwork in this town.

Let us begin with the Chargers. Outside of a 51-10 victory over the Boston Patriots, for the AFL Championship on January 5, 1964, the Chargers have failed miserably on several occasions to bring a championship home to San Diego. Are the Chargers incapable of effectively competing in the NFL? It would seem so to a degree, considering their only championship came before the AFL and NFL merger of 1970.

Since the merger, the Chargers have made three – count them, one, two, three – AFC Championship games, and only one Super Bowl appearance, a losing effort to the San Francisco 49ers. The Chargers overall playoff record stands at 7-13, that's a .350 winning percentage in the postseason. This is hard to believe considering the talent that existed on those losing teams.

The talent consisted of Hall of Fame athletes like Dan Fouts,

Charlie Joiner, and Kellen Winslow in the 1980s when the Chargers took part in two of their three AFC Championship games. Then there were those who played on the Chargers' only Super Bowl team. Future Hall of Famers like Junior Seau and Rodney Harrison, who both play now for the New England Patriots, a team that has won three of the last six Super Bowls.

The answer to why the Chargers fail at creating winning teams may be that they get rid of players too easily; the organization lacks patience. Rodney Harrison had a slow season in 2002, his last season with the Chargers. The following year Harrison ended up in New England where he turned around and led the league with 126 tackles, which he topped the following year with 138 tackles. Despite his injuries the past two years, Harrison has been extremely effective in New England. Why would a team get rid of someone like that? The question baffles me.

The 2006 season started with few hopes and aspirations. The loss of Drew Brees to the New Orleans Saints during the off-season had Charger fans in a state of uncertainty, looking ahead at a season lead by an unproven quarterback, Philip Rivers. However, the team managed to end the season with a record of 14-2, the best in the NFL. Individuals set records, the team set records, and talent-wise they had the best team in the league. This was another Charger team with future Hall of Famers Donnie

Edwards, LaDainian Tomlinson, Lorenzo Neal, Keenan McCardell, and I think it would be safe to say Antonio Gates and Shawne Merriman. Yet the Chargers managed to break the hearts of thousands of fans again in typical San Diego fashion.

Than there are the Padres, the other group of historically talented losers. This is a team that has only made five playoff appearances in 39 years. Their first playoff appearance was in 1984 in which they made the World Series, losing 4-1 to the Detroit Tigers. The Padres did not return to the playoffs again until 1996, where they were swept by the St. Louis Cardinals in the NL Division Series. Then, in 1998 they made their second and last World Series appearance, tasting defeat at the hands of the New York Yankees in a series which ended 4-0. In 2005, the Padres made it to the NLDS where they were swept by the St. Louis Cardinals. The team's last playoff appearance was in 2006 in the NLDS, where they lost yet again to the St. Louis Cardinals 3-1.

What is it about the Padres and the Chargers that seems to prevent them from winning the big one?

I can't really answer that question. Is San Diego a cursed city when it comes to sports? Why not? The Boston Red Sox had the "curse of the Bambino" and the Chicago Cubs have the "Billy Goat curse." If there is a curse, what curse is it that rests over San Diego's professional sports teams?

Visit The Pride online at:

TheCSUSMPride.com

Website of the Week: pitchforkmedia.com

BY JONATHAN THOMPSON
Pride Staff Writer

Ryan Schreiber created Pitchforkmedia.com in 1995 after he finished high school. Schreiber chose to name the website Pitchfork because of Tony Montana's tattoo in "Scarface." Schreiber initially named the website Turntable. Local fanzines and the University of Minnesota Twin Cities' radio station 770 Radio K influenced Schreiber's decision to found Pitchforkmedia.com. Schreiber envisioned a website fulfilled with

ample amounts of information regarding independent music.

About 170,000 internet users visit the website each day and a total of 1.3 million users visit the website each month. The sheer number of visitors has made the website the most popular website online for independent music according to Alexa Internet which is a website used for identifying the amount of users on specific websites.

Gobs of information clutter the homepage of the website, however, an index on the top left corner of the page allows for smoother navigation of the site. The six categories to choose from are Reviews, News, Features, Forkcast, and Best New Music. Old reviews and information can be easily obtained by utilizing the search option. A quick search resulted two reviews of previous Pennywise albums.

The review section anchors down the website. Ratings are determined in increments of one decimal allowing for 6.7s and 3.3s. While some albums have received a 10.0 such as Radiohead's "Ok Computer" album, others have received a devastating 0.0 such as The Flaming Lips "Zaireeka" album. The reviews are insightful and descriptive. If applicable, the reviews delve into the history of the album and genre as well.

The website's magnitude has begun influencing albums in both positive and negative lights. The Arcade Fire benefited directly from a positive review from the website. After a positive review, The Arcade Fire album's inventory completely sold out. On the contrary, negative reviews can also damage the success of

other albums. Travis Morrison's "Travistan" album received a negative review; sales immediately dropped and the album was almost blacklisted from college radio.

Despite the popularity of the website, some in the music industry have cited the website for using hipster language and acting biased in their reviews. Regardless, Pitchforkmedia offers a side, an independent side of music, that Best Buy and Circuit City do not have. For some fresh music ideas click over to Pitchformedia.com.

Making the grade: No grade inflation at CSUSM

BY KIM ANDERSON
Pride Staff Writer

Paula Montagna, a graduate student here at Cal State University San Marcos in Literature and Writing, transferred here with a 4.0 GPA. During her undergraduate studies, she received one A-. Her GPA is now a 3.9 without any method of making it higher. "By using a grading criteria in which students may earn an A-, but offering no option to earn an A+," said Montagna, "CSUSM uses a grading system which punishes students for their imperfections, rather than reward students for their achievements."

Is an "A+" an ever-elusive

grade at this school? How did our current grading system get implemented? What is the philosophy behind it? Founding faculty member Larry W. Cohen, professor emeritus of biology, has some of the answers.

About why grades top out at A, he said, "We (the Founding Faculty) wrestled with the question ourselves at the time but decided to stay with the long-established standard of 'A' as the top possible grade rather than opening the possibility of escalating to A+, A++, etc. and undermining the integrity of the A." The plus/minus system of grading is meant to indicate the subtleties of students' performance.

Cohen also sheds light on the possibility of attaining an A+. "Over the years at CSUSM, I did issue A+ grades on occasion. The grade went to one or two people whose performance was way out ahead of even the other 'A' students. I would estimate, after looking over my grade books, that it was with a frequency of about 1-2 per hundred." The grade of A+ shows up on the transcript, but is not calculated into the grade point average as more than just a regular A.

Grade inflation was one of the concerns of the Founding Faculty when instituting the grading policy. Cohen said, "Too many faculty are concerned with being

popular and for them A+ may become the typical A grade, fulfilling the fears of the Founding Faculty when they considered the question."

Grade inflation, according to national statistics, has been a problem among postsecondary institutions since at least the 1980s. It is defined as the increase of the number of high grades over time, and is often associated with lax academic standards. With more and more students achieving higher grades, it is easy to conclude that standards have been slipping; with students reporting that they contribute less effort than those who had preceded them, it is conclusive to attribute the higher grades phenomenon on the institution and not on students simply becoming smarter.

Many measures have been taken by other universities to combat grade inflation. Some universities limit the number of 'A' grades a professor may give. Jennifer Diffley, an alumnus of Brigham Young University reported, "It was impossible to get anything higher than a D at BYU. The professors made it their personal mission to ensure that no one ever received A's on assignments. It was to avoid a little thing called 'grade inflation.'"

While CSUSM does not employ such harsh tactics, grade inflation is still a concern according to Cohen who helped to implement our current grading system.

CSUSM celebrates Black History Month

BY AMANDA ANDREEN
Pride Staff Writer

"I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream. I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: - 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.'" - Martin Luther King Jr.

February marks the annual celebration of "Black History Month," for Americans nationwide. What began on February 12, 1926 as the first celebration created by Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson, a Harvard Scholar, has now become the nationally observed "Black History Month." Traditionally celebrated in the second week of February, Dr. Woodson chose to celebrate African American history in February as a tribute to Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln, both of whom Woodson felt had a significant impact on African American history, and both of whom celebrated birthdays in the month of February. Honoring fellow influential African Americans such as: W.E.B. Du Bois, Thurgood Marshall, Malcolm X, Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, Harriet Tubman, Dred Scott, Booker T. Washington, Louis Armstrong, Toni Morrison, Oprah Winfrey, Tiger Woods and Muhammad Ali—to just name a few—Black History Month

aims to raise awareness, and celebrate African American history through a variety of events.

However, with the month of February well underway, the observance on campus has just begun. The Black Student Union will be hosting numerous events on campus throughout the remainder of the month, and in addition to on-campus events, there are also a number of events happening throughout the county in honor of Black History Month.

Events at CSUSM in honor of Black History Month:

- Feb. 13 at 6 p.m. - BSU hosts fashion show at Clark Field House.
- Feb. 15 at 5:30-7:00 p.m. - "Black Market" will be the topic of the "Dinner Dialogues" presented by the Cross-Cultural Center and Educational Equity & Diversity 7pm in the Dome.
- Feb. 15 at 7:00 p.m. - "Tuskegee Airmen" film showing in the UVA classroom.
- Feb. 17 at 7 p.m. - "Rosa Parks" film showing in the UVA classroom.
- Feb. 18, departing from UVA at noon - Sunday Gospel Brunch at the House of Blues in downtown San Diego.
- Feb. 20 at noon - "Black History Month Celebration" presented by Associated Students Incorporated (ASI) with Damaru on the Library Plaza during

- University Hour.
- Feb. 20 at 7 p.m. - "The N Word" documentary film showing in the UVA classroom.
- Feb. 21 at 6 p.m. - "Just Black? Multi Racial Identities." A documentary film showing and discussion to be held in the UVA classroom.
- Feb. 22 at 6 p.m. - "Women, AIDS and Poverty in Uganda" event featuring food, presentation and discussion as well as African jewelry sale in the UVA classroom to support BreadforLife, a program to eradicate extreme poverty and help its members who are women with HIV/AIDS and refugees from the war in Northern Uganda.
- Feb. 23 at noon - Soul food luncheon presented by AAFA in the Clark Field House.
- Feb. 26 departing at 5 p.m. from UVA - "The Lost Boys of Sudan" film showing followed by discussion with two Sudanese refugees at the Thomas Jefferson Law School in downtown San Diego.
- Feb. 27 at 7 p.m. - "Pursuit of Happiness" film showing at the Clark Field House.
- Feb. 28 at 6 p.m. - "Soul Food & Spoken Word" event in the UVA classroom.
- Other San Diego County Events in honor of Black History Month:
- Feb. 14 at 7:30 p.m. - Ugandan Children's Choir at the WorldBeat Center

- Feb. 19 at 1 p.m. - Tribute to the Reggae Legends (formerly Bob Marley Day Festival) at the Sports Arena. Headliners: Bunny Wailer, Eek-A-Mouse, Jr. Reid and more.
- Feb. 23-25 - Kuumba Festival 2007 - The Rep celebrates Black History Month with San Diego's longest running African-American festival of arts,

- creativity and cultural heritage.
- Feb. 24 at 10 a.m. - Heritage Day Festival and Parade - An annual grassroots celebration that honors cultural diversity and community involvement.
- Feb. 24 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. - Julian Black History Month Festival Julian honors its African-American heritage with a family-friendly community celebration.

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February

Tues 13	Wed 14	Thurs 15	Fri 16	Sat 17	Sun 18	Mon 19
College Success Grammar Workshop Sentence Basics Univ. Hour in Univ. 440	Valentine's Day National Condom Day 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Library Plaza	Tanosaki-Richards Duo: A James Bond Concert Series 12 p.m. Arts 111	Walk In Clinic for MMR & Hepatitis B SHSC 9-11 a.m. 1-3 p.m.	Hollywood Hikes 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Los Angeles	BSU Day trip to Gospel Brunch at HOB, San Diego 12 p.m.	President's Day
Financial Aid Workshop Univ. Hour Mark 305	Walk In Clinic for MMR & Hepatitis B SHSC 9-11 a.m. 1-3 p.m.	Walk In Clinic for MMR & Hepatitis B SHSC 9-11 a.m. 1-3 p.m.	Sex & Cream Workshop 6-8 p.m. Clarke Field House Rm. 110	Softball at Cal State San Bernardino 12 p.m. and 2 p.m.	NEKO CASE w/ Eric Bachmann Belly Up 9 a.m.	Intervarsity - Jesus, Justice & Poverty 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Kellogg Plaza
Black Student Union Fashion Show @ Clarke Field House Rm. 113	In the Executive's Chair with Major General Michael Lehnert Univ. Hour Mark 125	Financial Aid Workshop Univ. Hour Mark 305	Financial Aid Workshop Univ. Hour Mark 305	Black History Month Film Series: "Rosa Parks" UVA Community Building 7 - 9 p.m.	Cradle of Fifth with 69 Eyes HOB, San Diego \$22, 6 p.m.	Baseball vs. Patton College at San Marcos High 1:00 p.m.
Edwards Movie Night "Night at the Museum"	Financial Aid Workshop Univ. Hour Mark 305	Finding A Major that fits Noon-1 p.m. Craven 1400	Flag Football 12-4 p.m. Mangrum Field	Brazil Carnaval w/ Samba Da 4 th and B \$28	Broadway Theater Arts Academy: "Aladdin" Kroc Center Joan B Croc Theater	Men's Golf San Luis Rey Downs Resort, Bonsall, CA
GMAT, LSAT, GRE Prep 6-9:30 p.m. Extended Studies	Baseball game at Occidental College 2 p.m.	Softball at USD 5 p.m.	Baseball at Cal State Los Angeles 2 p.m.	Gypsy Fusion Flamenco Dinner Show Café Sevilla 7:30 p.m.	David Copperfield Pechanga Entertainment Center Temecula 3 p.m.	Women's Golf CSUSM Invitational Lake San Marcos Country Club
Annie Leibovitz: A Photographer's Life 1990-2005 San Diego Museum of Art	Access to Excellence Conversation 11:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Clarke Field House	Dinner Dialogue Series "BLACK Market: Selling the Black Image" 5:30-7 p.m. The Dome	Steel Pulse 4 th and B \$34, 8 p.m.	San Diego Labrador Dog Show Del Mar Fairgrounds 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	"Jesus Christ Superstar: National Tour" California Center for the Arts Escondido 8 p.m.	Pete Yorn w/ Aqualung and Charlotte Martin HOB, San Diego \$26, 7 p.m.
Black History Month Exhibit Veteran's Memorial Center and Museum	Lux Boreal Contemporary Dance Company 7 p.m. Arts 111	Harp Guitars: Passion, Imagination, Artistry Museum of Making Music, Carlsbad Exhibit Opens	Plant Day and Orchid Odyssey at the San Diego Zoo	"The Four of Us" Old Globe Theater 8 p.m.	"The Secret Garden" Lamb's Players Theater, Coronado	
RecycleMania Continues!	RecycleMania Continues!	RecycleMania Continues!	RecycleMania Continues!	RecycleMania Continues!	RecycleMania Continues!	RecycleMania Continues!
Black History Month	Black History Month	Black History Month	Black History Month	Black History Month	Black History Month	Black History Month

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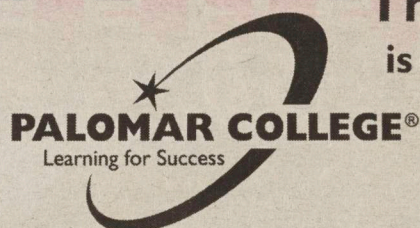
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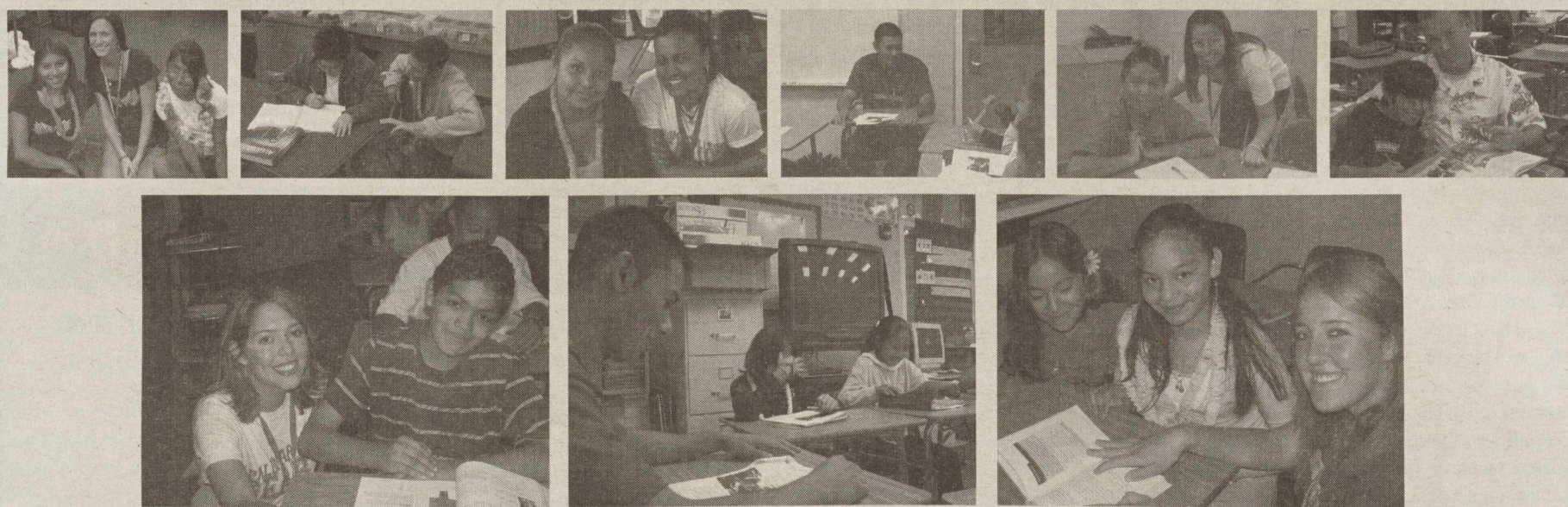
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The history of Valentines Day

BY AMANDA ANDREEN
Pride Staff Writer

Ah, Valentine's Day. The day set aside for lovers to share their feelings for one another. The day dreaded by single people around the world. The day chocolate and flower vendors make a fortune, and the day that cupid makes his presence known, shooting heart-tipped arrows off into oblivion hoping to inflict hopeless romantics and lovebirds with la amour.

Many might be wondering how the uber-commercialized holiday came about, while others could care less as long as the chocolates and candy-studded greetings continue to abound. For those, however, who are curious, Valentine's Day as we know it is said to be a combination of an event and a historical person. The event is said to have begun in the pagan times of ancient Rome, with the annual celebration of a fertility festival called the "Feast of Lupercalia," which traditionally occurred in mid-February. The festival was known for pairing the mating of young men and women each year through a sweepstake arrangement. More often than not, it is said that the arranged couple would fall in love and eventually marry.

Also linked to the Valentine's Day festival, are the infamous legends of Saint Valentine of Rome. Saint Valentine lived in Rome under the sovereignty of Emperor Claudius II. To retain a valiant army, Emperor Claudius incessantly enlisted soldiers, but to his misfortune was able to keep soldiers, because the majority of men did not want to join his army because of their commitment to their wives and families. Upon realizing this, Claudius forbade all engagements and marriages in Rome. Thus, Valentine, an idealistic and

romantic priest began to organize secret marriages for young couples. As soon as Claudius unveiled Valentine's treachery, he imprisoned Valentine, and later executed him on Feb. 14, circa 270 A.D. Subsequently, Valentine became the patron saint for lovers during the Middle Ages in France and England. Then in 498 A.D., Pope Gelasius chose to end the celebration of the pagan festival, "Feast of Lercalia," and thus declared February 14 St. Valentine's Day.

Exchanging "valentines" and love notes is one of the central elements of Valentine's Day. It is rumored that this practice began with Saint Valentine himself, who while in prison fell in love with a young girl, thought to have been the jailor's daughter. Prior to his execution, it is supposed that he wrote her a love letter, which he signed: "From your Valentine."

It is also said that Valentine's Day falls on Feb. 14 each year because during the Middle Ages in England and France that date marked the commencement of bird mating season.

Furthermore, the oldest accounted for Valentine is said to have been written in 1415 by Charles, Duke of Orleans, while he was imprisoned in the Tower of London.

Nonetheless, though the rumors and allegation surrounding Saint Valentine seem to flow in abundance, they all have one thing in common; they portray Saint Valentine as a heroic and romantic man, suggesting that Valentine's Day should be a day for love and romance.

For more historical information on Valentine's Day and Saint Valentine, please visit the following websites: <http://www.history.com/minisites/valentine>, and <http://www.stvalentinesday.org>.

University Voice

Do you think "Plan B" the emergency contraceptive also known as "the morning after pill" should be available over the counter without a prescription?



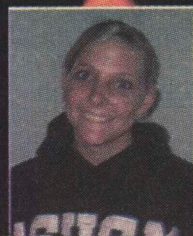
Brooke Collier
Sophomore, Chemistry

"No because underage girls can take advantage of it and put their bodies at risk."



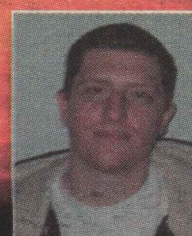
Emily Thomas
Junior, Communications

"No, kids should be more responsible and make an informed decision."



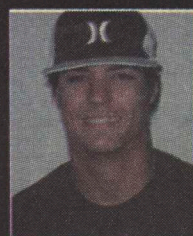
Brittany Lynch
Senior, Business

"No, I think the number of kids with STD's will increase dramatically if it is legalized."



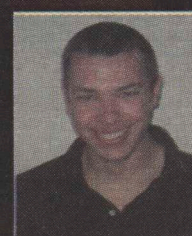
Lance Cartelli
Sophomore, Communications

"Yes, people want easy access to the pill so why not?"



Ron Frazier
Junior, Communications

"Yes because a lot of people are afraid of their parents"



Chris Andersen
Junior, Business

"Yes, people drink and make bad decisions."

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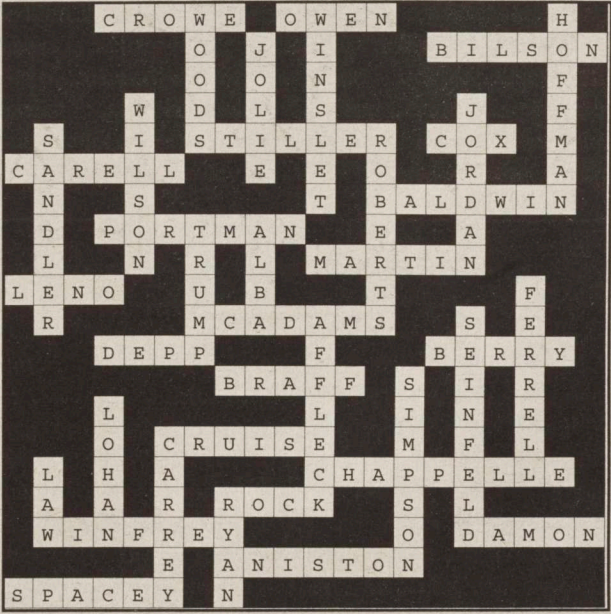
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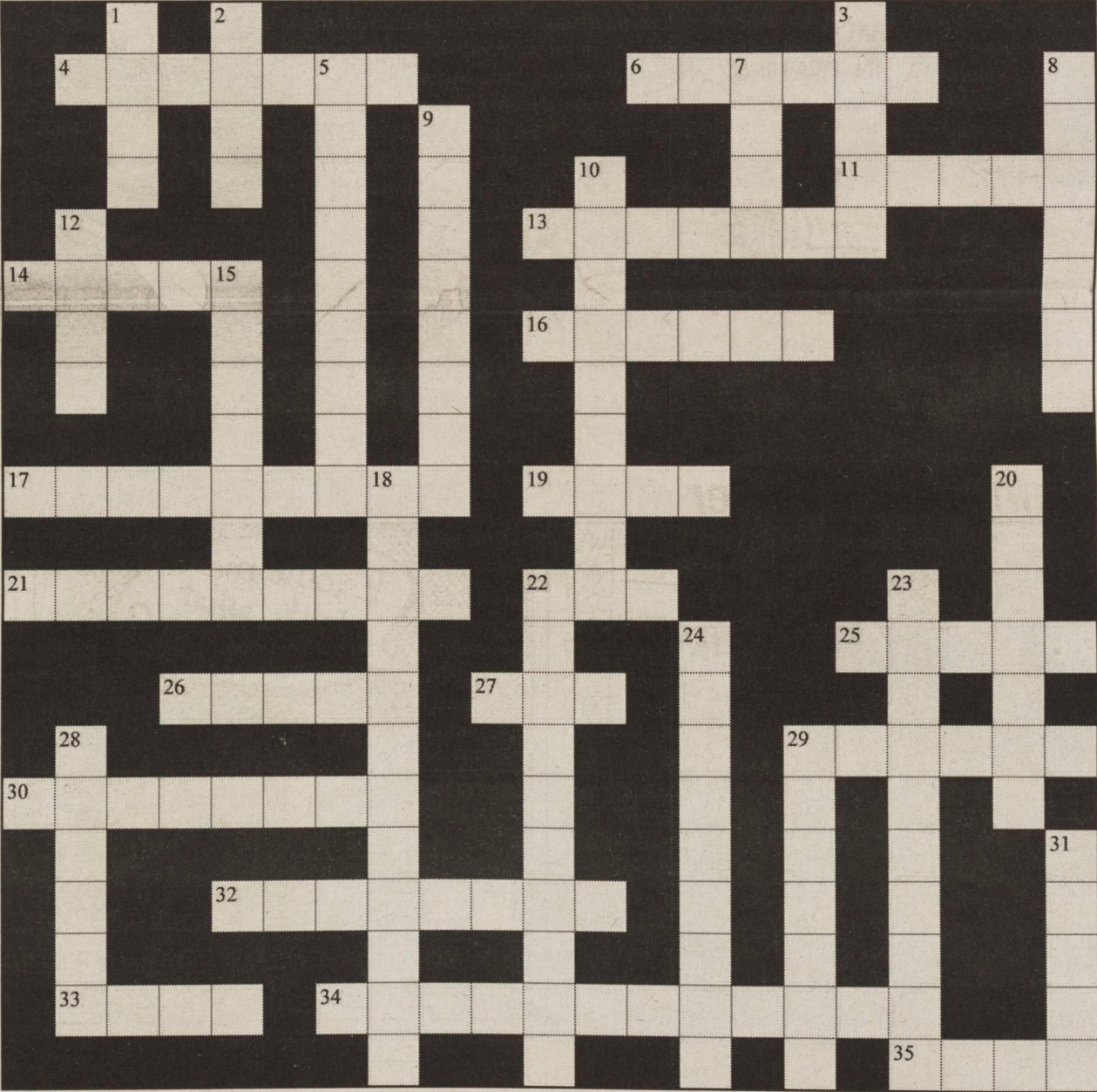
Cougar r Words S S

Courtesy of The Pride

Last week's key:



Valentines
Valentines
Valentines
Valentines
Valentines



ACROSS

- 4 Danielle Steele captures this emotion is her "novels".
6 Sweet embrace while watching a movie.
11 "Dude what's mine say????!!!!!"
13 The opposite of happiness.
14 Something to set the mood.
16 Catch phrase of the day.
17 Emotion felt for those with a

- valentine.
19 A sweet touch of the lips.
21 The Indian art of love making.
22 The horizontal mambo.
25 Flower of choice, and inexplicable price gouging on Valentine's.
26 Cupid's weapon of choice.
27 Dominate hue for the holiday.
29 Roses are Red, Violets are Blue, The

- Pride is really cool, this whole thing is the clue.
30 Victoria's valentines secret.
32 Sweet _____ or unexpected gifts.
33 The only present present with a life-long promise.
34 A must have for popular dinner locales.
35 _____ Candy, The last minute gift for all occasions.

DOWN

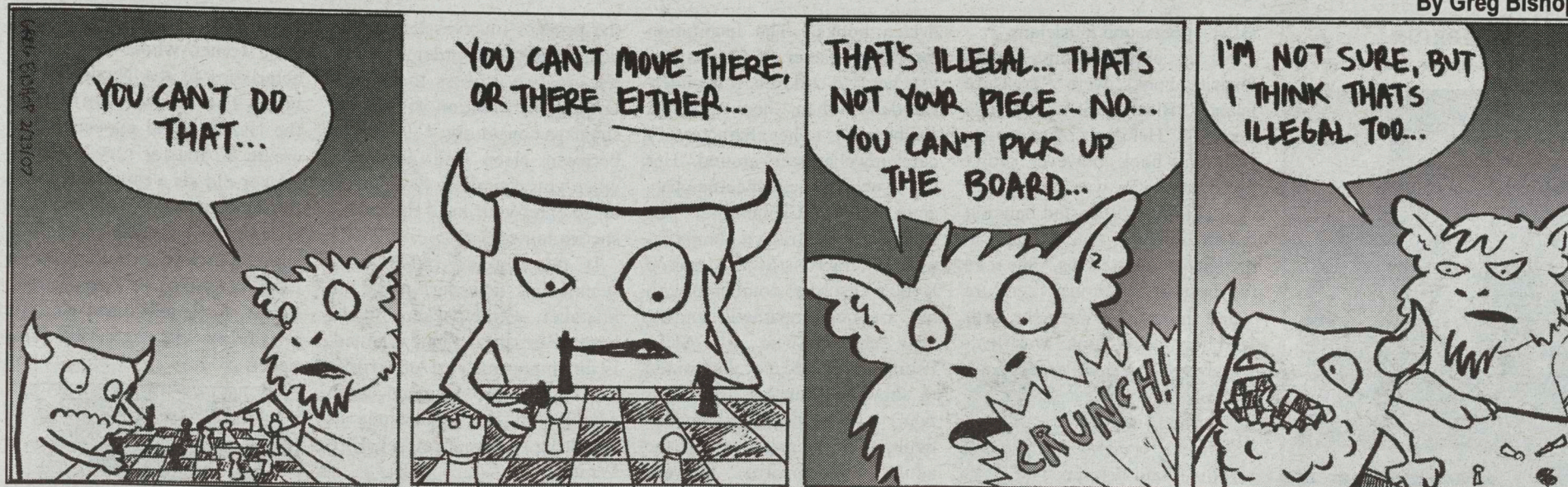
- 1 "_____ is in the air".
2 Alternative way of saying "I love you" for the vocally challenged.
3 Hapiness short and sweet.
5 Sparkling beverage of choice for the romantic love birds.
7 Romantic outting for couples.
8 Store of preference for the more

- "adventerous" couples.
9 Greetings of color and helium.
10 St. _____ of _____ day.
12 _____ and kisses.
15 Baked goodies for your special someone.
18 Succulent fruit for the appetizing.
20 Presents that come in small boxes.
22 Candy with loving messages.
23 Sentiment shared by those single on

- Valentines.
24 Strawberries best friend and valentines day outfit.
28 Candle lit meal often breaking the bank.
29 A strong feeling felt towards one another.
31 Artifacts of the consumer based side of Valentine's day.

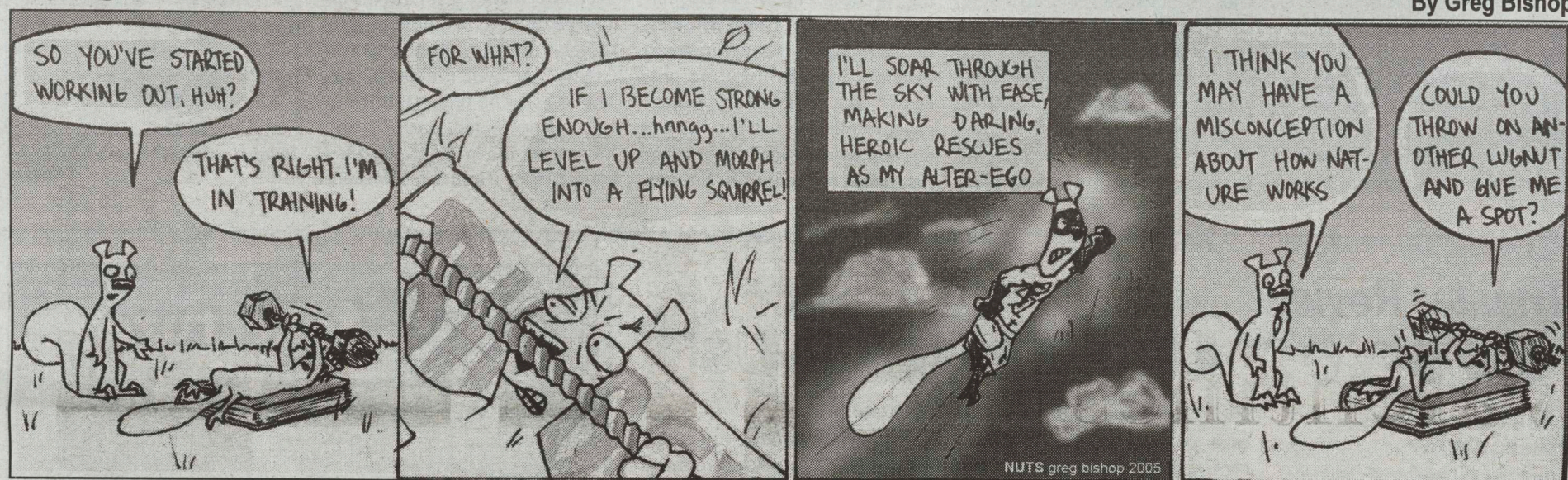
Undertown

By Greg Bishop



NUTS

By Greg Bishop



Trainwreck Theater

By T. Ward



The Arts & Lecture Series presents:

Children's book author Sara Pennypacker

BY SOPHIE BRINK
Pride Staff Writer



Photo courtesy of Jeffrey Kassebaum

"You have to let the reader be part of the writing," said children's book author Sara Pennypacker, whose latest published work, "Clementine," follows the adventures of a spirited third grader. Ms. Pennypacker's appearance at Cal State San Marcos was part of the 2007 Arts and Lecture Series, which is responsible for introducing students to various authors,

artists, poets, and musicians.

As a child, Pennypacker's favorite books were "Treasure Island," "Black Beauty," and "The Yearling." Her decision to write a children's book, however, didn't come until she was raising her own children. "I started hanging out in libraries; that's what you do when you have kids." She read the best of children's literature – and the worst. When she realized how much "junk" was floating around in the children's book market, Pennypacker decided to try her hand at writing.

"I care very much about the writing," said Pennypacker. "I'm not writing to markets." She believes that books are powerful, connecting readers through time and space. She is so passionate about her work that if forced to choose between compromising her artistic integrity and going to another publishing house, she would go to another house, she stated.

"I start every book," Pennypacker explained, "by imagining a character. I don't do plot-

driven books." The inspiration for the character of Clementine was her two children. It is understandable, then, how attached she becomes to her characters: "I carry my characters around." Her son especially lent specific character traits to Clementine – his impulsive, distracted temperament, characteristic of Attention Deficit Disorder, combined with his artistic, empathetic nature, also characteristic of ADD. Pennypacker said that she wanted to show the positive aspects of ADD without belittling the difficulties. As a result, all of the adults in "Clementine" are very supportive of the third-grader. "I wish the world had [told my son], 'What a wonderful artist you are,'" said the author.

When speaking of the writing process, Pennypacker referred to "flow." "There is a feeling of rightness when you tap in instead of controlling [the process]," she articulated. Pennypacker believes that the story is already in existence; the author just needs to tap into it. For her,

the process involves letting her conscious go in order to allow the creative process to happen. During the creation of a book, she naps constantly. "The period between sleep and awake is when you can allow the character to enter your head the most," she explained.

If this sounds rather transcendental, however, make no mistake: Pennypacker works hard. Rewriting, she explained, is an important part of writing her books, and she cited as an example of the importance of rewriting the great reviser, E.B. White.

Author of such celebrated children's books as "Clementine," "Stuart's Cape," and "Dumbstruck," Pennypacker is currently attempting to cross over into the adult market with a piece of historical fiction. Tentatively titled, "My Enemy's Cradle," the book is about a half-Jewish girl who finds herself in a Lebensborn home, one of many homes set up in Nazi-occupied countries by Heinrich Himmler

for the care of unmarried pregnant women whose racial characteristics fit the Nazis' Aryan ideal. The homes were part of the Nazi's social experiment to create a "master race." Pennypacker did six years of research for the book.

Pennypacker also said that she is considering taking on an existing children's book series. So far, she is still discussing the possibility with the series' publisher.



Image courtesy of Hyperion Books for Children

Theater Review



"The Four of Us"

BY JEREMY ALBERS
Pride Staff Writer

Itamar Moses had the audience laughing out loud at his latest play "The Four of Us," currently running at the Old Globe Theater. Located in Balboa Park near downtown San Diego, the Old Globe is one of the town's first professional theaters, hosting 50 minute versions of Shakespeare back in 1935. The Cassius Carter Centre Stage was renovated out of the original restaurant, the Falstaff Tavern in 1965. This 225 seat arena is incredibly intimate. The stage is in the center, and the actors perform to every angle, giving everyone the feeling of nearness to the action. With the 360 degree seating, only four rows occupy each side, so every seat is a good one.

In "The Four of Us," actors Gideon Banner (Benjamin) and Sean Dugan (David) experience friendship while entering the life of a writer. The play opens by dropping the audience into the middle of a conversation at lunch regarding Benjamin signing his first book deal. David, who has chosen to go into playwriting, has yet to have any recognition of his talent. The sarcastic wit of actor Sean Dugan and the clever dialogue written by Itamar Moses reveal the envy and resentment going on in the mind of David.

The play goes through confusing shifts in time, clueing the audience in with the clothing of the cast and their conversation. However, the relationship of the needy David and the affable Benjamin is hilarious. They've been friends since a summer camp

after high school and have seen each other grow into separate careers in writing. Along the way they share the awkwardness of dating and money-making.

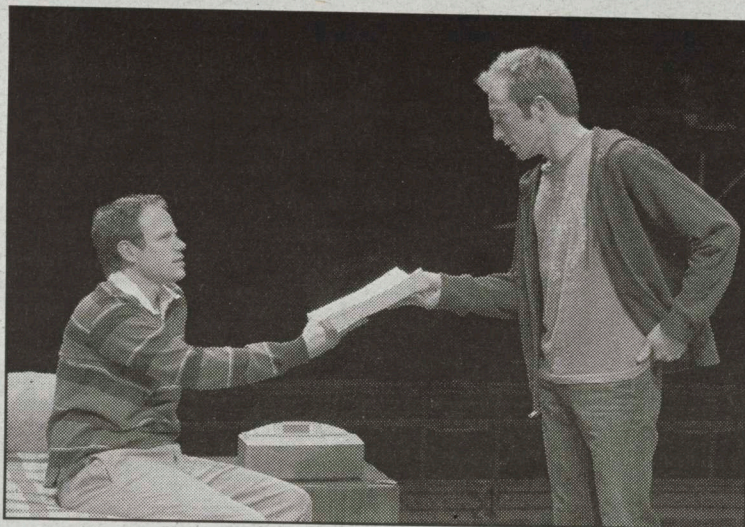
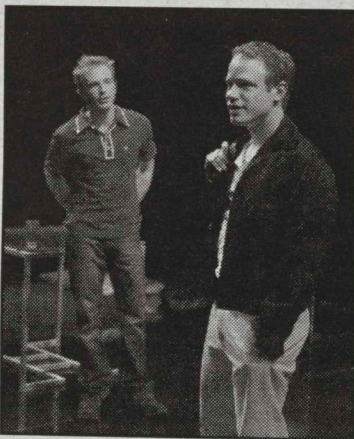
The acting in this play was very well done. Sean Dugan, who has appeared in HBO's dynamic cellblock series OZ and episodes of the Law & Order series, did a brilliant job as David. His sniveling jealousy is believable, while Gideon Banner, with strictly theatre experience, plays the success-won't-change-me role with a real air of pride. Yet, with only two actors, the back and forth gets a bit tiresome at spots.

There seems to be an inward reflection by playwright Itamar Moses. He pokes fun at the literary field and its ability to create celebrities and poison friendships. Moses is considered the next big thing in the theater crowd, having much critical acclaim in New York City and nationally. At 29 years old, Moses' future seems

very bright.

Bring your thinking cap to this very clever comedy surrounded by some cheap laughs at an abundant use of the "F" word. With cigarette-smoking on stage and a male bonding marijuana puffing session, "The Four of Us" is most definitely intended for a mature audience.

"The Four of Us" is playing February 3-March 11. Ticket prices range from \$39 to \$58 dollars.



Photos courtesy of Craig Schwartz

Sean Dugan (left) as "David" and Gideon Banner (right) as "Benjamin" in the Old Globe's world premiere production of "The Four of Us."

Arts & Lecture Series Calendar

February

Wednesday, February 14 in Arts 111 at 7:00 p.m.
Dance company Lux Boreal presents "Flor de 7 Hojas" ("Flower of 7 Leaves")
Thursday, February 15 in Arts 111 at 12:00 p.m.
Tanosaki-Richards Duo (clarinet-piano)
Tuesday, February 20 in Arts 111 at 7:00 p.m.
Classical musician Kevin Leu in concert
Wednesday, February 21 in Arts 111 at 12:00 p.m.
Conflict Resolution Panel
Monday, February 26 in Arts 240 at 2:30 p.m.
Artist Arie A. Galles

March

Sunday, March 4 at the CCAE Museum at 12:00 p.m.
Artist David Avalos presents "Mi Corazon Escondido" ("My Hidden Heart")
Tuesday, March 6 in Arts 111 at 7:00 p.m.
BK Soul presents "The Movement"
Wednesday, March 7 in Arts 111 at 12:00 p.m.
Ensemble Ho-Asogli
Monday, March 12 in Arts 111 at 7:30 p.m.
Irish Session Band
Wednesday, March 21 at CSUM at 6:00 p.m.
Lunafest film festival

April

April 6 & 7 in Arts 240 at 6:00 p.m.
Pilipino Culture Night
Saturday, April 7 at the Museum of Making Music at 7:00 p.m.
Family Day at the Museum of Making Music
Tuesday, April 10 in Arts 111 at 12:00 p.m.
The Classical Ragas ensemble
April 13, 14, 20 & 21 in Arts 111 at 8:00 p.m.
Eugene Ionesco's play "The Bald Soprano"
Monday, April 30 in Arts 111 at 7:00 p.m.
E3 (Eclectic Electric Ensemble)

May

Tuesday, May 1 in Arts 111 at 6:00 p.m.
New Music by CSUM Composers
Thursday, May 3 in Library Plaza at 12:00 p.m.
African and Afro-Cuban drum player Paul Huggins with Agogo (Palomar College's resident drum and dance ensemble)
May 3 & 4 in Arts 111 at 7:00 p.m.
Off-Centre: Spring Dance Concert, presented by DNCE 390: Choreography Workshop
Monday, May 7 in Arts 111 at 7:00 p.m.
An Evening of Jazz
Wednesday, May 9 in Arts 240 at 7:00 p.m.
Second Annual CSUM Student Video Festival

Movie Review



BY KIM ANDERSON
Pride Staff Writer

"The Messengers" is the state-side directing debut of Danny and Oxide Pang. Isn't "Oxide" an original name? It is pretty much the most original thing about this film, as the Pang brothers borrow elements of three or four other horror movies and mix it up into 90 minutes of tired horror cliché. Instead of exploring the possibility that children can see things that grownups cannot (as the trailers for this movie implied), the film goes off into a very different direction that fails to make any sense.

What kills me the most is how much potential this movie had and how much was wasted in falling back on the already-done-to-death horror tricks. You'll see psychotic crows reminiscent of Hitchcock's "The Birds," contorted crawling-on-the-walls ghosts which gives you "The Grudge" déjà vu, and a giant haunted house similar to -- I don't know -- every horror movie

ever made.

The story follows the Solomon family who move to North Dakota from Chicago in hopes of making a fortune on cultivating sunflower seeds. The dad, Roy (Dylan McDermott), and mom, Denise (Penelope Ann Miller), are the oblivious parental duo. Roy is a hard-working farmer with an undeniable determination and a body way too hot for a dad. Denise is a typical 1950s-style housewife whose fortes include bed making and making a killer glass of lemonade. Jess (Kristen Stewart) is their teenage daughter who is deeply affected by something horrible that happened in Chicago. Ben (played by twins Evan and Theodore Turner) is the toddler who, conveniently, cannot talk but sees much.

Right before planting time, Roy meets up with a mysterious drifter (John Corbett) whom he hires on the spot after learning his first name. Meanwhile, the house is playing tricks on Jess and Ben who are the only ones harassed by ghosts.

The actors, most notably Stewart, whose past credits include "The Panic Room" and "Cold Creek Manor," do an amazing job with what they are given. Stewart is wonderful in this role, giving her character the balance of maturity and innocence. McDermott, of "The Practice," gives a sincere and believable performance as a dad who is trying to hold his family together. Miller never misses a beat as a protective and over concerned mother. The Turner brothers play a wonderfully creepy part, which is a credit to them and the directors. Corbett plays his role so suavely that you almost doubt he is a threat to the Solomon family.

The music and sound design were both done nicely. Though the music was a very obvious cue to what is going to happen next, the score was well-written and well utilized. The sound design, in particular, was eerie and scary without going overboard into cliché-land. Possibly the only time I was even a little frightened during this film was due to the

excellently crafted sound.

The direction and cinematography both were not too unoriginal but seemed to take you too much out of the experience instead of bringing you in.

Overall, the plot is the thing that gets in the way of this movie the most. Apart from the fact that moviegoers had to suffer through tired, recycled horror tactics, the movie simply did not make any sense at the end. Small plot holes are easy to ignore, but when they

are as big as the sunflower field on screen, they go from ignorable to extremely annoying in less time than it says to say "The Messengers." And, after seeing this entire movie and taking pretty good notes, I still have no idea why it is even called that. If you enjoy pointing out plot holes and mocking movie discrepancies, this film was made for you. Otherwise, "The Messengers" is completely skippable.



Image courtesy of Sony Pictures

Beer of the Week

Winter's Bourbon Cask Ale



Photo by Jonathan Thompson / The Pride

BY JONATHAN THOMPSON
Pride Staff Writer

Anheuser-Busch brews Winter's Bourbon Cask Ale December through February. The ale marks the second seasonal brew that Anheuser-Busch offers. In 1876 Anheuser-Busch's Budweiser became American's first national beer brand, and the brewery produces 50 percent of all beer consumed in the United States of America. Twelve breweries comprise Anheuser-

Busch with the closest located in Los Angeles.

Icy and drizzling weeks in the near future demand a winter ale. The packaging, containing six 12 ounce bottles, sold the beer. On the packaging stands a snowman wrapped with a scarf, mittens, beanie, and even goggles. In light of the fact that snowmen are the coolest of all men, the snowman smugly holds a frosty mug of frothy beer as snowflakes descend from the beer heavens above.

Strong aromas emerged from the bottle as I poured the cold contents into a chilled mug. The aroma from the hops and vanilla bean filled the vicinity as rays of light struggled to filter through

the dark amber color of the ale. A powerful scent and luscious color sent surges of glee to my parched mouth.

Reluctance gave way to impatience until the mug tilted and the ale began pouring into my mouth. A few sips quickly discovered the courageous flavor of hops and the smooth, retreating taste of vanilla. The bold taste and soft sweetness parallels the experience of Diet Coke. Diet Coke tastes strong at first before the aspartame leaves a semi-sweet flavor.

The ale has many ingredients. Dark roasted caramel malts, all-imported hops, which are aged on toasted bourbon oak casks and whole Madagas-

car vanilla beans, comprise the ale.

In the words of my four roommates, the ale "tastes like pumpkin pie," "is sweet first then bitter," "has a vanilla spike and bold taste," and one of my roommates who preferred to swallow the ale wholly through a conventional device designed for mass consumption of such substances said the beer "has a weird, rare, and uncommon taste."

For an adventure and delicious treat for your taste buds, rush to the store and select your own six pack of Winter's Bourbon Cask Ale. The brew sits on shelves for a limited time.

Drink of the Week

Chocolate Martini

BY SOPHIE BRINK
Pride Staff Writer

The scrumptious secret of the bean of the cacao tree is arguably the greatest discovery in world history. Those who may scoff at this assertion will, wild-eyed, change their opinion when their mouths are stuffed with the ambrosial marvel that is chocolate.

As the story goes, the Aztecs discovered the aphrodisiac potential of chocolate. Hundreds of years later, the association between chocolate and love

lives on. The link is not only found in history and lore but in the chemistry of the human brain. The high we experience when happy or in love involves the discharge of chemicals phenylethylamine and serotonin by the brain into the nervous system. Chocolate contains these same mood enhancing agents.

It is, then, no surprise why ardent suitors and the happily married alike buy up armfuls of See's and Godiva chocolates for Valentine's Day. We delight in experimenting on our loved ones

and ourselves, entertaining ourselves with a grown-up version of playing doctor.

If the mad chemist in you is dying to get out this Valentine's Day, why not introduce him or her to your inner bartender. Meet the Chocolate Martini – a cocktail glass full of the most indulgent love potion imaginable. Smooth and creamy, this libidinous libation is best when enjoyed with your sweetie.

To make a pair of delicious Choco 'tinis you need:

1 1/2 shots chocolate liqueur (I used Godiva.)

1 1/2 shots crème de cacao

1/2 shot vodka (I recommend Absolut Vanilia.)

2 1/2 shots half-and-half

Chocolate syrup to garnish

Chocolate shavings to garnish

Swirl chocolate syrup in two chilled cocktail glasses.

Mix all ingredients except for syrup and shavings in a shaker with ice, shake, and strain into glasses.

Garnish with chocolate shavings. Enjoy!

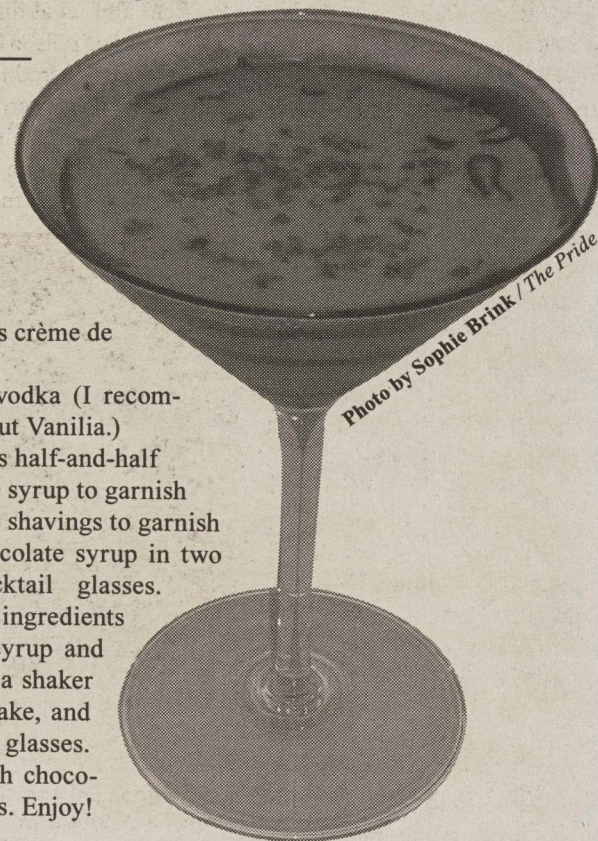


Photo by Sophie Brink / The Pride

Valentine's Fortunes

Aquarius:
Your true love
awaits you.

Pisces:
Destiny is
knocking
at your door.

Aries:
Open your eyes to
the world around
you.

Taurus:
May love and
harmony surround
you today.

Gemini:
Your aura is
glowing
pure happiness.

Cancer:
An open mind will
lead you to your
soul mate.

Leo:
Love is in the air.
Drink it up
softly.

Virgo:
Your one and only
love is the one
you least expect.

Libra:
Your heart knows
not what it wants.

Scorpio:
Your charm and
charisma will
take you far.

Sagittarius:
Taking a chance
on love and love
will take a chance
on you.

Capricorn:
Enduring love will
move mountains
in your life.

VALENTINES FUN FACTS

•About 1 billion Valentine's Day cards are exchanged in US each year. That's the largest seasonal card-sending occasion of the year, next to Christmas.

•Women purchase 85% of all valentines.

•In order of popularity, Valentine's Day cards are given to teachers, children, mothers, wives, sweethearts and pets.

•Parents receive 1 out of every 5 valentines.

•About 3% of pet owners will give Valentine's Day gifts to their pets.

•Valentine's Day and Mother's Day are the biggest holidays for giving flowers.

•Worldwide, over 50 million roses are given for Valentine's Day each year.

•California produces 60 percent of American roses, but the vast number sold on Valentine's Day in the United States are imported, mostly from South America. Approximately 110 million roses, the majority red, will be sold and delivered

within a three-day time period.

•73% of people who buy flowers for Valentine's Day are men, while only 27% are women.

•Men buy most of the millions of boxes of candy and bouquets of flowers given on Valentine's Day.

•In the Middle Ages, young men and women drew names from a bowl to see who their valentines would be. They would wear these names on their sleeves for one week. To wear your heart on your sleeve now means that it is easy for other people to know how you are feeling.

•The Italian city of Verona, where Shakespeare's lovers Romeo and Juliet lived, receives about 1,000 letters addressed to Juliet every Valentine's Day.

•Richard Cadbury invented the first Valentines Day candy box in the late 1800s.

Facts found at www.stvalentinesday.org

TOP 10 THINGS TO DO IF YOU'RE SINGLE

BY AMANDA ANDREEN
Pride Staff Writer

1) Pamper Yourself: make an appointment at the day spa, be indulgent, or splurge at the mall.

2) Celebrate with friends! For girls: plan a girl's night out on the town, or for guys: plan a poker night, or organize a sports game.

3) Be Proactive! Donate your time to a worthy cause. Just because you're not spending Valentines Day with a valentine, does not mean you can't spend it with those less fortunate than you.

4) Prioritize! Make a list of things that need to be prioritized in your life. Once you have made a list of things you would like to make more time for, write out a plan to help you reach those goals.

5) Reorganize! Make Valentines Day your new spring-cleaning day! Tackle your closet with a new plan, put all the clothes you don't wear anymore

into a donation pile, and rearrange the clothes you do wear.

6) Take a short trip. Pack a bag and hit the road. Planning a short trip will take your mind off the whole Valentines Day tradition and it will be a fun getaway.

7) Think positively. Not having someone to share Valentines Day with isn't the end of the world. Just think, not having a valentine is much easier than actually having to plan out what to get a significant other.

8) Spend time with your family. Make it a night to remember by watching all classic romance movies together.

9) Get physical. Go for a run. Go to the gym. Play a round of golf. Go for a hike. Do something active—anything active—to keep you busy and get your endorphins pumping.

10) Be creative. Be artistic. Channel your emotions into creating a painting, a poem, or a song.

HOW TO SAY "I LOVE YOU" IN OTHER LANGUAGES

Albanian: Te dua

Arabic: Ana

Behibak (to a male), Ana Behibek (to a female)

Chinese: Wo ie ni (Manderin)

Danish: Jeg

elsker dig

Dutch: Ik hou van jou

Flemish: Ik zie oe geerne

French: Je t'aime

German: Ich liebe Dich

Greek: S' ayapo

Hopi: Nu' umi unangwa'ta

Italian: Ti amo

Irish: taim i' ngra leat

Japanese: Kimi o

ai shiteru

Korean:

Tangsinul sarang ha yo

Latin: Te amo,

Vos amo

Mandarin: Wo ai ni

Navajo: Ayor anosh'ni

Portuguese: Eu

te amo

Romanian: Te iu besc

Spanish: Te amo

Found at:
www.stvalentinesday.org