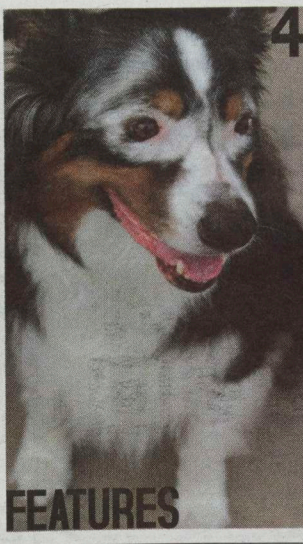


CSUSM'S The Pride

INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER



SPORTS



FEATURES



ARTS & ENT.

7 IN THIS ISSUE

- The Padres have a brand new look. Read about their new uniforms on page 2.
- Pause for Paws is back again to de-stress students. Check page 4 for pictures.
- What's your favorite holiday flick? Read staff picks on page 7.

CSUSM promotes civility on campus

Civility Campaign hopes to reform the university's sense of community

Kyle M. Johnson
Pride Staff Writer

At the start of this semester, the Civility Campaign was organized and founded on the CSUSM campus.

The campaign, led by the Dean of Students Office, promotes the essence of community and the values needed to reach a strengthened sense of community. This idealistic community is said to be reached through the practice of a set of values and respect.

"The university strives to be a community demonstrating respect for oneself and for others, treatment of others with dignity, and behaviors which promote a physically and psychologically safe, secure and supportive climate enabling all community members to engage as full and active participants where the free flow of ideas are encouraged and affirmed," the Civility Campaign page on the CSUSM website states. The campaign's committee consists of roughly 15 members comprised of CSUSM faculty,

staff and students. The committee lives by a pledge which states, "As a member of the CSUSM community I will conduct myself with care, respect, and empathy

awarded to the winners of an opportunity drawing.

On the Civility webpage, students are also encouraged to nominate any CSUSM faculty, staff

Civility website, a multi-colored shirt and a Civility hat.

The committee's vision is that "one simple act will have a ripple effect and a tsunami of civility will take over our campus."

The Civility webpage also features Monthly News & Exercises. The exercises act as a way to practice and learn about civility. One such exercise featured in the November News & Exercises involves writing a letter to someone who has had a positive impact on you and reading it to them.

"With Civility, we will reach a consensus where we can identify with each other not by the political spectrum, physical characteristics, or by societies standards, but by where we stand for the good of the community," student

and University Student Union Representative Matt Walsh says on the Thoughts from the Committee page.

Photo courtesy of Csum Civility facebook



while acknowledging the culture and humanity of others."

During U-Hour on the first Tuesday of every month, the Civility Campaign hosts a t-shirt day in which free shirts are

and students who display civility on campus. At the end of the month, the committee will award one Civility ICON (Initiating Civil Opportunities Now) with their picture displayed on the

Students get scammed on campus

Kristin Melody
Pride Staff Writer

On Nov. 17, University Police responded to a call on campus regarding students getting "scammed" out of money by a small group of people at the Library Plaza.

A week before, Nov. 10, Ashleigh Mellard, junior, was one of the students approached by a man using the name 'James.'

"He told me I would be buying books to donate to a children's hospital" Mellard said.

The books were "one for \$26, but she must buy them in pairs, or she could be 4 for \$80 and

he'll spot the rest," 'James' told Mellard.

Mellard was convinced into his scam after James talked to her for 45 minutes.

"The situation was weird the whole time," Mellard said and afterwards knew it was a scam.

On Nov. 17 at the Library Plaza, police questioned 'James' and two other girls after they received a tip.

According to Mellard, the young people were not arrested on Nov. 17 because nobody

filed a police report of the initial incident and nobody could provide receipt proofs.



Web Site Ranks CSUSM #1 in Campus Safety

Margaret Lutz Chantung

California State University San Marcos (CSUSM) has been recognized by StateUniversity.com as the safest four-year university in California in its Safest Schools report.

Dominik Mazur, founder of StateUniversity.com, said in a press release, "Student safety and campus crime are sometimes overlooked during the college evaluation process.

We believe it is important for students to be aware of crime on campus and in the surrounding community."

The StateUniversity.com 2011 School Safety Ratings are based on campus crime statistics as reported by 450 of the largest U.S. colleges and universities. Each institution's safety score, which can range from 0 to 100, is calculated

based on the number and type of campus crime reported during the year. As seen at http://www.stateuniversity.com/rank_by_state/safety_score_rank/CA.html, CSUSM tops all other California universities, ranking in fifth place when community colleges are considered, with an overall score of 95.79.

"We are proud to be the safest university in California," commented CSUSM Chief of Police Ronald Hackenberg.

"24/7 the University Police Department works with the entire campus community to keep Cal State San Marcos a safe place to work, study and visit. We ask everyone who comes onto campus to be our eyes and ears and to report suspicious activity."

CSUSM's 2011 Annual Security and Fire Safety Report can be viewed at <http://www.csusm.edu/police/Clery.pdf>.



Campus Calendar

TUESDAY, DEC. 6:

-New Play Festival - Telling Stories
7 - 9 p.m., Arts Hall 101.
CSUSM Theatre, ACE Scholars and The Playwright's Project have joined together to create an evening of original short plays by foster youth. Their work examines the challenges, celebrates the positive choices and shares the lessons that shape their lives.

-Bone Marrow Registration/ ENTR 320
Tuesday, Dec. 6, 8:30 a.m. - Wednesday, Dec. 7, 3:30 p.m., Founder's Plaza, Chavez Plaza, Kellogg Plaza.
Help prof. Scott Landow's business class reach a 2,000 student, bone marrow donation goal, to help save a CSUSM student's family member.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 7:

-Farmers Market
1 - 6 p.m., Parking lot B.
Connect to your food and find out where it's coming from; come meet San Diego farmers. Open on Wednesdays, through winter break.

THURSDAY, DEC. 8:

-Whiteness Forum
10:30 a.m. - 2 p.m., Commons 206.
The Communication Department tackles the concept of white privilege and racism. This interactive forum also discusses the effects of racism in the United States.

FRIDAY, DEC. 9:

-Apifsa Scholarship/ Fundraising Luncheon
Noon - 2 p.m., Clarke 113.
Join the Apifsa for a festive Asian style lunch at the first annual Asian Pacific Islander Faculty Staff Association Fundraiser Luncheon. The event will feature good food and recognize student leaders that make Cal State San Marcos and the community a better place. Cost: \$20 Faculty/Staff, \$15 Students. To buy tickets, contact the event chair Cathy Nguyen.

MONDAY, DEC. 12:

-CSUSM Vocal Ensemble Concert
7 - 9 p.m., Arts Hall 101.
Enjoy the musical stylings of fellow CSUSM students performing various genres of music.

Study hard for finals and have a safe and happy winter break

See you in 2012



Get The Pride online straight to your phone

Upcoming & winter break games

Tuesday, Dec. 6

MBBALL vs Concordia, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 8

WBBALL vs Loma Nazarene, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 10

MBBALL vs Azusa Pacific, 4 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 19

WBBALL vs Menlo College, 3 p.m.

MBBALL vs Arizona Christian, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 20

MBBALL vs Montana Western, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 21

WBBALL vs University of La Verne, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 19

WBBALL vs Biola University, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 21

MBBALL vs La Sierra, 7:30 p.m.

All games played at MiraCosta College

Athletes of the Month Winners for November

Brett Campfield
Contributor

Men's Cross-Country: Daniel Lyon

Lyon, a junior, missed some midseason races with injuries, but stepped up big for the Cougars when it mattered most. He showed no rust in winning the A.I.I. Conference Championship by a whopping 21 seconds, and then went on to earn NAIA All-American honors with his 17th place finish at Nationals. Lyon and the Cougars were ranked #9 heading into the championships, but finished 2nd in the NAIA, the highest the team has ever placed.

Women's Cross-Country: Suzanne Cornwell

A member of last year's national championship team and a Track and Field All-American, Cornwell continued to excel in her senior year. After running the 2nd fastest time in school history, and winning the A.I.I. Conference Championships by 13 seconds, she capped off an amazing year with a 6th place finish at Nationals. Cornwell earned All-American honors and led the #2 ranked Cougars to an upset victory over Azusa Pacific to win their 3rd consecutive NAIA National Championship.

Men's Soccer: Scott Rice

Freshman Scott Rice returned from a midseason injury to become a postseason hero for the Cougars. Rice scored twice for CSUSM in the A.I.I. Conference Championship Game, earning tournament MVP honors and leading the Cougars to their first appearance in the NAIA National Championship. Rice also went on to score against Azusa Pacific in first round of the national tournament, getting the Cougars an early lead before falling in the second half.

Women's Soccer: Kaycee Gunion

Kaycee Gunion has been a rock for the Cougars in her 4 years at CSUSM, and this year's A.I.I. Conference Tournament was no different. She held opponents scoreless throughout the tournament, earning first team All-Tournament Honors, and was selected as the Conference MVP. Gunion allowed only 6 goals in 20 games played this season, notching 54 saves and leading CSUSM to their winningest season in program

Men's Basketball: Tim Steed

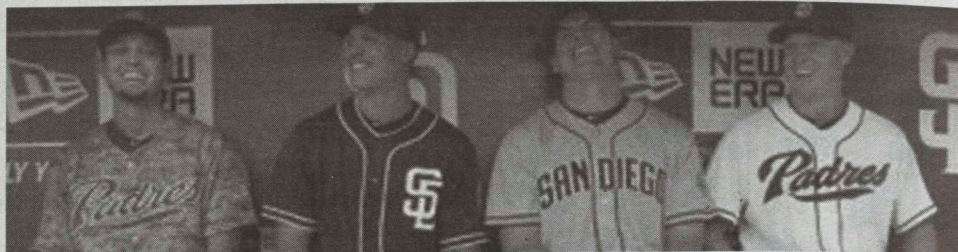
Senior guard Tim Steed has been excellent in all areas for the first-year Cougars. He leads the team in scoring with 18.6 p/g, as well as steals with 2.2. In addition to his strong defense, Steed is a good rebounder and is efficient with the basketball. Through November, he shot an incredible 54.5% on 3-pointers, and boasts nearly a 2-to-1 assist to turnover ratio. He has also stepped up big when it matters most, scoring 35 points in leading CSUSM to a victory over #2 ranked Mountain State (WV).

Women's Basketball: Sidney Dobner

Senior point guard Sidney Dobner has been a floor general and all-around key contributor for the first year Cougar basketball team, leading the team in scoring (10.7 p/g), assists (4.3), and steals (2.0). Dobner has led the Cougars to several road wins over NCAA Division II schools, including impressive victories over #14 ranked Grand Canyon (17 points, 6 rebounds, 6 assists) and Cal State San Bernadino (22 points, 6 rebounds, 3 assists, and 3 steals).

Volleyball: Brittany Thompson

Freshman Brittany Thompson took little time adjusting to the college game, playing a large role for the 29-8 Cougars, a young team playing in their very first season. She led the team with an impressive .300 hitting percentage, and was a consistently efficient player for the Cougars as they went on to win the A.I.I. Conference Championship and continue on to the NAIA National Tournament. Thompson had 6 games this season with 8 or more kills.



San Diego Padres: Going back to basics

Juliana Stumpp
Pride Staff Writer

In spring 2012, the Major League Baseball (MLB), San Diego Padres will ditch their wave styled font and shadowy colors around the player's numbers for a bolder, traditional look.

During the 2011 season, the Padres debuted their military inspired uniform that featured a digital camouflage design, which will remain the same.

Throughout the team's

history, the primary uniform changed four times. The original 1975 edition Padres uniform was yellow and brown and stated the city they represented.

In 1984, their uniforms changed again to a retro look, that kept the same colors.

The 1998 season introduced the blue and white colored jerseys.

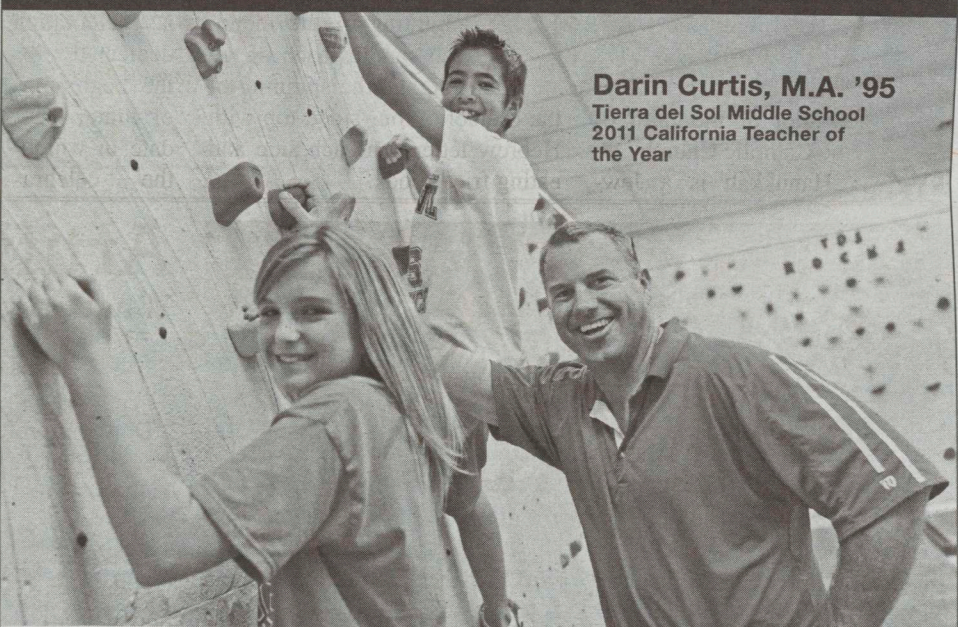
The last change occurred in 2005, when the Padres updated their look to a modern and clean appear-

ance.

According to MLB.com, the Padres president stated, "I think the most loved uniforms in baseball are the ones that have tradition and history...they stand the test of time. They're not trendy colors or trendy design...but they're a classic baseball style."

This baseball season, expect a classic, traditional look for the San Diego Padres.

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Alternative holidays for the Christmas season

Other religious and cultural holidays celebrated during the winter season

Kyle M. Johnson
Pride Staff Writer

While Christmas is one of the most widely-celebrated of holidays in American culture, many other holidays take place in close proximity in the calendar.

Another form of the Christmas celebration exists in the Catholic tradition. While many Christmas celebrations pay tribute to the birth of Jesus, Catholic celebrations express a form of preparation for the second coming of the Lord.

According to the Catholic Education Resource Center, "The Catholic Church has designated the four weeks preceding Christmas as Advent, a time to 'prepare the way of the Lord.'"

The Catholic Education Resource Center also lists in great detail many activities of Advent. Each activity including the Advent wreath, the blessing of the tree and the Christ and

Mary candles act as a symbol of the faith of the Catholic Church.

Hanukkah is a Jew-

ish holiday that is celebrated for eight days and nights.

"[Hanukkah] starts on the 25 of the Jewish month of Kislev, which coincides with late November-late December on the secular calendar," Ariela Pelaia wrote on her about.com article on Judaism.

Pelaia, a professional Jewish educator who received her Master's degree in Jewish Studies at Columbia University, also shared how Hanukkah became popularized due to its proximity to Christmas.

"Because many Jews live in predominately Christian societies, over time Hanukkah has become much more festive and Christmas-like. Jewish children receive gifts for Hanukkah - often one gift for each of the eight nights of the holiday," she said.

Other Hanukkah traditions include the lighting of the menorah candles each of the eight nights, the spinning of the dreidel, a four-sided top with Hebrew letters on each side and eating fried foods.

Kwanzaa, a cultural holiday established in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga of CSU Long Beach, takes place from Dec. 26 - Jan. 1 is an African-American and Pan-African celebration of family, community and culture.

The Official Kwanzaa website shares the customs of the holiday, stating that it builds on the activities of the beginning of harvest celebrations in Africa.

The activities: ingathering, reverence, commemoration, recommitment and celebration, are a way to respectively reiterate the bonds between the people, express gratitude towards the creator for blessings, reflect on the past in an effort to learn lessons and honor ancestors, recommit to African ideals and celebrate the determination of Black freedom.

Winter Solstice, or the December Solstice, is a celebration dedicated to the beginning of winter. The date in which the celebra-

tion takes place differs annually depending on "when the sun reaches its most southerly declination of -23.5 degrees," according to timeanddate.com.

On Circle Sanctuary's Guide to Pagan Holidays,

Selena Fox encourages many traditions of Winter Solstice to commemorate the arrival of winter including strengthening bonds with family and friends, blessing one's home with a Yule wreath and mistletoe, collecting and donating food and clothing and greeting the sun on Solstice morning and the moon on Solstice night with bells.

Fox also suggests that the celebrator identify his or her individual

ual purpose for celebrating, whether that may be to strengthen family bonding with one another, adjust family to Nature's cycles or to just have fun, as well as many other reasons Fox lists.

These different celebrations that take place during this holiday season display diversity in culture that presently exists in American lifestyle.

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Artificial vs. live Christmas trees

What do you prefer?

Jessie Gambrell
Pride Staff Writer

Do you prefer the Christmas tree smell and excitement of picking a live tree each year or the consistency and convenience of an artificial Christmas tree?

People have different opinions on the matter because it's related to family traditions.

"It's easier to have a fake tree. I grew up with a real tree til [sic] my parents got lazy," student Adam Dettelbach said.

According to Art Espinoza, "The Christmas Tree Guy," at Home Depot in Oceanside, artificial trees are fairly easy to assemble, last longer than live Christ-

mas trees and are energy efficient.

Though there are many pros to artificial trees, some people still prefer real ones.

"I like real Christmas trees, if they stay alive. I mean sure fake Christmas trees will save you in the long run, but they take up so much space in storage and you have to assemble them," student Chandra Charette said.

Artificial Christmas trees do not have the beloved pine smell and tend to be pricey.

It's also a hassle to assemble and disassemble the artificial tree each year, let alone find a place to store it.

Still, people have their own traditions when it comes to Christmas trees.

According to tree farmer Bill Warren of Mission Pines Christmas Trees in Fallbrook: live Christmas trees are fresh, have that wonderful "Christmas" smell and you get the pleasure of going out and picking your own Christmas tree.

There are a few cons in buying a live tree.

Since it is a tree, it's flammable, doesn't live long and makes a mess with pine needles.

No matter how you feel on whether on the matter, it's up to you.

"Christmas is not Christmas without the real Christmas tree," student Tara De Gaetano said.

Professor Spotlight Jennifer Lynch

Brianna Cruz
Pride Staff Writer



Classes: General Education Oral Communication (GEO).

Campus Involvement: "I went to my first girls volleyball game this season and a couple of the soccer games because I have students that are on the teams and I think more people need to go to the sporting events especially instructors and teachers because you get to see a different side of the university." Professor Lynch said.

Alumnus of colleges: Bachelors from California State University NorthRidge, Masters from San Diego State University.

Years at CSUMS: 13.

Free Time: Quilting and motorcycling

Interesting Fact: Professor Lynch got her private pilot's license in 2003.

Dream Job Other Than Teaching: "I'd love to be a philanthropist, but you need money to do that." Professor Lynch said.

Happy Hour of the Week: Ocean House in Carlsbad

Kristin Melody
Pride Staff Writer

The Ocean House is an iconic landmark of Carlsbad and provides a decent happy hour with a unique setting.

The Ocean House is a beautiful Victorian era building that has been around for 120 years. It lies in the heart of downtown Carlsbad and is very close to the beach.

The Ocean House prides itself on their Sunday champagne brunch served from 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. which is hosted in a spacious dance room with large wooden floors. For students on a budget, head over to their bar room Monday – Friday, between 3 – 6 p.m. to take advantage of the happy hour while enjoying the antique setting.

The happy hour includes \$2 off mixed cocktails, draft beers and

house wines. The beer list supports local breweries with beers such as Ballast Point Black Marlin Porter, Stone Pale Ale, Coronado Orange Ave Wit, Green Flash 30th Street Pale Ale and Port Brewing Wipeout IPA. To fill up on snacks Ocean House provides cheap eats including \$4 nachos, cheese fries, quesadillas or potato skins and \$5 artichoke spinach dip and chicken strips.

The Ocean House also runs discounted domestic beer for \$3 and \$5 burger and fries during all football games.

What is most enticing about the Ocean House is the historic setting that mixes modern attractions like banquets, weddings and salsa dancing on Sundays with rustic and antique architecture and design. The Palm Room, in the front, has a history that dates back to 1922 and is a nice lounge

with large windows overlooking the main walkway of downtown Carlsbad.

The Ocean House is open Monday – Wednesday 11 a.m. – midnight, Thursday – Saturday 11 – 2 a.m. and Sunday 9:30 – 2 a.m. It is located on 300 Carlsbad Village Drive in Carlsbad.

Website: www.oceanhouse-carlsbad.com

Phone: (760) 729 – 4131



Ring in the New Year with roses

Melissa Martinez
Pride Staff Writer

If you don't have special plans to celebrate the New Year, the Tournament of Roses Parade is an amazing experience to take part in.

Every year since 1890, Pasadena (located in the Los Angeles County, 2 hours away from San Marcos) housed traditional floats made entirely out of flowers as well as the "Rose Bowl" game, which consists of the top colle-

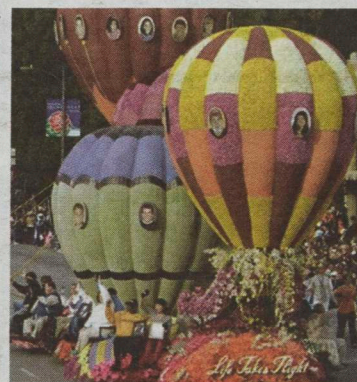
giate college teams in the U.S.

Marching bands, floats and people come from all over the country to partake in this historic event, camping out days ahead of time in Old Town Pasadena, with tents and blankets along the parade trail throughout the streets of the historic city.

Guests for the Rose Parade include the mayor of Pasadena and the Grand Marshall, as well as the Rose Princesses and Queen, high school students who have been chosen from a cohort of

12th grade females, who have auditioned to represent the Tournament of Roses as Pasadena's queen.

Beginning bright and early on Jan. 2 at 8 a.m., the 123rd Rose Parade will make its journey throughout Pasadena to present the work of thousands who devote the entire year to the debut of their floats. The Rose Parade is a great way to celebrate the arrival of the New Year by joining those who travel from all over the country to

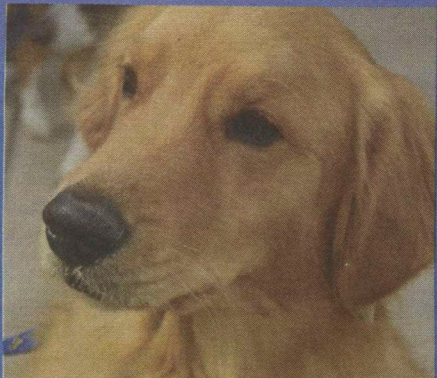


welcome another year of life.

However, if you already have plans in celebrating the New Year elsewhere, you can always watch

the televised version of the Parade on any network channel, all day long Jan. 2.

Pause for Paws



Last week, after months of planning by out-reach librarian, Melanie Chu, the Love on a Leash foundation stopped by campus with furry four-legged friends to help de-stress students before finals. "We provide this interaction to have students go into their finals with as little stress as possible," Chu said.

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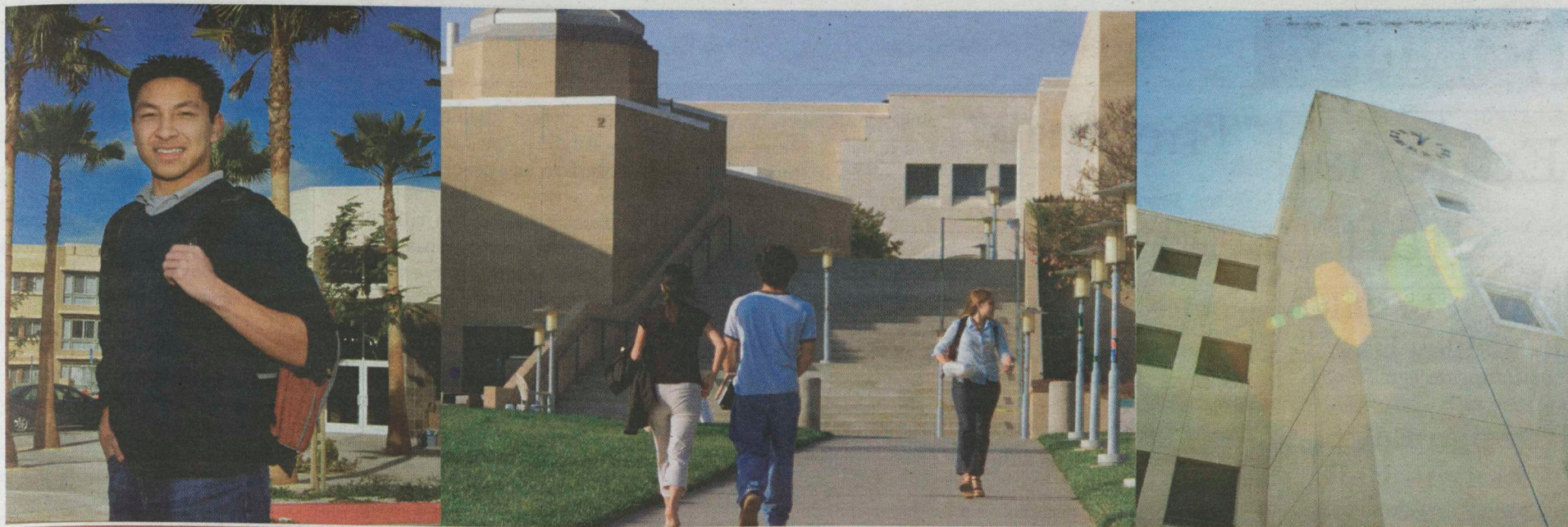
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"The Mug"

Amy Salisbury
Pride Staff Writer

Dec. 12, 2011 will be quite a day for me. No, I won't be finished with finals. No, I won't be going on a tropical vacation. Actually, I'm going to the Ellen DeGeneres Show for her Twelve Days of Giveaways. So far, it's looking way better than a trip to Hawaii.

If you think you just show up at Warner Brothers Studios in Burbank on the day of the show's taping, you would be wrong. Attending the Ellen show is a process which must be followed to the letter. Those who attend the Twelve Days of Giveaways must be invited by Ellen herself, a treat I received back in April of 2011.

My mom—a die-hard Ellen fan—scored tickets to a taping of the Ellen show on April 20 and, of course, invited yours truly. Fortunately, the guest packet mailed prior to the show outlines the dos and don'ts of an Ellen

audience member. If you're late, you're out. If you're without ID, you're out. If you're a convicted criminal, you're out (seriously—the Ellen show conducts pre-show background checks on its audience).

Once you find yourself on the Ellen soundstage, chances are, you're there to stay. Before you go into the studio, you have to walk through what Ellen calls the "riff raff" room. This is where the stand-by people who show up the day of the show go if there were no cancellations or open seats in the audience. It is actually Ellen's very beautiful and well appointed gift shop, outfitted with memorabilia and several large HD TVs for remote viewing of the live show.

The riff raff room leads the audience into the set as you see on TV. If you wear bright colors, you're more likely to get a seat toward the front of the stage as per the direction of the audience managers. Also, I sure did see a lot of blondes in the front row. Not that I'm insinuating the Ellen show likes blondes better than

brunettes or anything.

Anyway, once you're seated, fun, hilarious people warm-up the audience pre-show and get you dancing—a lot. I'm talking out-of-breath, sweaty, spastic, spontaneous dancing for a half hour before the show even begins.

Then, Ellen finally emerges. The crowd screams and cheers with what energy they have remaining as Ellen dances up and down the aisles. Before we knew it, the audience receives a \$100 gift card to Rite Aid (score!). Then we got to see Reese Witherspoon talk about her movie "Water for Elephants," Paul Walker discuss something related to his career (all I recall is getting an advanced screening of a cologne commercial he was starring in) and a young Justin Bieber wanna be called Jackson Guthy perform a song that is still stuck in my head: L-O-V-I-N-G. Overall, it was a pretty entertaining group.

Throughout the whole show, Ellen kept teasing us with iPad stories. Every single person thought we were going to get an iPad by the end of the show. When Ellen

started wrapping up, she said she started thinking about what kind of gift we would like to have. The tease seemed endless. Suddenly, she announced that each audience member was getting a guaranteed ticket to one of her Twelve Days of Giveaways shows in December. The audience exploded with applause, and my family and I talked about what would happen at that December taping for months on end.

As an experienced Ellen show attendee, I'd like to offer a few tips to consider during your pre-show preparation if you are the next lucky winner of Ellen tickets. First, don't wear dark colors. If you must, wear a black sweater and perhaps a bright scarf with it. Second, practice your dance moves, and don't be tempted to use all your energy during the audience warm-up. Keep your movements controlled. Flailing around on TV does not translate well. You may think you are dancing "cute," but big, unchoreographed moves, can look alarmingly like a seizure.

Staff picks: Holiday traditions and wish lists

One of my favorite Christmas traditions was when my dad used to take my siblings and me on a holiday light tour through the Temecula/Murrieta area. We would go see all the houses that were especially dressed up with holiday decorations and lights. My favorite house was one that had a Ferris wheel on the driveway featuring the Peanuts gang.

I would like for Christmas: A watch, because I'll be graduating in the spring and while attending a Career Center workshop, I learned that it looks good to wear a watch to job interviews.

-Kyle Johnson

Every time Christmas comes around we decorate our house, play lots of Christmas music, and drink lots of eggnog. On Christmas Eve we eat our traditional Kibbi and get dressed up for mass. In the morning we open our presents together and later have a beautiful lamb dinner.

I would like for Christmas: A Sony Alpha NEX 5-N camera. I'm in desperate need of a camera since I destroyed mine accidentally during my summer vacation and the Sony camera is really awesome and cool looking.

-Jessie Gambrell

A favorite tradition of mine is putting up the tree. My mom and I work on it together, breaking out the ornaments including many that I made as a kid. While we work on the tree, the radio station KyXy 96.5 is on in the background, playing our favorite Christmas songs.

I would like for Christmas: I draw almost everyday, managing with the pens and pencils that I also use for school. I don't need an entire kit, but a few pens for outlining and reliable colored pencils will do.

-Rebekah Green

I would like for Christmas: To further complete my magical obsession, The Complete Harry Potter Collection hard-cover book set.

-Mellisa Martinez

Everyone in my family comes to my house for Christmas Eve. We wake up around 6 a.m. to make tamales. Once they're done people bring by presents for each other and we eat the tamales!

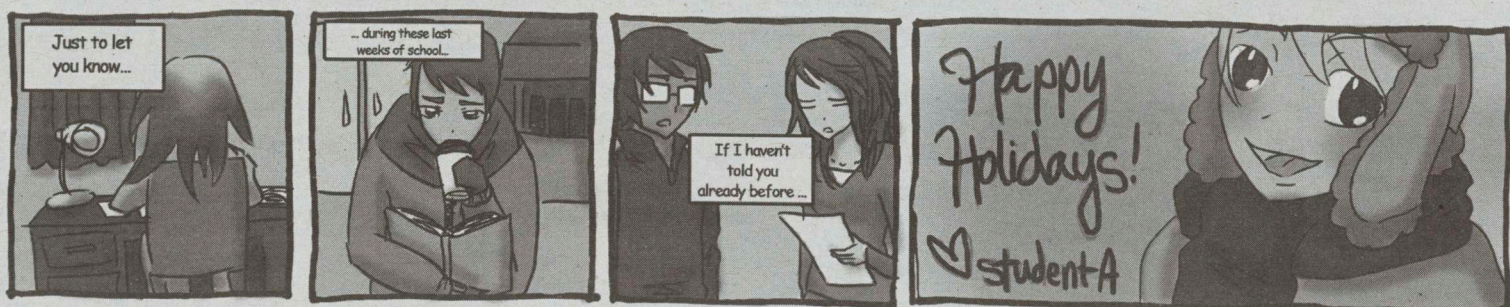
Every holiday season I look forward for a lot of traditions with my family. When most homes open presents the day of Christmas, my family and I open ours Christmas Eve. After eating a great meal my dad made and opening gifts under our tree, we gather around a fire and watch our favorite Christmas movies. For years this is how my family and I spend Christmas Eve.

I would like for Christmas: Disneyland Passes. I am a huge Disney fanatic. For years I have wanted a Disneyland Southern California Select Pass. I love Disneyland but I wouldn't want to go every weekend.

-Juliana Stumpp

Happy Holidays!

Student A: "Season's Greeting" by Faith Orcino



Book Review: "A Christmas Memory" by Truman Capote

Capote's classic story a Christmas treat

Kyle M. Johnson
Pride Staff Writer

In the common Christmas-celebrating household, the traditions of reciting "The Night Before Christmas" or reading Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" often take place.

Rarely, and sadly, does one hear about a tradition of reading Truman Capote's heartwarming short story "A Christmas Memory."

Set in Alabama in the 1930s and inspired by his childhood, Capote tells the story of a Christmas he shared with his friend, Miss Sook, an aging woman in her sixties.

Capote's portrayal of his seven-year-old self called Buddy is sweet, but the real charm is in his relationship with Miss Sook, whom he refers to as "my friend."

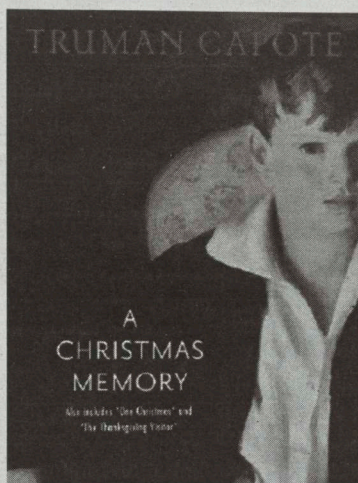
Despite her age, Miss Sook is very much a child herself.

Together, they touch the lives of those around them, including a Mr. Haha Jones (ironically nicknamed this because of his serious disposition). The reader cannot help but feel touched, as well.

In the Modern Library edition of "A Christmas Memory," you will also find the short stories "One Christmas" and "The Thanksgiving Visitor" which also feature Capote's Buddy and Miss Sook.

"One Christmas" tells of a trip Buddy takes to stay with his father in New Orleans for the holiday and "The Thanksgiving Visitor" tells of Buddy's school bully nemesis being invited to Thanksgiving dinner.

While his stories possess a



child-like charm, Capote counters this with a very dark and personal tone which lies below the surface of the text. In a tragic life and upbringing specifically, we can be grateful that Capote had someone like Miss Sook to impart her love and wisdom upon him, a gift that will surely resonate with the reader.

The Pride Playlist

Melissa Martinez
Pride Staff Writer

It is now that time of the year: hot chocolate in front of warming fireplaces, Christmas lights brightening up neighborhoods and my personal favorite: Christmas music. There is something special about grocery aisles blasting yuletide hits we all grew up with. This issue's playlist is dedicated to Christmas music that warms our hearts as we prepare for this holiday season.

You can't start the holiday season off without listening to "I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas" by the amazing Gayla Peevey. This song is both catchy and cute and was the primary reason I asked for a hippopotamus for Christmas every year.

One of the best parts of Christmas decorations is realizing you are standing right under mistletoe with someone you care about. This brings me to the next song, "Mistletoe" by Justin Bieber. Not only is his voice sweet, but so is his heart. All proceeds from his Christmas album, "Under the Mistletoe" went to charity.

Speaking of sweet voices, Michael Buble's version of "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" from his new holiday album, "Christmas," is a must listen to. His jazz style and velvet voice will make you want to cuddle near a fireplace with your special "someone."

Speaking of cuddling, Glee's version of "Baby, it's Cold Outside," a duet between characters Blaine and Kurt is a romantic song that musically captivates us to continue listening as we anticipate the character's future relationship.

Another traditional song remake from Glee's second volume Christmas album is "Little Drummer Boy" sung by Artie, a character with a rough, but angelic voice for this year's Christmas episode.

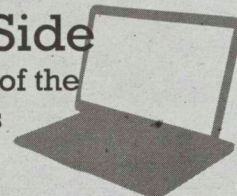
One of my favorite Christmas songs is "Believe" by Josh Groban from "The Polar Express" soundtrack. Groban's amazing voice beautifully captures the Christmas spirit as he reminds us to believe in the magic that surrounds us every day.

In conclusion to this holiday playlist is none other than "Santa, Baby" originally recorded by Eartha Kitt, a provocative holiday favorite.

Tales from the Nerd Side

Geek Gifts: A short guide to some of the nerdiest gifts for the holidays

Chris Giancamilli
Pride Staff Writer



One of the toughest parts of the holiday season is finding just the right gift for that special someone in our lives. Sometimes, the best gift is the one that is absolutely impractical and serves no real purpose other than to become a new addition in a nerdy collection of toys and gadgets.

There are a few easy things to keep in mind when choosing a good geek gift. First off, geeks love gifts from their favorite licensed video game, TV, film and comic series. Next, geeks enjoy technical toys (robots, mechanisms, etc.). Finally, geeks like weird things that you can't find at any old department store.

This holiday season, pick up something a bit more unconventional rather than the standard video game or DVD box set. Here's a few examples to help get those motors running.

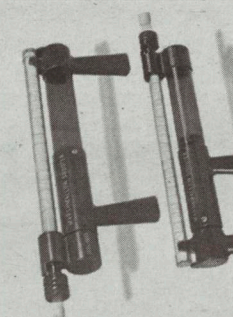
Star Wars Wampa Rug (\$99.99, ThinkGeek.com)

For the nerdy bachelor, why not purchase an awesome new Wampa skin rug? All the way from the icy planet of Hoth, the terrifying Wampa now rests as a trophy for all Star Wars fans. The 62" L x 30" W rug is made from synthetic fur, so rest assured no actual Wampas were harmed in the making of this furry treasure.



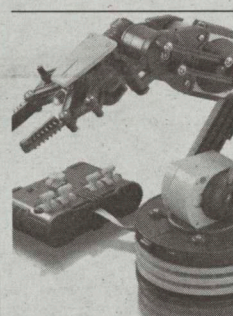
Marshmallow Shooters (\$19.86-\$29.99, ThinkGeek.com & Amazon.com)

For the geek that has everything, marshmallow shooters can be a quick and cheap gift that packs plenty of entertainment. The air powered guns launch most types of store-bought marshmallows. Marshmallow shooters can be loads of fun depending on your geek's level of maturity. If he or she tends to enjoy the occasional late night "Call of Duty" session, you can expect to find several rounds of marshmallows behind the couch and in your hair.



Edge Robotic Arm Kit (\$38.29, Amazon.com)

Robotic toys are always a safe bet for the geek obsessed with all things mechanical. The Edge Robotic Arm Kit allows your geek to assemble and control a robotic claw to grab those pesky cans of Mountain Dew and bags of Doritos just out of reach. The arm bends at five different axes, giving users a range of precise controls and maneuvers to complete the odd tasks your geek comes up with.



Risk: Halo Wars Edition (\$27.00, Amazon.com)

Risk, one of the geekiest board games of all time, just got a little geekier. The Halo license adds a whole new world to conquer and three ways to play. Players can choose one of three sides: the Flood, the Covenant and the Spartans. Your geek and you can battle it out for all-or-nothing domination of the planet Arcadia.



The Pride's favorite holiday movies

"The Santa Clause"

Tim Allen is Scott Calvin, a man who accidentally causes Santa to fall off of his roof. After putting on the suit, he winds up assuming the responsibilities of Santa Claus according to a clause and despite his former denials, it becomes obvious that his transformation into the new Santa is quick and inevitable. This movie still manages to make me laugh and has just enough heartwarming moments in it to make it an ideal Christmas movie.

-Rebekah Green

"The Polar Express"

"The Polar Express" is an enchanting movie by Robert Zemeckis, based on the book by Chris Van Allsburg. Tom Hanks plays the voice of five different roles that bring a classic factor, capturing the true spirit of Christmas.

-Jessie Gambrell

"Elf"

When "Elf" hit theaters in 2003, it became an instant Christmas classic. Will Ferrell plays a human in an elves world naïve to his true identity and searches for his father, adapting to the real world. "Elf" will melt your heart and make you laugh.

-Juliana Stamp

"A Charlie Brown Christmas"

This animated short is an absolute must to be viewed every Christmas season. I often end up watching it a few times. Vince Guaraldi's score and the presence of so many loveable Peanuts characters make this classic feel like home.

-Kyle M. Johnson

"A Christmas Story"

"A Christmas Story" is a yuletide comedy classic that tells the tale of a young boy named Ralphie who simply wants Santa to bring him a BB gun for Christmas. The film follows Ralphie and his family's traditions through the holiday season.

-Chris Giancamilli

"How the Grinch Stole Christmas"

Ron Howard's artistic remake of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," based on the children's book, "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" by Dr. Seuss, robbed hearts and quickly topped the list of my favorite Christmas movies. Jim Carrey's twist on the role as the Grinch didn't disappoint as he added his own comedic personality to the character who tries to steal Christmas from his much despised

"Who's."

-Melissa Martinez

"The Family Man"

"The Family Man" starring Nicholas Cage, Tea Leoni and Don Cheadle gives the inspiring message to seize opportunities presented to us this holiday season. It reminds us not to let our loved ones slip away.

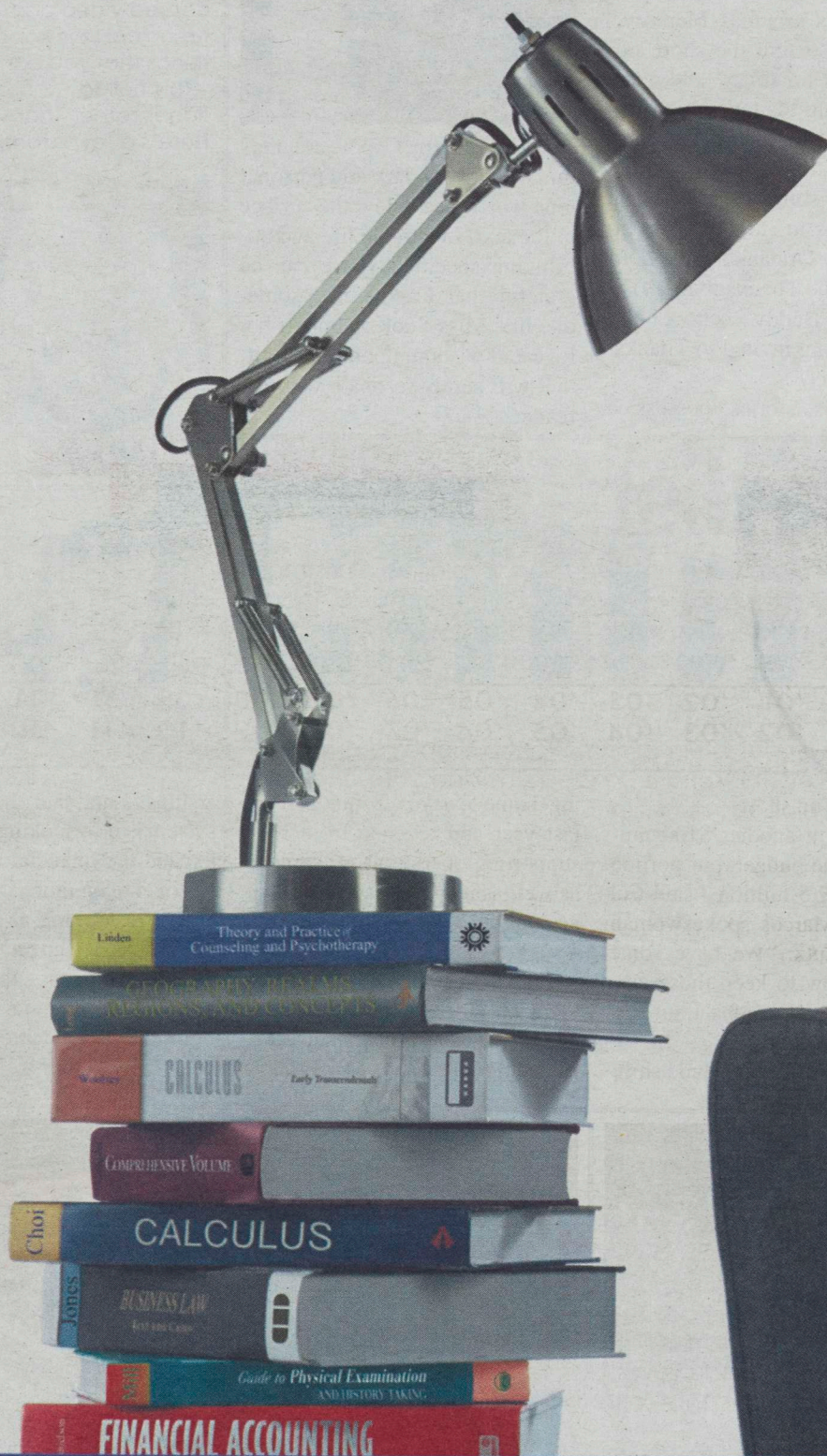
-Kristin Melody

"The Santa Clause"

"The Santa Clause," which first hit movie theaters in 1994, is the story about Scott Calvin, a divorced parent taking on the role of Santa Claus after the former Santa falls off his roof. Two sequels were made, "The Santa Clause 2" (2002) and "The Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause" (2006).

-Brianna Cruz

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