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INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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VOL. XX NO. 12

Who will be the next Mr. Alpha Chi?

Proceeds to go directly to CSUSM Alumna diagnosed with Breast Cancer

VIRIDIANA PACHECO ISAAC
Editor-In-Chief

Every fall, a series of good-looking CSUSM male students strut their stuff for a chance to win the title of "Mr. Alpha Chi," a male pageant hosted by Alpha Chi Omega sorority. Unlike many other pageants, however, the scores of onlookers and the contestants themselves are not the only ones who benefit from a little eye-candy.

"[The pageant] is an Alpha Chi tradition that does not just happen at our chapter," said Mr. Alpha Chi Chair Heather Grofik. "It is a fundraising event, part of our philanthropy."

The pageant

consists of men from many different campus organizations competing for the title while raising money for the sorority's cause. This year, the proceeds will go directly to CSUSM and Alpha Chi Omega alumna Lauren Park, who was recently diagnosed with Breast Cancer.

"Her old insurance will not cover her and neither will her new one,"

See MR AX, Page 3



Photo courtesy of Heather Grofik

Join the Impact Protest Prop 8 on November 15th

JACKIE CARBAJAL
News Editor

On the early morning hours following a historical election night, precincts reported that Proposition 8, a California proposition to amend the state Constitution restricting marriage as a union between a man and woman, passed with 52.3% yes votes (5,668,960) and 47.7% no votes (5,173,113). Only falling second to the presidential election, Prop 8 proved the most costly measure on the ballot in the nation, raising \$37.6 million for and \$36.8 million against the right for same sex couples to marry.

In a final statement issued on Nov. 6, the No on Prop 8 campaign stated, "We had hoped never to have to write this note. Sadly, fueled by misinformation, distortions and lies, millions of voters went to the polls yesterday and said YES to big-

otry, YES to discrimination, YES to second-class status for same-sex couples. And while the election was close, and millions of votes still remain uncoun-

ted, it has become apparent that we lost. There is no question this defeat is hard." For many on campus and throughout California, the day following the election was bittersweet. Having celebrated the election of the first African-American president the night before, students and faculty remained jarred by the results of

Prop 8. One student commented on the irony that Californians

See Prop 8, Page 3

**NATIONAL PROTEST
AGAINST PROP 8**
NOV. 15th 10:30am PST / 1:30pm EST

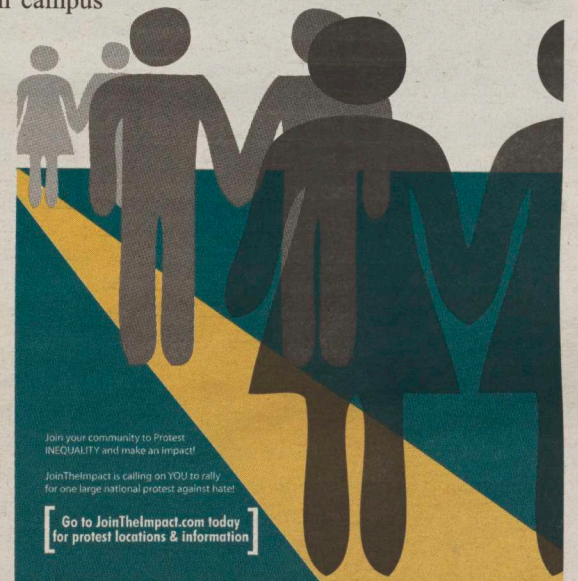


Photo courtesy of jointheimpact.com

Prospective students enjoy CSUSM for preview day

BY SANDRA CHALMERS
Pride Staff Writer

Saturday Nov. 8, prospective students and their families came to CSUSM to explore the campus, academic programs and unique opportunities available.

Organized by the Admissions and Student Recruitment office, preview day serviced prospective students in giving them a taste of student life at CSUSM.

Preview day held campus tours

led by CSUSM students of the Pride Ambassadors, admissions and financial aid workshops and also held numerous tents of exclusive CSUSM programs and student organizations for potential students to discover.

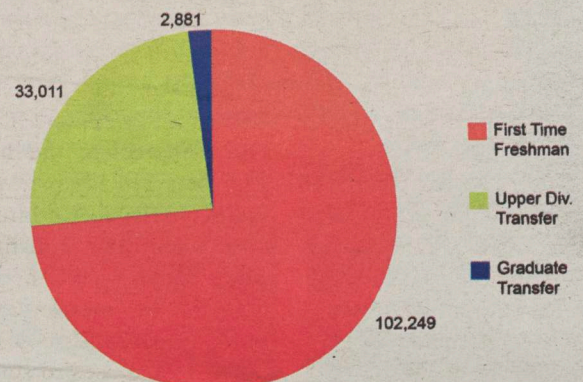
Other workshops included a preview of the College of Arts and Sciences, which hosted faculty members that presented information for each specific major in the department. College of Business Administration, College of Education, and School of Nursing also held workshops through

out the day.

"We are here to give prospective students some exposure of the campus, our services and academic programs," said Marsha Gable from the Student Outreach program. She was stationed at the front registration table, which greeted prospective students and supplied them with a schedule of events for the day.

"Preview day isn't only for future freshmen, but also for transfer stu-

See Preview, Page 3



CSUSM received a total of 138,141 applications as of midnight 10:30 up 17% from the same time last year.

SHAKEOUT

JONATHAN E. THOMPSON
Pride Staff Writer

At 10 a.m. on Thursday, Nov. 13, millions of Southern Californians are going to experience the largest earthquake preparedness drill in United States history. The Great Southern California ShakeOut is a long event with conferences and rallies scheduled from Nov. 12-16.

CSUSM will participate

in five disaster exercises this week with two directly related to The Great Southern California ShakeOut, says University Police Department Emergency Manager, Dean Manship.

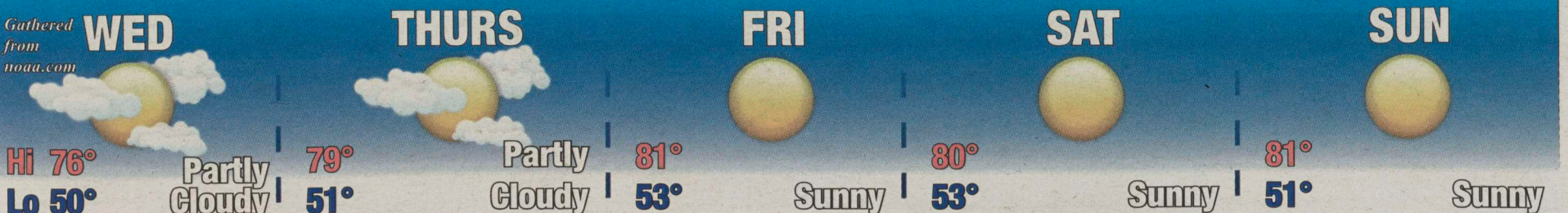
"First, we have requested the assistance of the Faculty in showing a short earthquake preparedness video in all classes on Thursday Novem-

See Shakeout, Page 3

drill this Thursday



Image courtesy shakeout.org



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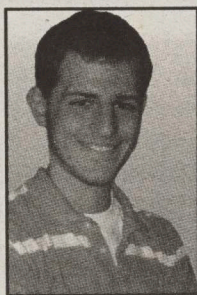
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Bill of Rights

Where have all the epics gone?

BY BILL RHEIN
Pride Staff Writer



Some of the highest regarded film classics can be categorized in the epic genre. These extravagant and long films are engrossing, despite their age.

Yet, most epics are old, which raises the question of what happened to the epic genre.

The term 'epic' is no really a genre, rather a term to describe the scale of a film. It is more related words like 'independent' and 'blockbuster' rather than genre terms such as 'romantic comedy' or 'western.'

Epics have a variety of settings

and subject matter, but there are defining traits. The most notorious is the length of epics. The average film runs between an hour and half to two hours. Epics usually last more than three. Often, the films will have a built-in intermission.

Accompanying these intermission and the rest of the films are dramatic scores. As well, epics focus on large than life times and/or people in history. Epics are also famous for the bold cinematography. Wide shots of the landscape and setting make the movie leap of the screen.

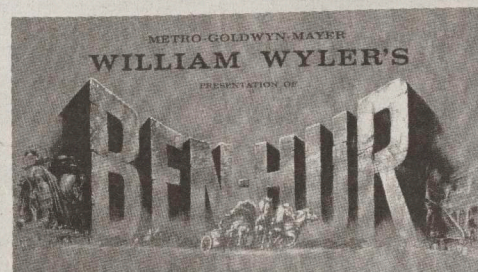
Few modern movies meet this description. *Titanic* was made in 1997 is the last notable epic film.

The Lord of the Rings trilogy fits the description of a saga because it is a series.

True epics come from decades ago. The most notable films include *Ben-Hur*, *Gone with the Wind*, and *Laurence of Arabia*. These are wonderful films and now there are not many made like these.

Films like *Schindler's List*, *Reds*, and *Gandhi* have popped up, but there has not been a consistent supply of extensive movies about heroics. Money is the cause of this. Epics require massive budgets and are difficult to make. Many famous movies have stories of production difficulty attached to them.

The market has changed. It is sad to see a interest shift from grandiose films to snappy Hollywood flicks. Attention spans have been shrunk and filmmakers have responded by not make epics. People are not even watching the classic epics, and are thus missing out. I hope that one day cinemas will once again screen larger than life tales of heroics and humanity.



Images courtesy of eatbrie.com

Counselors warrant counseling CSUSM academic counselors do more harm than good

BY AMY SALISBURY
Opinion Editor

As a sophomore at CSUSM, I've come to understand the inner-workings and complexities of registering for classes, deciding what classes to take, and knowing what my major requirements are. Not once had I felt the need to visit one of the counselors here on campus. Besides, the handouts for undergrad and major requirements were relatively self-explanatory.

Upon acceptance to CSUSM, I knew I wanted to transfer schools before I even stepped foot on campus. Nothing against my Cougars, mind you, but there is not as strong of a journalism department here as there are at other campuses. Consequently,

I ended up at the newspaper, first as a staff writer, and now as the Opinion Editor.

I felt I had complete control over my academic life at CSUSM. With a cumulative GPA of 3.9, an editorial position at the school newspaper, and excellent standing among my professors, I could think of no reason why a school might reject an upper-division transfer student like me.

That is, until the beginning of fall semester, when I met with a CSUSM counselor.

"Well, I'll tell you right now," said the counselor who shall remain nameless, "it's darn near impossible to transfer from a four-year [university] to another four-year."

"Why is that? I've got good grades and I'm involved in extra-curricu-

lars."

"That's just how it is," the counselor said.

Naturally, the news stunned me. The door to my future slammed in my face and no one told me where to pick up the key.

A friend of mine on campus also wanted to transfer to a school that featured graphic design, and said the counselor he spoke to said the same thing. Was it a conspiracy? Is transfer just a myth?

Disheartened beyond belief, I ran to my old high school's college counselor who also happened to be my cheerleading coach. I know her well and trusted that she would tell me the truth no matter how it hurt.

After agreeing to review my transcript, learning what schools I wanted

to go to, and evaluating their requirements for upper-division transfer students, my old friend smiled and said, "Amy, I could get you into USC if that's what you want."

Long story short, don't lose hope in your quest to transfer. Maybe it would be more fitting to say not to believe everything you hear. The counselors here are accredited and can help, but it was certainly in my best interest to go outside of campus for matters outside of campus. It's no secret that community college students are the priority transfer group, but to give up a transfer solely on that fact and the words of a stranger would be disheartening to more people than yourself.

Police Beat - November 12

10/9/08 10:15 p.m. - Officer on patrol on service road overlooking Lot N observed two males and two females horse playing in the parking lot. The officer witnessed non-student, Elliot Amador, break the mirror off a vehicle. Amador was detained and arrested for violation of tampering with vehicle and for being drunk in public. UPD transferred Amador to county jail.

10/13 - UPD responded to burglary report in Lot C. Victim parked in Lot C at 8:30 a.m. and upon returning at 3 p.m., noticed their passenger side door was unlocked. The vehicle's stereo was stolen from the dash with significant damage to the dashboard. UPD took prints from the vehicle. The approximate value of the stereo is \$250.

Contact CrimeStoppers with any information.

10/13 - Victim reported hit and run that occurred between 10/6 10 p.m. and 10/7 5:30 a.m. in Lot O. Property damage included a dent in the right corner of vehicle rear. UPD was unable to conduct full investigation due to late report of accident.

Contact CrimeStoppers with any information.

10/16 11 p.m. - Officer on foot patrol approached a minor talking on his cell phone while urinating in a bush outside the UVA. Minor was also in violation of curfew laws and released to his mother with notice to appear.

Students can call the University Crime Stoppers tip line number, 888-580-TIPS, toll-free, 24-hours a day, 7-days a week. Tips can also be made online at www.sdcrimestoppers.com or by text to CRIMES (274637) text "TIPS 409" at the beginning of the message. Tips reported to University Crime Stoppers are turned over to the University Police Department for investigation. Students can receive a monetary reward, of up to \$1,000, for a tip that leads to an arrest or disciplinary action.

Case was referred to juvenile courts.

10/18 - Grand theft reported to have occurred between 5 p.m. on 10/8 and 4 p.m. on 10/10. Unknown person(s) stole Dell computer from 2nd floor of Kellogg Library. Computer valued at \$1500. There are currently no leads.

Contact CrimeStoppers with any information.

10/22 - Between 9/25 and 9/29, \$707 worth of Sprinter passes were stolen from Parking and Commuter Services Office. UPD conducted interviews but had no leads.

Contact CrimeStoppers with any information.

10/22 10:30-11:45 a.m. - A black wallet was stolen from the 5th floor of Craven. Wallet included a CA driver's license and ATM card as well as \$20 in cash. No reported suspects. Credit cards were cancelled.

Contact CrimeStoppers with any information.

10/22 11:30 p.m. - Victim parked on southside of Lot N to attend fraternity function. When he drove home, he noticed his backpack missing. Contents of the backpack included a laptop, iPod, Dell digital recorder and book totaling in value of \$1780.

Contact CrimeStoppers with any information.

10/24 10:50 a.m. - Student parked in Lot F returned to their 2005 silver Chevy Silverado and noticed a large dent in the rear quarter

panel. No not was left and no evidence left at the scene.

Contact CrimeStoppers with any information.

10/24 4 p.m. - UPD responded to Palm Canyon Driver and Craven Road for traffic collision with minor injuries. Driver one was going straight on Craven Road when Driver 2 continued straight in a turning only lane, colliding into driver 1. Driver complained of pains and paramedics were called. Victim refused treatment.

10/31 - Call received from The Pride Center to report that an unknown suspect took ten copies of the 'Queery' and put them in the recycling bin. UPD took report and request that any information on the situation be directed to the Tips Line (888-580-TIPS).

11/3 8:40 p.m.

Officers on foot patrol at the UVA on the first floor of Building first floor noticed fire extinguisher stolen from near Room 104. Anyone with information may contact UPD at Tips Line.



All opinions and letters to the editor, published in The Pride, represent the opinions of the author, and do not necessarily represent the views of The Pride, or of California State University San Marcos. Unsigned editorials represent the majority opinion of The Pride editorial board.

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

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The Pride
Cal State San Marcos
333 S. Twin Oaks Valley Road
San Marcos, CA 92096-0001
Phone: (760) 750-6099
Fax: (760) 750-3345
Email: pride@csusm.edu
<http://www.thecsusmpride.com>
Advertising Email:
pride_ads@csusm.edu

From **SHAKEOUT**, page 1

ber 13. We have also sent an announcement out by email to the entire campus community with instructions on viewing the video which is located online at this location: <http://www.csusm.edu/ep/shakeout>,” said Manship. “Secondly, we will be conducting a test of our campus emergency notification systems at the end of University Hour. This will involve classroom announcements, tests of exterior loud-speakers, and telephone, email, and text message alerts.”

The event aims to “inspire Southern Californians to get ready for big earthquakes and to prevent disasters from becoming catastrophes,” according to the Earthquake Country Alliance. A massive earthquake estimated at a magnitude 7.8 struck San Francisco in 1906 killing over 700 people. The fire that ensued resulted in the deaths an estimated 2,700 people. Many Californians easily recall the magnitude 6.7 Northridge earthquake in 1994 that killed 57 people and injured over 9,000. California has not had a severe earth-

quake for an extended amount of time.

The four top sponsors for the event are the United States Geological Survey, the National Science Foundation, the California Earthquake Authority, and Time Warner. All of the sponsors encourage people to register for the drill at www.shakeout.org to be accounted for. The simulation will include hundreds of homes, businesses, schools, government offices, and various public places.

“I think it’s a good idea that they are doing this drill. A lot of people have skewed conceptions of what to do in earthquakes. People get confused. Going under the desk is not always the safest thing to do in the event of a massive earthquake,” said Literature and Writing First Year Graduate Adam Lowe.

The Shake-

Out Drill creates the scenario for a magnitude 7.8 earthquake along the southern San Andreas Fault line. The program estimates an earthquake of that size will last for two minutes. The program also states that an earthquake of that proportion will make the Northridge earthquake seem small causing an estimated 2,000 deaths, over 50,000 injuries, and \$200 billion in damage. The scenario will allow Southern Californians to access their strengths and weaknesses to better prepare for when the real earthquake occurs.

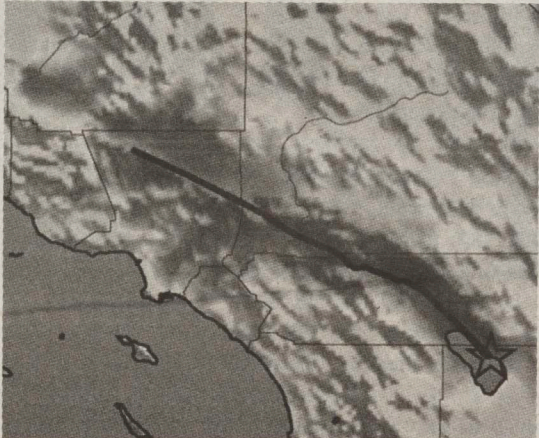


Image courtesy shakeout.org

From **PREVIEW**, page 1

dents, graduate students and even Juniors in high school are welcome to come and get a head start for their college planning,” Gable continued.

“We received 1,600 R.S.V.P’s, so it is a very good turn out,” said Nathan Evans the Director of the Office of Admissions and Recruitment. Evans was stationed at the Admissions and Financial Aid workshop that offered simple approaches for the rising cost of college and helpful tips for applying for financial aid.

According to *The North County Times*, CSUSM has received 67 percent more undergraduate applications for fall of 2009 in comparison to last year’s application number.

Another popular event at preview day was the on-campus housing tour that led prospective students through the University Village Apartments (UVA). Katie Atkinson, a student

worker at the UVA and student John Hall, a Resident Advisor at UVA, worked at the student housing booth during preview day.

UVA offers new students the San Marcos Experience, which is a program designed for freshmen to make an easy transition into college, according to Hall. The San Marcos experience is a floor in UVA of all freshmen that are linked by taking three classes together. “I am lucky enough to be the RA for the San Marcos Experience students and it’s helped me grow as a person and get more involved in the community,” said Hall.

“UVA is really marketing for incoming freshmen for the fall of 2009,” said Atkinson, “There are only 1625 beds, and they are going to fill up fast,” she continued.

Other tours included the Kellogg Library tour, and a tour of the San Marco Ambulatory Care Center for the students interested in nursing.



Image courtesy of Sandra Chalmers

From **PROP 8**, page 1

granted rights in favor of farm animals and denied their fellow man the right to marry.

In the early days following the election, some hoped that

the remaining provisional ballots might skew results in favor of same-sex marriage. With that possibility now highly unlikely, the Prop 8 opposition is planning a large-scale protest. Join the Impact, jointheimpact.com,

seeks to fight against inequality through community led protests scattered across the nation this Saturday, Nov. 15 at 10:30 a.m.

In its blog, Join the Impact states, “When we all come together as one voice on Novem-

ber 15th, we will show the nation that we can do more than just talk, we can act!”

The closest protest will take place at San Diego City Hall, 111 W Harbor Drive.

Join the Impact is currently

seeking volunteers to serve as a point person for the San Diego area. Any person or organization interested may contact Join the Impact at reelrandom@gmail.com for more information.

From **MR. AX**, page 1

said Grofik. “And for someone who recently graduated college that is a hard thing to deal with.”

Parks graduated from CSUSM in 2006 with a degree in Business, and was diagnosed with Breast Cancer October 1, 2007, at the age of 23.

“[My sisters] are amazing and have been supporting me through this all,” said Parks. “It’s amazing, I’m speechless and don’t know how to explain it.”

Parks said she was unaware the sorority would donate the proceeds to help her pay medical bills, and was shocked when someone told her the news last week.

Parks has high out-of-pocket and high deductible bills through her insurance. While she just completed her last chemotherapy treatment, she said she still has reconstructive treatments

and preventive medicine she will have to obtain.

“I’m still responsible for quite a bit,” she said. “Every little bit helps.”

Grofik also said this is a way to get the school involved while raising money for a good cause, although she admits there have been challenges.

“It’s hard to get guys to compete in a pageant, so we have to have the girls go out and find them,” she said. “Guys are a bit more nervous about the talent part of the show but everyone should realize that this is about having fun and being involved.”

Last year’s Mr. Alpha Chi winner Francis Yambao admits at first he was not too sure he would compete, but said he is glad he decided to do it.

“I didn’t think I was going to go through with it,” he said. “But I had so much fun that I wanted

to do it again this year.”

Yambao, a member of Zeta Beta Tau fraternity, won the crowd over by performing a song he had written the day before the pageant. For him, he said, it was not about winning a crown.

“It should not be about the title, but it is for charity,” he said. “I carried a jar around collecting money... I would do it again in a heartbeat. I don’t understand why people would not want to do it, it is for a great cause.”

Last year the proceeds went to Alpha Chi Omega’s philanthropic cause at Casa de Amparo, a shelter for victims of domestic violence, which is something the sorority focuses on when fundraising, said Grofik.

Because this year’s theme will be one relating to the Ms. America pageant, it will consist of swimsuit, talent, and evening wear rounds. After the

judges make their initial cuts, the remaining contestants will have to answer questions relating to Alpha Chi Omega and its members. A winner and a runner-up are then chosen.

Approximately eight Mr. Alpha Chi contestants will be walking around campus all week with jars trying to raise money for the cause, said Grofik, and whoever makes more money will automatically make the second round.

Yambao said that this year he would like to see contestants do something new for the talent portion.

“I want them to see me bust out laughing and making an effort to raise money,” he said.

Yambao also said the experience helped him become closer to the Alpha Chi Omega members on campus and at other campuses he visited.

“It is a really fun experience,

not a lot of guys experience being in a pageant,” he said. “I wear the title with pride because I am not just representing myself by I am also representing my fraternity.”

Alpha Chi Omega began fundraising for this cause by holding a fundraising event Nov. 3 at NYPD Pizza. The pageant itself will take place Friday, Nov. 14 at the Clarke Field House, doors open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$7 pre-sale and \$10 at the door. For information about tickets, members of Alpha Chi Omega will be wearing shirts around campus this week.

Parks said the pageant could also help to make people realize that Breast Cancer does not just strike certain age groups.

“Part of this is awareness,” she said. “This is not just something our moms get, I see more people in my age group being diagnosed. It’s crazy.”

Classifieds

\$5,000, Local egg donor agency in San Marcos needs young women. www.extraconception.com or call (760)798-2265.

Classifieds

WANTED; Student companion for lady student. Basic computer knowledge for completing assignments FLEXIBLE HOURS, SALARY NEGOTIABLE, 760-5101512

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Man versus Marcos

BY BEN ROFFEE
Managing Editor

Homelessness is a condition of existence few of us ever will experience, or even expect to experience over the course of our lives. Sparked by curiosity and a desire to understand the lifestyle, myself and four other CSUSM students embarked on a journey unlike most you would expect to embark on in college. On Oct. 23, Taylor Patronete, Travis Blair, Sean Fahmy, Kile Jennings, and I willingly became homeless and challenged San Marcos to a one-night test of survival.

The rules were simple: no cash, no cell phones, no ID's, and no help from people we knew. We could not bring along any food or water, just our backpacks, jackets, and some blankets. With our meager provisions, we departed from the shopping center by In-N-Out on San Marcos Boulevard at 4 p.m. and tethered to our self-imposed rules for the next 24 hours.

The first few hours of being homeless we weren't entirely sure what to do with ourselves. With no plan of action, we took to doing the only thing we know the homeless did: wandering. We passed by Lake San Marcos and even managed to sneak into a movie without buying a single ticket.

After a couple of hours, however, the reality of our situation began to change.

With the sunlight's retreat, no longer was simply

wandering an acceptable path to a sustainable night of homelessness. This quickly prompted us to take on the search for food, water, and whatever money we could find. Finding our most necessary resource—water—presented little challenge to us, both immediately and throughout the night. Water is free and easy to find, but finding food and money would require some work and inventiveness.

Our first attempts at finding food were initially relied on our vain search for money. The fruitless search for pocket change lasted nearly two hours and landed us less than 50 cents total. We quickly learned that scouring drive-thru's, parking lots, and sidewalks for coinage would not provide enough funding to feed one of us, much less all five of us.

Only slightly discouraged, the realization that money could not feed us led us to consider our alternatives. Though dumpster diving may not have been the most appealing solution, we came to terms with the reality of the situation and immediately headed to Sprouts off of Las Posas. Unfortunately our search for discarded produce ended sooner than we expected as dumpsters at Sprouts were locked to the outside. Still not willing to surrender our appetites, the abundance of restaurants in the area renewed our prospects of eating that night.

The greatest discovery of the entire night wasn't a twenty-dollar bill or the knowledge that our homelessness was not indefinite; it was food from a garbage can. L&L is a Hawaiian BBQ restaurant that serves portions far too large for an average

human to consume. To the homeless this translates to a lot of discarded food. Within seconds of the discovery, the five of us descended on the garbage can and feasted on chicken, beef, fish, shrimp, and rice without a second thought to its origins.

It was not disgusting nor did we get food poisoning and die. In fact, the experience was eye opening, teaching us the extent to which desperation and necessity, however mild ours was, could compel us to do things most consider beneath them. The fact the food was excellent made it a little easier to stomach, but still carried with it insight and understanding on how homeless people can so readily make a meal of what most consider trash.

Part of making a sustainable homeless life meant planning ahead, and so after our meal we made securing food for the rest of our time on Man vs. Marcos a top priority. For this we relied not on garbage cans but instead the generosity of others.

After explaining our story to some employees of Starbucks, we were given a bag full of packaged sandwiches, fruit, and breakfast items that were to be discarded. Not only were we eating better than the average college student, but we had also come across enough food to feed the five of us for the remainder of our excursion.

Well fed and stocked with food, we took to finding shelter and rest for the evening. Not all homeless people sleep on the streets. Often times

the best shelter is public property, and what better place for five homeless college students to sleep than on campus?

Many of CSUSM's buildings may get locked at night, but there are still plenty of places to rest.

To

sleeping on campus may sound like a cop-out. The truth is that a concrete floor is a concrete floor and a stairwell is a stairwell no matter where you go. If you think the homeless don't reside on college campuses then you have never been to Berkeley, or any large urban campus for that matter. And though a concrete floor or a stairwell isn't a bed, it is a sheltered spot to sleep, though not necessarily a comfortable one.

We understood that the campus probably would not look this on favorably, so to avoid trouble we moved to new locations five different times. By morning we had slept in two different stairwells and the floor of the Dome. Needless to say, we were in the market for something a little more comfortable.

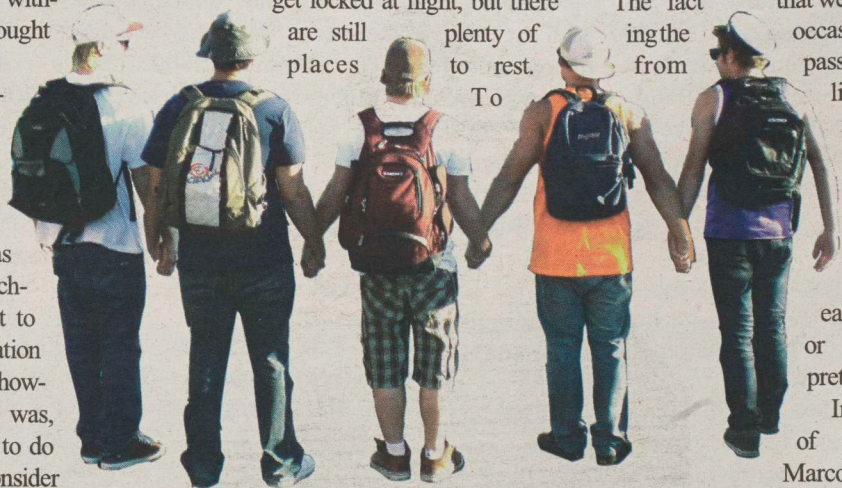
If you have ever been in the reading room on the fifth floor of the library then you will have little difficulty imagining how we ended up getting some decent sleep. There is nothing

in the rules that said we couldn't try to be comfortable. So with just a little abandonment of social inhibitions, we sprawled our dirty, smelly, and tired selves about the reading room. The fact that we were attracting the occasional laugh from passersby did little to interrupt our rest, a lesson to us that such a simple luxury can be very easily ignored or misinterpreted.

In the test of Man vs. Marcos it was man

that ultimately proved to be victorious. Having survived the night, we passed our few remaining hours idly, staying hydrated, finishing our stockpile of food, and musing over our experience. The purpose of Man vs. Marcos wasn't necessarily to be truly homeless. The true goal was simply to understand what it takes to get by with absolutely nothing. And though San Marcos may not have made for the most authentic or challenging homeless experience, it did dramatically reshaped our perceptions of life and privilege. It is easy to sit back and scoff at the homeless, but to genuinely attempt to understand this condition of living is a true test in our capacity to empathize with those less fortunate than ourselves.

Man vs. Marcos was an unforgettable experience and we fully intend on repeating our experiment in different settings. We encourage others to make similar journeys and only ask this: what will your Man vs. _____ be?



Photos by Taylor Patronete

What to see around the Alps

Germany, Austria and Northern Italy provide a mix of amazing scenery and historical landmarks

BY CRYSTAL EVANS
Features Editor

The area surrounding the Swiss Alps is alive with amazing architecture, a rich history and beautiful scenery. The alps are visible from Germany, Austria and Northern Italy. The close proximity of these small but fascinating countries allows tourists to easily visit various locations of great historical significance dating from the twelfth century to just a few decades ago.

Reifenstein Castle

Construction on Reifenstein Castle began in 1170. This twelfth century castle is the best originally preserved medieval castle in Italy. The countess who owns, and lives in, the castle offers tours to the public for a small price.

The castle is most famous for the green hall, that makes medieval life look comfortable, and for the collection of period weapons that it contains. Visitors are also able to see the period-style kitchen, the knights sleeping quarters, the living quarters and all the aspects of medieval castles that make them unique.

The castle is complete with an outer wall, a garden on the inside grounds, a drawbridge, and a dun-

geon. Located on the second story, the dungeon is a small hole in the floor through which prisoners were dropped in to pitch blackness with no food and very little water for the duration of their imprisonment.

The castle is located in a scenic area with lush, green landscape that is untouched by humans, save only the nearby sister castle Sprechenstein, for as far as the eye can see.

The Residence at Innsbruck

Marie Antoinette is perhaps the most famous queen in history. Born an archduchess of Austria in 1755, Marie Antoinette spent most of her young life at the residence in Innsbruck before she left for France to marry King Louis XVI at the tender age of 14.

Spoiled by luxury her entire life, Marie Antoinette became infamous for her lavishness while her people were starved in poverty. Walking through the halls of the Residence at Innsbruck it is easy to see why she expected extravagance. From the gold trimmed family tree hall to the lavish living quarters to the abundance of dining and entertaining halls the home left nothing to be desired.

Visitors will enjoy living the high life while walking through the

childhood home of the woman who became victim of the guillotine, by the hands of her own people, during the French Revolution.

The Castles of Mad King Ludwig

King Ludwig II is one of the most mysterious and fascinating characters in the history of Germany. Born in 1845, King Ludwig II became king of Bavaria at the age of 18 when his father passed away.

The young king quickly became obsessed with building castles, and drained the Bavarian treasury making them as elaborate as possible. His most elaborate castle was Neuschwanstein, the castle Walt Disney modeled Sleeping Beauties Castle after.

The castle is set on a mountain in the Bavarian Alps. Visitors to the magnificent edifice are able to visit the king's quarters, the kitchen, servants quarters, the throne room and various other completed rooms.

After spending a fortune on the castle, Ludwig only spent 11 nights in his beloved masterpiece of a home before he was found dead in a river under mysterious circumstances.

Though little is known of Ludwig and his life and death, his magnificent castles will forever pay tribute to his name.

Munich and the Holocaust

Germany is most infamous for a history it has spent decades trying to overcome, Hitler and the Holocaust.

Visitors to Munich, Germany can walk the streets Hitler walked, stand where he gave speeches to his throngs of followers and even visit concentration camps.

The city offers various tours of Munich, including a Third Reich tour that takes visitors on a tour of places of historical significance to the life of Adolph Hitler.

Dachau, one of Munich's suburbs, is home to the Dachau Concentration Camp, the first concentration camp in Nazi Germany that was used as a prototype and model for the camps that followed.

Dachau was a work camp, meaning it only housed men and was not used for genocide, though it does contain a gas chamber and a crematorium. Visitors are able to tour the holding cells, the bunks of the prisoners, a museum and the gas chamber and crematorium.

The camp is placed in a small, scenic town with nice middle-class homes placed just feet from the wall of the camp. The iron gates leading into the camp read "Arbeit macht frei," meaning work will make you free, the irony of which is disturbing.

For more information to Europe visit visiteurope.com.



Photo courtesy of Crystal Evans

STOMP [international sensation]

BY JACKIE CARBAJAL
News Editor

You've likely seen them before in the Dolby Digital trailer at movie theaters or at the *STOMP OUT LOUD* show at the Planet Hollywood in Las Vegas.

STOMP, the internationally acclaimed percussion act, will perform in Orange County from Jan. 6-11, 2009 in Segerstrom Hall at the Orange County Performing Arts Center. Tickets prices range from \$20-\$60 and are available for purchase at the Center's Box Office at 600 Town Center Drive in Costa Mesa by calling 714-556-2787 or at OCPAC.org.

Rave reviews follow each performance with *The New York Times* calling it "as crisp and exu-

berant as if it had opened yesterday." The *San Francisco Chronicle* says, "*STOMP* has a beat that just won't quit!" The *Los Angeles Times* exclaims: "Elec-trify-ing! Tri-



Images courtesy of STOMP

umphs in the infinite variety of the human experience." "A phenomenal show! Bashing, crashing, smashing, swishing, banging and kicking – a joyous invention!" notes the *Chicago Tribune*.

STOMP originated in Brighton, UK back in 1991 as the result of partnership between musicians Luke Cresswell and Steve McNicholas.

"After creating new routines for *STOMP OUT LOUD* in Vegas, [co-creator] Luke Cresswell and I decided it was time to rework elements of our main production, *STOMP*," said co-creator McNicholas.

"*STOMP* has evolved a great deal ever since its first incarnation at the Edinburgh Festival. Every reworking has involved losing some pieces and gaining

new ones, but has always stayed true to the original premise of the show: to create rhythmic music with instantly

is its unique selection of instruments. The young performers "make a rhythm out of anything we can get

our hands on that makes a sound," says co-creator/director Cresswell. During a show, performers get their hands on trash cans, plungers, plastic bags, and hubcaps, to name a few.

Ring in the New Year with the return of old school favorites, *STOMP* promises a few

new surprises. Still need convincing? Search for online videos of past *STOMP* performances or visit stomponline.com.



Images courtesy of STOMP

recognizable objects, and do it with an eccentric sense of character and humor."

What makes *STOMP* different from any other musical performance

Destination: Shanghai China's window to the past and present

BY ELLIE YAMBRACH
Pride Staff Writer

Shanghai started off as a small fishing village before it eventually became a major multi-national hub for trading through the Treaty of Nanking in 1842. Today, Shanghai is known as the "Paris of the East." I found this nickname suitable when visiting the city in June 2008. Shanghai is quite wealthy both financially and culturally and shows off the best of its past and future.

The Huangpu River provides a natural split for this vision of the past and future. On the one side of the river is the location of the Bund, composed of a collection of late 19th and early 20th century buildings. These buildings were once part of the affluent business center of Shanghai run by multi-national corporations over a century and a half ago. A river walk constructed next to the Bund provides a magnificent view of the river as well as the Pudong district directly across. The Pudong represents Shanghai's future and also encompasses the famous Lujiazui financial district.

The Pudong district is comprised of some of the tallest buildings and most incredible engineering and architecture of skyscrapers I have ever seen. The Oriental Pearl Tower, a television tower is ever so beautiful in its fluid structure and colorful appearance. Most astounding is the Jin Mao Tower which rises a quar-

ter of a mile into the sky. I'd heard of a magnificent bar located on the very top floor of the tower which I would have loved to have visited for a drink, unfortunately my tour was on a tight schedule and I missed the opportunity.

Famous Nanjing Road, one of the world's busiest shopping areas, is located in Pudong and is quite spectacular, especially at night. It out-does Times Square in New York in inexplicable ways. Shopping on Nanjing Road is an experience out of the ordinary. High end western stores like Coach, Armani, Chanel, even IPOD and Apple stores as well many Chinese department stores and smaller high end Chinese retailers can be found on Nanjing Road. If you happen to love shoes, Chinese department stores dedicate nearly the entire first floor of the store to the shoe department. It's simply overwhelming.

Taking a step back into history is the Yu Gardens, a haven located in the Bund district which was built by a government official four hundred years ago as a retreat for his aging parents. The garden is magnificent, complete with ponds, spectacular rockeries, bridges, viewing pagodas and large trees. Yu Gardens provides an appreciation for historical Chinese visual and artistic aesthetics and inspiration for the soul.

Located next to the Yu Gardens is the Yuyuan Market (also known as the Yu Garden Bazaar). This is

a massive outdoor market where you can buy anything from cheap Chinese souvenirs, jewelry, clothing, silk, leather items, food, ... everything – there's even a Starbucks

here, a welcome site for Americans! Bargaining is a necessity when purchasing items here, but be sure to have small bills on hand.

Another must in Shanghai is the Shanghai Museum, where important Chinese artifacts are kept. The coin exhibit had an incredible variety of Chinese coins used over the centuries. Also spectacular was the calligraphy exhibit which showed the evolution of Chinese calligraphy over four thousand years.

We had a chance to tour a government silk factory and watch the process of the unraveling of silk threads from a silkworm cocoon and the making of the famous silk comforters. Prices of the comforters were very reasonable, but silk comforters were quite pricey. Other silk items like clothing, purses and silk rugs were purchasable and this was the best place to buy quality silk items. The best deal was the scarves, they were the best quality and most artistic I found throughout the rest of my trip.

I have to explain that the sheer size of Shanghai is unimaginable.

It boasts a population of over 18 million with a geographical size five times larger than that of greater Los Angeles. The number of high rise apartments that reach up into the sky like massive columns is staggering. This is high density living as I've never seen it. The traffic is literally an organism in itself. It flows in one

continuous motion and absorbs oncoming traffic much as an amoeba absorbs nutrients. Traffic signs are posted both in Mandarin and English, but it's not the directions that would get to a westerner; it's the amount of traffic and the unfamiliar traffic rules that would put someone over the edge.

While in Shanghai, we stayed at the Vivasha Resort Hotel. This is a magnificent five star government run hotel complete with restaurants, several bars, tennis courts, two gigantic lap pools, a putting green and driving range and a gym. Rooms are spacious and minimally luxurious and very clean. Each room has its own door bell for guests and service attendants to ring instead of knock on your door. In all of China hotel beds are particularly difficult to get used to as they are HARD. The restaurant provided both a full Ameri-

can and Chinese breakfast buffet to accommodate visitors from various locales.

Shanghai is probably the best place to visit for a westerner who has never been to China before. Shanghai incorporates the old and the new China as well as the eastern and the western cultures and makes the transition to the rest of China a little easier.



Photos courtesy of Ellie Yambrach



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better in two's



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Students find convenient, flexible jobs on campus

Cougar Jobs allows students to browse and apply for job postings from anywhere

BY SANDRA CHALMERS
Pride Staff Writer

Money is tight, luxuries are slim and with our country in the midst of a recession, students who may be looking for a job can find it to be a disappointing and endless task, but CSUSM students can find relief through Cougar Jobs.

Cougar Jobs is an easy way for students to access on-campus job postings. Through the Career Center, Cougar Jobs provides accurate and timely job listings for students looking for an on-campus job.

Cougar Jobs is accessed through the Career Center's web page at www.csusm.edu/careers/cougarjobs.

Cougar Jobs allows employers and faculty to post jobs they have available and update certain requirements for potential student employees and provides students and faculty access to a job search of all available job postings.

Students can access the CSUSM student employment application on Cougar Jobs that can be completed online and sent to the department of choice for review.

"Almost all departments at CSUSM offer some sort of student employment opportunity," said Ron Gaschler, the director of the Career Center. "Students can access their postings from home before they even return for school, creating a greater talent pool for the departments."

There is a variety of jobs on campus to fit the needs of most college students.

"All jobs, full-time, part-time, internship, etc are posted on Cougar Jobs," Gaschler said. "So our responsibility is to make these opportunities available to students."

Some exclusive job opportunities for CSUSM students include research assistants for various departments.

For example, Daniel's Communication Lab helps communication students with technical problems and course work concerning video editing and other equipment. Student assistants working in Daniel's Communication Lab gain valuable hands on experience with new video technology.

Christian Motos, a student worker in the Media Lab on the second floor of the Kellogg Library, noted an advantage of having an on-campus job, "This was the job that I wanted, it's not requiring me to be standing for hours like at other regular jobs, its flexible with school and I get to choose my hours."

Some students may believe that working in the library could be boring but Motos added, "We have fun at work."

Another student worker, Jared Rodio, is a Pride Ambassador that works with perspective CSUSM students.

"I love it. We give tours, and meet with all the perspective students. It's a lot of fun," said Rodio about his job

experience. "I never have a problem with my hours, I take finals week off, and it is not a problem."

On-campus jobs provide a lot of flexibility for students who need a job.

"On-campus employers understand student's work schedules and (on-campus jobs) are convenient because they can walk from class to work," Gaschler said. "If they work off campus, it has its benefits too, but it just might not be as convenient. Our hope is that either opportunity provides a professional development opportunity for the student to help build their resume."

The Career Center also offers resources for aiding students with their resumes and interview skills.

Not PrOn: The hardest riddle on the Internet

This game of computer puzzles can stump even the most computer literate

BY JOSEPH DERAGISCH
Pride Staff Writer

Whether insanely complicated puzzles and riddles intrigue you, or sitting around on a Sunday morning fiddling around with the daily crossword is the most daring thing you have set your intellectual sights on, Not PrOn has something for

everyone.

Head over to www.deathball.net/notpron to experience the Internet phenomenon known as is Not PrOn. The Web site is basically a giant riddle.

Players advance through the pages solving problems with only obscure hints as clues, and a single picture in the middle of the screen for help. The challenges players

might encounter range from as easy as highlighting a link to proceed to going through mounds of Web source code to crack some of the riddles.

The Web site itself was created by computer whiz Davide Muennich in 2004, and since has generated 13,440,068 players. There are 140 levels to the game, and in 4 years only 3 play-

ers have successfully beaten the game. It can take months to break the first 100 levels, and it only gets harder and more intense from there.

As the self-proclaimed "hardest riddle on the internet", Not PrOn has puzzled

millions of people over the years, and with a new level just added, is showing no signs of slowing down. So if you are feeling daring, adventurous or just plain bored, head over to Not PrOn and open the door.

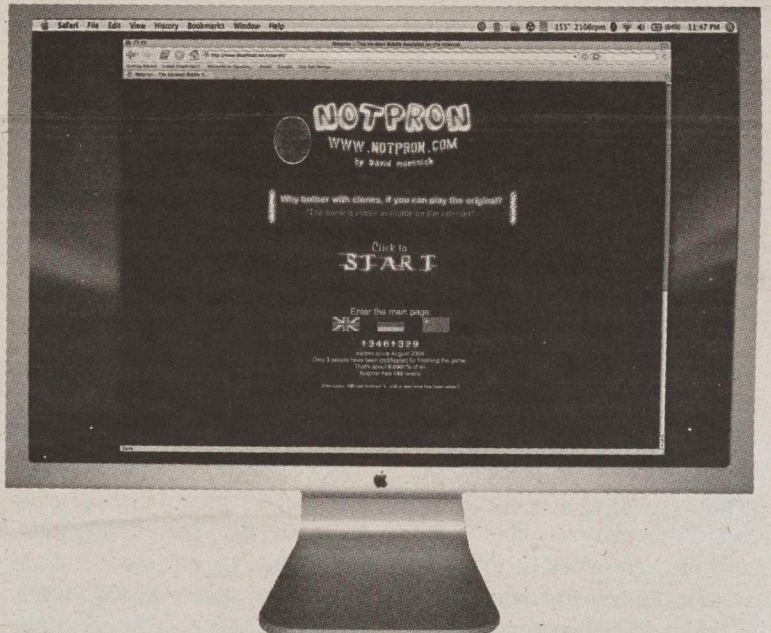


Image courtesy of deathball.net/notpron

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The Pride is looking for CSUSM student writers to submit poetry, memoir, or short fiction to the Poet's Corner or Prose for the Pride. Get your hard work published while building up an impressive portfolio. Submit your creative writing today. Email submissions to csusumpride@gmail.com attn: Poet's Corner.

Dan Jenkins' *The Franchise Babe* hits the mark

BY BRIAN MANN
Pride Staff Writer

Funny, profane, outrageous, and mildly offensive -- It sounds like a Dan Jenkins novel alright. Jenkins, the legendary sportswriter and novelist, at 79-years-old, has released what will likely be his last work of fiction. *The Franchise Babe* is full of hilarious moments as it chronicles the life and times of Ginger Clayton, a burgeoning young talent on the PGA Tour who, at 18-years-old, is finding stardom, and many obstacles on the way. Her great looks and prodigious talent make her the proverbial "Franchise Babe."

Other main players in the novel are Jack Brannon, a magazine writer who has left his comfort zone covering the PGA Tour in favor of the PGA, and Thurlene Clayton, Ginger's mother. These two have a goofy courtship while trying to maintain their professional and parental roles, with Jack trying to remain an objective journalist, and Thurlene a protective parent. Along the way, Ginger is hounded by what has become all too common in professional sports today: sleazy hangers-on and greedy sports agents.

As the novel winds through, it pokes fun at how ridiculous the commercialization of sports has

become. For instance, in the closing chapters, the name of a major PGA event is called the "Colgate-Dinah Shore Kraft Nabisco Le Grand Cheval Championship." Jenkins uses this as an exaggeration to be sure, but it points out how the names of sporting events just keep getting longer and longer due to corporate sponsoring.

The work further satirizes how image has become more important than talent when it comes to endorsements and how crazy people can get when large sums of money are thrown their way. Among the other things the novel contains: drunken CEOs making a mockery of black tie events, competitors being paid by overzealous sports moms to injure fellow competitors, and boozy caddies disappearing with their player's belongings.

With regard to the three main characters, the novel has a rather predictable ending but the

bumps in the road they all find on the way leave one laughing and unable to put the book down. "The Franchise Babe" is not quite as good as some of Jenkins' past works such as "Dead Solid Perfect" and "You Gotta Play Hurt" but it is still contains his trademark semi-lowbrow-but-always-funny style. For a light and easy read that will make you laugh, "The Franchise Babe" is a winner

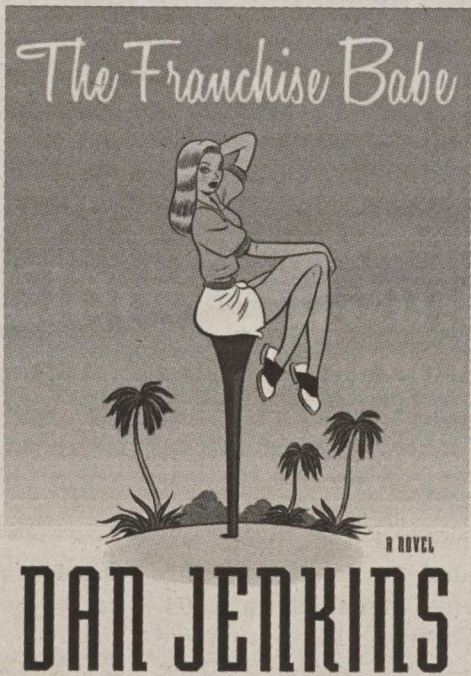


Image courtesy of amazon.com

Literature and Writing students host student reading

BY KATHRYN MCBRAYER
A & E Editor

Creative writing students from CSUM gathered in Markstien 125 at 7 p.m. for the second Creative Writing Community and Workshop reading. Participants from the creative writing community at CSUSM read from a variety of genres including memoir, poetry, short fiction, science fiction/fantasy, and a pantoum.

Some students read multiple pieces and other's read a single large piece. Readings covered topics on family, immigration, racial equality, relationships, and personal experiences. Presenters included Molly Dale, April Gigliottie, Jerrica Escoto, Lori Greenstone, Jayrd Weiss, Melissa Haklitch, Jaclynn Carbajal, Andrew Garai, t.d. rust, Stefanie Lamkin, Ellie Yambrach, Jeannine Clark, and Joseph Iraggi.

Ellie Yambrach, a Literature and Writing student, has been writing poetry since her teen years, and gave her first reading this Thursday. Yambrach read two of her poems entitled, *Don't Tell Me* and *Not Yet*. Yambrach says of her experience, "I wasn't sure how my poetry would be accepted by the audience. I hoped that the meanings of the poems and they way I presented them were clear enough." Yambrach adds that she would "absolutely" give another reading if the opportunity presents itself again. Poetry is important to Yambrach as a method of

expression through "economy of words." She uses the Creative Writing Community and Workshop club as tool for peer evaluation saying of her fellow creative writing students, "I respect their opinions and suggestions and wouldn't hesitate to have them go over my work and as always, I love to see theirs in progress."

Jeannine Clark, a Literature and Writing student, read three of her poems on Thursday night. Clark read *Peter's San Diego* inspired by her mechanic, *You Inspire Me*, and *Jungle Garden* which was written in her own garden. Clark expresses why creative writing is important to her saying, "It allows me to have a voice, to discover what's going on inside of me and to work out what's going on outside of me. I feel creative expression is so valuable it takes a lot of courage to do. Writers are some of the braves people on the planet; the pen is mightier than the sword!"

Another student reading is tentatively scheduled for the beginning of December. Students who wish to participate in the reading should submit their work to csusmcreative-writingcommunity@gamil.com

Poetry
&
Prose



Poet's
Corner
Write, read,
think, enjoy

Untitled

BY eB
Some people think its love
they keep holding on to

but
love

sometimes is something
you find yourself
stuck to

like a
tissue
to a shoe
after coming out
of the restroom.

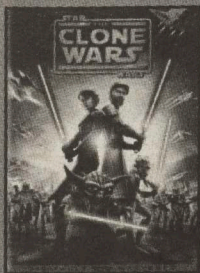
DROPPING: Tuesday, Nov 11 DVD RELEASES

By Bill Rhein / Pride Staff Writer



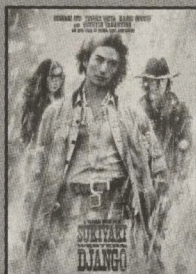
"KUNG FU PANDA"

GRADE: A-
This summer flick is one of the best American animated films to come out recently that was not made by Disney. It has a strong cast and a surprisingly good story of success any person can enjoy.



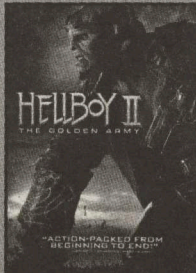
"STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS"

GRADE: F
This film proved George Lucas could ruin Star Wars even more. The original trilogy is shunted once again by this animated Star Wars movie, which takes place between Episodes II and III of the Anakin Skywalker trilogy. The terrible stylistic and narrative elements come together to form this disaster



"SUKIYAKI WESTERN DJANGO"

GRADE: C+
Takashi Miike pays homage to classic Western films in this fast paced hybrid of martial arts and Western films. Though it is visually impressive, the film is in love with itself and fails to engage the audience in ways Miike's other films succeeded.



"HELLBOY II: THE GOLDEN ARMY"

GRADE: B
This thriller went very much under the radar in its limited release. Woody Harrelson and Ben Kingsley star in this tight thriller about a murder mystery aboard the titular train. It is a unique and tense film, yet its stylistic elements pays tribute to the classic thrillers.

Images courtesy of amazon.com

Jumping Cow A Trader Joe's Full Flavored Ale

BY JONATHAN E. THOMPSON
Pride Staff Writer

Trader Joe's retails Jumping Cow Amber Ale. Brewing companies produce beer specifically for the grocery chain through contracts. The brewing company has no website and provides no information on the packaging.

Trader Joe's began as a convenient store in the 1950s. Ten years later the company started changing by adding square feet to each store and transforming into a grocery store. The company currently has 280 stores in 23



states with more opening each month. Trader Joe's retails Jumping Cow six packs of 12 fluid once dark brown glass bottles for \$5.99. The price is super cheap compared to most specialty beers, which can range from \$7 to \$12.

A dark green and red comprise the majority of coloring utilized on the package. A picture portrays a cow jumping over barrels. Orange stencil accents specific areas on the cardboard container. The bottles contain the same

images. A simple silver bottle caps seals the ale with a 5.5% alcohol by volume.

The brew pours calm creating a dismal head that quickly dissipates into a very thin lancet. Often times, this indicates a mild tasting beer. Vague aromas of malted barley, hops, and yeast occupy the surrounding area.

The beer enters and quickly sends a surge of bitter flavor to the lips, tongue, and taste buds. Even the cheeks flex from the excitement. The beer leaves a slight coat of tastiness on the tongue before passing below. The awakened mouth asks for more.

The light yet full flavored

characteristics of the ale should pair well with pasta oriented dinner meals. The lightness of the beer will offset the heaviness of pasta.

"It's like Fat Tire but not as dry. It is not super sweet or supper hoppy, it is actually right in the sweet spot. It's a good beer to have while watching The Office," said Business Major Bryan Spangenberg.

Monkeys might not actually fly, but cows can jump over barrels. Enjoy a soothing beer as the weather chills out and

the clouds roll in. Salute!

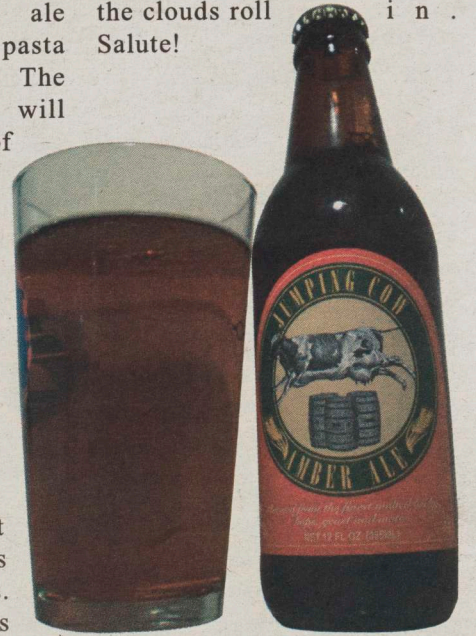


Photo by Jonathan E. Thompson / The Pride

Cougars find hidden gem in Mama Kat's Restaurant & Pie Shop

BY KRISTINA LAWLER
Business Manager



Hidden in a run down shopping center on San Marcos Blvd is Mama Kat's

Restaurant & Pie Shop. At first glance, you wouldn't think that it was something worthy of your time, but I assure you that it is something you don't want to miss out on.

Walking into the restaurant you feel as if you are magically transported into a small town in the mountains, with the home-like atmosphere of your mother's kitchen. The staff is extremely friendly and as some regulars come in, they greet them by name.

The motto around these parts is "Comfort food at it's finest," and I would whole-heartedly agree. I myself have had two different meals here. My first trip consisted of a half of a turkey and ham sandwich with avocado on wheat and a side of fries. It was, simply put, the best deli sandwich I have ever had. My fiancé and I spoke little if no words during our lunch there, because the food was that good. Other things they offer for lunch include: hamburgers, griddle sandwiches, salads, dogs, and chili.

Of course I couldn't just judge a place on one meal there so I returned to have breakfast. Their breakfast menu has so many good choices that I didn't know what to order. These choices included: The Great American Breakfast, their signature cream sausage gravy, homemade

benedicts including their signature hollandaise sauce, pancakes, French toast & waffles, specialty omelettes, skillet, breakfast burritos, and cereals. After much deliberation, I decided to go with the eggs benedict and hash browns. Their sauce was so delicious and the ham was so fresh and moist. It was as my grandmother stated, "The best I've ever had in my life." Just the thought of trying the other things they have to offer puts butterflies in my stomach.

Mama Kat's service is just as worthy of praise as their food. Before I was finished with my last sip of water, our waiter was there and brought me another glass. The food takes a bit longer to get out because it is all made from scratch and definitely worth the wait. It never leaves you with that heavy

overdone feeling, but rather the happy content feeling.

Of course, I had to try their pie—it is, after all, a Pie Shop. They offer fruit pies, crunch pies, cream pies, and family favorites. I decided on a slice of good old-fashioned apple pie. It was so moist and sweet that it didn't even need to be heated up or paired with ice cream to make

it better. So, before you drive all the way out to Julian for those holiday pies, look no further than right down the street because they have the best pies in town.

Mama Kat's is located at 950 W. San Marcos Blvd, San Marcos, CA 92078 and are open Monday-Tuesday: 6am-2pm, Thursday-Saturday: 6am-2pm and Sunday: 7am-2pm.



Image taken by Jackie Carbajal

Prose for the Pride

The Morning When You Want IT So Bad

BY eB

If I could just stop clenching my jaw for one second and make some use out of being naked because this moment is just like last night.

Nothing happened.

Plenty of times before, to be naked was a necessity for the continuation of romance beginning after sunset to sunrise. For several minutes I stared at her sleeping face and came to the decision to test my luck this morning because I want to start my day off good rather than boring like yesterday and the day before. I am fully rested and she's not. The afternoon was sneaking up and she is still in the deepest slumber. I suddenly started to remember some stories she told me of when she was a child. She was never the one to complain when it was naptime; when bedtime came around she reminded her mother that it was time.

I thought for sure she would not only hear me whisper "I love you" but feel my lips say it as well as I placed my hand between her legs.

Nothing happened. Not even tickled. She's dead to the world.

Today is not the day for afternoon delight. I've got things to do. Irritated I rolled over, turning my back on her like I did yesterday and the day before yesterday. Reaching over the side of the bed, I grazed the floor with my palm for any T-shirt or any undergarment to cover all that was covered by sheets. My moving caused her to move closer to me.

Grabbing my waist, she kissed my neck and held me; we looked like two spoons in a utensil drawer. I got goose bumps like I did the first night that we were together when the tension to get close was building. I licked my lips and took the kiss as a sign of great

things to come. I rolled over and found myself in the same predicament a few moments before. "I love you."

But nothing happened.

Her limbs lay as heavy on my skin like the thoughts of intimacy on my mind on a morning slowly turning into afternoon like yesterday and the day before. Her eyes remained closed and the little movement she made a moment before went forgotten. I could only dwell on sound of her shallow, comfortable breathing and the thoughts of how long this would continue. Would she sleep until one, two, or three thirty? My speculation was driving me mad. I knew I wasn't going to win. The alarm sounded; her eyes opened and it was time for me to stop trying to figure out why we didn't start our day with sexual heart attacks after my attempts to feel up her thigh. I had a slight attitude when I rose up out of

bed. "What happened?" she asked.

"NOTHING...like usual"

"Don't you remember last night?" she asked. I couldn't really. I didn't even remember getting home—let alone getting naked. Good point.

"Last night was awesome!" she said. And then I saw the bottle at the foot of the bed and remains of what once was a marijuana cigarette. Something did happen. I couldn't remember.

Favorite Holiday Recipe Submission

The holidays are here. The Pride wants to know what your favorite holiday food or beverage is. What does your heart desire as the days turn shorter? Is it turkey, smoked ham, caramel apples, or mulled wine? Please submit your favorite or original recipes to csusmpride@gmail.com, attn: Holiday Favorites, by Saturday November 15, 2008.