

## Barricade: For your safety

Photo by Christine Vaughan / The Pride

BY CHRISTINE VAUGHAN  
AND LISA LANDERS  
Pride Staff Writers

A barricade was erected by the University Police Department in the main entrance to the faculty/staff parking lot, in response to increased vehicle and pedestrian traffic traveling through Lot E to Lot H.

With the addition of Lot H, more traffic has been speeding through Lot E in hopes of snagging a close parking spot in Lot H, located between the Foundation Classroom Building and Markstein Hall.

Originally, no signs were posted and no measures were taken to reduce speed or alert drivers to be cautious while traveling through these lots. However, with increased driving speeds, the University Police Department installed two sets of speed-bumps directly in front of the Parking and Transportation Services office, where pedestrian traffic is high-

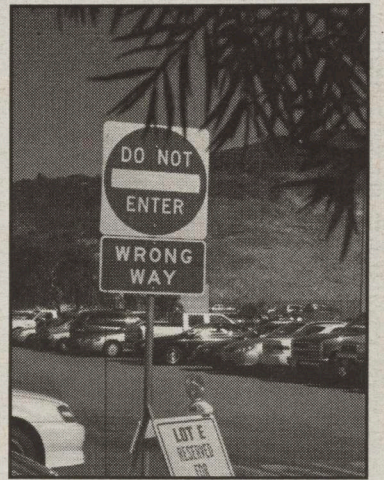


Photo by Christine Vaughan / The Pride

est in this area of campus. Yet, the Police Department didn't see the change they wanted by utilizing the speed-bumps. Therefore, approximately two weeks ago, a barricade was fixed in the main lane to slow down traffic and increase safety.

Lieutenant Douglass Miller

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## BSU Documentary: No!

Film exposes sexual violence and rape in the African-American community

BY ANTOINETTE JOHNSON  
Pride Staff Writer

The Black Student Union presents award-winning African-American feminist and documentary filmmaker Aishah Simmons on Feb. 15. Simmons' documentary, NO!: Confronting Rape in the African-American Community, will be shown at

The Clarke Field House from 6 to 8:30 p.m. as part of the CSUSM Black History Month observance.

NO! encompasses the problems of rape through the testimonies of African-American women who are survivors of rape and sexual violence,

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## Chamber Champions promote campus

BY JENNY NGUYEN  
Pride Staff Writer

Through the implementation of the Chamber Champions program, Cal State San Marcos's administration focuses on President Haynes' theme of "Building Our Legacy" by expanding community partnerships and aiming to strengthen the role of the campus in North County.

"If you threw a dart at a

[San Diego] map, you would hit a graduate of SDSU, and if you shot a canon at that map, you would miss a graduate of CSUSM by far," said Dennis Guseman, Dean of the College of Business Administration.

"In our plan to nurture, sustain, increase, and coordinate our community partnerships, we developed a program called Chamber Champions," said President Karen Haynes during her second annual Community

Report.

According to the Chamber Champions proposal, the program is designed to strengthen existing community partnerships, increase new partnerships, and increase the level of awareness and interest in California State University San Marcos's programs and activities within the business community. The program provides opportunities

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## Seeing the Invisible

Graduate student offered screening of the Invisible Children documentary and inspires some students

BY RACHEL WANN  
Pride Staff Writer

A public screening of the nationally-renowned documentary, Invisible Children, captured the attention of many Cal State San Marcos students, exposing the true, untold stories of Northern Ugandan children escaping the horrific reality of war.

Invisible Children, documented by three young filmmakers: Jason Russell, Laren Poole and Bobby Bailey, exposes the horrific consequences of a 20-year civil war in Uganda and discovers how the war has left much of the nation's population displaced, with children seeking refuge to avoid being kidnapped by the rebel group known as the Lord's Resistance Army, LRA.

"They didn't know what they would find," said Alisa Wells, sociology gradu-

ate at CSUSM and presenter of the film screening. The young men inadvertently stumbled upon a civil war in Uganda containing horrors that proved to be so disgustingly astonishing it would be difficult for the rest of the world to comprehend, added Wells.

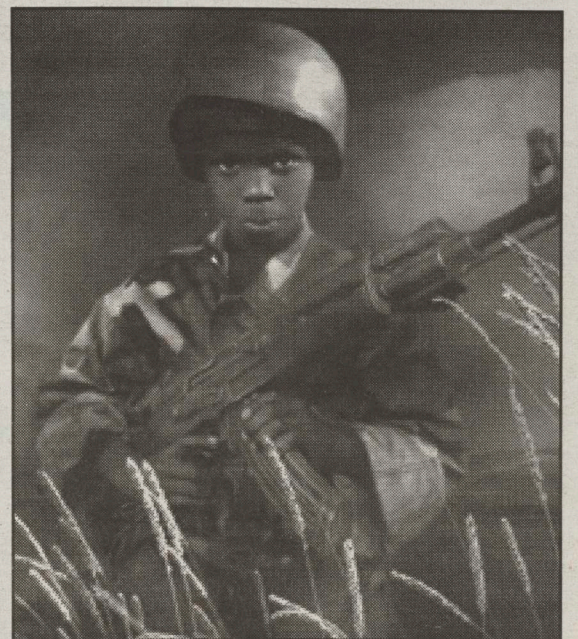
Each night, thousands of children flee from their homes to sleep in bus depots and under hospital verandas out of fear that they will be captured by the LRA and forced into becoming child soldiers. These children, aged anywhere from five to 12 years old, leave their homes before dusk to sleep, in what they consider to be safer locations, protected by only one armed guard for the thousands of children.

The fear is real for these young children. Those that are unable to seek refuge are often captured by the LRA

and taken into the 'bush' where they are instantly desensitized to pain, blood and killing. Young enough to carry a gun and ideal for brainwashing, approximately 50,000 children have been abducted by the LRA. Yet despite the startling numbers, prior to the documentary, this tragedy was getting no international attention.

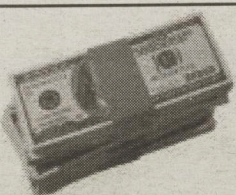
The documentary has since expanded to a non-profit organization, with a mission to educate the public, empower viewers, and provide over 20 million dollars in aid for these Invisible Children. "Our dream is to inspire the young and young at heart, to challenge their thinking, and empower them to 'be the change they wish to see in the world'

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Courtesy of InvisibleChildren.com

INSIDE



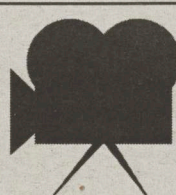
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# Career Center presents Major and Internship Fair

Collaborative event unites advising and internship programs to save students time and hassle

BY NATASHA HECKENDORN  
Pride Staff Writer

For the first time ever, the Career Center is assembling nearly 30 advisors and employers into one combined event to save students time and energy by attending the Major and Internship Fair on Feb. 21.

Students can stop by the Clark Field House any time between 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. to peruse the various booths at their leisure, rather than driving to internship opportunities or running around campus to talk to faculty advisors. The focus of the event will be on helping commitment-phobic stu-

dents choose a major, and providing career-oriented students with the opportunity to meet with an actual employer about getting an internship.

"We're finding that two thirds of students everywhere, not just at San Marcos, will participate in an internship program at some point," said Event Coordinator and Career Counselor, Monica Demcho.

The event next Tuesday will host more than 12 employers, mostly non-profit and government organizations that rarely appear at job fairs.

"This is a great opportunity for students who are interested in

interning, but aren't sure how to go about it," said Demcho.

Students looking for an internship should bring a resume and dress in business casual. There will also be a resume and interviewing strategies workshop available from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for last minute advice.

The other half of the event will be for students who are unsure of their major, students who are thinking of switching majors, or students who are torn between three or four possible majors. More than 17 faculty advisors from various departments will be available to give students more information about their respec-

tive majors and answer any questions.

"It gives students a great opportunity to experience all the different majors and talk to advisors about these majors," Demcho added.

An extreme indecision workshop will also be offered from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for students with severe commitment issues. Students don't need to sign up ahead of time and the event is completely free.

Students attending the event for major advice only need to bring their questions, but students looking for an internship should bring a resume and dress to impress.

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for CSUSM to partner with programs that promote the university's interest and foster economic development within the region.

The Chamber Champions program was coordinated by Dennis Guseman, dean of the College of Business Administration, and Jan Jackson, dean of Extended Studies. It was officially launched in the Fall of 2005, with eight appointed Champions. Each of these eight Champions acts as liaisons with eight area chambers of commerce. Currently,

these chambers include Carlsbad, Escondido, Oceanside, Poway, Rancho Bernardo, San Marcos, Temecula, and Vista.

Today, there are about 40 people involved in the Chamber Champions. Under the coordination of the champions, team volunteers attend chamber events and participate on committees and generally become active members of the area chamber. Chamber Champions and volunteers spend approximately three to six hours a month attending city chamber meetings and events

"Over time, we are going to reach out to the Hispanic Chamber, Encinitas Chamber, and also the Solana Beach Chamber," said Dean Guseman.

According to Guseman, the Chamber Champions program is a very concentrated way to reach over 200,000 people in the community. With many people involved in "Building Our Legacy", students will have great opportunities in the business community. One such example is the Senior Experience and internship programs. Many of these chambers offer scholarship

programs.

As a student, becoming familiar with your area's chamber events is crucial. It is the goal of this program to have the business community hire graduates of its community. By doing so, this creates an identity for Cal State San Marcos, mentioned Guseman. Students and graduates of CSUSM become more desirable and prestigious.

"We have a great product, and we are marketing it as a Win-Win to a large number of people," said Dean Guseman. "Everyone has something to gain from this."

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 editors should include an address, telephone number, e-mail and identification. Letters may be edited for grammar and length. Letters should be under 300 words and submitted via electronic mail to [pride@csusm.edu](mailto: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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as well as offering solutions for healing through commentaries from African-American community leaders and scholars.

Aside from film productions, Aishah Simmons is a published

writer, international lecturer, and works on activist projects in Philadelphia. She is the founder of AfroLez, a production organization geared toward perpetuating positive and holistic images of African women with lesbian or bisexual orientation. As a sur-

vivor of rape and incest, Simmons' documentaries are dedicated to the exposure of such issues. Her other documentaries include Silence ... Broken, a film that explores issues of rape and family violence, and In My Father's House, which examines race, gender, homophobia, and misogyny.

"I believe rape is an important topic that we need to continually explore," said Jonathan Poullard, Dean of Students. Poullard explained on the importance of

the presentation of NO! and Simmons' visit as not just for Black History Month, but for campus benefit. Presentations such as NO! are a reminder of the true nature of Black History Month as not only celebrations of blackness, but also celebrations of cultural diversity. For more information regarding the BSU presentation of NO! refer to <http://tracks.csusm.edu/in-the-loop/students.php>. To learn more about NO! or Aishah Simmons, visit [www.notherapedocumentary.org](http://www.notherapedocumentary.org).

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# Filipino Culture Night auditions

BY LORA PAINTER  
Pride Staff Writer

Kamalayan Alliance and ASI prepare to host auditions for talented performers interested in participating in Cal State San Marcos's first Filipino Culture Night.

Auditions will take place Feb. 15, 16 and 17, from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. in The Clark Field House Conference Room 110. Applications are available at Commons 201 and Craven 4116. All talents are welcome, ranging from dance, music and song, to monologues, skits and personal stories.

Performance pieces should involve aspects of Filipino culture, such as history, religion, interracial dating, and stereotypes. One does not have to be Filipino to participate, and anyone interested in performing is encouraged to audition.

All talent levels are welcome, ranging from amateur to professional. The judges will be critiquing auditions based on presentation, vocal projection and energy on stage. Individuals selected to perform in the Culture Night will be required to participate in rehearsals that will

help refine their talents/strengths and explore their performance piece.

Prospective students do not have to audition alone. Duets and group skits are encouraged, as well as solo acts.

Filipino Culture Night will be structured like a variety show with several different acts pieced together. The audition judges will be selecting enough performances to fill an hour and a half.

"It's a great learning experience going through a production," said Diana Wong, ASI director of Cultural Programming and Kamalayan Alliance treasurer. "You learn a lot about yourself and others."

The focus of Filipino Culture Night is to "break stereotypes and to show that we have a very diverse culture within the community," added Wong. It is an opportunity for CSUSM student voices to be heard. Also, the event hopes to make others aware how Filipinos have contributed to history and social institutions.

According to Wong, attending Filipino Culture Night will allow the audience to "see through the eyes of Filipinos" and understand that all racial groups struggle and

share commonalities.

Students interested in volunteering for stage crew and production design are encouraged to fill out an application and should plan on attending the auditions and get acquainted with the event coordinators and the performers.

Filipino Culture Night will be held in The Clark Field House in April. It is free to all students and staff. Tentatively, guest tickets will be five dollars each.

Kamalayan Alliance is a Filipino-American organization on campus that focuses on inequality, social change, generational gaps and Filipino identity. It is non-exclusive and everyone is welcome to join. Kamalayan Alliance is working on becoming involved with other clubs on campus. Currently, members meet bi-weekly in various rooms around campus. A general board meeting will be held on Feb. 22, from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. in ACD 404.

For more information regarding the Filipino Culture Night auditions or the Kamalayan Alliance, contact Diana Wong at 760-750-6012.

## In debt for HOW long?

A lecture on the historical link between American debt and spending habits

BY CHRISTINE VAUGHAN  
Pride Staff Writer

Exposing the history of the American debt, Phi Alpha Theta will host an intriguing lecture presented by respected Economic Historian, Danny Vickers, highlighting the nation's tendencies to borrow money and accrue debt.

In collaboration with the History Department, the History Club, and the CSUSM Arts and Lectures series, the History of Debt lecture will be held on Thursday, Feb. 16 at 4:00 p.m. in University Hall, room 100. This free-admission lecture won't hurt budgets, but can assist in a better understanding of financial options and being debt-free.

"Professor Vickers will be talking about the history of debt and borrowing in America, going back to the colonial period," explained Dr. Anne Lombard, assistant professor of History. "He will argue that Americans' fondness for bor-

rowing, which is not only a personal, but also a national issue for us, is not new and that it is historically rooted in a particular set of economic circumstances faced by Americans."

"This lecture should be very interesting, as it is a topic that applies to almost everyone, not only on campus but throughout the world," said Stephanie Schott, president of Phi Alpha Theta, a national history honor society. "Learning the roots of debt helps create a better understanding and can allow the individual to master it in his or her own life."

"The event is a chance to talk to an expert about a pressing national issue that most of us don't really understand: what difference the growing level of borrowing in America, both consumer and government borrowing, make to our economy, our society, and our future," said Lombard. "Professor Vickers' talk should give all students a stimulating new perspective on something they probably all have a mountain of: DEBT!"

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explained that the reason the barricade was implemented to slow down the speed of the vehicles proceeding to the back lot. The blocker is being used to channel people into more turns in hopes of slowing them down, added Miller.

"The barricade is strictly for safety, to prevent accidents for vehicle-vehicle collisions and vehicle-pedestrian incidents," said Sergeant Dan Koehler. "Our mission at the University Police Department is safety, and we prefer to head things off before incidents happen."

Drivers are encouraged to follow the 25 mph speed limit on campus streets, and the 10 mph speed limit in parking lots. Drivers should not swerve or jet around the barricade, noted Koehler. This lane is essentially a one-way lane with the newly placed barricade in position. While the department does not plan on writing citations to violators disregarding the one-way traffic, if a driver were to get into an accident traveling eastbound in the lane, the driver would be at fault for all collision damages, mentioned Koehler.

So far, the Police department has

received one complaint regarding how the barricade is too big and awkward. However, Miller reported that there have

been numerous praises for its existence as well. For the time being, this blocker will be permanent.



Courtesy of InvisibleChildren.com

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through action," according to the organization's website.

Over 70 students congregated in Arts 240 to view the 90-minute screening of Invisible Children, followed by a question and answer discussion.

Eileen Reyes, a senior at CSUSM, described the film as "heart-wrenching," claiming that "it really makes you want to actively put time and effort in to help these children." Melissa Fanning, a freshman, who had seen the documentary prior to the campus-screening, was once again moved by the film. "It was completely intense," she said, "and it made me want to do even more."

Many students, clearly shaken by the film, had questions as to how they could help. As with many documentaries, Invisible Children was made for a clearly defined purpose. Among their key aspirations, the filmmakers of Invisible Children seek to raise \$20 million to provide relief and sponsor 100,000 children to attend school.

Wells offered additional ways to help

the Invisible Children crusade which involved purchasing the DVD or bracelets made by refugees in Uganda who would be otherwise unemployed if it were not for the bracelet campaign assembled by the Invisible Children team. Other options to raise awareness include participation in the Global Night Commute, a national event that will be held on April 29. The Global Night Commute is an overnight sleepover in which participants are encouraged to walk downtown and sleep in the streets, just like the children of Uganda.

The impact of the screening is one that will last with students, according to Valerie Taylor. CSUSM junior, Valerie Taylor, plans on getting involved right away. "It really inspired me," she said, "I really want to attend the sleepover event in San Diego on April 29."

For more information on future documentary screenings, the relief campaign, or to purchase the film, visit the website at [www.invisiblechildren.com](http://www.invisiblechildren.com).

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# On Campus: Soul Food Luncheon

BY JASON ROBBINS  
Pride Staff Writer

Small crowds begin to spill into The Clark Field House. Some follow the scent of barbequed chicken; others follow the loud hip-hop music that hovers overhead.

"Got me looking so crazy right now" sings Beyonce. "Your love got me looking so crazy right now."

A woman named Anise from payroll greets me. Another staff member thanks me for joining their celebration. In every corner of the large luncheon area, colleagues and friends laugh, hug and add to a bubbling energy that even a stone-hearted journalist like me can feel.

The African American Faculty and Staff Association (AAFSA) served up this bubbling energy at their 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Soul Food Luncheon, held last Friday at The Clarke Field House. The luncheon is designed to raise money for future AAFSA initiatives.

It was clear that funding was not their only objective, though. Karen Francisco-Butler of Admissions and Recruitment, along with Virgian Hughes of Registration and Records, explained that the purpose of the

luncheon is to show others what African-Americans are like as people in their culture.

Shortly after the staff opened the lunch line, the event featured AAFSA Vice President Gezai Berhane's power point presentation entitled, "They came, they made a way." Profiling numerous African-American political and social leaders, the presentation served as an expression of culture from a historical perspective.

As unimportant as rich food might be relative to figures like Rosa Parks and Shirley Chisholm (both part of the presentation), the luncheon's fare (provided by Southern Spice Catering of Temecula) deserved its own praise. The macaroni and cheese was chunky, super-rich, and so very pleasing. The tender barbequed chicken was sealed away from the world by a smoky red sauce, and it too struck ecstasy. The corn bread was corn bread. As for the collard greens; well, they were vegetables, so let's just say that others enjoyed them.

One person who looked to be enjoying himself was ASI President and CEO Marc DeGuzman. When asked about what the Soul Food Luncheon means for CSUSM, DeGuzman commented that "it's one of the ways we cel-

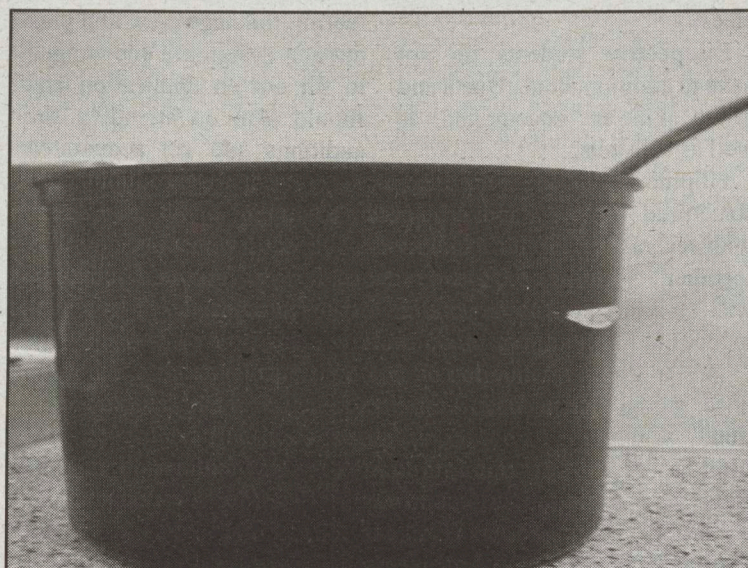


Photo by Zachary J. Simon / The Pride

brate diversity on campus."

"When community can come together, that's what Cal State San Marcos is all about," said Jonathan Poullard (Chair of the AAFSA Fundraising Committee, Dean of Students, and the man who directed the proceedings) about the event. "It warms my heart."

The room's heart-warming energy and spirit of expression were quickly sucked up, enriched, and re-distributed by the luncheon's final act. Anthony Blacksher, a CSUSM graduate and graduate student, captivated the crowd with a moving slam

poetry performance.

"This poem is for Tookie," shouted Blacksher in a willing voice, "the Tookie that is redemptive!"

"This poem is for Ossie."

"This poem is for Rosa ... Life is civil rights."

Blacksher finished, the 100-150 attendees erupted in applause, and the energy was restored.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Soul Food Luncheon served up culture, community, rich food, and an energy related to the three. I think that all of us left with bigger bellies, and possibly bigger souls.

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# On Campus: Casino Night, a sure bet



BY RACHEL REYES  
Pride Staff Writer

The night wasn't about winning or losing, but every attendee had their eyes on the prize.

On Friday, Feb. 10, ASI hosted its semi-annual "Casino Night" at The Clark Field House.

"We want to promote a community feeling. Students can hang out and gamble without spending their own money," said Liz Sheets, ASI's Director of Social Programming. "And win cool prizes," she added.

For the last two years, ASI has hosted this event with the help of Casino Magic, who provided the games and dealers. This semester, however, ASI also collaborated with the University Student Union Advisory Board. Returning students commented that there were more decorations

and food this year.

Shortly after 6 p.m., the parking lot in front of the Clark Field House was full. Inside the building was a different story, though. This reporter was only the fifth person to sign in and enter with \$500 in play-money.

Of the seven tables inside, the middle Hold'em table immediately concentrated the most testosterone. The dealer hollered me over, but Blackjack had a luckier feel.

Nomatter how casually one turns the bills into chips, a first-timer at casino-style Blackjack will make himself or herself obvious. Michael Chavez, a Casino Magic dealer, clearly smelled "newbie," but was nice enough to share a secret or two about the game.

After about twenty minutes, it all became clearer. After learning how to "double your bet" this reporter ended up \$200 richer by 7 p.m. and hardly noticed that the room



had filled up in the process. After the long one-on-one session with Chavez, another student finally joined the table.

Although Daniel Stephenson, a freshman, was new to the event, he definitely wasn't new to the game. "I like to gamble and go to casinos a lot," he smiled.

Apparently, attending Casino Night was a welcome change. "It's nice to play for free once in a while," said Stephenson.

By 7:30 p.m. it seemed best not to spend the whole night on one game, but it took some nerve to approach the Hold'em table, even with only a small group there.

The game was seriously intense, one hand can quickly become a big win or a big loss. Likewise, it is also extremely fun, and soon enough the table was full again. No one wanted to leave. Not by choice, anyway. In fact, if a player left the table for just a few seconds, another player gladly took his or her seat.

Linda Nutting, the managing 'pit boss', was happy to see the tables filled, noting that "Texas Hold'em seems to be the big draw these days."

After breaking even, the Roulette table seemed appealing. Unfortunately, after being so caught up with the other games, there was only 20 minutes left to learn how to play. Fortunately, the game was fairly simple, even if the table was crowded. I placed a \$5 chip on a spot marked 1 to 18, the ball landed on 11 black, and won this reporter her first game of Roulette as the last bet of the evening.

Clearly Casino Night was a big hit, with many of the students convinced that four hours of play simply wasn't enough.



Photo by Rachel Reyes / The Pride

Marlena Clayton, a graduating senior and ASI member, has attended this event four times and always enjoys herself.

"It gives me something to do with no money and keeps me local," said Clayton. "I can also bring my underage friends with me."

Even with the tables closed, there was still the raffle to play and win for real. Every \$100 in play money bought attendees a raffle ticket. These tickets are then placed in a brown bag labeled with the desired prize. This year the five prizes included a trip to Laughlin, an X-Box, two 512 MB flash drives, "Family Guy" and "South Park" DVDs, a gift certificate for Pat and Oscar's, and an iPod shuffle.

I ended the night empty handed. But junior Jonathan Hall left with the trip to Laughlin.

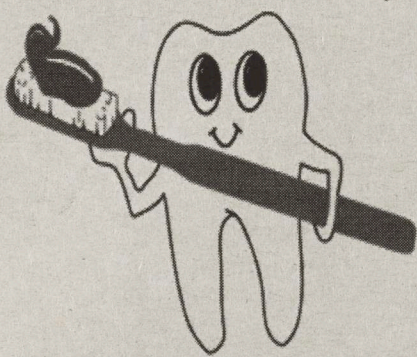
Casino Night has been such a great hit that ASI is planning a poker tournament this semester and hopes to draw the same crowd.

"There are a lot of events going on campus but students just don't go the extra step," said Sheets, "go to the events and have a good time."

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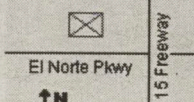
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# The questionable histories of Valentine's Day

BY KATIE ROWE AND  
ZACHARY J. SIMON  
Pride Staff Writers

To many bitter singles, and most men, Valentine's Day is just one more holiday invented to get people to spend money. Although the gift industry may benefit greatly from this holiday, it actually originated long before Hallmark.

One explanation, kept alive by educational TV stations like "The History Channel", points to third century A.C.E. Roman Emperor Claudias II. According to legend, he outlawed marriage between young couples because he felt that young unmarried men would

make better soldiers. Valentine, a local Christian activist, defied Claudias, and secretly married young lovers until discovered and sentenced to death. Sites such as TheHolidaySpot.com often maintain the legend that Claudias tried to convert Valentine, who refused and then tried to convert Claudias, going on to suggest that the priest sent the first valentine to the Prison guard's daughter, who befriended him while he was incarcerated, the note reading "From Your Valentine". There are also stories claiming that the daughter's blindness was cured by Valentine's faith.

Although these legends are somewhat unclear, it is easy to see how Valentine could be made into the patron saint of lovers.

As there are two main stories explaining who Valentine was, there are also two theories as to why Valentine's Day is celebrated on Feb. 14.

The first acknowledges only that this date commemorates the death or burial of St. Valentine, the other points to another effort to Christianize a pagan festival, in this case, Lupercalia.

In Rome, February marked the beginning of spring and the time of purification with Lupercalia celebrated on February 15 as a fertility festival. The day would start with sacrifices to the wolf goddess Lupa of a goat for fer-

tility and a dog for purification. Their hides were cut into strips and covered in holy blood. Youths were also covered in this blood but washed with milk before carrying the strips through the street, slapping playfully fleeing women to bring fertility or easy birth.

Moreso, on the eve of this festival, in honor of the Queen Goddess Juno, the names of young women were collected and put into a lottery for single men to draw. These couples would be paired for the year and this pairing often ended in marriage.

Pope Gelasius outlawed the pagan "lovers' lottery" for being unchristian and declared February 14 St. Valentine's Day around 494 A.D. People began exchanging Valentines, but it wasn't until the 17th century that Valentine's Day became a popular holiday in Great Britain. It is estimated that both Americans and people from all social classes were exchanging valentines in the 1700s, even if printed cards did not become available till the end of that century. Esther Howland is remembered as the Mother of Valentines in the US for creating the first commercially produced Valentine's Day cards in the 1840s, as well as for her elaborate hand made Valentines.

Cupid's association with the holiday can be attributed to his mother Venus, goddess of love



Juno, Goddess of marriage

Photo courtesy of timelessmyths.com

and beauty. He himself was known as a mischievous child who flew around piercing people's hearts, causing them to fall madly in love.

Today, this lover's holiday is celebrated in the United States, Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom, France, and Australia. The Greeting Card Association

claims that about one billion Valentine's Day cards are sent each year throughout the world and that women purchase about 85% of all Valentines.

As for the Christian Nature of this holiday, the response about its roots and historical significance will all depend on who you ask.



Photo Courtesy of virtualmuseum.ca  
Valentine, sainted by Pope Gelasius, who wrote extensively against the "lover's lottery" of old

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# On Campus: Bringing Poetri to Black History Month

## An evening of laughter, love, and faith with a Toni award winner

BY ZACHARY J. SIMON  
Pride Staff Writers

Recall those evenings of free entertainment that deserved an admission, of attending extra credit events worth skipping class for. Pity those students who find none, for it is not the tendency, but the obligation of Colleges to provide them. Do not, for the sake of maintaining academic numbness, discard the opportunity to see and share the application of education.

Do not miss another chance to hear a professional express that soon to be post-universal perception:

"My-space? They should call it MY-CRACK!"

Not 'his' crack, he would quickly yet casually clarify, but that substance now used to identify anything addictive...like Krispy Kreme doughnuts.

Among the events scheduled to honor Black History Month at CSUSM was an evening of poetry by the artist Poetri on Feb. 9 in the Arts 111 theatre.

6pm on a school night is an easy place to claim that better things had claimed your time, but the dozens of students who did attend would be unlikely to believe you the next day.

A large group had already gath-

ered by the doors before final preparations were finished, chatting and glancing about nothing, determined not to look too eager or out of place.

And yet, only moments after Poetri took the stage, the airs and cares of the crowd were laughed away.

In a joint effort between the Black Student Union and the Kamalayan Alliance with the held of the African-American Faculty/Staff Association, the Arts and Lectures Series and Office of the Dean of Students, CSUSM was fortunate enough to book this Nationally renowned, Toni Award-winning poet.

Patricia Guevarra, President of Kamalayan Alliance, was kind enough to share her perspective of the process.

"It all started when Alexis Montevirgen, Associate Director of Multicultural Programming, told me that Arts and Lectures were looking for new events/speakers/guest lecturers. I figured that it was about time we had some spoken word artists on campus...I met up with Ant (Anthony Blacksher) who told me about Poetri through

Myspace.com. I had the chance to talk to Poetri and his manager. It was very intimidating, this was the first time I had ever worked with someone as professional as Poetri, but his manager was very patient with me."

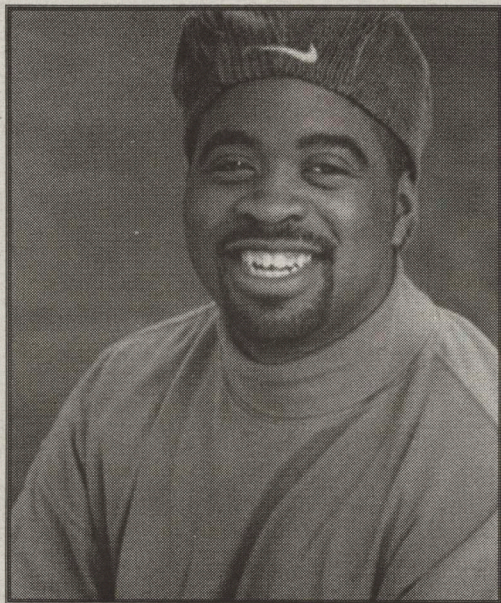


Photo courtesy of PoeticVoices.com / The Pride

Ms Guevarra notes primarily that "I really owe this to Anthony Blacksher. If it wasn't for him I wouldn't

have known about Poetri."

And indeed, had it not been for Poetri, attendees might not have known that the afore mentioned Krispe Kreme "used to be called

crispy crème croissants! Ah ha! KKK, I knew it!"

In addition to humor, the performer recited works of loneliness and faith, all woven together through frank and clear interaction with his audience. Blunt diary entries bloomed naturally into profound and truly poetic observations. The 'poet's eye,' it would seem, is hardly hindered by the food-addict's belly.

Between incorporating his wife, sitting front and center, meeting him pride for pride with scarcely more than a gesture, and his exaggerated goodbyes to any who dared step outside, every person, with every relationship to his art, ended up applauding even better than he'd taught them to.

Perhaps they also wanted a chance to come up and compete for some Poetri merchandise.

Not surprisingly, in the last few minutes left for Q&A, his creative process neither held nor kept any secrets beyond faith in an external source and a love of the art. Being restricted from entertainment as a punishment, thus left with little to do but create, might well have lent an additional hand to his growing talent.

As the crowd filled away to buy Poetri's cds (and perhaps compose their own works while still inspired) junior biology major, Jean Schenueman remarked of her first poetry event; "I didn't know what to expect, but I thought it was awesome."

Another attendant, Chris Wilson, a graduate of USD, had heard about the event through friends and left saying, "his poetry wasn't done to impress, it was done to be real, and that was impressive."

Poetri himself brings the bulk of his performances and workshops to either high schools or college campuses, but is fortunate enough to say that "There's no different format for different crowds because I've been blessed to have work that fits anywhere."

Although there can be no doubt that his work would benefit any aspiring writer, when asked about his contribution to Black History Month at CSUSM, Ms. Guevarra affirms that "Poetri has been able to represent a voice not only in the Black community but as a respected poet and performer. I did not choose Poetri only for Black History month, but as a contribution to the lifestyle of a spoken word artist...besides, I don't think it takes designated months to celebrate diversity."

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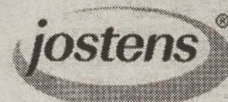
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# Jock Talk With Josh

## Top 10 movies about sports

BY JOSHUA SANDAVOL  
Special to The Pride



I finished watching "Mr. 3000" on Starz the other night and I was pissed that I wasted an hour and 45 minutes of my life. To get the bad taste out of my mouth of the worst baseball

movie ever made, I watched "Million Dollar Baby" on HBO, and I loved it.

After viewing those movies, I got to thinking about my top 10 favorite sports movies so here they are.

10 - "Friday Night Lights" surprised me. I didn't think Billy Bob Thornton would be convincing as a high school football coach. It's hard to imagine Billy Bob even graduating from high school. This movie did a great job of portraying that there is no greater atmosphere in sports than a high school football game under the lights.

9 - "Happy Gilmore" is without a doubt the funniest sports movie ever made. Adam Sandler and Bob Barker brawling is quite possibly the greatest scene in movie history. It certainly takes an amazing story to make golf interesting.

8 - "Million Dollar Baby" didn't disappoint me one bit. I thought it would because I didn't see it while it was in the theatres, and then after all the hype at the Academy Awards, I thought there was no way it could live up to the hype, but it did.

7 - "Miracle" provided something for me that I wasn't able to experience since I wasn't born when the events took place. The story of the 1980 USA hockey team is something I really only heard stories about, but to see the actual sequence of events was pretty amazing. One reason I don't like seeing sports movies in the theatre is because of movies like this where the audience gets so emotionally wrapped up in the plot and ends up clapping when the team wins a game, as if the game was being played live. However, I really enjoyed this movie because I didn't know the interesting individual stories about all the players on the team.

6 - "Seabiscuit" is a sports movie. Don't think that horse racing is not a sport. I love this movie not only because horse

racine is one of my favorite sports, but because actual jockeys, like Gary Stevens, played parts in the movie. What's not to like about a hopeless animal and a hopeless man who team up and become one of the greatest combos the sport has ever seen?

5 - "Rocky" is impressive because Sylvester Stallone actually wrote the script. Who knew Sly could actually write? The only bad thing about the success of Rocky is that they made about 51 sequels and kind of ruined the mystique.

4 - "8 Men Out" is a movie that many sports fans probably haven't seen. It's about the Black Sox scandal of 1919. I love this movie because I've studied in depth the darkest moment in baseball history and this movie was a flawless representation. The most well known person in this movie is Charlie Sheen and he actually looks like he could play baseball in some of the scenes.

3 - "Rudy" is quite possibly the only movie ever made that makes grown men cry. What's not to love about a small guy who has no business being on a football field and through hard work and dedication actually gets into a game? I love the scene where the crowd is chanting, "Rudy! Rudy!"...sniff sniff.

2 - "The Sandlot" is basically what my summer vacations were like when I was a child. What is rare about this sports movie is that it is enjoyed by even the non-sports fan. I love the scene where Benny outruns the dog chasing him throughout town. Also, who can forget the scene where "Ham" and his enemy on another team get into an argument and "Ham" coins the phrase, "Youuuuuu throw like a girrrrrrrllll," which is followed by a big gasp.

1 - "White Men Can't Jump" is a movie I could watch over and over again. For anyone that has ever played street ball, he or she knows that the atmosphere shown in the movie was true to form. What's rare about this sports movie is that it doesn't involve an organized sports team. This movie also deals with so many different subjects like racism, violence, poverty, and deception. Also, any time Alex Trebek makes a cameo, you have got to be impressed.

Let me know what you think of my list by sending an E-mail to Sando026@csusm.edu.

# Liddell KO's Couture in Two

## A look into the world of the UFC

BY MICHELLE HEROLD  
Pride Staff Writers

Chuck "The Iceman" Liddell once again proves his mettle against Randy "The Natural" Couture in the UFC light heavyweight (185-205 lbs.) division on Saturday at the Mandalay Bay in Las Vegas. In a fight scheduled for five, five-minute rounds, Chuck Liddell knocked Randy Couture down with his signature straight right hand punch in the second round. As Couture went down, Liddell leaped to the ground attack, pounding Couture against the canvas for several seconds before the referee, Big John McCarthy pulled him off and declared Liddell the winner by a knockout.

Unlike Boxing, the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) mixed martial arts fighting events include ground rules as well as grappling rules. Both fighters can pursue their opponent to the ground, and as long as both remain active in their own defense, such contact is allowed under the rules. When one opponent is stunned or unable to defend themselves, the referee stops the fight to protect the fighter, and the winner is declared.

The fight is held not in the traditional boxing ring, but in an octagonal ring fenced in with chain link, giving the impression of a cage match. But these fighters are pros, most of them trained and cross-trained for three or even four times the length of time a professional boxer is trained. Their discipline is generally much better, and their skills can encompass Boxing, Wrestling, Kickboxing, Jiu Jitsu, Judo, Karate, and any other form of personal combat they think they can use. Where traditional boxing allows a ten minute countdown, a standing eight count, and a very limited area of legal targets and weapons, the UFC allows no count at all, and the legal targets exclude only the groin, and intentional rapid breaking of the opponent's joints (like elbows, knees, neck, back, etc.) The legal weapons are fists, feet, knees, and elbows as well as chokes, holds, and grappling.

In the first round, Randy Couture, a world-class wrestler, went after the takedown himself, shooting for Liddell's legs after Liddell cut him over

the right eye in a straight right, followed by a left uppercut combination. Chuck Liddell started to go down momentarily, but bounced back to his feet almost before he left them.

Once down, Couture's wrestling advantage could have cancelled out Liddell's heavy hands. Chuck actually took Randy down shortly before the end of the round for a little ground and pound, but the bell sounded after Chuck delivered only a few punches to Randy's left ribs.

In the second round, as Couture and Liddell were faced off, Couture made one lateral fake too many and slipped for a moment, trying to cover his slip, he threw a left lunging hook, Floyd Patterson style, only to have it bounce off the back of Liddell's head. Chuck took advantage of the moment Randy left his head uncovered to punch him squarely on the chin and Randy went down. It was when Chuck followed him to the canvas that the referee intervened and ended the fight. After the fight Liddell said, "If you let me stand in front of you long enough, I'll knock you out."

Randy Couture had been involved in the UFC since its inception in 1993. He is forty-two years old, and announced his retirement from competition immediately after Liddell was formally declared the winner and still light heavyweight champion. As he left the arena, he told the press, "This is the last time you'll see these gloves."

Among the other notable fights were Frank Mir's defeat in his heavyweight (over 205 lbs) return match to Marco Cruz. Devastated by a motorcycle accident that nearly cost him his leg, Frank Mir's courageous return to the ring was marked by his defeat, but Mir declared, "I can't give up." Mir will return to the Octagon better prepared next time.

Light heavyweight Renato "Babalou" Sobral defeated his opponent Mike Van Arsdale a little over two minutes into the first round with a Jiu Jitsu choke hold called a "naked choke" after taking Van Arsdale down to the ground. Babalou has publicly announced his eagerness to fight "The Iceman," Chuck Liddell for the Light Heavyweight Title. When informed of Babalou's offer, Liddell said, "You know me, I'll fight anybody."

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# Robbins Report

BY JASON ROBBINS  
Special to The Pride

In reading this newspaper last week, I learned that there is "a way" to dress for spring 2006. There is "a way" to dress for spring 2006?

Is this like the way of the samurai? Or is it more like the way of the righteous man?

Call me a bastard, but the idea of a seasonal clothing trend is baffling. Apparently, there's much more to covering up one's torso than adapting to the weather and not looking like a bum. Fine, I'll make the decree: Seasonal clothing trends suck and ought to be banned forever because I said so, and I'm a columnist for "The Pride".

Oh yes.

Well, I've changed course in this week's edition of our RR (you may call it that if you want). This week features the first installment of the Campus All-Stars Profile. Campus All-Stars are those CSUSM students whose contributions to our campus merit praise from the press.

By the way, where have our campus representatives been the last few months? I'm here at least five days a week, I see more things we that have displaced (the poor bunnies) than people that we have elected. Maybe there's a terrorist threat that's forcing them to govern from a bunker below the Mangrum Track. I'll investigate.

Let me get back to the profile; I'll instant message Agent Scully in a minute. It's time to rejoice, San Marcos, because Jeremy Mills is your first Robbins Report Campus All-Star.

Mr. Mills is the Director of Commuter Student Services for ASI's Programming Board, Vice Chair of ASI's Lobby Corp Committee, Communications Direc-

tor and Treasurer of CSUSM's branch of Amnesty International, and he's the Coordinator and a founding member of ASI's Women's Center. In other words, there might be a market for a collector's card featuring Jeremy if higher education was as cool as professional baseball.

I asked Jeremy to explain why he chose a lifestyle of engagement. "I'm an extremely active student on campus because I feel that it is important to be involved in my community and with political entities," Mills said.

"I have had the opportunity to attend CSUSM and have benefited from all the offerings that campus life has to offer and I believe that everyone should have this same chance. This involvement is what makes the college experience rich and fulfilling for me. The events, the activism, and the involvement, whether in the Greek life, political orgs, athletics or just enjoying an event on campus, all create an atmosphere of campus community pride that makes one's experience at Cal-State San Marcos a memorable one."

If it pleases the court, I'd like to add my own testimony.

Mr. Mills' work on campus reflects a genuine devotion towards students, and he exhibits the sort of leadership ability that others can emulate. As a Campus All-Star, he deserves your handshake and a pleasant thank you.

I invite you to write in about other students who deserve recognition for their contributions to the campus. I also think that we would benefit from a toll-free readers' line for those interested in reporting good and "unreasonably flawed" professors. It's easy, but unfair to call everyone super because educating and being educated are super.

Other Universities use reusable plates, cups and utensils, yet we pride ourselves about being the #1 recycling school. Why not start to reuse these items now instead of waiting until they need to be recycled in the case of Styrofoam it is environmentally unfriendly.

We are supposed to be a model for other educational institutions, but how can we pretend to be environmental models if we are being hypocrites by using foam cups and plates? We can spend a little more money and use reusable plates, cups and utensils. What should be more embarrassing is the fact that we are surrounded by intelligent individuals, yet none are trying to change this. I hope others in this University voice their concerns so that we can truly be a model for other educational institutions and environment as a whole.

Sincerely,  
Monica Garcia-Velasquez

# Report an Oversimplified opinion

Since Mr. Robbins has requested that "representatives" from Women's Studies come forth, I would like to share my experiences. Having received a bachelor's degree from CSUSM in Communication and Women's Studies, I have been a student in many Women's Studies courses. Even with such familiarity, I would never attempt to speak on behalf of an entire department. This being said, I am presenting a different take on the Women's Studies department than the opinions set forth by Robbins.

In his editorial, Robbins chauvinistically shrugs off an entire department based upon the social and political opinions of an unidentified Women's Studies student. While I won't dispute the legitimacy of his source, I will say that his editorial reminds us of the importance of critical thinking. Because the opinions of Robbins' acquaintance are in opposition to his own, he not only suggests that the Women's Studies department is somewhat responsible for her immoral views (completely removing the personal agency and history

of the woman he cites); but, he goes on to advise that students should refrain from taking Women's Studies courses. Ironically, one issue that Women's Studies often brings attention to is how a white, male-dominated media is constantly criticizing the efforts and attitudes of women, much like the way Mr. Robbins does of his friend and the Women's Studies program.

If I were to use the same logic used in Robbins' "report" (i.e., one person's opinions are reflective of, and caused by, the major she/he is in), I could argue that students should not read The Pride. The logic being: The Pride employs an editorialist who intentionally taunts marginal groups to instigate confrontation (sensationalism); therefore, all of their contributors must also think and do the same. Fortunately, I don't have such a simplistic view.

It is ridiculous to purport that the Women's Studies department advocates abortion or tells students that African Americans shouldn't vote Republican. Such beliefs are not department-imposed mandates to study-

ing feminism. Women's Studies classes address an array of issues concerning social inequalities in gender, race, class, and sexual identity. Women's Studies is about incorporating women's experiences into the classroom - it's more than just equal pay for equal work; it's about addressing all forms of social inequality. Of course, this is based on my experience. Maybe Robbins would agree, had he ever taken a Women's Studies class.

I urge Robbins to stop marauding as the no-nonsense, "tell it as it is" editorialist, and invest time into researching the people and programs he mocks. In the meantime, he should consider changing the title of his column to "The Robbins Rant," because it certainly is not a report. A report implies a level of inquiry beyond: "I know a woman who took classes in Women's Studies, and she thinks this, so Women's Studies sucks!" With deductive skills like that, who needs higher education?

Sincerely annoyed,  
Cecili Chadwick

# Some is always better than none

BY PIYAMAS SABLAN  
Pride Staff Writer

There are many individuals across campus that dread the upcoming Valentine's Day holiday. Some people even refer to it as the "Hallmark" holiday. Everyone has his or her own reasons for being bitter about love or for unleashing his or her disdain about celebrating love and romance on one designated day out of the year. Some people have been the "dumper" and some have been the "dumpee." Others may have never even experienced the euphoria of being in love. Those scorned by love who choose to hibernate during the holiday or barricade themselves from the barrage of heart shaped items and red colored everything should rent "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind."

The movie is not a traditional love story, but the plot offers a shift of perspective to

the broken hearted. The main characters, Joel and Clementine, fall in love and their relationship lasts for about two years. They break up and Joel discovers that Clementine has undergone a recently invented mind erasing procedure to obliterate all memories of Joel and their relationship. Joel is in deep emotional torment so he decides to go through the same procedure. In the middle of the procedure, Joel realizes that he would rather keep all memories of Clementine and their relationship then give up any of the good memories. I won't give away the ending of the movie, but since cloning is no longer a mad scientist's fantasy and has actually entered into the realm of reality, mind erasing might not be that far-off into the future or implausible. What if the world got so out of hand that to cure heartbreak, one only needed to go into the nearest mind erasing facility, fill out an application, pay the

fee, and have the procedure? Who you are now is shaped by your life experiences. If you erase memories of those experiences, how will you learn from them? How will you know what mistakes not to make again and how to improve yourself in the next relationship? How will you know what you aren't willing to take from someone and how far you're willing to bend for someone? The answer to these lessons can only be learned by letting life run its course.

Most relationships also have good times. If you erase all memories of someone and your relationship with him or her, you're not only losing the bad memories, you're sacrificing the good. The first kiss, the butterflies, the giddiness, the anticipation of having that person call you or seeing that person again will all be gone. The English poet Alfred Lord Tennyson said it best, "'Tis better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all."

# Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Today my friend and I went to the dome, we usually go off campus to eat, but instead, we went to the dome. I not only found out that the University that prides itself in environmental friendliness uses Styrofoam cups and plates, but when my friend asked if she could reuse her old Styrofoam cup to fill it up with ice, she was given a dirty look and a hesitant yes.

It is evident that all over our campus we have recycle-mania posters and recycle bins, yet when we go to the dome and buy a pizza and soda we are served in a Styrofoam cup and plate. Although this is minor compared to other Universities I feel it is necessary this issue be addressed, especially since the University takes pride in being an environmentally friendly campus. Are we not just hypocrites by not spending a couple more cents to buy reusable plates or even paper plates?

## PRIDE COMICS



# Invisible Children: A cry you can't ignore

## Documentary exposes present day nightmare in Northern Uganda

BY LISA LANDERS  
Pride Staff Writer

The documentary *Invisible Children* was new to me. I had been told by my professors to see it due to its profound nature. They even went as far to say that some of their student's lives have changed drastically from one viewing of this documentary. At the time, I was not so impressed with those pleas, but I decided to go and view the documentary anyways; hey, it beat being in class.

The documentary viewing was held on campus last Tuesday in the ARTS Building at 6 p.m. It was held by a fellow CSUSM student named Alisa Wells. She announced why she was here in front of us in the auditorium. She proceeded to tell everyone that she had been greatly affected by this documentary (as she proudly wore its title *Invisible Children* on her shirt), and that it means a great deal to her to get the word out on such a powerful piece. Was I convinced yet? No, not really. But what I was about to see has haunted me ever since ...

*Invisible Children* tells a story that will captivate, horrify, sadden, compel and turn your world upside down.

Many will leave in shock that this type of behavior is still going on, and the horrifying thing is that most of us did not know until this documentary's viewing. However, as drastic as this may seem, it is worth an hour of your time.

The story begins when three friends from the United States going to Africa in search of a story worth documenting. These three guys Jason Russell (26), Bobby Bailey (22), and Laren Poole (21) are actually from our neighboring city San Diego. They looked at this opportunity as an adventure. They were amateurs in every sense of the word. These young adults had no idea or direction when they set out for Africa when the rest of the world at this time was advised not to travel. They hoped to open their lense wide and capture any story.

After the comical intro of them trying to slay an African snake, the story drops into a far more serious subject. The boys unlock the terrible truth about what happens to children in Northern Uganda. They stumbled upon a reality that can make anyone sick to his or her stomach. They encountered a horrific genocide more terrible than the holo-

caust happening to young children between the ages of five and twelve in present day. They found that children were leaving their home villages to sleep in clusters in back alleys and basements in the thick of town because it is safer than sleeping in their home. These children live in fear of the brutal recruitment tactics of the Rebel Army which has been in war fighting for twenty years to overthrow the government. The Rebel Army has resorted to abducting children from their homes, holding them in camps and training them to kill. These children as young as five years old are being killed, brainwashed, beat on and made to fight as child soldiers.

The documentary exposes this present day nightmare and asks three things of the viewer in its opening. One, to expose the war to as many people as possible. Two, to empower viewers. And third, to provide aid in hopes to create a safe environment where orphans and children can live in peace. After viewing this piece you will want to do all of the above.

Overall, this is not just an informative documentary, but a cry for help. "It is not only break-

ing new ground but it has a bigger impact on my life than any other document that I've seen," said Jon Turteltaub, Director for the National Treasure. It is truly a

kept secret that will inspire you in every scene. To find out more information on *Invisible Children* or to help, go to this website: [www.invisiblechildren.com](http://www.invisiblechildren.com).

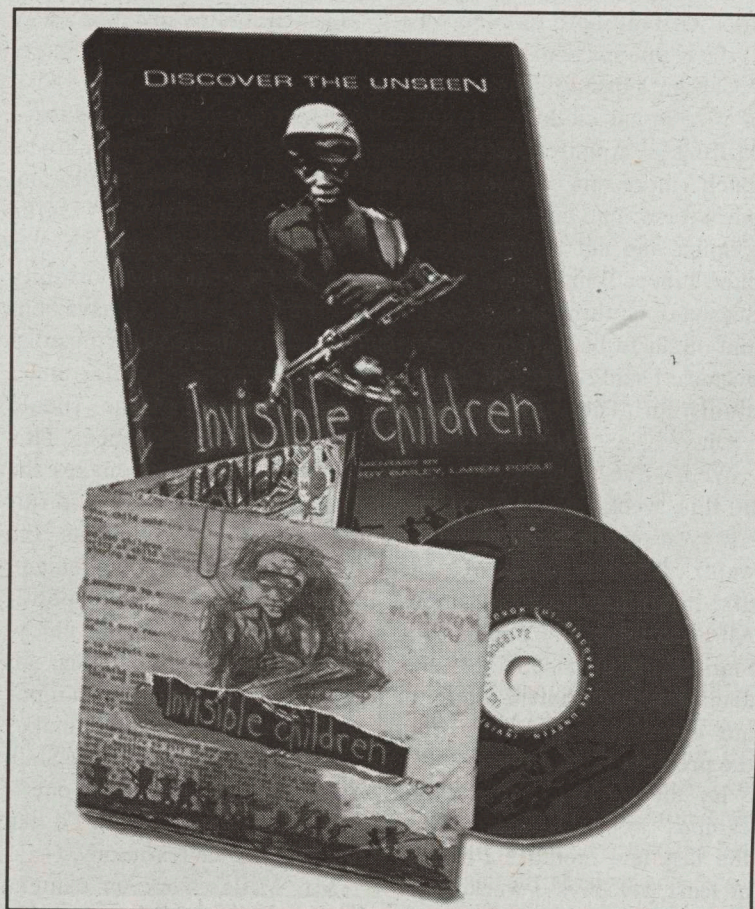
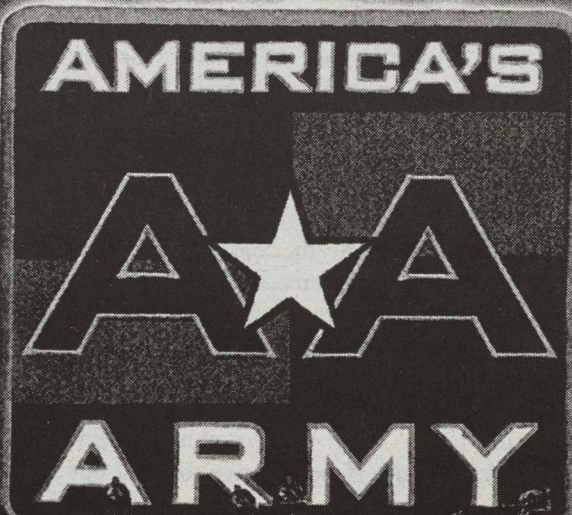
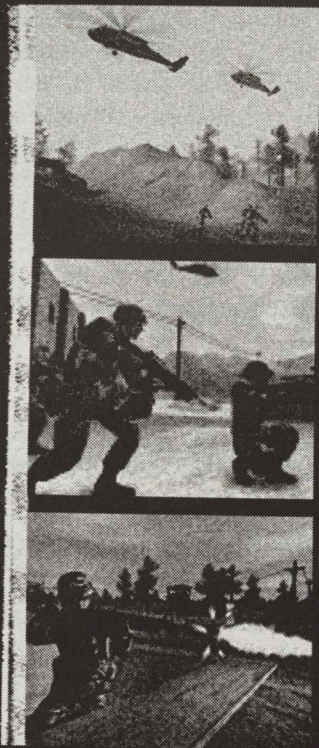


Photo courtesy of InvisibleChildren.com

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## BEER OF THE WEEK: MISSISSIPPI MUD

BY MATTHEW SCHRAMM  
Pride Staff Writer

Black and tans are a well known combination to beer lovers. Yet don't cut yourself short by thinking that the only good black and tan out there is Guinness and Bass. While that's a mixture that can never really be surpassed, there are others that should definitely be tried and tasted.

Mississippi Mud is one beer you've probably seen and walked by before but never tried. Bottled in quart sized, moonshine jug styled bottles, Mud's unique packaging is sure to catch your eye, along with the alligator emblazoned across its front. While brewed in upstate New York, far from the Mississippi River, Mississippi Mud is one beer that stays true to its name. A mixture of dark ale and lager, Mud is a heavy beer best served by itself or with a hearty meal.

Although the packaging refers to the brews used in Mud as pilsner and stout, it is most definitely a lager flavor that comes through strongest in Mississippi Mud. This black and tan is dark amber color with a heavy lager odor, yet does not taste nearly as strong as one would expect. The flavor, like the odor, leans towards the lager in the mix, with a taste slightly reminiscent of caramel and roasted

barley or malt. There is little taste of bitterness, and the beer itself is light in texture, despite its general heavier odor and feeling.

The lighter amber-colored lager used in Mississippi Mud can also be bought separately in a similarly styled bottle, featuring mallards on the front. Although not as common in stores as the black and tan, the slow-brewed American style lager is also worth a taste if you can find it.

Mississippi Mud can readily be found at such stores as Trader Joes, Beverages and More, and elsewhere. So give this American style black and tan a try, as two quality beers meet, as the back of the jug puts it, "in Mississippi Mud."

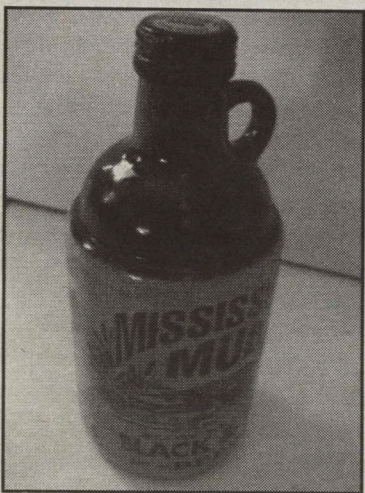


Photo by Matt Schramm / The Pride

## 'Memoirs of a Geisha': Controversy?

### 'A movie about Japanese played by Chinese, written by whites'

BY ALFRED CHU  
Special to The Pride

The New York Times reported on February 1 that the film "Memoirs of a Geisha" will be officially banned in China. The film sparked controversy and outrage when Chinese actresses Ziyi Zhang, Gong Li and Malaysian actress Michelle Yeoh were cast as Japanese prostitutes during World War II when the Japanese committed numerous war crimes against the Chinese. The film is about a woman growing up in poor conditions and rising to become one of Japan's most distinguished geishas. Movie studio bosses were displeased with the decision reached in China as it denied their attempt to make a few more dollars abroad.

"Memoirs of a Geisha," labeled as "a movie about Japanese played by Chinese, written by whites," was first delayed, then forced to be censored for a sex scene, delayed once again, and now banned. For whatever reasons the Chinese government banned this film, it doesn't surpass the obvious reason for the studio's decision in casting: money. Ziyi Zhang and Michelle Yeoh broke into Hollywood with 1999's "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon." That film became the first foreign film to gross over \$100 million domestically and first foreign film to receive the most Oscar nominations, totaling ten and winning four. Li received her spotlight in 1991's "Raise the Red Lantern." From this star power, Zhang, Li and Yeoh, along with their talent, are able to attract audiences here and abroad. The entire intent of any film, regardless of its artistic content, is to make money. You can voice your opinion in pursuit of a just cause, so simply realize this is the reality we live in, and the nature of the business.

I'm not suggesting there aren't Japanese actresses that would or can equal Zhang's, Yeoh's and Li's stature and

talent, I'm merely suggesting if there were, the studio would've cast them long ago. I doubt the studio purposely cast Chinese and Malaysian actresses in Japanese roles simply to upset audiences. What financial benefits would they stand to gain if that were the case?

My confusion and questions rise when people are so concerned about political and ethnical correctness about a period piece: what about the fact that a Caucasian (Rob Marshall) is sitting in the director's chair? What about the author (Arthur Golden) of the novel, who is Caucasian? And most of all, do people find the entire dialog in English in a Japanese period piece upsetting?

This isn't a rarity in Hollywood. We've seen many Caucasian actors and actresses play respective roles in which the nationality was different from their own. For example, Colin Farrell, of Irish descent, played an Englishman Captain John Smith in "The New World" or even a Macedonian/Greek in "Alexander." Respect the studio and filmmakers' courage to fund and promote a mainstream Hollywood film with an all Asian cast. Now that's a rarity in Hollywood.

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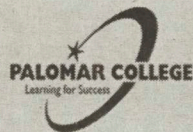
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# Cupid's Corner

## Solo Valentine?!

BY: ANDREW RUISNOR  
Pride Staff Writer

"No Ball and Chain?"

Today in our society Valentine's Day is a day where perception is key, it's all about the cards, the rings, the flowers, and the chocolates in heart shape boxes. For those who are single Feb. 14, it should not be a day to be feared but embraced.

Being single in Southern California is an option, not a punishment. For those who are single this Valentine's Day, here are some options to make this day a truly memorable experience.

First and foremost, today should be fun and relaxing. According to ivillage.com here is their clear rationale on the issue of being single: "you can have male or female friends without having to defend yourself and explain that nothing else is going on." "You can spend your paycheck on what you want." "You can eat garlic or onions without a second thought about breath mints." "You can have eight hours of undisturbed sleep with the covers all to yourself." "The toilet seat issue -- need I say more?" With that established, what's the game plan for being single today?

Option one: An Anti-Valentine's Day party. For this you

need a house, single friends, and a commitment to the non-committed. If you are hosting the party, when your guests arrive, be sure to hand them a nice drink. A beer, cocktail or mocktail will suffice. The night is about having fun, enjoy good drinks, and being in good company. Remember, no need to get dressed up for this option, just show up.

Option two: It's Tuesday night, so why not head downtown to the hotspots representing the singles in San Diego. According to signonsandiego.com if you're looking to fill your night with excitement and other free roaming signals, check out the indie feeling club Kadan. For other choices, you can hit up the Beauty Bar, or for the weekend after, check out the new club Belo. For this night out on the town you don't need the accompaniment of friends; however, friends are always a goodtime and recommended. So, get dressed up, feel important, blow some cash and go out, you're worth it.

Option three: Doing it mellow. Today so many people are busy dealing with the hustle and flow of Valentine's Day, but you do not have to. Take this as a privilege. Go to the movie store and pick some movies up. Nothing sappy or heavy; go for an upbeat, light-

hearted movie. Once home, get your favorite snack food and veg out. Careful, there's a trick, stay away from the cell phone! In fact turn it off, cut any temptation to leave your day of leisure.

Option four: Go shopping. Today go out and hit up the mall. Spoil yourself above all; you shouldn't have to wait for someone to buy you anything, especially on a designated day. When you're at the mall be sure to get a good laugh at all the last minute shoppers as well. Remember, "You can spend your paycheck on what you want."

Option five: Go on with your everyday life. This option is for the person who does not need a distraction. Today is a day just like any other day so why do anything different. Just go through your everyday routine with no plans. Why disrupt?

With Valentine's Day in our society, perception is key. But for those who are single it doesn't mean that you can't make this a day of your own. Now you have five additional options and alternatives for 'your day.' Do what you want and have fun because being single in Southern California is an option, not a punishment.

## Quotes on Love

BY KARIN REYES  
Pride Staff Writer

"Love is composed of a single soul inhabiting two bodies." Aristotle

"You had me at hello." Jerry Maguire

"The course of true love never did run smooth." Shakespeare

"I would rather have had one breath of her hair, one kiss from her mouth, one touch of her hand, than eternity without it." City of Angels

"Take love, multiply it by infinity and take it to the depths of forever ... and you still have only a glimpse of how I feel for you." Meet Joe Black

"You are what I never knew I always wanted." Fools Rush In

"Don't say we aren't right for each other, the way I see it is ... we aren't right for anyone else." The Cutting Edge

"There are millions of people in this world, but in the end it all comes down to one." Crazy/Beautiful

"There is always some madness in love. But there is also always some reason in madness." Nietzsche

"All, everything that I understand, I understand only because I love." Leo Tolstoy

"There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear." John

2:18

"Love is patient. Love is kind. It does not envy. It does not boast. It is not proud. It is not rude. It is not self-seeking. It is not easily angered. It keeps no record of wrong doing. It does not delight in evil, but rejoices in the truth. It always protects, trusts, hopes, perseveres." Corinthians 13

"That's why they call them crushes. If they were easy, they'd call them something else." Sixteen Candles

"The things that people in love do to each other they remember, and if they stay together it's not because they forget, it's because they forgive." Indecent Proposal

"You will never know love unless you surrender to it." Fools Rush In

"Love is like the wind ... You can't see it, but you can feel it." A Walk to Remember

"I think I would miss you even if I'd never met you." The Wedding Date

"You look in the mirror and you don't like what you see? Don't believe it. Look into my eyes; I'm the only mirror you'll ever need." The Cooler

"The best love is the kind that awakens the soul and makes us reach for more; that plants a fire in our hearts and brings peace to our minds ... That's what you've given me and that's what I hope to give to you forever." The Notebook.

# How To ... Compose a love letter

BY: ERIN YOUNG  
Pride Staff Writer

One of the best ways to confess your undying love for someone is through words, but mastering the art of a love letter takes time and patience.

Writing your emotions is never easy, and the perfect love letter can be difficult for anyone. According to Lovingyou.com, these tips and ideas on how to write a love letter will make the process a little smoother.

Start with imagining exactly how your loved one will feel when he or she reads your emotions on paper. Your words should come from deep within the heart, not just what you think they want to hear.

Make it personal, relate your experiences together. Have you been on a special date? Or what about that time you spent doing ...? Tell your loved-one why you keep that day close to your heart.

Lovingyou.com suggests, "Include why you love them

and how they make your world brighter, just by being in it."

When was the exact moment you fell in love? You can't go wrong here, so spill the beans. Tell every little detail you can remember. What were they wearing? Where were you? What day was it? The more details the better.

Remember to express your gratitude for your loved-one and of having him or her in your life. Do they make the day go by a little faster? Are they the reason you can't wait to get home from class

or work? These are the questions that you need to start asking yourself, then take your answers and build upon them with details and emotions from your heart.

Include love quotes or poems. It's more sentimental if you write them yourself, but if your desperate for something juicy, Lovingyou.com has over 7,200 quotes and 238,460 love poems to fit the perfect love letter.

You don't have to just simply handwrite your letter, do something creative. Write your love

note on a back of a 100 piece jigsaw puzzle and give them the puzzle to put together. Or take a bar of soap and write your romantic message on the bathroom mirror. It won't damage the mirror, and it's easy to clean with just a little water.

A love letter should capture exactly how you feel about someone. You can't go wrong when writing your emotions; after all, they do come from the heart. Just remember to keep things positive; don't bring up past fights or disagreements.

## Impress that special someone with love and care

BY: AMANDA KEELEY  
Pride Staff Writer

Valentine's Day is all about romance, and the pressure to wow that special someone can be overwhelming. Thankfully, romance doesn't have to mean going into debt. In fact, there are an abundance of wonderfully romantic (inexpensive) ideas one can do in order to make Valentine's Day a day to remember.

If money is a little tight, and a busy schedule has the body feeling tired, then a night in may just be the key.

According to Lovingyou.com, picnics are the way to go whether

they are indoors or outdoors. If the weather outside happens to be warm, set up a dreamy picnic on the fire escape, patio or backyard, and gaze at the stars together. If it's a bit nippy outside, lay out a comfy blanket by the fireplace or set up some candles for a breathtakingly romantic evening inside. For a sexy twist to the traditional picnic, eat in bed!

As for dinner, try heating things up by cooking together, but if the kitchen is more scary than sexy, just order in some pizza or fast food. Remember, anything will look romantic set up with a picnic blanket and candlelight.

The fun doesn't stop there;

after dinner indulgence includes more than dessert. Cuddle up on the sofa, blanket, or bed and watch romantic movies while crunching on popcorn. Don't be afraid to get wet. Splash in the hot tub under the star-lit sky or take a bubble bath together with only the glow of candles to light the room.

If this isn't the first Valentine's Day with that special someone, stay up and read old love letters and cards from each other. The great thing about having a Valentine's evening at home is that the dress code is completely optional. It might be fun to dress up, but what about not dressing

at all?

A night on the town is also an exciting way to spend Valentine's Day with that special someone. Just for fun splurge on a five-star restaurant, it's Valentine's Day after all. For more privacy, get a room in a local hotel and order room service. Rent a limousine and go on a winery tour; that way, there's no worries about driving home.

For a feeling of old time romance, take a horse-drawn carriage ride around the park while cuddling close under a blanket. Gifts come in many shapes, sizes and prices. The important thing is to get something from the

heart. A single rose attached to a love letter is just as special as a bouquet of a dozen roses, but just a little easier on the wallet.

Chocolates are not only traditional, but yummy as well. For a personal touch, handmade gifts are a fabulous way to surprise that special someone. Showing your loved one your undying love doesn't have to wait for Feb. 14. Spread the romance year round by showing admiration for each other with I Love You's, plenty of kisses, holding hands and the occasional tickle fight. This Valentine's Day, and every day, let that special someone know how truly special he or she really is.