

Student groups square off

College Republicans and PAN debate pertinent issues

BY PETER SCHWARTZ
Pride Staff Writer

A debate was held last Tuesday between the College Republicans and the Progressive Activist Network (PAN) on the general topic of homeland security vs. civil liberties.

The debate took place in Founders Plaza from 10a.m. to 1p.m. Topics explored at the debate included the war in Iraq and the war on terrorism as well as various other current political and social issues.

PAN was represented by Lanysha Adams and Cheyenne Barr. Ashley Stuart and Nick Bonomi represented the positions of the College Republicans.

The debate drew a crowd of some 45-50 students. The debate became heated at times as both sides sought to explain their respective positions on each issue. Some issues were discussed as partisan positions rather than responses to specific questions. At times both groups agreed in part on some of the topics.

"I really think we need a regime change," said Barr, PAN vice president of external affairs, on the issue of who should be the next president, "and that we need Kerry to be our president to keep

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Photos by Peter Schwartz / The Pride

Above: Ashley Stuart and Nicholas Bonomi of the College Republicans present their argument last Tuesday. They spoke out in favor of President George W. Bush and his domestic and foreign policies.



Left: Lanysha Adams and Cheyenne Barr of PAN speak on issues from the liberal perspective. They believe it is time of a change in the executive power of the United States.

CSUSM reacts to Moore shafting

ASI waiting for filmmaker's reply

BY CHEZARE MILO
Pride Staff Writer

Students and faculty responded last week to President Karen S. Haynes and the Executive Council's decision to remove school funding directed towards financing the scheduled appearance of controversial filmmaker Michael Moore.

President Haynes released a statement on Wednesday September 13 citing several



Michael Moore

reasons for the cancellation. In the statement Haynes said, "The proposed date, only a few weeks away, does not allow time to identify and secure a speaker of comparable significance who can provide a balancing perspective during this election year."

"Universities are about the exchange of ideas. Some ideas are uncomfortable, but being exposed to them is how we become confident of our own beliefs and values. That said, however, it is important that discussions be balanced," said Haynes. "The University recognizes the need to present diverse points of view. Therefore we will delay Mr. Moore's appearance until later in the academic year, and after the election, pending agreement between his schedule and ours, and until we can consider how to provide a balancing perspective."

In response to the cancellation 64 members of the faculty signed an open letter directed to the President and the executive council. The letter dated September 15 expressed "strong opposition to the Executive Council's decision to postpone Michael Moore's scheduled speaking engagement..."

"We feel that this decision repeats a disturbing pattern of

CSUSM receives nearly \$1 million in budget money

BY CHRIS KING
Pride Staff Writer

Cal State San Marcos is in the midst of a budget deficit for the third consecutive year as a result of state education budget cuts.

"(Budget year) 2004-05 was probably the worst of the three years. This was the first time that the campus had been told to reduce its target enrollment," Terry Allison, Interim Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Finance and Administrative Services, said.

As a result of these cuts in enrollment 200 fewer students

were allowed to enroll at Cal State San Marcos this fall semester than the previous year.

In the CSU system, monies are allocated according to full time student enrollment. This year enrollment was cut by 23,000 students statewide in order to accommodate the decrease in state education funding. This continues the trend of reduction in enrollment in the CSU system. Last year, 250 fewer students were admitted at CSUSM than the previous year due to cuts in the state university system budget.

CSUSM's budget was originally cut by \$3.8 million this year. However on the day that the CSU system budget was signed \$40.5 million was reallocated back to the entire CSU system. Cal State San Marcos received nearly \$1 million - \$995,914 to be exact - of the \$40.5 million in returned student revenues; however, it was not enough to truncate the university's remaining \$2,430,781 net deficit for this fiscal year. Had the University not received this additional funding, this year's budget deficit would have exceeded last

year's deficit of \$2.5 million.

Allison said that as a result of the nearly \$1 million in funds being returned to Cal State San Marcos there will be an additional 159 full-time students allowed to enroll this fall. 15 class sections are also being added to the fall class schedule. Enrollment in the additional courses is open until Wednesday, September 22. There is no petition required to add these sections and no late fees will be assessed.

This year CSUSM prepared

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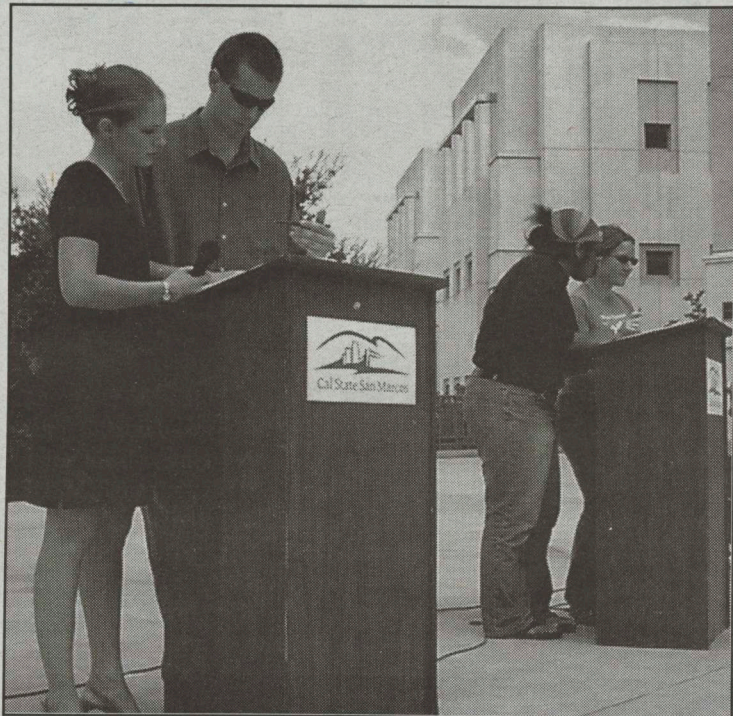
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Photos by Peter Schwartz / The Pride

DEBATE, from page 1

America safe and free." Barr added, "I really hope that Kerry will get elected. I like what he stands for with things like the Patriot Act, the war in Iraq, (and) the war on our civil liberties."

"We are obviously support-

ing George W. Bush and I find it to be unfortunate that Kerry doesn't stand for anything at all," said Stuart, chair of the College Republicans. "I can't pick one thing he has been consistent on."

"I disagree with all of his (Kerry's) policies. He (Kerry) went to

Vietnam for the right reasons, yet when he got out he went against his own country," said Bonomi, executive director of the College Republicans. "President Bush will protect America every time."

"I agree that we need to have more security. The problem I see is that most of the money is going overseas, it's going into Iraq. Most of the money isn't staying here," said Barr on the topic of homeland security.

"The war on terrorism will never be over until all the terrorists have been removed," said Stuart.

"I view the war on terror as a war on crime, it's a long war, it will never be completely over but we can fight it and we can be effective," said Nick Bonomi. "It's (the war on terrorism) a deterrent. It's effective and when people are put in check when they are doing something wrong they will eventually do what is right."

Lanysha Adams, film series coordinator for PAN, responded to Bonomi's perception of the war on terror with a different interpretation.

"The war on terror is not something material. The war on terror is a war on a philosophical and political idea," said Adams. "The war on terror, that's not specific enough, that's not pinpointed, and we will never know when it's over because for one we don't

know what a terrorist is," said Adams. "We have a very general view of what a terrorist is and I fail to understand why we are fighting a war on a tactic."

"I think that having an invisible wall torn down (between government intelligence departments) is a good thing because then we have checks and balances," said Barr. "But when you can define a terrorist by anything that John Ashcroft says, well that's a big problem. When that can't be disputed or vetoed in any way from congress or any group of people well then he has complete authority to throw someone into jail," added Barr.

Bonomi agreed that removing barriers between intelligence departments was a good thing.

"The benefit... it's a big one," said Bonomi.

Bonomi defended U.S. intelligence agencies' right to conduct "sneak and peek operations." Bonomi also stated that the Patriot Act was passed with overwhelming bipartisan support.

The next debate to be held between the College Republicans and PAN is scheduled for October 26 from 11:30 a.m. to 1p.m. on the steps of Founders Plaza.

The Republicans have scheduled Larry Greenfield, the Director of the Republican Jewish Coalition of Southern California, to debate on their behalf. PAN has yet to announce a speaker on their behalf.

BUDGET, from page 1

for the worst and put forth a plan to make sure that there would be no staff lay offs in the 04-05 academic year. However, temporary positions were cut and the positions of those employees who retired or moved on were examined to determine whether or not a particular vacated position needed to be re-filled.

A last minute push by state legislators was credited for the receipt of additional funding.

"They (state legislature) said earlier (this year) that we would probably get (funds to support) more students, and that they would tell us the first week of August," said Allison. "That was really (due to) a negotiation

between Governor Schwarzenegger and the state legislature...that was a push in full," he added. Allison elaborated, "CSU said that we can't take in any more students if you don't provide us more money, otherwise students are being cheated... the governor finally said fine--that's how we got more (money)."

The Pride will continue to bring forward new information regarding CSUSM's 04-05 budget as it develops.

Additional information regarding specific class sections added this fall can be found at: http://www.csusm.edu/announcements/fall04_added-classes_alert.pdf.



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MOORE, from page 1

partisan decision making under cover of suspicious claims of balance," the letter stated. The letter also called the "very logic of requiring balanced perspectives flawed." "Were we to follow it to its conclusion, we might decide to invite a speaker to defend the violence of racist mobs, since there is currently a very public exhibit in our new library that is unabashedly critical of lynching"

The letter concluded that, "balance should come not from mechanical juxtaposition of speakers with opposing opinions. It should come from our community as we weigh issues, evidence and opinions. What could more effectively stimulate this healthy process than an energetic and reasoned political speech just the time when such arguments matter most?" "We urge you (President Haynes) and the Executive Council to reverse your decision and allow our community the opportunity to engage critically with this timely speaker and his challenging ideas."

Many faculty members also sent individual letters of protest to President Haynes.

"The arguments (implied and explicit) that the University is a neutral marketplace of ideas and that balance in exchange can only be achieved by having another equally famous speaker (film maker?) on the stage with Moore are unpersuasive," said professor Dreama Moon. "Under the com-

mittee's logic, this campus may not have any public presentation of any type that puts forth a particular viewpoint without having a counter viewpoint expressed. If we pursue this rationale to its (il)logical conclusions, it appears ludicrous as well as unwieldy. So the lynching exhibit requires a complimentary KKK exhibit, Women's Herstory month activities require complimentary activities presenting patriarchal viewpoints of women, the Republican club may never have a speaker on campus without an accompanying Democrat (Green, Independent, ???), environmental educational seminars require a complimentary argument for the dumping of hazardous waste, etc.? I find this logic difficult to support."

Students organized a campaign to submit letters to President Haynes voicing opposition to the cancellation. This week in Founders Plaza students can sign and submit form letters voicing their disapproval. The table will be open from 10a.m to 2p.m. Organizers of the letter writing campaign are urging all those who support Michael Moore's appearance to wear baseball caps this Thursday September 23.

There is an organized protest to be held this upcoming Thursday September 23 from 11a.m. to 1p.m. in the free speech area in between University Hall and the Kellogg Library. The protest is organized by concerned students, WSSA and PAN. All students and faculty are invited to attend

regardless of political affiliation.

Student Heather Frost Vance, one of the organizers of the protest this upcoming Thursday, called the cancellation of Moore, "detrimental to our development as responsible members of society, "and said that," the way it was handled makes me feel that the administration lacks true commitment to our educational freedom." Vance said that the cancellation sent the message that "they (CSUSM administration) aren't confident in our abilities as critical thinkers and the education provided us."

There were also those who expressed support for President Haynes and the Executive Council's decision.

"We support President Haynes and the Executive Council's decision, they did the right thing. Student funds should not be spent on a partisan speaker. It needs to be a speaker that's objective," said Nicholas Bonomi, executive director of the CSUSM College Republicans. "We should bring in someone that would speak for free. If they speak for free it means they care. If you need to pay them, the speaker obviously doesn't care about the audience."

In a letter dated September 16, President Haynes responded to criticism of the cancellation. "I want to say to you "up front" that in retrospect, I know I could have handled this matter better. Since my arrival in February, I have tried to model a new kind of campus discussion built on openness and consultation. That

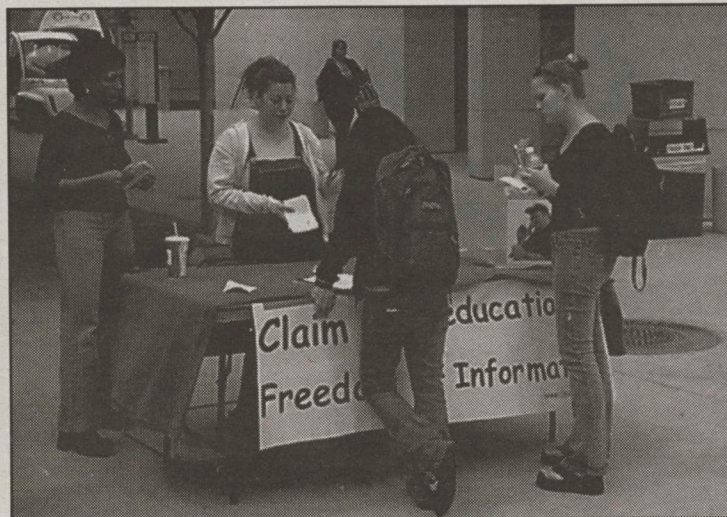


Photo by Chezare Milo / The Pride

Concerned students sign letters of protest addressed to Presidents Haynes.

did not happen in this case -- at least to the degree I would like -- and I regret that."

Haynes also responded by saying, "many members of the campus community felt surprised and disappointed by what happened, and I want to offer my apology for those feelings." Haynes continued to defend her and the council's decision by stating, "The university is prohibited from using state funds for partisan political activity. We are in the midst of a hard-fought presidential election. Were we to host Mr. Moore a month from now using state funds, without balancing his appearance with an alternate perspective, we would be in violation of the law. As president, I cannot allow that to happen."

Last week, when news of the cancellation was reported in

newspapers and on television, many members of the local community contacted ASI and expressed their desire to help generate the needed funds in order to finance Moore's speaking engagement. As a result of the funds generated ASI submitted a proposal late last week to Michael Moore's agent that would bring him to the Escondido Center for the Performing Arts on October 12 at 7p.m.

ASI is currently awaiting a response from Moore.

Laura Poggi of ASI said, "I think this is an incredible indicator of public support for the students of CSUSM and it says a lot about ASI that they were able to come through and resolve an unfortunate situation that wasn't in the best interests of students."



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Recognition for innovation

Professor Sepinwall receives teaching award

BY DANIEL LOWE
Pride Staff Writer

She's a respected scholar, has written numerous articles and has a new book coming out next year.

Alyssa Goldstein Sepinwall, associate professor of history, was recently chosen to receive the President's Award for Innovation in Teaching.

"She is not only a distinguished scholar, but also a very effective teacher," said Tony Acevedo, a former student of Sepinwall. "She is also one of the nicest and concerned professors a student could hope to meet"

"I nominated Dr. Sepinwall for the award because I think that her innovative teaching methods bring out the best in her students and the material at hand," said

Acevedo.

When asked about the award Sepinwall commented on how touched she was that the students nominated her and the committee decided that she had earned the award. She was quick to give credit to others. "There are so many wonderful teachers on campus. I'm just the one chosen this year. I am very humbled to be recognized in this way," said Sepinwall. She credited her colleagues with giving her many of her teaching ideas.

"She offers fresh and original approaches to teaching her classes," said Acevedo. These creative methods include panel discussions, movies and sometimes even dancing. Stu-

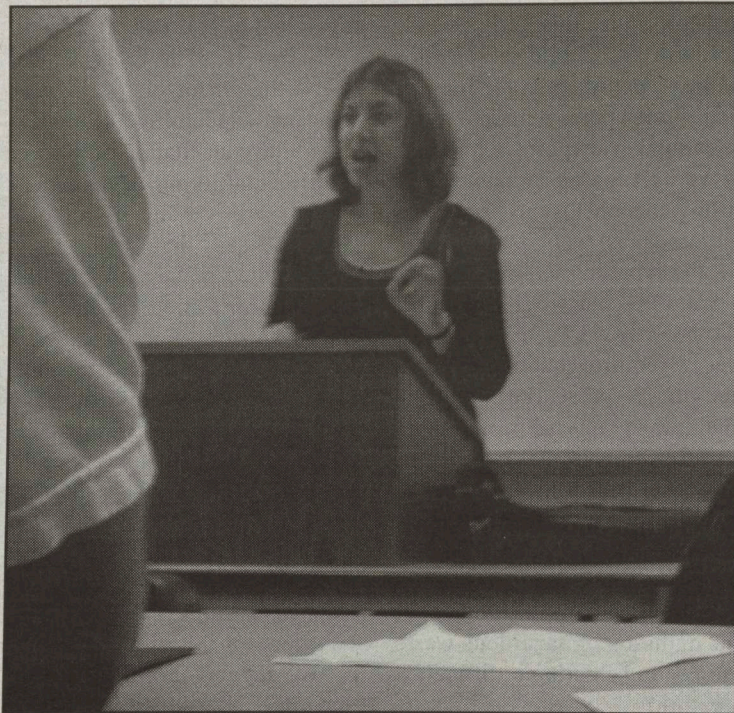


Photo by Jason Encabo / The Pride

Professor Sepinwall lectures to students in her History 324 course.

dents constantly wait to see her during office hours-they can't get enough of her.

Sepinwall's passion for history and for her work is obvious.

"I find learning about the past fascinating," she said. "Without history we cannot understand why we are the way we are today."

Sepinwall graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a BA in intellectual history and political philosophy and earned an MA and Ph.D. from Stanford University.

Sepinwall's research concentrates on 18 and 19 century France. Her book entitled *The Abbé Gregoire and the French Revolution: The Making of Modern Universalism* is about a Catholic priest who argued for the abolition of slavery and ending the persecution of Jews. Although written for other scholars, Sepinwall did keep her

students in mind. She is teaching a course called *New Ideas of Biography* in the spring and will use her book to assist with the instruction of that class.

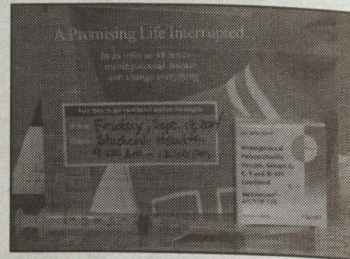
Besides teaching and doing research Sepinwall loves eating ethnic foods including Indian, North African, Vietnamese and Israeli food. She watches old movies and foreign films, and enjoys dancing and playing bridge.

Sepinwall is a deeply committed scholar who wants to give her enthusiasm for history to others.

"I think that history is very important," said Sepinwall. "I spend a lot of time thinking about how to present history to student."

PROFESSOR FILE

UVA Residents: Give 'em another shot



Photos by Eric Mercado / The Pride

BY SARAH COLESON
Pride Staff Writer

University Village Apartment residents are being strongly encouraged to get vaccinated for meningitis. Meningitis is an infection of the fluid that surrounds the spinal cord and brain.

The first type of meningitis is caused by a virus, which is generally controllable having symptoms such as headache, fever and a stiff neck. The second type is caused by a bacterial infection and can have devastating and permanent effects, such as brain damage, hearing loss and even learning disabilities.

Coughing, kissing or sharing glasses can spread certain types of bacterial meningitis. Cal State San Marcos is now highly recommending that all University

Village Apartment residents receive the vaccination.

According to Dr. Karen Nicholson, the medical director of Cal State San Marcos Student Health Services, it is mandatory that information about meningitis is made available and public for all CSU and UC residential students. "Although students are not required to take the shot, it is strongly recommended that they receive it especially first year students," said Nicholson.

Students can receive the vaccination through Student Health Services during clinic hours for \$ 65.00, or through a private physician.

For more information, contact Student Health Services at (760) 750-4915.



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ASI fall activities

BY LINDSAY RIEDEL
Pride Staff Writer

As an important contributor to student life on campus, Associated Students, Inc. (ASI) organizes a variety of activities, sporting events and classes to encourage student participation and enhance the college experience. This semester is no different with new sports, new classes and new experiences; ASI is bound to catch your attention.

ASI is featuring several new leisure classes including Brazilian martial arts, improv comedy, step body works, and a massage-how-to class, as well as two returning leisure classes, yoga and circuit Training.

"The class will be fun and relaxed," said Nicole Hallet, circuit training instructor for fall 2004. "It's easy to do and it won't be intimidating." Hallet currently runs Curves for Women on Country Club Lane in Escondido.

"I want people to get into a good exercise routine and see improvements in themselves," said Hallet.

Classes begin on September 27. Each class is an hour long and held twice a week for 6 weeks. These classes are free for students, but for faculty, the cost is either \$50 for all 12 classes or \$7 per class.

To participate in a leisure

class, you must get a wristband from the ASI Cougar Recreation Center that guarantees you a spot in the class. The capacity of the classes is limited. It is suggested that you arrive at least 10 minutes before the class to get your wristband. Also note that wristbands are available as early as 9 a.m. on the day of the class.

"It's an easy way to feel like you're part of the school, and a way to get a better college experience," said Sam Shirakhon, director of intramural sports for ASI. Shirakhon feels that the sports on campus offer many benefits to participants, socially and physically.

"Sports are good for you, and (participating) puts you in a good mood for class," said Shirakhon.

The intramural league sports offered for fall 2004 are basketball, dodgeball and volleyball. The season for each sport runs about a month long. Teams are co-ed, and each player pays a portion of the \$15 fee per team.

Basketball begins on September 29. The teams are 3 on 3, but each team can have up to 5 people. Games are on Tuesday and Thursday nights from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Although it is likely that the teams will already be filled, the deadline to sign-up for

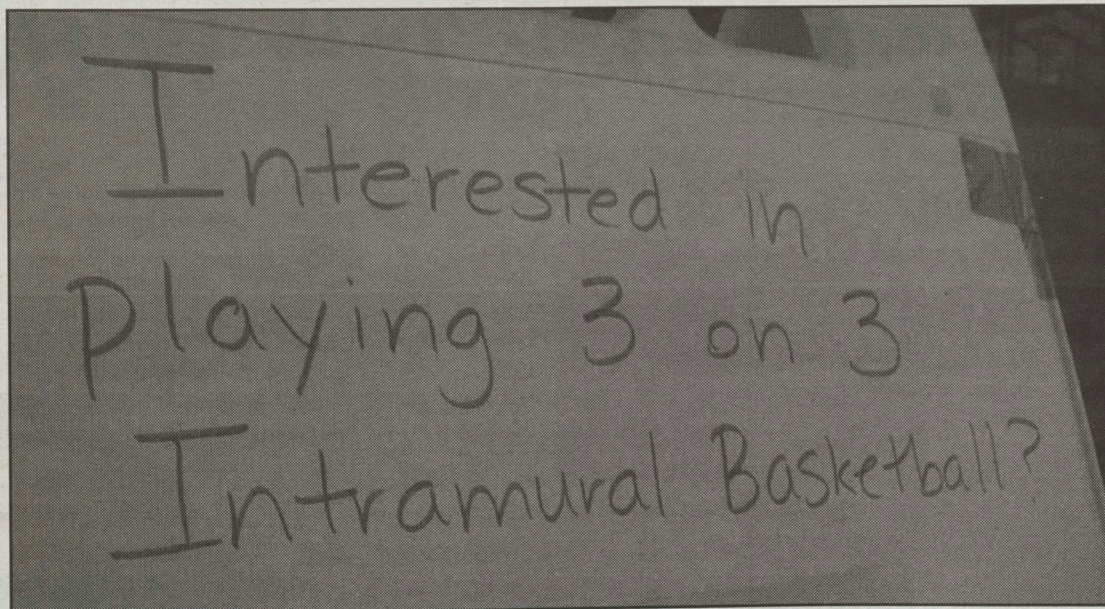


Photo by Jason Encabo / The Pride

the Basketball team is September 23.

Dodgeball, a new sport for ASI's intramural program, begins on October 18, and games take place in the gym on Mondays and Wednesdays, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. Sign-ups will not exceed 45 people. The season for Volleyball begins on November 9. Games will take place indoors in the gym on Tuesdays and Thursdays 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. Each of the 5 teams will consist of 9 players.

Besides the league intramural sports offered, there is also the Best Ball Golf Tournament on November 20 and the King/Queen of the Beach Volleyball Tournament in December. In addition to intramural sports, ASI sponsors club sports on campus for students with a com-

petitive nature and prior experience in the sport. These sports are not officially recognized by CSUSM, but in playing on one of the teams, you are representing the school and ASI.

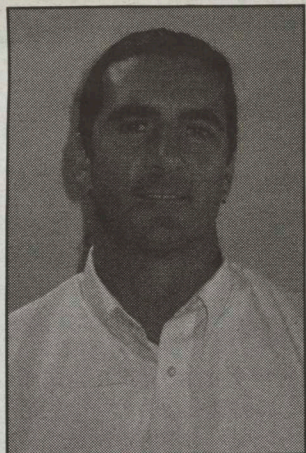
Competitive Club Sports offered for this year are men's basketball, women's softball, co-ed surfing, men's volleyball, women's volleyball, men's soccer, women's soccer and women's dance.

With the exception of surfing, there are no fees to tryout. The participation fee for each player ranges from \$100-\$125. Those fees go toward uniforms, transportation and other costs that make up the first half of the team budget. ASI sponsors the teams for the other half of the budget, not to exceed \$3,000, which

comes from student fees taken out of tuition at the beginning of the semester.

For students who are interested in being active, but not necessarily on a team sport, ASI also organizes monthly outdoor trips. For the month of October, students are invited to go camping at the La Jolla Indian Reservation on Palomar Mountain for \$25. The two-day trip will take place on October 23- 24 and the fee includes food, snacks, all equipment (sleeping bags, tents, etc.) and transportation.

For more information regarding any of the sports, leisure classes, or outdoor trips, please go to the ASI Recreation Center in the Clarke Field House or call ASI at (760) 750-4990.



Dr. Stephen Nichols

A new face in athletics

Steven Nichols: Athletic Director

BY SCOTT PHILLIPS
Pride Staff Writer

With the always growing CSU San Marcos population, seeing new faces around campus has become a norm. One new face in the crowd has a vision to bring the athletic department to something students and faculty can be proud of. His name is Dr. Stephen Nichols and he is our new interim director of athletics for at least the next two years. Dr. Nichols graduated with a bachelor's degree from CSU Long Beach, and earned his master's and Ph.D. degrees from Ohio State.

Q: What is your background in the field of sports?

A: When I attended Western High School in Orange County, I was involved with the swim team and the water polo team. After high school, I played water polo for Cypress Community College, but not for long. Currently, I participate in triathlons (swimming, biking & running) and just ran a half Iron Man in Oceanside last March.

Q: What brought you to CSU San Marcos?

A: After entertaining offers from other schools, like University of Washington, I visited CSU San Marcos with no prior knowledge of this school. After interviewing for the position, I felt that this was a school where I could be happy and give the athletic department all the help I can. It is also exciting to come back to southern California.

Q: What are your immediate priorities for the athletics department?

A: I think it's time for our athletics to grow. Currently, CSU San Marcos is in the NAIA and our goal as a department is to get into the NCAA, Division 2. To accomplish this we need to get two more team sports and it looks like a soccer team is next in line. Volleyball is another sport that we would like to see added to our athletic department. We're looking to add onsite sporting events so the student body can get into the school's athletic teams. Most people don't realize that CSU San Marcos has already produced a national champion in track and field and the golf teams have a high ranking within the NAIA.

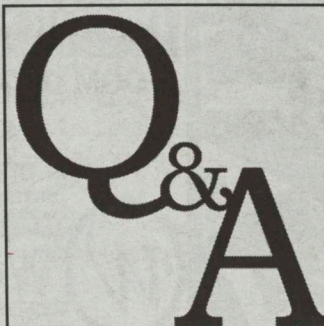
Q: What is your direct role with the CSU San Marcos athletes?

A: My role is to make sure that each sports program is running smooth. Part of my job is to evaluate our athletes both academically and behaviorally. I also speak at award ceremonies or help out directly, like next month when I pick up our golf team at the airport. My goal is to handle any problem that might arise, in a punctual and professional manner.

Q: How can CSU students learn more about our athletic department?

A: There is always information available at the Clark Field House, and the school holds tryouts. The best way to get information on a particular sport is to contact the coach. Because we are trying to be as competitive as we can in athletics, we have a very active recruiting process that looks for exceptional athletes with good academic standing.

It is exciting that the athletic department is taking steps to give our school first-rate sports teams. Students will be able to rally around teams, which in turn would bring the student body closer. It appears the outcome of Dr. Nichols' hiring will be a new sense of school pride for CSUSM athletics.



Surf team prepares for upcoming season

BY JARED DEVORE
Pride Staff Writer

On September 25 at Cross-waithe St. in Oceanside, Associated Student, Inc. (ASI) Surf Tryouts will be searching for dedicated and talented potential surf team members.

Tryouts will begin at 8:00 a.m. with each participant receiving three chances to showcase their talent for coaches. Participants will surf in three heats with six competitors in each heat.

The divisions you can try out for include men's short board, women's short board, co-ed long board and co-ed body board. Each division will compete according to the style of board they Surf to keep things fair. Team manager Ryan James and Coach Amber Puha encourage all CSUSM students to come out and participate.

Last year, the ASI Surf Team placed 4th overall, a strong showing at the very competitive NSSA Nationals contest.

The team returns this year looking for new talent to pave the way in the 2004 season. Strong performers in last year's competitions were John Graves, Eric Warner and Ryan James. The ASI Surf Team is lead by coach Dr. Amber Puha, and team manager Ryan James.

"Coach Amber Puha is the key reason we have a surf team at CSUSM," said James. "She is very knowledgeable about the sport of surfing."

The ASI Surf Team competes at some of the best surf spots in

Jock Talk With Josh

BY JOSH SANDOVAL
Pride Staff Writer



What do you dream about? If you were given one wish, what would it be? What's your fantasy?

Well, the fantasy of any sports fan since the beginning of time has been to run a professional sports team. That is the reason why fantasy sports have become such a huge success.

If you are a sports fanatic, or know a sports fanatic, chances are you know about fantasy sports. For those that don't know what the heck I am talking about I will give you a quick run down on the basics for fantasy football.

You join a league with a bunch of your friends where each person receives their own team. Before the football season starts you draft some players compiling a team of a quarterback, kicker, running backs, wide receivers, and a team defense. Each week in the NFL season you match your team against someone else in the

league to see whose team can compile the most points. The points are based on the actual stats that the NFL player compiles during their actual game.

Throughout the fantasy season you can trade, release, or sign players just like any real NFL general manager would. At the end of the season the winner will

no money to play. Playing on a free site means you don't win anything at the end of the season other than bragging rights over your friends.

ESPN.com provides fantasy games as well that can cost around \$30 per team, but you are eligible to

to leagues like that can cost thousands of dollars with obviously high rewards.

Fantasy sports are a blast to play with a bunch of your friends and I have been doing so since 1999 with a group of some of my best friends. However, fantasy games haven't brought all positives to the sports world.

This fantasy sports craze has made it so that people forget who their favorite sports team is. Sometimes you will find yourself rooting your team on but you look across the field and see the opposing team which so happens to have your fantasy teams star player which puts you in a predicament. Do you root for your favorite football team or do you root for your fantasy team? Well sadly many people are choosing the later. Sports fans are slowly turning into fantasy sports fans which is a sad site for any true sports lover.

Fantasy games are fun to play if you don't get carried away. With no end in sight I hope that those of you who do play keep in mind that reality is more important than fantasy.

If you have any topics for discussion, praise or criticism, send me an E-mail to Sando026@csusm.edu.



Illustration
by Jason
Encabo / The Pride

receive a prize depending on what kind of league you joined.

There are many different fantasy leagues out there. You can sign up on a free site like Yahoo.com where it costs you

win small prizes such as shirts or banners. However, if you are really successful you can win flat screen televisions to go along with those bragging rights.

Casinos are getting into the action as well by hosting high stakes fantasy leagues. Entries

California ranging from Black's beach in La Jolla, a standout deepwater break that can produce very large surf to Campus Point in Santa Barbara.

The ASI Surf Team will be a great experience for those selected to be a team member. If you think you have what it takes to be on the team or you just want to find out, leave your water wings at home and come down to the ASI Surf Team tryouts September 25.

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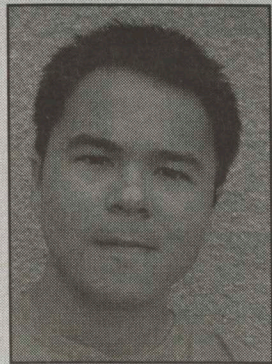
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OMBUDSMAN'S notes

By JASON NICHOLS
Pride Ombudsman



H o l y that would make you the hand up my provocative politicized unmentionable. Be gentle.

The Ombudsman, I who won the coin toss, addresses critiques (you call 'em complaints) and praises. I'm your ambassador of quan, but I don't look a damn thing like Tom Cruise. Still, you complete me.

As you read the paper with your venti ex-lax in hand, and come across particulars that titillate your eyebrows, think of sending those thoughts to the email below. Don't be shy because I WILL QUOTE YOU.

Now, back to business. Like I started saying, the Moore article was impressive. Whether you agree with the decision or not, it was the consistent spark of conversation next to the nice change in weather last week. Ms. Baldwin hit a homer with that one.

To be sure, I am not the spokesperson for this paper. I am better described as one of those old guy muppets up in the balcony that critiques the show. And

As for the Casino Night article, though I respect Ms. Liu's coverage, it was like hearing about an office party you promise the boss to show up to. You know, the type with karaoke versions of 'Love Shack' and 'You've Lost That Love and Feeling.'

The Variety page definitely kept to its namesake. We went from birth control to joining Christian Clubs. I'm not sure if there was a theme to the whole thing, but I'll leave you to ponder on the matter.

Jock Talk With Josh gave me the warm and fuzzy that Tiger Woods exists in this world to sell me Buicks, but I thought if anyone should be covered in golf it should have been Vijay Singh, seeing as he took the top spot and all. Honestly, Golf has long puzzled me with its being referenced as a sport. The last time I played, the only sweat I broke was trying to collect up cash to pay the beer-cart lady. And yes, it is

always a young attractive female selling the booze. Perhaps we should have an opinion on that.

While on the subject, I am assured that actual issues will be discussed concerning the 'left' and 'right' of politics on the Opinions page, and that this will become a regular thing. I just wanted to clear things up, in case you thought Phoenix and Dustin were prepping to sell autobiographies titled, "Donkies are From Mars, Elephants From Venus."

As for A & E, I wish we all had the money or time to enjoy such pleasures. Heads up, HALO 2 will be out on November 9th, so parking should be freed up quite a bit.

Till next time fans, same Bat-time, same Bat-channel...

You can have me at hello via nicho028@csusm.edu

FROM THE LEFT

FROM THE RIGHT

A VIEW FROM BOTH SIDES

Michael Moore is outrageous and at times, he can also be obnoxious but his satire and wit provide a platform for the voice of opposition. This voice is the foundation of democracy. Our freedom of speech is what makes us a nation different from those that have attacked us. Our country is based on taking sides: Republican, Democrat, Independent, Green Party etc. Choices are a part of being American. It is our right and our duty to question how capable the leaders of this country are, because if it is anything but an optimistic illusion, these leaders serve us: The People.

As a Democrat, I have come to realize that there is no truth when it comes to politics. The belief that a president is guiding us with the best interest of his constituents rather than that of greedy power-hungry corporations is a leap of blind faith. With a world that is at times scary to live in, we have come closer and closer to falling without a net. So that begs the question, who should we trust?

Who is right? Is there a right? I'm not proposing that the truth lies within the words of Michael Moore. It is not his reputation for controversy that earned my support. It is his unrelenting passion to speak his mind, despite the opinion of the general public. I realize that not everyone wants to hear Moore ranting but there is a remedy: the OFF button. This would have worked in a situation where he could have appeared as a speaker. My advice: Just don't buy tickets.

People who are put off by Moore argue that he is unpatriotic. A patriot is someone who loves, supports and defends their country. Patriotism is not always relative to the context of War. Defending my country is an act that entails more than just the ability to bear arms. I strongly support our troops despite the fact that I



Polly Charoenkwanchai

am opposed to the mirage we call a cause. Moore's suspicions about the true nature of this war are not based on hearsay. There is documented proof in his books and films. He includes news articles that hint to a deeper, more corrupt reason to why we invaded and conquered Iraq. These doubts, mirrored by my own, make it hard for me to believe that this war was fought for the cause of the American people.

I love America, but it's the system that bother me. I can not understand how we can attempt to silence someone who believes that teachers deserve more respect and more pay than what they feebly call their salary. This university is mainly

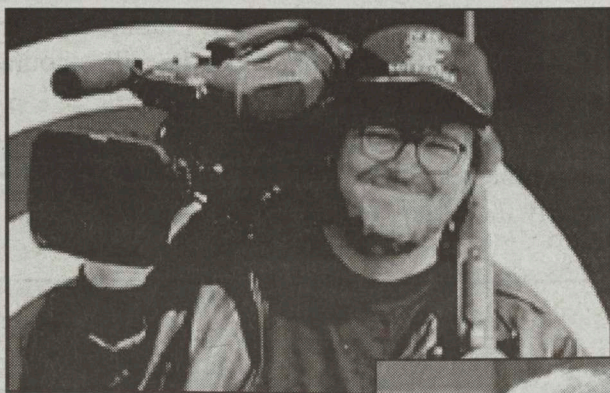


Photo courtesy of MGM Home Entertainment

composed of students who hope to become future teachers. How can an institution of education not rely on its students to have the mental capacity to decide what is fair and balanced? Moore was cancelled because he was too "politicized." It would not be impartial to have him without having someone represent the polar opposite. Moore is not a politician. His issues are not an attack against one party over another. His manifesto is from an everyday man against the crooked bureaucracy.

Michael Moore is a different kind of American; the type who refuses to be complacent. If we were to silence this man on that reason alone, it would be unpatriotic of us.

Michael Moore isn't coming and I'm mad as hell.

The primary excuse given by administration spokesperson Rick Moore in the September 14 issue of *The Pride* was the impossibility of scheduling enough additional speakers to balance out Moore's viewpoint. What I don't understand is why a filmmaker/author, appearing off-campus, necessitates a balanced discussion?

I like Michael Moore, which is not to say that I agree with him. (I mean, c'mon, does he really want me to believe Bush was in cahoots with Osama and the Bin Laden family to cook up 9/11 to make himself look good and make all his friends rich? I'm not buying it.) But I still respect him as a person with an opinion, and I'm always interested in how others view the world. But by refusing to bring in Michael Moore, alone and uncensored, the administration has elevated an opinionated filmmaker to a position of influential, partisan politico, imparting on Moore's opinions much greater weight and stature than they



Phoenix Lindgren

either deserve, or would have had, had the engagement gone forward as planned.

Rick Moore also mentioned Michael Moore's "decision to politicize himself" as a reason for not bringing him in, which begs the question: When was Moore *not* politicized? Both "Stupid White Men" and "Dude, Where's My Country?" were released in paperback shortly before last year's scheduled appearance; Moore's publisher, Warner Books, states that in "Dude, Where's My Country?," "Michael Moore is on a mission in his new book: Regime Change," and in "Stupid White Men" Moore calls for the UN to, "overthrow the Bush Family Junta." So last year it was okay for Moore to appear alone, and this year it's not?

Another excuse given is that this is an election year and last year wasn't (it actually was, but the recall was over by Moore's scheduled appearance date). Let's be honest here: most people will already have their minds made up *before* they go see Moore anyway. I would also wager that the students of CSUSM – along with the rest of the potential attendees of Moore's appearance – will take more than one person's opinion into account before deciding how to vote, no matter how close to the election they hear it.

So bring on Moore. We no more need to hear a balanced viewpoint when he speaks in person than we need when we see him on film, which is a good thing, considering that the CSUSM Center ARTES has scheduled a free, on-campus showing of *Fahrenheit 9/11* on October 5 (as part of the Arts & Lectures Series).

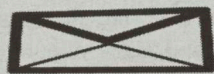
Yank the speaker, but not his film? Gee whiz, that kind of makes me think all those excuses were just a load of crap. Maybe Rick Moore's claim during an interview on the Stacy Taylor show (am1360) is true: Michael Moore was cancelled for fear that his appearance would offend CSUSM's big donors.

Bring in Michael Moore and lose money? Now there's an excuse any good Republican can appreciate.



Photo courtesy of www.csusm.edu/president

LETTERS TO



I salute the Presidents' efforts to stop Michael Moore. However, the problem is not solved. ASI is supposed to be non-partisan. They openly attack the governor, the president, and now they

are committing to raise funds for a very polarizing speaker. ASI officers are paid salary with student funds. Any time they are working to get Michael Moore to campus and they are acting as a

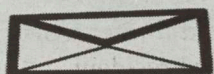
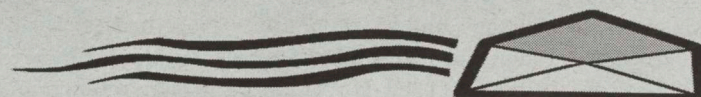
representative from ASI, they are participating in illegal activity. This needs to stop now. ASI should not be involved in politics period. If another student org was raising the funds it would be fine. But to have our supposed to be non-partisan ASI hold such a money raising effort is

illegal.

PS My college republican group is bringing in a speaker on October 26th for a small event. And he is doing it for free. Speakers that really care about their message do it for free. But

Michael needs to laugh all the way to the bank.

Nicholas J Bonomi
Executive Director
CSUSM College
Republicans



Dear President Haynes, I have always thought of you as a great leader in our school. You have participated in events with students, created a nice and happy environment; you even got us all some lunch last week. But your administration's decision to cancel Michael Moore shows deep disregard for the students of CSU San Marcos. First of all, Mr. Moore was scheduled to speak approximately a year ago with out question. As you know he was postponed because of the fires. He has since, as far as i know, decided to reschedule for this October. So your administration then decides to cancel his appearance? This should not even be a question!

Let me tell you, you will never find some one to balance Michael Moore, at least within our budget. But you don't have to balance him. Students going to see him are either going react in one of two ways. They will either think he is a lying partisan propagandist who hates America, or they will embrace his liberal ideas. In other word chances are he in not going to sway voters. The effect he will bring however, will be an increase in voter registration. I'm confident that that after watching Michael Moore the students will Flock to the polls either voting for his ideas or against them. How could you not vote after listening to him? Bringing Michael Moore will put

this university on the map. This will set a platform for all kinds of speakers both liberal and conservative. I had already heard talk about the governor coming.

I know you talk about postponing him to a later date but that would be pointless. As one Student put it "It would be like having Santa Clause come in July." There couldn't be a better time to bring Michael Moore.

Let me sight 3 of the 5 values on the university's mission.

1. Intellectual Engagement: learning, teaching, discovery, and application of knowledge

*Moore will bring a Diverse selection of views that we can all learn from.

*His speech will be great for sociology and political science majors who want to apply their knowledge.

(Both, liberal and conservative)

*Students will be discovering new views or reaffirming their strong views by listening to Moore.

2. Innovation: creativity, openness to change, flexibility, responsiveness, and future focus

*Letting him speak will definitely show this university's responsiveness, to big speakers.

*This will also show that the university encourages diverse thoughts.

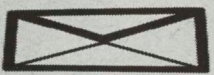
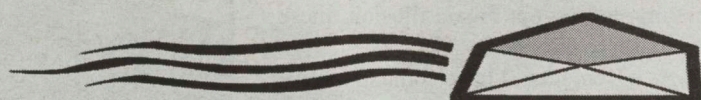
3. Inclusiveness: individual and cultural diversity, and multiple perspectives

* Learning starts by including people not excluding them.

* It is almost a guarantee that he will encourage

conservative groups to field a speaker so that we will discover diverse perspectives.

This action that your administration has made would not happen at SDSU, UCSD, or many other major collages or universities. Please I urge you to reconsider this choice. As I write this letter, there are hundreds, yes HUNDREDS of students mobilizing against this action because they wanted to see Michael Moore. Don't be the president that will be remembered for suppressing speakers because of political views. Concerned Undergraduate Student, Felipe Robinson-Zañartu



Presidents, Ladies and Gentlemen, I did see Michael Moore's latest film, Fahrenheit 911. I believe that there were several questions raised that current Federal Office Holders should answer with complete honesty. It would be interesting to see Michael Moore speak. However, given that Michael Moore's reaction, to a contingent offer falling through, is threatening legal action, I, as a fee paying student at CSUSM and a

California taxpayer (mostly sales tax), still support his right to free speech, but no longer support my fees or taxes going to his speaking expenses.

I would, however, support the ASI and / or the University offering to pay Open University fees for Michael Moore to attend a class where he can learn the differences between a contingent offer and a contract. Universities, after all, are primarily about learning.

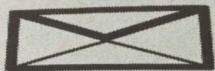
I hope all of us would not want to continue negotiating with a car dealer that had a teenager's offer fall through, which was contingent on his /her parents cosigning for a loan, if that car dealer responded by threatening to sue everybody. Real estate offers are usually contingent on several factors, including inspections, securing loans, selling of other real estate, et cetera. I suspect that in politics and the entertainment industry, they are no different in their offer and contract practices.

I think we should no longer even pretend to be associated with a Michael Moore appearance in North County due to his reaction. The headline in this week's, The Pride, now looks deceptive. If there was no contract, what was cancelled? Editorial responsibility? A much more truthful headline would have been "Not with state funds". ASI should reconsider student fund support for a newspaper

that has major problems with its headlines. Given the budget problems that this campus is facing, we all can think of better uses of state and student funds under the current circumstances. Thanks for your time, Bob Dickey
Chemistry Senior



THE EDITOR



Dear Editor,
I am writing to protest President Haynes' and the Executive Council's decision to veto Michael Moore's appearance at our campus for a screening of his powerful, provocative film, "F. 911." This undemocratic violation of academic freedom saddens and angers me. Since when must a public university maintain a total "fair and balanced" policy (a la Fox News' hypocritical slogan)? The vast majority of mass media and private institutions are strongly

biased towards conservative politics. Quality educational institutions should provide an open forum for controversial people and subjects--both left and right, but not 100% balanced, which is impossible.

Almost all of the CSU Board of Trustee members are conservative business people. All of the CoBA "Inside the Executive Chair" and other CoBA guest speakers are wealthy business owners or executives. In the name of fairness and balance, will President Haynes and the

Executive Council, order CoBA to invite an equal number of communist and union spokespersons?

Will President Haynes order the Library and Arts and Lectures to balance fairly their new exhibit and lecture on lynching in America to invite the Ku Klux Klan to give their side of the controversy--both an exhibit and a guest speaker?

Will President Haynes unilaterally order a temporary ban--just until the election is over--of any military recruiters and veteran events on campus (because this is controversial and pro-war); or will she invite pacifists

and anti-war activists to participate equally with them?

If we get a noted evolutionary scientist to speak on campus, will the Executive Council insist on balancing him/her with a creation scientist in the name of fairness?

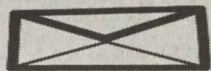
Lastly, Rick Moore's defensive comment that Michael Moore has politicized himself this year is absurd.

Moore has been a political activist for many years. How can anyone believe that Moore's Oscar

acceptance speech was not political and controversial? Having someone of the caliber of Michael Moore after the election is closing the barn door after the horse has fled. CSUSM has become Animal Farm University.

I hope that Associated Students, CFA, and the Academic Senate defend academic freedom and democracy on our campus.

STEVE WIENER
Staff and former CSEA Chapter President



Dear Madam President;
My name is Christopher Mitchell, I am a History Major and a Senior at Cal State University San Marcos. I wanted to offer you my support in canceling the intended visit of Michael Moore. I agree with your assessment of the situation and, as a student here at CSUSM, I support you in this matter, however, unpopular it may have been to make. Mr. Moore's political beliefs are not in question in this matter.

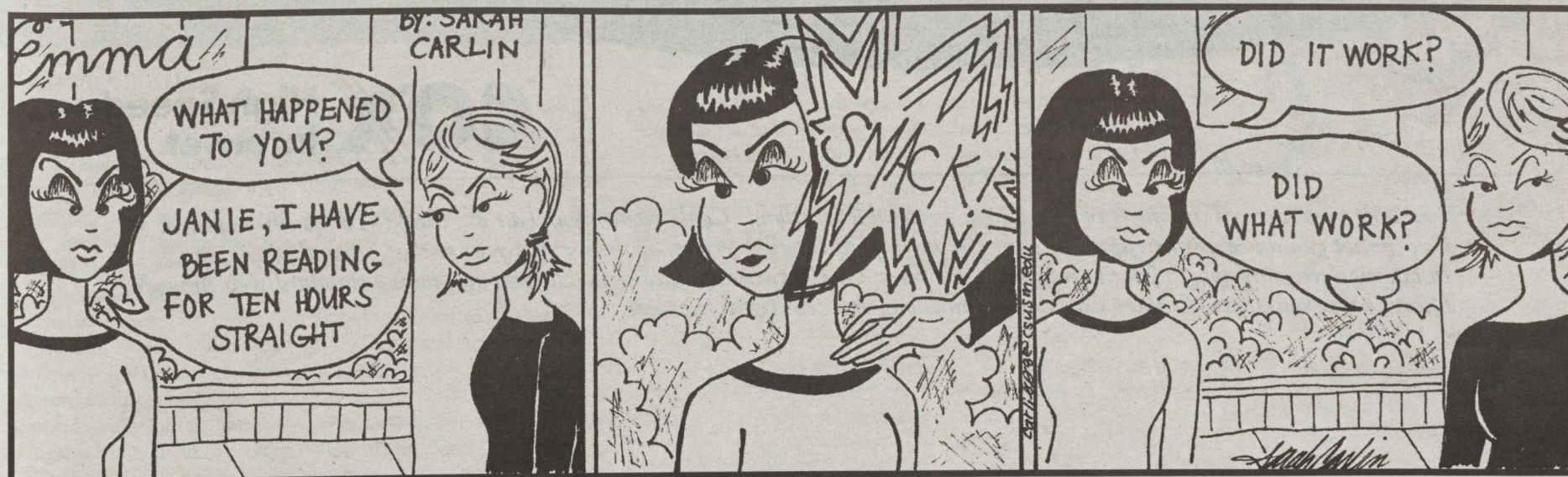
His self-described "one sided" view of unrelated facts to fit implausible theories in his films makes him controversial to the point of being a political propagandist.

Mr. Moore makes no apologies for his cleverly crafted use of film to promote his view of the world. I don't fault him for his views but I do fault him for his over-use of the "documentary" format which leaves the viewing public with more than a deserving appreciation

for his film's authenticity. Just because the facts Mr. Moore artfully arranges in his films fit a certain thesis, does not necessarily mean that the thesis is true. For example, I have two dogs at my home. I make dinner in the evenings for my family. After dinner, I feed the table scraps to my dogs. Now, just because my dogs think that I make dinner for them every night does not make it so. So is the way of Mr. Moore's films. An artful arrangement of inconclusive facts that promote an unworkable thesis. Mr. Moore traded in honest political discourse

for political propaganda. In all fairness, this happens more than I care to admit in politics today -- on the left and on the right. Though I don't agree with Mr. Moore, or his one-sided propagandist views, having him appear on a public college campus, without a discerning counter-balance to his propaganda, is inappropriate a few weeks before a national election and not a good use of public funds. I applaud your decision and your reasoning behind

it. Once the election is over, I don't see any reason why Mr. Moore can not visit the campus in a panel format with the appropriate panelists that could bring some sense to his implausible and propagandist view point. Thank you for your time in this matter. It is always hard to make an unpopular decision, even when it is the right one to make. Sincerely,
Christopher Mitchell
Senior, History Major



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Give Longshot a shot

BY TIFFANY LIU
Pride Staff Writer

In the midst of the town of San Marcos, the Longshot Saloon has become a hotspot for locals and the students of CSUSM. This restaurant bar and grill has actually been around for 30 years and is located off of San Marcos Blvd. on 843 Grand Ave. The current co-owners have owned it for 2 years and have turned it into a North County music venue.

There is a different event going on every night of the week. On Monday, Friday and Saturday there are live bands. Tuesday is country night. On Wednesday and Thursday the hip-hop crowd rolls on in. And Sunday is open-mic night.

Longshot Saloon brings a variety of people to their restaurant bar and grill.

Some bands will bring busloads of people along with them from different parts of San Diego and Los Angeles County.

Longshot Saloon has now teamed up with radio station Channel 933 for Thursday night promotions and DJ'ing music all night long.

Channel 933 is also holding a hard body contest on Thursdays.



Photos by Tiffany Liu / *The Pride*

Above: College students, along with other Longshot attendees, spend an evening at the bar.

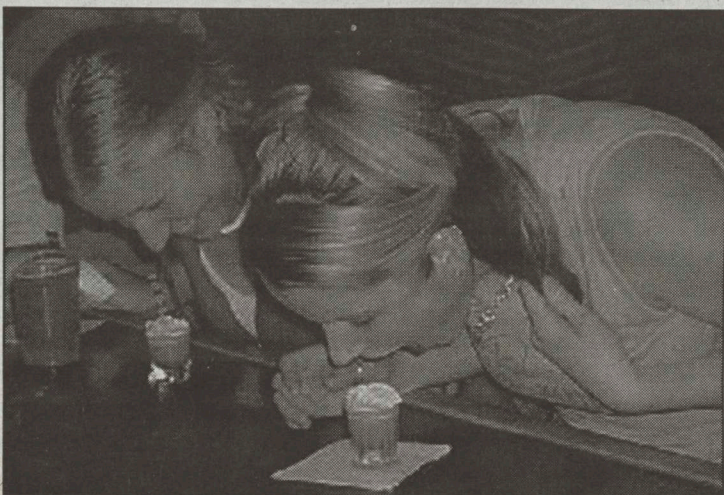
Right: Girls having a ball in college.

Each week the winner goes on to compete with all of the other winners in a final competition for a trip to Cabo San Lucas.

"I'm here every Thursday night," said Monique Smith, third year CSUSM student. "It's a really fun and close place where I can go to meet up with my friends for a drink."

"Even if I didn't own this place I'd still love this bar," said co-owner Johan. "It really is a chill establishment."

Longshot Saloon serves breakfast, lunch and dinner. They have a wide variety of items on the



menu from burgers and hotdogs to homemade chili and teriyaki lettuce wraps. Other dishes include popcorn shrimp and pasta primavera.

"We have an extensive menu

and the food here is excellent," said bartender Tasha Hipp.

The Longshot Saloon always has something going on for everyone.

Breaking the "Code of Silence"

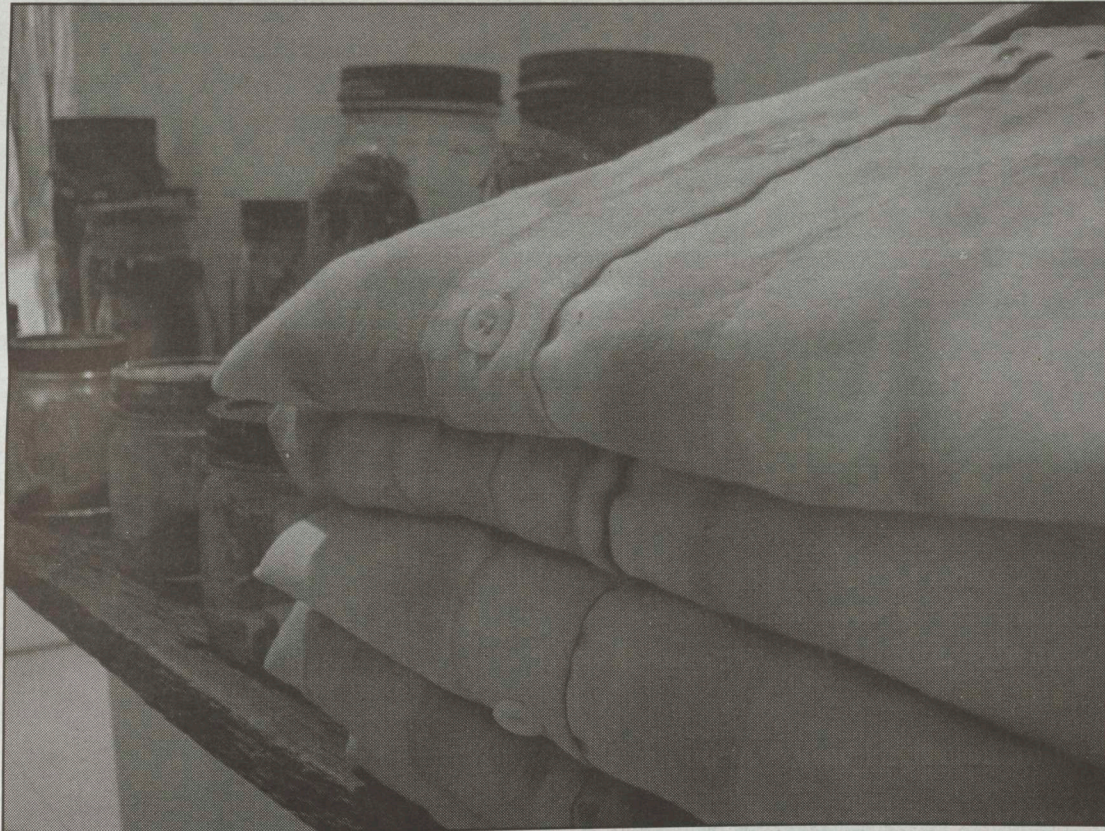


Photo by Jason Encabo / *The Pride*

BY HEATHER HOFFMAN
Pride Staff Writer

This semester students will have the opportunity to view "Lynching in America: The Fabric of Race", an installation by Renee Billingslea, in the Kellogg Library as a part of the *Context Library* series.

"Lynching in America" awards a voice to an ugly time in America's history that is rarely discussed and often hushed. Billingslea has applied the usage of mixed media to help break

a "Code of Silence" that has existed to protect the perpetrators of racial violence and silence the victims.

Billingslea uses common objects filled with thoughtful symbolism to help people connect with victims who lost their lives to prejudicial injustice. She transforms written history into visual and tactile artistry that can be experienced and absorbed. The installation displays many dirty white dress shirts of men, women, and children. Billing-

slea said that "by distressing white shirts, and hanging hand-sewn nametags from the sleeve, I honor each life." Because there are many unknown victims, Billingslea has placed a few shirts without tags, folded neatly on shelves to represent and honor their lives as well.

Billingslea portrays the social aspects of lynching with a hand-sewn quilt made of recycled fabrics and authentic pictures to create a powerful message about the spectators. Billing-



Photo by Jason Encabo / *The Pride*

slea said that, "(At a lynching) people packed food and spread out blankets, as if attending a baseball game. Thousands of people watched, children were excused from school to attend with their parents and folks traveled hundreds of miles just to see a person be burned or hung." The pictures are a haunting reminder of America's brutal past and it really brings home the fact that people took pleasure from these horrific events. There are mason jars on shelves, which Billingslea says are "vestiges of violence" that represent things people might have taken away from a lynching for souvenirs, such as locks of hair, remnants of clothing, or ashes from victims who were burned.

This installation is a moving tribute to the thousands of men, women and children that were lynched in our country and it serves as a lesson in humanity.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

9/21

Comm. Society Meeting
4 p.m. ACD 317
Check out Comm. Society webpage at: http://public.csusm.edu/student_orgs/commssociety-lpe/

Accounting Society General Meeting
11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. LIB 3010

PAN Weekly Meeting
1 p.m. to 5 p.m. UNIV 444

College Republicans Club Meeting
2 p.m. to 6 p.m. UNIV 442

9/22

Thank You for Recycling Celebration
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Kellogg Library Terrace.
(Hot dogs, chips and drinks will be served. There will be a prize drawing and giveaway)

9/23

Greg Koch, Chairman and CEO of Stone Brewing Co. is "In the Executive's Chair,"
11 a.m. to 12:50 p.m. ACD 102

International Coffee Hour
1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Commons 206
1st International Coffee Hour of the Fall Semester!

Career Connections, Fall 2004
6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Windmill Facilities Banquet Hall in Carlsbad
The Accounting Society semi-annual Career Connections event. There will be representatives from the FBI, IRS, Semptra, PriceWaterhouseCoopers, Deloitte & Touche and many others. Admission is free. Professional dress is required. RSVP to Regina Hulten at rabin001@csusm.edu you must include your name, your option (i.e. Accounting, HTM, SSM, etc) and your expected graduation date.
For more info., contact: Daniel Dollar, dolla001@csusm.edu

Basketball Captain's Meeting #2
2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Clarke Field House/USU

Deadline to sign up for Basketball League
Sign up by 5 p.m. at the ASI Cougar Recreation Center.

Accounting Society General Meeting
11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. LIB 3010

Psi Chi Beginning of the year party
5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Clarke Field House/Grand Salon

Priority Christian Challenge General Meeting
6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. ARTS 240

9/24

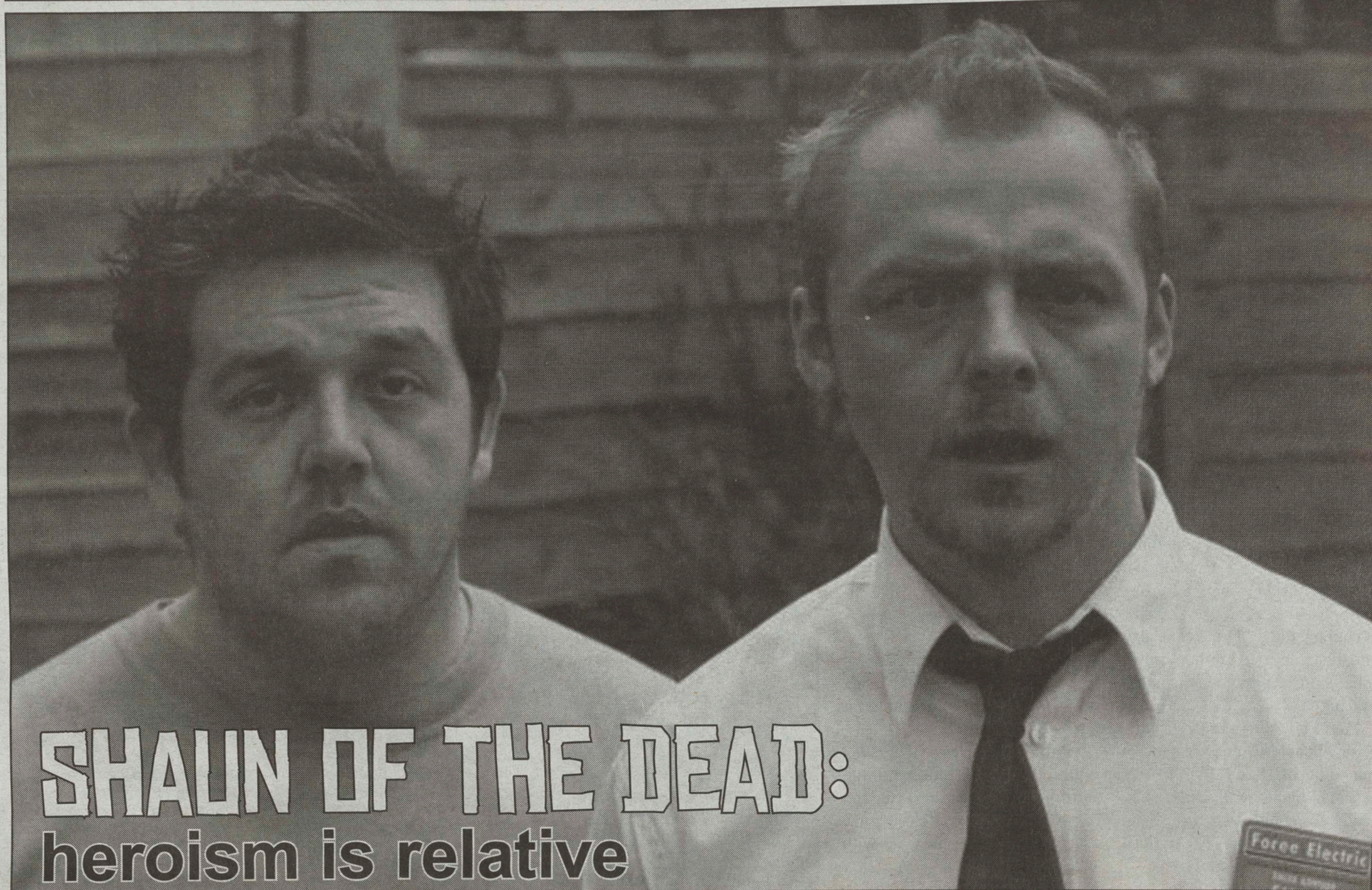
Arts & Lectures Presents Noontime Oboe/Piano Concert
Noon Arts 111 (Free event and open to the public...guests are encouraged to arrive early)

Cougar Dancers Info Meeting
1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. Field House Grand Salon
You must have previous dance experience. So if you know how to do jazz, ballet, lyrical, tap or hip hop come to the info meeting to find out more information if you are interested. You only need to attend one of the two meetings.
For more information, contact: Desiree Silva | silva035@csusm.edu | (760)750-6017

Cougar Movie Series, "Van Helsing," 9/24-26
5:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Fridays, 7:00 p.m. on Saturdays, and 6 p.m. on Sundays

9/27

Step Body Works
6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Clarke Field House
The location for this class is the Field House Gymnasium. All participants must first check in at the ASI Cougar Recreation Center to pick up a wristband for the class.



SHAUN OF THE DEAD: heroism is relative

Above: Ed (Nick Frost) and Shaun (Simon Pegg) react to their first zombie encounter.

Photo courtesy www.uhm.com



Dianne (Lucy Davis), Liz (Kate Ashfield), David (Dylan Moran), Shaun (Simon Pegg), Mom (Nicola Cunningham) and Ed (Nick Frost) pretend to be zombies.

Photo courtesy www.uhm.com



BY CHRISSY BALDWIN
Pride Staff Writer

Shaun (Simon Pegg, who also co-wrote the film with director Edgar Wright) isn't having a very good week. His co-workers have no respect for him and his girlfriend Liz has had enough of his laziness and inconsideration. She cannot stand to spend another evening with him in the local pub, the Winchester. Shaun isn't such a bad guy, but he has no ambition and seems to prefer the company of his unemployed, flatulent, video-game obsessed slob of a flat mate Ed (Nick Frost) to anyone else.

As an added bonus, the dead have risen and are walking the earth in search of human flesh to feast upon. Shaun doesn't notice this fact as quick as he should

(despite the fact that the TV and radio are broadcasting unexplained phenomenon), but Shaun is somewhat of a zombie himself, lost in his own world and distracted by his own thoughts as he walks past rotting cadavers that now fill the streets of London. The beginning of the movie takes on a satirical view of the commercialized world and how people walk about in a trance-like gaze oblivious to the happenings that surround them. When Shaun and Ed finally do realize what is happening, they form a half-wit plan to save Shaun's mum, rescue Liz and go to the pub where they can wait out the zombie infestation with a pint and a smoke. It may not be the best plan, but at least Shaun tried to do something constructive with his life.

This movie covers a broad range of emotions from side-

splitting laughter to heartfelt sincerity with zombies thrown into the mix. Normally, zombie horror movies end horribly, without giving too much away that is not the case with this movie. It may have to compete with the ultra-scary remake of George Romero's "Dawn of the Dead" (on DVD in late October), but "Shaun" is able to stand on its own two feet. It should not be confused with horror spoof films, such as the "Scary Movie" trilogy, this movie is actually scary with parts that make you jump and gore that makes you cover your eyes. "Shaun of the Dead" opens in theaters Friday September, 24. If you are looking for a good time, check your local listings and be ready to have your socks knocked off.

The Faint: Wet From Birth

BY WILL LEMON
Pride Staff Writer

Omaha is the most unlikely city where you would expect to find a band making electronic music. But the Nebraska natives, who comprise The Faint, were able to create a dance album that sounds good even without ecstasy.

For anyone acquainted with The Faint, *Wet From Birth* had big shoes to fill. With the success of their 2001 release *Danse Macabre*, The Faint have gained national and international respect as one of America's best electronic bands. Their album *Danse Macabre* went on to be one of their label's best-selling albums, and with their constant touring they are considered to be one of the best live acts. They have even worked with DJs such as Paul Oakenfold to create a remix album entitled *Danse Macabre Remixes*.

When going to record their new album they took their time. It took about a year for The Faint to write and record their new album. The time and care spent on this record shows. The production is phenomenal, much like *Danse Macabre*, and the songs are filled with 80's pop sensibilities and lots of synthesizers. But unlike *Danse Macabre*, The Faint sometimes stray away from this formula. On songs like "Birth" and "Dropkick the Punks," The Faint shy away from the drum machines and keyboards to create more guitar orientated songs. Some songs even overlap both genres. The song "I Disappear" takes the dance beats that make The Faint unique and



interesting and blends them with more tradition guitar and bass.

The lyrical content is very much similar to *Danse Macabre*.

A major theme in both albums is consumer culture. Songs such as "Symptom Finger" demonstrate this, "The faintness that you feel is nothing permanent. Don't buy the sickness on T.V. You want your health they want the fee. You see the ads and start to think, I feel it coming on."

While being even more blatantly political than on previous efforts they have become even more personal in their lyrics too. "How Could I Forget" shows this trait, "How could I forget a waste of breath? Of course I do, remember. All the things you said were pointless. And now you go on dropping names...mmm but I still dig you."

The Faint have done a great job of doing what many artists can't do after a successful album, they made a CD that is just is good if

