

Students team up with Habitat For Humanity in Cleveland ASI's Alternative Spring Break provides life changing experiences to all involved

BY KEVIN CHATHAM Pride Staff Writer

While many spring breakers nationwide went to places like Cancun and Miami to party, sun bathe, and have fun, a handful of Cal State San Marcos students worked in conjunction with Habitat for Humanity to build a house in Cleveland, Ohio.

Alternative Spring Break is an annual spring event hosted and sponsored by Associated Students, Inc., the student government on campus. ASI provides students with the unique opportunity to experience an alcohol-free "alternative spring break."

The program involves CSUSM students volunteering their spring break in order to give back to the community. A small group of students and faculty members embark on a location outside of the immediate San Diego area to assist communities that need help. In the past, ASI has



worked closely with Habitat for Humanity to participate in community service in cities across the country such as Oakland, New Orleans, and most recently, Cleveland.

Alternative Spring Break is a unique opportunity that empowers students to have an impact in less fortunate communities.

"For me, it's about making life changing experiences one step at a time," said Kyle Gregory, a junior at CSUSM.

Gregory is a veteran Alternative Spring Break participant having attended Alternative Spring Break 2008 in New Orleans.

"It was really cool going a second time," Gregory stated with a smile.

Alternative Spring Break requires participants to apply for consideration during the previous fall semester. Alternative Spring Break hopefuls must submit an application and undergo an interview process in order to be eligible to participate.

This year, ASI accepted a diverse population of about ten CSUSM students to participate in the event. Students include members of ASI, the Orientation Team, UVA residents, and commuters. Students were required to attend informational meeting a couple times throughout the semester in order to plan and bond before the trip to Cleveland.

The entire trip costs students \$300 dollars individually with the vast majority of the expenses covered by ASI.

During their stay at Cleveland, two faculty members, Coordinator of New Student Programs Jennie Goldman and Rodger D'Andreas, Director of LGBTA Pride Center, accompanied the students.



tion.

"We were digging trenches for the house plumbing and doing a lot of manual labor," D'Andreas added, "It was rewarding but hard work."

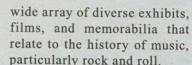
Students also found the poverty in Cleveland as an extremely sobering experience. "My best experience was once we got lost," Alternative Spring Break participant Cindy Falla said. "We got to see the real side of Cleveland. The reality of poverty and the next day we were able to build houses."

Falla added that witnessing poverty first hand made her thankful and eager to help the community. When asked why she applied, Susanna Firgueroa replied, "When I came back from Spring Break I wanted to feel like I accomplished something." Although the students and faculty members worked hard during the day, they also had some opportunities to explore Cleveland and attend exciting events. "It was cold. We got to see

Photos by Susana Figueroa

snow!" D'Andreas said. "We had the amazing opportunity to see the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum. It was definitely a highlight."

The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum is one of Cleveland's cultural highlights. The museum offers a



Another highlight of the event included an opportunity to participate in a Home Dedication Ceremony. Although participants helped build the foundation of a home while they were in Cleveland, they were had the opportunity to present a finished home to a fortunate family.

"The entire family was there," D'Andreas said.

Participants noted that it was an emotional event that gave them the opportunity to see the fruits of their labors. D'Andreas stated that the family was grateful to receive the home as well as several certificates to various home improvement stores like Lowes and Home Depot.

To the participants of Alternative Spring Break 2009 Cleveland, the experience was valuable and memorable. Many participants left Cleveland feeling accomplished and fulfilled.

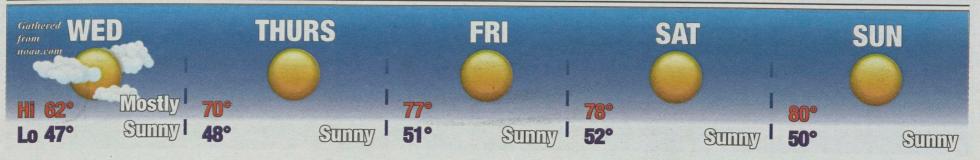
Next fall, any students looking to spend the next spring break with a healthy combination of community service and fun should make sure to keep their eyes open for Alternative Spring Break 2010 applications.

"It's something that not everyone gets to experience," said Emily Rhem. "Being a part of it was amazing. I am thrilled to have had the opportunity. It was awesome."



"The highlight of the excursion was getting to work with students," D'Andreas said. "Spending time with them and working on a project together was amazing."

During their experience, the small group of individuals came together through a mutual collaborative effort. They spent the day helping build a home that was in the beginning stages of construc-



Viewpoint

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SEX 101! Anniversaries

BY IVAN GARCIA Pride Staff Writer

Hopefully you remember them, otherwise the only gift you'll be receiving is a big smack in the mouph (yes, it's an offshoot of the word "mouth," get used to it). Whether it be March 2,

April 5, or you simply don't remember, an anniversary is a time to celebrate a union with your partner and reflect on all the great and not so great times you've had with one another.

Let's focus more on the happier side of a relationship's anniversary, which raises the question: What makes a good anniversary? For starters, remembering it makes for a great anniversary already. Society, the media, and just general word of mouth has shown us all that forgetting an anniversary could lead to more than a few nights on the coach (and lord knows that's uncomfortable).

Even though I'm currently drilling the idea of letting people know to never forget an anniversary, what about the idea of knowing when to celebrate and how? What should many do for their significant others and how often? And the answer is: it's up to you. Honestly, it's up to you to decide when and how often you decide to celebrate an anniversary.

Don't be a creeper. Celebrating every week might be a little much. You might as well be waiting outside their window with a boom box, playing Niki FM by Hawthorne Heights (anybody else remember that song?). Personally, I try celebrating every month, and by celebrating it, I mean acknowledging it and maybe getting a nice lunch or dinner. We're all on a



budget S 0 let's not go completely all out. How

you know when to go all out? Usually, it's best to really plan something nice out for an anniversary every six months.

do

Typically, a six-month, one-year, etc. anniversary is the best time to acknowledge this unity. Making it to six months or a year are quite the accomplishments, so why not let him/her know that you still care about them after all that time? When it comes to anniversaries that celebrate at least six months of togetherness, make sure to make it meaningful instead of something that you think they might want.

Yes, I'm sure all people could think of the most romantic thing they could ever hope for (eating donuts and bacon off your lover's body, anyone?), but it may not always be the best choice. While a romantic dinner at a fancy restaurant followed by dancing and a long walk on the beach may seem like the perfect idea, it could also be the most cliché. I mean, anybody could think that just by watching an episode of "Friends."

Make it meaningful, find something that you both love, and make it your own. You both like astronomy, ice cream, and relaxing? Then go somewhere secluded with a telescope and picnic basket full of Ben & Jerry's, and just star gaze. It is romantic and something that you both love, so why not enjoy something you both have an affinity for? Either that or you could go to a dinner and a show (if that's the case, why not go to Benihana? Where dinner is the show?).

Bill of Rights

The explosion of mockumentaries

BY BILL RHEIN Senior Staff Writer

Film and television makers tossed around the term "mockumentary" in the mid 20th century, but it was not until 1984, when Rob Reiner made "This is

Spinal Tap," that there was concrete mainstream mockumentary.

Now, mockumentaries are seemingly everywhere in theaters and on television. A mockumentary is a fictitious film or television program shot like a documentary and attempts to look realistic. The results are often comedies in a British style, which is subtler than outlandish humor popular in the U.S.

Through the 1990's, some directors produced the occasional mockumentary, but Christopher Guest truly proliferated the genre. Guest, who starred in "This is Spinal Tap," first made "Waiting for Guffman," a fictional documentary about a small town producing a play for the area's sesquicentennial

Guest has also given us fictional documentaries about the obscure, such as dog shows in "Best in Show" and a folk rock reunion in "A Mighty Wind."

As a result of Guest's work. a new wave of actors and directors continue to expand the mockumentary.

Ricky Gervais created the BBC comedy



"The Office" as a mockumentary about office life. His series exploded to spin off in several different countries, including the U.S. version starring Steve Carell.

Sasha Baron Cohen is also a maverick with

the mockumentary. First, he had success in the U.K. and U.S. with "Da Ali G Show," where he played three journalist characters.

Cohen took one of them, Borat, to the big screen, which became a controversial and challenging comedy. He looks like he will continue this as the trailer for a film about another of his characters, Brüno, came out recently.

The genre also encompasses serious films, such as "Cloverfield," "Quarantine," and "The Blair Witch Project." These action horror films tell the story by making the camera part of the story. The singular perspective creates tension and only the film footage can tell the story in the end.

The mockumentary is a unique deviant in the comedy genre, though it not limited to humor. It uses silence and awkward moments rather than laugh tracks and extraordinary circumstances. Thanks to innovated filmmakers, this breed of humor has flourished and should continue to do so for the audience's delight.



Image by moviewallpapers.net

Letters to the editor

On March 26, 2009, the Relief, and Development, Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act was reintroduced in the House and Senate.

This piece of legislation might be the only hope for undocumented students. positive contributors of this country.

Undocumented students face the cruel uncertainty that comes with graduating from college and not being able to use their college degree. These students lack access to financial aid, ability to legally work, get a driver's license, work study and student loans. Throughout K-12, they were told that hard work and effort pays off, yet they have to deal with a reality check different from what they were told in the classroom.

Many of these students grew up saluting the U.S. flag and identify as American. The only thing that makes them different is the lack of a legal status. They deserve an opportunity to access higher education and legally work. If the Dream Act the House and Senate please were to pass, it would give

ask you to help out these students by doing any of the following things:

1) Call your representatives and ask them to Co-Sponsor the Dream Act. To call contact your Representatives in

mous letters.

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The Pride

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Today, some students may find themselves in limbo due to their status, especially if they are pursuing a higher education and are not able to legally work. Higher education should be available to all, especially to those wanting to become

To the Editor,

I have long looked at the campus newspaper with a mix of curiosity and disappointment. The Pride is interesting enough if you're looking for columns that discuss sex acts by thirteen year olds or reviews of the best alcoholic beverages (you know, the things about which every college student needs to know), but seldom has there been anything of great substance in The Pride.

At first, I thought that this was because there were few opportunities for real journalism on campus. Having served on a school newspaper in the past, I understand that there is a certain amount of puff that is inevitable in every newspaper. But for this issue, an opportunity for serious journalism fell right into your laps, and you ignored it.

Instead of putting a big fat question mark where the ASI President's photo should be and

access to higher education for undocumented students, allowing them to contribute back to this country, helping boost the economy.

Thus, as a strong supporter and firm believer of higher education and social justice, I

call the switchboard operator at 202-224-3121

2) Sign the petition, which will automatically send a letter to your Members of Congress urging them to cosponsor the DREAM Act. Go to: http:// dreamact2009.com/ Gricelda Alva

leaving us to wonder, The Pride might have explained why there were no results for the ASI President.

I can't see why The Pride's thriving Arts & Entertainment section is more important than who will be leading the ASI in the next term. After all, the issues of tuition and fee increases are not trivialities and must merit at least the same attention as the reviews featured in this issues massive A&E section. With four

pages of Arts & Entertainment, plus a full page of columns, a full page of classifieds/ads, The Pride's lack of coverage on the election is conspicuous.

Until this issue, I didn't think that a quarter-page mention of the presidential results was too much to ask. The Pride has a unique responsibility to inform the student population, and currently the paper is not meeting that responsibility. Thomas Apple

Viewpoint

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Faces & Places

Career Center hosts spring job fair Employers provide opportunity for those who are ready

BY JAMES SEBRING Pride Staff Writer

The Career Center will hold its 2009 CSUSM Job Fair on Tuesday, April 14 at the Forum Plaza in front of Kellogg Library from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The primary targets for the employers are CSU students who graduated or will soon graduate, but there are also future job availabilities, training programs, part-time employment, and internships available. Any alumni or students are welcome to attend.

Most employers present will have current openings or will be here to promote future openings and training programs they may have to offer. There will be between 50 and 60 employers. According to Ron Gaschler, Career Center Director, this is "approximately 60% of our usual turn out due to the economy. In the past, we have had as many as 100-110 employers at this event."

For a list of participating companies, students can visit www.csusm.edu/careers. Employers expect students to be prepared.

"They shouldn't just happen by, hung over from the party the night before, on their skate board in cut offs and a tank top, but we have seen it all. They should dress to impress, at least business casual and more," Gaschler says.

For those who may not be familiar with business professional attire, it simply means you should have shirt and tie, suit if possible. Women should consider a modest dress or suit.

"In this economy, it is competitive, and first impressions always have been and more than ever are everything," Gaschler stresses.

Students should have a resume to share with the employer, printed on quality bonded paper. The "Students often under estimate the importance of first impressions, their attire and having a professional resume that markets them well at a job fair. They have just a few seconds to make a lasting impression and we see some horrible resumes. Applicants need to take time in preparing for their job search and utilize resources such as the Career Counselors in the Career Center in Craven Hall 1400," Gaschler says.

According to a Career Builder survey in March 2009, 38% of HR Managers spend 1-2 minutes reviewing a new application. That is very little time for the resume to grab their attention and give them valid reason to schedule the candidate for an interview.

Gaschler relates that many students just drop by sort of window shopping, looking for what they want but walk away if they don't see it right off. Students need to understand this is a networking opportunity. Other opportunities are available either as a college graduate or later in their career path if they just get their foot in the door.

Students looking for work in a global company with their degree in marketing or global business management may overlook companies like Wells Fargo who have global opportunities. Employers such as large banks have high volume recruiting roles. They are developing positions that are entry level and may or may not require a college degree for their pool of talent. They often promote into other positions within the company as well. Positions such as a Human Resource Assistant or Human Resource Manager are not necessarily presented at a job fair, however the company representative may know who to put a student or alumni in contact with for such an opportunity.

On the job fair, Gaschler adds, "It is about networking and good first impressions."

CoBA welcomes new business societies

BY DIANA VALDIVIA Pride Staff Writer

The Cougar Marketing Association, Entrepreneur Association, and Human Resources Management Society are all new business student organizations. "The Pride" had the opportunity to find out a bit more about these organizations.

Cougars Marketing Association (CMA)

One of the newest business organizations is the Cougar Marketing Association (CMA). "The Pride" interviewed CMA's president, AJ Bautista, to give us information on this new student organization.

Valdivia: What is CMA?

Bautista: We are the student organization representing marketing here at Cal State San Marcos. We hope to build and maintain a relationship with the students of the marketing emphasis although in being interested to join, it is not necessary to be a marketing major. We understand that there was a lacking sense of community on campus. With the CMA, we want to build that feeling of togetherness, to grow as a community, as a family even.

Valdivia: Why do you think students should join your student organization?

Bautista: In collaboration with the very supportive and helpful staff, along

with the strong willed creativity, determination, and dedication of our officers, we want to create lasting relationships and opportunities for the future of our members. No one wants to dive into the real world not knowing what to expect. The CMA can help you better your understanding, by means of networking, socializing at networking events, learning how the big shots got to where they are today, and learn a thing or two about marketing while you're at it. It's a tough world out there and who else to learn from besides your teachers on campus, but through your peers, through us, the CMA!

Valdivia: Do you have any upcoming events?

Bautista: We have a speaker coming from Stone Brewery, Chris Cochran. He's the marketing coordinator from that outstanding and hugely successful establishment. He's going to share with us Stone's success story, as well as his individual successes, and give us a few pointers about marketing. Also, just like our first event, we'll have prizes, some that value over \$120. In addition, what event wouldn't be complete without food? Our tentative date is April 23 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in MARK 125. Be sure to be on the lookout for any updates!

Valdivia: How can students get involved?

Bautista: Search for us on Facebook!

Enter Cougar Marketing Association on the search bar, or you can contact my email address at bauti012@cougars. csusm.edu, or even Tyler Stoll, our Director of PR, Internal Affairs at stoll002@ cougars.csusm.edu. Any questions, just forward them over to us!

Entrepreneur Association

As of right now, there is not an entrepreneurship option under the Business program but it does not limit the desire of students here in CSUSM to have such option. The Entrepreneur Association is yet another new business student organization to start to build a legacy of its own. "The Pride" interviewed the Entrepreneur Association's Vice-President, Michael Heuser, to explain what this new student organization is about.

Valdivia: What is the Entrepreneur Association?

Heuser: Currently, we are not an association. Our current objective is to generate the appropriate interest and to move on from there. We have had a great response from many students with varying majors. Our goal is to bring likeminded students together in an environment where we can all work on old ideas, evolve them, or create new ones in an innovative way while turning them into a reality.

Valdivia: Why do you think students should join your student organization?

Heuser: This organization has many goals, however our primary objective is to collect as many likeminded people as possible, and cater to each individual's needs. By getting together, we can brainstorm ideas for our own businesses, learn and share more about start up business marketing, financing, and so on or hear it from the business men and women who have done it themselves including CSUSM alumni and faculty. first meeting will have the opportunity to help us name the organization, as well as sign themselves up for potential leadership positions such as treasury, and other officers. The first meeting's attendance numbers will influence what we can do as far as becoming an organization and showing CSUSM that we as students are interested in pursuing entrepreneurial studies. You can contact President David Hunter and myself via email at csusmentrepreneurs@gmail.com. You can also search for that email on Facebook or Myspace and add us as a friend for info and updates!

Human Resource Management Society (HRMS)

Lastly Adam Flores, Treasurer of Human Resource Management Society, describes what HRMS is and how students can get involved.

Valdivia: What is HRMS?

Flores: HRMS stands for the Human Resource Management Society. As a newly formed organization on campus, we are creating exciting events for HRMS such as resume critiques from professionals in the HR field, guest speakers, and many others in the works. We are lucky to be affiliated with the Society of Human Resource Management, SHEM, the world's largest professional organization devoted to Human Resource Management in the world, and we are also working with San Diego SHRM for local events.

Valdivia: Why do you think students should join your student organization? Flores: Joining HRMS gives students an opportunity to learn, network, grow, and evolve towards becoming a business professional. Joining an organization such as HRMS is perfect for a resume! Also, HRMS gives students a chance to network with HR professionals from major companies in San Diego. Just think, knowing or having something in common with the person hiring you.

SEX PERT

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Valdivia: Do you have any upcoming events?

Heuser: Actually, our first event is this coming Tuesday, April 14. It will be in MARK 125 during University Hour. This meeting will be to inform students on what they can and will learn as a member of the organization. There will also be an explanation of the new business program emphasis geared towards entrepreneurs called "New Ventures."

Valdivia: How can students get involved?

Heuser: By attending the meeting on April 14. The students who come to this Valdivia: How can students get involved?

Flores: We are looking forward to hearing from any students interested in the field of Human Resources. Please email humanresourcemanagementsociety@ gmail.com if you would like to join this new and exciting organization! HRMS is currently working on having events such as a resume critique by HR professionals and planning to help students get internships at Target.

THE PRIDE

Faces & Places

Attempted strong-arm robbery near

BY SANDRA CHALMERS Senior Staff Writer

On Tuesday April 7, 2009 an attempted strong arm robbery took place on Barham Drive.

The victim, a non-CSUSM student, had reportedly just left University Village Apartments (UVA) around 9 pm on his way towards his parked car on Trade St. when he was grabbed from behind by a black male whom forcibly attempted to steal the victim's watch from his arm. The victim then proceeded to defend himself by hitting the suspect in the face, at which the suspect fled east on Barham Drive, according to the campus alert provided by the Office of Communications.

The suspect was described as

a clean shaven, black male in his

20's, approximately six feet tall, and weighing about 190 pounds. He was reported wearing a black baseball cap, black pants and a black hooded sweatshirt with the interior of the hood being red in color.

Anyone with any information connected to this crime are encouraged to contact campus police at 760-750-4567.

No weapons or vehicles were associated with the crime.

"There are no new developments and it is very unlikely that there will be," said Ronald Hackenberg, CSUSM's Chief of Police. "This is a very rare occurrence. It happens maybe once a year," continued Hackenberg on the frequency of strong arm robberies occurring around CSUSM.

Police are on duty 24 hours a day patrolling the campus," said Hackenberg. "We encourage people to park on campus whenever possible, or at least in a well lighted area." The victim, Hackenberg noted had parked off campus and was not in a safe or well-lit area.

"I am not scared, but (this incident) does make me a lot more aware of my surroundings," said Nicole Moretti, a Communications major. Moretti is enrolled in a night class that finishes at 9:45 pm.

Some safety tips include walking in groups of at least two or more, parking in well-lit areas and using the escort services provided by campus police.

The escort service is available to all students and faculty members from dusk till dawn.

Escorts will be provided to and from campus parking lots, campus buildings, immediate bus stops and areas immediately adjacent to campus property. A **Community Service Officer will** escort students or faculty members either by auto, bicycle or on foot, from a campus building to your vehicle, parking lot, or residence hall. To arrange an escort, call 760-750-4567.

"I can tell you from living here for 3 years myself and raising my 2 kids here at UVA, I felt it was very safe here and constantly saw our University Police officers around UVA," said Brian Dawson, the Residence Director at UVA. "We have a community policing stance here where officers look to interact with students on a regular basis so that if there is a problem, they

have people and resources they already know about."

There are no security guards on duty at UVA, nor is loitering allowed. All guests must be the responsibility of a UVA resident and present with the resident at all times or they will be escorted out, according to Dawson.

"We do a lot of communication though meetings and interactions with our residents to have them report any specious behavior," Dawson continued.

The Office of Communications sent a campus alert email on April 8 to the entire student body, faculty and staff members advising them of the recent situation.

Students are encouraged to program campus police's phone number 760-750-4567 in their cell phones and pay close attentions to their surroundings.

"The University Campus

International air promotes cultural diversity Upcoming

BY CONSUELO MARTINEZ Pride Staff Writer

The University Global Affairs Committee will be hosting its 7th Annual International Fair on April 16 in front of University Plaza from 11am to 2pm. The event aims to celebrate and enjoy the rich cultural traditions and diversity of CSUSM students. Programmed activities include West African drumming, hip-hop, cul- In the past, the event has served

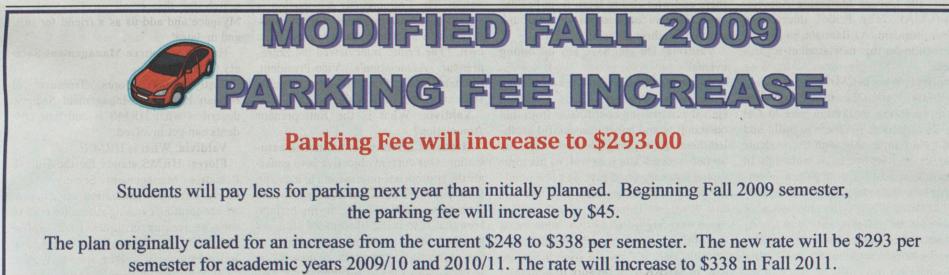
tural dances and an international fashion show. In addition to a variety of diverse entertainment, participants will be able to visit with sponsoring student organizations, while eating free international foods. The event will also include the opportunity to create your own peace flag. The peace flags will be hung at the event as a friendly gesture and sign of support for world peace and understanding.

500-700 attendees per year. This year's attendance is expected to match or outnumber attendance of previous years. Danielle McMartin, International Student Advisor with the Office of Global Affairs, says the event's goal is to support international students and promote cultural diversity at CSUSM. "The event held once a year in April is to demonstrate the appreciation for international students on campus and to celebrate offers resources for international

the rich cultural diversity on this campus," said McMartin.

In addition to celebrating international cultural diversity, the event aims to encourage students to study and travel abroad. "We want to spur interest in studying abroad and traveling the world for this to be an opportunity for more global understanding and awareness," added McMartin. The Office of Global Education students, and for anyone interested in travelling or studying abroad.

The free event scheduled for Thursday is made possible by the Office of Global Education, Associated Students, Inc., Student Life and Leadership and various student organizations. For more information about the International Fair, contact Danielle McMartin at dmcmarti@csusm. edu.



Fall permits go on sale 5/8/09 and will be available for purchase on-line, at the Parking Office in FCB 107, or at Cashiers in Cougar Central. Check our web site for payment options. Buy on-line by 8/17/09 and have your permit mailed to you. *Verify the mailing address you have on file with the campus is correct before purchase.*

PARKING PERMITS ARE REQUIRED AT ALL TIMES.

Parking News and Updates:

- Discounted parking permits will still be available. Park in Lots X, Y, or Z for \$220 which is a 25% discount off the full semester cost.
- MPP monthly rate will increase to \$75 per month effective September 1, 2009. Faculty/Staff parking fees are negotiated per bargaining unit contracts.
- Long Term Faculty/Staff permits that expire on 6/30/2009 will be extended to December 31, 2009. New permits will be issued for the 20th ** anniversary celebration in 2010.
- Temporary Lot T (next to Chavez Circle) is open and has over 100 parking spaces. Lot T is a general parking lot and will have some ** reserved Faculty/Staff spaces. No Overnight parking will be allowed in Lot T.
- The Parking Structure is scheduled to open in summer 2010. Upon completion, the parking structure will accommodate 1615 vehicles and ** service parking needs on the east side of campus.
- Campus View Drive extension is scheduled to be completed May, 2009. *
- Additional general and reserved Faculty/Staff parking has been added on Campus View Drive next to Parking Lot K and the USB ** building.
- New Bike Registration Program and Bike Lock Loaner Program coming for the fall 2009 semester. Bike lockers will be available for rent; check our web site for rates.
- Free shuttle service will continue to be provided to and from the Sprinter station. **

Parking and Commuter Services 760-750-7500 http://www.csusm.edu/parking/

Arts & Entertainment

What to see on DVD A mishmash of movies and television madness

BY BLAINE H. MOGIL Pride Staff Writer

It is fitting on this week of Passover that we take a look at our family favorite Seder flick. Seder is the celebration dinner of Passover. Combine this with a fine new release featuring Jim Carrey and blend in a mixed Britcom bowl of nuts and you have a great week of entertainment.

"When Do We Eat?" is a film which turns the Passover Seder on its head and provides a hilarious insiders take on this very holy tradition. If you are not Jewish, this film will provide some real insights as to why we are all so neurotic and find ourselves using humor as the cure for all that ails us. Michael Lerner leads the Seder as Ira Stuckman, a Christmas ornament manufacturer, and his wife Peggy is played by Lesley Ann Warren.

If ever you wanted a case study on a dysfunctional family dynamic, this film doesn't simply scratch the surface, it scratches through every layer of paint and gouges half way through the metal below. The Stuckmans have five grown children. Meredith Scott Lynn portrays Jennifer, the gay daughter by Ira's first wife. Max Greenfield plays Ethan, who has found God in the wake of the collapse of his Stock Market fortune and ends up bedding his cousin Vanessa, a sultry A- celebrity publicist played by Mili Avital. Daughter Nikki is a sex surrogate, Zeke is a druggy, and Lionel is, well... watch the film.

Jack Klugman plays the grandfather who has carried his "survival" suitcase with him everywhere for the past 60 years. As a holocaust survivor, he knows that "the bastards" could come and take you anytime.

The story zooms through the Passover celebration just as one might find at any reform celebration, yet in every manner elevated, higher and closer to God. This film is side splitting and at other times, very melancholy. The actors, story and emotions you share with this film seem genuine throughout and the acting is never forced and untrue to the story. One most surprising aspect of this film is the aesthetic. The colors leap from the screen, and at times the sound quality is divine. Welcome to the table, pull up a seat, and enjoy the spectacle. After we can search for the afi komen. Oy, this film is such a What to See **** "Yes Man" stars Jim Carrey as Carl Allen and Zooey Deschanel as Allison. The film is an adaptation of a book by Danny Wallace, a well-known British celebrity, writer, and producer. You will quickly see that this is not a mainstream Hollywood story. After viewing the trailer, my expectations for this film were quite

high. While the movie fell short of meeting those lofty expectations, it was perhaps because the film delivered a very different vibe from what the trailer promised.

Carrey provides all the insanity any viewer can handle as he attends a "Yes Man" seminar at the direction of his muse Nick. Nick almost magically reappears to help Carl find his lost life. Carl realizes that his life is not going well and becomes a "Yes Man," saying yes to every opportunity that comes his way. From here the movie takes flight and soars. Bungee jumping, studying Korean, learning to play guitar, and giving of himself, Carl rediscovers life and he finds love in Allison. Deschanel is an actor that seems often to play characters that are not a stretch for her, yet she seems so honest, real, and endearing that her performance, as here, is often key to making a given movie complete. There are no real weaknesses to be found in this movie, and the not so subtle life lesson is as important as they come. Consider this film to be one of life's most fun instructional videos. Watch, learn and enjoy. What to See **

"The IT Crowd" television series on DVD is a personal new discovery. It even has a tie in with "Yes Man," as Danny Wallace played a character named Paul in the pilot episode of this series. British comedy cannot be easily defined, and it is not easily contained. From "Benny Hill" to "Monty Python" to "Absolutely Fabulous," there is nothing to tie the wide variety of humor together apart from the British accent.

Sometimes locating great foreign television can be a great challenge. This time, "IT" was in my Netflix "Movies You'll Love" section. Even better was that "IT" is an instant play selection. Chris O'Dowd is Roy, a loud Irish tech who at times misses many important and subtle signals as life plays out before him. Richard Ayoade plays Maurice 'Moss' Moss. Ayoade writes, acts, and directs, and here, Moss is simply short on the brainpower needed to provide excellent IT support to anyone. He is not stupid, but a bit daft. These two fine specimens of IT support work in a basement and are overseen by the computer illiterate IT department head Jen, played with great zeal by Katherine Parkinson. While the pilot is cute and fun, it seems that each new episode I watch gets progressively more biting, more outrageous, and more fun to watch. You might say that this is the television equivalent of a cup of Starbucks coffee with an added big splash of laughs. The first taste gets you hooked, and each additional episode pulls you in deeper. What to See ****

Dunshine

Doves

BY AMY SALISBURY Faces and Places Editor

There's a reason bands open for other bands. Most of the time, it's simply because they're just not good enough to get a headlining tour of their own. They have their managers put in a good word at the record label, and join up with bands surpassing their musical aptitude with the hopes of putting another good word in with the fans.

The attempts aren't always successful. Unless the venue is standing room only, chances are, most concertgoers won't arrive until the main act takes the stage. You can imagine my surprise when the opening act at a certain concert happened to trump the band I planned on loving.

I'd heard of Doves before this day, but hadn't given them much of a second thought. No doubt they were just another English Indie band riding The Beatles' coattails, right?

Not quite. Doves formed in 1998 after Jez and Andy Williams' band, Sub Sub, dissolved



after 13 years. After Jimi Goodwin joined the duo, Doves released three EPs. In 2000, their first album, "Lost Souls," garnered much critical praise. Though Doves had consistent radio play in the UK, their fan base failed to cross the pond. In 2002, the band released "The Last Broadcast." Still, Doves flew under the radar. Their third album, "Some Cities," shot up to number 1 on the Billboard UK charts and finally caught attention in America. Key tracks like "Black and White Town" and "Sky Starts Falling" catalyzed Doves' success, and allowed them to open for bands including Coldplay, U2, and Oasis.

Image courtesy of Fmylife.com

"Darker," off "Lost Souls," is exactly that. The song starts off with an affected, electronic bass line. A lead guitar slices through ethereal lyrics. Each note is chaotic yet crafted, weaving a melody of intricacies with just enough light to express just how cold the "bad snow" is.

Doves released their fourth studio album, "Kingdom of Rust," on April 9. They are currently headlining an international tour through mid-June. Catch the band in Southern California on May 14 at House of Blues, San Diego, May 15 at House of Blues, Anaheim, and May 16 at The Wiltern in Los Angeles.



could Fmylife.com. be Sometimes, because of certain everyday circumstances and situations, we find that one fact of life is that life freaking sucks sometimes. There is nothing eye catching about the site, but the content in which it holds can be described as weird, sad, and sometimes hilarious all at the same time. No one is safe from the possibility of having one of those days that literally make you say in some form or fashion say "F*** my Life!" According to the website, Fmylife.com is "a collection of everyday anecdotes

and stories likely to happen

to anyone and everyone,

sent to us exclusively by

our users, which we then

publish on the site."

Okay. So it's an ongoing blog about the F-Bombs of everyday living. In other words, sharing is caring in the sense that everyone is stricken with moments that make a person feel that life is just f***ed up and that it is important to vent. Fmylife.com gives people the chance to release the negative energy caused by such perils to others on the World Wide Web.

These posts begin with 'Today..." and end with "FML" (F*** My Life) and are intended "to be fun to read and can be enjoyed on a daily basis." There are various categories in which readers and FML bloggers can post to: Love, Money, Kids, Work, Health, and Sex. Readers are even able to partake in their judgment on the posts by clicking whether the individual deserved what happened to them or if they agree with the author that their life does indeed suck.

I guess it is kind of weird to form some sort of smile out of someone else's misery, but the underlying theme of Fmylife.com is not to simply judge whether life is f***ed but that we all have f***ed up days, and everyone needs and has every right to expel their frustrations, hurt, and anger surrounding the happenings of the day through any medium possible.

Arts & Entertainment

neverending story Popcorn storytelling

The lake came into view from beneath the dark mist as the golden light of dawn bathed everything in its path. The fog, stretching across the lake, began to melt away. I was alone on the beach, sitting with my feet on the bank with little waves lapping over my toes. The air was crisp, clean and filled me with a renewed spirit. Peace and tranquility began to fill my soul.

As quickly as the peace arrived, it quickly retreated. A rumbling ripped through the surrounding mountains, and huge waves began to form on the surface of the water. I was paralyzed and unable to move as a tsunami was about to swallow everything in its path. I was in its path. My life flashed before my eyes just as the wave crested above me and blocked out the sun.

I catapulted upright to find myself drenched and shivering, sitting on rough dark brown sheets in a pool of icy cold sweat. I glanced at the reflection in the mirror, unsure who was looking back at me.

The image in the mirror seemed familiar, yet I was unsure why. Short black hair rested above the face. It was Beneath the hair lay sleep encrusted eyes, emotionally spent, ringed with deep exhaustion and only barely open.

Separating the eyes was a sculpted, petite, and slightly red nose. It hung like a work of art above tightly drawn, thin lips. The expression worn on the face was void and ghostly, unlike any I could remember. The clothes were unfamiliar to me, unlike anything I could imagine wearing. The shirt was white under all of the filth and stains, a wife beater. Faded tattoos of unknown origin and meaning could be seen spreading like a rash from under the shirt and onto every piece of exposed flesh.

From the top of the neck to the tip of the fingers, rainbows of color spread to envelop completely. The skin on which they rested provided a canvas red, dry, and scaly. The sun had put too many years on the face and aged the image in the mirror far too quickly.

I had to find out if that really was my face in the mirror. Slowly, I pushed my tongue out of my mouth and down towards my chin, watch-

disheveled, ratty and matted. ing closely to see if the image in the mirror mimicked my movement. I watched apprehensively as a dry red tongue emerged from the mouth in the mirror in perfect concert with mine.

> Still, I could not accept the mirror image as mine. My fingers rolled a wave at the reflection, and the image waved back. I blinked. The image blinked. The image turned in unison, as I turned and slowly stretched my left leg to meet the floor and get out of the bed.

> My head began to spin just as my foot touched the floor. As I rose, my balance vanished and the floor rushed up, crashing hard into my falling body. Piles of clothing, old magazines, empty DVD jackets, and half full cookie boxes broke my fall. My body was sprawled on the floor, pinned motionless with my gaze fixed on the ceiling.

The ceiling fan squeaked like a mouse while the three remaining wooden fan blades seemed to rot a little bit more with each rotation. Light sliced its way into the room violating the will of the heavy black velvet curtains. Only small powerful slivers of light

was a funk of bad incense in the air mingling with a smoky haze. Specks of dust, or perhaps something worse, could be seen dancing in and out of the thin walls of sunlight that had entered the room. I thought that the light could have found somewhere better to ply its trade.

There was nothing familiar in this scene. There was no sense to be made of who I was, where I was or how I got there. I was unconnected and unidentified. As baffling as this all was, it was merely a curiosity. The real madness was lurking in my mind.

After jolting awake, I was unable to reconcile the waking world from the dream world. Even though I recall waking up, there was a seamless transition between dreaming and waking. Was this a dream within a dream?

If it was, could I force myself awake and find my way back into the real world? A pinch test clearly proved that I was awake. I knew this had to be the waking world, as the pain on my arm was excruciating, and the blood certainly looked real as it stained the shirt.

I rushed backwards through

fought their way in. There my mind, and my memories. I was searching for a place where I could find a point clearly fixed in reality that could help me regain my bearings.

> The wall that separated my conscious from my sub-conscious seemed to no longer exist or perhaps it never had. Yet I knew there should have been some type of fence keeping the two sides in their proper place. The dividing wall was now an ocean.

All of my dreams, and all of my real life were having the time of their lives swimming together, exploring new areas of my mind where they had never before ventured. Sitting, perched on a bluff in the corner of my mind overlooking this sea of dream and reality, I could see people I know, places I've been, and things I've done.

Still, there was no way for me to discern whether any of the people, places, and things belonged to my dream world or the real world. There was no doubt I was now in a world all my own, with madness as my guide. All I could think was to do was scream "Alright, everybody out of the pool!"



Arts & Entertainment

***** In theaters this week *************************

BY BILL RHEIN Senior Staff Writer

8

Hollywood filled theaters with family films over the past few weeks. This week, a comedy, dramatic thriller, and action film offer something for adults to see.

Tuesday, April 14, 2009

First, "High School Musical" star Zac Efron breaks form and stars in the non-musical "17 Again." This film also features "Friends" star Matthew Perry as a man in his midlife crisis. Though he was a star basketball player and popular guy in high school, he now worries about his

home, children, and work.

In a magical instance, he turns into himself as a 17 year old, but in 2009. The film proceeds as a comedy as Efron plays a 17 year old, with the mind of a man almost in his forties.

Unlike films such as "Big" or "13 Going on 30," where a child gets old overnight, "17 Again" goes in reverse. Portraying the clash of the white-collar work field with high school could make this a very funny film, with heartfelt self-discovery.

Jason Statham revives his role as hit man Chev Che-

lios in "Crank: High Voltage." "Crank," was an underrated action film from 2006 where Statham, as Chelios, fights for revenge against the mobsters who injected him with a drug that would kill him if his adrenaline got too low. The film was very similar to "Speed," except this was with a man and adrenaline, not a bus.

This time, Chelios fights against gangsters who took his heart. Inside his chest is an electronic replacement, which he must keep charged by electrocuting himself. Though I do not



expect this to be a groundbreaking film, I think it will be a fun romp for the male audience.

The final film in wide-release this week is the star studded "State of Play." The cast of this conspiracy film is loaded including Russell Crowe, Ben Affleck, and Helen Mirren. Crowe plays an investigative journalist working a string of brutal murders. The film takes place in Washing-

Image courtesy of Lionsgate Studios ton DC, thus political ties soon materialize.

THE PRIDE

With a loaded cast and director Kevin MacDonald, who also did "The Last King of Scotland," I expect this to be a good film. As evidenced by the 2007 film "Gone Baby Gone," I think Ben Affleck is better behind the camera. Yet, the rest of the cast and crew will make this a good film if the story sticks together.

Exclusively Fluid ... **IBC Root Beer**

The roots of root beer

BY JONATHAN THOMPSON Senior Staff Writer

Mott's Limited Liability Partnership cans IBC Root Beer under the authority of Dr. Pepper/ Seven Up Incorporated.

IBC began in 1919 by the Griesedieck Family and the independent Breweries Company in St. Louis, Missouri. The two companies joined forces to offer a beverage under the Prohibition Act, which lasted from 1919 to 1933. The company changed hands over the years before Dr. Pepper bought the beverage producer in 1986. Dr. Pepper quickly took IBC Root Beer nationwide. Currently, Cadbury Schweppes of London owns IBC Root Beer.

The 99 Cent retail chain sells



Root Beer for a mere 59 cents. The can has an old English feel to the label. Rich browns, golden yellows, and red comprise the majority of the coloring utilized. The can proudly boasts

16-fluid-ounces of IBC

"Since 1919." Microbrews also produce root beer. For a more interesting selection, s visit a BevMo store.

Given the root beer's carbonation, the drink pours choppy creating a half-inch thick head. A sizable lancet rests on top of a dark brutish brown. A a sugary scent fills the surrounding air. IBC Root Beer enters and

sends a bold rich sugar wave to all areas of the mouth. A slight tingling sensation follows thus exciting the taste buds. The lips smack in joy as the brain reminisces of times past spent in Southern sugarcane fields chewing fresh cut cane.

The sweet treat should pair well with many lunch options

and of course could be used to make the classic comfort food, root beer floats.

During the tough economic crisis, take a trip to the local 99 Cent store to enjoy economically priced cans of great tasting IBC Root Beer. Salute!

Word(s) Chest Deal An adjective to describe something that is lame. "'Have you been to that new restaurant down the street?' 'Aw don't go there, that place is a chest.'"

Opposite of chest. An action or thing that is awesome "Dude, that new car you got is a pull!"

Specific event/ object/place that totally pulls. "The new club is the hot deal!"

Specific action verb that reflects the worst thing that could happen "I was waiting at the airport for an hour, you totally iced me." Courtesy of urbandictionary.com

UPCOMING EVENTS WITH A.S.I.

Leave No Trace Workshop. Monday, April 20th. 6-7p.m. Clarke 110

Denim Day. Wednesday, April 22nd. u-hour. Lib Plaza.

> Earth Day Event. Wednesday, April 22nd. u-hour. Founders Plaza.



My philosophy and practice are always to act in the best interest of my clients in all that I do." **Over 14 Years of Experience**

I speak & write fluently in Vietnamese

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