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## Can I register please?!?!

Registration delays have students and faculty worried

BY MATT LEWIS  
Faces & Places Editor

Last week, over 1,000 students participated in the "human 20" photograph as part of the celebration for CSUSM's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Despite the proverbial cloud looming over CSUSM and other Cal State campuses throughout California, this event shows signs of a shift in morale across the campus. Unfortunately, celebrating twenty years may not be enough of a momentous occasion to overshadow the continuing effects of the diminishing budget for higher education.

Many students at CSUSM expressed concern when the beginning of November came and went this last week without a sign, or even a whisper, regarding registration for next year. Typically, the students who are guaranteed early registration, such as freshmen, athletes, and orientation team members, receive a generated e-mail from the Office of the Registrar when midterms roll around notifying them of upcoming registration dates. As that time has clearly come and gone, students may have another thing to add to the long list of stressors related to the higher education budget crunch.

Like "recession" or "swine flu," the budget cuts are becoming the de-facto phrase that practically every branch of the university has using to explain anything delayed,

closed, or rescheduled.

"Most of the time, the planning for next semester is done before October," said Joan Anderson, a CSUSM writing professor. "But this year, [the Registration Committee] didn't finish until the middle of October."

Budget cuts or not, CSUSM officials cannot simply delay the spring semester, leaving students and faculty alike uneasy about the limited time to plan and schedule. At this point, the details surrounding the scheduling delay are fuzzy, but the ever-present excuse of "budget cuts" remains.

Now the students at CSUSM will have to make even more of

a mad dash than usual to get the coveted seats in the classes they need. This delay is even affecting those who aren't even students here yet.

"My friend who goes to CSUSM told me to expect a registration e-mail before November," said Brian Aragon, an incoming transfer student from Colorado. "When I didn't get anything at the beginning of the month, I got worried because the classes I want fill up pretty quick. Plus, I have to make sure all the housing plans go through as well [...] but what's the point of making the move if I can't get into the right classes? Basically I have a lot riding on it."

Unfortunately, the Pride could not reach the Office of the Registrar for comment in time for this article to go to print. In reality, the Committee is not at fault here. Rather, they are as affected by this changing university environment as faculty and students are.

It is important to remember how budget cuts affect every facet of university life; furloughs, dropped classes, limited library hours, and semester unit caps are all results. How much more can the school cut back before it starts to affect the quality of our education? Who's to say that it has not, already?

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The Pride is looking for some new talent for the following semesters to help out with the layout.

If you are interested, contact [PrideLayout@csusm.edu](mailto:PrideLayout@csusm.edu) for more info.



## THE PRIDE

## My shrink's column

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In case you haven't noticed, we passed the middle of the semester and are heading into crunch time. You should know by now where you actually stand in your classes. The opportunities to improve your grades are dwindling. Once Thanksgiving comes, it's a steep downhill run to finals.

I assume that stress is becoming noticeable. It's a normal response to demands that the world is making on us. It kicks us into a higher gear, gets the juices flowing, forces our minds into modes of worrying, planning, and problem solving. Many students say they work best under pressure, and this makes sense. Stress triggers the body's "fight or flight" mechanism, and the way to "fight" upcoming assignments is to get to work on them now.

But for some, stress can be too much, and this is certainly not helpful. When we have too

much stress, it interferes with our lives and makes it harder to take care of business. Our minds become so jumbled with worries that we can't concentrate. Our normal eating and sleeping patterns are disrupted. Some people lose their appetites almost completely, while others start to binge, perhaps in an effort to settle themselves down. Some find it very hard to fall asleep, or stay asleep, so pressured are they with the feeling that there is so much that needs to be done. Others are so overwhelmed that they might sleep more than normal, out of the exhaustion that chronic stress has on the body and out of a sense of hopelessness in the face of all that undone work.

This syndrome of being under too much stress often gets worse before it gets better. Each part of it (its effects on concentration, mood, sleep, and appetite) tends to lead to making the problems

worse rather than solving them. If I can't concentrate, I fall further behind or write papers that are of lousy quality. If I've not slept or eaten properly, my body is not at its best and cannot cope effectively with the challenges hurled at it. And as the problems worsen, the grades sink, and the assignments pile up, the stress increases and the cycle can get out of hand.

So let me offer two pieces of advice for this moment in the semester. First, because you are not hopelessly behind yet (you're not, are you?), this is the critical moment to get organized. Take a calendar and enter every assignment that's due from now until finals week. Make sure that you see all the tests, quizzes, and papers coming well in advance. Make sure you find time just about every day to make some progress on your schoolwork. The amount of time you spend in

leisure activities may have to be temporarily reduced to ensure that you stay on top of your work now. Your reward will be play-time later, with decent grades behind you. Make a firm resolve to get organized and disciplined now, for the rest of the semester.

Second, if you feel that your stress level is out of control in the ways I described, get some assistance. Talk to your professors. Go to review sessions. And, if it would help, give us a call at Counseling Services to make an appointment. Our staff is very familiar with treating student stress and can give you some tools to soften the blows of all that pressure. To do so, call or drop by Student Health & Counseling Services (750-4910; location is Suite 100 in the SMACC building).

Fritz Kreisler, PhD  
Student Health & Counseling Services

## Do you think you're old enough to drink?

BY JAMES ROCHE  
Pride Staff Writer

There have been many debates over the subject of the minimum age at which you are legally allowed to drink alcohol. The strangest thing has to be the differences in the legal drinking age for different countries. For example, French citizens have to be 18 years old to drink legally, but in Germany it is only 16. That means someone from Germany can start legally drinking a full 5 years before someone can here in the US. I'm from Great Britain, where the legal drinking age starts at 18. This is a fair age I feel for which to allow people to legally consume alcohol.

So I am legally allowed to drink in my own country, but since I am not 21 I can't legally drink here. This is a very strange situation for me. I can't go out and get into

bars like I could just a few months ago. My girlfriend is over 21 and it is frustrating that we can't go to some places and really enjoy ourselves just because I am under the legal minimum age to drink. I think it stops me from slightly getting the full American experience while I am out here. What I find strange is that there are places that are only accessible for 21 and over but they are aimed at people from the age of 18 up (Dave and Buster's springs to mind).

Whether someone can drink or not should be based on their maturity and ability to handle their drinks, not on how many years it has been since they were born. Unfortunately, the only way to try to measure maturity is through age. If someone has better way of deciding when to let people drink, let me know. By the law, if you are 21 or over, you are mature and able enough to drink in the United

States. But does that mean that other countries consider their citizens to mature faster?

Ever heard someone say if you're old enough to die for your country you should be allowed to legally drink in it? This is something I agree with. If you can go to war protecting your country, you should be able to drink in it. It seems to me that in many cultures you are not ultimately considered to be an adult until you are old enough to be able to drink. From my personal experience, I have found this to be quite accurate. America considers someone an adult here when he turns 18, but he is not really treated like one until he turns 21.

As I have said before, I feel that when you turn 18 you should be legally allowed to drink in your own country. Maybe if we get enough support when can lower the age limit, it could work. I do

however feel an urge to come back here and celebrate my 21<sup>st</sup> birthday with alcohol, just because I could.



Images courtesy of Guinness

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The Pride is published weekly on Tuesdays during the academic year. Distribution includes all of CSUSM campus.

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# Bill of Rights

## Advertising circus at the cinema

BY BILL RHEIN  
Senior Staff Writer



When I go to see a movie in theaters, I stick to the cheaper matinees or Monday or Tuesday nights, when the local Edward's Theaters have \$1 popcorn or candy. But this past Friday, I wanted to go out for dinner and a movie with my better half.

Since we got out of dinner earlier than expected, we got to the show very early. That gave us enough time to see the jungle that in Friday night at the cinema. Usually, the amount of flashing lights and advertisements on a normal night is overwhelming. But when we went, it was startling to see all that was going on inside the lobby.

We were attacked by men in black shirts asking us to take surveys about television. And people from HP were begging us to try their new printers. Both offering prizes and

wanting personal information. Since we were early, we humored them and checked them out.

On one hand, it gave us something to do while we waited to get in to our theater. But I can imagine it would be frustrating to work past this crowd of advertisers to get to your seat. And in a way, it made me sad to see the cinema "pimping" out its lobby space.

In the big picture, I know it is not a big deal. It is just a little unsettling to consider how these people have the audacity to be so in-your-face, and how susceptible the general population is to this media.

I understand the cinema is not free from advertising and product placement, but this seemed really out of place. This was just one of those moments I stepped back to see that I have been affected by advertising. No matter how much we like to think we are above it, advertising has changed our world, and continues to invade.

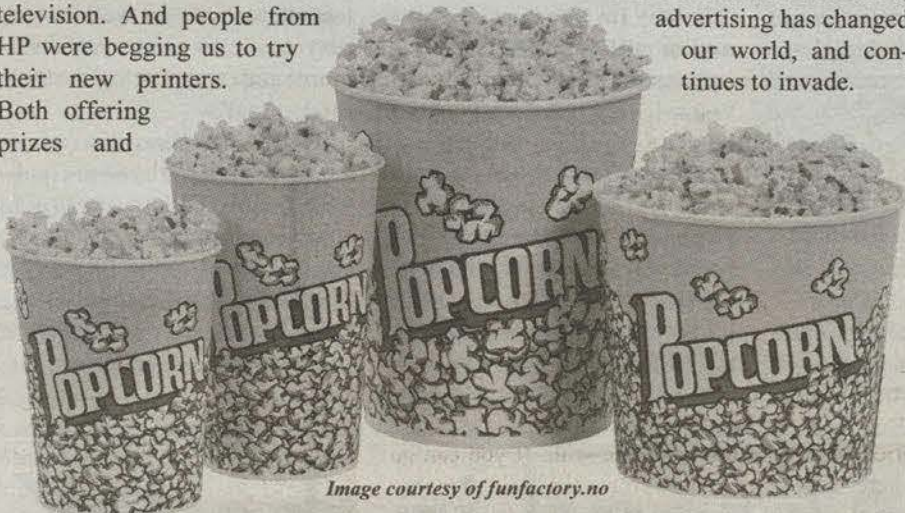
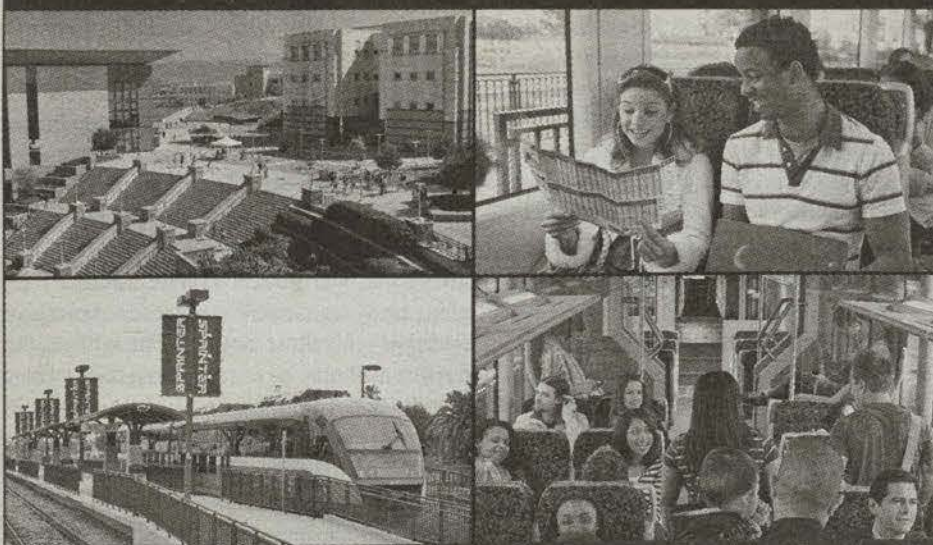


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# Interview with LTWR professor Heidi Breuer

BY JESSENIA LUI  
Pride Staff Writer

If anyone has taken a Literature and Writing class with Professor Heidi Breuer, it's easy to see the passion she has for teaching and for her students. The Pride recently had the privilege to sit down with Professor Breuer to ask her a few questions.

**Pride: When was your first semester at CSUSM?**

**Breuer:** I started CSUSM in the fall of 2007.

**Pride: Before CSUSM, where did you teach?**

**Breuer:** I taught at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio from 2003 to 2007.

**Pride: Where did you get your Bachelors?**

**Breuer:** I got my bachelors at a school called Florida Southern College in 1994. I actually double majored in Biology and English. I originally wanted to be a Veterinarian but throughout my Biology degree I learned that I'm squeamish and that I don't like hospitals. So then I continued with English. I got my masters in English at Florida State University and my PhD at the University of Arizona.

**Pride: When did you start teaching?**

**Breuer:** I started teaching

two classes a semester when I started the masters program up until I received my PhD. I was mostly teaching composition but I also got to teach some literature classes. But I've been teaching a total of fourteen years.

**Pride: How do you feel being a teacher?**

**Breuer:** I love being a teacher. I love being a professor. I aspire to be so much like Martha [Stoddard-Holmes] because she is so amazing. One of the great things about Martha is that she's hard on you and pushes her you, but she does it in the kindest and gentlest way and makes you feel so wonderful about it. All of the colleges in our department are so wonderful, but Martha in particular is just someone I really aspire to be like.

**Pride: What made you want to continue your studies in English and teaching it?**

**Breuer:** To tell you the truth I don't remember exactly why I went for English. I just knew that I was really good at it and began to love it. I didn't know I was going to teach until I got into the classroom. At Florida State they have this really cool thing where they do this intensive training in pedagogy before you start teaching and



Photo courtesy of LTWR Department

that got me really fired up about it. From that point on I was sold! Once I started teaching, I knew this is what I was going to do.

**Pride: You taught in Ohio before coming to CSUSM. What made you make that transition?**

**Breuer:** I really couldn't handle and didn't like the weather. I loved working at Wright State but I really wanted to be somewhere different that had similar qualities in education. Here, at CSUSM, I love that we have a really diverse population and serve a lot of first generation college students. I did my research and really liked what CSUSM had to offer and wanted to become a part of that.

**Pride: How do you feel about the budget crisis in the CSU system and the furlough days everyone is required to take?**

**Breuer:** It has been a shock to me. It feels like the faculty is bearing the largest brunt of the

budget crunch, which isn't fair because if the faculty bears the largest brunt then the students also bear a larger brunt. We're the ones that interact with students everyday. So, if we're suffering, then they're suffering.

**Pride: I heard you recently got a book published. Tell me a little about that.**

**Breuer:** Yes, I did! It's called *Crafting the Witch: Gendering Magic in Medieval and Early Modern England*. In the book, I explore representations of magical characters. In particular, I look at the "wicked witch" figure and I ask "how did she become wicked?" In early traditions, the witch Morgan Le Fay is represented positively and as a healing figure. So I explore where the backlash began to transform a witch into a negative and wicked symbol.

**Pride: Do you have a fascination with witches?**

**Breuer:** Well yea, I love *Wizard of Oz*. I definitely have a bit of a fascination with magical characters, witchcraft, people who represent themselves as witches, and different stories about witches and wizards.

**Pride: What are you plans for the future as far as teaching at CSUSM?**

**Breuer:** Hopefully I'll con-

tinue to work here. I care about the students and the university. It's important to me to help the university get through this budget crisis and want to be involved as much as I can. We also have a great graduate program and definitely would love to get more into that as well.

**Pride: What do you like to do outside the classroom for fun? Any hobbies?**

**Breuer:** Outside the classroom I enjoy yoga, boogie boarding, hiking and walking with my dog, Lucy, and learning how to surf.

**Pride: Any advice for students you would like to pass one?**

**Breuer:** Get to know your professors outside the classroom. Go to their office hours and talk to them. You can always enhance the classroom experience and your entire college experience as well by getting to know your professors more and working with them intellectually.

For more information about Professor Breuer's newly published book *Crafting the Witch: Gendering Magic in Medieval and Early Modern England*, it is available to check out at the CSUSM library, or available for purchase at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).

## "THE SEQUEL IMPROVES ON EVERYTHING THAT MADE THE FIRST FILM GREAT."

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## Abroad in the UK

BY IVAN GARCIA  
Pride Staff Writer

With the passing of Halloween, so passes the spirit of shoveling mounds of sweet, sugary treats into our gobs and dressing up in outfits that leave nothing to the imagination. Now that the holidays are upon us, being abroad just seems to help further the fact that we might not be with our loved ones during these times of family and unity. Obviously, it's November, a time of cool weather, falling leaves, and capitalism in the face of an impending Christmas. Ah, 'tis the season. So between the time of being away in England and coming back home (more or less about 1 month), what's a guy like me to do without the long held tradition of munching on varying Thanksgiving meals? This is the first time I'll be away from family this Thanksgiving, and while it may be liberating, it's also an odd change without the giant Butterball turkey, mashed potatoes, or corn (ah, corn). It's times like these when the hidden emotions start to emerge and you just realize, as great as this abroad experience may be, I miss home.

During these times, the best cure would be to connect with those you love back home. Not through email or Facebook, but through handwritten postcards or letters. It's these little extra steps that will show you, as well as the people back home, that they're/you are missed. And who doesn't like receiving something in the mail?

It's exciting! You feel like an adult with mortgages or junk mail, which only encourages you to put on some fake glasses and reply humorously with, "Ah, I see the electric bill has come in. Let's see what the damage is." I'm not sure what it is but just reading small notes from friends and family shows the care they put into packing a box full of tortillas and coffee mix (thanks, mom) or writing a few words letting you know that you're missed. Yeah, it sucks being away, especially if you know your sister is going to get the giant turkey leg this year and not you. But this is the time to be out on your own and create your own traditions and celebrations. Do something during Thanksgiving that will be memorable, whether it be going away on a trip or sharing this American tradition with those not familiar with it. As terrible as it may be to retell the actual stories (not the happy go lucky, what we're taught in elementary school story) of the terrible things done to the true founders of this land (you know who you are), maybe now is time to start a tradition of bringing people together under a banner of cultural differences and just enjoying each other's company. And maybe a trip to KFC would be cool too (turkey, fried chicken, what's the difference?)



Images courtesy of about.com



COUGARS

VISITORS

# Across the board in Sports

## CSUSM holds on to win Women's Cross-Country A.I.I. Conference Championship

November 7, 2009

CSU San Marcos swept the top three individual spots, then held off hard-charging Simon Fraser to win the Association of Independent Cross-Country Conference Championship on Saturday.

The loaded field featured #2-ranked CSU San Marcos, #3 Simon Fraser, and #13 British Columbia. Also competing were Soka University and Johnson & Wales, and one runner from Southwestern College.

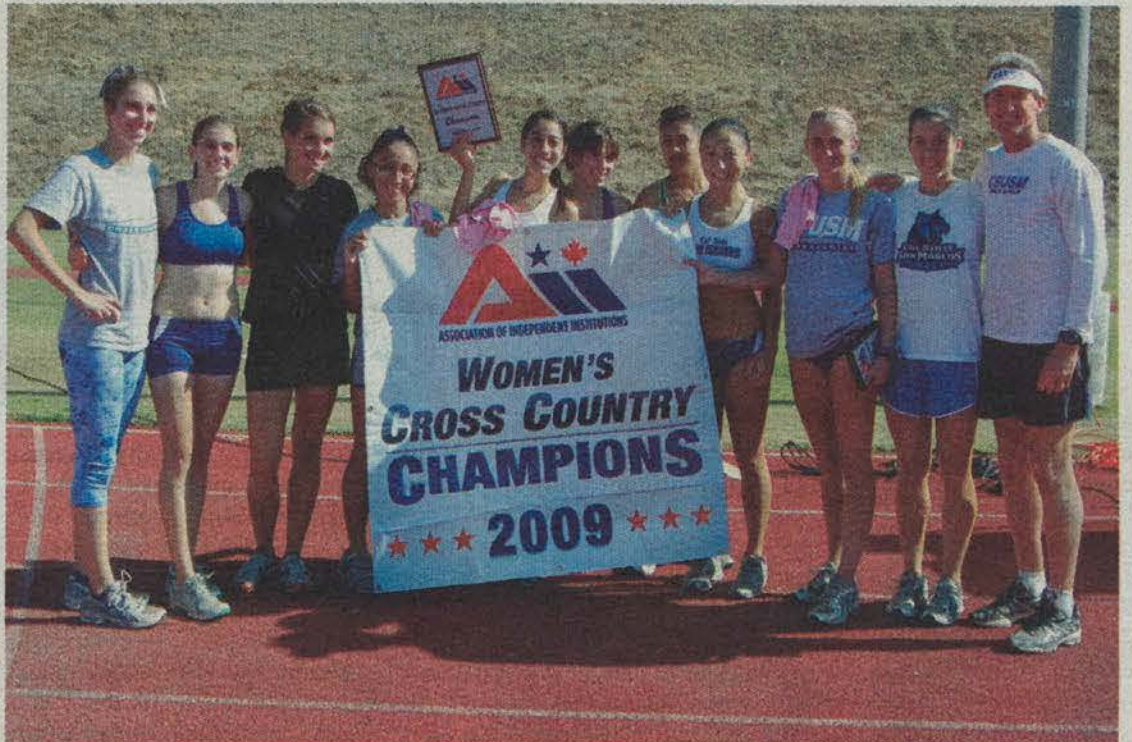
Running on their home course at Cal State San Marcos, the Cougars' got big efforts from their top-three runners, but Simon Fraser nearly edged them by placing five runners between spots 4 and 10 in the field. In the end, the national rankings held to form as CSUSM finished with 34 points, while Simon Fraser settled for second with 36. British Columbia placed third with 62 points, Soka took fourth at 125, and Johnson & Wales rounded out the field with 140 points.

CSU San Marcos' reigning All-American senior Dallan Williams made it her mission to win this race, and she did so quite impressively. Williams pulled away in the second half of the race, tying her own school record with a time of 16:55.

Thirty seconds later, fellow Cougar Caitlin Villarreal crossed the finish line, coming in at 17:25 to place second. And junior Jessica Sandoval, who distanced herself from a large field of runners late in the race, placed third at 17:39.

But the race was far from over, as British Columbia's super-steady team crossed the finish line one after another. Jessica Smith placed 4<sup>th</sup> at 17:48, Angela Shaw took 5<sup>th</sup> with a 17:50, Holly Stockall placed 8<sup>th</sup> at 18:04, Helen Croft took 9<sup>th</sup> at 18:08, and Ali Hudson placed 10<sup>th</sup> at 18:09.

British Columbia had Maggie Woodward and Sabrina Reeve place in the top-10, finishing 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> with times of 17:57 and 18:02, respectively.



Photos by Kyle Trembley

When CSU San Marcos' #4 runner Kelly Thompson and #5 runner Lindsey McKown crossed the finish line in 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> place, it was unclear who the team champion would

be. The Cougars' performance proved to be just enough to prevail.

CSU San Marcos Coach Steve Scott was named A.I.I. Coach of the Year, and the top-10 finish-

ers were named to the All-Conference Team. CSUSM earns the conference's automatic bid to the NAIA National Championships on November 21<sup>st</sup> in Vancouver, Washington.

## Beressa leads CSUSM Men's Cross-Country to A.I.I. Conference Championship

November 7, 2009

Muluken Beressa's school-record performance proved to be just the bump that CSU San Marcos needed, as the Cougar men's cross-country team pulled a mild upside by winning the Association of Independent Institutions (A.I.I.) Cross-Country Conference Championships on Saturday.

The race, held at Cal State San Marcos, featured a talented five team field, including #5 British Columbia, #7 CSU San Marcos, and #12 Simon Fraser. Soka University and Johnson & Wales also competed, and Southwestern College sent three runners.

In a battle that went all the way down to the wire, CSU San Marcos pulled out the narrow victory, with their team score of 39 narrowly edging Simon Fraser's 41. British Columbia was close behind but settled for third place with a 44. Soka finished fourth with 131, and Johnson & Wales took fifth with 135 points.

Early on, a group of three runners - Kevin Friesen from Simon Fraser, and Dave Edwards and Beressa from CSU San Marcos - separated themselves from the pack, and would continue to pull ahead as the race progressed. Edwards fell back in the final mile,

leaving Friesen and Beressa neck-and-neck for the last few hundred meters of the race. Cheered on by a raucous home crowd, Beressa prevailed, crossing the finish line with a time of 24:14. Friesen would finish one second behind at 24:15.

Beressa's time breaks the CSUSM school record, previously set by Juan Mejia in 2007, by one second as well.

Edwards cruised to a third place finish in the meet at 24:42. Simon Fraser's Ryan Brockerville took fourth at 24:53, and British Columbia runners Kerry Kazuta and Ben Thistlewood placed fifth

and sixth, running 24:54 and 25:06, respectively.

CSUSM's top-5 runners all finished in the top-17 at the meet. Chris Capeau placed 8<sup>th</sup> at 25:20, Pat Fitzgerald 10<sup>th</sup> at 25:23, and Chris Strasheim 27<sup>th</sup> at 26:27.

Simon Fraser saw Keir Forrester take 7<sup>th</sup> at 25:18, David Wambui place 12<sup>th</sup> at 25:28, and Mitchell Culley take 16<sup>th</sup> at 26:14. CSUSM's team time was a mere two seconds faster than Simon Fraser's, 2:06:06 to 2:06:08.

British Columbia had Jordan Smith take 9<sup>th</sup> at 25:23, Nigel Hole place 11<sup>th</sup> with a 25:27, and Eric Cameron finish 13<sup>th</sup> at 25:45.

Following the completion of the race, there were tense moments as the results were calculated. When the underdog Cougars were announced the winner, both the crowd and team exploded in cheers.

CSU San Marcos coach Steve Scott was named A.I.I. Coach of the Year following the race, and the top-10 individual finishers were named to the All-Conference Team. CSU San Marcos earns the conference's automatic bid to Nationals on November 21<sup>st</sup> in Vancouver, Washington, where the team will look to improve on last year's 12<sup>th</sup> place finish.



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# Hits of Sunshine

## DJ Shadow

BY AMY SALISBURY  
Copy Editor

Ask yourself this: what are DJs famous for? They sample music, patch together bits and pieces to make tracks two hours long, and have pretty cool names. The point is, a DJ's status as an "artist" just isn't warranted the way a songwriter's is.

I've already thought heavily about sampling: artists taking "pieces" of songs and more or less recycling them as parts of a new whole. Most songwriters will just take a riff or a break (percussion) to loop while they compose on top of it. Most DJs rely on the entirety of a song to produce material, sometimes in the form of remixes.

So, titles aside, there are definitely varying degrees of talent among DJs. On the lower end, we have the guy who DJed your Junior Prom. And on the upper echelon of DJ glory, we have DJ Shadow.

DJ Shadow, born Joshua Davis, warrants the designation of artist. His collaborations with musicians span genres and trends, and his solo work retains mass appeal among listeners, critics, and fellow artists. With a career exceeding two decades, DJ Shadow's hold on the future of hip hop is as strong as it has ever been.

Big names outside of hip hop call upon Shadow for his fresh spin on music (yes, the pun was intended). In 1998, he worked with U.N.K.L.E. to produce a few tracks for their second debut album, *Psyence Fiction*.

Long story short, Shadow became a temporary member of U.N.K.L.E. The current members, James Lavelle and Pablo Clements, discarded all old material, and the three went on to create a new sound. The list of guests on that album grew to include members of Radiohead, Beastie Boys, The Verve, and Metallica. Don't forget about Shadow's multitude of remixes. An investigation into



Images courtesy Scott Sanders

that segment of his work requires attention beyond what an ordinary remix might need.

The Bay Area hyphy movement also owes much of its initial construction to Shadow. His home base of San Jose put him at the center of development in the early 90s. When hyphy came to national attention in the mid 2000s, a documentary featured Shadow along with several other musicians supportive of the movement, including founder, Keak Da Sneak.

Shadow's debut album, *Endtroducing...*, remains a stepping-stone within his niche. Released in 1996, Guinness World Records recognized it as the first album created solely from music sampling in 2001. Innovative and daring, *Endtroducing...* includes an overwhelming amount of artists to create an entirely new sound and feeling unique to Shadow.

Rumors purport that a shift in Shadow's work will be apparent with the release of new work. With that, the DJing world will inevitably shift with it.

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# DROPPING:

## CD RELEASES

Tuesday, Nov. 10 By Sandra Chalmers / A&E Editor



**ROCK**  
**Memento Mori**  
FLYLEAF

This girl, Lacey Mosley, can rock out and keep up with the boys. This highly anticipated album, since their first self-titled debut that went platinum, is packed with more emotion, intense lyrics and songs that are bound to land a spot on the next guitar hero.

The CD comes in a deluxe edition that features a two-disc CD with four bonus tracks.



**POP**  
**The Singles Collection**  
BRITNEY SPEARS

17 tracks channeling through Britney's rollercoaster of chart topping singles all included on one CD. Taking fans back to 1999, with Britney's first hit single "Baby, One More Time" and bringing them to 2009 with sexually inspired "If U Seek Amy."



**ROCK**  
**Helio Hurricane**  
SWITCHFOOT

Switchfoot calls San Diego home and after turning into an MTV band through the great success of their album "Beautiful Letdown." These Christian boys rock out with new electronic experimental sounds.



**ROCK**  
**Live at Royal Albert Hall**  
THE KILLERS

This two-disc deluxe edition CD/DVD combo gives fans the opportunity to see The Killers raging on stage without leaving their home. The audio CD features 17 tracks including "Sam's town" acoustic. The DVD features 28 live performance songs, with The Killers deep in their musical element.

Images courtesy of amazon.com



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# Coming to theaters

BY BILL RHEIN  
Senior Staff Writer

WIDE RELEASE  
2012

Starring John Cusack and  
Thandie Newton  
Directed by Roland Emmerich



Image courtesy of Sony Pictures

Emmerich, who has directed other disaster flicks, including "The Day After Tomorrow," put his interpretation on the end of the world according to the end of the Mayan calendar.

Pirate Radio  
Starring Philip Seymour Hoff-

man, Bill Nighy, and Nick Frost

Directed by Richard Curtis

This comedy, which was supposed to come out during the summer, is about a radio station airing from an offshore ship to avoid broadcasting regulations.

LIMITED RELEASE

The Fantastic Mr. Fox

Starring George Clooney, Meryl Streep, and Bill Murray  
Directed by Wes Anderson

This animated flick, inspired by the Roald Dahl book of the same name, features several regulars to Wes Anderson films in a quirky tale about the lives of forest critters.

The Messenger

Starring Woody Harrelson and Ben Foster

Directed by Oren Moverman

This intense drama focuses on the soldiers who inform family

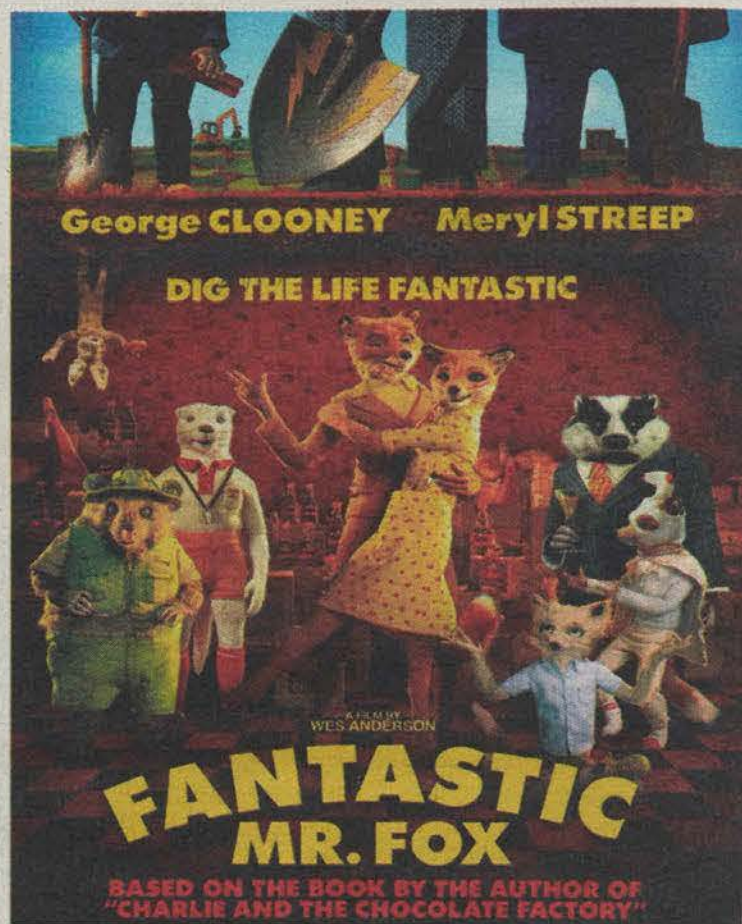


Image courtesy of 20th Century Fox

members of their relatives' deaths in combat.

Dare

Starring Emmy Rossum and Zach Gilford

Directed by Adam Salky

Three friends become involved in a complicated love triangle in this teen drama.

Women in Trouble

Starring Carla Gugino and Adrienne Palicki

Directed by Sebastian Gutierrez

The paths of eight troubled women cross in one day in this drama set in Los Angeles.

## Come stare at the Men Who Stare at Goats in a theater near you!

BY MAEVE CAMPLISSON  
Pride Staff Writer

"The Men Who Stare at Goats," which opened Nov. 6, 2009, starred Ewan McGregor as a very different type of Jedi than viewers have seen him portray before. McGregor plays Bob Wilton, a down on his luck journalist who travels to Kuwait to sniff out a story. While there, he runs into Lin "Skip" Cassidy, played by George Clooney, who introduces him to "The New Earth Army" which is a unit of the army aimed to find alternative and non-violent forms of combat such as psychic power and Jedi-like mental manipulation.

In flashbacks, the camouflaged soldiers practiced yoga, grew out long hair, exchanged flowers, and

danced to Billy Idol as part of their training. Skip explains the history, fall, and rebuilding of this program to Bob as they head through sand dunes and war zones on what seems to be a wild goose chase, or more literally, a wild goat chase.

The most enjoyable part of this film is the healthy mixture of dry satire and slapstick humor. The dialogue is simply phenomenal, and the chemistry between McGregor as a serious journalist and Clooney as a whimsical, yet serious "Jedi Warrior" is spot on. Surprisingly, McGregor never breaks the fourth wall with quite a few instances of quoting lines from "Star Wars" movies in which he played the young Obi Wan Kenobi. The humor comes from the context and delivery of lines, and it is never self-referen-

tial. George Clooney is always very entertaining to watch, and although many of his fast-talking alpha-male characters tend to be somewhat static, this film really delves into Skip's memories, ethical conflicts, beliefs, and his growth over time.

Flashbacks make up a large portion of this movie, and they range from heart touching to side-splitting, but some of them drag on too long for the pacing of the plot. At times, the flashback goes on for so long that the viewer may forget where the characters are in the present.

The opening scenes, a title screen claims "more of this is true than you'd believe." This may seem laughable in that it is basically a movie about men staring so hard at goats that their hearts

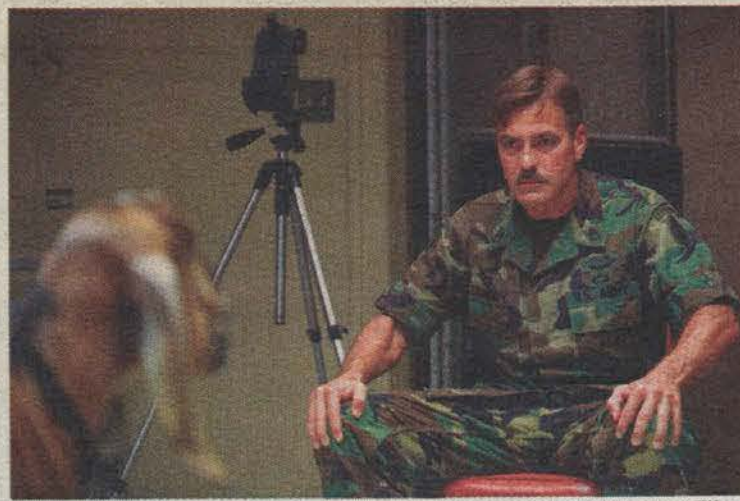


Image courtesy of Overture Films

actually stop. However, when it comes to issues such as maturity, disappointment, budding friendships, and personal ethics, the movie is indeed very true to life.

This movie is completely hilari-

ous from the wacky visuals to the sly writing, and I would recommend it to anyone who wants a few hearty belly laughs complete with a side of emotion and inspiration.

## What to see on DVD

BY BLAINE H MOGIL  
Pride Staff Writer

How does one present movies filled with sadness and make them desirable to see? Perhaps by trying to look at the silver lining and these films contain that silver lining, but I'll leave it to you to find them.

This week, these three films would be difficult to categorize other than to say they are excellent. Although they share sadness, they diverge in many other ways. Some believe that to truly appreciate joy one must truly experience sorrow. So if you want to watch some movies to get you happy, here we go.

"Yesterday" is a story about the title character, a South African woman, and her struggles to get by in a remote village. By our standards of living, her standard is poor at best,

but we should see from her strength and joyous outlook on life, that maybe her standard of living is not poor in contrast to ours, only different. She has a young daughter named Beauty and a husband who works far away in a mine to support the family. The story takes a hard look at AIDS and HIV in South Africa and provides what seems an honest, albeit harsh, look at the problem. All aspects of this film excel, from the screenplay to the acting, cinematography, to the story itself. There are no weak points to this film. For that reason, it is well worth watching, but if you look for the deeper meaning, buried just below the surface, you will be richly rewarded.

What to See \*\*\*\*

"The Notebook," starring Ryan Gosling and Rachel McAdams will touch you in ways and make the tears

flow like few other films. At least it did for me. I went in well warned and still it hit hard. The film has very much to recommend, like "Yesterday" on all levels. In this film, there is not only great cinematography but also some scenes that will take your breath away from their fairytale surrealism. The scenes take the viewers back in time of simple summer love that grows into something extraordinary. The one potentially weak aspect of the film was the slow and, what I felt, plodding start. Most great films don't seem to risk potentially losing viewers early on, but the risk pays off handsomely in this film. In fact, the emotion builds steadily throughout the entire film like a locomotive, and then unloads on you all at once. This is a knockout piece. If you know love, then this film is a must see. If you don't know love,

then watch this film and you will.

What to See \*\*\*\*\*

"Thelma and Louise" is a gal-pal movie starring Susan Sarandon and Geena Davis. Yes, as a movie reviewer (of age), I should have seen this film long before now, but being married assures that no chick flick goes unviewed. Chick Flick is not a derogatory term, it just delineates that the film is geared to a female audience, just as Jackie Chan films are aimed at guys. Once again, this is a top-flight production with great performances by the leading ladies, and great support from Harvey Keitel. It seems that this film has developed not only a cult following, but has grown to reach nearly mythological proportions as a tour de force for empowering women. It runs the range of emotions from serious to giddy, and even ventures

into campy waters at times. Perhaps the one thing that does tie these three films tightly together is the impression they will each emblazon on your memory. So take your friends' hands and take a fly at these three great films. What to See \*\*\*\*



Image courtesy of New Line Cinema