

# THE COUGAR CHRONICLE



ISSUE #3  
VOLUME XLII

WEDNESDAY  
OCT 9, 2013

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SAN MARCOS, INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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# Remembering safety for quality of life

## The party season is here

BY ANNE HALL  
DESIGN EDITOR

With a short lesson or reminder of procedures, options, causes and local resources there may be hope to prime students for remaining safe during the holidays this party season at CSUSM and everywhere.

Students will be drinking and potentially carousing in celebration as midterms and holidays begin to intertwine. Various student organizations and groups party together regularly and campus life is not the only place that students turn to for a good time. Safety is everyone's responsibility and unfortunate incidents are often unnecessary and can most often be prevented.

Statistics provided by the Gender Equity Center showed that in 95 percent of incidents involving rape, the perpetrator is someone the

individual knows. According to the National Center for Victims of Crime, one in five women will be raped in their lifetime. More information can be found at [www.victimsofcrime.org](http://www.victimsofcrime.org).

Information from the Gender Equity Center states that as a first year college student, an individual is at a higher risk of rape from the time the fall semester has begun to Thanksgiving break. Sorority women are at a higher risk of being raped their entire college career. Sexual assault among men and women is no less of a problem.

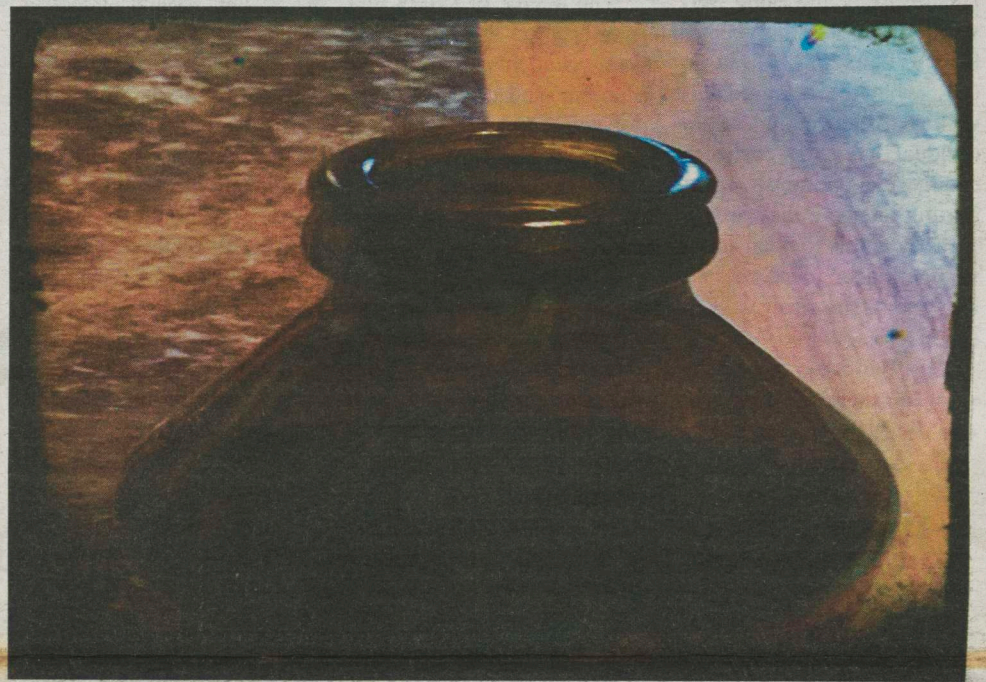
Based on San Diego County Police records, DUI and DWI charges rise during the fall semesters for colleges and communities. Self-awareness, paying attention to surroundings, buddy systems and taking action as an "upstander" to look after the well-being of others is a strong step forward in being proactive against violence

and danger.

"Be an upstander and intervene if you see someone that might potentially be in danger," Cathy Nguyen, a Health Educator at the H.O.P.E. and Wellness Center, said.

Have a designated driver, take someone else's keys and make them sleep it off on the floor and do whatever it takes to avoid poor decision-making. Don't look the other way when you see someone that might be in trouble or has been placed in a vulnerable position.

Even the most cautious individual can find themselves in a position that they just cannot escape from. If or when that does happen, there are options and resources that people can turn to. A Victims Advocate is always available to accompany and support sexual assault or rape survivors, regardless of gender, as they go through the experience of trying to get help. All a person has to



Alcohol consumption and drug use lead to impaired decision making. Image by Anne Hall.

do is ask for one if one is not offered to them.

According to Lieutenant Doug Miller, campus police has a policy to "help seek prosecution or at least file a report to get further assistance."

"Regardless of how a violent crime is reported to the University, our primary concern is always the welfare and safety of the victim and connecting that victim to the many resources available to

them to help in the recovery process," Miller said.

"Crime reported to the University Police from a Campus Security Administrator will be reflected on the annual US Department of Education Clery Campus Crime and Security Report, but may not be reflected on the US Department of Justice Uniform Crime Report. However, if a victim reports a crime directly to the University Police, the crime will

be reflected on both reports. How the University Police report crimes on these reports is strictly regulated by the Department of Justice and the Department of Education and they often have very different requirements."

Regardless of a victim's decision to press charges, a paper trail exists of the incident report and all criminal activity primarily remains (Safety cont. on page 2).

## CSUSM student arrested in sextortion case

BY KATLIN SWEENEY  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

A CSUSM student from Temecula has been arrested for allegedly hacking into the webcams and computers of 30 to 150 women worldwide in what federal officials are calling a "sextortion" case.

Jared James Abrahams, 19, a second-year psychology major, could be facing up to two years in federal prison for crimes relating to filming women without their knowledge, according to an FBI report. He allegedly took nude photos and videos of his victims and threatened to post the content online unless they sent him more nude images or they agreed to go on

Skype for five minutes and do whatever he asked.

Abrahams did not respond to an email request for interview. University officials confirmed he is a student at CSUSM. They explained that the university's policy involving students who have been arrested for crimes is that issues are handled by the Office of the Dean of Students. When they receive an incident report that there has been a violation of the Code of Conduct by a student, an investigation takes place. The process is in compliance with the CSU Executive Order 1073.

According to the FBI, Abrahams is suspected of gaining unauthorized access to computers owned by women in not only southern California and Maryland, but

in other countries that are assumed to be Ireland, Canada, Russia and Moldova.

The case unveiled by the FBI and U.S. Attorney's Office said that the investigation began in March 2013, when an 18-year-old victim contacted authorities and they traced the unauthorized computer access to the suspect. After searching Abrahams' home in June with the help of a federal search warrant, authorities discovered hacking software and pictures/videos of some of the women he had allegedly blackmailed.

According to the complaint, the suspect used the domain name "cutefuzzy-puppy" to infect various victims' computers. That domain was later discovered to have been used on different

hacker forums to ask others about how to use malware and hack webcams.

In a phone interview with The Cougar Chronicle on

Oct. 8, the FBI reported that Abrahams was released on bond and his preliminary hearing is scheduled for Nov. 4. If convicted, Abrahams

will serve up to two years in federal prison. Until then, he is presumed innocent until proven guilty by the court.



Think twice about who is watching. Image by Anne Hall.

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**(Safety cont. from page 1).**

on police record. Survivors' names can never be released to anyone but the District Attorney's office in the event of sexual assault.

Names do not go to the University without the reporter's permission. Only with the survivor's permission can names be released to the Dean of Students for the sake of dealing with incidents between students in order to perform a concurrent investigation for consideration of student involvement (restraining orders, class changes, etc.) considered for the students safety.

Another resource for students to turn to is Student Health and Counseling Services. The staff advocates for survivors and help to do only what the individual is willing to do. Should an individual have the desire to change their mind about reporting later on, they are always available to open an investigation or press charges at a later date, regardless of time lapse.

Sensitivity of the survivors' wants is the main focus. Everything at SHCS is

confidential.

"If a student doesn't report they miss out on ensuring their own health and they miss out on preventing a potential assault on another person," Dr. Nicholson said.

Rape Aggression Defense Courses (R.A.D.) are also offered on campus at limited times throughout the year due to limited instructor availability. Classes normally occupy about 20 students. Instructors include Cathy Nguyen and Sergeant Stuart.

"The course takes a lot of staff effort. It is a 12-hour training that is broken up into three to four days. A majority of abductions happen to women. We're empowering women to fight back," Nguyen said.

"The degree of safety that is offered on this campus is good. Students can go to a blue box and call, but that's not going to help you when you're in the dorms, so it's really getting to the culture of student life and in fostering an environment where students feel supported in reporting sex crimes because my experience so far in conversations with students is that they don't feel that way. They feel that sometimes if

they do report that there is a lot of questioning of the typical victim blaming of these kinds of questions that we would hope are out of our culture at this point but apparently are not," says Dr. Pamela Redela.

Victim Advocates are a legal right for situations exactly like this. Traycie Mitchell, a volunteer Victim Advocate for sexual assault and domestic violence through the Women's Resource Center in Oceanside, asserts that calling attention to these issues is key.

"If you're out in the public you should contact law enforcement and a chain of events starts to happen. I am part of what is called a S.A.R.T. Team, which is a sexual assault response team...you have a right to a victims advocate. My job is to let the victim know that I am completely there for them; I am not in any way affiliated with the law or the medical community.

My sole job there is to keep them comfortable, that they feel safe and that their rights are being respected. If at any time they want to stop... whatever, they have the right to say 'I'm done' and it has

to stop," Mitchell said.

Dr. Redela also asserted that finding these resources and utilizing them is what will help students that have been affected by sexual assault and prevent it from happening to more.

"I have, just this semester, have had students report to me that when they went into the Gender Equity Center, that was the only place where they found information on domestic violence and sexual assault... and when they go to Health Services there was nothing out available," Redela said. "They would have to ask for that and sometimes people in that situation are afraid to ask or they're embarrassed to ask and if there's a pamphlet there in front of them with information on who to contact they're more apt to do that than if they have to ask the desk person. I notice that students have addressed that this semester."

Despite the fact that this school has been rated the "safest CSU in the state," students cannot assume that violence does not exist because this campus still has its problems.

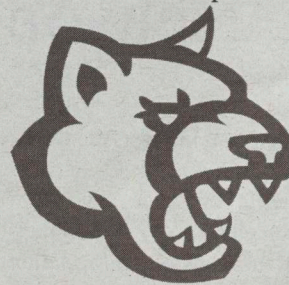
"It happens...can't say bad

things won't happen," Michelle Saavedra Diaz of Disabled Student Services said.

The current Clery report has available crime statistics for the last three years at <http://www.csusm.edu/police/Clery.pdf>.

"In general, I feel as safe on campus as elsewhere, including while driving on the freeway. I try to be safety conscious here and elsewhere and do not practice the same routine on a daily basis," Professor David Avalos of the Visual and Performing Arts Department said.

When people work together to consider the safety of themselves and others, regardless of where you are in the world, the probability of facing unnecessary dangers becomes reduced and quality of life can be enjoyed to the fullest. Being armed with the knowledge and information needed to help yourself and others is the first step.



**Come to  
Craven  
3500  
Tuesdays  
during  
U-Hour  
to  
partake  
in the  
Cougar  
Chronicle  
meetings  
and  
become  
a part of  
our staff**

# University Student Union opening Spring 2014

By ANNE HALL  
DESIGN EDITOR

Many students have likely seen the construction occurring near the César Chávez stairs on the south side of campus. This fast-materializing building is set to be the future student union at CSUSM.

Much deliberation has taken place over the making of this building and plans for how to finance it. It is to be a lounge area for students, but some feel the plan is wrought with problems.

Students this semester are paying a mandatory student success fee to offset the costs. With this in mind, it is important to consider how connected students are with

its construction. Current opinion from students on the finalization of the facility and its usefulness vary.

"I graduate in a year-and-a-half, so if the facility is open by next spring I will probably use it," said Lana Cook, an Arts and Technology major.

The Academic Excellence and Student Success Fee Proposal Alternative Consultation Report and Open Forums in Spring 2013 said that state funding drastically dropped since 2007 despite the growing numbers in enrollment over the years.

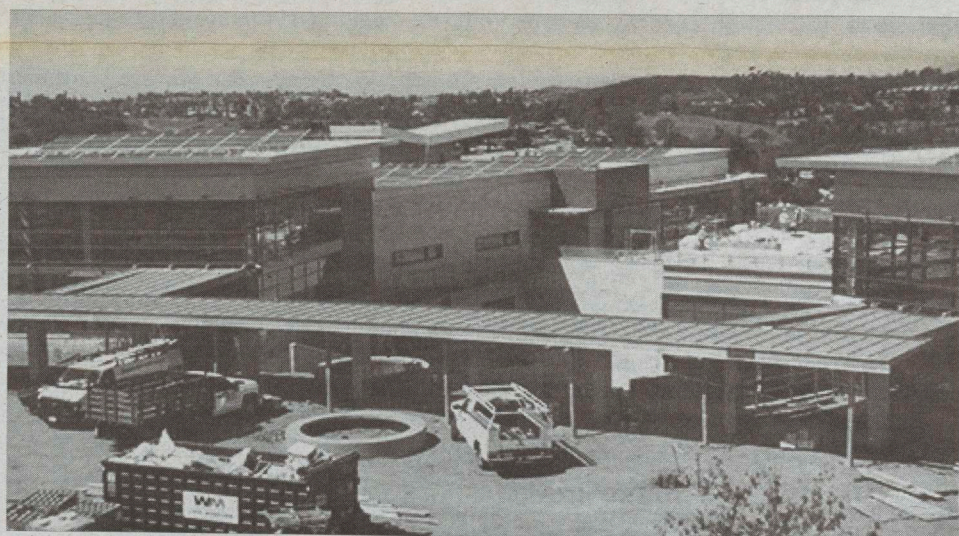
In 2008 and 2009, CSUSM established a University Student Union Alternative Consultation Process that presented an idea to build the Student Union building and

charge a student fee to pay for the establishing costs.

The Student Union is intended to "enhance the quality of campus life through unique programs and services which offer casual as well as purposeful, in-depth opportunities for student engagement and co-curricular learning," as stated in Appendix C of the CSU Alternative Consultation Proposal.

This facility was developed with hopes of creating stronger student community and camaraderie. Benefits were listed as providing opportunities for student employment, campus involvement and leadership development.

Other benefits to creating the facility were more food options, fostering a space for



The Student Union building. Photo by Anne Hall.

socializing, studying and to develop campus pride.

"I have faith that the Student Union will be done. It may not be done on time, but I have faith that I will be able to walk in there and make it a home," Armand Gutierrez, a Communications major, said.

Arguments against the construction of this building stated that students should not have to pay for a building they won't be able to use; increased fees will make college less affordable.

Common arguments include, "CSUSM is a commuter campus that does not need services to support a student life" and "we do not need a Student Union because we have the Clarke" (Appendix C). Other opposition points to the student library.

Some faculty and students voted that such a development was viewed as unnecessary and the official report

acknowledges that the building is focused more on bringing businesses to the campus than it is on initiating student comradery.

The cost of developing this establishment has been placed on the presently enrolled students that are expected to be able to use the facility. Voters were from the 2008-2009 attendance years. However, some people can argue that since the building is being paid for by students five years later, they did not have as strong of a say in its construction as others before them did.

"I don't even know what that is," Rico Palmerin, a Literature and Writing major said when asked about the Student Union.

Another factor of concern is the recession that was still evolving in 2008. Students of all walks of life have been struggling to afford college. In consideration of investment cost, operating income

and projected estimated cash flow shown in the development phase do not account for present economic situations.

"I probably won't use the Student Union because I have no interest in any of the facilities offered there unless the student newspaper was moved into an office there. Also, because there's already so much money that I'm having to put into my education that I can't afford any extra expenses," says Blanca Sarabia, a Sociology major on campus.

Businesses approved for operation within the Student Union include: food services, restaurants, auditorium, meeting rooms, coffee shops, catering services, retail shops, student areas and operations and storage facilities.

The new building is scheduled for completion November 2013. It will be open to students in January 2014.

## Now Hiring

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# Graduation is a privilege, not a right

## The CSUSM process and important statistics

By ZACH SCHANZENBACH  
STAFF WRITER

Upon seeing a square topped cap and a tassel hanging over the side, there is one word that comes to the mind - "graduation."

Most CSUSM students have experienced the process of graduating with their friends in high school, and will hopefully experience it again at the end of college. So what's in store for the graduates-to-be?

There are some basic requirements and advice that CSUSM graduate hopefuls might want to keep in mind. Graduates in the past, of various majors, have braved this process.

To graduate, the first thing you need to have is a minimum GPA of 2.0. For that, you need at least 85 semester units to apply for graduation. To get a degree, you need 120 units, 40 of which must come from upper-division

courses. With these in hand, you can apply; just make sure to apply before the semester in which you expect to graduate.

Of course, these are the bare necessities. Further preparation, according to CSUSM's Academic Advisor David McMartin, can be made by touching base with your academic advisor and double-checking to be sure you've completed all your requirements.

McMartin also recommends students find a pace that allows them to get the best college has to offer while still balancing their personal lives. Also, if students are trying to graduate as soon as they can, they might consider taking a couple of courses over the summer.

As of May 2012, CSUSM boasts a total of 28,000 graduates in its more than 20 years. The majority of graduating students, 52 percent, are between the ages of 26 and 35. However, there

**APPLICATION FOR EMPLOYMENT**  
(Pre-Employment Questionnaire) (An Equal Opportunity Employer)

**PERSONAL INFORMATION**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
LAST FIRST MIDDLE SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

PRESENT ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
STREET CITY STATE ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PERMANENT ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
STREET CITY STATE ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NO: \_\_\_\_\_ ARE YOU 18 YEARS OR OLDER? Yes ☒ No ☐

ARE YOU PREVENTED FROM LAWFULLY BECOMING EMPLOYED IN THIS COUNTRY BECAUSE OF VISA OR IMMIGRATION STATUS? Yes ☐ No ☒

**EMPLOYMENT DESIRED**

POSITION: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE YOU CAN START: \_\_\_\_\_ SALARY DESIRED: \_\_\_\_\_

ARE YOU EMPLOYED NOW? \_\_\_\_\_ IF SO MAY WE INQUIRE OF YOUR PRESENT EMPLOYER? \_\_\_\_\_

EVER APPLIED TO THIS COMPANY BEFORE? \_\_\_\_\_ WHERE? \_\_\_\_\_ WHEN? \_\_\_\_\_

REFERRED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

EDUCATION	NAME AND LOCATION OF SCHOOL	*NO OF YEARS ATTENDED	*DID YOU GRADUATE?	SUBJECT
GRAMMAR SCHOOL				
HIGH SCHOOL				

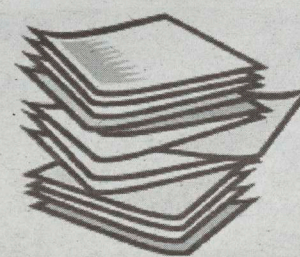
Students are working twice as hard to make themselves marketable in the current employment environment. Image by Blanca Sarabia

are still many who graduate between the ages of 23 and 25 and even above the age the 36, forming 47 percent. Only a small 1 percent handful of students graduate between ages 17 and 22.

The College of Humani-

ties, Arts, Behavioral and Social Sciences boasts the most graduating students, with about 42 percent of graduating students. The College of Science and Mathematics produces the least, with a mere 15 percent.

If you're planning on graduating in the fall, you'd best apply now. The deadline for applications without a \$15 late fee is Feb. 2. The deadline for applying for spring is from June 1 to Sept. 15.



## Save Me!

# The future of finances and retirement

By CHELSEY SCHWEITZER  
STAFF WRITER

More than one-in-four Americans don't have money saved.

This statistic from CNN Money is made more concerning by the projected state of Social Security. To college students, retirement seems far in the future and many therefore don't concern themselves with thoughts of saving. This can be a mistake that has both long and short term consequences.

In the short term, not saving money can hurt in emergency situations. If a person found themselves in an unexpected situation, such as being laid off or being injured and unable to work, they would need to rely on what they had saved during this emergency period. However, according to CNN Money, "about 49% of Americans don't have enough money saved to cover three months of expenses [in an emergency situation]."

In addition to this short term effect, there is the long term effect on retirement. According to FOX Business, "social security will be 'insolvent' by 2033." This doesn't mean that social security is going to completely die off, but rather that "social security can only pay out in benefits...roughly 75% of the amount it will be obli-

gated to pay." Due to the fact that social security will not be able to fully support the current generation's retirement, saving now is more important than ever.

Saving may seem like a daunting task at this point, especially with the strict college budget and the fact that many employers are paying with prepaid debit cards rather than paychecks.

These prepaid debit cards are in widespread use in the country, with over 4.6 million active cards in use since 2012 according to the research firm Aite Group. These cards are making it easier to spend and harder to save, especially with the risk of hidden inactivity and withdraw fees.

With all of this stacked against the average college student, saving seems harder than ever. There are a few things that can be done to help with savings, however. The primary way to save is to set aside some money here and there.

Any little bit helps and this will set up a habit of savings that can be built upon when an actual career is found outside of college and more than the minimum wage is being earned.

In addition to small savings, look at the "latte factor." In the book *The Automatic Millionaire* by David Bach, this concept shows how spending small amounts of money can lead up to a

big total. Take for example, a daily cup of coffee. This is a staple to most college students, but at over two dollars for most cups of coffee and 7 days in a week, it results in \$56 a month for the coffee.

If buying a cup a day was reduced to every two or three days and the rest of the time the coffee was made at home, that would save money that could then be put into savings instead of spent. This applies to many small items that most college students pay no attention to that can lead to large amounts of money slipping out of their hands.

Many cups of coffee cost more than a seemingly-insignificant two dollars. The Cougar Chronicle decided to put Bach's "latte factor" idea to the test on campus. A popular seasonal favorite, the pumpkin spice latte, costs \$5.15 for a venti 20 fluid ounce at the campus Starbucks, and \$4.00 for a 20 fluid ounce at Campus Coffee on campus. If bought four days a week, pumpkin spiced lattes cost one \$1,071.20 per year at Starbucks, and \$832 per year at Campus Coffee.

If one works approximately 50 years, or ages 18 to 68 for example and buys coffee 4 days of every week during that time, coffee could cost one \$53,560 over 50 years at Starbucks, and \$41,600 in 50 years at Campus Coffee. Most people won't be shopping at the campus coffee



Every penny counts. Watch it grow as spending habits change. Photograph by Chelsey Schweitzer.

houses for that long, and the favorite pumpkin spiced latte is not available all year, but non-campus coffeehouses often have similar prices and other flavors appeal during the less autumnal months.

This is not to say indulging in seasonal treats and coffee is to be avoided stringently. Some people rarely buy them. Other culprits might be cigarettes, trendy clothing that won't be warm in a month, or snacks that could be bought cheaper in bulk. The idea Bach presents is to monitor the little 'insignifi-

cant' purchases one makes for a few days and then do the math to see how much these treats cost over a lifetime.

In addition to saving in a personal savings account, a 401(k) plan, typically through one's work, is another option for saving for retirement. Under this plan, a set amount of retirement savings are deducted automatically from each paycheck either before or after taxation. In addition, whatever price is agreed on being taken from the paycheck is often

matched by most employers to a certain percentage, doubling the savings.

These small methods of saving money now can lead to financial security and less stress in the long run. With many questioning the future of social security and little people saving, college students find themselves in a place where they must anticipate emergencies and save small amounts of money. The question of who will provide for them later in life is one that many find unanswered.



# Men and women's golf outlook

By SHAINA PARDO  
STAFF WRITER

## Men and Women's Golf Outlook

Things look great for golf with both Men's and Women's teams off to great starts.

The men's golf team has moved up one spot from last year to number 2 in the NAIA national rankings. They recently won the La Verne Invitational with a freshman placing first in the tournament and four more members of the team placing in the top 20. This year's men's golf team is twice as strong as last year with all of their new recruitments. Coach Greg Hutton expects the men's golf team to work

hard, support each other and become a family. They have one common goal and that is to win their second regional title. In regards to his team, Hutton said, "They have a chance to bring back another win especially with outstanding individual Ben Itterman, a senior transfer from University of Oregon, who could be the piece of the puzzle to help win nationals". The men hope to win in their biggest tournament of the fall, the Northern New Mexico Invite on September 30th to October 1st, which included NCAA division II teams.

It is only preseason and The Lady Cougars are already ranked third in the NAIA. The lady cougars ended their 2012-2013 sea-

son ranked fourth in nationals. There are six returning players and seven new women added to the team. Coach Cindy Navel is excited to see how the team has improved with every new season. Navel wants her team to be focused on their mental and physical game so their goal of winning nationals will be accomplished. The women's team has a lot of potential for this season, especially with the returners and talented recruits. They received the highest post season ranking at number four and started off the pre-season right placing fifth at the Point Loma Nazarene University Fall Preview. The Lady Cougars aim to bring back another national title.



This year's men's golf team photo provided by Coach Greg Hutton.



Photo of surf team in action provided by Matt Zamudio

## A perennial powerhouse

### Marre and the surf club display excellence in and out of the water

By JORDAN BROOKS  
STAFF WRITER

The Surf Club does more than gather to share similar interests, but is always on the hunt for a National title by adding standout athletes to their team.

With a 2009 national title already under their belt, the Surf Club is looking to recapture their crown. CSUSM has been a perennial power every single year and has developed a surf team that represents character and dedication in and out of the water.

Kyle Marre is a prime example of this excellent character. Growing up in Carlsbad, Marre started surfing at the age of 11. His father and brother influenced his surf style at a young age. This has cultivated his surfing into a work of art, and he is

now a fierce competitor for CSUSM in the NSSA collegiate division.

Marre finished the 2012/2013 season ranked 39 in the southwest division and won the Surf for the Sea contest. Along with success in the collegiate arena, Marre has found success in the classroom.

Graduating from Carlsbad High School in 2012, he achieved a 4.0 GPA, took honors classes and never received a "B." Now he has a 3.97 GPA and has been on the Dean's List both semesters he has attended CSUSM. Marre is the true definition of a student-athlete and strives to be the best in all of his activities.

In terms of this year, Marre is competing for his second year and hopes to push the team deeper in the post-season with his aerials and flaw-

less style.

"I'm really stoked on the team this year and excited to start practicing to compete. With Dr. Puha running the team and Cienna Norton as captain, we are planning some practices to get ready and to bond as a team," Marre said.

There are several returning surfers that are also familiar faces on the national scene, including Jason H'dez, Cienna Norton, Max Roseman and James Elkins. Tryouts were on Sept. 22, and "there was also a lot of talent at the tryout this year with Taylor Divine leading the way and a full new roster," Marre stated.

With the first event of the season on Oct. 25 and 26 at Blacks Beach, the CSUSM Surf Team looks to open with a bang and contend on the national scene.



Coastline of Carlsbad beach. Photograph provided by Alison Seagle.

## Get Out!

### Cliffs of Carlsbad beach

#### Pristine north county beach perfect for exercise

By ALISON SEAGLE  
STAFF WRITER

Walkers and joggers have a route that offers them a fresh breeze with a hint of salt, accompanied by an oceanic soundtrack.

Right along Carlsbad Beach, either down by the water or up by Coast Highway, this spot offers beautiful cliffs to gaze upon the stunning and stress reducing views of the coastline.

The path above the cliffs is relatively flat and is a conglomerate of sidewalk, dirt, seawall and sand. There are many free places to park along Coast Highway. Despite being right along the

road, the crashing waves drown out the sound of traffic. The steady ocean breeze sweeps away the smog from vehicles, making it a very enjoyable outing.

Running or walking down by the water is also another option. Besides the excitement of being close to the water, there are many benefits to running and walking on the sand. Doing so helps develop coordination, balance and lower body strength. It is also easier on joints and burns more calories than running on other surfaces.

Not as many people crowd this area of Carlsbad beach between Palomar Airport Road and Tamarack State

Beach because the cliffs create limited beach access, but they create gorgeous views as well. Signs are posted in some areas warning about the cliffs, but even from a safe distance the views are great.

Get out and moving along the beautiful Carlsbad coastline and watch your stress melt away with every step.

More information about Carlsbad's trails, beaches and parks, as well as a map of the trails can be found at this address: <http://www.carlsbadca.gov/services/departments/parksandrec/trails/Pages/citywide-trails-map-north.aspx>.

Cougars Basketball playing against SDSU and UCLA to start off the season the first week of November. Be there to show off some of that Cougar pride.



# Dani Porter: Putting passion into practice

By KATLIN SWEENEY  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Business, psychology and sports may not seem like the most natural combination, but they are the key factors behind why Dani Porter is such a unique individual.

An avid soccer player since the time she was four-years-old, Porter was recruited during her junior year of high school to play for CSUSM. Since then, she has been actively involved in building relationships with her teammates and refining her soccer skills.

After tearing her meniscus in both knees during her sophomore year at CSUSM, Porter had to be redshirted for a year before she could join her teammates on the field. Due to the fact that there are 36 girls on the team and 11 players on the field at a time, Porter expressed that getting playing time requires going hard in every practice and showing improvement from week to week.

The Women's Soccer co-captain challenges herself on the field and in the classroom, evident in her dedication to the team and her classes. Porter has developed

a bond with her teammates, as well as an appreciation for the hard work it takes for all of them to be at the top of their game.

Porter's academic goals reflect her go-getter personality; deciding to double major is part of what keeps her constantly on the move. Majoring in Business and Psychology may seem like an odd decision, but in her case, it makes complete sense.

"My biggest influence is my dad, since he double majored in college. I decided that I wanted to do that as well. I want to get into sports psychology, seeing as I am an athlete. But I feel like knowing about business will help me also, so I want to put two and two together and combine all of my favorite things," Porter said.

Part of the reason she is so successful is because Porter carefully structures her school schedule based upon when she has obligations to athletics. Playing soccer at CSUSM requires a keen sense of organization, athletes having to take into account the demands of game and practice schedules during the fall and conditioning during the spring.

Taking four classes in-



Dani Porter in action. Photograph provided by Aaron Jaffe.

season, five classes in the spring and utilizing the occasional winter session course has helped construct a sense of balance in Porter's life, which the busy athlete is ex-

tremely proud of.

"I don't really stress out about my schedule. I feel like the more things I have going on, the more organized I am," Porter said.

Being well-rounded and passionate about all of her endeavors is what allows Porter to maintain such a busy lifestyle without getting stressed out.

"I want to dip my feet in everything. I feel like the more you know about different things, the more you know about the world," Porter said.

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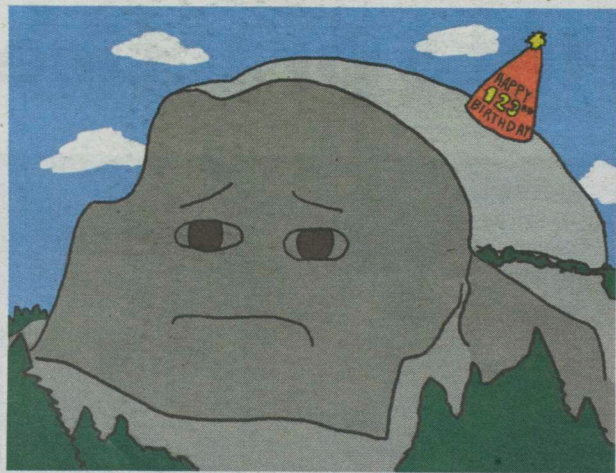


Illustration by Ashley Seagle

## Government shutdown rains on campers' plans

By ALISON SEAGLE  
STAFF WRITER

This past weekend, a dozen CSUSM Cougars were planning to trek to Joshua Tree with campus recreation for some hiking, camping and rock climbing until the government shutdown closed all of the national parks.

Beginning Tuesday, Oct. 1, the government went into a shutdown, furloughing all federal employees who were not deemed essential, which included those employees of the National Park Service (NPS).

Even the website for the NPS is shutdown. All of the nearly 400 national parks across the U.S. had to put up signs and barricades to turn away day visitors, and overnight visitors were given 48 hours to leave the parks.

Oct. 1 also marked the 123 birthday of beautiful and beloved Yosemite National Park. Although the Yosemite Grant was signed on June 30, 1864, the park celebrates its birthday on Oct. 1, but not this year. All planned activities were canceled and future events were put in limbo until the resolution of the shutdown.

San Diego's own Cabrillo National Monument has also been closed. Aside from

disappointing hundreds of school children who had field trips canceled, Cabrillo, like Yosemite, has birthday plans that are now in jeopardy.

Oct. 14 will mark the 100 birthday of this monument since President Woodrow Wilson made a proclamation to have part of Fort Rosecrans reserved to commemorate Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo's landing.

Though the park has been celebrating its 100 birthday all year, the weekend of Oct. 12 through 14 is particularly jam-packed with events and activities that may also have to be canceled. Hopefully the shutdown will be lifted before Oct. 12 arrives.

As for the Joshua Tree trip, campus recreation is evaluating the possibility of re-scheduling the trip once the parks re-open.

The next campus recreation group is planned to go desert camping in Anza, Nov. 2 through 3. Unless the government goes for a new record for being shutdown (the longest previous shutdown lasted 21 days), then the trip to Anza should be in the clear.

Sign-ups for that trip are scheduled to begin Oct. 14 at the Clarke. More information can be found on the campus recreation website at <http://www.csusm.edu/rec/>.

# Senior experience sparks creative project

By TATIANA ZAVODNY  
FEATURES EDITOR

Seniors looking for hands-on business experience have the option to participate in the Senior Experience Program at CSUSM.

This unique program pairs small groups of students with local businesses or non-profit organizations that have submitted proposals for projects that students can work on. Since this is a requirement for the College of Business Administration, students are encouraged to apply to a variety of proposals and are then matched with the business based on their skills, background and interests.

In this process, students work in partnership with their corporate sponsors under the supervision of a faculty member to plan, develop and complete the proposed project. Perhaps one of the most interesting aspects of this experience is that seniors have the chance to design every step of their process, from conception to the finished product.

One specific senior experience group at CSUSM is working alongside a local small-business to create an app called Sparkify. The five outstanding seniors working on this product include Desiree Dechon, Maria Evans, Paul Freeman, Tam Huynh and Yohei Iwashita.

The group's website explains that through using this up-and-coming networking app, people everywhere would be able to find others in their local vicinity who share common interests, or sparks, and use this information to spark a conversation.



The coordinating group for Sparkify. Photograph provided by Tatiana Zavodny.

"You would have sparks that show certain matches. You might like the same sports team, the same music or you may have gone to the same school," business owner, Tom Severance, said.

In all, there are 20 different categories people can choose from when looking for potential matches. In addition to making friends and finding dates, this app may have other uses in the corporate sector as well.

"A lot of money is spent on training people how to work a room, how to network. This app helps to facilitate [these skills]," the company's consultant, Carmen Di Padova, said.

Throughout the semester, students conduct regular meetings with their faculty advisor and business sponsor.

"I step out of the role of lecturer. The idea is to let

my student team handle the project. It's a learning experience," the group's faculty supervisor, Professor Bill Burns, said.

When the semester is over, the Senior Experience Program at CSUSM will host its own tradeshow, featuring every student group and their completed business products. The tradeshow will take place in mid-December at the California Center for the Arts in Escondido.

"People from the business community will attend the tradeshow and many, as a result, become sponsors of projects because they get to see this panoramic view of 40 to 50 student projects," Professor Bill Burns said.

An interesting aspect to this project is that everyone in the CSUSM campus community has a chance to contribute.

"[People] can become a

part of the project by downloading the app and using it," Di Padova said.

After trying the app, people are encouraged to submit their feedback regarding their experiences with the product.

The Sparkify app is currently available for free on Apple smartphones and tablets, but further development may yield an android-friendly version as well.

Though the app may be downloaded directly from iTunes, this Senior Experience is allowing CSUSM students a unique opportunity to download it from their website at <http://seniorexperiencesparkifysurvey.weebly.com/>. In doing so, students will automatically be entered in to two separate drawings for a chance to win prizes up to \$150 in gift cards to Amazon, Starbucks and/or iTunes.

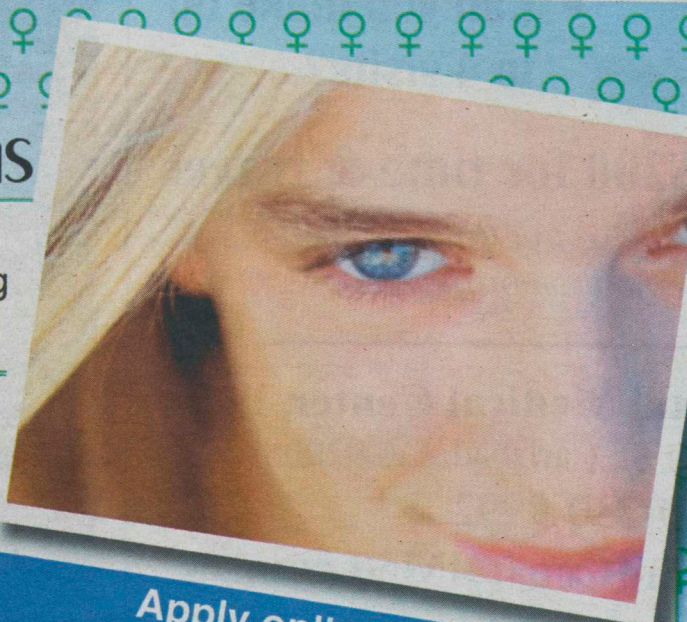
Other information about the Sparkify app can be found on the company's website at <http://www.sparkify.com/>. For more information on the Senior Experience Program, visit the College of Business Administration website at <http://www.csusm.edu/coba/>.

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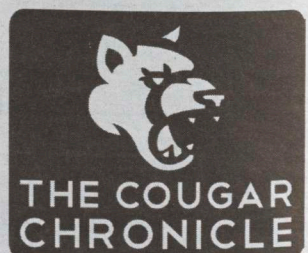
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The Philly theme inside The Cheese Steak Grill. Photograph by Anne Hall.

## An east coast flavor Cheese steak fans rejoice

BY ANNE HALL  
DESIGN EDITOR

If you're looking for great comfort food with a Philly flare that is true to its origin, The Cheesesteak Grill is the place to be.

Even though the traditional favorite comes with three types of cheese, health problems with cheese can be easily avoided; just ask to keep it out. Everything is made fresh to order in this sports diner. The menu includes salads, burgers, Philly cheese steaks and unique sandwiches. Don't forget to order a side of rings or cheesesteak fries if you have a big appetite or are looking

to share.

Mark Stoner is always trying to find new specials to surprise his patrons with every week. He loves to cook, and all the ingredients for the cheesesteaks come directly from Philadelphia.

"I try to stay within the mainframe of a traditional cheesesteak. I create new things all the time and I have a couple of new items that will be coming out pretty soon," Stoner said.

As Stoner was born and raised in San Diego, he has a strong dedication to the members of the community and constantly works to contribute to society in any way he can. He regularly participates in functions to help the

local military community. This November, Stoner plans to offer discounts on cheese steaks for every canned good donated at his location for the holiday season. Furthermore, every customer who donates a toy for Toys for Tots will be offered a great deal that you won't want to pass up.

You can find coupons for this location on the official web site at [www.thecheesesteakgrill.com](http://www.thecheesesteakgrill.com) or participate in the loyalty program. The Cheesesteak Grill is located on 1771 Oceanside Boulevard in Oceanside and is open from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Sundays.



Advertising photo provided by Sven-Anders Alwerud.

## Jelly Boards bring new dimension to skateboarding

BY KATLIN SWEENEY  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

What began as a hobby in high school has become the foundation upon which Sven Anders-Alwerud is finding his footing in the business world.

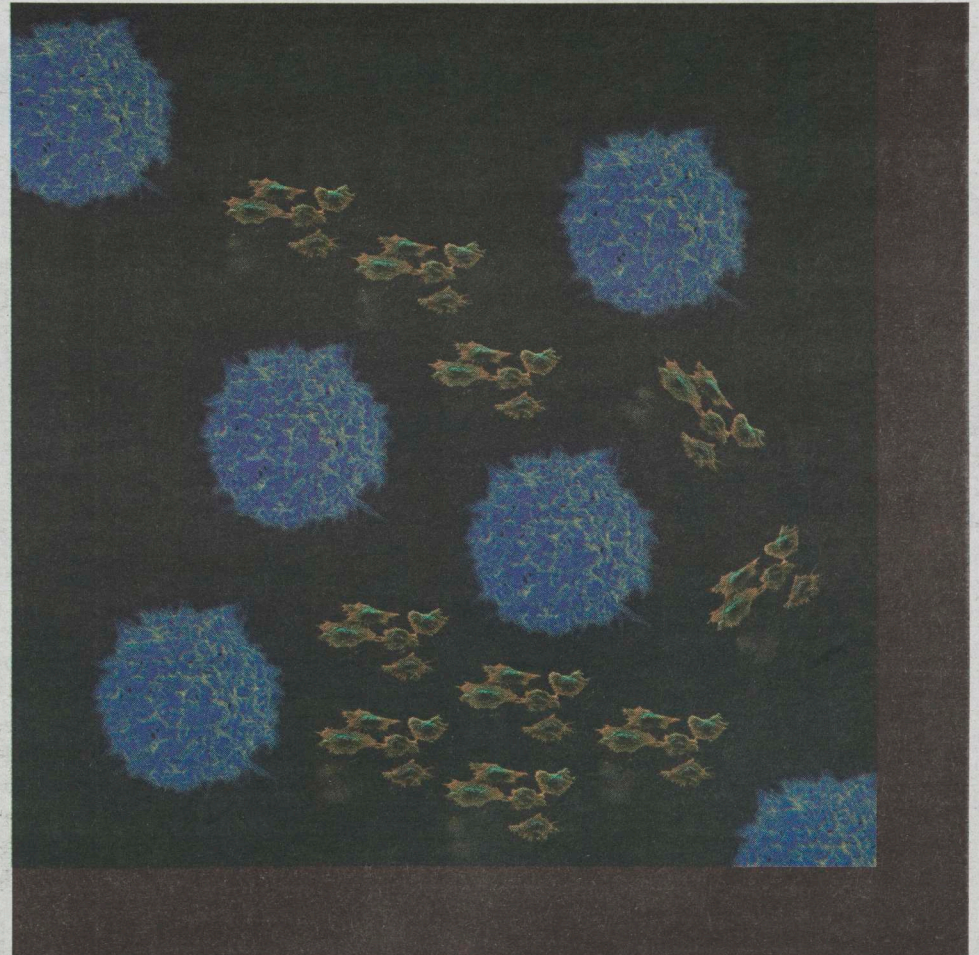
An avid skateboarder since the time he was eight-years-old, Anders-Alwerud came up with the idea of creating a skateboard with a similar feel to riding a wave. From there, he took his idea, switched

his major from Chemistry to Business, teamed up with some of his friends and set to work in the study rooms in Kellogg Library, creating the skateboard and designs for his future company.

Now at 23, Anders-Alwerud is enjoying the positive results that have come thus far from his first endeavor as an entrepreneur. The company, Jelly Boards, began coming together two years ago when he started collaborating with his co-founder, Cody Luke.

The duo set to work creating a website, Facebook page and Instagram, developing the product, generating awareness about their business and partnering up with other businesses. As of 2012, the boards found their way into ten stores across California, notably Sun Diego.

"What's great about the board is that it is good for a variety of conditions and terrains for different kids. We are really incorporating two worlds into one. It has the



Cancer cells developing in the body. Image created by Anne Hall.

## Faculty Profile: Martha Stoddard-Holmes

BY AMANDA LENOX  
STAFF WRITER

Professor Martha Stoddard-Holmes is a prominent figure in not only the Literature and Writing department, but also to the CSUSM campus as a whole. Her educational background includes a B.A. in English from Cornell University, an M.A. in Creative Writing from the University of Colorado and a Ph.D. in English from the University of Colorado.

She first taught part-time for two years and then used her skills in verbal communication to get a job in corporate communications at a mining company. Finding herself unhappy with the job because her co-workers did not want to talk about books, she began writing in secret. After getting published, she explained that she decided to get her master's degree "in creative writing to have more time to write and to treat it with more respect."

She then received her doctorate, focusing on Victorian Literature, which sparked her interest "in the his-

tory of ideas about the body (through Victorian representations of disability—think Tiny Tim [from A Christmas Carol], for example)."

Stoddard-Holmes will be going on sabbatical during the Spring 2014 semester. Don't worry though; she will be back teaching for Fall 2014.

During her sabbatical, she will be researching the public culture of cancer, including what we see in the media and "how it shapes knowledge and expectations, including health-seeking behaviors (i.e. going to the doctor to find out what's wrong)."

After being diagnosed and treated for ovarian cancer, she will "focus on ovarian cancer experiences and lack of public awareness or ability to imagine symptoms until it is too late for a good prognosis."

She also plans to sketch out a graphic narrative (comic) of ovarian cancer.

Being a professor at CSUSM has allowed Stoddard-Holmes to find her niche in the literature community.

"I applied for a job and was one of the lucky ones to get

a tenure track job after getting a Ph.D. [Literature is] a cool department in so many ways—the only place that interviewed me that was actually interested in the interdisciplinarity of my research," Stoddard-Holmes said.

A list of some of the classes Stoddard-Holmes teaches include Survey of British Literature, Literature and Health, Children's Literature, Jane Austen into Film and Creative Writing.

"I learn continually from my students, who are intelligent, interesting and kind people who tend to laugh at my jokes. It is a privilege to help people see their own gifts and which ones they haven't unwrapped yet—what the possibilities are in life and education," Stoddard-Holmes said.

She hopes that students who take her classes learn that "reading and writing are wonderful forms of discovery and power. Reading a really good book can change your life and get you through the worst possible times. [...] Students have the power to rewrite the scripts of their lives."

flex of a snowboard and the flow of a surfboard. So in a way, we are appealing to the three different demographics of snowboarding, surfing and skateboarding," Anders-Alwerud said.

Besides the unique history of the product, the Jelly Board skateboard has garnered much of its attention based upon word of mouth and its appearance. The board has a clear, flexible deck, the outline of a jellyfish that expands into three circles featured on it. Because of its unique appearance, the

Jelly Board attracts a lot of attention from people passing by. Anders-Alwerud uses the skateboard to get around campus, which prompts multiple conversations throughout the day about how much they like his skateboard and questions about where he purchased it. He dedicates much of his time to establish his brand among the skating community, seeing that the average skater purchases a new board once a year. In order to compete with other manufacturers, Anders-Alwerud adds that personal

touch to encourage skaters to support his business.

But despite the fact that the founders are from the local area, the Jelly Board fan base extends far beyond state borders. The skateboards have been selling across the country and around the globe to countless consumers fascinated by the unique board. The process of keeping with orders is extremely demanding, especially when you take into account how personal it is. Instead of hiring a staff to handle all of the ship- (Jelly cont. on pg. 8)



## FEATURES Continued

(Jelly cont. from pg. 7).

ments, Anders-Alwerud handles all of the orders himself to ensure that customers are happy and receive the product as quickly as possible.

"It takes about one to two and a half weeks for the whole process to come together, from producing the board to actually shipping it to the customer. If you want to be an entrepreneur, you pretty much have to wear every hat in the company. You're overseeing everything, from product development to managing orders and networking with people," Anders-Alwerud said.

Part of the reason shipping to so many locations is possible is because the founders do not simply rely on friends and people that see the board first-hand to spread the word. Jelly Boards also utilizes advertisements on social media

to help expand their consumer base.

Advertising on Facebook has been one of the most successful routes towards expanding the amount of customers. Anders-Alwerud explained that Jelly Boards purchases an ad on Facebook, which pops up in the corner of the screen for users that search key terms like skateboarding and snowboarding. From there, the advertisement generates interest to check out the Jelly Boards Facebook page, where most transactions for the company happen. In addition to this, Jelly Boards uses Instagram to showcase the appearance of the board in various settings and with different skaters riding it.

Jelly Boards would not exist had Professor Ben Cherry and Mr. Boyer not only motivated but helped Anders-Alwerud set his plans in mo-

tion. Cherry, an entrepreneur professor at CSUSM, provided a lot of guidance and motivation as the plans for Jelly Boards came together. Boyer, an attorney, helped him with getting his corporate book finished. Anders-Alwerud also attributes his success to receiving help from people like Mitch Tenney, a VPA major that helped with the name, utilizing PhotoShop and branding.

Maintaining relationships with partners and members of the skating community is of the utmost importance to ensure that Jelly Boards keeps going.

"I've learned that you always need to have a back-up plan when it comes to suppliers. You need to start developing relationships and networking with people so that in case anything falls through, you have the ability to keep going," Alwerud said.

## Mastering the steps of resolutions

By SAIKA PITRE  
STAFF WRITER

As students advance through their college careers, not only is it important to take pride in the work they accomplish, but also in the school grounds in which they walk upon.

To many, the 'SM' in CSUSM's acronym is commonly referred to as "Stair Master" instead of its intended meaning, "San Marcos." While humorous, this nickname is fitting considering the substantial amount of stairs that are seen on campus, as they are virtually unavoidable. Some feel that the stairs act almost as a roadblock or hindrance to get to class on time due to the extra strain placed upon them, often resulting in slower commutes from the parking lot to the classroom. To an extent, this is true, but on the

bright side it provides a good source of exercise.

Many students think that they have still not made a commendable effort to ful-



filling the 'New Year's Resolution' of getting fit. They may have started out strong, but now feel as though their motivational fuse has burnt out. On the contrary, with CSUSM students having to go up and down the countless amount of stairs for every class session, they have unknowingly made efforts toward getting fit, no matter

how small that effort may seem.

Cal State 'Stair Master' may not provide people on campus with an intense, full body workout, but it does provide students a slight sense of accomplishment after working up a little cardio. It is time for students to stop viewing the unusual amount of stairs on campus as a burden, and to start recognizing them as the gift they really are. Although it is not immediately noticeable, once students walk across the stage at graduation, they will not only receive their much deserved diploma, but also leave with a nice of pair of quads.

Photograph of campus provided by Blanca Sarabia.

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The Cougar Chronicle is published twice a month on Wednesdays during the academic year. Distribution includes 1,500 copies across 6 stands positioned throughout the CSUSM campus.

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# Commentary: Social justice at the forefront

## We are officially post-politics at the CSUSM community centers

By CECIL CHADWICK  
PROFESSOR OF WOMEN'S STUDIES

The article that appeared in The Cougar Chronicle's first issue, entitled "Social Justice at the Forefront," is written to describe the recent changes made to the Gender Equity and Pride Centers on campus.

The article's author, Katlin Sweeney, said that one of the reasons the centers have teamed up is to "refocus their images and encourage students from all backgrounds to explore what each group has to offer." Part of this change includes rebranding the spaces as "ASI Community Centers."

"The Pride center is not geared only towards LG-BTQA students and the Gender Equity Center is not solely for students who identify as feminists or seek to combat injustice," said Sweeney.

The question I have in response is: can social justice ever be at the forefront when we put it behind the promotion of inclusion and community? I assure you, this is a real question with real political implications.

Social justice acknowledges that gender, sexual orientation, ability, class and race are not only a matter of difference; they are a matter of dominance. Our move to celebrate difference and diversity is lacking without an

understanding about why we need to celebrate this difference in the first place.

One of the great cultural lies we buy into is the notion that we can have it all and that oppression is only a matter of perspective. Oppression seems to be more about how you feel instead of where you are in the hierarchies of race, gender, class and sexual orientation. As an example, we buy into this idea that white people can feel victimized by the assumption that they are racist and heterosexual people can feel alienated in a center that doesn't also celebrate their straightness.

Under this model of inclusion and community, femi-

nists at the Gender Equity Center might be reminded to not impose their feminism on people who come by to hang out. So, the argument for inclusion means you should make men, white people, heterosexuals and allies feel safe. The problem I have with this is that these groups are not in any real or imagined danger on the basis of their identity; it is a reversal of the original mission of a Women's center or a Pride center on a college campus. The goal is to make a safe space for marginalized or oppressed groups – a political space where sexism, racism and homophobia will not be tolerated as it is in most spaces on campus.

To perceive racism, sexism and homophobia as a problem of tolerance is really an effect of ideology. The systems of oppression that produce harassment, exploitation and violence are not simply a matter of perspective; they are a matter of politics. Just because you are uncomfortable in a space doesn't mean you are a victim and it doesn't automatically make you right. Just because you're offended doesn't mean the system is working against you.

I am supportive of community and inclusion, but I do not think we can put it in front of social justice without losing some of the political significance of these

centers. Social justice must come first. With that said, just because the image of the centers is changing it doesn't mean we cannot and should not continue to bring social justice to these spaces. Politically speaking, we need to continue to bring our feminist, lesbian, gay and queer politics to the community centers and show each other that power is not only possessed by leaders, but it can be exercised productively and politically by all of us who continue our commitment to social justice at the ASI Community Centers.

# Women in Combat Just as tough as the guys



His and her combat boots. Photography provided by Anne Hall.

By KATALINA LAWRENCE  
STAFF WRITER

The female sex has shown that they are capable of doing all of the things that men can do, even in military combat.

Why have women in combat? It is true that women will never be physically built like men no matter what they do. I don't believe this means that women should not be granted the opportunity to train and fight for our country in combat. Having equal opportunities is something that should be required in all aspects of our society. Biologically, women are not equivalent to men but this should not prevent women from access to equal opportunities.

Some men say that because of their natural make-up and instincts, when fighting alongside a woman they at times feel obligated to protect their female counterpart.


They fear that this tendency serves as a distraction from the actual mission. However, isn't protecting your fellow soldier something to be praised? In combat, you will have each other's back regardless. Whether male or female, all soldiers are fighting for the same cause, our country's freedom, and the urge to protect a fellow soldier is inevitable, no matter the gender.

Diversity is something that should always be praised, especially within the melting pot that is American culture. Gender diversity is just as important as racial diversity. In any situation it is important to have multiple perspectives because in return you will have a better outcome. I believe that women tend to be more analytical, and in combat such a trait is very helpful. Having the doors open for women would benefit our country as

a whole. It is a step closer to a truly equal society, providing equal opportunities for all.

Around 900 Cal State San Marcos students identify themselves as a veteran, service member or military dependent, and I believe all of them should be granted access into combat training, testing and combat roles. If women can pass the physical requirements needed for combat, then they deserve the right to enlist.

Whenever there is inequality, there is a problem. We are only going against some of our nation's fundamental rights. I am excited to see things changing. As women we have already accomplished so much. Just 93 years ago, us women were granted the right to vote and use our voices. Let us continue to use our voices and keep pushing towards gender equality.


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# Students call for adjustment of smoking policy Time to stop catering to students' deathly habit

BY LAUREN HAMMOND  
OPINION EDITOR

Code of Regulations, limiting smoking to designated areas on campus. There are currently 14 smoking areas located on campus, one of which remains controversial.

CSUSM provides students with smoking benches for their own smoking pleasure.

Entering from the southern most part of campus between the Science Hall I and Markstein buildings, people will run into a pleasant looking bench, often filled with students. Taking a closer look, the tranquil scene rapidly deteriorates as the air becomes filled with a grim haze of cigarette smoke.

In 2005 the CSUSM campus adopted the Title Eight California

The Markstein smoking bench is an appalling aspect of CSUSM policy. The bench condones student smoking, despite its many devastating

risks. It is necessary for the CSUSM authority heads to look at the facts and reexamine current campus smoking policies.

This area in particular is a high traffic zone on campus. Thousands of students pass this sector on a daily basis, breathing in the corroded linger of secondhand smoke. Exposure is dangerous, volatile and ultimately unfair to those who refrain from smoking due to health concerns.

According to the CSUSM Director of Management and Safety, Regina Frasca, the benches have been in place since 2010. The area was specifically created to provide students a place to smoke in regards to the many challenges the area faced prior to the implantation of the benches.

"At the time, it had been a difficult area for the occupants of the Science building and those who were walking between the Science Hall I

and Academic Hall. Smokers lined up and sat on the existing planters and benches aside each buildings which caused many complaints and enforcement challenges," Frasca said.

The initial construction of the Markstein smoking area was provided by the campus in order to distance smokers from the surrounding buildings. Therefore, 'accommodating' the needs of campus smokers.

According to the anti-smoking campaign, Truth, "Big Tobacco's products kill 137 people from secondhand smoke everyday."

The Markstein smoking area is an injustice to non-smokers on campus. CSUSM is an educational community and it is the responsibility of the campus to protect both its faculty and students from exposure to secondhand smoke. The relationship between smokers and non-smokers remains strained. However, the social impli-

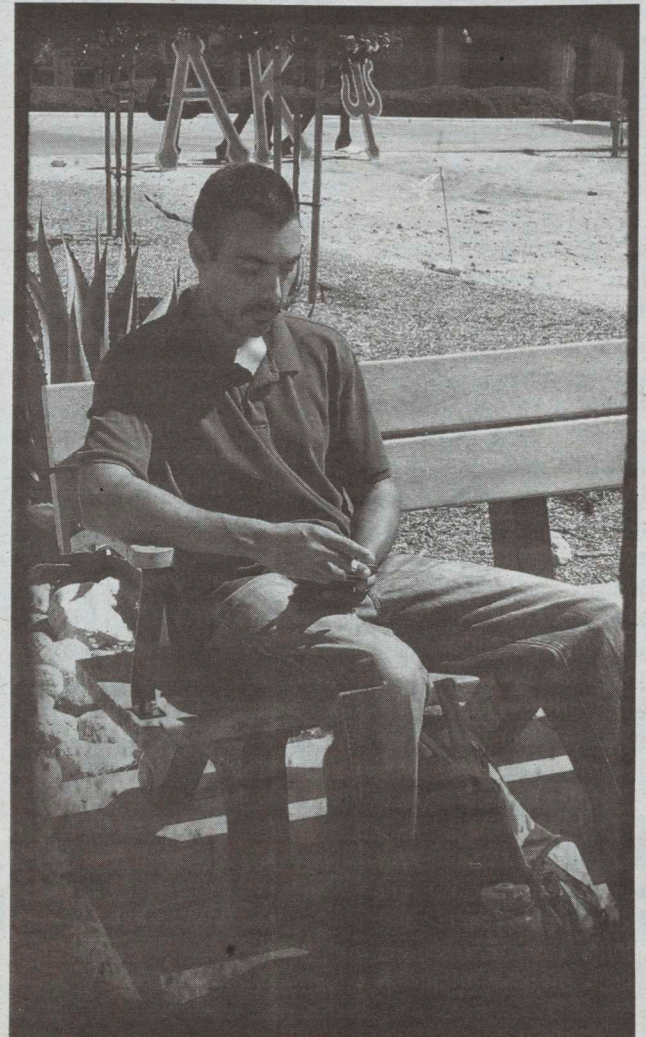
cations of someone harming their own body are far less than when a person's habits begin to affect the health of others around them.

There is always the possibility for change. Frasca provides nonsmokers with hope.

"The philosophy is that when this designated smoking area closes, the campus community will continue to have a nice sitting area central to these buildings," Frasca said.

Thousands of universities throughout the US have already adopted nonsmoking policies on campus. Students in support of a smoke-free learning environment need to begin advocating for CSUSM campus health and wellbeing. The only way to achieve reformation is to demand change. It is time for students claim their right to fresh air.

Photograph of CSUSM student taking a smoke break in the Markstein smoking section by Anne Hall.



## A Fresh Look: How I feel about the campus

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The University Student Union is scheduled to be open for occupancy in Spring 2014. Image provided by Blanca Sarabia.

BY CHELSEA SCHWEITZER  
STAFF WRITER

Many students who have been at CSUSM for a while take many things about the campus for granted, but from a freshman perspective this campus is amazing.

The majority of students primarily complain about the many stairs that have to be climbed multiple times a day. As a freshman who is not used to climbing stairs to get to every class, I agree that they can be taxing and a bit of an annoyance some days, but the fact remains that the stairs are a good thing.

I'll admit that I don't exercise much due to a busy college schedule, which is a situation that I hear other students admit to their friends.

With these stairs, we all get exercise that we might not have gotten otherwise. It helps keep even the least active person in better shape than they would have been in without these cumbersome stairs.

I also love that the school has many different passages and buildings. I enjoy being able to turn down a hallway and discover that I've never been there before.

Most students who have been on campus for a while know where everything is and have long forgotten how exciting it was to discover the many hidden areas the campus has to offer. As a freshman, discovering a staircase or room that I've never been

in before is adventurous for me and I look forward to getting lost so that I can experience something new.

What I love most about the campus is that it's constantly changing. I, like most students, am eagerly awaiting the opening of the new Student Union that is currently being built.

This new addition will not only provide students with a new area to study or just pass the time between classes, but it will also provide every student on campus the ability to explore a new area. Even the seniors will have the opportunity to re-experience the feeling of wonder and excitement that I currently feel as a freshman.



# Film major or film-maker?

## Student spotlight – Armand Gutierrez

BY RICO PALMERIN  
STAFF WRITER

Students considering a career in filmmaking may tend to look toward successful filmmakers for guidance.

Now this may include film techniques, common genres and other cinematic components, but this might not involve checking the directors' educational history. Quentin Tarantino, Guy Ritchie, James Cameron, Christopher Nolan; what do all these names have in common? Other than every one of them being A-list directors and creating numerous films that have blown audiences' minds, made them cry, laugh and wince, well they all also never went to film school.

Of those that attended college, several of them majored in fields ranging from physics (James Cameron) to English Literature (Christopher Nolan). There are still

other accomplished directors who've made famous films that never attended film school or majored in film. While Star Wars father George Lucas, who majored in film at the University of Southern California, may wag his finger at these hooky-playing camera wielders, clearly there is something unseen about the approach of vetoing formal film education.

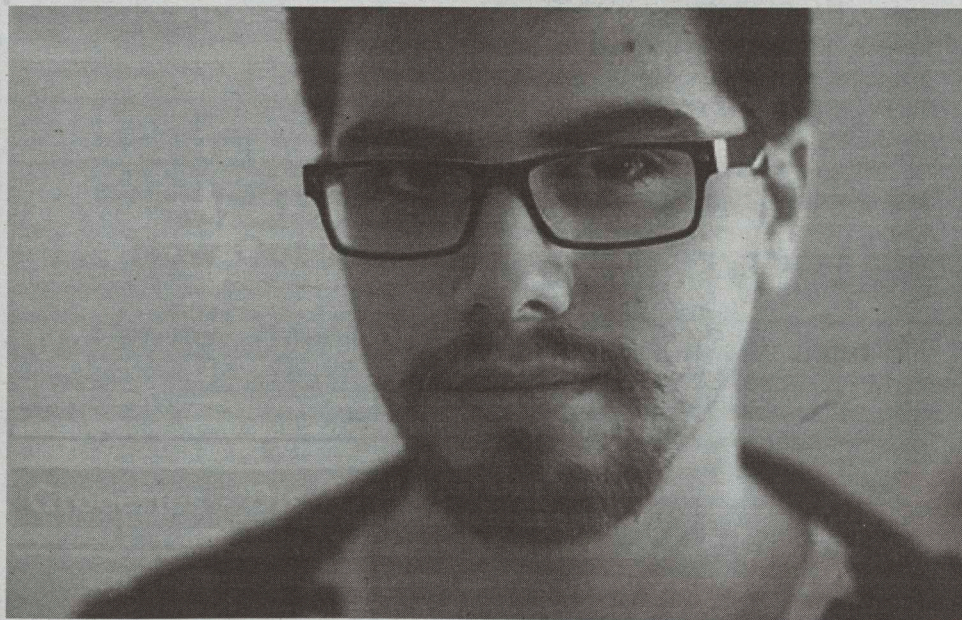
If so many directors have been enormously successful without academic film education, then does a student who dreams of one day joining these revered directors on Hollywood's go-to list really need to major in or even attend film school?

CSUSM senior Armand Gutierrez's experience with filmmaking may help shed some light on this complex question. Gutierrez is a student filmmaker who has made over 60 short films, mostly stop-motion and car-

toons. He even took second place in the San Marcos film festival, and many of his videos are on YouTube. The most surprising thing about him? He is a Communications major, and simply creates films as a hobby.

On the flip side, director Don Hertzfeldt, who inspired Gutierrez, is a critically acclaimed director who specializes in animation, and graduated from UC Santa Barbara as a film major. Hertzfeldt received the San Francisco International Film Festival's Lifetime Achievement Award and had numerous films featured in the Sundance Film Festival.

Although Gutierrez plans to use filmmaking as an instrument of instruction when he teaches communications classes, his success, as well as that of the Hollywood directors mentioned earlier, indicate that filmmaking is more than just learning the concepts and technical lan-



Picture of Armand Gutierrez provided by himself.

guage, but there has to be a creative intuition that somehow translates itself into an enjoyable film. A film available for YouTube and movie lovers to enjoy while munching out on popcorn and laughing with a buddy.

After all it really is about the consumers isn't it?

For film majors or just those with a hobby, do as Gutierrez does, "serve the audience," and let creativity do the rest. With that in mind, the decision to grab

a camera and start shooting or to enroll in film education does not seem to be as important as the decision to let passion and perseverance flow through the lens.

# The Comic Book Corner – The Physics of Superheroes

BY FAITH ORCINO  
A&E EDITOR

Professor James Kakalios of the University of Minnesota applied real world physics to the fictional situations of comics in his 2005 book. The book later got an expanded version in 2009 under the title The Physics of Superheroes: Spectacular Second Edition in 2009.

In both, he featured well-

known characters like Spider-Man and Storm from Marvel and other comics with an aspect of science, discussing the difference and similarities of their application.

While the book is mostly text, it includes a number of illustrations and panels from various comics. Though there are much covered, the terminology and analyses are easy to follow, whether

or not Physics or comics are your forte.

According to his page on the Physic department of UMN, Kakalios created the book after the formation of his freshman class "Everything I know About Physics I Learned by Reading Comic Books" in 2001. Recently, he consulted the creative team of the "Amazing Spider-Man" 2012 movie, giving his insight to the staff on

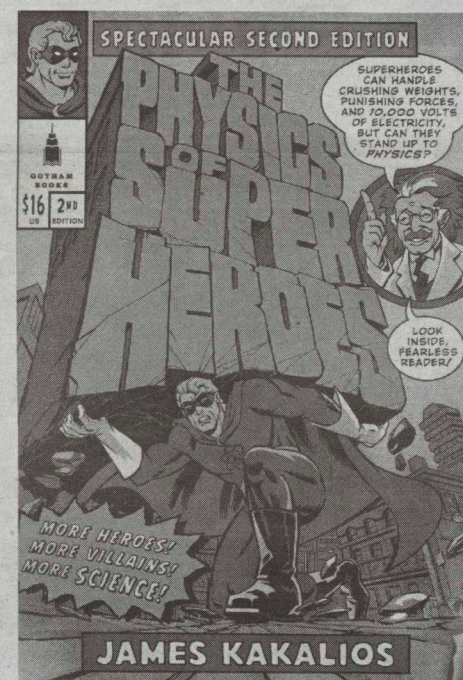
the details of the hero's abilities.

Professor Kakalios also spoke at various locations, such as San Diego Comic Con International and the Library of Congress while working his research. Both first and second editions are available online on sites such as Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

For more information on the professor, visit his web-

site, <http://physicsofsuperheroes.com/>

Book cover provided by thephysicsofsuperheroes.com



# Cougar Shuffle – Fresh New Beats

BY VALERIA GINORAS  
STAFF WRITER

Cougars have you heard the latest hits? Here are a few songs that are working their way to the top of the music charts. Write them down and add them to your playlists so you have something to listen to on your way to class!

est form. You'll notice that most rap music talks about treating women as "objects," diamonds, money, cash, drinking expensive liquor, expensive cars, jewelry, etc. Lorde is just being real with us that most of us will never attain that level of money, luxury and wealth.

and as hard as you try to get it out of you head you just can't! The fox in the song is considered smart and hard to catch. Even though the song makes fun of what a fox can't say it does have a meaning that foxes are very discreet creatures.

est and you will have no regrets. You can always expect the unexpected from Eminem so we will all have to wait and see what other songs he has to offer.

Avicii - "Wake Me Up"  
The inexperienced person is going through life and knows that what is ahead is unknown. He is guided by his spirit. He doesn't know where he will end up, but he knows where he can start now.

Ylvis - "The Fox (What does the fox say)"

This song is the type of song that can immediately get stuck in your head. It's the one that it is very funny

Eminem - "Berzerk"  
Guess who's back? That's right Marshall Mathers, aka Eminem. Eminem is expected to be releasing a new album for 2013! His latest hit "Berzerk" means that life is too short to live the same day twice. Live life to the full-



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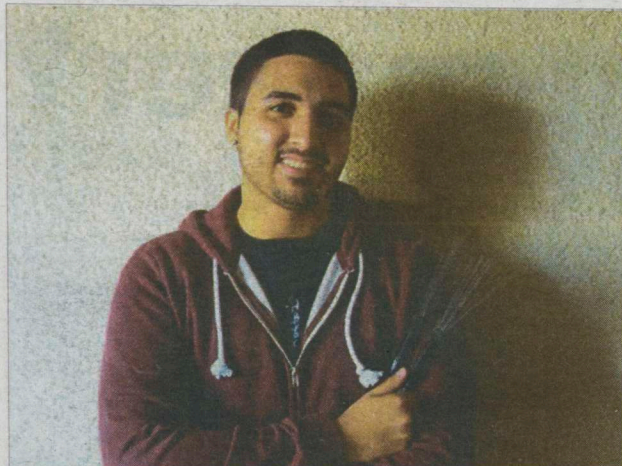
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Lorde - "Royals"

This song is about how the influx of songs these days are about materialistic things, glamour, money, fame, riches and women - amongst other things. This anthem is anti-rap in its pur-





**“My main inspiration is the feeling and expression that comes out of it,” Sandoval said.**

Photograph of Michael Sandoval by Faith Orcino.

## Following His Own Beat Musician Spotlight – Michael Sandoval

By KATIE AGNER  
STAFF WRITER

There is no question that music is a deeply personal and unique experience for everyone, and not to mention hard to define.

Student Michael Sandoval beats to his own drum on campus, and quite literally.

“In the matter of what or who influenced my style is always a tough question. It’s like asking what your favorite Skittles flavor is. Each flavor has its own uniqueness about it, but they taste way better when you just get a handful of all the flavors and eat them all at once,” Sandoval said. “That’s how I feel with musical influence.

I don’t stick to one style or genre when choosing my style. I take the rainbow skittles approach so to speak.”

The percussionist and drummer got his start 10 years ago, playing bass drum early in school. Eventually, he moved on to the hand drums, which he can be seen playing on campus. While Sandoval does not play exclusively for one band, he enjoys freelancing and exploring his options. On campus particularly, however, Sandoval decided to get together with some friends to play drums Tuesdays and Thursdays during U-hour for people on their way to class, between the Arts Building and University Hall.

“It was just this idea we got to just start bringing our

different percussion instruments and just have a jam over there. I’m surprised to see how quickly it picked up. Random students come in to join from time to time, too. The people going to class get a little entertainment during their walk and I notice that some really brighten up from it,” Sandoval said. “That was the reason for doing it in the first place: to bring some joy to the commuters.”

Even with interest and ability in varying music styles, Sandoval usually plays hip-hop and bass breakbeats on his own. That won’t stop him from playing anything, though.

To contact Michael Sandoval, email him at sand052@cougars.csusm.edu.

## Netflix Pick: “Safe Haven”

By LISSETTE NUNEZ  
STAFF WRITER

Safe Haven is based on the novel from Nicolas Sparks, also known for producing the hit films, The Notebook and Dear John.

Moreover, the film was produced by Lasse Hallstrom and released on Valentine’s Day of this year. True love never fails in this American romance thriller featured on Netflix about a young woman’s battle with love and abuse.

The young woman, Katie, quickly headed out to a small North Carolina town after running away from her abusive husband.

In hopes for a fresh start she settled down a few miles away from the small town, Safe Haven. People from Safe Haven slowly start to cast doubt on Katie due to her fuzzy past and her unwillingness to become a part of the closely integrated community, but eventually at her pace she begins to gain the trust between the communities and begins a relationship with a widowed store owner, Alex, who has two young children, Josh and Lexie.

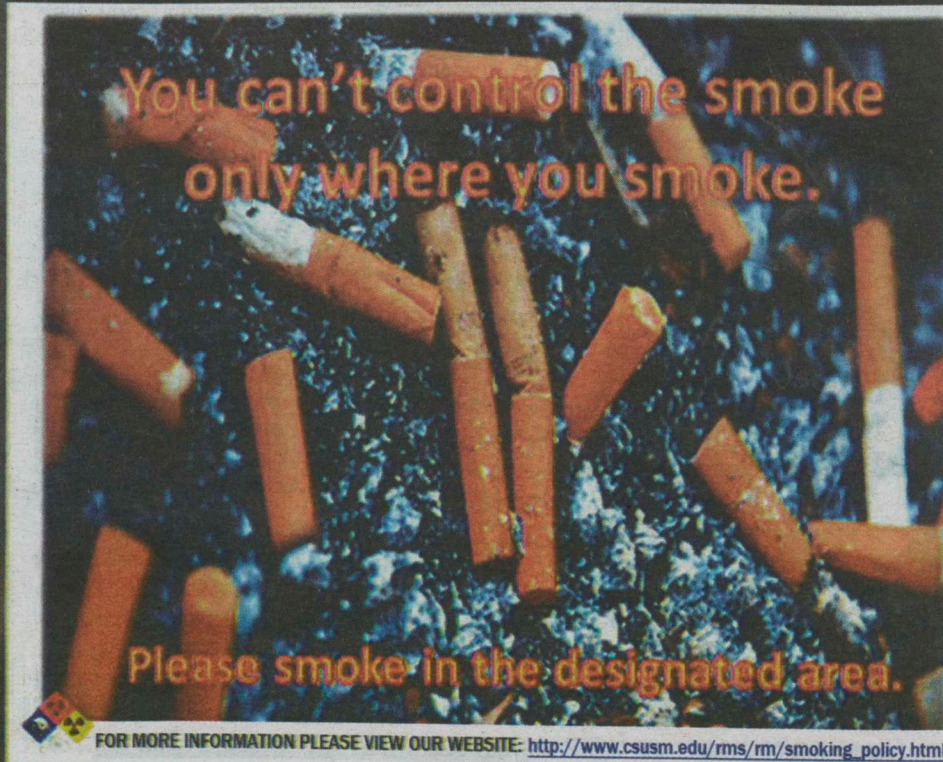
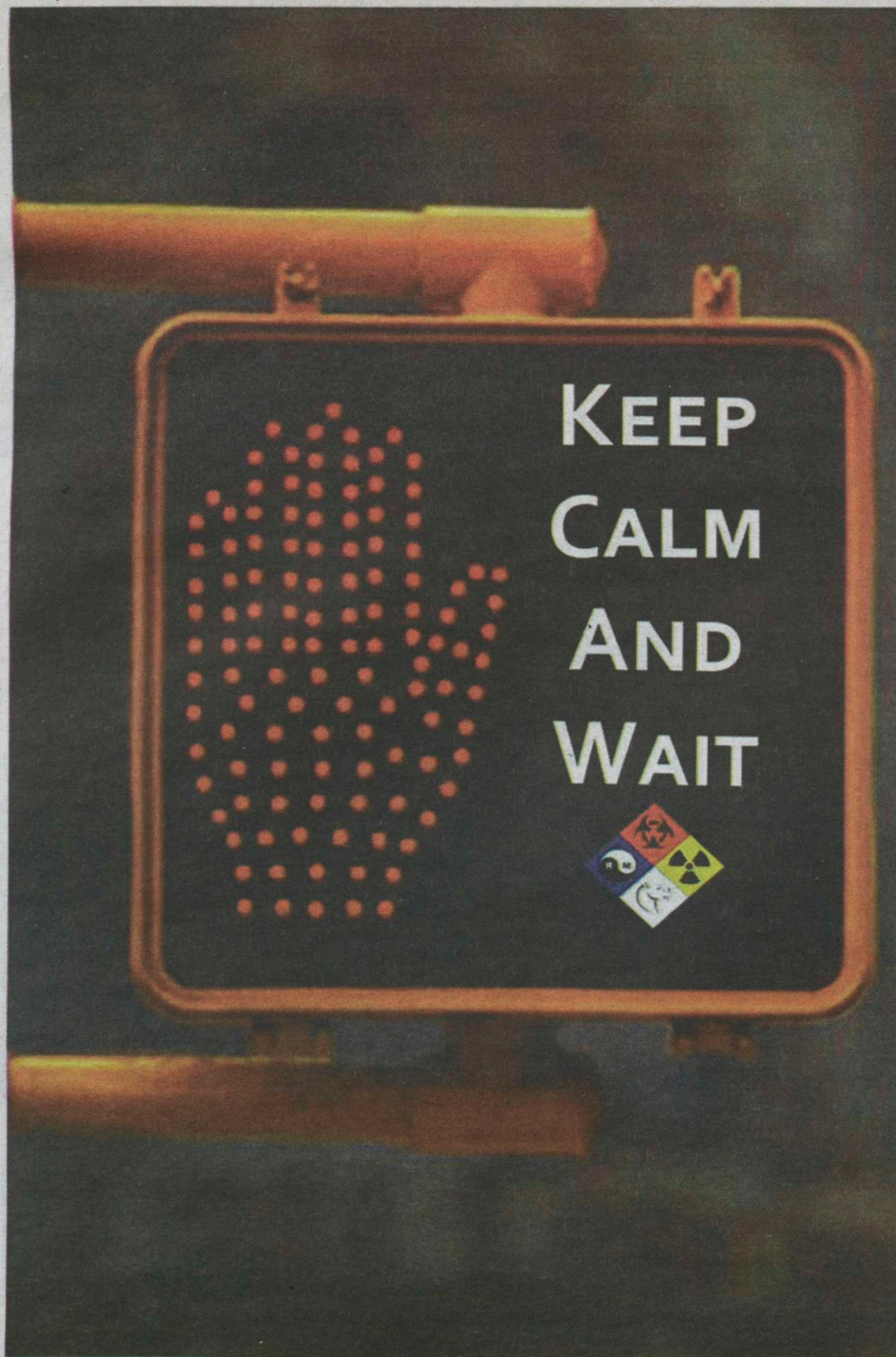
Unsuspected secrets and



obstacles begin to unfold on her new life and prevent her from starting over.

But with the power of love, Katie is able to rediscover the meaning of true love with the help of an unrave-

ling twist at the end! Overall, this film earned a rating of 4 out of 5 and highly recommended for those hopeless romantics and anyone who enjoys a good movie with a mysterious edge.



FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VIEW OUR WEBSITE: [http://www.csusm.edu/rms/rm/smoking\\_policy.html](http://www.csusm.edu/rms/rm/smoking_policy.html)