

CFA up in arms

Faculty Association holds informational picket for a fair contract from CSU chancellor

BY KELLY CORRIGAN
Pride Staff Writer

On Monday, in the library plaza, CSUSM professors took part in informational picketing as they made their first public step against CSU Chancellor Charles Reed and his administration. Armed with signs that read, "Stop the Ripoffs!" "Roll Back Student Fee Hikes!" "Teaching: an art, not just a job." "Fair Contract!" professors of all doctrines held a common goal: to have their voice heard and their actions acknowledged by the CSU administration, the legislator and Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, for the sake of education on every level.

As the president of the San Marcos chapter for the California Faculty Association, Dr. Janet Powell was among the 50 professors. According to Dr. Powell, professors in the CSU system are 18% behind in salary compared to professors out of state. In trying to keep up with California's

cost of living without any recent significant raises in salary proposals, most professors across the CSU system have decided that they are no longer able to comply and instead, they are aiming to go on strike.

"For the past 19 months, the CFA has been out of contract negotiations with the Chancellors Office," Dr. Powell said. "They refused to come back to the bargaining table."

According to the CFA, in July 2005, the salary increase of CSU executives was 19.4%. The CSU faculty raise was 3.5%.

Since 2002, the CSU administration and the board of trustees have raised student fees by 76%. The administration has plans to increase the fees by 10% through 2010.

Additionally, there are 1,000 administrators in the CSU who earn over \$100,000 each year. Most professors earn less money in a year than what admin-

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Photo by Kelly Corrigan
CSUSM CFA members participated in an informational picketing sending a message to Chancellor Reed.

CSUSM welcomes new fraternity Zeta Beta Tau

BY KELLY CORRIGAN
Pride Staff Writer

Among the new additions to Cal State San Marcos this spring is the men's fraternity, Zeta Beta Tau. Yesterday, ZBT representatives visited CSUSM in hopes of encouraging young men to become the founding fathers of the CSUSM chapter as they immerse themselves in leadership roles and have some fun along the way.

ZBT is the oldest and largest Jewish fraternity and it is significantly the only fraternity CSUSM has invited to become a part of the school since the initial invitations a decade ago. The fraternity Sigma Alpha Epsilon and sororities Alpha Chi Omega and Alpha Xi Delta were the first to arrive at CSUSM.

For over 50 years, ZBT has been a non-sectarian fraternity. Director of Chapter Affairs Laurence Bolotin says, "ZBT is proud of its history but it is not a religious organization."

See ZBT, page 3

IMPORTANT DATES

JAN 20 – Feb 2: Add/Drop Period
•Open University Enrollment

JAN 26: Last day to drop classes with no Academic Record for classes that meet the first half of the semester

FEB 2: Last Day to Add classes
•Last Day to change from full time to part time status
•Last Day to drop classes that meet the full semester
•Last Day to change grading option for full term classes
•Last Day to apply for Fall 2007 Undergrad Graduation

FEB 3: \$25 Late Registration and \$15 Late Add Fees applied for the rest of the term

Cougar Central: "The one stop shop"



Photos by Kelly Corrigan

In what used to be the old CSUSM library, all those in Cougar Central have now set up shop. In one convenient place renovated for the sake of students, one can find the Enrollment Services Information Center, Student Financial Services and Registration and Records. Just outside of Cougar Central (Craven Hall 3900) is the newly renovated Tukwut Courtyard. Tukwut, pronounced "TOOK-woot" is the Luiseno word for cougar. The only way for students to enter Cougar Central is to go through Tukwut Courtyard. Service hours are from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Extended hours, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, will take place through the add/drop period which ends February 2.

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

THE PRIDE

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Letters to the editors 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.

Display and classified advertising in The Pride should not be construed as the endorsement or investigation of commercial enterprises or ventures. The Pride reserves the right to reject any advertising.

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Letter from the Editor in Chief

Yes... break is over. Yes... the Chargers have lost in the playoffs, again. Yes... Karl Strauss passed away. But snap out of it already! There's no crying at CSUSM. You have much more important things to be focusing on. Spring semester is not for the weak of heart; we have four months of straight education with only one legitimate break sometime in late March ahead of us. I'm not sure about you, but to me that's pretty hard-core. You're a regular extreme learner when it comes to Spring time schooling. Lucky for you, there's a hard-core tool at your disposal, The Pride Student Newspaper and also www.thecsusmpride.com.

The Pride is here for you. Merely holding The Pride in your owtwohandselevatesyourstatus on campus and boldly announces that YOU are an informed and an educated student/faculty/staff/guest/really cool person. No

really, it's THAT powerful. But with yielding such power comes great responsibility, the responsibility to act. As impeccable as the Pride may be ;) we can't possibly cover every issue that needs to be covered. That's where you come in, don't be afraid to speak up and let us know if we didn't cover your event, or if we favor the campus coffee cart over Starbucks, or if Jock Talk With Josh just boils your blood. Write us (pride@csusm.edu) and let us know what you think. Hey, we'll even print it for you for free. Just think your name in the hands of thousands of fellow students, that's better access than even your Myspace bulletin board, and without the threat of a virus or stalker (note: The Pride does not take responsibility for any actual viruses or stalking attained as a result of printed Letters to the Editor, despite any and all awesomeness in your writing skills.)

For the rest of you, we have a lot to look forward to this semester. Much has changed over the break. The campus has re-organized itself utilizing the 3rd floor of Craven Hall for student services. Even the Pride relocated (CRA3500) and our new pad is really sweet, please feel free to come by to hang out and see what's going on.

As for the Pride, Jason Encabo (our newly appointed Managing Editor) and myself are hoping to implement video stories through The Pride Online, we are even planning to showcase student work/films (again if interested: pride@csusm.edu). The Sports section really took off last semester, in large part due to Kyle Trembley's incredible coverage, and we can look forward to Baseball, Softball, Golf and Track and Field coverage this semester. We have integrated comics and crossword puzzles into each issue,

which hopefully you have found to be enjoyable. Also, Amanda Andreen has stepped up to become The Pride's new Feature's Editor, expect some great features stories about student life in the coming issues. All together the staff at The Pride started off fresh last semester and they have all really started to find their voice. I, for one, can't wait to see where they take the paper this semester.

As for you, thank you for reading and continue to write to us. This is truly your paper and if we aren't serving you the way you would like, let us know how we can.

For now, I leave you to enjoy the rest of this issue. Summer break is almost here, the Chargers are about to draft some more players and I have some hops and barley to consume for Beer of the Week.

Your Editor,
David Gatley

LETTER FROM THE MANAGING EDITOR

Happy New Year and welcome back to school fellow Cougars. Allow me to reintroduce myself, my name is Jason Encabo. I've been apart of The Pride staff for three years now, beginning as the Layout Editor, then I became the Business Manager, and now I will be assuming the roll of Managing Editor of the paper. Now enough about me and onward to The Pride.

I've really enjoyed my past experiences with The Pride and expect nothing less from this coming year. The Pride has certainly struggled throughout its existence here at CSUSM, but I believe that given our limited resources (at one point we had just six editors and five contributing writers!), The Pride has been successful in its efforts to produce a paper that is continually progressing in its quality. Here at The Pride we strive to provide the people of this campus with the essential, as well as relevant information regarding this school, while at the same time serving as a voice of the students. Not to forget our efforts to entertain, whether it's through our "Saved

By The Bell" crossword puzzle or our horoscopes from Ms. Moondream. All in all we hope to put out a useful student newspaper, with the 'student' aspect emphasized.

This brings me to my plea for the students here at CSUSM to join in our efforts here at The Pride. I would like this paper to continue to do what it does well, but also improve on the areas where it is lacking. For example, I believe the paper has done a great job expanding its coverage of our sports program over this past semester, but now I would like for us to cover more activities within the arts department. Changes like this will occur throughout the paper, and I believe we can all benefit from your input. As we hope to put out a paper that's informative, interesting and entertaining to our readers, your thoughts and opinions are really important. By knowing what you, the readers, are looking for in our paper, we can better provide. So how about it? Lend us your thoughts at pride@csusm.edu. Alright well good luck this semester and I hope to hear from you.

Jason Encabo

Campus police ready for UPROAR

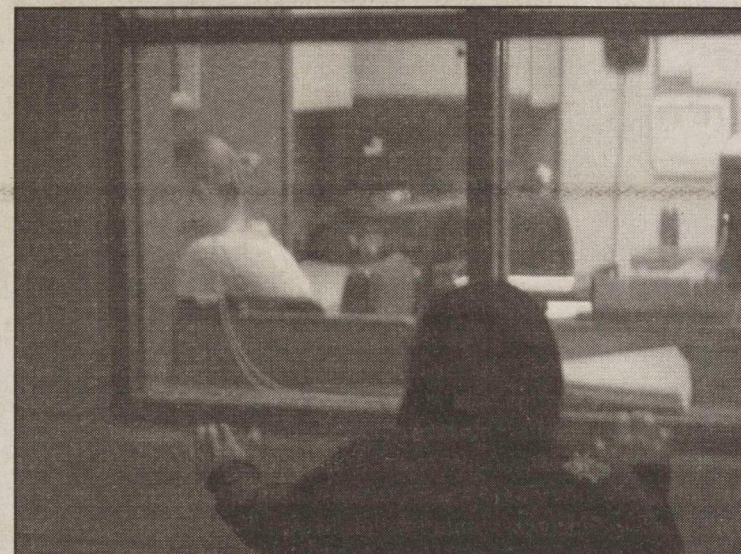


Image courtesy of campus police

Campus Police prepare to unveil a comprehensive restraining order program.

BY KELLY CORRIGAN
Pride Staff Writer

As campus police strive to accomplish their mission in preserving and protecting the working and academic environment, they have created a new program titled University Police Restraining Order and Response or UPROAR.

The additional service is intended for students, staff and faculty at CSUSM. In the past, members of the CSUSM community have filed restraining orders against their ex-husbands, ex-girlfriends and ex-boyfriends. In certain cases, those who were told to remain outside of any form of communication or physical contact refused to do so, threatening students, staff or faculty. In certain cases, the threats have led to threats of physical assaults.

When followed properly, a restraining order should not permit the male or female to communicate with those whom they desire to through cell phone, email or any in-person contact. The order should

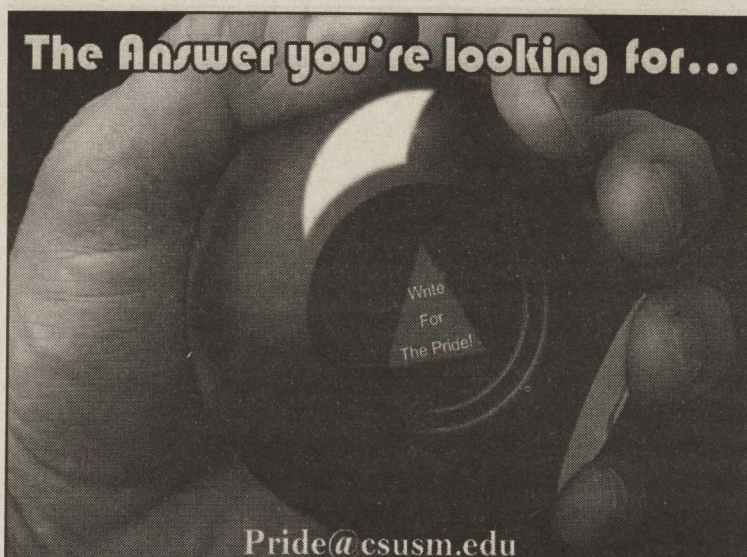
immediately halt any forms of verbal threats, harassment or stalking.

With UPROAR, campus police are extending their hand for anyone who has filed a restraining order or anyone who is looking to file one, to share the order with the campus police where they will review it in discussion then keep the restraining order on file in the utmost confidentiality.

In the event that those who do not abide by the court order arrive on campus, the campus police could apply the knowledge of the physical description from the file when needed.

Additionally, for all those who are looking to file a restraining order against someone, campus police would be able to assist them in filing the order, and point them toward the proper resources.

Officer John Balos said, "As a means to be proactive and help the community remain safe, we would like to work effectively in forming relationships with the community to help eliminate possible crimes from occurring."



[Pride@csusm.edu](mailto:pride@csusm.edu)

From CFA, page 1

istrators in the CSU system have been earning in increases. The starting salary for professors at most campuses is about \$46,000 when most increases total about \$48,000.

At campuses such as Humboldt and Dominguez Hills, Dr.



Photo by Kelly Corrigan

A Cut-out of Chancellor Reed was used to help bring attention to Monday's Informational Picketing in front of Kellogg Library.

Powell said, "Classes are being cancelled, professors are leaving, students aren't graduating." She added, "The CSU is dying. It's hard to tell because our university is growing."

Many look to the CSU system as one of the best leading examples of quality education available to students at an affordable price. For years, it has been. But recently, without an adequate salary given to the CSU faculty to live within California's standards, the future is grim according to Dr. Powell. As a last resort in their endeavors, faculty at all 23 campuses are taking action.

Another motto of the CFA is, "Faculty working conditions are student learning conditions." Recently, they've adopted a new one. "I don't want to strike, but I will."

As they circled Library Plaza, the professors chanted, "What do we want? Contracts! When do

we want it? Now!" "What's it all about? Quality Education!"

Never in the history of the CSU, have professors gone on strike.

"At this point," Dr. Powell said, "We believe we have to stand up

ing how much money the CSU system has, how much money is being distributed, along with other related statistics. Once the fact finding process is finished, it becomes legal for professors to go on strike.

The faculty plans to take part in two day rolling strikes that will take place throughout the state of California. Once they go on strike, the faculty predicts that the Chancellor's office will impose a contract.

There is a possibility that a professor on strike would have to cancel one of their classes when on strike. If desired, there is also a possibility that the class could convene at a location off campus.

Dr. Powell made it clear that for every faculty member participating in the strike, as much as they are determined to send a message to the Chancellor's Office, they are equally sympathetic towards their students in not letting the

strikes interfere with their students' regular coursework and studies. Dr. Powell said, "We don't want to hurt our students. Our desire is to minimize the impact on [them]."

Of all the full time tenure track professors who belong to the local chapter of CFA, 70% support the strike.

At the end of February, the CFA will vote whether or not they will go on strike, although it is most likely that they will. The strike would take place in the front of the school, on Twin Oaks Boulevard, at the end of March or April. "Nobody wants this to happen, Dr. Powell said, but we don't have any choice. We're in a bad place. This spring will be a tough semester."

An informational strike meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 6 at 11:45 in the Clarke Field House. To reserve a lunch, R.S.V.P. by calling the CFA office at 760-750-4009 or email Jteepen@calfac.org. For more information, visit www.csusm.edu/cfa.

From ZBT, page 1

In 1990, ZBT became the nation's only non-pledging organization. Within the first 72 hours of becoming initiated into ZBT, new members immediately hold the same rights as every other member, no matter how long their counterparts have

been involved. The non-pledging aspect of the fraternity was a radical move to make in 1990 as it still is today. The decision to make the fraternity a non-pledging one was done in order to eliminate hazing. The result was immediately successful. Since 1990, ZBT has received high praise and attention from vari-

ous fraternities across the nation looking to do the same.

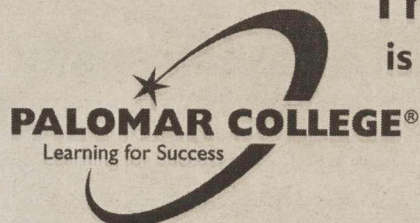
In Southern California, ZBT belongs to campuses including SDSU, CSULB, UCLA and USC.

According to Bolotin, "It's open to any college male looking to enhance student life, to build a lasting legacy, to create tradition,

with at least a 2.5 GPA who are interested in social networking, student leadership and alumni traditions." Bolotin added, "[ZBT] creates well rounded members."

On February 5th, ZBT will return to the campus for one full week. They will host a barbeque on campus and will hold social events off campus as well.

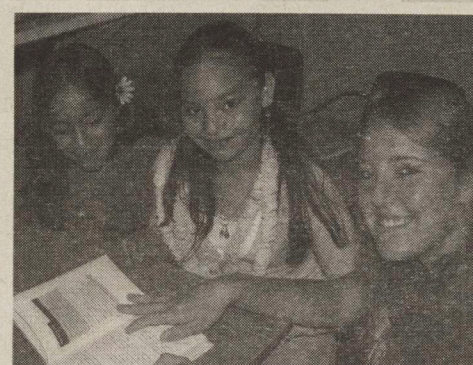
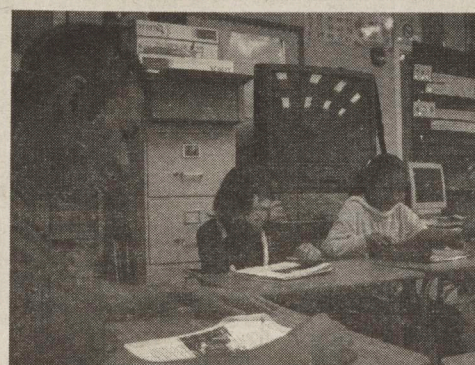
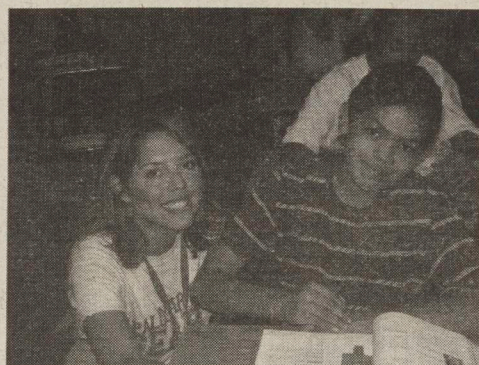
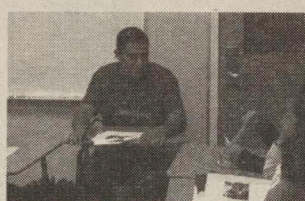
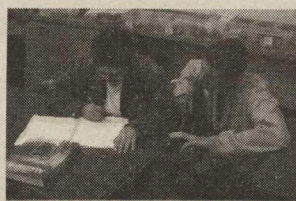
ZBT is looking for at least 15 new members but is hoping to recruit more than 30 students. For more information on joining the ZBT brotherhood, contact Laurence Bolotin at (760) 586-3434 or email him at lbolotin@zbtnational.org. For more information on ZBT, visit www.zbt.org.



The Palomar College GEAR UP Program is hiring energetic college/university student employees.

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To qualify, you must have the following:

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Tutor/Mentor

(Provide academic assistance in-class and after school)

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- Work in San Marcos or Vista Middle/High Schools
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- Excellent direct experience for future teachers/educators
- Or, volunteer/serve!

For Information on how to apply, contact:

Joe Vasquez, Outreach Coordinator • (760) 290-2526 • Email: JVasquez@palomar.edu

Aries

Mar. 21 – Apr. 19

Welcome to a new year! This New Year means a new beginning and a new love life for you. New doors are opening every day and new heads are turning with your glow of confidence and can-do attitude! Take advantage of the opportunities you come across and don't be afraid to live a little! Go on! Take a walk on the wild side of dating this week.

Libra

Sept. 23 – Oct. 23

Your friends may tease you about your studying habits—they might even call you a “nerd” or “geek”—but in the end, you always have the last laugh. With the new semester starting, and a rigorous work load awaiting you, your scholastic aptitude and brainy enthusiasm will

begin to pay off shortly.

Taurus

Apr. 20 – May 20

Good news awaits you! Only time will tell if it is a new job offer, a raise, or a long awaited resolution, but nonetheless, it will be pleasant. Be weary and keep your eyes open, because it might arrive differently than expected; so be careful not to let it slip through your fingers!

Scorpio

Oct. 24 – Nov. 21

Holistic and homeopathic remedies are really tickling your fancy this month. Everything from herbal teas to organic toothpaste and natural face wash continue to fill your shopping cart during your regular trips to Henry's and Jimbo's. Not only is the Green Tea frenzy light on the wallet, but the antioxidants are also gentle on your spirit.

Gemini

May 21 – June 21

It's time to move on and let go of the things you have been holding onto. It's a new year, and that means it is okay to leave behind all of the extra baggage you have been carrying around. You will be surprised at how rejuvenated and cleansed you will feel once you have moved forward.

Sagittarius

Nov. 22 – Dec. 21

Looking for a new and challenging way to exercise and get your heart rate moving? Try something different, like yoga or pilates. Or, if you're looking for something outdoors, there is always kayaking and mountain biking. Perhaps a new exercise regime is just what you need to keep your active lifestyle just as exciting in 2007.

Cancer

June 22 – July 22

Fear not! We all feel insecure about our status and priorities from time to time. With a little patience, a healthy dose of rational thought, and even more optimism, you'll turn your perspective around in no time.

Capricorn

Dec. 22 – Jan. 19

Take up a new cause. There are hundreds of local organizations that are always welcoming new and enthusiastic volunteers. Give back to the community around you however you feel led. Whether it's donating a bag or two of gently worn clothes to the Salvation Army, or contributing a few hours of your time to Habitat for Humanity, you have plenty to offer.

Leo

July 23 – Aug. 22

Indecisiveness plagues you right now! Unless you take the time to weigh all of the potential outcomes, you'll never be satisfied with your decision. Though it seems tedious and relentless, once you set your mind to it, the right explanation will reveal itself.

Aquarius

Jan. 20 – Feb. 18

Way to ring in the New Year! You're already off to a busy and thrilling start, with all of the things you have accomplished within the past few weeks. Keep your motivation up by maintaining variety in not only your activities, but in your menu choices as well.

Virgo

Aug. 23 – Sept. 22

Color coding, highlighters and post-its are the name of the game. Your knack for organizing and preparing ahead of time are what give you your competitive edge. Though they might be small and perhaps insignificant details, your ability to prioritize and compartmentalize your life preserves your sanity.

Pisces

Feb. 19 – Mar. 20

It's never too late to make a New Year's Resolution. Even though you haven't been particularly fond of making them—and keeping them for that matter—in the past, this year could be your year for resolutions. Start by making a list and posting it somewhere you will see it each day. That way you'll be more inclined to stay on track.

By Ms. Moonbeam

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CSU The California State University
WORKING FOR CALIFORNIA

Congratulations to the California State University Employees Union (CSUEU)

for the ratification of its new three-year
contract and for its commitment to
serving CSU students.

The CSU would like to thank the
CSUEU for its fair bargaining practices,
openness during the negotiation
process, and diligence in its
representation of CSU employees.

Thanks to CSUEU employees at all 23
campuses who help to provide students
an exceptional learning environment
and contribute greatly to their success.

FAFSA 101: Financial aid for beginners

BY AMANDA RUTHERFORD
Pride Staff Writer

Many students start out their first semester of college not knowing that they could qualify for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, also known as the FAFSA. Some students go semesters or even years not knowing what to do and struggling to figure it all out. Well, no more will students see the FAFSA as a challenging process. FAFSA becomes available during December of each year. This is when students can begin their process of filing for financial aid. The Cal State University system priority filing date is March 2nd of each year. This means the CSU system encourages all applicants to have sub-

mitted their financial aid information before or close to that time; though that isn't necessarily the deadline, as CSUSM will still accept applications for the FAFSA after the deadline. However, filing late makes the process of getting financial aid more drawn out. According to the CSUSM website (www.csusm.edu), "If you meet the March 2nd priority filing date, you improve the chances of receiving aid from all the programs for which you are eligible." Once a student applies for financial aid, CSUSM's Financial Aid & Scholarship Office will collaborate with the student and keep them updated on any papers or information they may need to complete the process. For example, "required documents may

include copies of your last federal income tax return(s) and/or verification of untaxed income and other information reported on the FAFSA," (www.csusm.edu). For more detailed information students can look up additional information at the Financial Aid & Scholarship Office. The new and improved office is on the third floor of Craven along with other helpful offices like Admissions & Recruitment, Cashiers, Enrollment Management Services, Financial Aid & Scholarship, Registration & Records, and Student Life & Leadership in the new Cougar Central. CSUSM's Financial Aid & Scholarship Office will help students through the entire process of applying for the FAFSA and financial aid so students can be

kept updated on their information as it may change from year to year. The best way to know what to do every step of the way is to go to www.fafsa.ed.gov/ and follow the simple outlined steps. FAFSA's website has three steps to help guide students through apply and receiving financial aid for their college. The site also has alerts and deadlines and more to help students make the filing process a little easier. The first step of filling out the FAFSA is downloading the FAFSA worksheet and applying for a PIN, which allows students to electronically sign confidential information. Perhaps the most time consuming part of the entire process is filling out all of the tax and income information from the previous year. The process for

financial aid will not happen overnight, it could even take a month or so, but this website and the new Financial Aid & Scholarship Office hope to make everything that much easier while applying for FAFSA. The FAFSA opens doors to students for Cal Grants, Federal Student Loans and other applicable forms of scholarships and aid that California resident students are eligible for. It's not too late to sign up for FAFSA, especially for the 2007-2008 school year, as there is over a month left for the initial filing period. Moreover, even though classes are starting this week, students can still apply for numerous opportunities for financial aid to offset the cost of books and tuition.

Website of the Week:

www.Idealist.org

BY AMANDA ANDREEN
Pride Staff Writer

These days it seems that there are innumerable ways to get plugged into a cause, get connected, and stay involved in the community. Yet, the avenues of how to select which organization or which cause to donate your time to from the hundreds if not thousands of equally worthy causes can be daunting to say the least. As college students, the need to be connected and the drive to feel like each individual makes a difference in the world is just as important as each of the other many extracurricular activities students have at their disposal. Idealist.org is a non-profit website hosted by the Action

Without Borders project which aims to connect students, volunteers, and website visitors to over 65,468 non-profit community organizations in 165 countries worldwide, with users participating from over 180 different countries. Simply, Action Without Borders is "guided by the common desire of our members and supporters to find practical solutions to social and environmental problems, in a spirit of generosity and mutual respect." Founded by Ami Dar in 1995, AWB and Idealist.org are rounding the corner to their twelfth year of fulfilling their mission of connecting people, organizations, and resources to "help build a world where all people can lead free and dig-

nified lives." Idealist.org is one of the leading non-profit websites available on the web with a daily hit average of over 10,000. Allowing volunteers to create multiple volunteer profiles, in which users can design their dream volunteer job by listing likes, interests, location and other specific details that would match their ideal volunteer opportunity. For organizations, there are multiple opportunities to post new events, browse volunteer profiles, register for various Non-Profit Career Fairs, interact and partner with other organizations, and utilize the tools that Idealist.org has set up to make the connection between volunteers and organizations easy and fun. Volunteers and visitors can

easily become members of AWB and Idealist.org for free, and gain access to thousands of organization profiles, receive daily email alerts about new opportunities in their community, and learn more about AWB, Idealist.org, and all of their partners. In 2003, AWB partnered with the Campus Outreach Opportunity League to bring more awareness to college and university campuses, enabling a more broad availability and access to programs for college students to partake in worldwide. In addition, AWB which runs Idealist.org, also has two sister sites in Spanish and French that contain all the same information, just in different languages to accommodate a more diverse audience, and are currently creating sites

in Chinese, Dutch, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Polish, and Portuguese, with even more languages to come. Currently, AWB/Idealist.org have three main offices in the United States, located in New York, NY, Portland, OR, and Washington D.C., with international centers in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and staff members in Geneva, Switzerland, and Seattle, WA. In addition to inspiring students to "Imagine. Connect. Act." and become student activists, or just that students find something they are passionate about donating their time to for the greater good, Idealist.org hopes volunteers of all ages will find in AWB and Idealist what they have been searching for.

WEEKLY

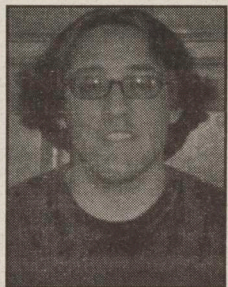
CALENDAR

JANUARY 23-29

Tues 23	Wed 24	Thurs 25	Fri 26	Sat 27	Sun 28	Mon 29
Second Day of Classes Add/Drop Period Parking Permit Required! No Grace Period Only 11 days left to Apply for Fall 2007 Graduation!! Buick Invitational Torrey Pines Tix @ Clarke Field House \$15 Walk-in Clinic for MMR/Hep B @ SHSC 9am-11am 1pm-3pm	Add/Drop Period Parking Permit Required! No Grace Period Only 10 days left to Apply for Fall 2007 Graduation!! Buick Invitational Torrey Pines Tix @ Clarke Field House \$15 Walk-in Clinic for MMR/Hep B @ SHSC 9am-11am 1pm-3pm Univ. Hour Get a student job on campus! Craven 1400 80's Night Squid Joes Carlsbad	Add/Drop Period Parking Permit Required! No Grace Period Only 9 days left to Apply for Fall 2007 Graduation!! Buick Invitational Torrey Pines Tix @ Clarke Field House \$15 Walk-in Clinic for MMR/Hep B @ SHSC 9am-11am 1pm-3pm Carbon Leaf w/ Toby Lightman @ The Belly Up 8:00pm	*LAST DAY TO DROP with NO Academic Record Parking Permit Required! No Grace Period Only 8 days left to Apply for Fall 2007 Graduation!! Buick Invitational Torrey Pines Tix @ Clarke Field House \$15 Walk-in Clinic for MMR/Hep B @ SHSC 9am-11am 1pm-3pm Slayer & Uearth SOMA 6:30pm \$32.00 Brian Wilson 4th & B 8pm \$50+	Boris Godunov (Russian Opera) San Diego Opera 7pm \$27-182 Emersen String Quartet UCSD 8pm \$32+ The Bloody Hollies The Casbah 8:30pm \$7 Buick Invitational @ Torrey Pines Tickets bought at the Clarke Field House benefit the CSUSM Golf Team	Tim Reynolds w/ The White Buffalo The Belly Up 7pm \$12-14 "Visions" Exhibit Opens The Natural History Museum 10am-5pm FREE Buick Invitational @ Torrey Pines Tickets bought at the Clarke Field House benefit the CSUSM Golf Team	Add/Drop Period Only 5 days left to Apply for Fall 2007 Graduation!! Buick Invitational Torrey Pines Tix @ Clarke Field House \$15 Walk-in Clinic for MMR/Hep B @ SHSC 9am-11am 1pm-3pm The Van Wilder Tour featuring Everclear w/ Jonny Lives! House of Blues San Diego 7pm \$18.50+

Jock talk with Josh: Winter Break recap

BY JOSH SANDOVAL
Pride Staff Writer



Well, that was the final winter break of my college career, and I couldn't have had a better time. I did a lot of partying, a little bit of writing and working, a lot of lying around, and a ton of thinking about my future. The biggest occurrence, however, was when I chopped off my beautiful locks of hair.

A lot of things happened over break that I was dying to comment on. I felt like the world was taunting me with all of the happenings over the past 5 weeks. Of course, there are other outlets that my name appears in, but no place gives me more freedom than this newspaper, which I am going to dearly miss in five months when I graduate.

What made me happiest to see over break was Tony Gwynn being elected into the Hall of Fame. I grew up watching him play baseball, and have been lucky enough to meet him while on assignment. It's great seeing good guys get some recognition

every once in a while. Along that same subject, I was very glad to see that "The Hulk", Mark McGwire, did not get in.

What I was least shocked to see over break was the Chargers collapse in the playoffs. I predicted this exact occurrence in my article last semester about LaDainian Tomlinson.

Speaking of that article, I was most shocked over break to see that someone in the media essentially stole my column idea a month after I wrote it. I take it as a compliment that people outside of this campus read this paper.

I was most disgusted to be a United States American when I constantly saw the Rosie O'Donnell and Donald Trump "feud" in the headlines. I think I may be the only person left in this country who doesn't want to see a hippo and a hyena fight.

I was most proud to be a United States American when I saw that our President's approval rating is at an all new low, because people in this country are finally seeing that things are pretty messed up around here.

I was most proud of a fellow entertainer when Damon Wayans challenged the authority of the "Laugh Factory" in Hollywood. After the Michael Richards incident, the "Factory" banned the use of

the word that "Kramer" was lambasted for using. Some clubs, like the "Tempe Improv" have even gone as far as to ban all cuss words. Wayans incurred a fine from the club and a several month ban. As much as I don't like derogatory names, I despise censorship that much more. Hopefully that last sentence made the final cut.

In December, I was most sad when I heard the news that James Brown died.

I was most scared just a few days later to see his face on a billboard saying that he is scheduled to perform "live" in San Diego in late January.

I felt most victorious when I heard the news that University Hour is going to be decreased to only two days a week starting in fall 2007. Although I won't be here to

see the spoils of my laborious opposition to the ridiculous concept of "nap time" for college students, I still feel a sense of accomplishment.

I was most relieved when grades came out for last semester and I earned three A's, two B's and one C in my 19-unit semester from hell.

This semester should be a lot more enjoyable since I am only taking 16 units and graduating in May.

As usual, you can send me an e-mail to sando026@csusm.edu. As I have previously mentioned once or twice, this is my last semester of college and my last semester with the paper, so let's make sure it is just as controversial as all the other ones.

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Movie Review:



“Dream Girls” dazzles

BY SOPHIE BRINK
Pride Staff Writer

Nominated for five Golden Globes, including Best Picture - Comedy or Musical, Best Supporting Actor (Eddie Murphy), Best Supporting Actress (Jennifer Hudson), Best Actress - Comedy or Musical (Beyoncé Knowles), and Best Original Song, three Screen Actors Guild awards, and garnering numerous additional accolades, “Dreamgirls” is sweeping through the 2006 awards season with style.

Set in the early 1960s, “Dreamgirls” opens with a dream shared by three young singers who call themselves the Dreamettes - Effie (Jennifer Hudson), Deena (Beyoncé Knowles) and Lorrell (Anika Noni Rose) - and a host of other aspiring musical artists competing for grand prize at a New York talent competition.

All other acts pale in comparison, however, to the Dreamettes, a fact not lost on silver-tongued car salesman Curtis Taylor, Jr. (Jamie Foxx) who has high-reaching aspirations of his own. Taylor soon persuades the trio to sing backup for the James Brown-esque James “Thunder” Early (Eddie Murphy), and the group embarks for the big-time on a highway to fame - and heartbreak.

Originally a Tony-award winning Broadway musical, “Dreamgirls” was adapted to the big screen with panache by director Bill Condon and an amazing cast. Beyoncé Knowles stretches her golden voice and burgeoning acting muscles in the role of sweet, fresh-faced Deena Jones, coming of age in a cut-throat industry; Eddie Murphy delights as larger-than-life James “Thunder” Early, a smooth-talking singer oozing with soul and

weakness for a pretty face; but the sensational songstress who stole the show, and the heart, of many an audience member is Jennifer Hudson. Many will remember this newcomer from the (in)famous “American Idol.” Many will also remember that she didn’t win. I think it is possible that television was simply the wrong medium to properly showcase the sizzling energy and breathtaking talent of this rising star. In the role of Effie Melody White, Hudson engages the audience with her vivacity, charm, and vocal intensity in each and every one of her scenes. When she finished the heart-rending “And I Am Telling You I’m Not Going,” I and my fellow theatergoers set down our popcorn, Milk Duds and Raisinettes to properly express our sympathy and amazement.

Kudos are also in order for Sharen Davis who designed the

sumptuous costumes for the film. Fans of fashion history will ooh and ahh over her decadent creations which span the various trends that marked the 60s and early 70s. Davis was nominated for a Costume Designers Guild Award and for Best Costume Design at the Satellite Awards.

There is, in fact, only one caveat I will offer in regards to this amazing production. Do yourself a favor and see it in the theater before it goes to DVD. As in the vein of all great Hollywood musicals, this production was meant to be seen in all its glory on the big screen.

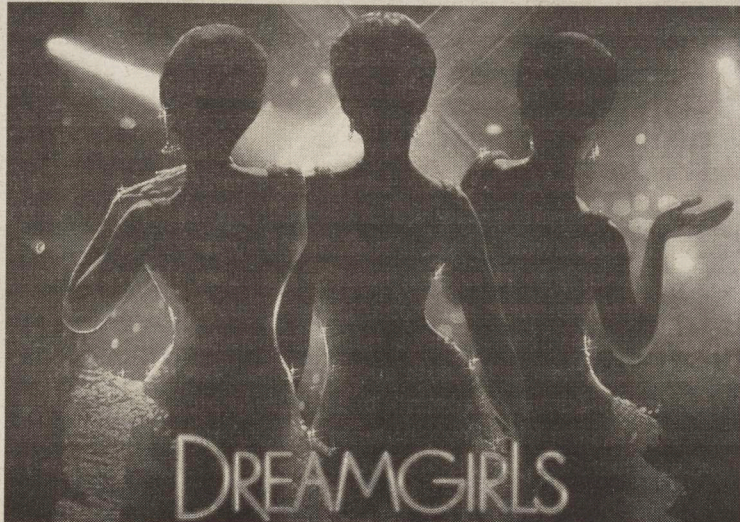


Image courtesy of Dreamwork Pictures

Movie Review:



“Blood Diamond” a “bling bang” experience

BY AMANDA ANDREEN
Pride Staff Writer

“In America, it’s bling bling. But out here it’s bling bang.” - Danny Archer

Amidst the height of civil war and rebel uprising, “Blood Diamond” takes place in Sierra Leone, Africa during the late 1990s. “Blood Diamond” leads audiences through a chaotic and powerful story of two African men both searching for their own interpretation of liberation. Danny Archer (Leonardo DiCaprio), a diamond smuggler searching for a way out of Africa, and Solomon Vandy (Dihmon Hounsou), a fisherman who loses everything as the country’s lust for diamonds swells, both captivate and overwhelm the screen alike, and both look to the value of the diamond to save them. Playing the romantic object of

Danny Archer, Jennifer Connelly portrays the know-it-all American journalist, Maddy Bowen, searching for the underground and undiscovered story of conflict diamonds. Though her portrayal is somewhat contrived, she aptly depicts a believable and compassionate journalist, and her presence is necessary to complete DiCaprio’s portrayal of a rugged, African, and believable man’s man. Without her, DiCaprio’s performance wouldn’t have been as sharp, and without DiCaprio, my experience of the film and its message would have been absolutely flat.

The meat of the plot begins when Solomon Vandy’s family is torn from him as “RUF” rebels (whom are mostly child soldiers) raid his village. In line to be disfigured by a machete, Vandy is spared by the commander of RUF and sent to work in the diamond

mines. Enslaved to a muddy river sifting through sediments for diamonds, he stumbles upon a giant pink diamond. Realizing that hiding and burying the rock is the only he will be able to live and secure his family’s survival, he hides the rock just as the diamond mine camp is bombed. Captured by the opposing military, he finds himself in prison, where Danny Archer is as well, after having been caught smuggling diamonds across the Sierra Leone border into Namibia. It is in the prison then that Vandy’s secret is revealed as the commander too arrives at the prison, and knows that Vandy had found a pink stone. Overhearing this, Archer ensures Vandy’s release and offers his help to find Vandy’s family in hopes of being led to the pink diamond. As war erupts and destroys the city, the two are forced to band together if they are to survive.

The issues director Edward Zwick and screenplay writer Charles Leavitt address and impose upon viewers are about the harsh realities of conflict diamonds and how much people in Africa suffer from the retrieval of diamonds for export. Equally as important, the movie offers insight into the unfathomable life of a child soldier, and the life they create under the worst of conditions. The torrents of brutal killing, display of unimaginable survival tactics, and the actuality of the diamond business as well as the civil war in Africa were almost too much to take for the 2 hours and 23 minutes that contains the experience of “Blood Diamond.” With no inhibitions about showing it like it is along with an unbelievable and flawless performance by DiCaprio—who definitely makes it clear that he’s grown up since his “Titanic” days—“Blood Diamond” is a must see.

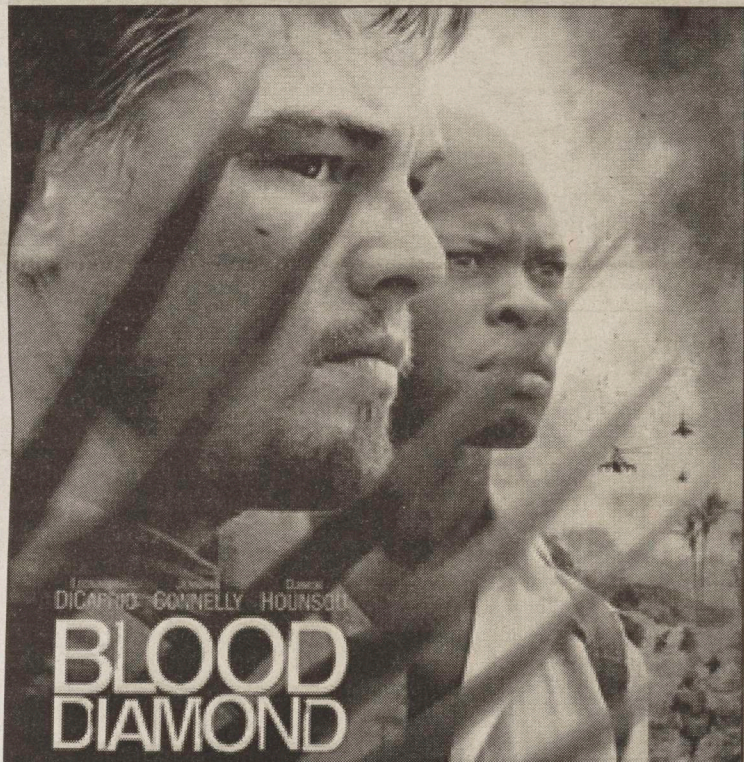


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Book Review:



"Eragon" The pen is mightier than the sword

BY SARAH PULTZ
Pride Staff Writer

While I liked the "Eragon" movie, it just about filled my yearly quota for cheesy fantasy, so I wasn't really looking forward to reading the book for 700 pages. As a compromise, I bought the book on tape so I could listen while driving or folding laundry and not feel like I

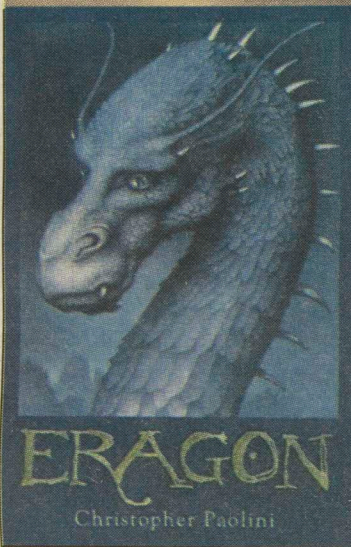


Image courtesy of randomhouse.com

taking place across a real world, not just in some small corner of it. Alagaësia is made up of many different regions, each with its own unique climate and terrain. These regions overlap in a realistic manner and the characters are travel long distances to get from one place to another.

The great distances the characters travel also serve another purpose. They allow the characters to grow and develop over time in a believable way. While Eragon is a talented magician and sword-fighter, he also spends months learning and practicing, so that when he defeats stronger and more skilled villains, I almost believe it is possible. I also accept that because they have spent long hours traveling together, Eragon and the other characters really do develop the close and trusting friendships that motivate many of the decisions they make.

The characters themselves, while nothing unusual in their basic form, have interesting and realistic personalities. They have flaws as well as strengths, and they all make mistakes. By far my favorite character was Saphira, Eragon's dragon. Paolini has made her much more than a passive companion or a pet. She is an intelligent being who makes her own choices, sometimes in opposition to Eragon's wishes. At many times, Saphira is the character who pushes the plot forward and is the mature and level head who helps Eragon make the right decision, calling him "Little One" and watching over him like a mother.

The major powers in the land also have their own interesting "personalities." The evil king is evil and crazy because he suffered the

terrible loss of his dragon. Part of his past and the source of his power are something of a mystery that I actually want to learn more about. The major opposition to the king, a group called the Varden, is not the typical heroic resistance. The Varden have their own internal factions and conflicts, and it is not yet clear what Eragon's relationship with this group will be.

While Paolini is creative in his ideas, he is lacking in his creativity of expression. Several times as the book waxed descriptive, I found myself channeling my English 100 professor and shouting "Show! Don't tell! Show! Don't tell!" I choose to interpret this as less of a weakness and more of an opportunity for improvement. To me, Paolini is a talented but immature writer. I think there is a lot of room for growth, and I look forward to seeing how his other books turn out as he grows older and becomes a better writer.

was wasting my time. As it turns out, I didn't need to worry. In my opinion, the book is infinitely better than the movie. The basic premise is still nothing out of the ordinary: Eragon, an orphan boy of unknown parentage, finds a magical object. After a life-changing plot twist he leaves home on a difficult and dangerous quest, accompanied by an old man with a long beard who acts as his teacher and mentor. Along the way he discovers that he is not really an ordinary farm boy, but a natural magician and a gifted swordfighter. He defeats the bad guy, saves the day, and falls in love. And oh yeah, there's also a dragon. There's nothing to learn here. Unless it's that your typical heroic characteristics (bravery, integrity, loyalty, honesty) are good. This book is for entertainment purposes only. However, author Christopher Paolini creative spin on the much-used plot that kept me entertained and engaged through all 16 hours, 23 minutes and 4 seconds.

As fantasy worlds go, Paolini's is vast. Alagaësia has a complicated history full of mystery and magic. There are a variety of peoples and species, each with their own language. As I read the book I got the sense that it was a

Movie Review:



Lovers of the book will probably be outraged to hear me say this, but "Eragon" wasn't too bad, for a kids' fantasy flick. It's the story of a sixteen-year-old farm boy, played by newcomer Ed Speleers, who finds a mysterious blue stone while hunting in the forest one day. When a baby dragon hatches from the stone, Eragon bonds with the dragon, and our hero becomes a dragon rider.

I planned to read "Eragon" the book before I saw "Eragon" the movie, but there just wasn't enough time. After reading book, I have to admit that "Eragon" is probably the worst film adaptation of a book I've seen since "The Scarlet Letter," but before reading the book I actually thought the movie was ok. There are some big flaws, but the basic story is interesting and the special effects look pretty good.

What were the big flaws in the movie? It all comes down to this - "Eragon" is a good example of what can go wrong when Hollywood tries to adapt a 700+ page book into a 99 minute movie. The major plot points come and go in a flash, and the characters develop close relationships way too quickly. During the movie, I kept whispering to my son, "That was weird. Did they leave something out there?" To which he would reply, "Yeah, they left a lot out. This movie sucks." My favorite example of this flaw is the way the movie handles the growth of Eragon's dragon, Saphira. Eragon throws the baby Saphira into the air. She takes off flying and in a series of bright flashes is transformed into an adult. Instant magical best friend! Several other relationships spring to life in a similar fashion throughout the movie. There's Brom, the instant mentor

and father figure, played by Jeremy Irons; Arya, the instant love interest, played by Sienna Guillory; and Murtagh, the instant human best friend, played by Garrett Hedlund. How, you ask, does Eragon meet these people? Eragon must flee the minions of the evil King Galbatorix, played by John Malkovich in not much more than a cameo, the dragon killer. He travels back and forth (and forth and back) across the vast land of Alagaësia in what seems like mere minutes, making friends and fighting battles along the way.

My second criticism is that Eragon feels like it was written by a teenager, which it was. I don't know anything about Christopher Paolini. However, I was once a teenage fantasy nerd, and this movie is exactly the kind of story I would have written back then. It is so full of all my favorite fantasy elements, that I've developed the fun little theory that Paolini decided to write a story combining all of his favorite authors into one book. (Disclaimer: I have no idea who Paolini's favorite authors are. I only know who my favorite authors were at age 16, and they're all here). Anne McCaffrey has dragons and dragon riders, so "Eragon" has dragons and dragon riders. J. R. R. Tolkien has elves, dwarves, and orcs, so "Eragon" has elves, dwarves, and urgals. Tolkien named his hero Aragorn; Paolini named his Eragon. Coincidence? Not likely. But plagiarism? Not really. Tolkien and McCaffrey certainly don't have a copyright on elves and dragons. It's just that "Eragon" tastes like fantasy cliché stew. Still, Paolini picked only the best ingredients, so even though it's the same old thing I've eaten again and again, it still tastes good.



Images courtesy of 20th Century Fox