



A crowd estimated at over 10,000 listens to Michael Moore speak at the Del Mar Fairgrounds.

Photos by Phoenix Lindgren / The Pride

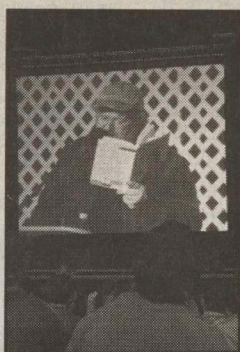
Moore at last

Filmmaker announces student scholarship to promote activism at CSUSM

BY CHEZARE MILO
Pride Staff Writer

A crowd of approximately 10,000 was on hand at the Del Mar Fairgrounds Tuesday, October 12 for Michael Moore's anticipated appearance. During this stop on his "Slacker Uprising Tour," Moore announced that the remaining funds raised for the evening's event would go to a scholarship/grant program for CSUSM students.

ASI president Manal Yamout began the event nearly an hour after the scheduled start time of 7p.m. She addressed the crowd before introducing Michael Moore.



Moore lampoons Bill O'Reilly's childrens book.



ASI President Manal Yamout addresses the crowd.

See EVENT, page 3

Students protest event

BY HEATHER HOFFMANN
Pride Staff Writer

Approximately 150 students and community members filled the street corner at Via De La Valle and Jimmy Durante Boulevard in Del Mar to protest before the appearance of filmmaker Michael Moore.

CSUSM College Republicans organized the event and developed a website to get community members involved. The website stated the purpose of the protest was to let people know, "enough is enough, we are tired of Michael Moore's rhetoric and we are going to stand up against him and support our Government, President, capitalism,

troops, and foreign policy."

The protesters came from all over San Diego County to express their disapproval of this stop of Moore's "Slacker Uprising Tour." They held signs, some of which read "hippies go home, honk for bush, no flip flops in the white house, and no 'Moore' lies." Some protesters also chanted "4 more years" at passing motorists.

College Republicans Nick Bonomi and Ashley Stuart lightened the mood of the demonstration by dressing as President Bush and as a GOP elephant respectively.

"We're focusing on keeping positive," said Eileen Liston, external vice chair of the Col-



Photo by Heather Hoffmann / The Pride

A motorist acknowledges protesters on Via De La Valle.

lege Republicans. "We just want people to know that there's another side."

"They (Moore event attendees) should educate them-

selves. Watch all the movies and then make up your mind," said Steven Puetz of the College

See PROTEST, page 3

The fair must go on

Career and Transfer Student Services host event

BY MICHAEL DOLAN
Pride Staff Writer

An unexpected downpour Monday morning could not prevent the Graduate and Professional School Fair from going on as planned.

"We didn't expect the rain," said Susan Buck-Allen from Career and Transfer Student Services, coordinator of the fair. "So far, everything has worked out great."

The Director of Career and Transfer Services Sandy Punch was pleased with the turnout and the quick improvisation.

"We had a mad rush to bring tables in from the rain," said Punch. The booths that were set up in the Kellogg Library Terrace area had to be moved under the cover of the library's overhang.

The fair can not be rescheduled because it is part of a circuit that travels to other college campuses.

"We have no choice of the date," said Punch. "We were lucky we got in (the circuit) early."

The fair is held once a year in the fall. It includes representatives from different graduate schools as well as a workshop for students to hopes to remove some of the mystique of post baccalaureate education.

"The workshop helps in dispelling the myths of grad school," said Punch. Other topics at the workshop included how to apply to grad school, financial aid and the experience of being a first generation grad student.

Schools from as far away as New York and Australia were represented at the fair.

"Australian universities offer many of the same programs as U.S. schools," said Eddy Dharmadji of Macquarie University near Sydney. "And of course, there is financial aid available."

Despite the inclement weather, more than half of the 65 schools expected to attend were present.

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Moore meets the press

BY CHEZARE MILO
Pride Staff Writer

Prior to his speech on Tuesday October 12, Moore briefly held a press conference where he answered questions from local broadcast, print and student media.

"On a personal level, for the students of Cal State San Marcos the one thing I'd like them to take away is that they were able to do exactly what they wanted to do in spite of an administration that did everything to stop them and they succeeded; and they succeeded beyond theirs and my wildest dreams," said Moore in response to a question about what students should take away from the event. "I hope after tonight thousands of people here will decide to vote, get involved beyond just voting, and try and make this country and this world a better place."

Moore was challenged by some reporters who alluded to the alleged inaccuracies in his film, "Fahrenheit 9/11."

"Every fact in Fahrenheit 9/11 is irrefutable. I dare you as a reporter to find one that isn't. Do you have one?" said Moore. "You see this is kind of a layered, intelligent film. It begins with kind of a dream sequence. Gore at two in the morning was holding a rally in Florida with a sign behind him that said 'Florida Victory.' And my first words were, 'Was it all just a dream?' If I have to explain that ... you know? Go to a few more movies; you'll understand the language of film and cinema. That's not a deceit. I don't know how to say this without sounding like I'm tooting my own horn here, but I try to create films that have a high level of intelligence. To try and explain that to the people that watch FOX is almost like missionary work, which I'm willing to do. So don't take that the wrong way."

Another line of questions from the press surrounded the whether

or not money secured for this event would find its way into the pockets of Moore.

"There is no money being made on this tour. No, no were going around the country on a tour that's costing us about a half a million dollars. A number of the places where we're going the students are the people that helped raise the money to pay for the part of the tour, you know the part I couldn't get covered, but there's no individual including myself that's making any money on this tour," said Moore.

Moore was also asked his thoughts on the recent surge in films that challenge not only Moore's work but also his methods.

"I know there's like half a dozen anti-Michael Moore films out there. They're not out actually, there's not a single one of them playing in a movie theater. So are they really movies? They're promotional tapes put together by republicans and right-wingers to attack me which is their right. So god bless them, go for it, give it all you got," said Moore. "But I don't pay much attention to them mainly because I'm confused by them. The titles all sound like ya know, 'Michael Moore: I hate Michael Moore, Michael Moore Hates Me,' ya know? It's all just so ridiculous and funny that I guess I appreciate it for the humor. But, I have not seen any of the movies I'm sorry to say."

One of the last questions asked of Moore involved his depiction in "Fahrenheit 9/11" of pre-war Baghdad as a peaceful place and what he would say to Iraqi citizens that had survived Saddam Hussein's regime.

"What I would say to those Iraqis is that I am terribly sorry. I am very, very sorry for my country arming Saddam Hussein, for giving loans and credits to Saddam Hussein so he could buy weapons and chemical agents.

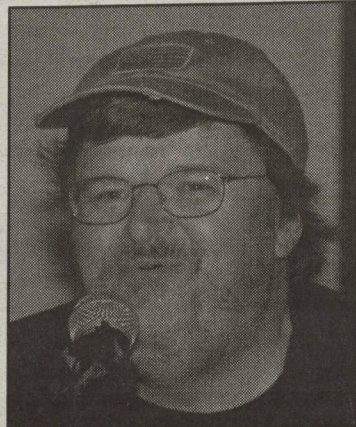


Photo by Phoenix Lindgren / The Pride

I'm sorry to them for (our government) giving satellite photos to Saddam Hussein so that he could gas the Iranian troops 12 days after Donald Rumsfeld's visit there to meet with Saddam on December 19, 1983," said Moore. "I think the fact that we were so close to Saddam that we made him an ally of ours, and during this time in the 80's when he was our friend, he massacred and butchered thousands and thousands of people. It was done with our assistance, and my tax dollars. And I am incredibly sorry, and I apologize to any Iraqi for that, for my country's involvement in that process, that's what I would say."

Run for cancer

BY PHOENIX LINDGREN
Pride Staff Writer

Because cancer never sleeps, teams of people committed to raising money for the American Cancer Society won't be sleeping when the Relay for Life comes to Cal State San Marcos this weekend.

The 24-hour event will begin at 10 a.m. Saturday, October 23 and run through 10 a.m. Sunday, October 24 on the Mangrum Track & Field.

One in three Americans will be diagnosed with cancer, so money raised by relay teams will support the American Cancer Society's mission to prevent cancer, save lives, and reduce suffering.

After the 10 a.m. opening ceremony, cancer survivors are invited to begin the relay with a designated survivor's lap at 10:30. At 9 p.m. hundreds of luminaria will be lit in remembrance of those lost to this disease, and to light the path for relay teams who will continue taking laps throughout the night.

To start a team, join an existing team, or for additional information, contact Tim France at (619) 682-7423 or tim.france@cancer.org.

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Students discuss debate

BY SARAH COLESON
Pride Staff Writer

Around 25 students assembled in Clark Field House on Wednesday, October 13 to watch President George W. Bush and Senator John Kerry put forward their positions on Social Security, immigration, minimum wage law and the war in Iraq at the final presidential debate.

While watching the candidates, the student panelists, Democrats and Republicans alike, jotted down notes to prepare themselves for the discussion that followed. A student panel consisting of three Bush supporters (Nick Bonomi, Stephen Puetz and Matthew Curren) as well as three panelists who supported Kerry (Didi Lund, Dustin Lacasse and John Baden) talked about key issues regarding the presidential election. Dr. Scott Greenwood, a professor of political science on campus, acted as moderator of the panel.

Each member was allocated four minutes to share their reaction to the debate, their favorite debate moments as well as key issues that they felt were absent from the candidates' statements.

"The only time President Bush mentioned women in his speech, it was in reference to their reproductive organs," said Lund, president of the Women's Studies Student Association Didi Lund.

Lund raised other key women's issues that she felt were overlooked in the debate.

"When you look at the debate, John Kerry's policies are very appealing," said Bonomi, executive director of College Republicans. Bonomi also shared his personal experiences watching Kerry campaign in person months before and pointed out what he saw as a change in the senators' stance on key issues. He went on to say that some of Kerry's actual proposals were "180 degrees opposite" of what he stated in the debate.

After the panelists made their statements, Greenwood opened the floor for questions from the audience. Issues such as abortion, gay marriage, and separation of church and state were brought up by students and panel members responded to the audience questions.

"If the reason for denying gay people the right to get married is to protect the sanctity of marriage, then why don't we have a limit on the number of divorces a person can have?" said Baden, president of the University Foreign Aid Organization, in response to a question from an audience member regarding President Bush's proposal of a constitutional amendment to prohibit gay marriage.

The discussion that ensued was indicative of the divided partisan affiliations of the panel members. Despite the partisan wrangling, the ultimate goal of the evening was to give students the chance to actively engage in a dialogue regarding political issues with their peers.

EVENT, from page 1

"What started out as a negative situation, really turned into an overwhelmingly positive experience" said Yamout about the attempted cancellation of the event. "I've been at Cal State San Marcos for almost four years now and I'll tell you I've never seen the students more excited and more invigorated by any issue ever. Conservatives, liberals everybody in between has been so riled up the past few weeks, and it's been inspiring to me, and it's been inspiring to the community."

Yamout thanked donors Herring Broadcasting and Mr. and Mrs. Joe Fernandez for their financial contributions, then let Moore take the stage.

"I know it's been a rough road for the students," said Moore. "The whole thing was set up and because of pressure on the administration (of CSUSM) our right to speak and your right to listen was taken from us."

Moore remarked how the original plan was for a small event of 1200-1500 people. Crediting what he called the "Republican, conservative attitude of trying to prohibit free speech in San Diego County," the event grew almost ten times.

"I think we need to do something else here so that the administration of Cal State San Marcos never even thinks of doing this again to any speaker of any political party," said Moore.

Moore announced that the proceeds of the event would go toward a scholarship/grant program at Cal State San Marcos.

"Each year for the next four years we will

hand out a \$5,000 grant or scholarship to the one student who has fought and stood up the most to the administration of Cal State San Marcos," said Moore. Moore said that students should nominate other students for the scholarship/grant by submitting a one page essay about "just how much hell this one student raised, and how successful they were."

In his speech Moore joked with the crowd as he spewed harsh criticisms of President Bush, the war in Iraq, censorship and CSUSM President Karen Haynes. He said that the University and President Haynes' decision to cave into financial pressure and cancel the event "sent students the wrong message."

Moore attacked President Bush's policies on the war on terror, the war in Iraq, gay marriage, the assault weapons ban renewal and the Patriot Act. He accused Bush of not paying enough attention to minority and women's rights issues. Moore made statements in support of U.S. soldiers and said that Republicans represent the "minority viewpoint in the country." He urged the crowd to vote and become politically active.

Special guests included folk singer Joan Baez and Tom Morello of Rage Against the Machine/Audioslave. Baez sang two of her classic protest songs prior to Moore joining her in singing "America the Beautiful."



Joan Baez and Tom Morello. Photo by Phoenix Lindgren / The Pride

Morello took the stage and rallied the crowd with statements in favor of peace, human rights, workers' rights and women's rights. Morello also sang a song called "House Gone Up in Flames" about citizen inaction over poor governmental policy.

Michael Moore read several letters from soldiers in Iraq who were disillusioned by the realities of the war. Moore asked the audience, "Why haven't we seen their faces on the evening news?" The brother of a soldier killed in Iraq gave a brief speech about his loss and spoke out against the war in Iraq.

Moore ended the event by handing out free underwear and ramen noodles to any "slackers" who would promise to vote in the upcoming general election. Moore also offered free copies of Fahrenheit 9/11 to anyone who volunteered to travel to the swing states of Arizona and Nevada and register voters prior to the upcoming registration deadlines.

Additional information can be found at <http://www.michaelmoore.com>.

PROTEST, from page 1

Republicans. "Michael Moore is picking slackers because they are not going to be the ones who educate themselves."

The motorists in the area were just as divided as the protesters and the Moore supporters.

Horns honked frequently in support while other cars held up signs supporting Kerry or middle fingers. When people yelled at the protestors, several would respond with "Bush hater!"

One woman motorist at a red light was clearly unhappy with the protest. She stuck her arm out the window and displayed her middle finger to the protestors. As the woman waited for the light, she sat there with her finger up glaring at the protestors. When a protestor in the crosswalk approached her car, she put her car in reverse, and drove right at him. The man quickly jumped out of the way and was not harmed.

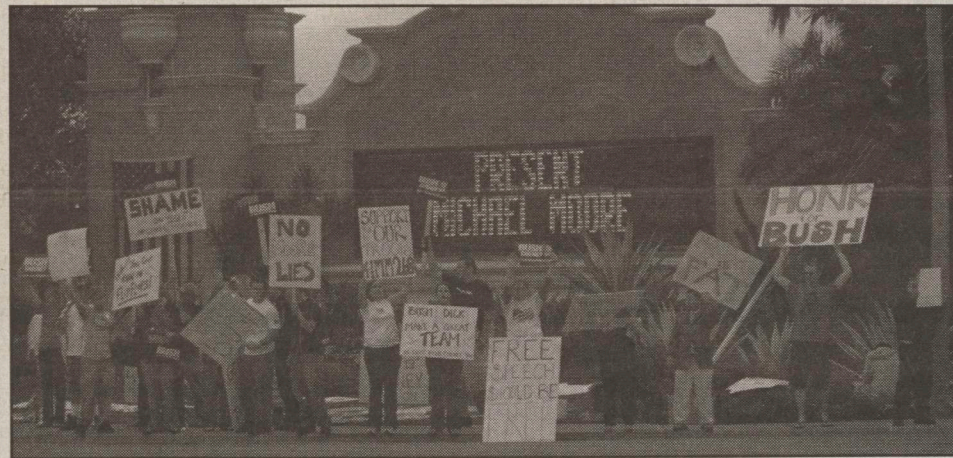


Photo by Heather Hoffmann / The Pride

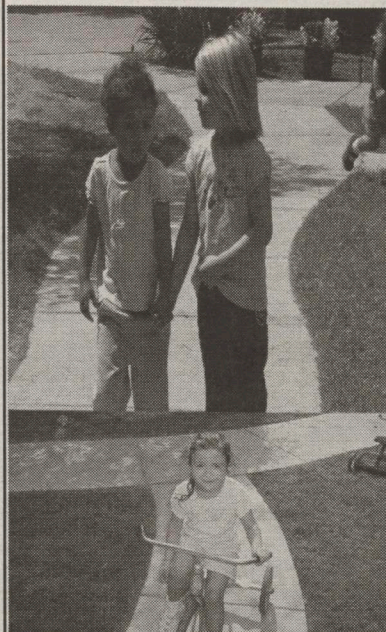
Michael Moore protesters rally outside of the Del Mar Fairgrounds

Unusually long traffic lights made for a lengthy wait at the crosswalks, forcing those who parked off site to deal with the protestors. This gave both sides a chance to voice their opinions face to face. At times things became heated but never amounted to any-

thing more than angry words.

"I felt a little uncomfortable, it was weird being in the middle of a protest, but everyone was being really nice," said CSUSM senior Dana Ericson.

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Chef Dawson's saving grace

UVA residents enjoy a night of food and fun

BY AMANDA JOHNSON
Pride Staff Writer

To some students, Brian Dawson is just the director of the University Village Apartments (UVA). However, to hungry residents, he's a chef and saving grace.

Every Monday night, Dawson, his wife and kids come to the UVA prepared to meet and feed several hundred residents. Although Monday Night Dinner is scheduled to start at 5:30 p.m., it doesn't stop residents from lining up early.

By 5:10 p.m. last Monday, 50 students stood in line waiting for their chance to grab a plateful of the home cooked meal, which consisted of pasta and spaghetti sauce, green beans, salad and rolls. Drinks are also served.

"The menu for each week is available to residents in flyers or is posted in the lobby of the UVA," said Emiko Takahashi.

Dawson knows that "students sometimes don't have a lot of money" and thus has offered an alternative meal from the usual \$.99 fast food menu so many college students on tight budgets are accustomed to eating.



Photo by Amanda Johnson / The Pride
UVA residents Emiko Takahashi (left) and Boorasy Mack (right) enjoy a meal cooked by Dawson.

"I hope that these dinners will give a chance for residents otherwise inclined to stay indoors to get out and meet their fellow residents," said Dawson. "People really enjoy it." Residents agree,

"People are happier when their eating," she said, "which makes it really easy to meet new people." She's enjoyed the event since it began and hasn't stopped attending.

Monday Night Dinner started last spring when Dawson became the director of UVA. His idea was to offer a community dinner for students to socialize but there was a small problem.

"Last year there was nowhere to sit," Dawson said. "This year a new staff member has been hired to help set up tables and chairs." Chairs that are quickly filled by students once the food is served.

There are three rules Dawson posts that students must follow when attending Monday Night Dinner: students must never eat

alone or take their food up to their room, they must sit with others, talk and make new friends. Students must also introduce him or herself to Dawson and his wife so they can learn residents' names and get to know them.

"I like it," said Boorasy Mack, "but I always come late and hope there's food left."

Dawson offers an alternative meal from the usual \$.99 fast food menu

at least 150 students showed up for last Monday's event.

Takahashi was a new student last year and began coming to the Monday Night Dinner event in order to meet new people.

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Who needs Dr. Phil?

Students utilize counseling included in \$75 student health services fee

BY KATIE POWERS
Pride Staff Writer

Students pay \$75 a semester to Student Health Services (SHS), but many students don't know what services are included for their money.

In addition to the general medical services, vaccinations and pharmacy, student health services now offers counseling.

The counseling department helps about 350 students a semester, that's about 5 percent of the CSUSM student body. The counseling center helps students deal with issues of stress, depression, relationship issues as well as roommate issues just to name a few.

Currently, the counseling staff is relatively small. It consists of two fulltime psychologists and three Ph.D. level interns.

"Counseling is certainly an area were looking to expand, as the campus grows there will be other instances of relationship issues," said Dr. Karen Nicholson, director of SHS. While the program is small now it will someday grow.

"I've had personal experiences with people who've tried to

Counseling Services



Photo courtesy of Student Health Services

commit suicide and friends with eating disorders," said Allison Lathem, junior. "I feel it's important to offer counseling on a college campus."

Counseling services is free to CSUSM students. Visiting a private counselor can cost anywhere from \$50 to \$100 per session. Due to the counseling center small staff, students are allotted up to eight visits per academic semester.

In addition to one on one counseling the counseling center also offers couple counseling.

"We see a number of students each year as couples: boyfriend/girlfriend, girlfriend/girlfriend just as long as one of them is a student we can do it," said Dr. Fritz Kreisler.

"We get a lot of ideas for support groups from students, we'll help them with what ever they need," said Kreisler. Support groups are also readily available at SHS. Support groups services range from grieving lost ones to parent support.

SHS also offers workshops and training in communication, time management and test anxiety. There is no charge for these workshops.

Counseling is available by calling Student Health Services at (760)750-4915.

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Fall fashion frenzy

BY TIFFANY LIU
Pride Staff Writer



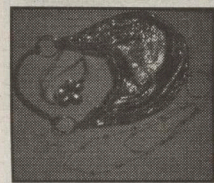
It's all about looking luxe ladies for this fall.

Jackets are rich in character this season with fur trim, high collars, jewels, embroidery and bows. Snake skins, mock-croc, tweed, cropped jackets, sweaters, furs, brooches and gold are everywhere.

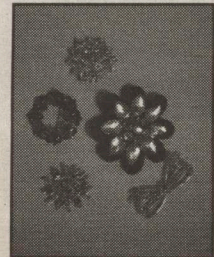
Mixing and matching is also key to your look. This season's jackets and skirts are all interchangeable. Break up a suit and add a distinctive brooch to the collar or tie a sash around your waist.

Snatch an "it bag" and your pumps and you will be set with your outfit.

The number one accessory this season is the brooch. This item is an essential one. Twinkling, textured and gloriously embellished, these brooches can be put



Above: A purse and accessories.
Below: Brooches



on sweaters and jackets, hats, belt loops, clutches and anywhere else that needs a little twinkle. Brooches also look great clustered in mainly a group of three on a collar of a suiting jacket.

Bags should be anything in luxe skins. They should be embellished with bold jewels, brooches, crystals or gold. Python skin and mock-croc



Photos by Tiffany Liu / The Pride

purses are a must have and can be found everywhere. Metallic bags especially gold are also the hot item of this season.

Now with your bag, you need the perfect pumps to match.

The best pump will be anything sweet and chic. Pumps adorned with a prim bow, embellished with fur, snake skin or bejeweled with a brooch are all sizzling attributes to your fabulous shoes.

Jackets are an important item for fall's chilly weather. Be sure to pick the right ones. Your jacket should be elegant tweed, one with showy sequins or trimmed with fur. Fur is in but don't worry you don't have to kill a bunny to snatch the look. Faux fur works great as well.

Remember, these jackets are versatile; pair the jacket up with a matching skirt, jeans, over a sexy frock or with cropped pants. Let the special piece (your jacket) stand out by keeping the accessories simple in this case.

As for men, this year's fall fashion is sporty yet classy and old school yet fresh.

Vintage inspired items from the 70's are back again with a whole new twist.

Down vests have been spotted as the new trend. These vests can be worn over button down shirts and jackets. They keep you warm and are comfortable as well. These down vests are hip in any color: bright orange, green, yellow, basic black, brown or khaki will all do.

Argyle sweaters are an essential for men. The diamonds are everywhere; they are on crewnecks, cardigans and sweater vests. Layering one of these is the biggest style this season.

Pinstriped pants are also the "it" look. These pants are perfect for casual or formal occasions. Don't be afraid to pair up the pin-stripe pants with funky striped shirts and argyle sweaters. Navy and gray, gray and brown, or brown and orange are all worthy color combinations when it comes to pinstriped pants.

This fall's fashion for men and women is all about mixing and matching. So pick

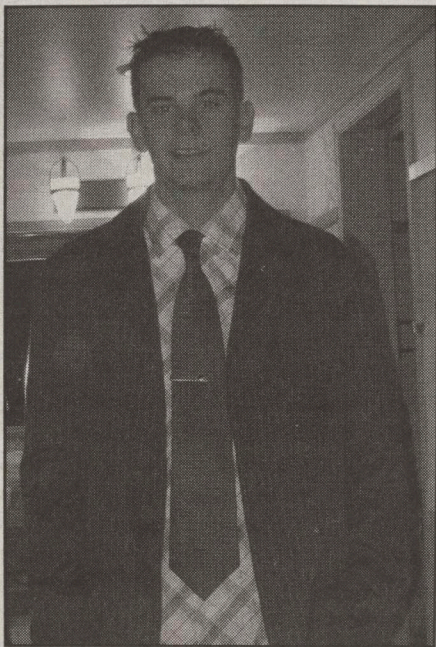


Photo by Tiffany Liu / The Pride

Erik Groset models a fall '04 men's fashion trend.

up the versatile essentials and make a few outfits with the pieces that you've got.

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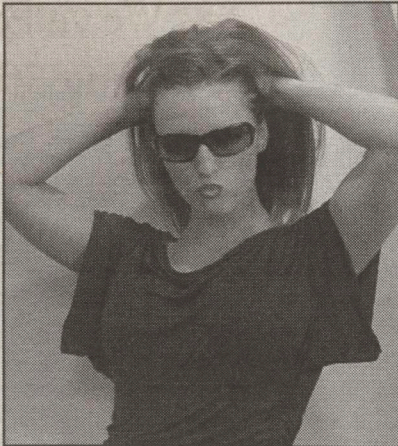
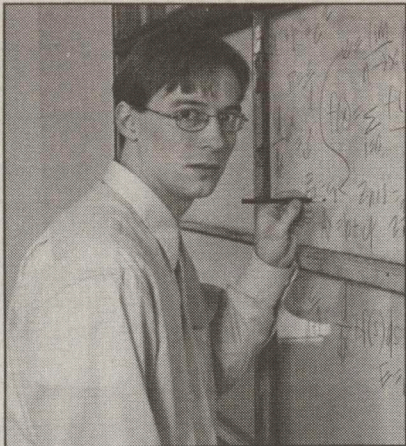
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College Math Club President Dumps Supermodel

He crunched the numbers, then crushed her heart



College sophomore Brady Burns, left, abruptly ended a six-month torrid love affair with a heartbroken Elene, right.

By JAMIE MURRY

Admitting that there was a good (9-√3) percent chance that he made the wrong move, college math club president Brady Burns recently called it quits with longtime supermodel girlfriend Elene. Burns, who claimed he carefully calculated the free checking account had monthly fees that just didn't add up. The whiz kid was quick to admit that had he known about Washington Mutual's Free Checking Deluxe, the relationship's longevity may have had better odds. "I loved her like a

quadratic formula, but the off-campus lunches were killing me financially," said Burns. "I felt like a real abacus for breaking things off." The fact that he was unaware of Washington Mutual's Free Checking—an account with optional Deluxe services like free online bill pay available at wamu.com—left Elene at a total loss. "He could have just gone to a Washington Mutual Financial Center or wamu.com," she said. "We were totally soul mates, but I guess he didn't see that. As far as I'm concerned, he can go jump off a logarithm. Whatever that is."

"I loved her like a quadratic formula..."

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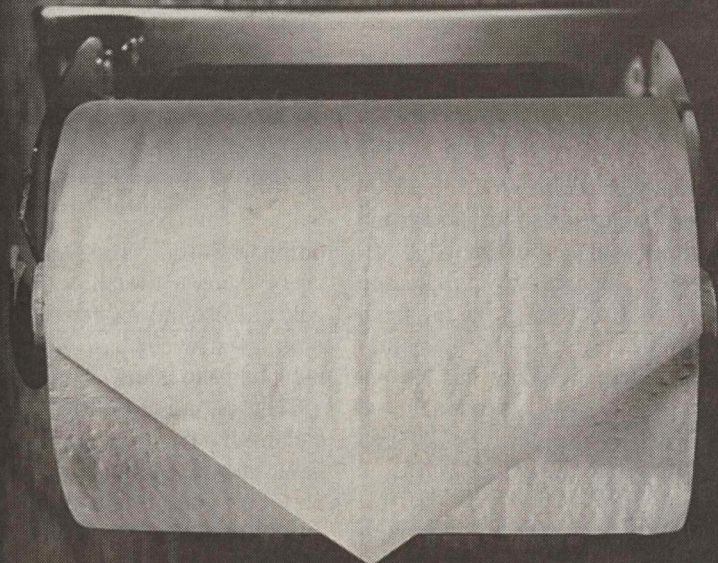
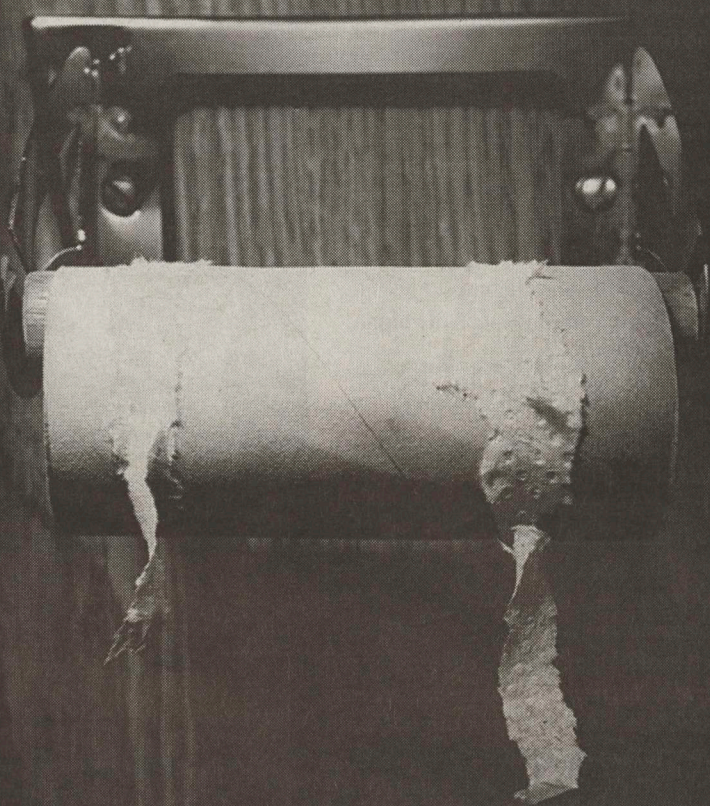
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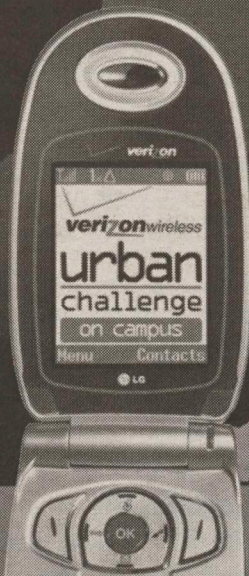
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Jock Talk With Josh

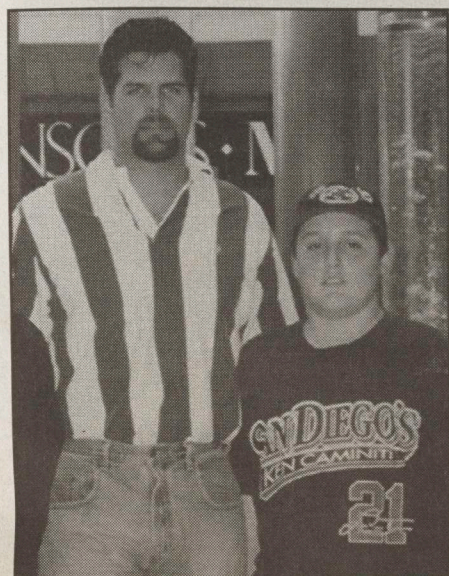
BY JOSH SANDOVAL
Pride Staff Writer



I went to the Dodgers game two Sundays ago to see them play the Cardinals in the playoffs. When I was driving home through San Clemente around 10:30 p.m. my mom called me. The first words out of her mouth were, "Ken

Caminiti died."

I was silent for a couple seconds and then said "What?!" After I finished talking to my mom I turned the radio back on and the song that came ringing through my car was "I miss you" by Aaliyah.



Ken Caminiti with Josh Sandoval.

Being at Dodger stadium earlier that day brought back memories from 1996 about being there for the last three games of the season to see Cammy and the Padres sweep the Dodgers to win the N.L. West. Little did I know that I would soon be reminiscing about the tragic life of Ken Caminiti dying at the age of 41.

Cammy was the Padres third baseman from 1995-1998 when he stole the hearts of every single Padres fan. To this day you cannot find one Padres fan who did not like Cammy. The 1996 M.V.P. captured three gold gloves all the while making some of the most outrageous plays I ever saw.

There is one play he made against the Marlins in 1997 that I will never forget. A ball was smacked off the bat of Greg Colbrunn towards the third base line. Cammy ran and dove at the ball. In doing so he was flipped over on his back side sitting down in foul territory. Somehow the ball found his glove and while sitting down he rocketed the ball to first base on the fly and got Colbrunn out by seven steps.

There is also one game just like that one play I will always remember. It was the first MLB game played outside the U.S. or Canada. The Padres took on the Mets in Monterrey, Mexico. Cammy was battling dehydration and severe food poisoning. Before the game he could barely stand upright so he took two liters of intravenous fluid and ate a snickers bar. He would go on to hit two homers and get four RBI in that game.

I won't forget the first time I met him. I was 10 and in the sixth grade. He was making an appearance at a local shopping mall but it was during the day when I was supposed to be at school. My mom let

me skip school that day to go meet him. I remember talking to him and asking him to give one of those famous Caminiti stares that he used to intimidate his opponents.

However, there was a bad side to Cammy just like there is with everyone.

Caminiti lived his life like he played ball-all out. After Caminiti retired from baseball he admitted in an issue of "Sports Illustrated" that he used anabolic steroids during his 1996 MVP season. Caminiti also was a self admitted alcoholic and crack addict. Self-Destructive could be spelled C-a-m-i-n-i-t-i.

Despite his depression and self-destructive habits, he was one of the most giving

people in the communities in which he played and lived. Even though he couldn't stop the demons inside from taking his life, he tried to make sure kids didn't make the same mistakes he made.

I hope that his legacy isn't remembered for the guy who was the first to admit that he used steroids or for the guy who had to do jail time for possession. I hope that he is remembered for the guy who would give his right arm to win a ball game and his left arm to help out a friend because that is how I will remember him.

If you have any praise, criticism, or topics for discussion then send an E-mail to sando026@csusm.edu.



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Perfecting mediocrity

Don't try too hard, remember C = Degree

BY MICHELLE ROBINSON
For The Pride

The only challenge I've ever stepped up to was a fat burger and conquering a mean new dance. While these are definitely not adequate deterrents in life, they can still be classified as challenges, can't they? Academically speaking, numbers are my kryptonite. The bright-eyed spitfire I typically can be will suddenly morph into a sweating, babbling mess as I struggle to carry an invisible number that doesn't even go there. Though, I did meet that challenge and pass college math, never to return to it again.

I've been a mediocre student all of my life. I never minded this fact nor did I envy the students who did the whole "inquisitive youngster" routine. After all, I was busy trying to pry the remote control out of my brother's hand. And while the over-achieving science students got ribbons for watching a potato grow sprouts, I wrote love poems to various crushes, made fun of teachers with chalk on their bums, and practiced my Oscar acceptance speech in the bathroom mirror. I never made honor roll, and it's been decided that I shan't make the Dean's list.

Upon this revelation, I made myself comfortable. For it was here, in this middle of nowhere as a student, that I would become perfect. It's here, in the plush cushioning of mediocrity, where I will strive. Perhaps "striving" for a C sounds ludicrous, and it is. That's because I don't mean to strive for a C. My aim is to idle towards one; meander about the university, and let a C attach itself to my student body.

Jenny Foster, a communications major,

says that her parents think she's an excellent student. When I asked her if she really was, she looked at me as if I was a giant talking shoe. "No way" she said. Although Jenny says she's not the greatest of students, she is in fact graduating this year. My pool of mediocrity is getting crowded.

There are those students, however, that were most likely the potato sprout watchers. Over the summer, I took Spanish 201 with a liberal arts major. During a test, she began to hyperventilate, claw at her face and desk, whimper and finally vomit a little bit in her mouth. Afterwards, when I asked her why, she simply said, "I am an A student. I'm just not good at Spanish. I have to pass." The sunshine that I chose to dispense? "Dude, all you need is a C!" After which I extended my right hand for the underachiever hi-five.

You see if and when I decide to go to class, I sit in the back. I eat my banana, and I am the first to ask one of three key phrases that epitomizes the mediocrity of my studiousness: "Is there anything due?" "What did we do?" and "Is there anything new?" These are imperative questions to ensure that my position as a perfect mediocre student will not change. Right down the middle, kids.

I'm not saying college is easy, or that it should be, mind you. What I am saying is that although I should, I simply do not apply myself. I do indeed have potential for straight A's, but meeting my potential for straight A's, why, that's a challenge, isn't it? If I go and do that, it would blow my perfecting mediocrity theory. I would then be excelling at academics and the bar would be raised. I'd meet that, and then the

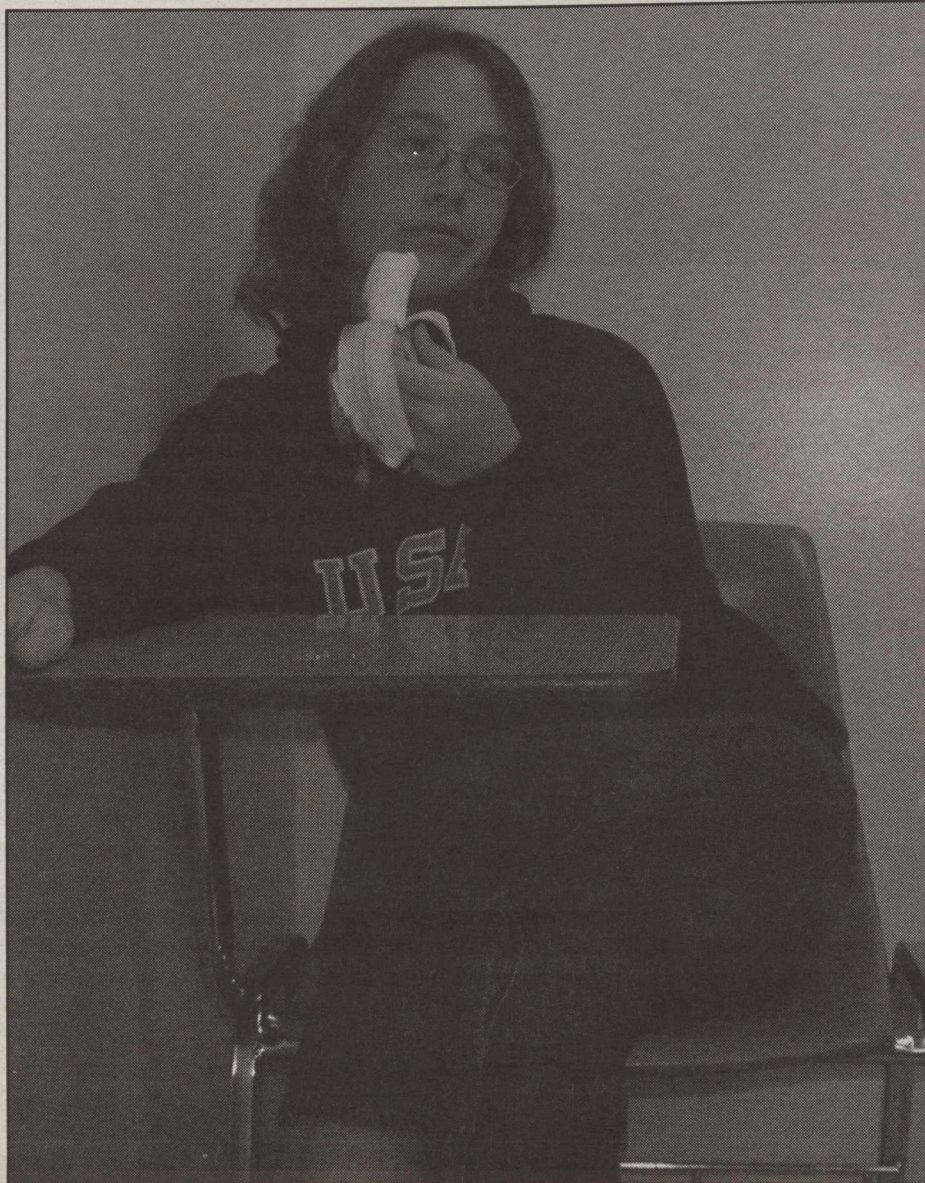


Photo by Elizabeth Baldwin / The Pride

Chrissy Baldwin, A & E editor for The Pride, takes a break from her normal study habits to follow Michelle's advice.

bar would rise yet again. Before you know it, I'd be in the Olympics or the next Bobby Fisher, playing chess and showing off my great big brain. No thank you, I've got my special skill. Since floating, coasting, or gliding through college can be a skill if

done correctly, the challenge of teetering just right, between the "real" world and the college life is like an art. I'm almost a geisha.

Vote your conscience...

...not for the candidate endorsed by your favorite slacker or celebrity

BY PHOENIX LINDGREN
Pride Staff Writer



So the pied piper has played his flute and scores of you are willing to follow him into the cave. Who can blame you?

The right has failed to produce as charismatic a character as Moore. Sure we've got The Rock and Arnold Schwarzenegger, but apparently hard-working he-men just don't possess the slacker-appeal of the dumpy, disheveled artist. Ann Coulter is funny and good looking... hey, wait a minute; I think I sense a trend here: Republicans are just too damned attractive!

But enough about the messenger, what about the message? Over a thousand young men and women have now given their lives in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, equal to about a third of those killed by al-Qaida on September 11. A thousand dead soldiers is a thousand more than any

of us would choose, but keep the number in perspective: Afghanistan is out of the grip of al-Qaida and the Taliban, Saddam Hussein and his evil minions are out of power, and al-Qaida has lost most of its leadership. It would have been great to get all that in exchange for only one or two soldiers lives – and to have the Taliban and Hussein supporters and what's left of al-Qaida slink off quietly into the night – but that's probably an unreasonable expectation in a part of the world where people are willing to blow themselves up to make a point.

Soldiers have also died unnecessarily in these wars due to inadequate equipment and supplies and lousy intelligence. Whose fault is that? Moore points his stubby finger at Bush and the right, willing to forget that his pal Clinton all but dismantled the armed forces during his eight years in office, and his pal Kerry voted against the bill that would have equipped our troops adequately. US intelligence hasn't been successful in making the transition from Cold War to terrorism, but apparently neither has

British, French, or German intelligence. It's not an excuse, just a fact.

Whether it's brave or despicable that Moore trots out the angry families of dead soldiers to boost



Photos courtesy of
www.anncoulter.org

Ann Coulter

his argument depends on your perspective, but it can't be denied that Moore is profiting from the war in Iraq as much as Halliburton. It seems that everyone who hopes to influence your vote is a millionaire; some of them just look more the part than others.

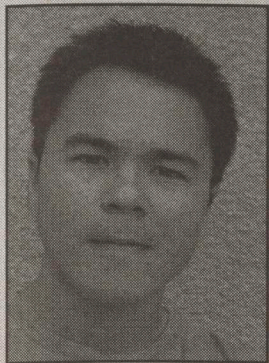
So which millionaire do you think will be more likely to lead us out of this quagmire of terrorism? Because no matter how you feel about every other issue we face today (the economy, jobs, education, healthcare, etc.) everything hinges on whether or not we can keep those who despise us from attacking us again. Moore

**Republicans
are just
too damn
attractive!**

wants you to believe that focusing on terrorism is fear-mongering on the part of the right, but that denies the ongoing impact of 9/11 on our lives; I'm not afraid of being killed by a terrorist, but I am concerned about what will happen to our nation if al-Qaida is successful again. Like it or not capitalism depends entirely on people making and spending

money. So if nobody's making money because we stop taking vacations, buying new cars, getting raises, going to the movies, investing in infrastructure, and the zillion other capitalist activities that slowed or stopped because of 9/11, then America fails to thrive, and that means fewer of those wonderful entitlement programs my left-leaning comrades are so fond of, less aid to other countries, and so on. It's a downward spiral we can't afford to see repeated any time soon.

So weigh your facts. Get informed. Listen to what everybody has to say. Read between the lines. But don't let anybody make your choices for you; you wouldn't want me or Michael Moore or your professors telling you what to eat, so be as fiercely independent about how you're going to vote. The Pied Piper led the children of Hamelin into the cave, never to be heard from again. Don't let Moore's flute lull you into failing to think for yourself.



By JASON NICHOLS
Pride Ombudsman

OMBUDSMAN'S NOTES

I did not get my underwear and noodles!

But, the payments of chafe and malnutrition will be worth the discomfort if this paper stops playing with the Moore issue like a pubescent boy plays with his...column. Coming off the 'Letters to the Editor' last week was a kindred spirit of cynicism, accusation, and Pride criticism. Carmelino Cruz wrote, "For the last weeks it seems that all you [the Pride] write about is Michael Moore." Then adds, "I want to know who makes the decision on what to write."

Well Carmelino, let's prick and pry the Pride. Shall we?

On Tuesday nights the collection of writers we call staffers, get together with the heads-in-charge (editors) and stories are divvied out amongst the crowd. Most are suggested by the heads, but writers are encouraged to toss up a couple of cookies as well. Writers volunteer for the choices offered, or succumb to the pleas of the editors. And if that doesn't work, they loop Barry Manilow's 'Mandy' till

the writers cry "Uncle!"

In this democratic oligarchy we get the stories that show up. A few, like Josh and I, do regular columns (in case you missed the obvious). You can spot these by the grinning mug shots. And just between you and me, I suspect our faces are there so disgruntled readers can corner us in a dark alley. Which is why I don't look a damn thing like my mug.

-WHISPER MODE - ON: 'I'm actually an obnoxious, tall, blonde dude, with a Vanilla Ice haircut, who doesn't smoke.' - WHISPER MODE - OFF.

Now, you should know kindred spirits of cynicism, that our writers are not paid for their troubles; they have jobs and classes to attend, and some even claim to have families. If that weren't enough, the time budget they're usually given for the stories is two, maybe three days.

My colon takes longer to pass an apple.

So for all my harsh wit on their articles, I always stand in amazement that our staffers get their no-wage jobs done at all. (Don't tell 'em I said that.)

While on the subject of harsh

wit, our Mr. Milo was lambasted by Mr. Bryan Watkins for his article on the draft bill.

But before you get his words, you get mine.

I don't know who did the description under the front-page picture of future Devil-Dogs taking the oath, but a Rear Admiral wears a Squid's uniform, less things have changed since I was in. Also, please be sure my past fellow E-Club drinking buddies have their service spelt Corps, not Core. I think going through the hardest of boots and volunteering to be a "bullet-dodger" deserves at least a proper spell check. If that's not incentive enough, keep in mind these few and proud are trained to shoot and 'blow *@#\$ up.' Just an observation.

Now, onto Mr. Watkins' words. Bryan writes, "This article is riddled with misinformation that if taken for face value can undermine the legislative process as well as confuse the students of California State University San Marcos." Well, I'd hate to think the Pride might "confuse the students," and we definitely don't want the Pride to "undermine the legislative pro-

cess." Whatever shall we do?

I comply with Mr. Watkins final point in his letter, "I strongly urge you to research your facts before printing them." To say the least, duh! On his point about the confusion and undermining that might take place, I think both Mr. Watkins' letter and Mr. Milo's article share the same probs.

There seems to be a hint of 'false dilemma' and an itty-bitty bit of assumptions phrased as facts. Having read Mr. Milo's article, I realized that "Draft legislation alive in senate" was as misleading a header, as 'athletic build' tends to be in Personals. By the conclusion of the article my worries concerning a draft were put to rest by all the quotes that suggested otherwise. I get the same catharsis, when I get to the ass-end of TV news and find that the 'thing I don't know that might kill me,' has the same odds as my winning an argument with my better half.

I agree the use of such sensationalistic journalism leaves a NutraSweet taste on my palette. The Pride should avoid those 'read this or suffer' headers. On the other hand, I doubt

anyone would have read 'Draft legislation a possible, maybe, not really, well sorta something they're not really thinking about in senate.'

Mr. Milo did start his article off with all the icing, but after chewing upon it, I discovered it was a fruitcake. Same goes for Mr. Watkins. "Confuse the students," and "undermine the legislative process" are empty calories to swallow. As for facts, the draft bill is a dead horse, and Ms. Milo (the addressee of Mr. Watkins' letter) pees standing up. Actually, I'm assuming the pee thing. But if my facts are wrong, 'Ms. Milo' should consider work as a bearded lady.

And that concludes this fun filled lambaste upon lambasting.

Don't forget to vote if you're able.

There it is.

I just collected my civic duty karma point for the day.

Tocornermyno-noodle-eating-gone-commando self, send your tidbits to nicho028@csusm.edu or pride@csusm.edu

And Mr. Watkins, thank you for your juicy quotes, a card for a venti ex-lax is in the mail.

Dropping off the kids Bathroom manners do count

BY POLLY
CHAROENKWANCHAI
Pride Staff Writer



Have you ever "dropped off the kids?" Or made a "deposit to the bank?"

Have you built any log cabins lately? Perhaps you aren't well versed in bathroom euphemisms, but these events usually occur because of bad Chinese food or an unwise choice to have ice cream and Cheetos for lunch. Whatever the case may be, people like me usually find it difficult to use public bathrooms.

I am an occasional germaphobe with performance anxiety. (Note to self: Must sanitize hands with anti-bacterial soap after using the computer lab.)

Due to my heightened fear of dirt and all things dirty, I take the necessary precautions to ensure that my adventures in the public restrooms are as clean and safe as possible. Yes, I admit it: I triple seat for maximum coverage. I am confident with the idea that no germs are penetrating through the fortress of seat covers so that I am allowed to do my duty (no pun intended) with peace of mind. I do provide one warning when dealing with multiple covers: It takes more than one flush to get those suckers down. This might cause your fellow bathroom enthusiasts to wonder why you've flushed so many times and what you ate to create such a flurry of flushes.

The automatic toilets we have on campus are terrific for people like me, if they only served to work when we needed them to. For instance, it is unpleasant to be the victim of a "drive-by

flushing." This type of crime is committed when the bathroom patron is not quite done with business, but becomes momen-

***I am confident
with the idea
that no germs
are penetrating
through the
fortress of seat
covers***

tarily disrupted by automatic and unwanted flushing. There is also the "delayed flushing" which occurs when the patron waits for 10 seconds or more before the toilet realizes that it must now dispose its contents. I suggest

people use this time to reflect.

These events must not be misconstrued with the "random flushing." This happens when there are many people in the restroom (perhaps people who will recognize you later in the day). As the name suggests, many people produce a random and spontaneous flush in order to distract other people from any turbulent sounds coming from your direction. This is detectable when the number of flushes being produced is higher than the amount of people in the bathroom.

Lastly, there is the "conditional flushing." This takes the most amount of mental commitment and is not recommended for emergency situations. The conditional flushes are based on the experiments of Pavlov and his salivating dogs. It requires that you do your business in sync with other flushing toilets as to mask

the thunderous noise you have produced. This move takes careful planning and coordination by listening for the sound of people entering the restroom as well as timing your "main event."

These techniques apply under the assumption that your "kids" are going to be loud, if you catch what I mean. They also imply that you are suffering from stage fright. For people who are hounded by this everyday dilemma, I suggest that you:

1. Change your diet
 2. Learn which bathrooms carry the least traffic flow (hint: there's one that's virtually unused in the ACD building)
 3. Accept that Mother Nature is a loud force of wind (last of the puns) that's just meant to be heard.
- If all else fails, just prairie-dog it.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Dear Editor,

I'm writing this letter to let my fellow students know about a bad experience I had at a College Republicans/Progressive Activists Network screening of the last presidential debate. After the debate a pre-chosen panel of six student speakers from both sides (republicans and democrats/liberals) were allowed four minutes each to speak about what they thought about the performance of their particular candidate. As each student took his/her turn, one republican mentioned that he was disappointed that the audience turn out wasn't as good as they had hoped. There were about 20

students in the audience and many were friends or club members of the student panel. After all of the panel members finished their time to speak, the discussion was opened to the audience. After the first topic was ended, I brought up a topic that is very important to me. I directed my question to the republican panel members. As I was exchanging ideas with one panel member, another member was huffing and puffing, shaking his head in disagreement, and even decided to laugh at me while I was talking. He then took the microphone and began voicing his ideas. As the discussion continued, I mentioned reading some information from a book required for my Mass Media and Society class with Professor

Fredi Avalos. This panel member arrogantly stated that the book was written by communist and that it should be ignored. After he mentioned that, his College Republican friends began attacking the book also. The republicans then began attacking my ideas in a four-on-one fashion. I had also mentioned that the arrogant panel member should tell Professor Avalos that the book was written by communist and he arrogantly replied that he would tell her. One of his republican friends had also mentioned that the book had no references, which is completely false (I will be glad to provide the book information to anyone interested). After a few more minutes of republicans against me, the mediator interjected and stated that we should not

discuss one issue for too long and also corrected the arrogant panel member as he made false accusations during his speaking on the issue. It turns out that he didn't know as much about the topic as he thought he did! I was so surprised that my thoughts and ideas on that topic were treated so aggressively. I always assumed that in a democracy it is vital to exchange ideas in a respectful manner. In order to understand the issues we must hear both sides and it seems to me that the republicans are only interested in their side. How an arrogant, self righteous student was chosen for a panel is beyond me. Not to mention that I am sure that I will never attend any forums by these groups ever again. I think that the reason so

few students attend these meetings might be because of the undemocratic environment and I will be sure to recommend NOT going to these forums for that reason. I would like to say that the other panel members did a good job and did treat me with respect. But it only takes a few to ruin the fun. I am in no way angry at anyone for not agreeing with me. It's when people begin talking down to me that the problem arises. So students beware, if you don't agree with the norm at one of these functions, you may be in for a "republicans vs. you" battle!!

Claude Sayf
Senior, Communications Major



Letter to the Editor:

This week students will vote on a referendum concerning the Early Learning Center (ELC), the childcare facility owned by our student government (ASI). So far, the ASI has supplied one-sided information for funding concerning the issue.

Student leaders have not presented their constituents with the data necessary for

making sound decisions on this important issue. We see posters hanging prominently in ASI office windows and prominent displays occupying the center tables at the Dome with sales pitches for funding the center.

Why don't student government leaders present honest information? Over the years, the student body has subsidized the ELC with losses totaling about a million dollars (Student leaders have never released

exact figures). Now we're being asked to increase our student fees by \$10 to make up for projected shortages. That adds up to over \$140,000 annually.

The ASI's and The Pride both championed Michael Moore's recent appearance as a victory of free speech. But Moore's message was more than just to speak freely—it was to question that which doesn't make sense. Yet The Pride ran a story stating that the ELC would make 97 % of its

costs through sources other than student fees. What is the ELC's total operating budget if the student body's \$140,000 is only 3% of its funding?

I am not arguing against childcare, I am arguing against our student government representatives' failure to keep their constituents informed. The 48 students who benefit from subsidized childcare every semester are certainly deserving, but their

fellow students are just as deserving and at the very least, we deserve the right to be properly informed about voting issues. It's conceivable that one of us might come up with an alternative to the ASI's current all or nothing proposal.

Steve Compian
Graduate Student



Dear Editor,

I'm sure you all know but in case you don't October 18th-21st are the dates for the voting for the Childcare Services Fee Referendum to keep the Early Learning Center open. The Early Learning Center is CSUSM's answer for childcare for student parents.

I know there are many of you out there who would like to vote no because you don't want to pay for

something you are not going to use. I understand that, however many of us pay for fees here we don't use, books we don't read, a parking structure we will never see. This ten dollars is at least going to a humanitarian cause: the education of children. The Early Learning Center enables many parents the ability to continue their education to provide a better life for their children, provides childcare to CSUSM faculty & the community, as well as provides internships,

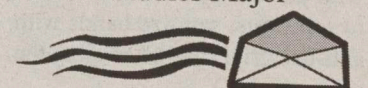
employment opportunities and more. It is a wonderful program. As you could guess, I am a student parent; my daughter Madison age three has attended the "school" as she calls it, for a little over a year and she loves it. In that time, she has become potty trained, learned to ride a tricycle, can count to twenty, is recognizing numbers, is learning to write her name, and is learning valuable social skills. She would have met these milestones eventually but I know that they have

been met sooner and with more understanding with the love and support of the ELC staff behind her. I really hope students realize that this is not about ten more little dollars (it's only two or three Starbucks☺), but it's about the big picture and as cheesy as it sounds, children are our future.

The children who attend the center might be only between the ages of 2 and 5 but they still care about their school. If the vote doesn't pass the ELC will be forced to close its

doors. How awful would that be for this to be these children's first educational experience; a school they have been so comfortable in and have grown to love being closed because CSUSM couldn't fit it in their budget. Please do the right thing for these children, please protect their school, please protect their teacher's jobs, please vote yes and encourage others to do so.

Natasha Walls
Liberal Studies Major



Mos Def: The New Danger 🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾

BY JASON ENCABO
Pride Staff Writer



"The New Danger" is now among us and Mos Def is most definitely bringing something new to the table. Maintaining his success as a rapper/actor, Mos Def has been featured in numerous films ("Italian Job"), music videos (Alicia Keys - "You Don't Know My Name") and of course songs (Kanye West - "Two Words"), leaving fans without a solo album since his 2002 release of "Black On Both Sides." Mos Def now re-enters the hip hop scene with a highly anticipated new album.

Throughout "The New Danger," Mos Def experiments with a mixture of elements of rock, soul and certainly hip hop. He combines these elements to deliver the tradi-

tional Mos Def style, along with a new sense of maturity. He often breaks the conventional pattern of verses and choruses placed throughout a song and formulates a song-structure of his own. I had trouble determining if some songs were actually songs, or if they were just long instrumentals or interludes. But after listening to the album in its entirety, I couldn't help but love it.

"The New Danger" provides a very diverse assortment of songs, satisfying listeners of many genres. This album also thoroughly addresses the live aspect of music, bringing together a sound resembling artists like The Roots and Rage Against The Machine, all while maintaining the true sound of hip hop. Mos Def produced the album with help from Kanye West and several others to resemble various styles of music. "The New Danger" is for the open-minded, I definitely recommend it.

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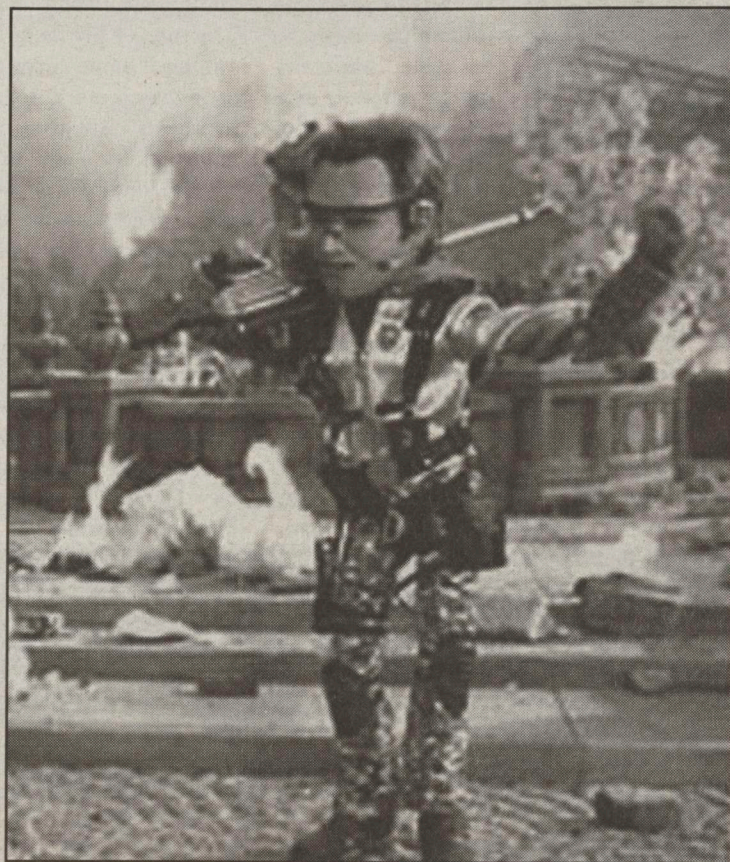
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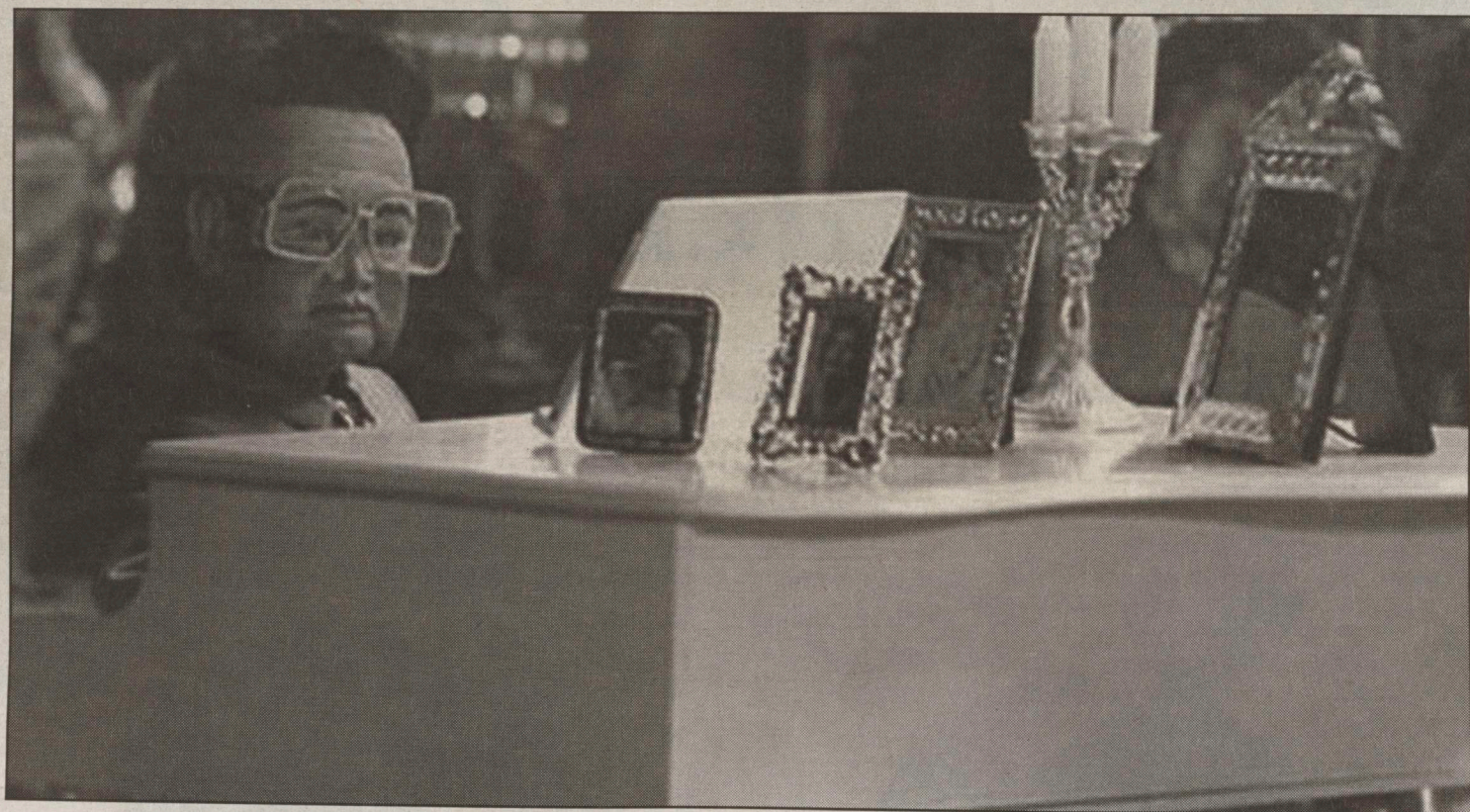
South Park creators Matt Stone and Trey Parker take on the world with puppets instead of paper cut-outs or cartoons

BY PHOENIX LINDGREN
Pride Staff Writer

Sex, violence, foul language... these aren't your parents' puppets.

The South Park guys, Trey Parker and Matt Stone, bring us another sterling piece of social satire, this time cloaked in vomit. "Team America: World Police" is not for the faint of heart (or mind), but is for anyone interested in broadening their world view beyond that of "socialist weasel" Michael Moore (hey, I'm just quoting the film here, don't get your thong in a bunch and start firing off emails to the ombudsman). But more to the point, this film is for anyone who pees their pants at watching gratuitous puppet vomiting, gratuitous violence by puppets on puppets, puppets speaking fake Arabic that sounds like your 8-year-old nephew talking gibberish and a puppet sex scene that will send you rolling in the aisle (while peeing your pants) if you ever participated in that quintessentially American childhood experience of manipulating Barbie and G. I. Joe to make sweet sweet love.

"Team America: World Police" is about a super-patriotic, elite group of American crime-fight-



Photos courtesy of Paramount Pictures

ers who chase down and wipe out terrorists all over the globe. Parker and Stone's political leaning should be apparent from their treatment of Moore and Film Actors Guild members Alec Baldwin, Susan Sarandon, Martin Sheen, Sean Penn, et al., (just in case you missed Parker and Stone's 2001 sitcom "That's My Bush!"), but as usual they don't let our side of the aisle off the hook, either: Team America goes after it's objectives without a twinge of remorse over collateral damage (though trust me, you'll be laughing at that, too), and the voice of I.N.T.E.L.L.I.G.E.N.C.E. — a supercomputer that provides the team its information — is provided by none other than multiple-personality radio comedian Phil Hendrie (KFI-AM 640, weeknights 7-10 p.m., if you're not in on the joke, you're part of it, so listen in sometime).

The choice to use puppets is brilliant: you can do things with a puppet (or more properly, a

marionette) that just wouldn't work with the flat paper characters of South Park (though in an odd twist of fate, the puppets can't seem to walk any better

**This film is for
anyone who
pees their pants
at watching
gratuitous puppet
vomiting**

than Kyle or Stan). If you forced me to find fault with this genius piece of work, I would probably pick on the soundtrack: I played the "South Park: Bigger, Longer, Uncut" soundtrack in my car for at least a year after that film debuted, and my friends and I still break out in a nice rendition of "Uncle F**ka," "Kyle's Mom's

a B**ch," or "It's Easy, MMMkay" every now and then. Theatergoers left this film singing the anthem "America, F**k Yeah," and the soundtrack definitely works, but "Team America: World Police" is no musical (and I loves a good musical).

Parker and Stone have said they aren't out to influence the election, but I still think you should run don't walk to your local Cineplex and see this film before you vote (just be sure to check your sensitivity and political correctness at the door). After all we are what we are. God bless America. F**k yeah!

