

NIU Campus Shooting Raises Safety Concerns Emergency Preparedness Urged by University Police

BY JACKIE CARBAJAL
Pride Staff Writer

On Thursday, Feb. 14, Northern Illinois University Graduate Student, 27-year-old Steven Kazmierczak, opened fire in a lecture hall on campus killing five students before turning the gun on himself.

The next day, President Karen Haynes released a message to the campus community.

"I know I speak for all of us that we feel great sadness and

empathy for the students, faculty, staff and families of those personally affected by the tragedy at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb. Our sympathy goes out to them as they struggle to deal with the shock at such a sudden and violent loss to their community," President Haynes said.

While questions regarding the motives of a student with no record of trouble and in good academic standing will likely go unanswered, administration is reaching out to students and fac-

ulty to help focus on preventative measures.

"We've had several systems in place even before Virginia Tech because we are such a newer campus," said University Police Department Emergency Manager, Dean R. Manship. "One thing people probably aren't aware of is that we have the ability to lock down pretty much all of our buildings from University police dispatch. So if we had some sort of situation like that, within two seconds they could click on

one of their displays to lock down all the exterior doors for campus buildings and interior buildings for some of the newer buildings such as Markstein Hall."

Manship stressed the need for students to program the University Police dispatch line (760-750-4567) into their cell phones in order to connect directly with University Police dispatch for a rapid response, rather than dialing 911 and being connected with the Highway Patrol.

Students can also register

for the emergency notification system at www.csusm.edu/ep to receive notifications only during an emergency. The system can notify students via cell phone, landline phones, text messages, and e-mail.

The shooting rampage is the latest to plague the United States since last April's shooting at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University which claimed the lives of 32 people.

See **Shooting**, Page 2

Greek Rush Week begins at CSUSM Interest in Greek life grows as campus expands

BY TOM COCKING
Pride Staff Writer

As another semester passes, comes the beginning of a new one, bringing new opportunities to make new friends and participate in social events.

For those who do not know: fraternities and sororities on campus are beginning to grow more and more as the years go by, with new ones being started as our school begins to grow. Seeing this college grow so quickly makes being a part of it even better.

Fraternities and sororities give

people, especially those new to Cal State San Marcos, the opportunity to meet new people and experience things they might not be able to anywhere else.

Anyone who has been on campus has seen the letters and tables for the fraternities and sororities. This week kicks off the rush week for both fraternities and sororities -- and an exciting one it will be.

Below are the dates and times and a description of what events will be going on this week. These events help give insight into what these fraternities and sororities are all about. Be sure to check them out.



Photo by Ben Roffee / The Pride

ZBT

Tuesday Feb 19th, Concert, 6 P.M., UVA

Wednesday Feb. 20th, Flag football, 6 P.M., Track Field

Thursday Feb 21st, BBQ and movie, 4:30 P.M., Prominence pool and theater

Friday Feb. 22nd, Invite Only

EAE

Tuesday Feb. 19th, Bowling, 6:30 P.M., Meet at Cesar Chavez Lot

Wednesday Feb. 20th, TG Night, 7:15 P.M., Meet at Cesar Chavez Lot

Thursday Feb. 21st, Poker night, 7:15 P.M., Meet at Cesar Chavez Lot

Friday Feb. 22nd, Invite only, 7:15 P.M., Meet at Cesar Chavez Lot

AXO

Thursday Feb. 21st, 5:30 P.M., ACD 205

Friday Feb. 22nd, 2-3:15 P.M. or 5-6:15 P.M., 244 Violet Ave, San Marcos, 92078

Saturday Feb. 23rd, 12-1:15 P.M. or 5-6:15 P.M., 1001 La Rueda, Vista, 92084

Alpha Pi Sigma

Thursday Feb 21st, 5:30 P.M., ACD 205

Friday Feb 22nd, 12-2:15 P.M. or 5-6:15 P.M., CSUSM Clark Terrace

Saturday Feb. 23rd, 12-1:15 P.M. or 2-3:15 P.M., CSUSM Clark Terrace

Alpha Xi Delta

Thursday Feb. 21st, 5:30 P.M.,

ACD 205

Friday Feb. 22nd, 12-1:15 P.M. or 2-3:15 P.M., Coronado Ranch Clubhouse, 335 Jacob Street, San Marcos, 92078

Sat Feb. 23rd, 2-3:15 P.M. or 5-6:15 P.M., Biggs Harley Davidson, 717 Center Drive, San Marcos, 92069

Controversial religious debates welcomed by students

BY BEN ROFFEE
Pride Staff Writer

Monday, Feb. 18, 2008 - For nearly six hours, Cal State San Marcos was shaken up as the topic of Christianity and religion became the focal point for public discussion and debate on campus. Tom Short, a traveling speaker from Columbus, Ohio spoke about his Christian beliefs on the stairs between Academic Hall and Craven Hall between 11 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

Although CSUSM is no stranger to public expressions of beliefs and opinions, Mr. Short's showing was one of the largest the campus has seen in recent years. Drawing in hundreds of students throughout the course of the day, Short elicited impassioned debates from many

students present.

Short touched on many issues ranging from evolution to homosexuality, at times provoking heated responses to his controversial statements. Those who disagreed were most often the ones first to speak out, while others simply listened on quietly.

"I advocate that we convert the gay people," said Short. "Homosexuality is a sin."

One student quickly replied, "That's according to the Bible. Why do they need to be saved because they're gay? Why do they need to be saved because of their sexual orientation?"

Despite some of his inflammatory remarks, Short emphasized that he was not there to place judgment. However, students like Nas-tajja McDonald disagreed.

"I'm not the one sitting here placing judgment on anyone. That's what you are doing. You just said gay is wrong," said McDonald.

At one point during the demonstration, campus police came out and briefly suspended the display to ensure that classes and campus activity were not being interrupted or compromised. Short continued shortly thereafter following a brief conversation with campus police.

Reactions were mixed among students in the audience. Sophomore Erika Ervin echoed the belief of many students in attendance saying, "While I do agree with some of what he is saying, I don't like his argumentative methods." Some students felt that Short's style was too confrontational and didn't necessar-

ily reflect their Christian religion fairly.

Freshman Travis Wilson said, "We all sin every day. But the fact of the matter is that the God we serve is the only one that can set us

free from those things."

Short will continue on to other college campuses to conduct similar demonstrations. More information Short's work can be found at www.shortreport.com.

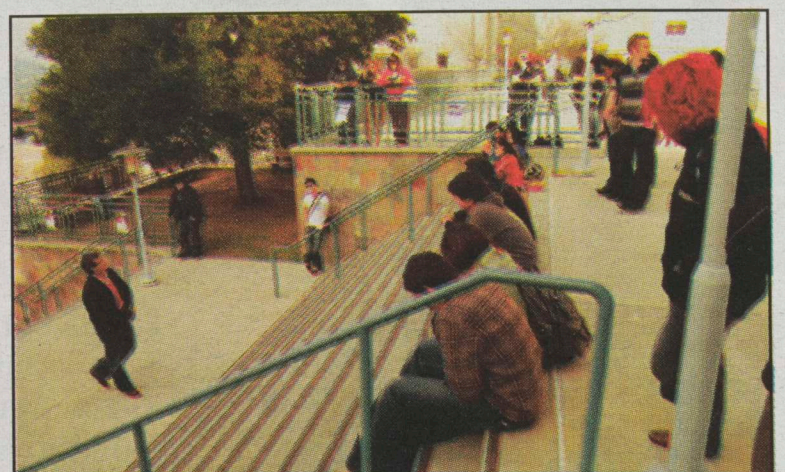


Photo by Ben Roffee / The Pride

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From SHOOTING, page 1

In a released letter from Virginia Tech President Charles W. Steger to North Illinois University President Dr. John G. Peters, Steger states, "The loss of life is always tragic, but especially the loss of young people with their promise for the future. Our hearts go out to their families, as well as those injured, and the entire Northern Illinois community."

According to MSNBC, victims of the shooting included an army veteran who served in Bosnia and Korea, an ad salesman for the student newspaper, an aspiring teacher, and a talented violinist. Four of the victims were under 21 with the other being 32 years of age.

"While these types of incidents are devastating and unpredictable, I want to assure you that Cal State San Marcos is very well prepared to address them, and our University Police are well trained to

respond in any emergency."

Cooperation amongst the campus community is a vital aid in preventative measures. University Police relies on students' first hand contact with the community, urging students to not adhere to taking any threat lightly.

"Any type of situation, even if it's a hoax, we are going to take any phone call in very seriously. We can respond to any place on campus in less than three minutes," said Manship. Students may also provide tips to University Police through an anonymous hotline, 760-750-TIPS.

"If you see something suspicious, we don't want anyone to say 'Maybe I'm just overreacting' and not call in," Manship added. "Anything that raises any types of warnings we want people to call in and let us know about and then our officers will go and investigate. We want people to call as much as possible if they are concerned."

CSUSM celebrates National Condom Day

BY JON THOMPSON
Pride Staff Writer

As students found out, even the pouring rain could not inhibit the free flow of water based lubricants and contraceptives.

CSUSM observed National Condom Day Thursday Feb. 14 with an event put on by Student Health and Counseling Services (SHCS). The event gathered a number of community and campus organizations in front of the library. The Vista Community Clinic (VCC) was one organization on hand that had an end-

less assortment of various condoms, contraceptives and lubricants available free to students. The VCC were eager to make students aware of the free community health care, educational and counseling services they offer, including confidential HIV and pregnancy testing. Information on the potentially life-threatening importance of safe sex and STDs was also a readily available resource.

"Usually when kids first approach us they are a little embarrassed, but once they see why we are here, to help them,

they tend to stock up on supplies and ask questions," said Rafael Rubalcaba of the VCC. "We are just here to help the community be safe and aware."

Spencer Gooch, also a representative from VCC, said they are noticing the concern for safe sex is crossing age gaps.

"We see a lot more adults are warming up to what we offer lately, in some cases more than the younger students," he said. "As they should, safety is important to everyone, not just the youth."

Judy Heard, Sexual Health Resource Advisor at Birth

Iraq.

Pizza and Politics is a series of events geared to promote discussion on political issues that directly and indirectly affect the campus community.

Students interested in future Pizza and Politics events can visit the American Democracy Project website at www.csusm.edu/adp.

This academic year will focus on issues pertaining to the 2008 Presidential Election and use current newspaper articles to guide discussions.

The next Pizza and Politics event will spotlight civil liberties on Thurs, Feb. 28 during University Hour in ACD 102.

American Democracy Project Presents: Pizza and Politics

Lunch event to focus on war in Iraq

BY JACKIE CARBAJAL
Pride Staff Writer

The American Democracy Project is hosting its second Pizza and Politics event today during University Hour in Markstein 103.

The event's topic is the war in Iraq led by Political Science/Global Studies Professor Scott Greenwood. The first 35 students in attendance will receive free pizza.

The event will focus on a specific article in the Los Angeles Times published Jan. 14, 2008 regarding a shift in U.S. military strategy in

Police Beat

2/6/08 12:45 a.m.

An officer stopped a vehicle for several violations including high speeds.

After administering a field coordination test, UPD found the non-student to be under the influence of alcohol, under age 21 in violation of zero tolerance laws, and driving on a suspended license. The individual was arrested and booked into jail.

2/6/08 8:50-10:30 a.m.

A student returned to Lot E to find a vehicle damaged in a hit and run. The 2005 Mazda 3 had a 12-inch white scuff and scratch on the driver's side door. An anonymous witness left a note with a plate number. UPD would appreciate if the anonymous note writer came forward.

2/6/08 5:10 p.m.

An officer responded to a disruption at the coffee cart where there were three

males harassing women. The officer cited one individual for possession of 4.6 grams of marijuana. The three were escorted off campus and directed not to return. Further information is pending.

2/6/08 9:00-11:15 a.m.

In Lot C, an unsecured vehicle had a parking permit stolen.

2/7/08 1:26 a.m.

Officers stopped a vehicle for left turn violation on Twin Oaks, and found the driver to be unlicensed. The driver was arrested, cited, and then released.

2/8/08 10:40 p.m.

A vehicle failed to stop at the intersection of Campus Drive and Campus Way. The officer noticed a thirty pack of beer and everyone in vehicle was under age 21. Officers cited the driver for transportation of alcohol and cited the

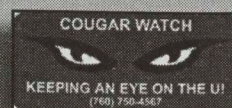
passenger in the back seat for possession of alcohol.

2/9/08 11:30 p.m.

A UPD officer driving through the market place across the street from campus noticed a blue BMW driving slowly past Ralph's and a male running towards the vehicle with two boxes of beer. After a traffic stop, the officer determined the juveniles committed a beer run. The juveniles were detained, referred to juvenile court, and released to parents.

2/9/08 11:00 p.m.

An individual returned to her car parked in Lot O at 11:00 a.m. the next day to find the windshield of her 2008 Ford escape had been smashed. Any info, contact UPD at 750-4567 or anonymous (750-TIPPS).



NBA Trade Talk

The rich get richer

The Lakers spark a storm of transactions

BY TIM MOORE
Pride Staff Writer

When the Los Angeles Lakers acquired former all-star, Pau Gasol on February 1, in exchange for the underperforming Kwame Brown, rookie, Javaris Crittenton, Aaron McKie, Marc Gasol, and two future draft picks, fans and analysts immediately set the bar high.

The addition of the 7'0" Gasol, combined with the pending return of the injured Andrew Bynum lead some to crown the Lakers as potential Western Conference Champions, without Pau having played a single game in the purple and gold.

The Lakers have now played six games in the Gasol-era, winning all but one. Gasol is proving to be a major contributor in Los Angeles, averaging 20.5 points, and just over eight rebounds in the six games he has played in a Lakers uniform.

The Lakers organization expected such numbers from a proven NBA player, however, they may not have expected the barrage of trades and proposed trades to beef up the Western Conference in the weeks following.

Just six days following the Gasol deal, the Miami Heat and

Phoenix Suns drafted out a trade that sent 14-time All-Star and former Laker, Shaquille O'Neal back to the Pacific Division for Shawn Marion and Marcus Banks. The move has been criticized by analysts because of the aging O'Neal's inability to easily fit in with the Suns' trademark high-speed offense.

Shaq, who has been sidelined with a hip injury, is expected to make his Phoenix debut on Thursday against the Lakers on ESPN.

Nine-time All-Star, Jason Kidd, who has voiced his desire to be traded from the New Jersey Nets for quite some time, may have just been granted his wish.

After over a week of negotiations, proposals, and rumors with the Dallas Mavericks, it appears that a deal has come to fruition that would send Devin Harris, DeSagana Diop, and Maurice Ager to New Jersey in exchange for Kidd and forward, Malik Allen.

The Western Conference is already known as the powerhouse around the NBA, and with the addition of one of the best centers to ever to play the game (O'Neal) and the most prolific passer currently in the league (Kidd), the west is only getting stronger.

Church's Influence on Sports The NBA is making trades

BY DAVID CHURCH
Pride Staff Writer

Pau Gasol became a Laker, Shaquille O'Neil became a Sun and Jason Kidd a Maverick?

I don't think so. After watching ridiculous trade after trade, I was happy to see Devean George take responsibility and end what looked to be the biggest steal of the season. The trade should eventually go through because George will give in to the pressure of the "boos" by Dallas Maverick fans and the media and Jerry Stackhouse will need to find a new team once he gets cut.

Personally, I am sick of seeing trades like those above. Even the Michael Bibby trade to the Atlanta Hawks was a steal for the Hawks. This appears to be the trend that is going on in the NBA this year.

Whatever happened to trading a young player who has three years left on his initial contract and first and second round draft pick for this superstar. No instead, we are getting trades for superstars for guys who have expiring contracts in the off-season and maybe a pick if you're lucky.

When looking at these trades

you can see the big picture. In the Lakers trade, you see an immediate payoff for the Lakers and a possibility for a good payoff for the Memphis Grizzlies who received three players and two first round picks.

The Lakers now are a major contender with the addition of Gasol. Gasol gives Kobe Bryant the help he had been asking for during the off-season. Now the only thing tampering a great playoff run by the Lakers is Kobe's pinky.

Then when looking at the Suns-Heat trade, it is hard to understand what the Suns were thinking. I know Shawn Marion wanted out, but Shaq is not the answer. Like most people in the world, the question is why? You are taking Marion out of the picture, making Amare Stoudemire take his game up a level with Marion gone. The Suns are eventually adding a much slower, older oger who doesn't fit the offensive scheme the Suns play.

We are going to see Shaq playing 20 minutes a game, averaging ten points and six rebounds per game. We are also going to see the Suns go from 109.8 PPG to 98 PPG. With Shaq, the Suns are going to slow their game

down and get less touches of the ball. So unless they raise their shooting percentage, they are going to score less.

Finally there is the Bibby trade. Bibby is going to the Hawks who are on the bubble for the final playoff spot. With Bibby, the Hawks will be in the playoffs and it will be on Bibby to carry the Hawks deep into the playoffs.

In return, the Sacramento Kings get four expiring contract players and a second round pick. This will give the Kings a chance to go fishing at the free agency this off-season.

As for Kidd, he will be in a Mavericks uniform by the deadline. But it won't mean a thing, because despite all these teams making key trades, the San Antonio Spurs are getting healthy.

The Spurs have the most dominant big man in the game in Tim Duncan, Manu Ginobili is getting stronger and stronger with his game and Tony Parker will be returning to the lineup. These three guys are the reason why I am picking the Spurs to repeat for the NBA championship again.

Any comments or questions can be sent to churc009@csusm.edu or pride@csusm.edu.

The Blood, Sweat, Tears being homeless

You know what? I'm not going to pretend that I know anything about being homeless. I was driving along today with my significant other and I saw a homeless man and his dog. I immediately got that slightly sick feeling I get in my stomach, that I should do something to help that man and his German Shepard. I got cold just walking between my front door and the car, and this man is sitting there, with a handwrit-

ten sign, and a hungry dog and a thin jacket, and a worn Bible.

And there and then I come up with an idea. I should devote my life to helping homeless people commit crimes. Let's crunch some numbers, BST-style. Percentage of homeless people with chronic health problems: 46%. Percentage who report mental illness: 39%. In fact, including the percentages for people with acute health problems and sub-

stance abuse issues, we're talking somewhere around...100%. Check out the United States Department of Health and Human Services. They've got it all.

So, a disability check (Supplemental Security Income, if you're in with the lingo) is \$512. For someone who can't work at all. So, that's rent, food, and any living expenses for \$512. Try it for a month.

But, a light at the end of the tunnel! According to the Center for Criminal and Juvenile Justice, in 2000, it cost \$20,000 to keep a prisoner for a year. And that was eight years ago, which means inflate that number there accordingly. So, despite the lack of freedom...you could be safer and happier in prison than homeless. You'll have clean clothes, heat, cable, a gym, even a chance to complete a college

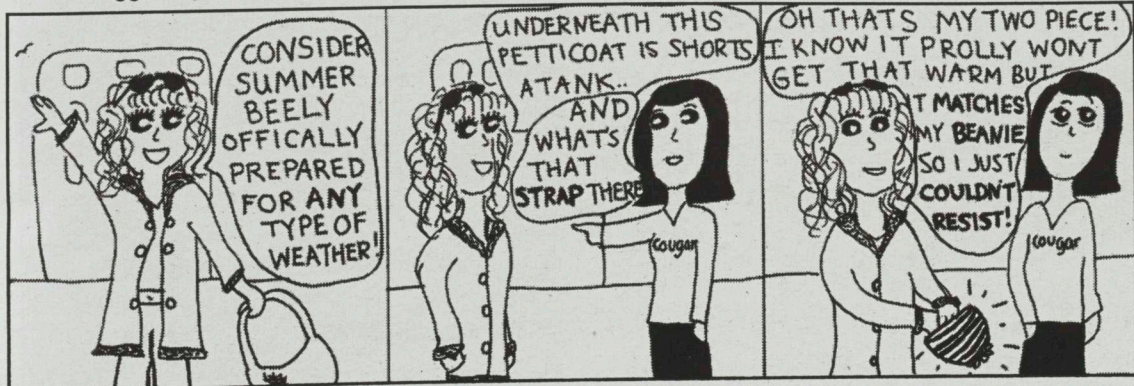
education and learn job skills in some cases.

Unite behind me, my homeless friends! Give me your freezing, your tired, your hopeless. Here in America, a better life has been waiting for you! We were just busy giving it to others as a "punishment."

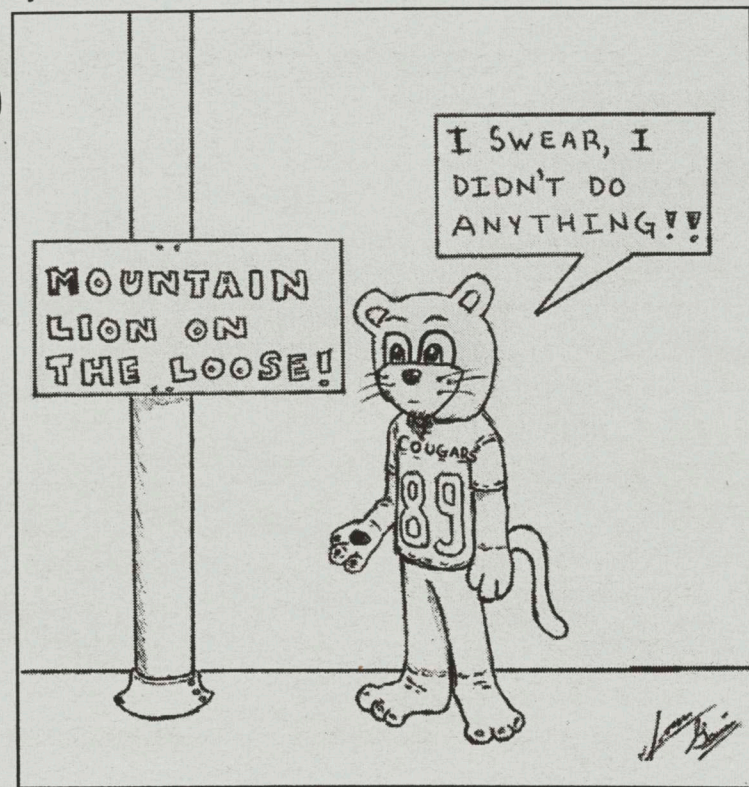
Now if I could just figure out what to do for his dog.

PrideComics

Just for Siggles by Jenny Bigpond



By Ivan Garcia



Week in review

Cougar baseball goes 2-2

BY LANCE CARTELLI
Pride Staff Writer

Cougar baseball started off slow last week with two straight losses, but swept their double header Sat. to salvage the week.

In the first game of the week, the Cougars (3-6) were blown out by #25 Biola (4-2) 17-5. The game got out of hand quickly, with Biola scoring 13 runs in the first three innings. In the bottom of the 2nd, 1b Matt McQueen knocked in the first two runs of the game with a two-RBI double. Biola would add on two more runs before

their nine run 3rd inning. Biola got RBI's from RF David West, C Daniel Bodemer, CF Chris Foreman, 2b Hawkins Gebbers, and LF Chad Pace after batting around in the bottom of the 3rd.

The Cougars scored in four consecutive innings to get their five runs for the game, but it was not even close to being enough to make this a game. RF Jared Suwyn continued his hot streak with an RBI single to put the Cougars on the board. 2b Louie Russo tacked on two more runs with a two-run HR in the top of the 7th.

In the second game of the week, the Cougars' comeback was stopped by #13 Cal Baptist (9-4) in a close loss 4-3.

In the bottom of the 1st, the Cougars performed two errors to give up two runs off one hit, to start off on a rocky 1st inning.

The Cougars scored in the top of the 5th off a one-out RBI double down the line by C Dane Ponciano. In the top of the 7th, Jared Suwyn would sacrifice fly to CF to bring the score to 3-2.

With just three outs remaining in the game, LF Austin Way hit a leadoff HR to bring

the score to 4-3. The Cougars would leave the tying and go-ahead runs on base in a losing effort.

Cal Baptists SP Duke gave up 10 hits but only allowing two earned runs in six innings worked. Cal Baptist used three relievers to close out the Cougars giving up one run and two hits in the final three innings.

In the weekend doubleheader against Patten University the Cougars won 6-5 in 11 innings and 11-2 to save their week and improve their record to (5-7) on the year.

Softball Brief

CSUSM Softball concluded a busy week of play, Saturday, with a pair of wins over Occidental College. The Cougars won both games of their doubleheader on Saturday – the first by a score of 4-0, and the second by a score of 11-0.

The Cougars started off the week with a pair of wins at Azusa Pacific, 2-1 and 3-2 on Tuesday.

The Cougars suffered their only loss of the week on Thursday against the NAIA third-ranked Point Loma Sea Lions. The 2-4 loss was in game one of a doubleheader – game two was rained out.

The Cougars record on the season is 7-4.

Soccer tryout filmroll



Photos by Ivan Garcia / The Pride

COUGAR SCOREBOARD

FEBRUARY 2008

BALL ● ●

STRIKE ●

OUT ● ●

Last Week's Results

2/12

BASEBALL

Biola 17 | CSUSM 5

SOFTBALL Doubleheader

Game 1 – CSUSM 2 | Azusa Pacific 0

Game 2 – CSUSM 3 | Azusa Pacific 0

MEN'S GOLF

Cal State San Marcos Invitational
6th Place

WOMEN'S GOLF

U.C. Riverside Invitational
6th Place

2/14

BASEBALL

Cal Baptist 4 | CSUSM 3

SOFTBALL

Point Loma 4 | CSUSM 2

2/16

SOFTBALL Doubleheader

CSUSM 4 | Occidental 0

CSUSM 11 | Occidental 0

Upcoming Events

Feb. 19 – Feb. 25

WEDNESDAY

Baseball @ Cal Baptist – 2:00 p.m.

THURSDAY through SATURDAY

Softball @ Cal Baptist Tournament

SATURDAY

Men's Track and Field – CSUSM 500-Mile Relay

Swiping *Coke* - The new addiction

BY JONATHAN THOMPSON
Pride Staff Writer

Last semester Coca-Cola vending machines across the campus received an upgrade allowing Cougars to utilize credit cards in purchasing a soda. The card processing machine accepts credit cards or banking cards with credit card logos and does not require the insertion of a personal identification number.

The addition happened over night and not all Cougars are aware of this new capability. "I didn't even know they had them but I would probably use them though," said Senior Biology Major Levi Williams.

The simple process starts with a Cougar

swiping his/her card. The processor takes a few seconds and validates the transaction. Then a Cougar selects one or multiple sodas. The Cougar finishes by pressing the blue "Complete" button. The processor then displays a "Thank You." The processor does not print a receipt.

Although various credit card and banking companies might have different methods of identifying the transaction, the transaction shows up as "Vend at Cola" on monthly billing statements.

Not all Cougars are eager to use the new process. "I wouldn't use it because I am very skeptical. There are just so many ways that people can get your credit card information," said Senior Business Major Jillian Cox.



Photo by Ben Roffee / The Pride

Vending machines now sport the ability to pay with all major credit cards.

Pride Horoscopes

Aries

You make this week look good. Pay attention to all aspects of your potential, and by the weekend, you may get exactly what you wanted. Of course, that depends on how you handle Thursday and Friday: are you going to float on through or let the nay-sayers sink your rubber duckie?

Leo

Someone call the fire department because your love life is about to get sizzling hot. One wrong turn though and it's gone, baby, gone, so don't be too quick to blow off the guy at the grocery store or the girl behind the Starbucks counter. Also, quit pissing off your coworkers. It's going to blow up in your face on Thursday.

Gemini

Your fluid nature gets a real test from a coworker on Thursday. Sometimes just letting your anger come out is the best way to handle a situation. Beware of a smooth-talker tomorrow, keep up the hard work, and your week will come out polished just the way you want it.

Cancer

Your attempts at channeling Rico Suave don't go exactly how you've planned, and on Wednesday, the Gemini you've been pining for slips through your fingers. Put away your Aqua Net and acid wash jeans and try being a real human being. Besides, now is the time to focus on the home front, before your proverbial French

poodle bites your kneecap.

Virgo

Love hurts. Not as much as friends talking smack, though. Because you can find 50 ways to leave your lover, but friends cling to you through the years. Try to mend some fences, and spend some time relaxing solo, and if that doesn't work, hire a South American assassin. As long as s/he is not a Scorpio.

Scorpio

You'll do anything in the line of duty, but be careful when people ask you for things this week. You give and give and give, and before you know it, you're out there faking a South American accent and holding a sniper rifle. Take a bath and read a trashy romance novel instead. And just for giggles, car trouble plagues you on Friday.

Sagittarius

A long week ahead for you, Sag. Try not to get sucked into workplace drama. No matter how strong the temptation though, you know what happens after a large fry from McDonald's and five margaritas. Keep the door locked and the phone off the hook.

Capricorn

Karma finally catches up with you and it's all good. While you watch other people trying to put out fires and clean their closets, you're the one who actually has the foam extinguisher. Or those cute

little shoe organizers. For the single, you bump into someone with more potential than the MacBook Air. For couples, whatever your recent rough patches, they're gone and forgotten.

Aquarius

Don't speed.

Pisces

Energy is pouring out of you like rays

of light in a crappy Madonna music video. This is your moment to shine. If you want to go out every night, do it. Now is the right time to start new projects or finally put some out for public approval. This week, you're the golden child. Except Thursday. You should probably just stay in bed on Thursday.

Taurus

Don't let an Aquarius speed.

University Voice

Do you feel safe when you're on Campus?



"I feel safe on campus. Especially during the day there are lots of people. But sometimes at night if there's nobody here and you're walking to car, it's a little creepy. But I still feel safe in general."

Nicole Edwards
Sophomore

"Yeah, generally I do feel safe on campus. It does get a little creepy at night; sometimes it's creepy when there are not a lot of people on campus, because there are a lot of people passing throughout the day. It's a pretty safe campus I think."



Erin Hearn
Sophomore



"I guess compared to most schools we have a pretty safe campus, just cause it's really small, so you can't really wander off away from people. But it does get pretty scary at night because there are not a lot of people around you. As far as like shootings and all that stuff, I don't see that happening here."

Sara Ouellet
Sophomore

"Yeah I do feel safe on campus, very much so. It's a very inviting campus. I don't feel any type of tension or anything like that; so yes, I feel safe."



Kayla Richardson
Freshman



Paul Munoz
Senior

Do you have a question you would like answered?
Submit it to The Pride by emailing it to pride@csusm.edu attention University Voice.

Photos by Amanda Andreen

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Rob Dee: Keepin' it real all night long

BY AMANDA ANDREEN
Pride Staff Writer

It's Friday night once again and the streets downtown are rocking beats all around as homie Rob Dee caresses the mic with his comical ease. With guitar in hand and no backing band, Dee gives it a go, putting on one excellent show. Dropping lines about life and his own personal strife, Rob Dee is a playa and creator of hype. Whether it's at Mueller, Lestats or some other local venue, with his charm and ingenuity, Rob Dee hopes to woo you. Although his songs might not be the cleanest—as he likes to sing about “planting his seed” and run-ins with the cops—his lyrical chops are definitely the meanest. His rhythmic rapping and melodic acoustic guitar is no normal pairing, but you better check him out because his songs are worth sharing.

The Pride: How did you get your start in music?

I got a guitar in 7th grade [and] I played punk rock music on it. At City College I did a few musicals and really fell in love with being onstage with an audience. [Also] in between Jr. High and high school, I started rapping with friends in the garage. Then one day I put it all together, and now I'm the shit.

The Pride: What is your song-writing process like?

I'll get an idea, write it all out, get the lyrics and make them all rhyme. Then I'll find some sort of guitar thing to go along with it. I think a lot of people do the music first and then come up with lyrics. [But] I do the lyrics first because for what I do, that's most important. I'm a lyric master, not a guitar master.

The Pride: Where do you get the inspiration for your songs?

From everything around me. Drinking and women are big influences. Things that are going on in my life—current events usually end up being the sources for my songs.

The Pride: Do you have an album out?

I have. If only you could take a picture of it—I have an award-winning album out. It's the ghetto disc. It was voted for, nominated and won in the 2007 Hat Awards honoring “Acoustic talent album of the year artist's choice award.” The Rob Dee ghetto disc is simply a recording of a live set at Lestats that Josh Damigo threw down \$20 for. But I am soon going to be recording with the homie Aaron Bowen.

The Pride: What's the first CD or tape you ever bought?

I think I wanna say like Kris Kross “Totally Crossed Out.” Maybe Ojay Jones for the tape, (Dee starts singing) “I saw you, walking in the rain...”

The Pride: Do you have a favorite show memory?

I think my coolest memory, or at least the one I'm gonna go with—I've got a lot of awesome memories—is the one when I worked at the Zoo. I wrote a song about working at the Zoo and I played this Zoo house party, and that was the first time I had ever played one of my songs in front of an audience. And like, they loved it. It's like a three minute song that took ten minutes because there was so much laughter in between each line. It was the greatest feeling in the world.

The Pride: Can you share a few lines?

It's like: “Hello, how are you? Did you have a good time at the San Diego Zoo?”...“I can already tell this is not going to be my day because in my first fifteen I called Panda Express and tried to sell them Wa Mei”... “I just want to go home and get irie and lose my sobriety, instead of working at the

San Diego Zoological Society.” It was awesome. I loved that night.

The Pride: Do you have a favorite song you have written?

Favorite song I've written... I have a lot, I'd say right now it's the “Bicycle Song.” It's a lot of fun.

The Pride: What's the biggest lesson you took away from your college experience?

The biggest lesson I took away from college is that I should have paid more attention while I was there. Plus, I mean going to college and doing shows there is what turned me on to audiences in the

first place. So had I not done that, I might not be doing it now. I've got an excellent GPA too ladies.

The Pride: Where can people find your music?

Come to the Myspace page dot com slash rob dee. Come to the shows, which are listed on the Myspace page. Buy my CD which is available at the shows. And or fall in love with me and/or vice versa and I'll play for you anytime in the bedroom.

Go add Rob Dee as your MySpace friend: www.myspace.com/robdee



Photo courtesy Rob Dee

Rob Dee tells it like it is while performing his song “Humorous Coincidence” at a local show.

The Bucket List How to waste a good premise and great actors

BY ALEXANDER HAND
Pride Staff Writer

It would be hard to say that watching “The Bucket List” was top of my list of things to do before I die.

Nevertheless, I gave it a chance, hoping Morgan Freeman would deliver thought-provoking inspiration, as he usually does. The delivery came, but much too late.

To put it simply, the movie contradicted its own message. If one is supposed to make the most of the time they have left, they should not spend that time watching this film. By the time I heard Freeman's closing narration about finding the joy in your life, I found myself searching for the previous two hours of my life, wanting them back so I could look for this joy else-

where.

Lucky for director/producer Rob Reiner, the films two main (what seemed to be only) characters Morgan Freeman and Jack Nicholson were there to perform.

The unlikely chemistry of the two was barely enough to save the poorly written script and just almost made the cheesy effects go unnoticed. If you are searching for that “feel good”, tear-jerker

movie, this one will get the job done. But I would recommend only watching the final ten minutes or so.

Trust me, this way, you can have that feeling but will have another hour and a half to go enjoy your life. Watching this movie in its entirety is something I would recommend you move to the bottom of your list of things to do before you “kick the bucket”.

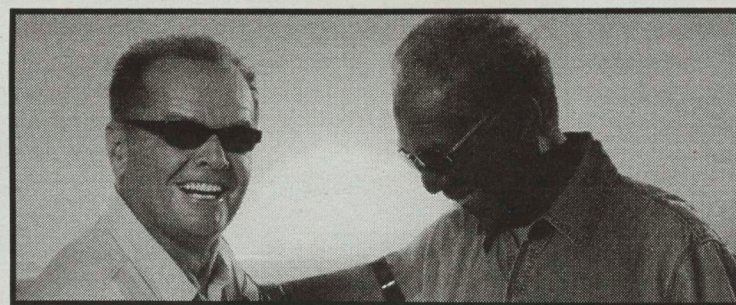


Photo courtesy of Warnerbros

CD Review

BY TOM COCKING
Pride Staff Writer

Each week I search the internet to see who is coming out with a new CD, some I might enjoy, others I'm neutral towards and some I would rather never listen to.

Last week, I was looking at the new releases and saw the Alexisonfire's vocalist Dallas Green and his side project City and Colour was coming out with a new CD named Bring Me Your Love February 14th.

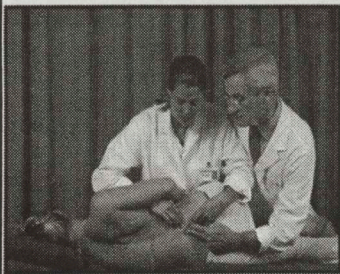
I had purchased his first CD and to paraphrase, because I could go on forever, it was amazing. Having discovered him late night on Myspace (which I do way too often sadly), I was hypnotized by his voice and immediately purchased his CD.

With his melodious voice and soft smooth guitar it was hard not to relax the second any of his songs came on. So of course, the 13th song came along and I was on iTunes ready to click purchase and let me tell you \$9.99 well spent dollars.

Since buying the CD, I have not been able to stop listening to it. Each song getting better and better the more I listen to it. Dallas Green moves away from the louder more heavy rock and into a much more acoustic form of music in which he is allowed to let his voice really shine thru.

Usually I would suggest a few songs that are the better of the CD but this one all I can say is every single one. So I suggest if you are reading this article to immediately buy this album, you won't regret it

Considering a Career in Physical Therapy?



You are cordially invited to attend a reception to learn more about the University of St. Augustine and its Physical Therapy resident and part-time distance learning programs in San Diego, California. If you have or are completing a bachelor's degree and want to pursue a career in physical therapy, come learn about the options at one of the information sessions below.

Tuesday, February 26

7:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Check-in begins at 6:30

University of Saint Augustine
at San Diego
16870 West Bernardo Dr. Suite 200
San Diego, CA 92127

Saturday, March 8

10:00 am to 12:00 pm
Check-in begins at 9:30

Crowne Plaza Hotel Fullerton
1500 South Raymond Avenue
Fullerton, CA 92831

Saturday, April 5

10:00 am to 12:00 pm
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ROCK BAND VS GUITAR HERO™

Battle of the Bands Goes Digital

BY IVAN GARCIA
Pride Staff Writer

Do not listen to the pessimists. Rock Band is NOT a Guitar Hero rip-off. Harmonix, the co-creator of the Guitar Hero series, decided to move on from its axe-wailing roots to create an entirely new game that has yet to be matched by any other game of the music/rhythm genre.

Even though Guitar Hero has set the standard in the past as being the "fun-filled Thursday night with friends," a new contender has stepped up to the plate to overthrow the guitar-wailing party series that

has pulled the wallet strings of the most penny-pinching gamers. But the question being posed is: Which game deserves your attention and money?

The defining factor that both games share: musical variety. Spanning multiple eras and genres, both games will entice the musically savvy with a plethora of options from Iron Maiden and Metallica's hardcore classics, to modern rock anthems from Fall Out Boy and Weezer.

Both games contain master recordings for half of their songs, so feel free to finally remove the ear plugs if the previous Guitar Hero covers made you cringe with audible

discomfort. With Rock Band containing 58+ tracks out of the box and Guitar Hero sporting 71+ tracks, you would think that the latter would be the victor when it comes to variety. But with downloadable songs every week, both games have the potential to be on top when it comes to variety.

With a character creation feature, Rock Band players have a chance to rock out with their very own personalized avatar that excels at one particular role in the band.

Which means, that while Guitar Hero players are limited to wailing on the guitar, Rock Band players have the freedom to choose a responsibility within the band:

guitar, bass, drums, and (my personal favorite) vocals.

There is so much substance to both games that make them great. But if there had to be one, I'd recommend Rock Band to anyone that could afford its hefty price tag (about \$170 compared to Guitar Hero's \$90).

With the variety and varying difficulties of each instrument, Rock Band offers a multitude of possibilities with every new song pack that becomes available. While I respect both series, I would easily recommend Rock Band to anyone with a pseudo-dream of super rock stardom.

Bill of Rights A Case Against American Idol

BY BILL RHEIN
Pride Staff Writer

Despite being one of the most popular shows on television, I find "American Idol" to be flawed and self-righteous. At first, it may have been a good idea, but I grow tiresome of this program on FOX Network. For several reasons pertaining to the show itself and its negative influence on others shows as well as society, "American Idol" is a drain on the nation.

First, the show is the same every year. Since its inception, copying the British show "Pop Idol," the program has consistently been the same. The formula is to get thousands of people in major cities across the nation and take a picture to give the illusion that FOX gives that many people the chance to compete.

It would take months for all to sing in front of the infamous three judges, which means the show prescreens most contestants. The only ones who make it to the judges are the decent singers and of course, the bad. The show only gives the chance to these poor singers so that the rest of the nation can laugh at them, which is a pitiful way to boost one's ego.

As the show progresses, the judges 'cut the fat' as each week another singer is eliminated. The contestants face the wrath of the judges, who are stereotypical to a tee. There is the yuppie who never says anything bad, one who cannot stop saying 'dawg', and the last who is a miserable human being putting on the act that he is incapable of being pleasant. Finally, the judges say that each year the contestants are better despite the fact that only two relatively famous stars have come from the show, according to albums sold.

"American Idol" is a repetitive process forced upon the nation each year to bring a new music 'sensation.' However, the show is responsible for more cultural problems in this country than musical talent.

Singers on the show only survive if they put on proverbial blinders and sing only pop songs. This leads to people being uncreative and listening to only one type of music. In my opinion, rap and pop music are responsible for relaxed morals, including increases in promiscuity and drug use among young people. It is time for "American Idol" to take the blame for what is has done.

Picking Up the Pen Again Hollywood Goes Back to Work

BY BILL RHEIN
Pride Staff Writer

After 100 days, the Writers Guild of America settled on terms with the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers (AMPTP) and therefore ended the 2007-2008 Writers Guild of America Strike. Beginning on Nov. 5, 2007, the writers of television shows and motion pictures stopped working due to issues with DVD profits and credit for new media, which include Internet shows and 'on-demand' programs.

The Eastern and Western Writers' Guilds laid terms for a new contract on February 10 and voted it in place two days later. According to the website for the Writers Guild of America, East, (WGAE) votes in favor of the new contract totaled an overwhelming 92.5%.

The president of the WGAE, Michael Winship, said, "The commitment and solidarity of our members made it happen ...

our two unions stronger than ever." The members of the AMPTP, which include the Presidents and CEOs of entertainment studios, responded saying, "We hope now to focus our collective efforts on what this industry does best ... working together to deliver great content to our worldwide audiences."

Though the unions are pleased with the results, this strike did not come without its cost. One of the most prominent was the canceling of the Golden Globe ceremony.

The shockwaves cost the city of Los Angeles \$380 million, according to NPR, due to tourism loss as well as losses surrounding food and limo services and hotels. Also, studios may cut new shows that never got rolling, and the people who work undistinguished jobs behind the camera lost income.

Both guilds and the AMPTP are looking to make the best of the situation and bringing entertainment back to the viewers.

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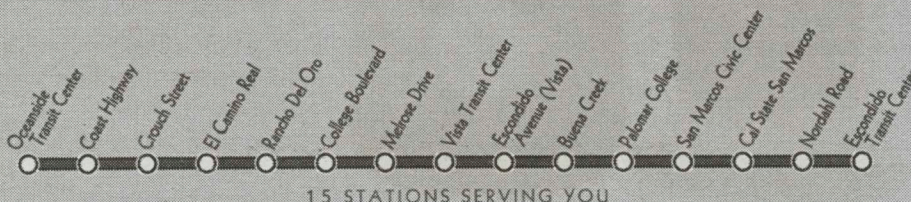


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Oscar turns 80 Pride predicts winners

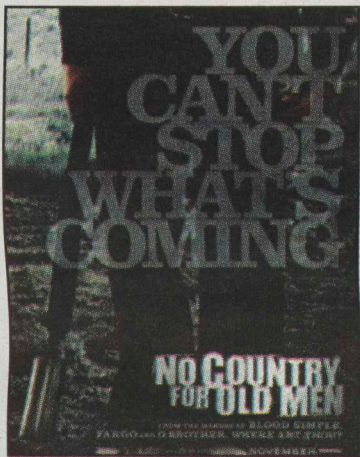
BY BILL RHEIN
Pride Staff Writer

This year the Oscar is turning the big eight-zero. It has been a rough year for movies, but a few films have risen above the others. Several actors have delivered memorable performances. On Sunday, February 24, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences will hand out the awards in the biggest movie celebration of the year. Based on this year's nominations, here is how the awards should and probably will go.

Images courtesy of Google images

Best Picture

"No Country for Old Men." What a surprise. There is not much more to say than this is a flawless film. To all who took part in the making of this movie: congratulations and thank you.



Best Female Actor

Ellen Page for "Juno." This one is a call from my gut. Page gave a refreshing, yet smug, performance, and the Oscars have a tendency to favor young stars, such as in 1993 when Anna Paquin won best supporting female actor in "The Piano," and she was only 11-years-old at the time. With all due respect, she may not have come out on top in a stronger field.



Best Supporting Female Actor

Kate Blanchett for "I'm Not There." In a weak field, she delivered a strong performance that should secure a second Oscar. The first was for her supporting role in "The Aviator." Unfortunately, her performance in "Elizabeth: The Golden Age" will not win her best female lead this year.

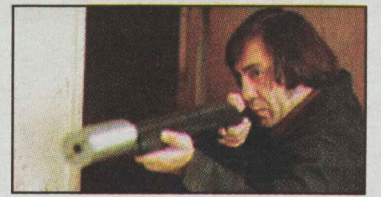


Best Supporting Male Actor

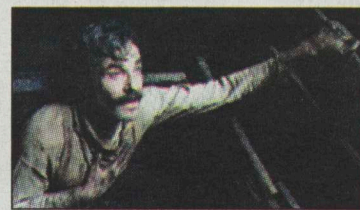
Javier Bardem for "No Country for Old Men." This was without a doubt the most incredible performance this year. It is too bad the Academy did not nominate him for best male lead, because with his performance, his presence resonates even when he is off screen. Bardem

has created a villain that can stand ground among the likes of Hannibal Lecter, Darth Vader, and Norman Bates. An honorable mention belongs to Casey Affleck for his work in "The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford," because he showed he has seri-

ous acting skills, unlike his brother Ben.



Best Male Actor



Daniel Day-Lewis for "There Will Be Blood." Not to be misogynistic, but the performances by men were incredible this year. All nominated gave stunning performances that filmgoers will not soon forget. This was a difficult choice, but Lewis wins over Johnny Depp. Lewis, who has reinvigorated the study of method acting, performs so well, viewers forget they are watching a movie.

Best Director

Best Director: Joel and Ethan Coen for "No Country for Old Men." "No Country" was the most acclaimed movie this year, and behind it were these two film geniuses. With so many other great films to their credit, this award has eluded them. Now with another masterpiece they can finally claim the title. They deserve this award due to their work with the story, the performances they got from the actors, and the making of another American cinema classic.



Old Rasputin

BY JONATHAN THOMPSON
Pride Staff Writer

North Coast Brewing Company brews Old Rasputin Russian Imperial Stout in Mendocino County, California. The brewery began in 1988 in Fort Bragg, California. The brewery holds an assortment of 70 national and international beer oriented medals.

The stout boasts a bragging 9% alcohol by volume, almost double the ABV average of regular beers. Russian Imperial

Stouts were originally brewed in 18th Century England for exportation to Russia. Russian Imperial Stouts often contained higher ABVs to help Russians cope with extremely cold climates.

"Never say die" referring to the controversial Grigori Rasputin, crowns the cardboard container holding four, 12-fluid oz. dark brown glass bottles. The four pack of stout retails for \$7.49. Gold and black accents adorn the packaging with a portrait of Rasputin. The bottles contain the same designs. The contents in the bottle are sealed off with a glossy black bottle cap printed with the brewery's logo and name in flashy gold trim.

The seven gold medal stout pours rich and creamy creating a three fourths inch thick head. Although the head gradually shrinks it remains for the entire duration. The stout darkens the glass with a near black eerie texture. Shockingly, the stout enters smooth and passes smooth. The climax occurs between sip and swallow with a slight tingle on the tongue. The tingle although meek in power, lingers in the mouth for several moments. Ultimately, an oak residue coats the tongue after the encounter.

The week's stout offers a high ABV without offending the taste buds. The thick stout pairs well with heavy dinner entrees e.g. steak and potatoes. For a unique and antique adventure discover Old Rasputin.



Photo by Jonathan Thompson / The Pride

DROPPING:

By Toria Savey / Pride Staff Writer

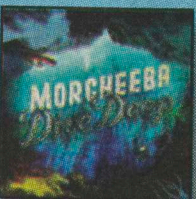
CD RELEASES
Tuesday, Feb 19



POP/ROCK

A Twist in My Story
SECONDHAND SERENADE

Are they a one hit wonder? Does anyone care about their sophomore release? We'll see if John Vesely can hit the radio waves as hard as he's hit the internet with this new album.



AMBIENT

Dive Deep
MORCHEEBA

I don't buy albums. I just don't. I can't stand having to commit to 14-17 tracks, half of which might be mediocre. But I found true love in Morcheeba long ago, friends. And I will buy a Morcheeba album. In fact, I might just go out and buy this one. With a mixture of smooth, electronic sound (not a Daft Punk dance party), and an ever-changing roster of guest vocalists, they never bore me.



LATIN

En Vivo: Desde El Auditorio Nacional
K-PAZ DE LA SIERRA

Do you even know how long it took me to find the right Latin album for this week's Dropping? But here it is: a live combination CD/DVD from K-Paz de la Sierra. Tragically, their lead singer was murdered last December, so this dynamic recording from September 2007 is even more of a treasure.

Images courtesy of amazon.com



COUNTRY

My Life's Been a Country Song
CHRIS CAGLE

You know, at least the man admits it. So if you get the album, and then have to listen to how his woman left him and ran over his dog with his pick up truck, you know it's probably autobiographical. The lead single from this album, "What Kinda Gone," put Cagle back on the charts, but we'll see what the rest of the album has in store.



METAL

Kingdom of Sorrow
KINGDOM OF SORROW

I've freely admitted that I know almost nothing about metal, but apparently, if you do, then this is the album you've been waiting for all your life. The band is the pet project of the lead singer from Hatebreed (seriously? They named a band that?), and the track "Screaming at the Sky" didn't give me an instant migraine, so this may be metal's brave new hope.