



Verakai at the Q until April 4.

page 8



Muscles aren't needed for this sport.

page 5

This week's weather

Tuesday: Mostly Cloudy 70 ° High 49 ° Low Waves: 2-3 ft Water temp: 58°	Wednesday: Partly Cloudy 69 ° High 49 ° Low Waves: 2-3 ft Water temp: 57°	Thursday: Mostly Cloudy 70 ° High 49° Low Waves: 2-3 ft Water temp: 58°	Friday: Partly Cloudy 68° High 50 ° Low Waves: 2-3 ft Water temp: 58°
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The Pride

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TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 2004

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ELC parents protest at ASI meeting

By ASHLEY RENZY
Pride Staff Writer

Parents of students from the Early Learning Center (ELC) preschool gathered in the Clarke Field House, Friday March 19, to discuss with ASI officers the closing of their children's school.

Associated Students, Inc. (ASI), provides about \$106,000 to support the preschool's proposed \$324,000 annual budget, according to Honey Folk, ASI executive president and CEO.

Each CSUSM student pays \$50 per semester to ASI. Lura Poggi, ASI executive director, said that currently 13 percent of the \$50 student fee pays for the Early Learning Center and that ASI revenues might fall between 10 to 12 percent next year with the budget cuts that are currently taking place.

The action to vote on closing the ELC was the first item on the agenda at the Board of Directors' meeting on Friday. ASI was expected to make a decision that day, but postponed the decision until April 9.

Emberly Barker, a parent of two children who have attended the

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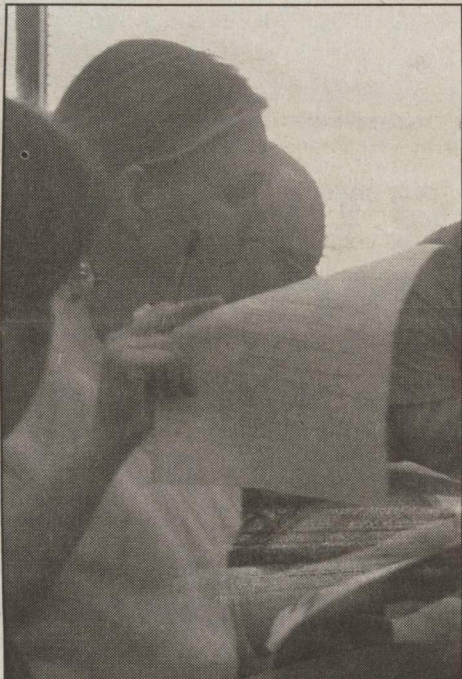


Photo by Jon Rodley/The Pride

Emberly Parker, a daytime student, argues Friday to keep the ELC open. She and over 50 other families use the ELC.

meeting on Friday. ASI was expected to make a decision that day, but postponed the decision until April 9.



Role playing games

Photo Illustration by Sarah Carlin /The Pride

Multi-faced dice befall folly or fortune in battle to role-players (above), and some players create thier own props, like maps and scenery, like this dungeon (below).

Blending imagination, dungeon masters, fantasy

By KYLE OTTO
Pride Staff Writer

Deep in the heart of the chaotic medieval age are the tales forged of the dungeon master, mythic gods, powerful arcane magic, valiant knight lords, radiant princesses and shadowy secrets of the stealthy assassin lurking in the black of night outside a raucous tavern.

The dungeon master, ruler of his domain and keeper of Dungeons & Dragons, is the first realm among the legacy of the mystical tradition of role-playing games.

Its truth, however, need not be shrouded in mystery, for the excitement of its adventure, the intrigue of its legends, lie in the imagination, the wondrous gift of human nature, to be wielded by each, if one should dare.

Here, at CSUSM, dwells a subculture of role-players, each member embarking on a boundless journey of danger and glory amid the vast worlds of the mind.

The dungeon master

The essence of the role-playing game is found in the heart and mind of any player who joins the "campaign," an ongoing story created and mediated by the Dungeon Master (DM), or game master (GM). The DM acts as the characters in the realm he has created, narrating the events that set the stage for player interaction. As the DM tells the story, player characters (PCs) are free to interact with their imaginary environment and its inhabitants as they choose, confined only by their own characters' abilities.

Players adopt the roles of characters such as

warriors, wizards, rogues and druids, assigning them personal traits such as strength and intelligence, equipping them with weapons, armor, spellbooks, lockpicks, etc., and breath life into them with backgrounds and personalities, to be played accordingly.

Role-players use extensive rulebooks that inform DM's and players as to how their game should be run, various multifaceted dice that arbitrate the uncertainties of game experiences, "character sheets" that record the statistics of their characters and sometimes maps of the lands they explore.

No board, no pieces, no start or finish, no winners or losers inspire the role-playing universe, only the thrill of evolving into the hero you have always dreamed you could become.

Players gather in pizza parlors, game shops or living rooms to experience the pinnacle of their creativity. For avid Dungeons & Dragons (D&D) enthusiast Chuck Buchwald, it is an experience of total immersion. A student teacher in CSUSM's graduate mathematics program, Buchwald and his gaming companion and master's colleague, Tim Eddo, apply their mathematical expertise, employing formulas to recreate the quantitative game mechanics.

"We're math dorks," said Buchwald, attesting to his zeal for the potential mathematical complexity of D&D.

Buchwald and his group of "adventurers," tread their treacherous underworld of "The Dungeon," a garage adorned with black and grey sheets mimicking dungeon walls, murals, mounted swords and armor, and a dragon water fountain that breathes



Photo by Kyle Otto /The Pride

CSSA lobbys for enviornmental policies

CSUSM students journey to Fresno to support safe building policies

By KYLE OTTO
Pride Staff Writer

FRESNO, CA— Student representatives of the California State Students Association (CSSA) proposed their policy agenda for a progressive environmental building sustainability policy to the CSU Board of Trustees last Wednesday.

CSUSM ASI VP of External Affairs and Environmental Affairs Officer for the CSSA Erik Roper described the California Student Sustainability Coalition (CSSC)'s message as "well-received." "The Chair of the Board of Trustees was seemingly sympathetic to our plight," he said, despite unanticipated time restrictions to statewide-traveling presenters.

After Roper trekked hundreds of miles through the foggy dead of night from a 2:00 a.m. San Marcos departure, the board con-

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See GAMERS, page 4

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Time to Vote

By ERIC MERCADO
Pride Staff Writer

The ASI election polls will open at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, March 22 and will close at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 25. Two options will be available for students to vote: on campus or online.

Students will be voting for Associated Students, Inc candidates as well as on a proposed Student Health Services fee increase.

The alternative from running to the polls and voting is just to go online. Students can access the CSUSM online election website at <http://lynx.csusm.edu/vote>.

According to CSUSM web systems coordinator Jay Rees, students simply need to use their smart web authorization code to access the vote online.

The site also contains candidate information, with a link on the referendum leading directly to the Student Health Services Website.

"Just as important as the potential future ASI candidates is the SHS referendum," said Iain Gould, ASI post bachelor representative. "Without the health fee increase of \$15 per student, CSUSM will feel a world of hurt and disenable campus expansion. Public health is very important for the student population as a whole."

One \$50 fee per student—a total of \$400,000—is collected each semester and given to ASI. Events and expenses on the ASI budget range from the scholarship money awarded to winning candidates to the ASI-sponsored BBQ's throughout the year.

"Each student is giving \$50 to ASI. If you're a student wouldn't you want to know where your money is going?" said Gould. "With no opposing candidates, this is a good opportunity for run-in candidates to win the election."

CSSA

from page 1

finer speakers to limited representation of various groups.

Four of seven planned CSSA/CSSC presenters were afforded voice before the board, including Tylor Middlestadt of Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo (SLO), Daniel Scheppeler of Cal State Fullerton, Roper, and Pablo Pastor of Cal Poly, SLO.

Remaining unheard CSSA/CSSC members included Rachel Aljilani of Cal Poly, SLO, Zachary Mermel of Humboldt State University, and Shakti Maisen of Cal State Northridge. The CSSA organizes around students' needs and interests throughout the CSU, and has worked on sustainability as a policy agenda item over the past three years.

The CSSC, an organization created by UC students in 2003, offering admittance to CSU students in February 2004, successfully lobbied UC Regents to adopt a "strong sustainability policy" in 2003.

Roper presented his policy as lone dissenter and student representative member of the CSU Committee for the Development of Sustainability Design Policy (CSDSP), whose overseer, Asst. Vice Chancellor Vi San Juan recently presented the committees' policy before the Board of Trustees.

In his February Environmental Affairs Officer Report, Roper highlighted what he identified as weaknesses in the CSDSP's Feb. 6 resolution, including:

- No commitment to any specific percent of renewable energy to be used in the future.
- No commitment to any building efficiency/sustainability standards.

In a March 18 press release, Roper stated goals on behalf of the CSSC's "Renew CSU" campaign, including:

- Clean energy: universities should make a commitment to obtain at least 25 percent of their electricity from renewable sources by 2014 and 50 percent by 2024.
- Green buildings: renovated and newly constructed buildings should be designed using green building guidelines developed by the U.S. Green Buildings Council (USGBC).
- Energy efficiency: energy use per student should be reduced by 20 percent by 2014 and 40 percent by 2024.

Over a 60-year life cycle, The USGBC's LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Silver sustainable buildings would cost half as much to design, construct, operate, and maintain as a conventional structure, according to CSSC figures.

Aljilani cited that over 140 LEED buildings exist in California as of August 2003. "Green buildings are 25-30 percent more energy efficient," she said.

Roper estimated that a long-term sustainability policy would eventually save the universities hundreds of millions of dollars, saying, "Especially in light of current budget cuts — what better time for students to be active and try to save us money?"

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DAY CARE

from page 1

ELC, began the open forum discussion by asserting that over the five years that she has been bringing her children to the ELC, funding has never been an issue until now.

"I think that is because ASI has always been aware that to meet their needs, they needed to have a daycare center," Barker said.

"Currently 22 out of the 25 CSU schools have daycare," Barker added, "This is because those schools have ASI members who are in tune with the importance of meeting basic needs for their students."

Parents that spoke on Friday were students at CSUSM who concluded that without the ELC they would have to give up

their education due to the lack of daycare.

One parent, Sabrina Wistain, said that she only has four classes left, which makes next semester her last. If ASI decides to close down the ELC she will have to quit before her last semester.

"There is no other childcare that I trust," Wistain said. "Do I quit my education after coming this far? To give up a career that will provide a good future for my child."

Another parent, Christine Focosi-Mckelvey, went line by line through ASI's cost of items budget.

"I noticed that only two items have gone up (in price), since 1998, while all other items have gone down," Christine said.

Folk explained that the problem is not that prices per item are going up, but rather, that "revenue is drastically dropping." In addition that \$112,000 of cuts has already been made and that with all of the

cuts, including cutting all food costs for the ELC, there is still a deficit of \$57,000.

ASI is currently working to get grants to build a new early learning center that would be affiliated with the College of Education. Which, Poggi says would still not be able to open until at least 2007.

To seek more options, Poggi is negotiating with an organization who may decide to help out and run the ELC. Poggi explained that they seemed interested and that they were scheduled to tour ELC later that day to talk in more detail about taking over the preschool.

Questions were brought up as to whether or not the ELC would keep their staff, and if the program would stay the same or change. Poggi said that she would need more information before having the answers to those questions.

Before voting unanimously to table the issue of ELC to a later date, ASI board members promised the parents another chance to have a meeting solely on the sub-

ject of ELC before making a decision. Folk explained that this date will be discussed by ASI and will be available 72 hours before the scheduled meeting.

The Early Learning Center is one of the few options for childcare in the area surrounding CSUSM.

According to a handout supplied by ASI, the ELC charges CSUSM students \$23 per day for full-time care and \$16 per day for part-time care. Faculty, staff and community members pay \$30 per day for full-time care and \$20 per day for part-time care.

If ELC is closed the nearest childcare facility is Discovery Isle, which is located behind Ralph's shopping center across from campus.

A representative from Discovery Isle said childcare at Discover Isle is on a full-time attendance basis, meeting a minimum of 5.5 hours per day. They accept children between the ages of 6 weeks to first grade and charge \$686 per month with a 10 percent discount for a second child.

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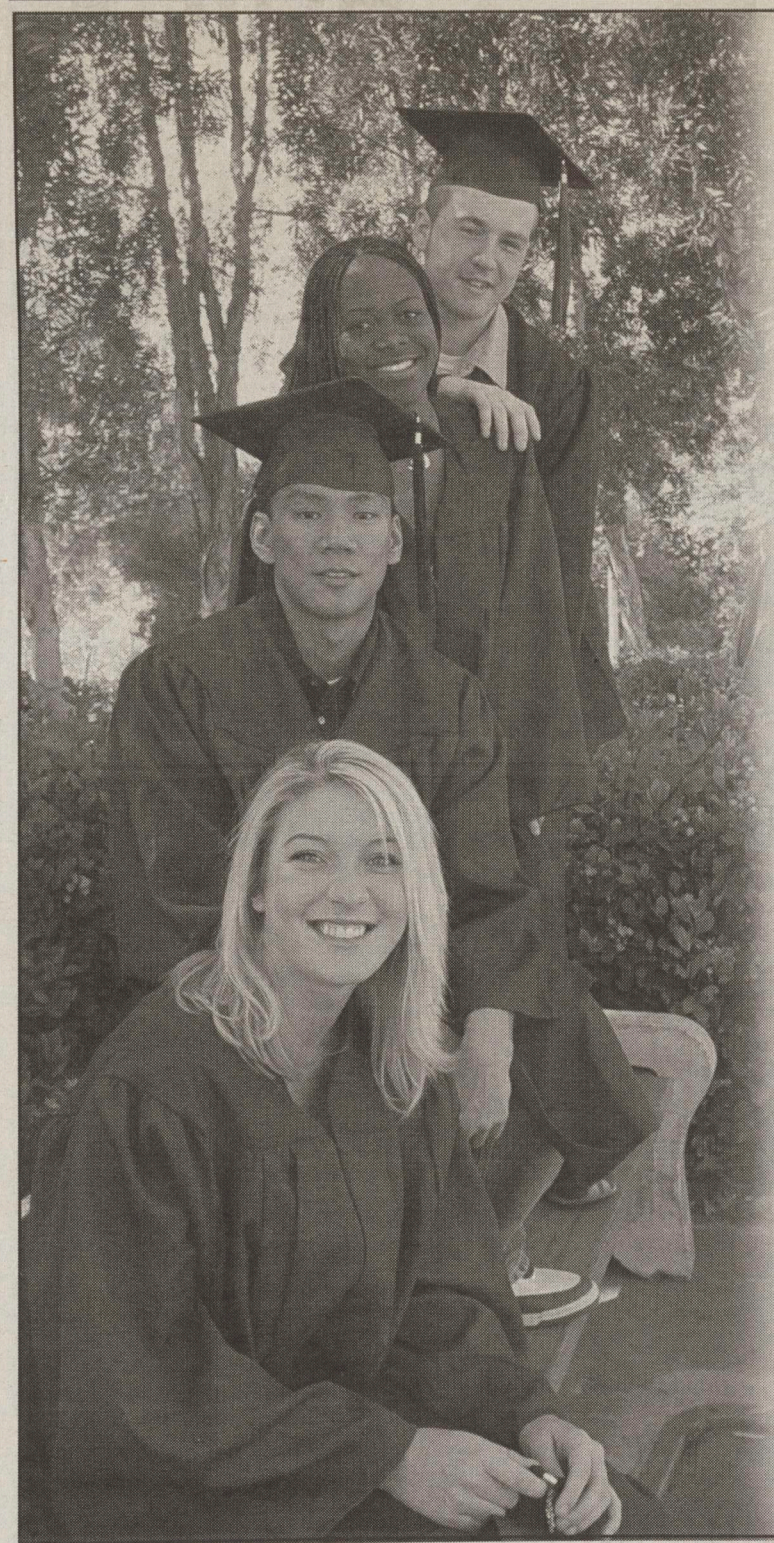
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One of many children at the Early Learning Center who gets taken care of while his parents attend classes at CSUSM.



Photo by Michelle Velarde/The Pride



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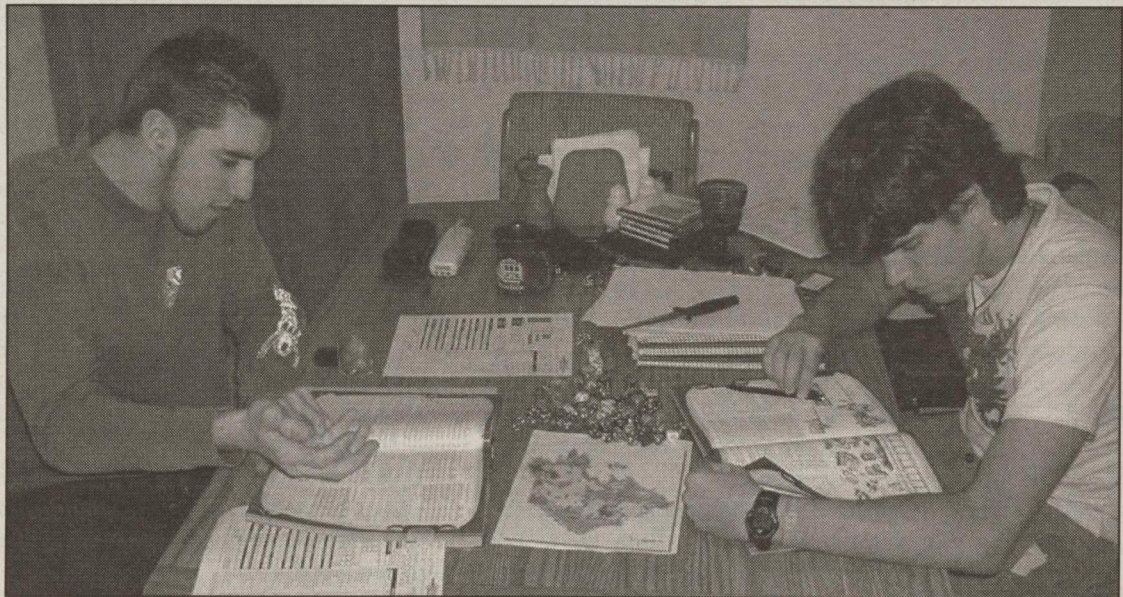
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GradFest



Photos by Kyle Otto/The Pride

Benji Master and Andrew Lees study hard for a role-playing game on Saturday with each other.

GAMERS

from page 1

“dragon blood.” The group plays by the light of oil lamp, and the sound of music, ethereal and martial, which they control by changing soundtracks according to events in the game.

When the PC’s, in the world they have created, enter a tavern looking for a brew and a brawl, Buchwald’s wife bursts into the dungeon with a hot meal on metal plates and wooden bowls, and they swig mead from pewter mugs.

For some, it may be just a game, however, when Buchwald came to a gaming session in leather armor and a tunic, bearing a wooden bow, his group joked that he may have been going a little overboard.

Live-action mayhem

This kind of activity resembles a variation of the role-playing subculture, known as “live-action” role-playing in which players physically interact with one another as their characters.

The Society of Creative Anachronism (SCA) uses barrel plastic as armor and duct-taped swords as they compete fiercely in live-action scenarios, in groups sometimes exceeding a hundred participants.

Some live-action role-playing is associated with interactive scenes derived from traditional “paper” games (e.g. D&D). As CSUSM graphics and performing arts major “Dr. K” (Michael Kosich) said, “some people dress specifically for each other,” flaunting sexy attire, and acting out relationships between the characters in their games.

Officers of the new Coalition of Magic at CSUSM, Shannon Barnett and Ryan O’ Connor, neighbor on this kind of role-playing, as they dress in costume to resemble characters from the popular Harry Potter saga, the theme of their club, while they conduct readings for fundraising and children’s charities.

Dr. K spoke of the plight of the role-player, commonly stigmatized by stories of games gone wrong, saying of role-players, computer gamers, comic enthusiasts and the like, that others “can’t relate to us.” Dr. K also shared frustration over the lack of gaming activity on campus. CSUSM student Kyle

Joint said he would join a gaming group on campus if one existed.

Dr. K said that more young students play because they haven’t yet developed a full schedule, which dominates the fantasy life of would-be gamers.

Video RPG subculture

Every day in the student

lounge in the commons building, members of the Lounge Krew (LK) gather to share camaraderie and their affinity for video role-playing games.

Video RPG’s, such as Final Fantasy and Everquest, are a variation upon RPG’s of old, allowing a player to adopt pre-fabricated character archetypes,

such as fighters and magic users, to be cast into an established environment, conquering foes in order to complete quests.

Michael Nguyen, computer science major, and Chris Miranda, biochemistry major, play Final Fantasy: Crystal Chronicles, in which they travel from their home village, which they named “CSUSM,” to a multitude of others, protecting them from “The Mist,” which mysteriously threatens them.

Nguyen plays in some online groups and with Lounge Krew members regularly.

“I notice if I don’t play games, I kind of do badly in school, with nothing to relieve stress,” Nguyen said.

A small society of sorts, LK is a group of about 50 friends, each bearing a “Krew name,” such as “Profé,” Erik Sager, psychology sophomore, “SCM,” Nguyen, and Dr. K.

One member, “Beau,” freestyle raps a routine incorporating all 54 “official” LK names, representing on karaoke days featured in the lounge, provided by ASI.

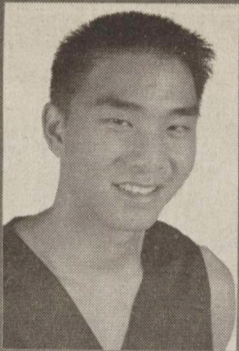
On a near-daily basis, one of the Krew brings in a game system of some kind, such as the Playstation 2, Gamecube, or X-Box.

The Lounge Krew said they no longer take advantage of the outdated arcades in the lounge, as one LK member, who preferred to remain anonymous, asked, “Why? We’ve got the games that we wish they had, that we want to play. If they had the right video games, they’d make money.”

LK is outsider inclusive, however communal their membership may be. “Everybody’s accepted in here, cause we’re all different and crazy,” said the same student. “It’s kind of like a fraternity or sorority, where you get to meet people. Some people come here that don’t even go to school here.” Sager said, “What are you going to do for like two hours between classes? Sit outside and not talk to anybody – smoking, doing nothing.”

Reflecting on the potluck Thanksgiving LK celebrated together last year, Nguyen said, “We’re like a big family here.”

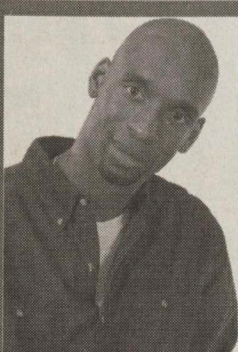
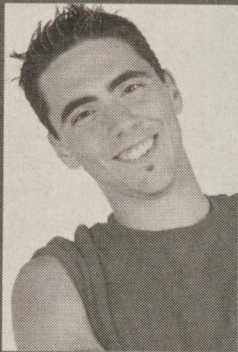
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Jock Talk with Josh

Poke this...

JOSH SANDOVAL
Pride Staff Writer

Pocket rockets and big slick. No, these are not sexual innuendos. Rather terms that give a glimpse into the world of hold'em poker.

There is no athletic ability needed to play poker but that does not mean you will never appear on ESPN.

Poker has always been a popular game; however, it was previously just a game that could be found in casinos or in college dorm rooms.

Currently, the game of poker is taking over TV time slots and internet websites.

Sports networks, ESPN and Fox Sports, seem to be broadcasting poker tournaments more than they broadcast actual athletics. ESPN has turned the Joe Schmo poker player into a celebrity and other networks, like Bravo, have turned the celebrity into the Joe Schmo poker player.

Who knew that watching

people play cards would actually become a televised event? Well, ESPN had the vision. ESPN annually broadcasts the world series of poker which showed last years champion winning a pot of over \$2.5 million. TV stations take you into the game by allowing you to see everyone's cards and by having commentators call the play by play on the action.

Recently Bravo hosted a celebrity tournament called "no limit Texas hold'em poker tournament" that had participants such as Ben Affleck, Martin Sheen, Coolio, and eventual champion Nicole Sullivan. Each contestant was playing for charity which resulted in winners taking home a share of the \$250,000 pot. To capitalize on the recent craze of poker, Bravo will host another celebrity hold'em tourney later in the year.

Anyone, even celebrities, can learn to play poker well. What most people do not realize is that poker is actually a game of skill and not just complete

luck. Professional poker players have cashed in on their success by writing books such as "The Theory of Poker" and "Super System." Those books can give some insight on what to do in certain situations of poker games, rather than just going with gut feelings.

The interest in poker on TV is questionable to many people because many just see it as playing cards. However, watching or playing poker is more like reality TV than "survivor" or "the real world." The human element is an enjoyable part of the game. In poker, there is lying, deceiving, slipups, risks, rewards, and hope; all of which are a huge part of everyday life. Every poker player experiences those words while playing poker and it is quite exciting to see what happens next.

So, if you are just looking for something to do that is entertaining or if you are looking to make some extra money just shuffle up and deal.

Comments, suggestions or topics you would like to see discussed in "Jock Talk with Josh," please e-mail Josh Sandoval at pride@csusm.edu. In the title please type, ATTN: SPORTS COLUMN.



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Save the ELC for only \$4 per semester

Last semester Cal State San Marcos had to limit enrollment, which caused less money to flow into the system. Programs like Associated Students, Inc. (ASI) depend on that money to keep running. With the lack of cash, ASI had to make cuts to their \$1.2 million budget.

Even after ASI's board members made cuts, their budget was still over by \$350,000.

Their solution: cut funding to the Early Learning Center (ELC), where 55 families send their children every week.

At the ELC young children, ages two to six, learn the values of love, compassion, and etiquette. The Early Learning Center is cheaper than most preschools, and more flexible with schedules. The ELC also provides opportunities for education students with valuable work experience. Students and teachers both depend on the Early Learning Center.

And the ELC depends on Cal State students to help them with funding. Of the \$324,000 it will cost to run the ELC next year, students would pay about \$106,374.

That equals out to about 6.4 percent of their \$50 student fee, or about \$6.75 per semester. To keep the ELC alive next semester it would take another \$3.75 a semester per student.

That's a cheap price to help raise more than 55 children. It is a matter of weighing the options setting our priorities, and making decisions.

ASI makes those decisions. Losing the ELC should not be an option.

The issue of the ELC is a mirror of what's happening in the Cal State system.

The governor's cuts have possibly forced the shutdown of Educational Opportunity Programs. ASI vehemently protested against this.

Now it's their turn. With the vitality of the Early Learning Center in their hold, will they follow the governor and just cut it, or will they accept their responsibility to provide for their students?

ASI needs to find a way to keep the Early Learning Center alive.

Hold a special election for a \$4 fee referendum.

From the pump, or from the utter?

By JASON ROBBINS
Pride Staff Writer



For \$2.17 per gallon you should be able to swim in the gasoline before it spews into your pollution-monster on wheels. Butterfly stroke or no, that painful number represents the average price of gas in North County as reported by the North County Times.

An initial reaction to this situation may be to wonder why prices are so high. Through a calm investigation of the Internet, I uncovered three possible factors: A rising cost of crude oil, uncertainty about crises in the Middle East and Venezuela, and the fact that an unusual amount of oil

refineries have been shutdown for repair. Sounds good to me. But unfortunately, it probably doesn't matter how legitimate the explanation for high gas prices sounds; for we just have to keep on pumping. Right?

So instead of grieving over high prices, I wish compare gasoline to milk. More specifically I want to determine which product is the more cost-efficient fuel. Both goods are primarily sold by the gallon, and lately, both hover around the same price. But which one prevails in a cost/benefit analysis? Let's find out.

A North County buyer can purchase one gallon of gasoline for an average price of \$2.17. Now let's select an average car to fuel up. I think a 2000 Honda Civic is suitable. Honda reports that this model gets 38 miles per gallon. A

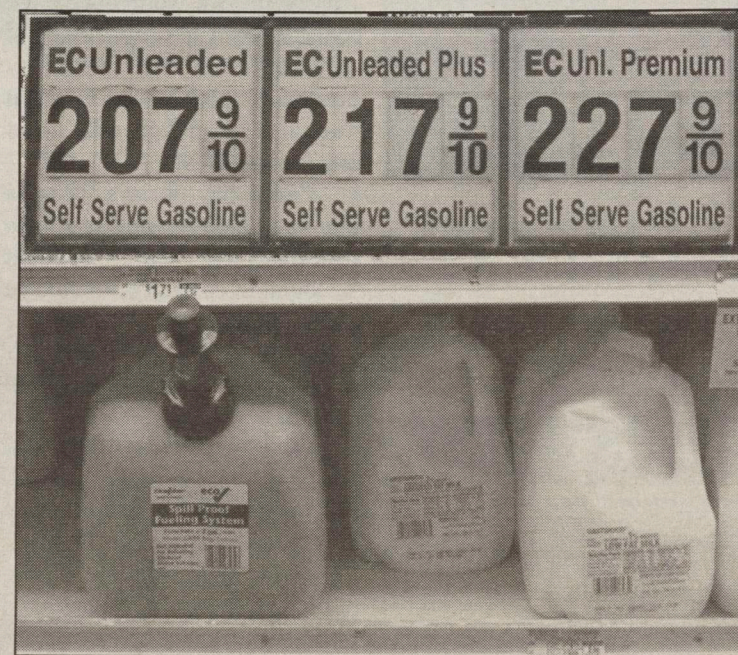


Photo Illustration by Jon Rodley/The Pride

Running on a gallon of milk or driving on a gallon of gas; a mathematical examination reveals which of the two is the most fuel-efficient.

simple mathematical computation reveals that for every \$2.17 we spend on gas, we get to travel 38 miles. Not bad.

A North County buyer can purchase a gallon of milk for about \$3.50. The label on back of a

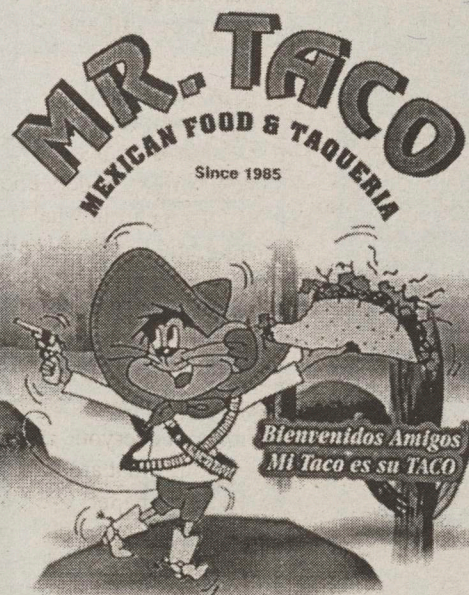
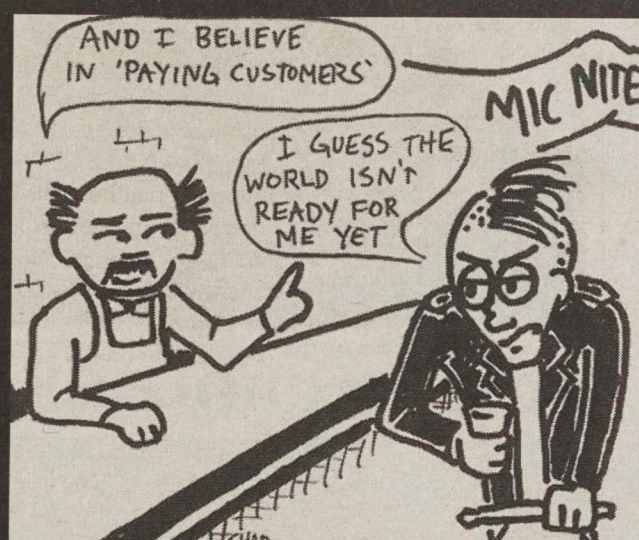
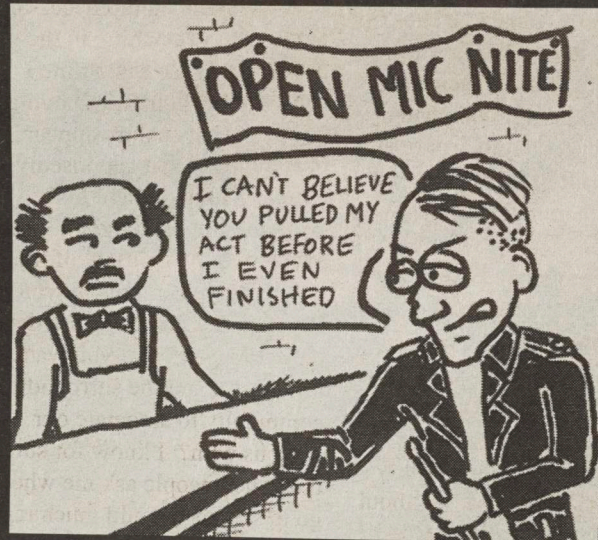
one-gallon milk container (one percent milk) reveals that there are 120 calories in each serving. Since a gallon-sized container contains 16 servings, drinking a gallon of this type of milk would dump a total of 1920 calories into

your body.

Now let's select an average person to fuel up with milk. According to an online Activity Calorie Calculator, a 150-pound person running 6 MPH (10 minute mile) will burn 720 calories in one hour. Thus one gallon of milk (1920 calories) would enable this person to run at a positive-calorie count for about 2 and 3/4 hours. During this amount of time, our average person (running 6MPH) would travel 16 miles. These calculations mean that for every \$3.50 we spend on a gallon of milk, we get nearly 16 miles out of our hypothetical person.

Luckily we do not need to perform any more mathematical computations to conclude which product is the more cost-efficient fuel. A gallon of gasoline is cheaper than milk and it enables us to travel further. I suggest reminding yourself of this comparative advantage before cringing at the pump. The results decree that gasoline deserves our unconditional support. It is so affirmed.

BEER NUTS By: Chad Spinks



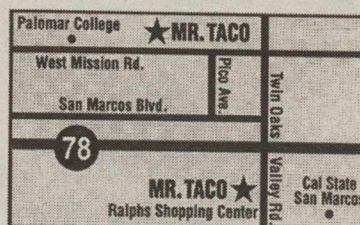
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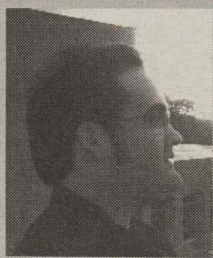
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By MIKE DOLAN
Pride Ombudsman

OMBUDSMAN'S notes

Last Wednesday, the staff of The Pride came out to Founders Plaza in an effort to bring the paper to the students and to recruit for the Pride Literary Supplement. The overall consensus of the affair was positive; many students demonstrated genuine interest in The Pride and the Pride Literary Supplement, where students can get their artwork published for free.

However, a student refused a

copy of the paper based on the observation, in her own words, that The Pride is "too slanted." This made me think.

If the definition of the word "slanted" is intending to affiliate us with a certain political distinction, then, I think, The Pride is not "slanted." I feel we could remove any doubt by engaging in a more in depth reporting style. For example, if we are reporting a story with any political overtones,

then the reporter must interview both sides of the issue: a simple task considering such groups as the Progressive Activist Network and the College Republicans are both on campus and both represent the contrasting sides of most political issues. Something as simple as that would balance any perceived slant in our political coverage.

There is, however, another component here that may be mis-

interpreted by some. That is the position of media liberalism from which journalists should take perspective. This is something entirely separate from a political affiliation, I think.

This position should steer a journalist in the direction of informing the public without bias and without the fear of being viewed as favoring one side over the other. If that is what we are failing to do, then we have failed

as journalists.

Please let me know what you think of this. My e-mail is dolan005@csusm.edu.

Corrections for VOL. XI No. 22

The state program being obtained in the article "Student Health Services request fee increase" is "Family Pact" not "Family Pack."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Campus Sustainability: It's about saving \$

The CSU is awash in money – we're just wasting a ton of it every year on rising energy and building operating costs. Energy and operating expenses is the second costliest item paid annually to maintain the CSU.

Last year, due to pressure put on them by students, the University of California, Board of Regents recognized that they were wasting money by continuing to build energy inefficient buildings – so they adopted a policy that commits the UC to have all its future buildings designed and constructed in a sustainable, energy-efficient manner.

The UC Regents found it compelling when students pointed out that millions of dollars could be saved over the lifetime of a building by building it to a sustainable LEED Silver standard (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design – a nationally recognized standard for sustainable design developed by the US Green Building Council).

Now the UC has a policy requiring them to build to a LEED Silver standard, which will allow them to avoid wasting millions of dollars over the lifetime of new buildings. Additionally the UC is on the path to energy independence by setting themselves up to produce about 25 percent of their energy needs from on-campus renewable energy (i.e., solar panels) by 2014.

Right now the CSU Board of Trustees are poised to adopt a sustainable design policy with none of the minimum requirements (LEED Silver & minimum percentages of renewable energy to be used) which make the UC policy so sensible. Students throughout the CSU have formed a California Student Sustainability Coalition (CSSC) with representation from 14 of the 23 CSU campuses

to pressure the CSU Board of Trustees to adopt a strong policy. March 16 and 17, at Fresno State, the CSU Board of Trustees will meet. The CSSC (which includes CSUSM students) will be on the agenda of the Campus Planning, Building & Grounds Committee to make a detailed presentation of its reasons for opposing the current policy. This presentation will include the voices of former and current state government policy analysts, professors with experience in sustainable design and renewable energy and of course, the students of the CSU.

We encourage students to contact the CSU Board of Trustees (send e-mails to the Trustees Secretariat at, lhernandez@calstate.edu) to urge them to adopt a sensible sustainable design and energy use policy for the CSU with minimum requirements of LEED Silver building standards and minimum requirements for renewable energy use. It's time we stopped wasting money on energy which could be better spent supporting students. Students interested in joining the CSSC in its campaign to persuade the Trustees should contact the CSUSM Environmental Advisory Group at: eag@csusm.edu.

Ryan O'Connor
Political Science Major, Junior

ASI needs to publicize candidate statements.

Dear Elections Committee Chairman,

I have a number of concerns I would like to address with you and the elections committee, particularly on the subject publicizing of this election and how the election has been conducted up to this point in time.

To start, it is the week before elections and the candidate's

information and statements aren't up. I've been waiting very patiently the past few weeks to see the information posted and cannot believe that the information is not posted yet. Granted that there isn't any opposition for the board positions, but don't you think it is adding insult to injury by not having the information up at this point?

I would really appreciate it if you could get that information up ASAP. It just doesn't make any sense otherwise.

Also, I'd like to address the reason why this week's issue of The Pride did not contain the candidate's campaign statements. Again, adding insult to injury, it merely contains an article that talks about the elections being uncontested. This surely will only exacerbate the likelihood of a low voter turnout.

I apologize if I seem a little harsh here. But I surely don't think I'm out of line in bringing this issues to light. ASI still needs to at least run this election and get all the information out to the students. I hope that we can at least reach out to as many students as possible in the coming week.

Please let me know when and if you'll be doing anything further, as I hope that the elections committee will take some initiative.

James Nguyen
CSUSM student

Respecting Spain, countries in times of need

If you are an American, you should have a heavy heart when you honestly take a look at the way us bleeding heart American's have acted towards those who mourn in Madrid, Spain. When a terror that rips apart a country and sets it people and leaders on its knees, we Ameri-

cans only send three of ours to mourn with them.

When the September 11 bombing ruptured our countries infrastructure, the whole world, civilized and not, mourned with us. There were moments of silence in countries far and wide, friend and foe for Americans. All we can do is send three "Bleeding Heart" Americans as bearers of condolence. Bullshit.

Our President could have pleaded with his people to take a moment to remember those lost, but we (he) are/is too busy "helping" Iraq by dropping death showers.

It is basic belief that you help a friend in need. Spain is our friend and Allie, but we turn our heads to their tragedy. Spain has helped our "cause" in the War in Iraq yet we ignore them in their time of need. If they were bombed for their support in the American war in Iraq, all the more reason to support them, but support hardly comes.

In a recent Associated Press story, the state department advised that U.S. Citizens in Spain be alert and avoid crowds. We offer words of caution for our own people, not words of sorrow for theirs. It is this sickening individuality that the world abroad hates about America. I have finally opened my eyes to see the way the world views the American Empire, and it saddens me. If you read this, you may finally see America for its true face. Do you really want to be associated with that type of image?

We are a government by and for the people, yet our elected officials send a completely different message.

This is the message of this manifesto: If you believe that America, the most powerful nation in the world, is selfish in its ignorant view of terror abroad, send this Manifesto to someone else. If you believe that the greater part of America believes in helping those who need it the most, pass this letter on.

Change is Inevitable! We are the first step in positive change.

William Costello

Questioning The Pride's variety of story content

While I understand the need to print a paper that is diverse in its subject matter, I am confused as to why The Pride would include articles that are offensive to many students and staff members

Reading both this weeks issue and last weeks, I have been disgusted and repulsed by articles that describe in detail products for male enhancement and blow-up dolls. I do not believe that every student should necessarily agree with everything in the paper, but at the same time I can't see the benefit of having articles of this nature appear in something that supposedly represents our student body.

Again, I understand that the students want a variety of things out of this paper, but can you honestly say that these are the types of stories that you want this school and the surrounding community to associate our campus with? I know for sure that when people ask me where I go to school I would much rather have them associate the name CSU San Marcos with good education programs and a diverse and friendly campus than with these types of articles.

It is important as this University continues to grow and become more widely known that we play a part in what it is known for and I strongly believe that this type of reporting is not what we want the reputation of our school to be based upon. Thank you for your time in reading this, I just wanted you to know that not everyone agrees with the things that are being printed in your paper!

Evan Trown
Liberal Studies

The Pride
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY SAN MARCOS

VAREKAI at delight for the senses

By ASHLEY RENZY
Pride Staff Writer



"things beyond wildest imagination occur, in this mesmerizing world of 'Varekai'"

No words can describe the emotions that arise while all sense of hearing is being drowned out by the sound effects of a cave man smashing a bug, splat, squish, quack, first using him as a tennis ball, donk, donk, donk, and then kicking the poor bug out of the ball park, whack!

Meanwhile the human sense of sight is inadequate; seven eyes may be enough to watch everything that is going on through the various levels of the stage. There are flying people being lowered down from the sky, others popping up from under the stage, a whole circus act happening on front stage, and lots of background acts happening in various levels in the back of the stage on huge 15-20 feet steel poles, as others are dancing in cat walks above your head.

The sense of touch is also overwhelmed, experiencing another level of ecstasy as bodies shake with the vibration of the simultaneous claps of the crowd.

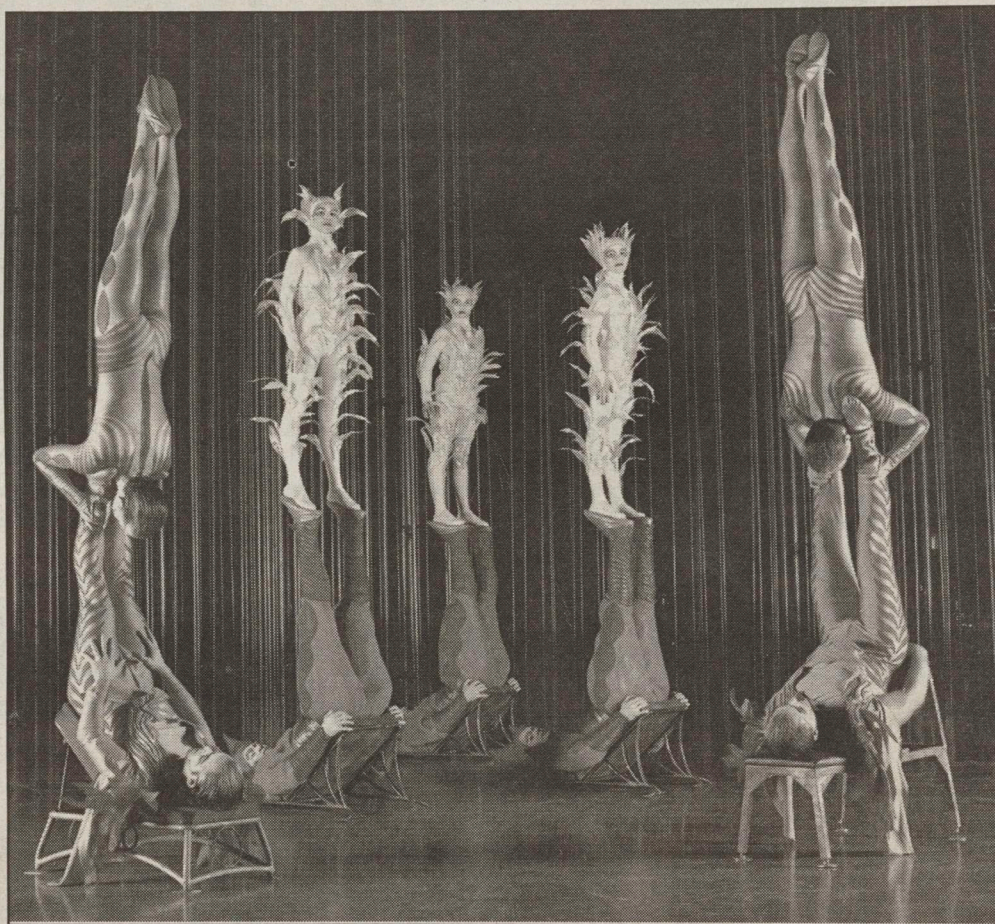
The audience sat speechless, yet involved, in awe at the premier show of Cirque du Soleil this last Thursday at the Qualcomm Stadium. The show, entitled "Varekai" began its run there Mar. 18 and will continue until Apr. 4.

The story of "Varekai" takes place deep within a forest where an extraordinary world exists. A world called Varekai. In Roman the word "Varekai" means "whatever" and this show lives up to that meaning. Anything can happen, whatever and whenever, things beyond wildest imagination occur, in this mesmerizing world of Varekai.

The story begins with a lizard moving to the sounds of a chime. Other mystical creatures slowly begin coming out, including a cave man character that is always trying to invent things.

Within a few moments of setting the scene, the music changes, and a solitary angel falls from the sky landing softly in the forest of these fantastical creatures.

The angel is inspected by the creatures who consider



Photos courtesy of Cirque du Soleil

Acrobats from all over the world amaze audiences with their grace and agility. Varekai will be playing at Qualcomm Stadium from Mar. 18 until Apr. 04.

him dead until his performance begins. He is lifted into the air wrapped in a net, and begins his acrobatic act in mid-air with the net as his partner.

There is also a lady creature, with whom the angel falls in love, as he tries to adjust to this new life in the world of Varekai. Both the angel and the creature have an attraction and curiosity about one another but there are obstacles which will not let them be together.

The next several acts that follow are both amazing and unbelievable. There is never a dull moment as people are dancing all around in extravagant costumes with intrinsic make-up detail.

Performers are catapulted from one another's legs; they place themselves in strange and uncomfortable positions on top of one another; they swing from the sky either solo or with partners; they fall into holes on stage; they bal-

ance themselves on canes; they juggle up to eight different sized items at a time.

The female creature turns into a human as she is lowered from the sky and does a routine both in a hoop in the sky and on hand-balancing canes on the stage. She is the most capable contortionist in the show.

The audience was in awe, as she made beautiful, mesmerizing art with her body.

Finally the lovers are united as king and queen while the final act of "Russian Swings" takes place. There are men swinging from giant swings, being catapulted onto huge white sheets where they land on the shoulders of another man, on one leg or arm. Their costumes are bright red and orange and the music is very upbeat and loud. The audience gets really into the show as little red pieces of paper fly down throughout the entire audience.

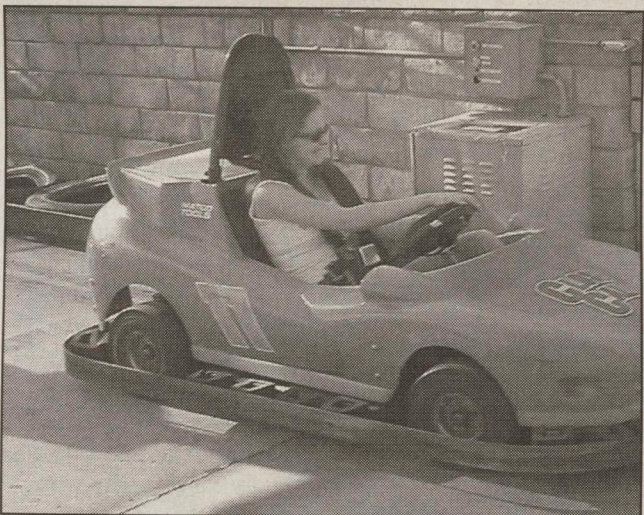


Photo by Chelsea George/ The Pride

Freshman Emily Guckert races around the track at Boomers Family Fun Center.

By CHELSEA GEORGE
Pride Staff Writer

Everyone wants to go out tonight and it is your turn to come up with a plan, there is just one minor setback your not 21. So what is there to do around San Marcos for under-agers? Contrary to popular belief there are plenty of things to do that don't require fake IDs.

When looking for some entertainment there is always the classic trip to the movies. Edwards San Marcos Stadium

18 features all the latest theater releases plus digital sound and comfy stadium seating in all 18 theaters. Sit back with your popcorn and prepared to be taken away.

Seen way too many movies lately? It's time to hit up Boomers Family Fun Center with locations in Escondido or Vista. You can become the video game master and earn tickets towards prizes in the arcade. When the video games get old you can take a step out back to play a round of miniature golf and take a spin on the

Local, legal fun for those under 21

go-carts or even demolition derby with your friends in the bumper boats. If you go on a Tuesday you can play all the miniature golf and drive a go-cart in as many circles as you want for only \$10.

If miniature golf just isn't your thing you can always head over to Ups and Downs, the local roller-skating rink in Escondido. Ups and Downs features a DJ, snack bar and various games out on the rink through out the night. Ups and Downs is closed Mon. - Wed. for private parties but has public skating times through out the rest of the week and on Thursdays it's only \$3 for skates from 6:30 p.m. until 9 p.m.

For another one of America's favorite past-times try bowling at Vista Entertainment Center located on Vista Way. Vista entertainment also features laser tag at only \$3.50 per person. Another bowling

alley is AMF Eagle Lanes on San Marcos Blvd.

If all of these ideas are a little to tame for you tastes you can go to Limelight at Margarita Rocks in Oceanside. On Wednesday nights Margarita Rocks teams up with Channel 93.3 from 5:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m. for Limelight. The club is 18 and up on the first level and 21 and up on the second and third level. Cover charge is usually \$10 for those under 21 but it can vary so you might want to call and check the prices before you go. The dance floor is usually pretty packed right around 9:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. or so when everyone shows up. If crowded dance floors don't appeal to you can there's a pool table on the bottom floor as well.

So the next time you are bored with nothing to do and everyone is at the bars without you remember there are options.

Horoscope

Aries (March 21-April 19) Look over your shoulder when gossiping, the walls have ears.

Taurus (Apr. 20-May 20) You are a homebody by nature and homebodies are BORING get out and enjoy the spring weather.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) Nag, nag, nag! To get what you want try another approach.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) Spring break is just around the corner it might just be the cure for you.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) Hibernation time is over, the sun has you flying high.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Atkins Schmatkins, a burger and fries will do you good.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Your inherent ability to empathize is super cute.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21) No one will be able to resist your sexiness this week. Work it!

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) All that glitters is totally gold and its all within your grasp.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Reward yourself for taking care of business like a champ.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb 18) Show up early or you might miss something.

Pisces (Feb. 19-Mar. 20) Bad habits are had to break for but you will succeed this time.