

CSU hosts battle of wits

CSUSM students prepare for statewide research competition

BY HEATHER SHEDD
Pride Staff Writer

It is just about that time again for the annual Student Research Competition, hosted by the California State University System on all 23 different campuses. Linda Collins, the Administrative Support Coordinator for the Office of Graduate

Studies of Research, is in charge of promoting the event on campus this year. Collins has spent time sending out fliers to other administrators all over the campus as well as coordinating the process of making this competition as successful as it can possibly be.

The main purpose of this competition is to recognize the out-

standing accomplishments of undergraduates and graduate students campus-wide, by promoting the excellence of their scholarly research. Past research topics have varied from biology to psychology, to linguistics and ethnic studies, among others. "The topics have been fascinating!" says Collins. The competition

begins as individual competitions for each one of the 23 CSU campuses. After a group of student researchers are selected as finalists they will then travel to the statewide competition and have the opportunity to win a cash prize of up to \$200. "This

See RESEARCH, page 2

Midterm elections wrap-up

BY ALEXANDER D. GARIN
Pride Staff Writer

Call in the interior decorators. Two new offices within our nation's capitol are going to need new drapes.

The Democrats will enjoy a majority in both the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate when the 110th Congress convenes for the first time in January. "It was a thumpin," admitted President George W. Bush at a November 8th news conference.

Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) will assume the role of House Majority Leader. Senator Richard Reid (D-NV) will become the Majority Leader in the Senate. Jim Webb's (D-VA), razor thin victory over incumbent Senator George Allen in Virginia allowed Democrats to seize a one-seat advantage in the Senate. Webb declared victory by raising his son's combat boots over his head. He had previously served as Secretary of the Navy under the Reagan Administration.

The Democrats have not enjoyed a bicameral legislative majority since Newt Gingrich's "Republican Revolution" seized control of the U.S. legislature in 1994.

The Rep. Mark Foley scandal, involving sexual misconduct with congressional pages has damaged the image of social conservatism of the Republican Party. In the meantime, Democratic candidates appeared to

See ELECTION, page 6

Roadtrip Nation makes a stop on campus

BY KELLY CORRIGAN
Pride Staff Writer

With so many careers out there in a place academia calls the 'real world,' students may find themselves stuck in a mindless rut deciding which major to choose from, let alone choosing a career. Whether it's the passion, perseverance, or financial security that drives college students to succeed in their academic and professional endeavors, the experience can be a stressful and confusing one as adventure beckons along the way. Thanks to Student Life and Leadership, the Career Center and ASI, tomorrow, Roadtrip Nation will be here to help.

Roadtrip Nation began just a few years ago when a few college

See ROADTRIP, page 3



Photo by Amanda Andreen / The Pride

Celebrating Veterans Day

From Bunker Hill to present day Iraq, Marines nationwide paused Friday, November 10, to commemorate their service and that of the Marine Corps to our nation since 1775. Celebrating the 231st birthday of the Marine Corps, CSUSM's own Veteran's Association held a commemorative and traditional ceremony on Monday, November 13, in honor of Veteran's Day and the Marine Corps birthday.

Campus police begin their annual Teddy Bear Drive with open arms

BY KELLY CORRIGAN
Pride Staff Writer

Teddy bears have brought joy to children since Teddy Roosevelt's time, and for 16 years they have been popular with the San Diego Regional Law Enforcement. In 1993 a single officer from the Coronado Police Department loaded his police car with 12 brand new teddy bears and drove to what was known as Children's Hospital to deliver the teddy bears to the sick and injured children.

Since then, the Children's Hospital has changed its name to Rady Children's Hos-

pital and now, the Teddy Bear Drive is a year-long event which will end on December 12. Instead of one single officer, a caravan of 100 police vehicles filled with stuffed animals travel to the Coronado Community Center. From there, the teddy bears are delivered to Rady Children's Hospital. As tradition, the officers will walk inside the hospital in full uniform with teddy bears in hand, awaiting the smiling faces of children as they hand out the bears.

Last year, CSUSM helped to donate 430 bears. A large sum of money was also donated to the Campus Police which made it possible for the hospital to buy more

bears. The hospital has access to bears that only cost \$1.77 each and for this reason the Campus Police accepts checks as well. The total bear count last year was 65,000.

The Campus Police will accept any kind of stuffed animal, as long as the stuffed animal is brand new with the tags still attached. Some children cannot risk getting infections, even if the stuffed animal is in good condition.

Officer Yosaren Panza of Campus Police who has delivered the stuffed animals in the past, says, "Personally, the last place I

See TEDDYBEAR, page 2

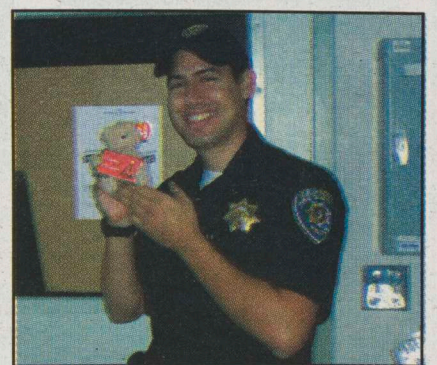
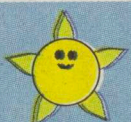


Photo courtesy of campus police
Officer Yosaren Panza holds the first teddy bear donated for this year's teddy bear drive.

COUGAR
WEATHER



Tue. Nov 14
71/59
Partly cloudy



Wed. Nov 15
81/53
Sunny



Thur. Nov 16
79/51
Sunny



Fri. Nov 17
77/51
Sunny



Sat. Nov 18
76/53
Sunny



Sun. Nov 19
76/52
Sunny



Mon. Nov 20
72/49
Sunny

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ASI readying donation of turkey baskets for the families in need



Photo courtesy of ASI

BY KELLY CORRIGAN
Pride Staff Writer

This Thanksgiving, ASI is contributing to the community through their annual Turkey Basket Drive in which they have sought out students who will donate turkey baskets for families in need. Through Paloma Elementary School and The Early Learning Center, ASI has contacted 16 families in need and on Thanksgiving, these families will enjoy a pleasant meal.

This year will mark the sixth year ASI has taken part in the Turkey Basket Drive. According to ASI's Student Coordinator of Activities, Sara Gallegos, "It gives the CSUSM community a chance to give back to the families in need around the area," she says.

When ASI assigned each student a family, they included the age and gender make-up of each family member. Each student signed up is expected to cover the cost of a turkey in the form of a gift card, as well as other non perishables that would add to a nice Thanksgiving meal. On November 21, ASI will collect the baskets and deliver them to the Early Learning Center where an ELC employee will deliver the baskets to the families.

From TEDDYBEAR, page 1

is just a really cool learning experience for students." Collins adds, "[It's] a great opportunity to show off the work they do, and there are cash awards!"

Student competitions at the campus level are required to write a four-to-five page paper on their research topic, and then asked to give a 10 minute oral presentation. The faculty judges then evaluate the paper and presentation.

Lastly, the top-ranked finalists then qualify to go on to the state competition. Once those finalists are chosen for the state competition level, CSUSM actually pays their way for the state competition and they are given another opportunity for more cash awards.

Last year, our campus sent 10 presentations with 11 presenters to state and came home with three first place awards. Collins says, "We're hoping this year for an equal if not greater turnout

for the competition. Last year we more than doubled our number of participants with 31 presenters on a wide variety of topics on solely our campus, and how awesome would it be to do it up that way again Cougars?"

For more information on this exciting opportunity, visit www.csusm.edu and click on the 'Research' link or contact Linda Collins at the Office of Graduate Studies and Research at (760) 750-4028.

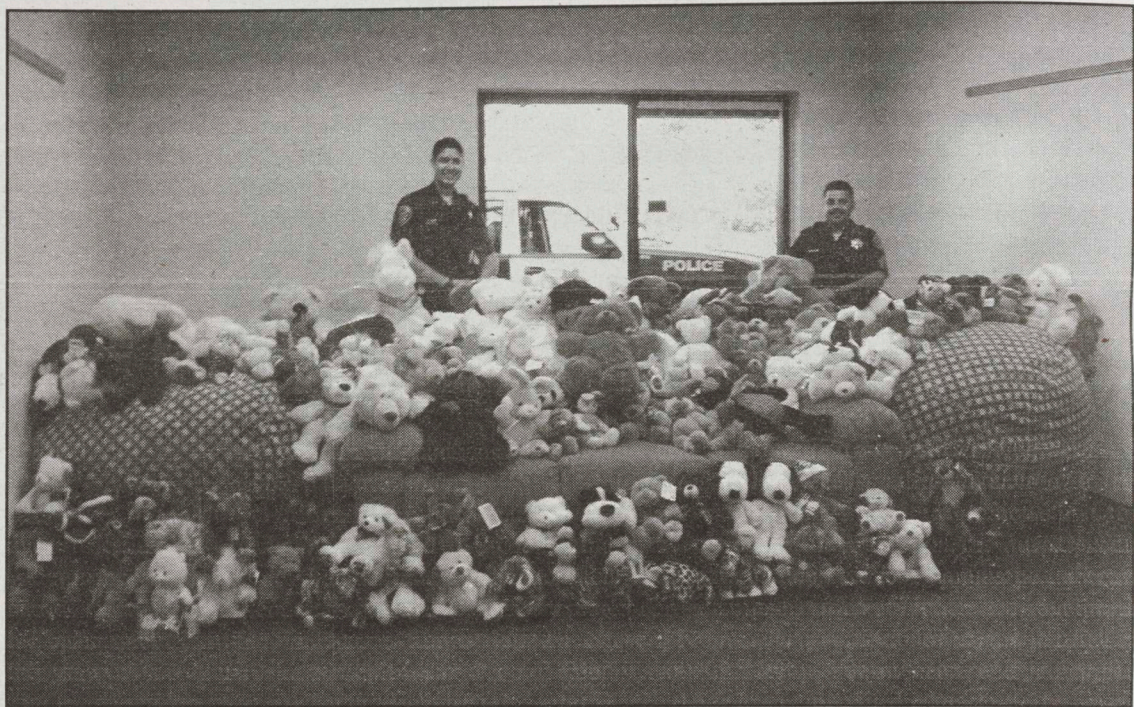


Photo courtesy of campus police

Officer Yosaren Panza (left) and Sgt. J. Flores, stand among all the stuffed animals donated by CSUSM students last year.

want to be is at the hospital. Now imagine being a sick child at the hospital away from home during the holidays. What this event does is brighten a child's day even if just a little. It really helps with the healing process. Especially for children being that they

are so impressionable at such a young age. It sends a message of hope and cheer."

The collection sites for teddy bears and other stuffed animals can be found on the first floor of Craven Hall, The Dome Cafeteria, Clarke Field House, the front

desk of the UVA and the University Police Department at 411 La Moree Road. The University Police Department is the only place where checks for donations are accepted.

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From ROADTRIP, page 1

students from Pepperdine University decided to take a road trip in order to grapple with that one permeating question all students face: 'What will I do with my life?' In a group of three, they hit the road in a borrowed RV, but their journey didn't just show them the sights of America. Along the way, they video taped their own interviews with people they admired; including the director of Saturday Night Live, Beth McCarthy Miller and Paval Brun, an Artistic Director for The Celine Dion Show in Las Vegas.

The interviews were plain and simple; the Pepperdine students wanted to know how people chased their dreams in life and what roads they took along their journey.

CSUSM is one of 100 universities in America that is partnered with Roadtrip Nation. Brian McAllister, one of the found-

ers of Roadtrip Nation, will be in the Kellogg Plaza from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. with the Roadtrip Nation trailer on Wednesday. Other representatives from Roadtrip Nation will accompany McAllister to talk to students and give tours of the RV. In the course of the day, they will each

visit six General Education and Lifelong Learning classes.

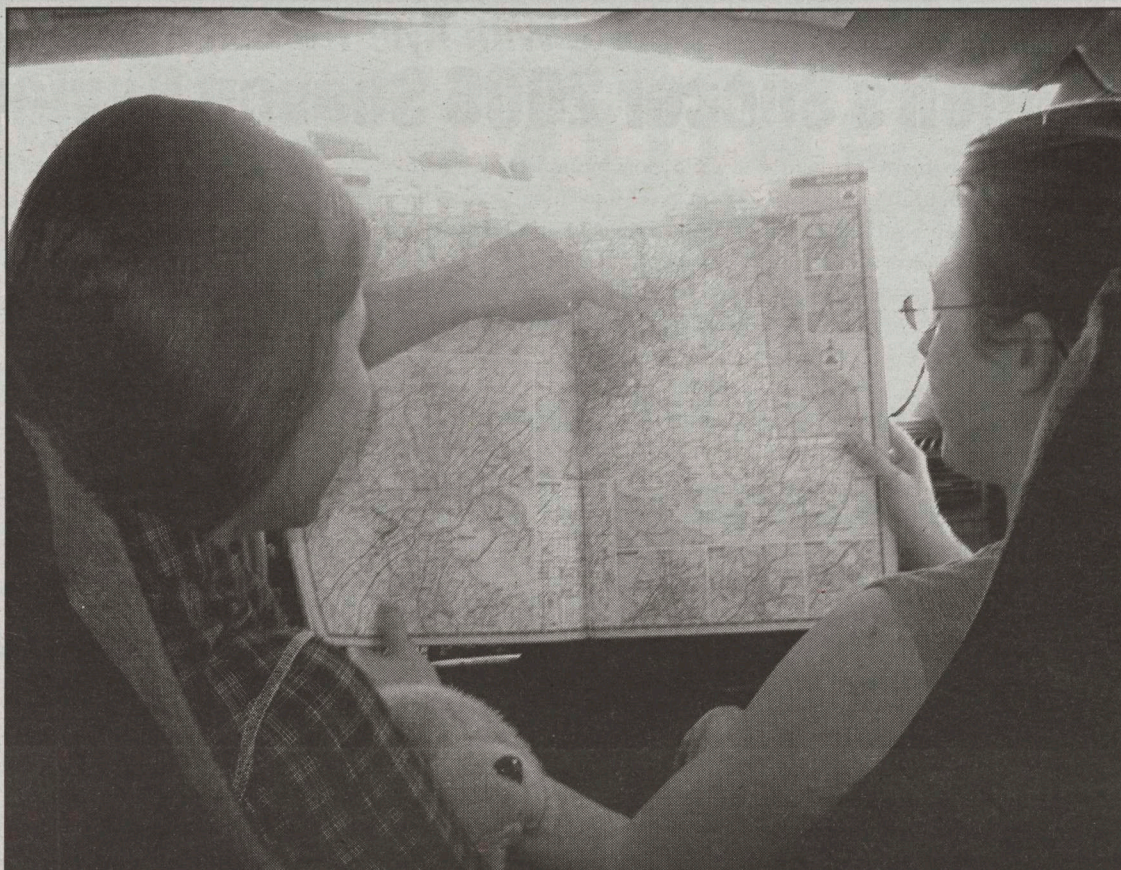
Beginning at 11:30 a.m., the Career Center, Student Life and Leadership, and ASI will be co-sponsoring a free BBQ provided by Hunter's Steakhouse. They will be serving hotdogs and veggie dogs.

Roadtrip Nation is looking for CSUSM students to apply for a

road trip of their own in which they will plan the destination, make phone calls and conduct interviews with people along the way. Professor Monica Demcho says, "This event emphasizes the importance of career exploration and encourages students to reflect on what brings them joy and is most important to them

"This event emphasizes the importance of career exploration and encourages students to reflect on what brings them joy and is most important to them in a future career."

-Professor Monica Demcho



Two students map out their roadtrip to Maryland.

Photo by Kelly Corrigan / The Pride

ing the grant program will take place in ACD 102. Students can also apply for a grant at Roadtrip Nation's website, <http://www.roadtripnation.com/htr/grants/about>.

Whether it is a local road trip in San Diego or in other parts of America, Roadtrip Nation will supply three groups made of three students with grants. Depending on the length of the road trip and the number of interviewees and other costs, the grants are between \$100 and \$500. At 4 p.m. an informational session regard-

ing the grant program will take place in ACD 102. Students can also apply for a grant at Roadtrip Nation's website, <http://www.roadtripnation.com/htr/grants/about>.

Demcho believes that with so many common professions students know of and hear about everyday, Roadtrip Nation gives them a wonderful opportunity to see what is really out there. Demcho says, "Planning and mapping out the trip, finding people to interview and spend-

ing 24 hours a day with the same group of people can be a fun experience, but at the same time a challenging task. In addition to learning about people's paths in life, students develop their communication, time management, conflict management, and even navigational skills. They form strong bonds with the friends that they travel with and make great connections with the people they interview."

For more information, visit www.roadtripnation.com.

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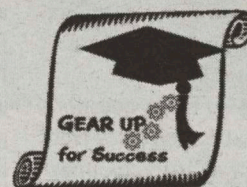
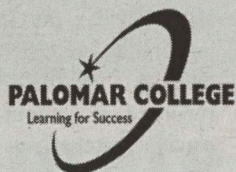
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Sports With Kyle Trembley CSUSM Sports Information Director www.csusm.edu/athletics

Women's Soccer 2006 Season Review: A Terrific Turnaround

Sitting at 1-6 halfway through the fall, the inaugural Cal State San Marcos women's soccer team appeared to be headed the same direction that most 'expansion teams' go in their first season.

Coach Ron Pulvers, who before the season believed his squad would be very competitive from day one, saw them struggle to get off the starting block. The Cougars were outscored 14-3 in those first seven games, and clearly were having trouble buying into the system and playing together.

But with their backs against the wall, the Cougar women refused to fold. Seemingly from nowhere, they started playing much better in all phases of the game.

The first evidence of this came in the eighth game of the season, where the Cougars outplayed La Sierra University but still found themselves headed into overtime with the game knotted at 2. While the squad might have been discouraged by this earlier in the year, the Cougars came together to get the result they believed they deserved. Off the overtime kickoff, Courtney Drummond, who had scored the squad's first two goals of the match, volleyed a pass from Kelly Wherry into the net, putting an official end to the Cougars' sluggish start to the season.

After "turning the corner" in that game, the women would continue

to build momentum. They went 6-2-1 in their final nine games, finishing the year with a respectable 7-8-1 record; which, as Coach Pulvers points out, could have easily been much better without some late blown leads.

What was the turning point? According to the players, it was not a single event, but rather the collective realization that they could indeed trust and rely on each other, and that being a true "team" was key to success. They began hanging out more outside of soccer, genuinely enjoying each others' company and bonding with one another. In the words of Drummond, "it all clicked" as this was happening. Coach Pulvers wholeheartedly agrees:

"It took the girls a while to come out of their shells and get along," he says. "Midway through the season they caught on. That's when we started playing better."

2006 was indeed a tale of two teams for Pulvers. As the squad developed, early-season frustration was replaced with pride, as well as optimism about the team's potential for next year. Players grew into their roles, leaders began to emerge, and the team became a lot of fun to watch. Indeed, the joy of following the Cougars this year was in watching a group of individual players come together as a team.

Of the many Cougars that made great improvements, Courtney Drummond was among the most prominent. The freshman forward started the season on the bench, but quickly worked her way into the starting lineup. Drummond started the team's final 15 games, and tied for the team-lead with 7 goals, while tacking on two assists. Lightning-quick and with great instincts, Drummond was a consistent force for the Cougar offense. Her aforementioned hat trick against La Sierra was the first in CSUSM soccer history, and one of the season's most memorable individual performances.

Joining Drummond on the attack were Clarissa Hidalgo and Randi Leyva. Utilized as a weapon off the bench for much of the second half of the season, Hidalgo was brought into games to provide the offense with a boost. She excelled in that role, tying Drummond for the Cougar scoring crown with 7 goals, and taking 43 shots, the most of any Cougar. Leyva became very involved in the offense late in the season, tallying assists in the team's final 3 games. She finished the year with 4 assists to go along with 3 goals.

Throughout the season, the midfield was anchored by Kelly Wherry. With her ability to handle the ball and keep possession, Wherry was vital to both the Cougar's offense

and defense. She also contributed to the squad's scoring, notching 3 goals and 2 assists. Fellow midfielder Miquella Martinez played the role of distributor, posting 2 assists of her own. Veronica Sanchez frustrated opposing offenses with her quick feet, and Tessa Smith and Angela Matera both contributed to the team's strong late-season midfield play.

The development of the Cougar defense was crucial to the team's turnaround. Early in the year, mental errors and communication breakdowns plagued the group. During the first seven games, opposing offenses beat keeper Jordanne Moore 14 times. During the last nine games, just 10 shots got past her; and she posted shutouts in the final three. She finished the year with a goals-against-average of under 1.50, and 4 shutouts. Moore's improvement, as well as that of the defense in front of her, was a key to the strong finish.

That defense was truly a major asset for the team late in the year. The group of Annica Perez, Alex Quindt, Lica Martinez, and Lucia Asbury were able to piece together their diverse skills over the course of the season to become a truly effective unit. Perez, a team captain, provided leadership in starting all 16 games. Quindt's toughness made her a rock-solid player that the coaching staff could

count on. Martinez started all but one game and proved to be a very consistent player, making good decisions throughout the year. Finally, Asbury, a converted forward who runs track in the spring, used her excellent speed to generally eliminate opponents' ability to outrun the Cougar defense. She also made her impact on the offensive end, posting 2 goals and 3 assists.

Some Cougars made contributions off the bench as well. Danae Shepard got into more than half of the team's games, providing the offense with instant energy. Tasha Stark and Jamie Beam both made contributions to the defense. Jennifer Schouwe got into six games during the year as well. And Katelyn Krauss, who red-shirted this season, provided the team with great moral support from the sideline.

Given the squad's strong finish to the season, it should be no surprise that expectations are high for 2007. The core group of players is expected to be back, and with a year of experience together, they should have none of the troubles with team chemistry that bogged down the squad early this fall. Combine that with what already appears to be a strong recruiting class, and you've got the makings of what could be a very special 2007 for Cal State San Marcos women's soccer!

Men's Soccer 2006 Season Review: Roaring past expectations

By Kyle Trembley

It's easy to look back on the 2006 men's soccer season and play the "what if" game.

After all, while the squad was a sparkling 12-3-1 on the year and undeniably one of the best in the region, when the time came to announce the playoffs, the Cougars were left on the outside looking in. What if the team had won in just once in those three losses? What if they hadn't tied Chapman College late in the season? What if the playoffs weren't structured in a way that allotted a maximum of one slot to independent teams?

But focusing on those questions unfairly draws attention away from the fact that it was truly an amazing first season for men's soccer at Cal State San Marcos.

Coach Ron Pulvers sums it up: "If you would've made a deal with me before the season saying that we'd go 12-3-1 but miss the playoffs, I would've taken it in a second."

That's because going into the year, nobody knew what to expect. Aided by Assistant Coaches Bobby Renneisen and Davy Phillips, Coach Pulvers recruited a group of guys – mostly freshmen – during last spring, in the hopes that they'd come together by the season's beginning. But in training camp and preseason, the squad's performance was decidedly underwhelming. They were fast, yes, but didn't appear to be playing with enough passion or toughness to compete at a high level.

Then, after a hard-fought road loss at Cal Baptist in their first game, the Cougars came home to

participate in the first-ever intercollegiate sporting event held at Cal State San Marcos. On August 25th, the squad entered Mangrum Field to take on heavily-favored Cal Poly Pomona. An unexpectedly large and rowdy crowd of fans came down from the University Village to cheer on the Cougars, and President Karen S. Haynes as well as other key CSUSM figures were in attendance.

What they saw was a Cougar squad that came together in front of their eyes. With the game tied at 1-1 in the final minute, freshman forward Michael Nuovo outran the Pomona defense to a loose ball, and tucked it under the keeper to give the Cougars a very dramatic first win in the program's history.

They'd never look back. Following the Pomona victory, the squad rattled off six straight wins, outscoring their opponents by a total of 21-1. The final game in that stretch was a 1-0 win against Point Loma Nazarene, a nationally-ranked school in the NAIA. Though the Cougars fell in overtime to Vanguard the following match, they won five of their final seven games to close out the season.

But the question remains: How did the team go from moderate expectations (at best) right before the season to a 12-3-1 record on the year?

According to Coach Pulvers, it was all about team chemistry.

"The season is a sprint, not a marathon," says Pulvers. "I underestimated how quickly the guys would get along. They genuinely liked each other and bought in to our system."

In trying to find the major cata-

lyst for this chemistry, one need not look further than Ben Crouse. For the first three years of his collegiate playing career, Crouse competed at the University of Notre Dame, starting on their defense for most of his junior season. His arrival at CSUSM gave the program instant credibility; and more importantly, gave the young squad a leader.

"Benny [Crouse] was the key," remarked Pulvers. "His experience and personality brought the team together."

Crouse anchored the group both on and off the field, and his vocal leadership combined with his willingness to buy into the coaches' system set the tone early for the younger members of the squad. Crouse, a senior, was appointed captain early on by Coach Pulvers, because (in Pulvers' words) "it was a no-brainer." On the season, Crouse recorded 5 goals and 2 assists, and was named to the All-Region team – no small feat, given that CSUSM is not even in a conference.

While Crouse brought leadership and rock-solid play, it was up to the freshmen to provide the flare – and they delivered. Forwards Michael Nuovo and Curtis Marcikic drove opposing defenses crazy with their speed and creativity. Nuovo, whose ability to weave through defenders produced some of the squad's most impressive plays of the year, finished second on the team with 9 goals. He also recorded the program's first-ever hat trick in a loss to Santa Cruz. Marcikic, who provided the attack with much-needed size, tacked on 6 more goals as well as 6 assists.

The team-leader in goals did not come from the front line, however. No, the crown went to midfielder Bradley Seidenglanz, whose 10 goals and 6 assists made him the CSUSM points leader by a healthy margin. While he was great throughout the year, Seidenglanz's 3 goal 3 assist performance against Menlo was one for the ages. Coach Pulvers called it one of the best performances he's ever seen by a wide-midfielder at the college level.

Though the goal-scorers grabbed the headlines, their efforts were made possible by a fantastic supporting cast. Fullbacks Brian Luhrs and Chris Duncel were exceptional throughout the season, consistently frustrating opposing offenses and effectively controlling the ball when necessary. Fellow fullback Jose Rivas was also solid, starting all 16 games for the Cougars.

Midfielder Miguel Jacobo was a constant thorn in the side of opposing defenses. His runs served to open them up for other players on the Cougar offense, and Jacobo himself recorded 3 goals and 3 assists. Fellow midfielders Troy Skomra and Chris Wyatt proved to be effective distributors, dishing out 5 assists each. Skomra's long throw-ins and Wyatt's accurate free kicks were important factors to the team's success as well.

When injuries or fatigue struck the starters, the Cougars' bench proved a terrific asset. Crowd-favorite Daniel Vasquez got into 14 games during the year, tallying 4 goals. Demetri Hidalgo sparked the offense in multiple matches, usually coming in late in the half

to provide the attack with fresh legs. He recorded 4 goals and 2 assists on the year. Bobby Miles and Joey Hill both got significant playing time, and proved that they could hold their own as starters if the need arose. Finally, the Zuniga brothers (Brent and Brandon) provided late-game speed to an already-fast Cougar attack.

All this happened in front of Cougar keeper Trent Painter, who was a wall throughout the season. Painter, a junior, started all 16 games for CSUSM, recording 41 saves while allowing just 16 goals. His decision making and vocal leadership solidified the Cougar defense. On the season, Painter recorded a shutout in half the squad's matches.

Looking towards next year, there is plenty for Cougar fans to be excited about. Though the loss of Ben Crouse will hurt, Coach Pulvers believes the experience gained by the returning players will prove valuable enough to overcome it. The defensive slack is expected to be picked up by Luhrs and Duncel, who both look like emerging stars for the team. On offense, Nuovo, Marcikic, and Seidenglanz are expected to continue to grow in their roles as the team's primary goal scorers, and continue to build toughness and stamina. With Painter back in net and everyone with another year of experience under their belts, Coach Ron Pulvers and his staff already have high expectations for 2007, and hope the Cougar community will rally around the team and be there to enjoy the success!

University Voice

"What is the most important way the November 4th election will affect you?"



"Hopefully by helping the American image abroad"

PSCI Senior

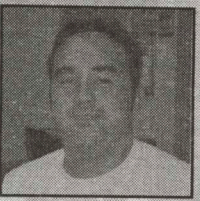
Richard Hawkins



"I think as tax payers we will now pay for past mistakes."

Sociology Senior

Sylvia Benitez



"It's going to affect my viewpoint on the government, because I saw the power of the people restore my faith in government"

Literature and Writing Studies Junior

Ryan Martinez



"I'll be affected by changes in the economy: gas prices, and changes in tuition."

Global Business Management Junior

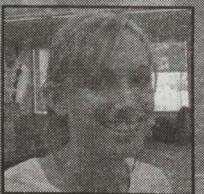
Priscilla Wood



"It'll help the economy which will help my personal finances"

Accounting Junior

Alexander Slavin



"It's unforeseeable"

Communications Senior

Natalie Preiss



"It's most important to see what the new policy decisions will be considering we're in a time of war which could potentially affect me"

Liberal Studies Senior

Bobby Allen

Ultimate Fighting Championship Review

BY FRANCISO MACIAS-RIOS
Pride Staff Writer

We usually associate November and December with Thanksgiving and Christmas, but those days are over. It is going to be a jam-packed, blockbuster, record breaking, call into work sick, unplug your phone, and ignore your homework, electrifying November and December for all of you UFC fans. First off, on Saturday, November 18, and December 30, 2006 the UFC is giving us two huge fight cards. The first event is happening in less than six days and it will showcase two championship fights. The first will be the unbeatable Matt Hughes taking on the French Canadian George

St. Pierre for a second time. Their first fight went to Matt Hughes, however, G.S.P. put up a good fight. This time around I think G.S.P. is hungry for the title belt that has had called the waist of Matt Hughes home. After Matt Hughes beat up BJ Penn in their last fight, G.S.P. came into the octagon and told M.H. that he was not impressed with his performance. *Those are some fightin' words ya'll.* Matt Hughes took G.S.P.'s broken English with a smile and shook his hand and laughed. Damn, I'm excited for this re-match; it will be one you can't miss. The second bout has the 6' 8", 265lbs Heavyweight Champion Tim "The Maniac" Sylvia vs. the 5'9", 245lbs Jeff "The

Snowman" Munson. There is a huge height and weight difference with this fight; I don't know how it was put together. It is the true David versus Goliath. Will Sylvia's long arms and legs keep Munson back, or will Munson's short and strong stature and shooting ability take Sylvia and muscle him to the ground? This fight is not as exciting as the rest due the fact that they are so unmatched, but you never know with the UFC. I'm not done folks. In another bout, Frank Mir will try and redeem himself on Saturday night against my personal favorite Brandon "The Truth" Vera. This fight is dear to me because Vera was my Muay Thai and Jui Jitsu trainer. Mir who was once

considered an unstoppable force in the UFC is slowly fading. If he can beat Vera he might get some of his clout back. However, Vera, who is a perfect 3-0 in the UFC, all by knockout or submissions and 7-0 overall, is not going to lie down easy. Vera has strong ground game and powerful striking ability. This should be a great fight. This historic night also features such big names like Nick Diaz, Joe "Daddy" Stephenson and James "Sandman" Irvin. Once the Thanksgiving dinner has settled in and the Christmas buzz is gone, just as we get ready to bring in the New Year, the UFC has one last gift for us. Two words people: Ortiz/Liddell. Their first fight was a good one,

which was mostly dominated by the Ice Man. However, Ortiz was an immature, cocky punk in their first fight; now he is a mature, cocky older punk. Ortiz has learned a lot since his loss to Iceman and will come out that night looking to take the Ice Man's belt. Chuck Liddell has been on a winning streak since beating Randy Couture for the belt over a year ago. This night also has the return of the Pit bull Andrei Arlovski, who is coming off his loss to Tim Sylvia. The ever popular Forrest Griffin will be jumping back into the Octagon to take on Keith "The Dean of Mean" Jardine as well. Look for more UFC news and commentary in the Pride paper in 2007.

Website of the week: del.icio.us

BY JONATHAN THOMPSON
Pride Staff Writer

Delicious.com or del.icio.us is a part of the new era of websites dubbed Web 2.0. Delicious.com refers to itself as a "social bookmarking website."

Joshua Schachter created the website in 2003. The website started out as a way to share online bookmarks with friends and eventually grew into del.icio.us.com Inc. in 2005. Also in 2005 Yahoo became a financial contributor to further the success of the website.

The website consists of bookmarks that are available to all users. Users can create personalized lists of their favorite links. Other users can view and copy lists from other users. The website also hosts a "what's hot" category on the homepage for always replenishing and refreshing lists of the latest hot links.

The website requires users to create an account and install two buttons on their internet toolbar. These buttons allow for the swiftness and ease of adding new bookmarks to their lists. Users then tag bookmarks by assigning words that comprise the bookmark. For example, csusm.edu could be assigned tags such as Cougar, The Pride, San Marcos, The Dome, etc.

Tim O'Riley is credited with creating the phrase, "Web 2.0". The term began when O'Riley used Web 2.0 as the title for a series of conferences held during 2004.

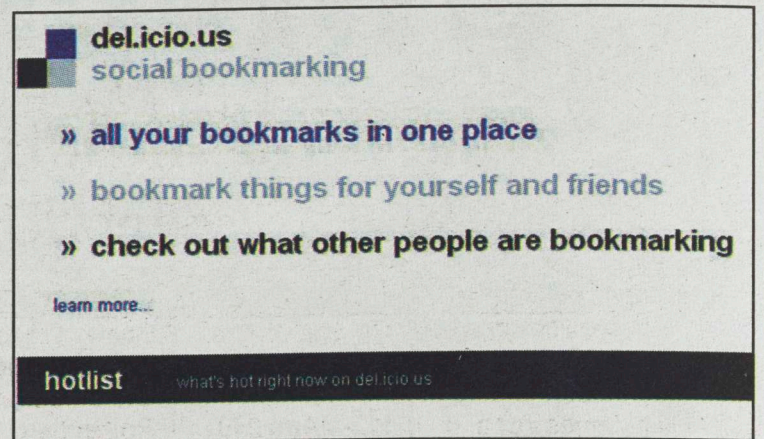
Web 2.0 generally refers to a second generation of websites. The new era for the internet consists of social networking sites and communication tools. Web 2.0 focuses on the user of the internet as the contributor of information. Together users form a type of informational network

that other users benefit from. Web 2.0 seems to be a community on the internet.

Other examples of Web 2.0 are wikipedia.com, myspace.com, youtube.com, and amazon.com. These sites all have one thing in common: that users can contribute to the website, enriching the content that other users can potentially benefit from.

Although Web 2.0 is the common term used for the new breed of websites, many people and technological companies are skeptical of the phrase for numerous reasons. Some people argue that by labeling these new web sites 2.0 implies that the new era is merely an update version of original or common websites such as AOL 9.0 and AOL 10.0. They argue that Web 2.0 should be labeled entirely different.

Others have labeled Web 2.0 as a buzzword that has negative



effects. Some people accuse websites of labeling themselves 2.0 to generate hype and in return produce more money. Others are also accused of labeling their website 2.0 in hopes of creating enough capital to induce a buyout from a larger company.

The combination of the new era of websites and highly lucrative opportunities have led some economists to label this situation

the new bubble, or Bubble 2.0, the second boom in the internet world. They are referring to the dot com boom and bust of the late nineties.

Despite the controversies, Web 2.0 remains the official unofficial term for the new era of websites. Take a few minutes and go check out del.icio.us.com today. See what the community of the 21st century has to offer.

From ELECTION, page 1

adopt more socially conservative views than they did in the past.

"[The election] reminded me of the World Series", said Bill Maher on Larry King Live on November 9th. Maher continues, "The St. Louis Cardinals didn't really win, the Detroit Tigers lost... That's sort of where the Democrats are. Let's see if you can win an election against a party that hasn't disgraced itself so horribly in every single way a party could disgrace itself." The Democratic Party did not lose any incumbents in either

the U.S. House of Representatives or the Senate.

The election of a Democratic majority prompted the resignation of Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld. Editors of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine times called for this resignation in a November 4th editorial. This editorial stated that "Donald Rumsfeld must go...Rumsfeld has lost credibility with the uniformed leadership, with the troops, with Congress and with the public at large... [Rumsfeld's] strategy," says the Army times, "has failed, and his ability to lead is compro-

mised. And although the blame for our failures in Iraq rests with the secretary, it will be the troops who bear its brunt." Some conservatives argue that Rumsfeld's departure will do nothing to fix the stalemate. "The issue isn't Rumsfeld, it's Bush and the prosecution of this war," said conservative talk show host and former San Diego Mayor Roger Hedgecock during an election night interview.

The Bush Administration plans to replace Rumsfeld with Bob Gates, former CIA Director and President of Texas A& M Univer-

sity. President Bush also plans to push a domestic surveillance bill and John Bolton's nomination to resume his post as U.N. Ambassador through Congress before January.

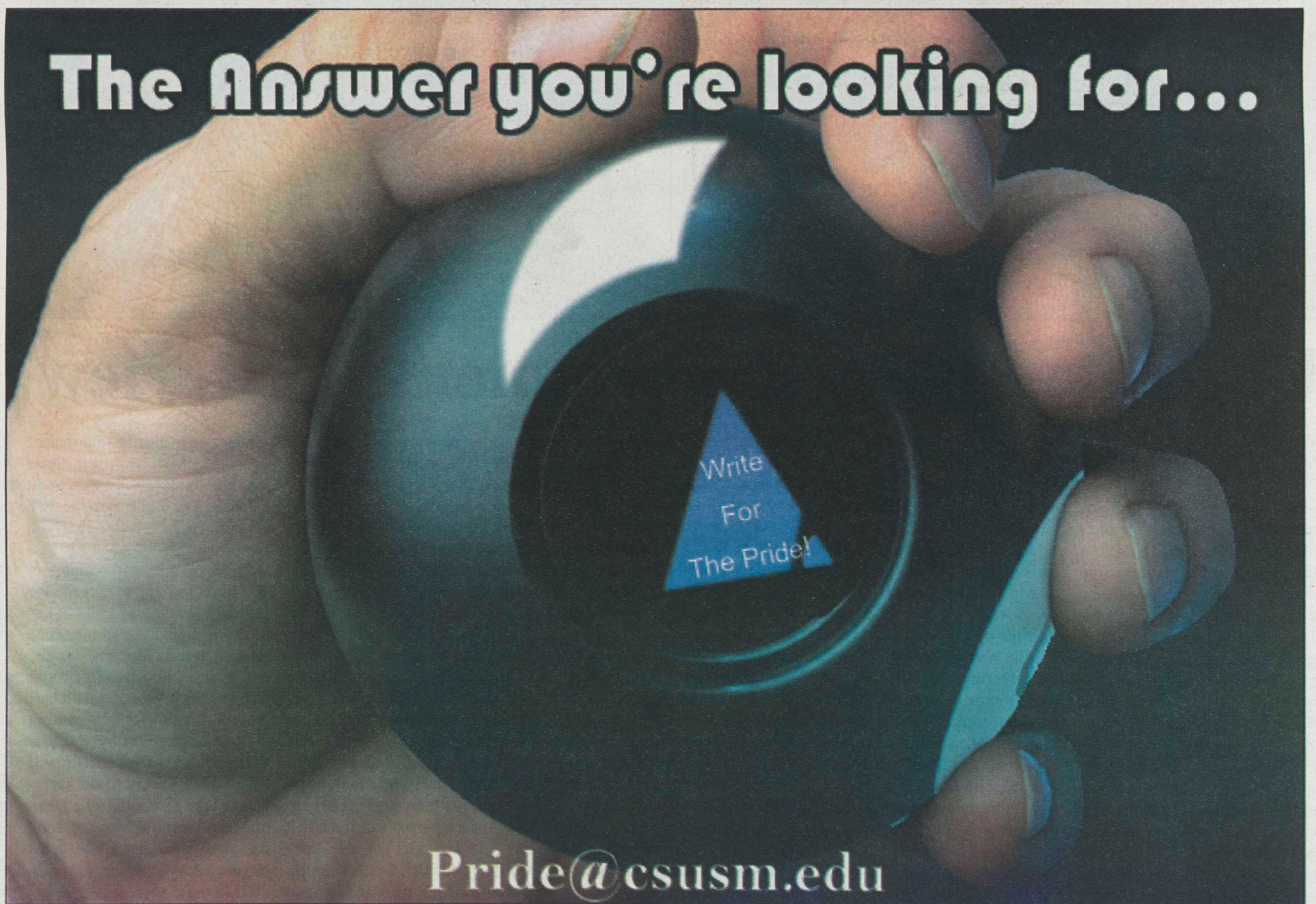
California voters approved of State Propositions 1A through 1E, which all aim to improve infrastructure. Voters also approved Proposition 83, to increase criminal sanctions against violent and habitual sex offenders. Every other state proposition failed to gain voter approval.

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger "will be back." He

terminated (the cliché seems appropriate here) Democratic challenger Phil Angelides with a double-digit margin of victory. Schwarzenegger, met with Mexican President Vicente Fox on a trade mission soon after his reelection.

San Diego County voters, unlike many other districts around the U.S., let incumbent members of the U.S. House of Representatives keep their seats in the capitol.

Sen.Dianne Feinstein will also return to the confines of the beltway.



NOVEMBER 14-20

Tues
14Wed
15Thurs
16Fri
17Sat
18Sun
19Mon
20

The History of the Luiseno People, Film by James Luna. (6 pm Arts 240)

University Promotion and Tenure Committee vs. College Promotion and Tenure Committee Town Hall Meeting (12-1pm UH 443)



College of Arts and Sciences Meet and Greet (12-1 Arts 240)

Strategies for helping someone quit unhealthy addictive behaviors. (CFH 110 12-1pm)

Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation National Education Tour (9-3pm Library Plaza)

Community and World Literary Series: Jerome Rothenberg (A CD 102, 7pm)

Indoor rock climbing. (4:30pm Sign up at CFH \$5 Transportation food and admission included)

eCrimes Security Forum: Minimizing Electronic Theft (MRK 125 7-9am)

The Damned with The Adored, the Epoxies (8pm House of Blues \$25)

Kris Kristofferson (8pm Center for the Arts, Escondido, \$20-\$35)

Band in Black: Johnny Cash tribute band (9pm Comstock Bar & Grill \$5)

Jacques Thibaud String Trio (8pm Temecula Community Theater, \$34)

Valaam Russian men's vocal quartet (7:30pm San Rafael Parish, Rancho Bernardo)

Riverdance (2 and 8pm San Diego Civic Theatre \$26-\$85)

Frank Black with Kentucky Prophet (8:30p House of Blues \$25)

Lady Sovereign with Young Love (8:30 pm House of Blues \$18)

San Diego Symphony: Yoav Talmi conducting Franck's Symphony in D minor (2pm Copley Hall, \$20-\$85)

Lemonheads with Vietnam (9pm Belly Up Tavern \$22)

Last day of San Diego Food bank canned food drive (drop off areas at CFH, Library 4th floor, the Dome)

31 days left in Fall 2006 semester (only 19 days until finals begin!)



College of Arts & Sciences Fall Graduation Reception 2006

~ Light refreshments will be served ~

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

6:00 p.m. — 8:00 p.m.

Grand Ballroom, Conference Center
California Center for the Arts, Escondido
340 N. Escondido Boulevard

Make your reservations by Monday, November 20

Faculty RSVP: coas@csusm.edu

Student RSVP: grad2006@csusm.edu

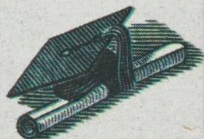
Please include full name, and the exact number of guests.

Seating is limited.

Graduating students are asked to limit their guests to 4 adults.

This event is open to all fall graduating students, COAS faculty & staff.

Any attendees with disabilities who will require reasonable accommodations to attend this event should contact Daphne Killian at (760) 750-4056 at least 5 working days prior to the date of the reception.



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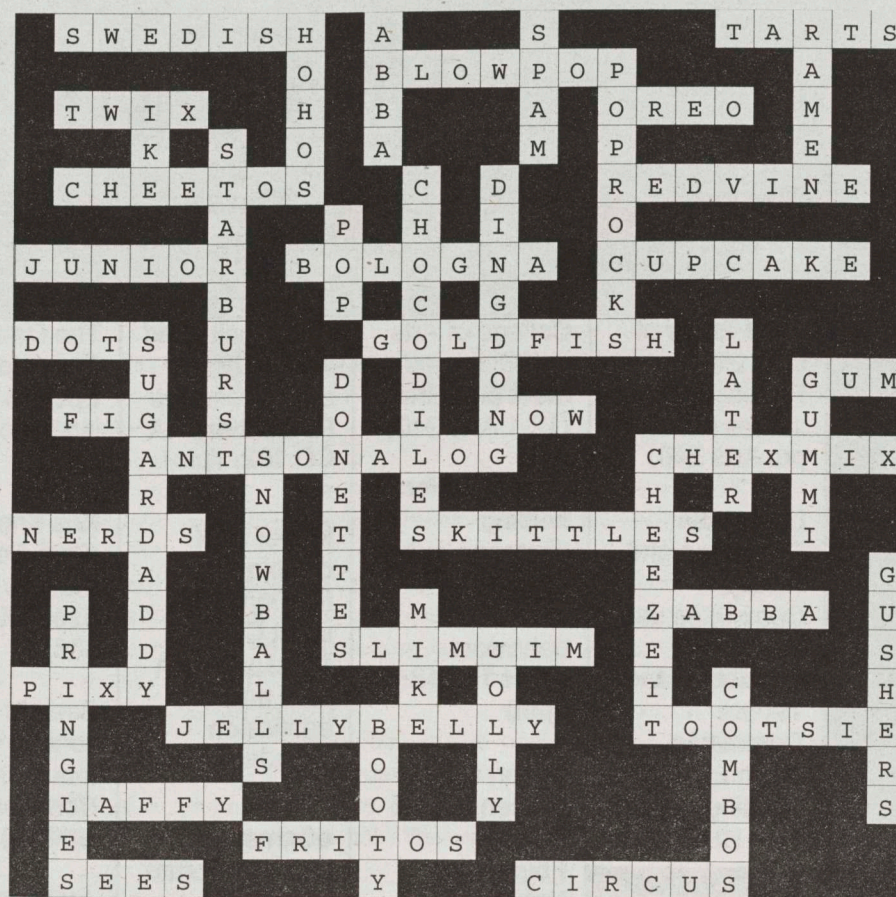
San Marcos East (760) 489-0250

630 Nordahl Rd. #J (Exit Nordahl off I78, Go North)
(Across the street from Wal-Mart Shopping Center)

Last week's key:
"Snacks"

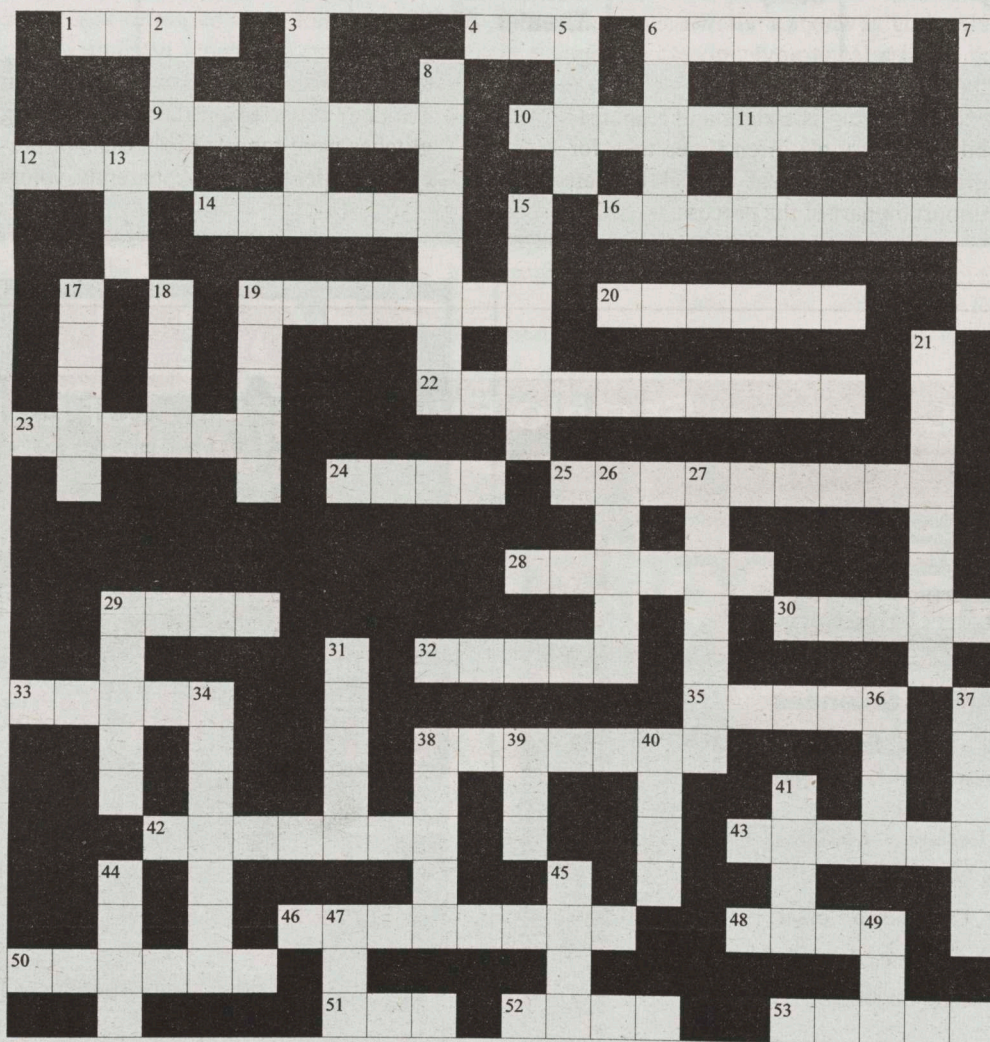
Cougar Words SS

*Bands, past
and present*



ACROSS

- 1 'playful' Former G-Unit member
- 4 "Stick to the rivers and the lakes that you're used to"
- 6 DUO singers of "all my life"
- 9 Bootylicious former destyns child member
- 10 'Not old' singers of "Your favorite Weapon"
- 12 Singers of "over my head and cable car"
- 14 He's "Black on both sides"
- 16 Napster hating rock band led by James Hetfield and Lars Ulrich
- 19 Hello goodbye from Penny Lane
- 20 White Rapper from 8 mile
- 22 They "dare you to move"
- 23 Say it ain't so if you destroy your sweater
- 24 'He is so sick of love songs' but he likes the matrix
- 25 Creepy Karma Police
- 28 Singers of "staring at the sun and identity crisis"
- 29 out of focus "Song 2" singers
- 30 Allegedly dead rapper embraced the "Thug Life"
- 32 Gross Toothed singer of "Pieces of you"
- 33 Garden State's life changers
- 35 He'll walk you to your seat and sing you "let it burn"
- 38 "sombdoy told me that you had a boyfriend that looked like my girlfriend"
- 42 A material girl who rocked 80's 90's and today!
- 43 Cash rules everything around this clan, with methodman and redman
- 46 non American Idiots who like DOOKIE
- 48 I got you babe diva
- 50 Singer of "butterfly, fantasy and always my baby"



- 51 Just released Black Parade and loved their chemistry class
- 52 "Got two turntables and a microphone"
- 53 Thankfully, they went BYE BYE BYE
- 13 A Fire Inside
- 15 R&B singer of "Me & U"
- 17 Jazz's _____ Davis
- 18 Jason _____
- 19 Oh so quiet girl from iceland
- 21 "The Scientist" who likes "clocks"
- 26 A complicated girl who likes skater boys
- 27 Singers of "pardon me, drive, and stellar"
- 29 Poway Band who runs through the streets naked
- 31 "Bohemian Rhapsody" royal singers of the early 80's
- 34 Old Blue Eyes loves New York and has the world on a string
- 36 Red Headed country
- diva
- 37 Black Eyed Pees front woman
- 38 British singers of "somewhere only we know"
- 39 Singers of "my own worst enemy"
- 40 Bell peppers gone rock and roll (abbr)
- 41 Gwen Stefani's lover boy and singers of "Glycerine"
- 44 vegetable like band that sings "blind"
- 45 Pastry like singers of "The Distance and Never There"
- 47 Deepest part of sleep if youre losing your religion
- 49 Blind piano player

DOWN

- 2 Technoish house music made of porcelain
- 3 Jim Morrison's 70's band the can Light your fire
- 5 Ultimate 80's band that ails all wounds
- 6 'Not East' performer who sings "gold digger"
- 7 "smooth" Guitar player with Rob Thomas
- 8 He's rocking in the suburbs
- 11 "straight out of

Letters to the Editor:

BY JOSH SANDOVAL
Pride Sports Writer



If you know me, then you know it isn't a huge stretch for me to cover things other than sports.

Last Tuesday, I covered the San Diego General Elections for "The Associated Press." It was the second time I covered an election day, and this time I learned a lot more than the first time. I also had a lot more fun since I got to cover it with my friend, Chantal Pasag, whose experience about the night is also detailed.

I covered the Primary Elections in June for the "AP" and it was a terrifying experience, because I was so concerned with not screwing up. This time I had an idea of what was expected, so I was able to learn a lot about the behind the scenes type stuff involved with elections. I had the opportunity to venture into some rooms that many will never see, and meet some very interesting people.

Around 2 AM, we were taken into the warehouse where all the ballots and machines are taken from trucks and transported down an assembly line of people, eventually leading to the tabulation room. I felt like I was miniaturized, placed into some sort of a machine, witnessing gears operate

and function like nothing I had seen before.

I met David Morten when I covered the Primaries. I am not quite sure what his official title is, but he is good at his job. He passed the time with us past 3AM. He made the wee hours of the morning much more enjoyable as he provided someone to crack jokes with.

I have never been comfortable around police officers or sheriffs, so you can imagine my discomfort when we spent most of the night around five sheriffs. I think they could see my discomfort, but by the end of the night we were all buddies.

The security at the registrar of voter's building is quite intense. Even the lowest people in the bureaucracy question who you are, which led to me getting in some arguments, as you can imagine me with my "don't take crap" personality.

Chantal and I have been members of the media for some time now, but this provided an opportunity to meet some new people in our profession. I met Sasha Foo from KUSI, a co-worker of Chantal's, who was very nice. I also met Carlo Cecchetto from KFMB News eight, who is a fellow Lakers fan, and had a lot of advice to offer about the T.V. media business.

Since voting is a right and responsibility that people often times take for granted, it was great to feel like an important part of the process.

BY CHANTAL PASAG
Special to The Pride

I have to admit I was "riding the high horse" this past Election Day as I had the privilege to work for one of the most prominent news sources in the nation, "The Associated Press." That night, the polls were about to close, and the line was still around the building. Unfortunately, for some last minute voters, they were cut off from trying to perform their civic duty. The way that some people react under stress is the way a voting machine reacts when being tampered with... they go ballistic. Under the pressures of voting, one woman proclaimed that "voting is not a right, it's a responsibility!" Recalling what she said post Election Day provoked the thought of the media's responsibility to report the number of voting machine glitches countywide, statewide, and nation wide.

Fortunately, the resignation of Donald Rumsfeld and the democratic take over of the house and senate saturated headlines. Of course it should, because that's huge! But what about the glitches? Apparently there were some problems at a polling location of a CSUSM professor. She says her husband got to vote twice because of technical difficulties with the machines. The "San Diego Union Tribune" reported on the matter saying glitches were reported in dozens of precincts earlier that day. Apparently, voters

became frustrated as they were unable to use computerized voting machines and were "forced to use paper ballots instead."

The role that I played election night, a reporter for the AP San Diego division, was pertinent to the entire election process. Just as the media, particularly television plays a pertinent role as an information outlet to our society. Most people look for convenience when it comes to information, but convenience lacks relevant information. So, not only is it our civic responsibility to vote, but it's our responsibility to seek out various news sources rather than relying on one.

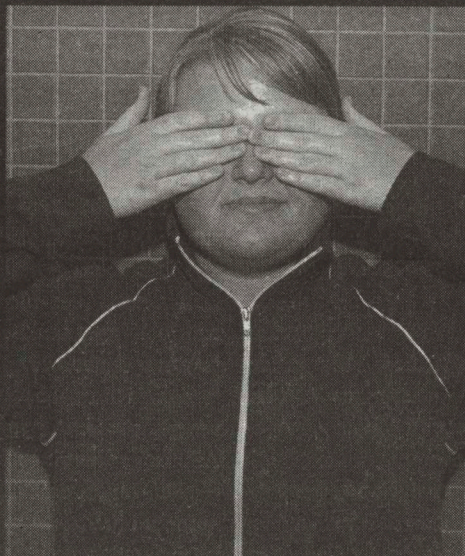
I've come down from my high horse since that night. The entire experience was very interesting. I got to converse with sheriff investigators about taser guns and I-pods, which was an unusual mix of small talk. Also, some cronies from my everyday job at KUSI stopped by for their live shots at the registrar of voter's office. I also had the chance to briefly chat with Carlo Cecchetto from KFMB channel eight.

It's a nice dose of reality to know that most of the professionals I talked with had a good sense of humor. For the people in this industry, having a sense of humor is what keeps them sane, as the news can sometimes disconnect them from human suffering. As former comedian Victor Borge said, "Laughter is the shortest distance between two people."

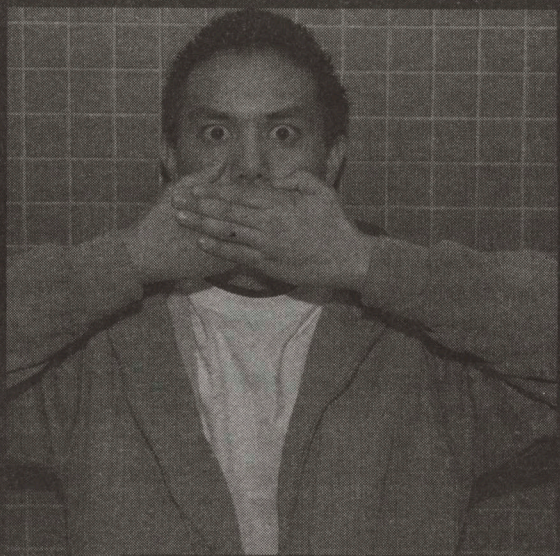
HEAR NO EVIL



SEE NO EVIL



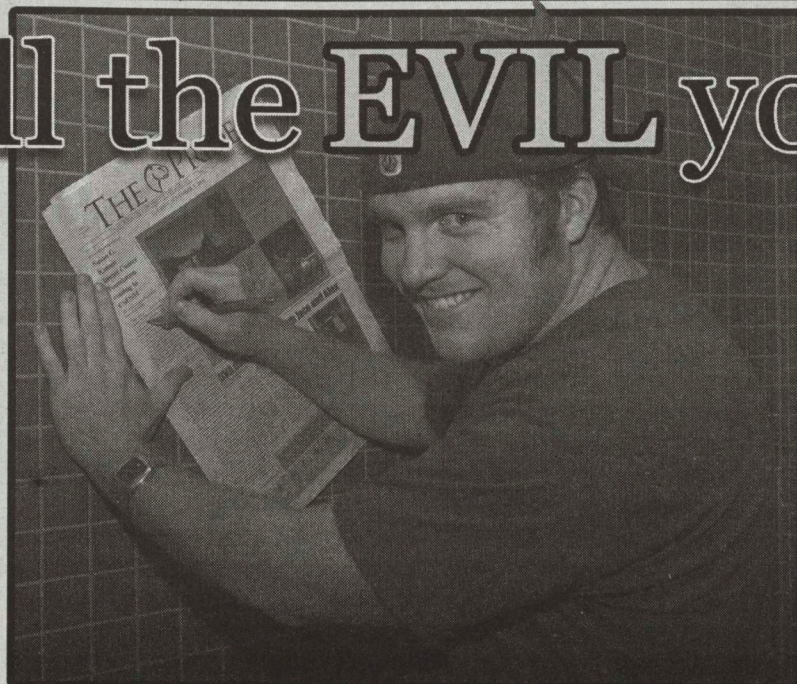
SPEAK NO EVIL



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Write for
The Pride!

Just for shiggles

By Jenny Bigpond



Nuts

By Greg Bishop



Aries

Mar. 21 – Apr. 19

That special someone you've had your eye on will let you know how they feel come next Wednesday. It's time to be honest about your true intentions and wear your heart on your sleeve. The outcome looks prosperous.

Libra

Sept. 23 – Oct. 23

Have too much going on in your life? Put beauty and glamour on the back burner for the time being and focus on prioritizing the issues at hand. Once you have resolved the issues and reduced the weighing stressors in your life, then you can enjoy some much-needed downtime.

Taurus

Apr. 20 – May 20

When the sun and the moon align at the end of the month, the decision that's been eating away

at you will finally resolve itself. Take a deep breath and relax, all will work out the way you anticipate and then you'll be able to redirect your energy in a new way.

Scorpio

Oct. 24 – Nov. 21

Make-up your mind! Stop squandering your potential and wasting valuable time on things that aren't really important. You know the right thing to do, so just do it!

Gemini

May 21 – June 21

That big purchase you've been pining away for will find itself into your possession soon. Go ahead and celebrate, you deserve it. Plus, your friends and family will be envious of your special acquisition; don't feel bad about flaunting it in their faces.

Sagittarius

Nov. 22 – Dec. 21

Money is not your friend this week. If you can, try at all costs to not spend money. Why, you ask? Because this week in particular, the alignment of the stars will cloud your judgment and impair any investment decisions you might make.

Cancer

June 22 – July 22

Family values are extremely important to you, especially around this time of the year. Let your family know how much you care about them by spending time with them. Try a family outing to the local park or singing by the fire with hot chocolate, for starters.

Capricorn

Dec. 22 – Jan. 19

Be proactive about how you communicate with others. The way in

which you portray your thoughts is imperative in shaping the perceptions of others. You might actually enjoy being center stage, especially when others coming running to you for advice.

Leo

July 23 – Aug. 22

As a Leo, your dominant and independent traits will surface this month. It's about time you take charge. Stop letting co-workers and friends walk all over you. Speak up for a change; your views will sway the opinions of those around you.

Aquarius

Jan. 20 – Feb. 18

Have you been feeling neglected? It is time to let someone know you are feeling left out. Try a little old-fashioned flirting to start. Who knows, an off chance meeting with a stranger might turn out in your favor.

Virgo

Aug. 23 – Sept. 22

The stars are telling you to find new ways to creatively express your inner spirit. With too much going on around you, it's time to set aside a few minutes for a heart-to-heart with yourself. Expressing yourself doesn't mean painting a masterpiece, how about just trying a new brand of shampoo or rearranging the furniture in your room.

Pisces

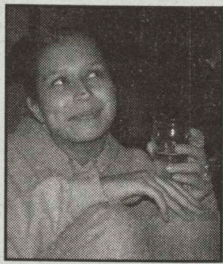
Feb. 19 – Mar. 20

Your undeniably strong will and fierce character pretty much means that you always get whatever you want, right? Soon enough you'll feel compelled to do something nice for others. Volunteering is good for the soul. Try volunteering at a soup kitchen or other in need organization.

Beer of the Week

Lightning Kolsch

BY MARY FOLEY
Pride Staff Writer



I'm not really a drinker. I'm past my kegger days, and at restaurants when everyone else orders a beer, I order a pop. So you could imagine my surprise last week, when I tasted the Lightning Kolsch and actually liked it. A beer!? That I like! Lightning Kolsch doesn't leave that aftertaste in your mouth that leads you to wonder, "Why am I drinking this?" It tastes sweet, but not too sweet like a frou-frou fruity mixed drink. Also, it's locally brewed, so you'll be supporting the community! So if you're still searching for a beer that you enjoy the taste of, Lightning Kolsch is a great choice.

BY AMANDA ANDREEN
Pride Staff Writer



Housed with authentic German-styled brewing machinery, the beers Lightning Brewery makes are tasty and cheerful. Gearing up to celebrate their annual 'Lightning Fest' at Churchills this Thursday, November 16, there will be plenty of Lightning Kolsch to go around. Coming in at a low 4.6% alcohol by volume, this beer is a delightful and sweet addition to any meal; so good, I just couldn't get enough of the citrus-flavored treat when I paired it with a scrumptious French dip. Designed to be a lighter beer that consumers can enjoy one round after the other, Lightning Kolsch will tantalize your taste buds and paint a warm glow on your cheeks; that is after two or three pints of course. I've tasted many a beer since turning 21, but this one might just take the cake as the sweetest, most spectacular beer I've ever had; heck, it's so sweet it could be a cake in itself.

BY SOPHIE BRINK
Pride Staff Writer



I confess that I'm not a big beer fancier. I much prefer sampling from the vast array of pleasures that make up the cocktail cosmos. Lightning Kolsch, however, has nudged the door to a new realm of possibilities slightly ajar. Brewed by local Lightning Brewery, the Lightning Kolsch is a light, German-style beer meant for easy drinking. Light-golden in hue, this beer is low in alcohol but infinitely flavorful. The flavor, however, is a subtle one. The sweet malt flavor, combined with the fruity, floral aroma combine for a truly delightful drinking experience.

Drink of the Week

BOND MARTINI

BY DAVID BAUER
Pride Staff Writer

From champagne to bourbon to Raki, throughout Ian Fleming's novels, James Bond tried a number of drinks. In Fleming's first novel "Casino Royale" though, James Bond laid out the ingredients to what would become his trademark drink: a vodka martini—shaken not stirred. Later in the same novel, Bond would name his drink "The Vesper" after the sensuous Vesper Lynd. For decades afterwards though, people would refer to any vodka

martini that was shaken rather than stirred as a 'Bond martini'.

Martinis are traditionally made with gin rather than vodka, and shaking vodka is generally avoided. When vodka, or any alcohol, is shaken it creates tiny air bubbles making it appear cloudy. These air bubbles prevent the alcohol from reaching all of the taste buds when it's drunk. Some vodka martini enthusiasts claim that makes the Bond martini the perfect palate cleanser. As Bond says in Casino Royale, "I never have more than one drink before dinner. But I do like that one to be large,

and very strong, and very cold, and very well-made." And the drink is well made; the exact ingredients are given in the beginning of the novel, "a dry martini... in a deep champagne goblet... three measures of Gordon's [gin], one of vodka, half a measure of Kina Lillet [vermouth]. Shake it very well until it's ice-cold, and then add a large thin slice of lemon-peel."

Set off by the sharp citrus of the lemon, this martini is cool and refreshing and cleanses the palate. "Bruising" the gin by shaking it with ice, also adds additional water to the mixture as the ice is broken

apart lightening the taste. This of course means that the Bond martini does not have much personality in itself and is not much of a stand alone beverage. As an aperitif it does quite well, however, unlike its namesake Vesper Lynd, it lacks personality, complexity and body.



Photo by Sophie Brink /
The Pride

CD Review:

Secret Apollo, "Homemade Time Machine" 🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾

BY AMANDA ANDREEN
Pride Staff Writer

As bizarre as they are, I can't help but love Secret Apollo. They are so inexplicable, and so weird that I found myself laughing more than I found myself cursing their repetitious chorus lines and crazy 18 tracks of noise on "Homemade Time Machine." Some of their songs are nothing more than an extended minute of guitar distortion and others are minutes full of sonic instrumental fusion. Secret Apollo reminds me of a crazy show I once came across on the Disney Channel that had three main characters in bright and colorful costumes who were all in band together, much like the Wiggles. Secret Apollo, however, definitely has some non-kid-friendly lyrics, so listeners ought to be careful when listening to them, especially if there are little ones around.

None of the 18 tracks on "Homemade Time Machine" last that long, but what they lack in length they make up in potent perkiness and straight up entertainment. Track 7, "Completely," is my favorite. The catchy chorus loops over and over some finally—at least in my opinion—decent guitar lines. Though the members of Secret Apollo don't compare to other musical veterans in my CD collection like Bob Dylan, John Lennon, and Bob Marley, their jovial approach and raw zeal don't particularly weigh down this CD either. Utilizing simplistic styles and gung-ho enthusiasm for using the same words and same chord progressions multiple times,



Image courtesy of secretapollo.com

it's pretty clear that Secret Apollo think they are the bomb! My second-favorite song is "Museum of Making Music." Painting images of being locked inside of a music museum and causing a raucous with all the instruments and gadgets, how could "Museum of Making Music" not be included in my top two?

"Piccolo" and "Leaps and Jumps" are both bubbly tracks with a mellower vibe. "Leaps and Jumps" in particular solicits a vocal prowess similar to that of the early Beatles years along with solid guitar rhythms. Other notable tracks include: "Planet Ape," "Vampire," and "Daydreamers Anonymous."

When it comes down to it, Secret Apollo isn't afraid to flaunt it even when they don't have it. Dripping with honesty and catchy ditties, "Homemade Time Machine" will take you wherever you want to go.

For more information on the San Diego-based band, visit: www.secretapollo.com

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Movie review:

CASINO ROYALE

BY SOPHIE BRINK
Pride Staff Writer

Daniel Craig's ears are too big for some James Bond fans. They have expressed outrage over his pale, blonde, blue-eyed visage. They've started web-based campaigns. They've even threatened to boycott. I say, go ahead. I do so hate an over-crowded theater.

To be fair, however, I must admit my uncertainty over the decision to cast Craig as the larger-than-life super-agent. I have my favorite Bond, as I'm sure most of you James Bond fans do. How would this newcomer stack up against my ideal 007?

With somewhat jaded anticipation I awaited his debut. I've seen Bonds come and go. I'm used to the routine. Yet, when Daniel Craig uttered his first line as the famous spy, my cool composure started to melt. There's a new Bond in town, thought I, and he's packing heat, all right.

As the first of Ian Fleming's novels, "Casino Royale" seems the perfect vehicle for Craig's new Bond. It introduces the hero just as he is attaining "00" status. The audience witnesses his first two kills and, perhaps more importantly, his reaction to them.

A rugged, ruthless Bond, Craig takes up the challenge begun by Timothy Dalton to humanize a character that had become, under Roger Moore's watch, a parody of itself to another level. With his electric blue eyes, perpetual pout, and painfully athletic approach to fight scenes, Craig's Bond seems the right combination of charm and grit. His is a bloody Bond, a fallible Bond, and, dare I say it, a vulnerable Bond.

After a mission goes horribly wrong, Bond runs off to the Bahamas — to follow the trail of a poker genius, a banker by the name of Le

Chiffre (Mads Mikkelsen) whose client list includes infamous terrorist organizations. The stunning Eva Green (who starred in Kingdom of Heaven with Orlando Bloom) plays Vesper Lynd, a British Treasury official with a sharp mind and a ready wit whose job is to provide and watch over Bond's stake in a poker game the outcome of which may bring terrorist operations crashing down.

Judi Dench reprises her role as M, the no-nonsense head of MI6, whose presence onscreen always adds a silvery highlight of pure class and whose feelings towards Bond seem as complex as ever. If her role in "Casino Royale" has a flaw, it is only that there is not enough of M in the film.

Overall, "Casino Royale" is a delicate balance between blood and wit, which in itself is not unusual; however, it is the gritty, engaging manner in which this new Bond alternately engages in fight scenes and delivers cheeky one-liners that wins my approval and hope that Daniel Craig will return as James Bond in future films.

"Casino Royale" will be in theaters 17 November.



Images courtesy of MGM and Sony Pictures

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