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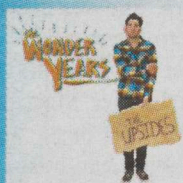
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Companies and celebrities raising Hope for Haiti

Reaching out in the wake of massive tragedy

BY KRISTINA MARTINEZ
Business Manager

Tragedy struck Port-au-Prince, Haiti on Jan. 12, 2010, when a 7.0 earthquake killed hundreds of thousands of people and injured many more. People from all over the world have expressed heartfelt help in the wake of this massive tragedy, doing their part to assist in relief efforts. From companies accepting donations to last Friday's "Hope for Haiti Now: A Global Benefit for Earthquake Relief" telethon, people are finding creative ways to help in the wake of this disaster.

According to the CIA World Factbook, Haiti's population is 9,035,536. It is also one of the most densely populated and least developed countries in the Western Hemisphere. According to Haiti's ambassador to the United States, Haiti's infrastructure was among the world's worst even in the best of times. Many believe that this poor infrastructure led to the catastrophe. Calculations to determine the final deal toll on the island are pending, and authorities still do not know how many people remain buried in the rubble. According to the United Nations, more than 121 people left the rubble alive.

Celebrities came together for a telethon on Friday, Jan. 22, 2010 in order to help raise money for Haiti. Celebrities like George Clooney, Alicia Keys, Jennifer Hudson, Stevie Wonder, Zac Efron, Robert Patterson, Julia Roberts, and many other big names volunteered their time to answer phones and receive donations towards the Earthquake

Relief Fund for Haiti. Rather than using their own names, they used the names of local Haitians who had been injured or lost in the tragedy. Many songs were performed that help people to cope with the events that happened and told a story of the process of dealing with loss. The telethon included performances of popular songs such as "Let it Be" sung by Jennifer Hudson, "Bridge Over Troubled Water" performed by Stevie Wonder, "Lean on Me" by Sheryl Crow, Keith Urban and Kid Rock, and "Hard Times No More" sung by Mary J. Blige. Other performers include Sting, Shakira, Beyonce, Christina Aguilera, Bruce Springsteen and Coldplay, Jay Z, Rihanna, Alicia Keys, Bono, Justin Timberlake, Madonna, and The Edge of U2.

According to USA Today, the "Hope for Haiti Now" telethon set a new record at \$58 million and counting with donations via the Internet, text, phone, or mail. The entire album can be downloaded on iTunes and according to MTV.com

According to MTV.com, viewers may purchase the entire telethon on iTunes. In fact, the "Hope for Haiti Now" album is currently the #1 iTunes album in 18 countries. For more information about the telethon or how to donate, please visit www.hopeforhaitinow.org.

Other companies are doing their part to aid in the relief efforts by donating money to the Haiti-relief organizations and allowing customers to donate money through their stores. For example, Starbucks began accepting donations at all local stores and will be giving the money to the



Image courtesy of CSUSM Intervarsity

Red Cross. According to Starbucks.com, Starbucks has pledged to donate \$1 million to the Red Cross in addition to what it is able to collect from customers at its stores. Bank of America is also accepting donations for the Red Cross. Phone companies are accepting donations via text messages. For example, people can text "Yele" to 501501 and Wyclef Jean's Yéle Foundation will receive a \$5.00 donation, appearing on the patron's phone bill.

Even Cal State Marcos ASI's

CAB is running a fundraiser for Haiti collecting "gently worn men's, women's, and kid's shoes," as part of Sport Chalet's Soles4Souls drive. Donation bins are located across campus and at the ASI Business Office FCB5-103, Women's Center FCB 5-102, The Clarke, and the UVA. The fundraiser is going on now through Friday, January 29 at 5 p.m. More information about the Shoes4Souls fundraiser can be located at <http://www.soles4souls.org/>



Photo courtesy of United Nations Development Programme

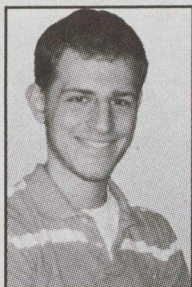
Looking to get involved with school, experience to add to your resume, or an extra job?

The Pride is looking for some new talent for the following semesters to help out with the layout.

If you are interested, contact Rudy Martinez at PrideLayout@gmail.com for more info.

THE PRIDE

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Lessons in givingBY BILL RHEIN
Senior Staff Writer

Less than a month into a new decade, the world experienced an outrageous tragedy. The infamous earthquake in Haiti that toppled buildings and left a devastating amount of people dead is a bleak start to the year.

The fresh feeling that came with the start of 2010 may feel disturbed already, but the outreach of people around the world is astounding. The kindness shown here in

America from ordinary people and celebrities is remarkable and nothing short of inspiring. The earthquake could have left the world feeling hopeless, but I believe that if current efforts continue, humanity may come out of this situation with a resolu-

tion of unity.

The destruction of Haiti was a dismal sight, especially in an already impoverished nation. Yet the selfless worldwide response saved more lives from ending and

provided the necessary supplies to keep survivors alive.

However, the work is not done yet. If you have not donated the relief in Haiti, I wonder what you are waiting for. Sure, it is easy to ignore something that seems so far away in another country. But right now, any money that you can give is seriously needed. Ten dollars is a good start and you will not even notice it is gone in a week.

Yet, that money will go so far to provide food, water, and other supplies to people who are dying right now. This is your opportunity to make a difference, and thanks to

donations via cell phones, it is even easier.

Hope can also come from the rebuilding process. Once the mess has cleared, continued support in Haiti can aid in establishing an infrastructure stronger than before in an effort to eliminate poverty. From there, more can be done to eliminate poverty, starvation, and homelessness around the world.

I know it is an idealistic proposal, but it is not going to change any other way. Now is the perfect time to start waves of change. The ball is in your court.

2010 make it count

BY KRISTINA MARTINEZ
Business Manager

2010. A New Decade has begun and for many of us it will be the start of our lives away from college. But let's back up for a second because although there are 108 days till graduation (who's counting) there is still one last semester for us seniors to make it count.

Being the Business Manager for The Pride for the last 2 years has been a truly amazing learning experience. It has been both rewarding and at times frustrating because it can be very disheartening when you work hard for something to have your work discredited without any constructive comments to help make it better. Overall, being a part of The Pride has been one of the most rewarding experiences in my

college career and I have been involved with many different organizations on campus. It is my hope that in my final semester here at The Pride I can do something to help leave behind a paper that CSUSM students are proud of, but we need the help of you, the campus community because after all the paper is written for you. Many of you may not know this, but anyone can become involved with The Pride. All it takes is some spare time, the desire to be involved, and a passion for something you could write about. Really, it is that easy. If you are interested in becoming involved or have constructive criticism that you would like to share with us, please email us at csusmpride@gmail.com. We'd love to hear from you.

My suggestion for the semester: Develop Group Contracts.

During my first few weeks of Senior Experience, I was introduced to the idea of a Group Contract. Basically you lay out all the strengths and weakness of the individual group members, assign roles and expectations, and work out communication plans and conflict resolution. Start the process by thinking about the worst group you have worked with and the best. Explain why. This was probably the most useful thing I have learned thus far, and I found myself wondering why this isn't the first thing that you get assigned to do as a group. I think it would be a great tool, not only for group projects but for student clubs and organizations as well. How many of us have been frustrated with the group member that doesn't do their share of the work, but gets the same

grade and isn't held accountable for his/her actions? I know I have had my fair share over the years. This semester The Pride will be using this concept as we continue to move forward as an organization we are always looking for ways to make the process even better. So the next time you have to work with a group or run a student organization I challenge you to develop this group contract together and learn exactly what it is that you want to achieve and sign it. Then you have living proof of the ideas and expectations that were laid out and can go back and see if you achieved what you set out to achieve. I thought this was useful knowledge and should be passed on to you the students. More useful tidbits to come in future issues so watch out.

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Letters to the editor should include an address, telephone number, e-mail and identification. Letters may be edited for grammar and length. Letters should be under 300 words and submitted via electronic mail to pride@csusm.edu, rather than to the individual editors. It is the policy of The Pride not to print anonymous letters.

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BY SANDRA CHALMERS &
AMY SALISBURY
Co-Editors-in-Chief

Hello, my name is Sandra Chalmers and I am currently a junior pursuing a double major in Communications and Mass Media. I have been part of the Pride newspaper staff since the fall of 2008 and it feels like home. My life thrives with the current, the current news, trends, music and places to be. In working in the journalism field it allows to me to keep up with this constantly changing current and help others be in the know. My Communications and Mass Media experience gives me the tools to effectively deliver the most striking and relevant information to our student body and campus. I enjoy being a media maker and producing news that affect our readers. I previously held the position as Arts and Entertainment Editor for The Pride, where I explored the

muses and noises of our community and the artistic sparks of CSUSM and brought them to our readers. In my first semester working as a part of the staff for the Pride I held the position of assistant Features Editor. I worked side by side with Amy Salisbury in learning how to manage Features articles and content for our section. This semester I will be working closely again with Amy as we both take the Pride newspaper under our wing as Editors in Chief. We will be bringing new changes to the Pride by bringing back a News section that will be focusing on CSUSM news, community news and world current events.

As Sandra said, she and I have successfully worked together on the Features section for The Pride. I am happy to call her my coworker again as we take on the position of Editor in Chief together. Spring 2010 is my fifth semester with The Pride, and my

fourth semester as an editor. As a Literature and Writing major, my assignments generally involve analytical writing. Happily, with The Pride, I am able to explore creative writing while researching interesting developments relevant to my classmates. My first experience as a section editor helped me understand the viewpoints of CSUSM students while I oversaw the Opinion section. I then worked as Features Editor with Sandra before exploring the fascinating world of the Associated Press's Stylebook as Copy Editor in fall 2009. Though I particularly enjoy the Arts and Entertainment section, I have yet to serve as the section's editor. My contribution to A&E was a column I wrote for two semesters called Hits of Sunshine. Sandra ran the section efficiently and creatively, and I'm excited to bring her artistic touch to the whole of The Pride.

We have a few Senior Staffers

that certainly need mention, as they have all contributed enormous amounts to The Pride. This semester, we welcome back Ben Roffee as our News Editor. He has worked closely with the editorial staff in past semesters, and we are looking forward to having this talented journalist be on the staff again. Kristina Lawler Martinez, our long-time Business Manager, is back with her husband and Layout Editor Rudy Martinez. The couple married in October, and their dual energy promotes a sense of production and progress within the staff. Finally, Bill Rhein returns as a Senior Staff Writer. With his quick wit and sharp eye for entertainment, Bill brings timely information and opinions to The Pride.

Spring 2010 did not hesitate to bring exciting and evolutionary changes to The Pride. Yet our goal remains the same: to produce a quality student newspaper.

Hello from the EICs!

Haulted healthcare reform Has Massachusetts stopped progress?

BY JAMES ROCHE
Pride Staff Writer

On Jan. 19, 2009, the people of Massachusetts took to the polls to elect either Republican candidate Scott Brown or the Democrat Martha Coakley into the Senate.

This particular seat had become available due to the death of Democratic Senator Ted Kennedy last year and the history of this state has made the result even more surprising. The assumption of Massachusetts as a traditionally Democratic state changed with a victory for the Republicans in the form of Scott Brown.

Whether or not you follow politics, you are probably aware one of the main issues over the last 6 months has been healthcare reform. Democrats have been trying to push through a bill to radically change the

country's health care system. The hope that this bill will transition into a law diminished following Republican Scott Brown's victory.

President Obama has remained calm about the situation despite the Democrats losing their 60-seat majority in the Senate. This means the Republicans can now block any potential bills. He told ABC News: "The Senate certainly shouldn't try to jam anything through until Scott Brown is seated. People in Massachusetts spoke. He's got to be part of that process."

Due to the Democrats losing their majority, this allows the Republicans to have a greater influence on healthcare reform then they would have had if Scott Brown had not won. According to CNN.com some Democrats are planning to focus on less controversial aspects such as stopping insurers from banning

people based on pre-existing conditions.

Healthcare reform is still very high on the public's minds with 36% of people naming it the top story they follow in the news and 44% of people saying they follow the debate closely according to a survey by the Pew Research Center.

This debate rages on past the 6-month mark, and has gone through so much discussion from President Obama's speech to the well-publicized public town hall meetings. The main point is that America has never been closer to changing its healthcare system.

Regardless of senatorial support, lowering the costs of health insurance and stopping insurers from refusing service to those with preexisting conditions reads like a good idea.

Spring semester commences in the midst of severe rainstorm

BY BEN ROFFEE
News Editor

Cal State San Marcos rang in the start of the Spring semester with quite the splash as students entered the first week of classes under heavy rainfall. Though certainly not the worst storm San Diego County has seen, the week long storm that passed through was the most severe of this winter season. Reuters reported last week's storm to be the worst the state had experienced in the last five years, with rainfall in San Diego county ranging from three to six inches.

The storm was the result of El Niño, a shift in the Pacific Ocean's climate patterns that can cause disturbances in weather patterns. The shift occurs roughly every five years and has been the cause of some of the worst weather the Western United States has experienced.

Heavy rains persisted through much of the week, causing flood-

ing throughout San Diego county. Flooding in certain parts of San Marcos forced road closures at various points throughout the week.

The most notable trouble spot in the area was the roughly mile-long stretch of land running between San Marcos Blvd. and Discovery St. At the storm's worst points, access on South Bent Ave (becomes Craven Rd.), Via Vera Cruz, and Discovery was restricted, forcing drivers to take long detours through the surrounding residential areas.

One positive aspect of the storm was the heavy snowfall recorded in areas of higher altitude, leading to speculation that the snowfall on Southern California's mountains could eventually help relieve the severe drought that has plagued the region for three years.

According to San Diego Gas & Electric, roughly 100,000 customers experienced power outages over the course of the week long storm.

As the main provider of electricity and natural gas for San Diego County, the company is gearing up for the next round of heavy rainfall expected later this week.

In a news release last week SDG&E's Vice President, David L. Geier, gave greater insight into why these outages have occurred. "Wind gusts up to 50 miles per hour inland and even stronger gusts in the mountains have blown tree branches and other debris into our lines causing outages." The company mobilized as much of its available staff as possible in response to last week's storm, highlighting the severity of the last round of rain to pass through.

Students can anticipate more rainstorms over the next few months on account of the El Niño climate shift. The next storm is expected to arrive on Tuesday but should only last partly into Wednesday before relenting.

American Red Cross collects only monetary donations

In-kind donations cannot be accepted

San Diego, January 21, 2010

The American Red Cross has received such an amazing outpouring of support from the local community in an effort to alleviate the suffering of those affected by the devastating earthquake in Haiti.

At this time, what we need the most are financial contributions – whether by check, online or by phone. The Red Cross and other organizations leading the efforts in Haiti most need financial gifts in order to most quickly provide food and water, relief supplies and logistical and support services to best serve the victims. Donations such as clothing and shoes are not as helpful because there are barriers to sorting, cleaning, storing and transporting these items to Haiti. One good way to turn clothes into cash is to have a garage sale and then donate the money to the relief efforts.

Please do not drop off clothing or other in-kind donations at Red Cross Offices. These items will be donated to other local organizations and will be used for local charitable programs and services; they will not be transported to Haiti.

The American Red Cross is accepting monetary donations to support earthquake relief efforts in Haiti in several ways. Donors may send checks to the

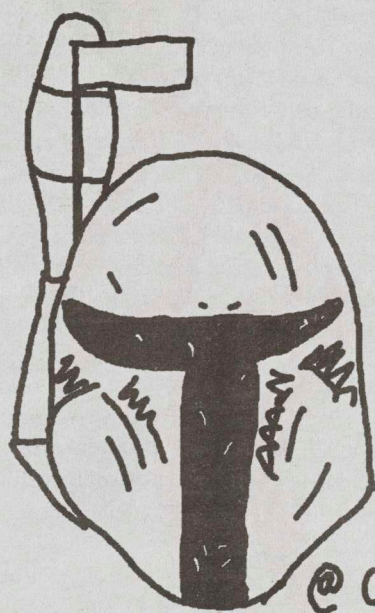
local chapter, designating Haiti Relief to: American Red Cross of San Diego/Imperial Counties, 3950 Calle Fortunada, San Diego, CA 92123, by visiting the website at www.sdar.org, or by calling 858-309-1200. Donors may also text "HAITI" to 90999 and a donation of \$10 will be given automatically to the Red Cross to help with relief efforts; the charge will appear on the next cell phone bill.

About the American Red Cross, San Diego and Imperial Counties Chapter

The San Diego/Imperial Counties Chapter of the American Red Cross is leading the effort to make San Diego and Imperial Valley Counties "America's Most Prepared Community." As a charitable organization and not a government agency, the Red Cross depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. The Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies nearly half of the nation's blood; teaches lifesaving skills; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The local chapter also provides nutritional counseling through the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program. For more information, please call (858) 309-1200 or visit www.sdar.org.



Photo courtesy of United Nations Development Programme



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<http://www.csusm.edu/shcs/fpact/index.html>

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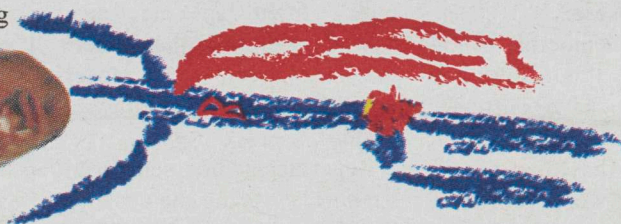
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Meet the staff

Ben

Sometimes the best place to be is right back where you started. For those that might remember, I started here as News Editor back in 2007 and moved up to the Managing Editor spot for most of 2008. After taking a year off to serve as President of the Great Zeta Beta Tau fraternity in 2009, I was asked to resurrect the News section. It's what I do best and I couldn't be happier to be get back to where my love for journalism first came to fruition. I'm eager to shake off the dust and step back into this exciting and volatile atmosphere so ready for a big turn around in 2010!



kristina

Welcome back! This is my fourth semester as your Business Manager here at The Pride and my last. I will be graduating with my Bachelors in Business Administration with an emphasis in Marketing on May 15, 2010 which is exactly 108 days from now. (not like I'm keeping count or anything) I am married to the guy who has the same last name as me....hmmm which one of the editors could it be? We have been married just about 4 months now, it's crazy how time just flies on by. We have the most awesome dog, Harrison, he's a Westie and for those of you who don't know what a Westie is...well you are definitely missing out! I am a really compassionate person and enjoy talking with people...so if you see me around campus say hi. Let me know what you want to see out of YOUR Student Newspaper because at the end of the day we are here for you, the students.



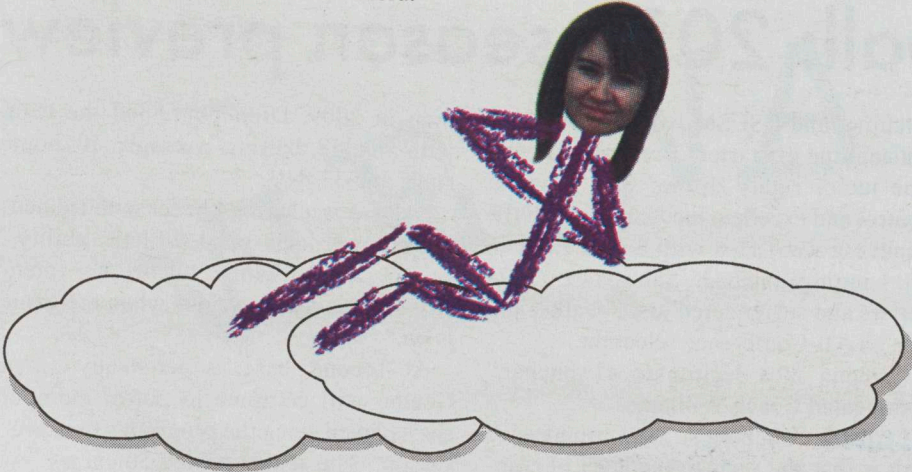
Amy

My name is Amy and I'm the Editor in Chief with the lovely Sandra Chalmers for my fifth (yes, fifth) semester at The Pride. I'm in the second half of my junior year as a 21-year-old Literature and Writing major, but I've yet to convince my professors to teach any of Lawrence Ferlinghetti's work, which is astounding considering how fantastic the man's poetry is. I like cats, coffee, and cosmology, but hate driving and leaving voicemails. And I think listening to (and enjoying) Radiohead should be a law. I also think Ben's bio is way better than mine.



Sandra

Hello! My name is Sandra Chalmers and I am working closely with my friend Amy Salisbury as we together are the new Editors in Chief for The Pride Student Newspaper. I have been working with The Pride since the fall of 2008 as a staff writer then progressed as an assistant Features editor to my most recent position as Arts and Entertainment editor last semester. Writing and journalism is one of my favorite things along with coffee, muffins and Panera.



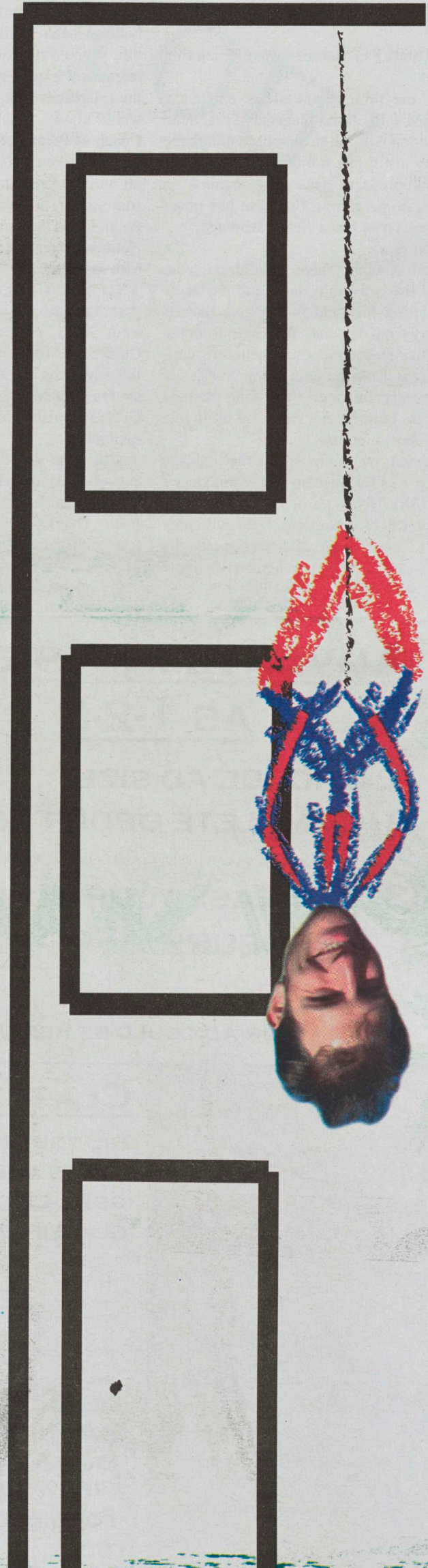
Bill

This is my sixth semester with The Pride, and if everything goes well, I will be graduating this spring with a degree in Literature and Writing. From there I hope to get my teaching credential and teach high school writing, as well as writing non-fiction on the side. For now, I look forward to continuing my weekly column and writing for art and entertainment.

On the more interesting side, I grew up in Buffalo, NY, but moved here to start college when my dad got a job transfer. Thus, I have an affinity for chicken wings, or as the locals call them, just wings. In my free time, I enjoy watching Western and sci-fi films, being with my beloved girlfriend of more than three years, and preparing for the zombie apocalypse.

Rudy

Well hello there. My name is Rudy. I'm your Layout Editor. You're probably thinking "Wow... this looks like a kindergartener drew this! I think my dog (or cat, hamster, turtle, elephant, fish) could have done a better job!" Did I nail it? No? oh well... guess I should give up my other job as a psychic. Anyways, this is my final semester, that means I get a fancy piece of paper that says I graduated with a degree in business administration with an emphasis in Management Information Systems in 2010 from Cal State San Marcos, or something like that. Either way I'm way stoked. I also work on campus in the IITS department and hope to pursue a career in either doing graphic design (hey don't judge me on my stick figures. I have other work!), or something in the IT field. Last semester I got married to Kristina (yes, that one right [well, left] over there) last semester in October, I also can't wait until we graduate so we can finally go on our honeymoon! In my free time I enjoy taking random day trips to various places in So Cal with Kristina and our dog Harrison, going to Disneyland and playing video games (add me on Live Rudyx760). This was actually much more than I had anticipated on writing, which is fine for me, you don't have to keep reading. You could have stopped after "hello," but thanks for sticking with it. I really enjoy laying out the newspaper, and look forward to doing the last issues. With that said, I am looking for a replacement, so if you enjoy designing stuff and at least are fairly familiar with Photoshop and Illustrator, email me at pridelayout@gmail.com or stop me around campus.



COUGARS

VISITORS

Across the board in Sports

Cal State San Marcos Softball: 2010 season preview

BY KYLE TREMBLEY

Cal State San Marcos softball is coming home.

For the three years of its existence, CSUSM softball has played and practiced at Mission Hills High School. Though the field is just a few minutes from campus, and hundreds of fans have showed up for big home games, the team has never enjoyed a true home-field advantage.

Until now.

Head Coach Dave Williams, who joined the University last summer, made completing the field on campus his top priority from day one. With help from the Athletics Department and generous contributions from parents, companies, and community members, the long-planned field was built from the ground-up in just a few short months.

Located on campus just behind the Clarke Field House in the University's large dirt "front yard," the tentatively-named CSUSM Softball Field will play host to every softball home game this year – 24 total games across 12 home dates, starting on January 30th.

As for the team that will call the field home, Coach Williams is confident that this year's veteran-heavy squad has the talent and experience necessary to earn the program's first trip to Nationals. He would know – after taking over as Head Coach at Point Loma in 1998, his teams posted seven 40-win seasons, three 50-win seasons, and two NAIA National Runner-Up finishes. Under Williams, Point Loma has placed in the top-10 at Nationals every year since 2001, and took fifth last year.

For the Cougars, last year was the program's most successful to date. The squad went 34-23, earning a trip to the A.I.I. Conference Tournament and making it all the way to the finals before being defeated by the University of Houston –Victoria. CSUSM finished the season ranked #20 nationally.

While the home game setting will be entirely different in 2010, Cougar fans will recognize most everyone taking the field. Thanks to the youth on last year's team, only two of the squad's sixteen players are newcomers.

It's no secret that softball starts with

pitching, and CSUSM is blessed with an outstanding #1 starter: Brenna Sandberg. The junior righty throws with pinpoint control and excellent movement. In 2009, Sandberg went 11-6 with a 1.52 ERA in 110.1 innings pitched. She struck out 94 batters and surrendered just 8 walks, and was an All-Conference selection.

"Brenna is a legitimate #1 pitcher," commented Coach Williams.

Perhaps Sandberg's most impressive trait is that she rises to the level of competition. In 2009, she posted wins over #1 Cal Baptist and #2 Point Loma; and in the fall, she allowed just one unearned run over seven innings to San Diego State, a top-25 NCAA Division I team.

Joining Sandberg on the mound will be a pair of veteran pitchers for the team. Ciera Ashman, a top-of-the-lineup hitter and everyday outfielder, showed signs of tremendous talent last season in limited work. The sophomore lefty was 3-2 with a 2.44 ERA on the year in 37.1 innings pitched.

"Ciera had moments of brilliance in the fall," said Williams. "If she develops consistency, she will be very good."

Junior Chanel Rose should also get her first chance at extended playing time on the mound. The junior righty was 2-1 with a 2.47 ERA in 22.2 innings pitched in 2009.

"Chanel's velocity has improved, and she's working on her changeup," noted Williams. "She just needs experience."

In the field, the crucial catcher position will be handled by junior Kimi Villalpando. Villalpando saw limited action last season, but Coach Williams loves her technical skills behind the plate.

"The number one job for a catcher is to catch the ball, and Kimi is the best I've seen in years," said Williams. "Her hitting really picked up in the fall as well."

Also seeing time behind the plate will be Tasha Stokes and Mimi Krutein. Stokes, a senior, is "consistent, confident, and a clutch hitter," according to Coach Williams; while Krutein has one of the strongest arms on the team, and is working on her footwork and hitting.

At first base, multiple hard-hitters may see playing time. Junior Lauren Nelson, coming off a breakout season in which she hit .345 and was second on the team with 25 RBI, figures to be an everyday presence in the middle of the lineup. She was an All-Conference selection in 2009.

Newcomer Erin Emde may play first as well. The senior transfer batted in the middle of the lineup for NCAA school UC Davis last season, and should be a big-time bat for the Cougars. A high school pitcher, Emde may also see time on the mound.

Fellow newcomer Sandra Rodriguez will get her chance as well. The lefty freshman transferred from Cal State Fullerton, and demonstrates excellent athletic ability and maturity beyond her years, according to Coach Williams.

And Alyssa Dronenburg, who may play outfield or first base, will once again provide the pop in the Cougar lineup. An All-Conference selection as a true fresh-

man in 2009, Dronenburg led the team with a .348 batting average, 10 home runs, and 33 RBI.

"Alyssa is a legit #4 hitter with tremendous power and good athletic ability," said Coach Williams. "I love her intensity – she is really serious when the game is on."

At second base, super-steady Erica Coelho will continue to patrol the spot she's played since the program's first-ever season. The senior started 50 games last season, hitting .273 with 23 RBI. She will likely be batting behind the big middle-of-the-lineup hitters, so expect that RBI total to surge.

Junior Shanti Poston will be moving from third to shortstop this season, where she'll continue to be a regular in the lineup. Nicknamed "Hoover" for her defensive prowess, Poston was a rock at third base last season, and Coach Williams believes her skills will translate to the crucial shortstop position.

"Shanti is a great all-around athlete who fields the ball very well," noted Williams.

At third, then, will be Ashley Estepa. The sophomore came to CSUSM as a second baseman, moved to left field in 2009, and will now be back in the infield this spring. Though not necessarily an imposing figure at the plate, Estepa packs a surprising amount of pop, hitting .270 with 2 home runs and 23 RBI last season. Coach Williams likes her potential at the new position.

"Ashley has very quick feet and very good hands," he said. "She'll develop into a really good infielder."

In centerfield, Elizabeth Bush begins her fourth year as a starter for the Cougars. She'll be a "good, strong, athletic presence" in both the field and at the plate, according to Coach Williams. Bush will join Ashman at the top of the lineup, where Williams is calling on them to combine to produce at least one run per game.

When fans last saw Alicia Ingram, she was playing shortstop and batting right handed. This year, the sophomore will be a left-handed slap hitter playing outfield. She brings tremendous speed to the lineup, and excellent range and an accurate arm to the outfield.

Senior Lindsey Preovolos will play in the outfield as well, moving from the catcher spot she's been in since the program's inception. A team leader, Preovolos has been a good clutch hitter for the squad for the last three years.

All together, this year's Cougar lineup should be balanced nicely with speed at the top and bottom (Bush, Ashman, and Ingram), power in the middle (Nelson, Dronenburg, and Emde), and solid contact hitters throughout. With so many returners, Coach Williams expects the team to gel quickly into a force in the NAIA.

"I expect to be in Decatur, Alabama in May for Nationals," stated Williams, "and our goal is to compete in the Elite 8."

While the team will have to earn the right to travel to Decatur, they at least know that this season, for the first time, they have a field to truly call home.

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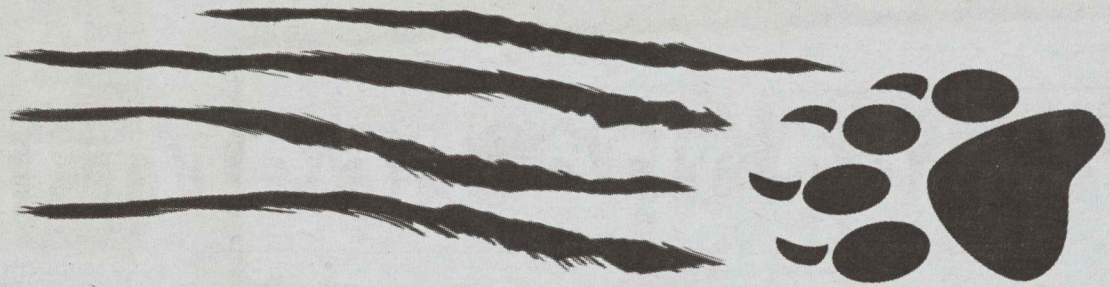


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Are you looking to get more involved? Looking for a few extra units? Want something to add to your resume?

We are currently looking for the following positions:

- Writers
- Section Editor
- Layout Editor (assist for now and take over for current layout editor in the Fall)

For more information, there is a meeting on Tuesday, January 26 at U-hour in Craven 3500, located on the 3rd floor of Craven on the outside by the Elevator. You can also email us at csusmpride@gmail.com (for inquiries about Writer and Editor positions) and pridelayout@gmail.com (for inquiries about Layout Editor).

Coming to theaters

BY BILL RHEIN
Senior Staff Writer

WIDE RELEASE

When In Rome

Starring Kristen Bell and Josh

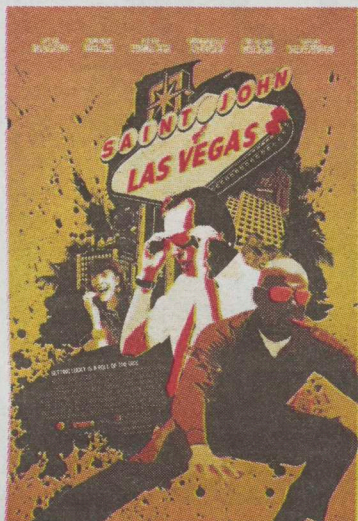


Image courtesy of Circle of Confusion

Duhamel

Directed by Mark Steven Johnson

Bell and Duhamel star in this romantic comedy set in Italy. Duhamel sweeps Bell off her feet, but she struggles to see if it for real, or if he is only entranced after she tampers with the iconic fountain of love.

Edge of Darkness

Starring Mel Gibson and Ray Winstone

Directed Martin Campbell Campbell, who directed "Casino Royale," weaves this tale of death and corporate conspiracy. Gibson plays a detective investigating his daughter's death and discovers a web of businessmen and government officials trying to cover it.

LIMITED RELEASE

North Face

Starring Benno Furmann and Florian Lukas

Directed by Philipp Stolzl This German import received high marks in Europe and makes in debut in select theaters this week. The film is a the tense and inspiring store of two German climbers who struggle to be the first to climb the north face of the Eiger Mountain.

Saint John of Las Vegas

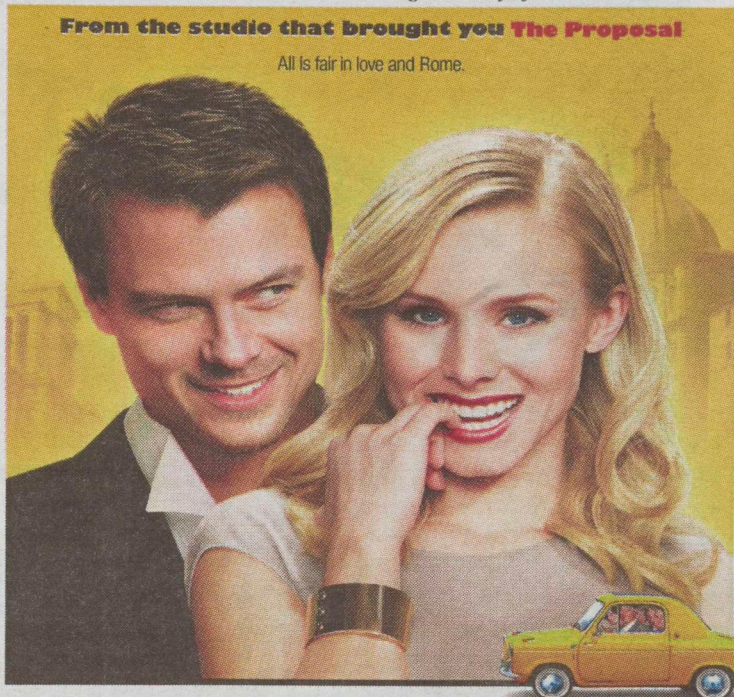
Starring Steve Buscemi and Sarah Silverman

Directed by Hue Rhodes Buscemi stars as a insurance agent in this indie comedy. Despite being a reluctant gambler, his boss sends him to investigate a suspicious accident in Las Vegas, where the anxiety and humor unfold.

EDGE of DARKNESS

SOME SECRETS TAKE US TO THE EDGE 1.29.10

Image courtesy of Warner Bros. Pictures



Kristen Bell

Josh Duhamel

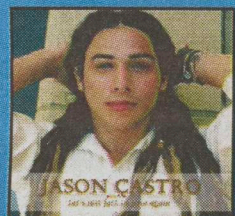
when IN ROME

Image courtesy of Touchstone Pictures

DROPPING: CD RELEASES

Tuesday, Jan. 26

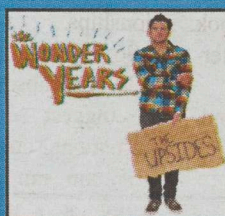
By Amy Salisbury / Editor-in-Chief



FOLK-POP

Jason Castro
JASON CASTRO

Pleasantly dreaded American Idol castoff Jason Castro comes back with his self-titled debut album. Atlantic Records picked Castro up after he was voted off season seven of Idol, likely due to his strong and immediate fan following after he covered Somewhere Over the Rainbow.



POP-PUNK

The Upsides
THE WONDER YEARS

Following up on their first full length, "Get Stoked on It!" comes "The Upsides." This highly anticipated album is full of energy and positivity, with songs that will have you hitting the repeat button and singing along from start to finish.



ROCK

Campfire Songs (Reissue)
ANIMAL COLLECTIVE

2003's Campfire Songs reappears with Animal Collective's trademark controlled-chaos sound. As the first edition, released through Catsup Plate, went out of print, label Paw Tracks remedied the loss by rereleasing the five-track album.



ELECTRO/POP

IRM
CHARLOTTE GAINSBURG

Anglo-French actress from I'm Not There and The Science of Sleep Charlotte Gainsbourg follows her debut album with the sexy-sweet album IRM. More intimate than her first release, 5:55, IRM explores Gainsbourg's existential physical recovery period through song.

Images courtesy of amazon.com

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