

'All Things to All People' or 'Nothing to Anyone': The Dilemma of PeopleSoft at CSUSM

The CSU is spending money, not subsidized by the state of California, that could be costing students their faculty and classes

By ALYSSA FINKELSTEIN
Lead Editor

to surpass that estimate.

The lack of classes that will be available next spring is drawing lots of attention from many students and faculty members. It has been speculated that the lack of availability is due to the statewide budget crisis, but there is another sieve that the California Faculty Association (CFA) claims is draining the CSU system, not funded by state allowances. It is being implemented at all CSU campuses by direction of the Chancellor's Office, and it's a computer program called PeopleSoft. So far, CSUSM is remaining on budget and not showing any signs of trouble with the implementation, but the project is still far from finished.

CFA response to the implementation of PeopleSoft

According to the homepage of the California State University at calstate.edu, the entire system is made up of 407,000 students and 44,000 faculty and staff. The primary representative of the faculty in the CSU is the CFA. In an email circulated to its members on Nov. 20, the CFA has issued an "urgent request" to all CFA members, asking for any kind of information and/or evidence about misappropriation of funding of the PeopleSoft project. It says that in a few months, the "California State Auditor is scheduled to complete its comprehensive audit of the CSU's Common Management System (CMS/PeopleSoft) computer data project."

The message also reports that the "software has demonstrated poor performance history at other U.S. campuses, and that the project is likely to cost tens of millions of dollars more than its original \$400 million estimate." While the \$400 million approximation is system-wide, there are only 23 CSU campuses, which means that if each university were the same size, there would be a roughly \$17 million average for each school to pay out of its own funding – and each campus is expected

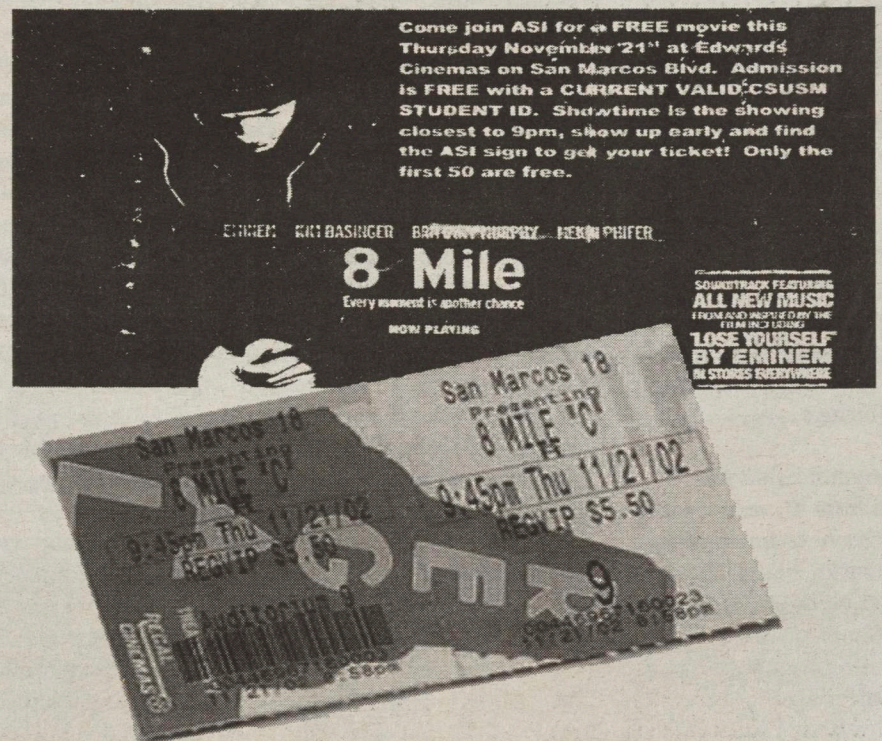
Held at San Jose State University, hearings for a CFA project, entitled "The Future of CSU, Reclaiming the University for the People of California," involved speeches by powerful union representatives from around the state. Pauline Robinson, the director of the CSU division of the California State Employees Association (CSEA) staff union, expressed her concern about the PeopleSoft changeover. "What I think the CSU is missing here is they don't value the talent that they have in the system...They now have another partnership going...It's called CMS or PeopleSoft... We have Silicon talented techs in our system, but their talents aren't recognized. [The CSU seems] to think that these people are not economically viable, that they need to bring in another whole group, they need to outsource all the work, or insource our people, whichever way they're planning on going...So when you say where is the future of this CSU, I really couldn't say, because there's nothing that we can do to stop progress, but I still think that peoples' needs should be looked at and measured before you just jump into something," Robinson said.

What is PeopleSoft?

According to Bill Welch, an independent PeopleSoft consultant, "a PeopleSoft project going way over budget happens about as often as a Catholic priest getting lucky." PeopleSoft is a computer software company that created a multi function software package that was meant to be 'all things to all people,' according to Welch. He said, "It is a very large system and has many components, depending on [why a company needs it]."

The PeopleSoft programs for higher education use basically three products. The first is a Human Resources/ Payroll Financials package, which tracks income, expenses, and assets. The second is a Student Administration package that includes student financial infor-

See PEOPLESOFT, page 5



Disorganization or Fraud?

ASI Movie Night: A Disaster for Edwards Cinema Management

Each Student's \$50 Semester Fee for ASI Being Spent

in Part on Questionable Activities

By AMBER ROSSLAND
Pride Staff Writer

On Nov. 21, ASI sponsored its first free movie night for students at Edwards Cinemas in San Marcos, the 9:45 p.m. showing of Eminem's film debut in 8 Mile. Students began to arrive at 6 p.m. and were shocked to find out that the theater personnel were unaware of the free ticket offer for CSUSM students on that evening.

Problems in Planning and Organization

San Marcos Edwards Cinema manager, David Landfield, was furious to find the entryway to the theater bombarded and blocked off by CSUSM students who were demanding free tickets. "This promotion was not authorized nor were we notified of this event," said Landfield. He further commented that for an event this size by an organization, it would be necessary for the organization (ASI) to rent the theater at a cost of \$2,400.

Worried students lined up outside the doors watching and listening to the cinema management complain about the situation. The students explained to theater management that they had learned of this free movie promotion through flyers and e-mail. Grace, an Edwards employee who was stationed at the door, pointed out the illegal-

ties of the advertisement that ASI had produced. The flyer featured not only a copyrighted film advertisement that was reprinted without permission, but the name of the cinema was printed without notification and permission as well.

At 8:50 p.m., members of ASI and their programming board, who were hired to create community at CSUSM, arrived with over 100 group activity passes to purchase tickets at the box office. The tickets were bought at this time, and the programming board members who were buying the tickets were not even aware of the exact showtime. Furthermore, the flyers distributed at CSUSM said that only 50 tickets were going to be given out to CSUSM students, however this was not the case, as there were 100 tickets purchased. When questioned as to why the programming board members were purchasing the extra 50 tickets, they expressed concerns about riots breaking out if they denied entrance to anyone.

Cinema management confronted ASI programming board members about the chaotic situation. Landfield informed ASI that he would not exercise the law and press charges against the university at this time, however he indicated that this type of event was never to occur again without permission of the

theater. He further declared that the theater would be more than happy to accommodate future university-sponsored activities with proper notice and planning.

ASI Programming Board Representative Brett Gladys defended their actions by saying that they had called the theater during the previous week and spoken with an employee, who had told them that there would be no problem with holding the event on the day and time requested. It was later determined that the employee was not a member of theater management and did not have the authority to permit the event, thus Gladys had been given incorrect information.

Student Money for Non-Students

While about 18 students said to have received a flyer or e-mail for the event, many admitted to being close friends of ASI members who had invited them to the showing. Many students who had attended in response to flyers or e-mails made comments regarding the huge amount of people who showed up with the ASI programming board members.

Programming Board and ASI members began checking school IDs and handing out tickets around 8:55 p.m. to students, yet several students were seen going

See ASI MOVIE, page 4

News Update: CSUSM Staff Responds to Registration and Administration Troubles

By JULIE MYRES & ALYSSA FINKELSTEIN
Pride Staff Writer & Lead Editor

Last week, *The Pride* ran an article about the difficulties that both students and faculty are encountering with new registration policies and administrative changes. It has drawn a lot of attention. There are some corrections to the facts presented in the previous article that *The Pride* would like to present.

Time offerings

One communication was received from Steve Wiener in the classroom technology services department. He informed us, "there really is not a shortage of classrooms on this campus, but rather a poor consolidation of time offerings. Administration claims they cannot offer more evening and Saturday

classes because they obtained poor attendance in the past."

Wiener also indicated that, "There is a Catch 22 here in some departments: If lecturers, who teach most evening and Saturday classes (as they teach most classes at CSUSM), are not allowed to teach upper division courses, then only full-timers who volunteer or get forced to teach evening and Saturday courses will offer students those schedule options."

Lecturers who chose to remain anonymous informed *The Pride* that they would like to teach evening and weekend classes, but it is not as much of an option for them as it is for full-time faculty.

Classrooms available and capacity

The information reported last week about classroom capacity was also incomplete. The original information was gathered from the Cal State San Marcos website and was actually an incomplete list of useable classrooms and their capacity. Wiener said, "There are many more than three classrooms with over 50 seating capacity." The following list of the classrooms with their maximum occupancy and percentage of class usage (Monday-Thursday, 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 8 a.m to 4 p.m.) was provided by

Wiener (see table at right).

Wiener added that, for the classrooms accompanied by asterisks, "the realistic maximum occupancy is much lower; student in back rows can see and hear poorly. These statistics are based on Academic Scheduling's chart for the second week of the term. More classes might have been added." This information is based from statistics taken from this Fall 2002 semester.

Poor organization leading to more scheduling difficulties

However, along with scheduling difficulties, Wiener contends that poor organization has caused some of the problems as well. He said, "a basic foreign language class [was scheduled during] the first few weeks in ACD 102, a large lecture hall. At least a few classes are dangerously overcrowded; one even had a wheelchair-bound student. If you are in such an unsafe classroom, you should report it to Regina Frasca, Director of Risk Management and Safety."

In light of this corrected information, there is a newfound concern among *The Pride* and many students regarding the decision-making of the use of these classrooms.

CSUSM administrator response to statistics previously reported

The Pride also heard from Richard Riehl, Executive Director of Enrollment Services. In an email sent to Staff Writer Julie Myres (the author of last week's article), Riehl said that, "Your article pointed out the challenges we face as a rapidly growing university."

Riehl also pointed out a few

Building / Room #	Capacity	Usage
ARTS 101 (VPA classes only)	60	39%
ARTS 240	200	36%
ACD 102	145	32%
ACD 104	80*	40%
ACD 305	90*	45%
UH 100	65	40%
UH 360	56	55%
UH 370	60	53%
UH 373	66	51%

clarifications about the information printed last week. He said that, "Our enrollment this fall was 7,627, not "just fewer than 7,000," and he also clarified that SDSU is continuing to accepting applications for spring of 2003. The original information reported last week was based on various estimated numbers that were reported by members of the administration and the CSUSM website. The SDSU information was originally gathered from the Union Tribune, however an article published in the San Diego Union Tribune on Friday December 6, 2002 also corrected the SDSU statistic.

It also turns out that the FTES numbers were reported incorrectly. Riehl said that, "These numbers make no sense at all, although I think I know where you got them. The 5,066 was the actual FTES count for last spring. The 6,627 number was the headcount for last spring. We project this spring's FTES count to be 5,608, with a headcount of 7,337. That represents a decline from 5,810 FTES and 7,627 in the fall. We stopped taking admissions applications for spring earlier than ever in our history to attempt to bring enrollment down closer to our funding level." The information published earlier was gathered originally from a member of

personnel at the College of Art and Sciences.

Editor's Note:

This article is definitely covering a controversial subject that has brought attention to students, faculty, and administration. Many of the quotes and statements made by lecturers and faculty members were granted with complete anonymity in the original article. One reason there were errors in actual numbers and facts is due to the lack of information openly published for student use. The Pride found many sources of information that contradicted each other and did its best to get the correct information for the article.

It is apparent that Pride staff writers are frequently given incorrect information by staff and faculty who do not realize the implications of the information they are distributing. This has happened several times during this semester when writers have approached sources for stories. Correct information could be more easily reported in the future if faculty and staff, as well as students, try to remember that The Pride is also growing (alongside the university) albeit with only one journalism course and no program to support it.

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Time to Apply. Who Knew?

On-campus housing now accepting applications for next year

By JENNIFER ACEE
Pride Staff Writer

CSUSM's first on-campus housing, The University Village, scheduled to open for the fall of 2003, is accepting applications. Since Oct.1, the date on which the application process began, students have steadily been submitting their applications for one of the 460 spots available in the new apartment-style living quar-

ters. The application process, however, gives priority to new students rather than to those already attending CSUSM.

All prospective new students to Cal State San Marcos are being thoroughly informed of the upcoming on-campus housing opportunities; the office of admissions is teaming with student housing and development to ensure that new students are well aware

of what will be available.

However, the information highway leading from housing's trailer-office in parking lot O up to a campus of current students seems to be falling a little short. "What, apartments on campus are opening up?" is the current buzz from students already attending CSUSM. Adrienne Rolschlein, a liberal studies major, commented, "[cur-

rent students not being thoroughly informed] is another example of how our campus is [beginning to seem] very capitalistic." She added, "I think it's more important for Cal State to value current students. What about the money we put into the school by staying here?"

While it is obvious that attracting students to CSUSM

See ON CAMPUS , page 3

On campus housing from page 2

with on-campus housing options is a wise decision, at least financially, for the university, the director of student housing development and management, Heather Singer, described other motives. As for the reason why incoming freshmen are being given priority in The Village, Singer said, "We want to allow them the opportunity to grow, learn, and become familiar with the campus during their first year, and ultimately become connected to the university."

Lots of plans are in the making for creating that connection to the university, as well as a general sense of community. A wide-range of programs and activities will be available to

students living in The Village. "Anything from cook-outs... to cultural programs... to study skills sessions" is in the plans, described an enthusiastic Singer. The future of CSUSM's on-campus boarders appears to be brimming with exciting opportunities.

The physical plan of The University Village is bound to be equally as impressive. Each apartment-style living space is equipped with several amenities and perks. All student apartments are created to accommodate four people, either in two or four bedrooms. There are also a few three-bedroom staff apartments. A kitchen, dining area, living room, and two bathrooms,

as well as telephone, cable, and internet hook-ups comes standard in every apartment. Apparently, gone are the days of traditional dormitories, where two students per couple-hundred-square feet get thrown together for a year of forced proximity, poor quality cafeteria food, and endless treks down the hallway to their floor's bathroom.

Nevertheless, The University Village is not all luxury and accommodation. Troubles are already brewing in the waters ahead as the CSUSM parking situation is once again brought to the discussion table. A special parking lot for University Village residents only is being built, but this new 24-hour lot

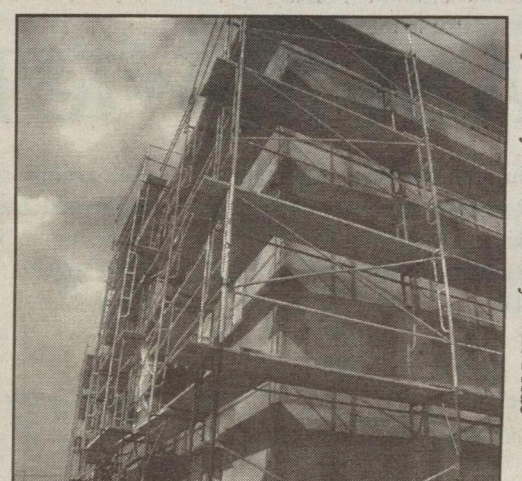
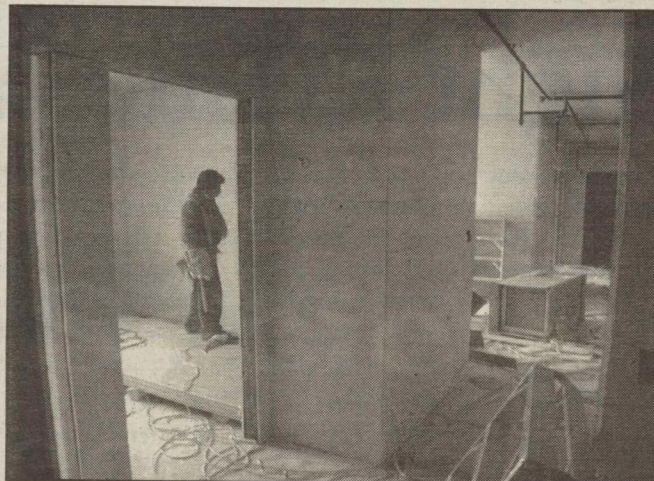
will accommodate only about 235 cars. 460 resident spaces are available inside, but only about half of them will be able to find a space for their car outside. No plans have been made yet to resolve this problem, and this may turn out to be a tough break for many students, especially given the state of California's de-prioritization of efficient public transportation.

Slightly upward of 200 applications have been received by student housing so far. Approximately 40 of those 200 have come from current students. As Singer mentioned, "a number of spaces are available for returning students," so all are encouraged to explore the possibility

of living on-campus next year in the new University Village.

The Village apartment prices range from \$5,150 - \$7,140 per person, per academic year or full year. Financial aid can be applied to cover these costs.

For an application or for more information, students can contact the housing office by calling (760) 750-3711 and/or by visiting their website at www.myownapartment.com. The office, located in the cream-colored trailer in parking lot O, is open from 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday through Friday.



Photos by Tristan Nickey / The Pride

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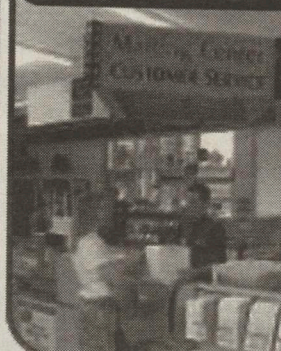
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CSUSM Closes Applications for Fall 2003

The popularity of CSUSM continues to grow

By MARTHA SARABIA
Lead Editor

For the third time, the growing popularity of Cal State San Marcos, shown by the large number of applications received, has forced the administration to stop accepting applications for the fall of 2003 admission. The rule applies only to first-time freshman and to lower division transfer students with fewer than 60 units. On Thursday, Dec. 5 at 11:59 p.m., applications for these two prospective groups were closed, however applications from upper-division transfer students with 60 units or more and graduate students are still being accepted.

Despite the closing of the admission process, Richard Reihl, executive director of enrollment services, said that CSUSM allowed a few extra days for students wanting to enroll in this university. "The deadline allowed for some flexibility for last-minute applicants," said Reihl, "The open enrollment period established by the California State University ended November 30, 2002. We've allowed a few extra days as a grace period for those whose applications might have been delayed for one reason or another, but we now must stop accepting applications because of our need to manage enroll-

ment within our funding."

According to Reihl, since Dec. 5 more than 4,300 applications had been received from potential freshman students. This equals the number of applications received from freshman for the entire 2002-2003 academic year, and this time the applications were accepted all the way through July.

Not only has the number of freshman students increased, but the numbers for other categories of students are also equal to or are above the numbers from the same time last year, in July. However, this might create some problems for prospective transfer

students due to the budget deficit. "Because of budget uncertainties, we can't predict how much longer undergraduate applications will be accepted from transfer students," expressed Reihl.

Because of the increasing popularity of CSUSM, Reihl said, "We recommend that students file their applications materials as soon as possible."

As for the difficulties that the increase in enrollment might create for currently enrolled students, Reihl said that university administrators are "working to preserve the quality of instruction for students who are already

enrolled." He added, "To do that, we may have to slow down the number of new students entering the university until we have more resources available."

Cal State San Marcos experienced a 17 percent increase in enrollment for the 2002-03 academic year, and it is currently struggling to balance its funding with its teaching and service obligations. Furthermore, with the prospect of reductions in state allocations for the 2003-2004 academic year, the campus has started to adopt a cautious approach to admissions, which might leave many prospective students out of the university.

ASI Movie Night Event from page 1

through the ticket line more than once to receive tickets for friends who were not CSUSM students or were without their IDs.

By 9:05 p.m., with tickets in hand, ASI, their programming board members, and guests of

both groups were on their way to Zip and Zack's to eat prior to the movie, leaving only 18 students behind to wait in line at the theater.

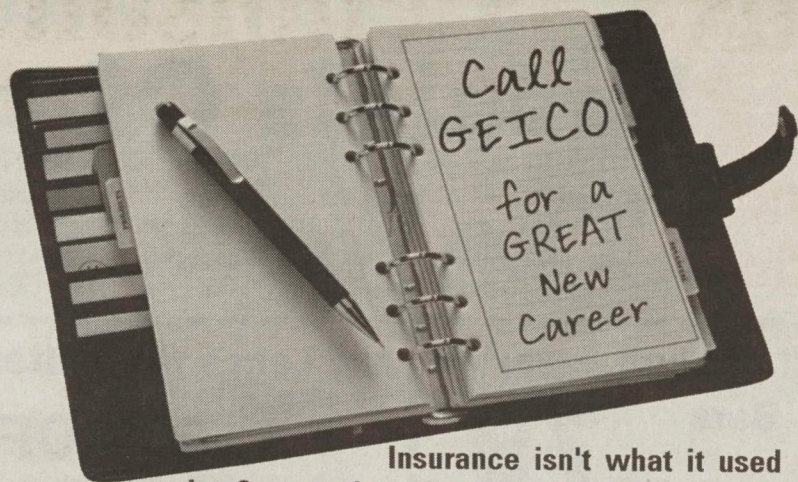
A University Education

At 9:30 p.m., 92 people were admitted with CSUSM-purchased movie tickets into a 156-seat theater by cinema management to view 8 Mile. While most were excited to receive a free movie pass, some attendees inquired as to why student funds were spent to fund the viewing

of a movie about the 'hood rather than on an educational or art film with some substance such as Frida, which was showing on the screen in the next room. However, no changes were made to the agenda.

Eminem was not the only one

walking the 8-mile, considering that ASI, whether or not it was intentional, had broken several laws, according to what the movie theater management said, and had possibly committed fraud by using ASI money in order to distribute tickets to non-CSUSM students.



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PeopleSoft at CSUSM from page 1

mation and financial aid data. The last is a Student Records package, which includes applications and pre enrollment testing information.

The functions included for the Cal State system are Administer Workforce, used for employee history data; Base Benefits, used for capturing benefits information; Time and Labor, for capturing attendance; and Labor Cost Distribution, used for putting the payroll costs into the appropriate accounts.

The CSU web page for Frequently Asked Questions about PeopleSoft says that, "everyone who uses the new system will be required to receive training before access is granted to the system." Another statement on the site indicates that, "while the data will all reside on hardware located at the Unisys facility in

Salt Lake City, each campus' data, including the Chancellor's Office data, is on a separate database and access will be controlled by user ID and passwords."

Welch pointed out that the program, intended to be 'all things to all people,' is generally delivered to a customer as 'nothing to anyone.' Through intricate programming and computer architecture, often courtesy of PeopleSoft software technicians, the program is customized to the needs of the client. As indicated by Welch, "It is very expensive to do this configuration, [since] most consultants are paid \$200 per hour and there are probably 50 per day, all day, for several years." Therefore, every campus will have to spend tens of thousands of dollars in order to train the staff on how to use this program. The training process could last several years.

CSUSM response to CFA charges

When asked to comment about the state of affairs in regard to the CMS/PeopleSoft project at CSUSM, both Dean of Students Jonathan Poullard and Vice President of Academic Affairs Francine Martinez referred *The Pride* to Wayne Veres, the CMS project director at CSUSM. According to Veres, because it is a relatively small and fairly new campus, the budget estimate for CSUSM is approximately \$6 million. Veres said very plainly, "CSUSM is not over budget on the CMS project." Furthermore, Veres commented that, "I haven't heard or seen any of [the allegations from the CFA]."

Veres also commented about whether or not the project will be worth the expense to all of

the CSU campuses. He said, "It's very beneficial to have all campuses using the same administrative system." He also added that in May of 2000, the CSUSM President's Cabinet approved a 6-year project plan, which began during the fiscal year 2000/2001 (sometime between July 1, 2000 and June 30, 2001). Cal State San Marcos has chosen a phased implementation approach, meaning that, "as modules [of the program] are phased in, we are training our staff."

According to Veres, all campuses of the CSU are aiming to "complete implementation of the [Human Resources], Finance, and Student modules of PeopleSoft by 2006. We are on schedule to meet that commitment."

Contrary to CFA accusations that the CSU campuses are outsourcing talent, Veres has

been an employee of CSUSM since 1992, and he says that all members of the CSUSM CMS/PeopleSoft implementation team are employees of the university. However, he admitted that "we do contract with some consultants but only for very short periods of time - 1-3 days at a time - and only when we need help through some functional or technical detail."

The CSUSM website has a link for the invoicing of PeopleSoft training at <http://cms.calstate.edu/T4tiSanMarcos.asp>, but it cannot be opened by anyone without a password. Employees are not issued passwords until they have completed the training required by the program. Needless to say, very few people on the CSUSM campus actually have access to this information.

Domestic Violence Event Brings Awareness to Campus

CSUSM sociology students educating other college student's about domestic violence and sexual assault

By RIA CUSTODIO
Arts Editor

Cal State San Marcos is hosting a Domestic Violence Informational Fair on Tuesday and Wednesday, Dec. 10-11. Staff from the Women's Recourse Center (WRC) of Oceanside and counselors will be on hand in Founders' Plaza from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. to answer any questions regarding domestic violence and sexual assault. Students of Sociology 329, Victims and Criminals, are putting together this fair in order to contribute to awareness of domestic violence as part of a service learning project in our communities. All events are free and open to the public.

On Tuesday and Wednesday from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. in Academic Hall 404, panel discussions will focus on different issues, ranging from local services that are available to victims and their families to local law enforcement, detailing their involvement in domestic

violence. CSUSM Professor Valerie Callanan of the sociology department expressed that Tuesday's panel will discuss informative issues dealing with criminal justice response to domestic violence. Topics discussed on Wednesday's panel will overview information dealing with local services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Each panel will offer notable speakers from Domestic Violence District Courts of Vista, Center for Community Solutions, Investigative Specialist with the Oceanside Police Department, San Diego County Sheriff, to Rancho Coastal Humane Society.

Brochures and WRC counselors will also be available to discuss informative issues such as date rape, sexual assault and domestic violence.

The WRC is an organization that devotes time and resources to support individuals and families victimized by violence. It was established in Oceanside in

1974 to offer temporary shelter, supportive services, counseling, free crisis intervention, transitional housing and a 24-hour crisis hotline to the public.

Professor Callanan thought that a fair would strengthen the commitment of CSUSM students and encouraged them to put together an event, per their requirements for service learning components. She expressed, "Part of educating women and men about domestic violence and sexual assault is learning to think about these crimes differently...college age students do not think about these issues, or if they do, they tend to distance themselves thinking that it could never happen to them."

Students are encouraged to join the event and to become conscious of domestic violence and sexual assault by increasing awareness and knowledge. For those interested in knowing more about the WRC, they can call (760) 757-3500.

CSUSM Loses Norm Nicholson

By BRIAN FISHER
Pride Staff Writer

Dr. Norm Nicholson, dean of instructional and information technology services, spends his last weeks at CSUSM after nine years of campus technology achievements.

Dr. Nicholson immigrated to America from Scotland at age 18. His constant interest in engineering got him jobs in aerospace technology. After his career in aerospace, his interests shifted to working for the Santa Ana School District as a teacher, and then moved to a community college.

His interest in Cal State San Marcos sparked after he discovered that many older schools were shutting doors on innovative thinkers and ideas. Norm wanted a fresh start with people "who were willing to push the envelope of instructional technology." Nicholson says that one of his primary accomplishments at CSUSM is just having "attracted and kept a great staff."

Nicholson has made CSUSM one of the leading technological schools

in California. CSUSM has even become the email service provider for the new Channel Islands campus. With over 2,000 computers networked together at CSUSM, wireless access and new computers, it has become one of the leading technology schools in Southern California.

Norm says he is confident in his staff and believes the school will be in good hands. He explains, "I'm leaving the university in very good shape."

Nicholson described why he decided to leave CSUSM. "I've worked long enough. I've spent 9 years here, and a whole career of 30 some years before that in other places. I just decided now it's time I can afford to. Its time to find out if there's life after work! I've worked really hard almost all my life and I'd like to see what else there is. I'd like to spend more time playing golf and spending time with family."

A search is currently underway for Nicholson's replacement after his retirement, effective Dec. 20, 2002.

CSUSM Student Tours The Country

By MATT VARELA
Pride Staff Writer

North County resident Brian Desjean, 31, is a CSUSM junior like any other, who works hard while getting an education. However, Desjean's job is somewhat different than most. Desjean has a talent with the bass guitar and explores that talent with his band 'No Knife,' which can be heard if people listen to 92.1 or 91X fm. Their latest album, entitled "Riot for Romance," has had quit a bit of success, landing them their last tour with 'Jimmy Eat World' back in October.

"No Knife's" latest tour with 'Jimmy Eat World' gave the band a chance to play some songs from their new album, and also gave Desjean a chance to not attend school for a few weeks. About the challenge of going on a tour and attending school at the same time, he said, "I was a part-time student at Palomar when we toured extensively. Now that I am at Cal State it's all about touring during the summer, or doing short runs here and there so I don't miss too much work. It can be a bit stressful, and sometimes I feel I could be doing a

little more with my music, but the band has reached a point where fans know that we don't go through their town that often, so when we do, it's a good show."

Desjean has been playing bass for about 12 years now, and has been with the band for about 10 years. When he is not in the classroom, he is playing shows here and there. At a recent benefit show, 'Toys For Tots', down at the 4th and B venue in San Diego's Gas Lamp Quarter, the event was filled with people wanting to see "No Knife" play some songs from their new

album. Last Halloween, Desjean left his class in a hurry to get down to the Belly Up Tavern in Solana Beach where all band members dressed up and played the Halloween party. They also recently did a tour in Japan and will go back again this January.

Desjean plans on graduating in the Spring of 2005 with a degree in visual and performing arts. About his hopes for the future, he said, "After graduating I hope to be able to afford a house here in San Diego, and a few more albums would be nice."

"Our next show is January 7th in Tokyo, if you can't make that one, we have another show when we get back on January 31st at the Belly Up Tavern in Solana Beach," Desjean said about his next show. If people are interested in seeing 'No Knife', they can check them out at the Belly Up or check out their website at www.noknife.net.

Our Neighbors Show Support: They Too Remember September 11th

By JAMES SIMMONDS
Pride Staff Writer

To this day, America still sits and waits to see if the current administration will decide whether or not to take this country into a full-scale war. Meanwhile, Mexico and Canada's people say to support America, although they would not want to see any harm come to this country. A war on this land could very well cause harm to their borders, especially if the United States

is dealing with an enemy that is capable of using chemical warfare – warfare that will not only take out the soldiers fighting but also the innocent people at home who fight to keep their country going.

Neighbors Down in Baja Speak Out in Support for the U.S.

Traveling through Mexico, many people said they were willing to fight to help the Americans. In Rosarito, Juan Punta,

a 25-year-old bartender at the *Papas Beer Nightclub*, said he would come to America and join the Navy. He said, "I will go to San Diego and join the Navy. Just give me a gun and I will kill those terrorists."

In Guerrero Negro, two men at the beach said that if the immigration would give them green cards they would in return fight for the "Americanos." In the background a drunken woman yelled, "Viva Mexico y Estados Unidos," before she dropped to her slumber. She might have overheard the conversation. Then a stocky bearded man rudely interrupted to say, "Pinches güeros! No es nuestro problema, ya vayanse!" which means "Fucking whiteboys! It's not our problem, just leave!"

Farther south into La Paz, mainly women expressed their

opinions. Perlita said that she does not want a war so close to home; she is afraid for her people and for the Americans. Maria Villa added, "This is not a good war, no war is a good war." At the tip of Baja California in Cabo San Lucas, the mood seemed to be all the same "Viva los Americanos, kill the terrorists."

Neighbors Up In Canada Express U.S. Support as Well

North of the United States in Canada, people also have their opinions regarding a possible war. Here the people also support America and its actions. In Vancouver, the airport employs many people of Middle Eastern descent. One of these employees said that it is not his war and had nothing further to say regarding the possible war between America and Iraq.

Also in Vancouver, Amid Yemen had a lot to say about the visions of war. He said that he does not want there to be war, but if there be one he would support America. "What happened last year was not right that day or any other day. Terrorists hurt your country, other countries and my home country. It is not an American war. It is the world's war against terrorists."

Further east, in the mall of the town of Kelowna, people expressed feelings about the possible war that faces America. One person stood out in her answer, Bianca Hughes. Hughes said, "I am Canadian and proud, but if for some reason I had to say I was something else I would say an American. I mean we are like Americans but on the other side of the border. If America goes to war I hope they win. If the war comes to American soil then I hope that the Canadian army helps with whatever."

In a town called Hope a women working the cashier at the highway gas station responded, "You Americans should bomb the terrorists, they should pay for what they did. I know someone who died in the twin towers."

Even farther east, in the small town of Vernon, the last stop before heading back to Vancouver, Canadians were also very supportive of the Americans. They answered with passion as if their own country was attacked. Heidi Lee, a 19-year-old nursing student, said, "When I saw the news and watched those planes crash my heart dropped. I was so sad when I could see people falling from the tops of the buildings. It is not fair, terrorists are cowardly people, there is no combat in terrorism."

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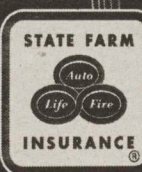
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Chimpanzees Progression in the World

Ruben Science Fleet Center: Jane Goodwall's Wild Chimpanzees

By STEVEN ZAMORA
Opinion Editor

Jane Goodwall's *Wild Chimpanzees*, an IMAX film featured at Ruben H. Fleet Center, swung their way into the spotlight through Goodwall's research findings, revealing many interesting facts about chimpanzees in an African National Park called Tanzania's Gombe Stream.

Born in England in 1934, Goodwall earned her Ph.D. in Ethology from Cambridge University in 1965, and moved to Gombe to research chimpanzees in the wild, where she has spent her life trying to preserve wild animals along with many forests.

The incredible thing that Goodwall discovered is that chimpanzee groups — mothers, fathers and children — herded together and resembled human beings in their behavior. For instance, there is an alpha male who is the dominant leader of the group in every herd. Frodo, at age 20, is the alpha male who weighs 120 pounds, almost 30 pounds over his chimpanzee counterparts, and is depicted

through the film as the dominator of his companions, showing force in order to establish his rule over the group.

On Gombe, Goodwall's portrayal of the alpha male's presence in the forest relates to humanistic culture. Since the old Mesopotamian culture, which featured "might as right" for the leader of hominid tribes, the western humanistic tradition has defined a nuclear family as one with a leading male, whose responsibilities have been dominance and the ability to provide for his family.

Also, Goodwall noted that when chimps play with each other and engage in other forms of interaction, a similarity between human beings and chimps that is both species display affection, strong emotions, anger, and frustration when interacting with one another.

Along with data collected from observation through the chimpanzees' natural lifestyle at Gombe, in the film Goodwall reminds people that chimpanzees share 99% of their DNA with human beings. Then she presents a couple of questions to

the audience. One question that Goodwall makes is "why don't we consider chimpanzees human beings?" Another question is "what differences are there really between human beings and chimpanzees?" There is no doubt that chimpanzees walk on their hands as opposed to humans, showing a difference between the two. However, Goodwall points out that the differences among humans and chimps are minimal.

In the past, the true distinguishing point between humans and chimps has been the notion that human beings can reason and pass down knowledge to their children—this assumption no longer exists in the realm of understanding. Goodwall discovered that chimpanzees have learned to make tools with which to hunt their prey, such as ants. This knowledge of hunting, chimpanzees have passed down from their mothers during the seven years where baby chimps need emotional and physical nurture from their parents, similar to children's development with their mothers. This reasoning and passage of knowledge therefore disqualifies the main assertion that chimpanzees cannot

reason or teach baby chimps.

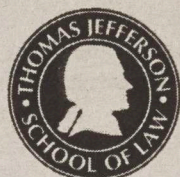
With regard to whether people should consider chimpanzees a species of human beings, Goodwall stands firm in saying that chimps are closely related to, or even actually are, human beings. The research can be used to study the evolution of human beings, because the chimps may be the best example of how human beings in fact evolved from chimpanzees.

People are encouraged to use their best judgment and go see the IMAX movie at Balboa Park Ruben H. Fleet center for adult admission of \$11.50, which includes one IMAX film and

gallery experience. The gallery features many different scientific toys that visitors can play with. For dates to watch the Jane Goodwall's Wild Chimpanzees IMAX Film, check the Ruben H. Fleet Center website at rhfleet.org, or call (619) 238-1233.



Courtesy photos / The Pride



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Christmas Spirit, Cougar Style

Many CSUSM clubs have organized events to help those in need this holiday season

By CHRIS MARTIN
Pride Staff Writer

Throughout the month of December, various CSUSM student organizations have been working diligently to ensure a happy holiday season for the less fortunate in the surrounding communities. These organizations seek assistance from the student body, faculty and staff in the form of donations of toys, non-perishable food items, blankets and clothing. These three holiday drives and one fund raising campaign will all be held on campus and the specifics and contact information are listed in the paragraphs to follow.

Angel Tree Toy Drive

Circle K International, sponsored by the San Marcos Kiwanis, is an international student community service organization that helps to foster leadership skills and provide community services to children. For the 11th year this organization has sponsored the Angel Tree Toy Drive. With organizational help from the Black Student Union and the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity, Circle K International plans to provide toys for local non-profit organizations. Organizers of the drive intend to make Christmas a little merrier for a San Marcos home for boys. This particular home was designed to house young men that have been abandoned by their parents, or who have been taken from abusive parents for their own safety and well-being.

Planning for the drive began in October and decisions were made as to what groups would receive donations. Then, information regarding each child was gathered, including age and, sometimes, particular wishes. Beginning in December, a mock tree, complete with paper angels containing a child's information and a box next to it were set up in the Dome. From there, the campus community was encouraged to take one of the angel ornaments, purchase a toy specific to that child and return it to the box unwrapped. Finally on Dec. 22 a wrapping day will be held and the toys will be delivered. "One of the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity brothers will be dressing up as Santa for the kids," said Anna Fleming,

program support assistant for the faculty mentoring program and one of the Angel Tree organizers. "And if we're lucky we'll have some elves and other Holiday characters as well," she added.

In addition to the Angel Tree Toy Drive, organizers are planning to go Christmas Caroling at the Silvergate Retirement Home in San Marcos Dec. 19 to try and brighten Christmas for the elderly. For questions or for further information regarding these activities, please contact Anna Fleming at afleming@csusm.edu.

MEChA's Farm Worker Christmas Drive

Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano De Aztlan (MEChA) is an organization that was founded in the late 1960s by students who were hoping to expand educational opportunities for Mexican

Americans. Today, the mission of the organization is the same as it was when the organization began: to address issues of inequality, to perform community service and to reach out to local high school students.

MEChA is collecting warm clothing, blankets, non-perishable food items, and toys for San Diego based migrant farm workers and their families. Following the teachings of Cesar Chavez, MEChA is devoted to promoting better working conditions for workers in the fields. "Our main focus is the Latino community and since many farm workers are of Latino descent our hope is to give back and stay connected," says Celia Martinez, MEChA secretary at CSUSM.

The Farm Worker Christmas Drive began on Dec. 3 and will continue until Dec. 13. There will be boxes for donations placed in

front of Craven 4107, Commons 207B and University Hall 400. After all the goods have been gathered, the volunteers will go out into the fields and distribute the clothing and food to the workers. For those interested in assisting MEChA or who desire more information on this organization, please contact Celia Martinez at martil31@csusm.edu.

The Children's Diabetes Foundation

The ladies of the Alpha Xi Delta sorority have opted to raise money for the Children's Diabetes Foundation in a truly capitalistic manner. The sorority members will have booths set up in Founder's Plaza and will be selling mistletoe for \$1 and candy canes for 50 cents. This is a truly symbiotic crusade. The ladies will be offering a product to consumers and will use the profits for a good cause. For those interested in simply donating money to the Foundation, please contact Danyll Monroe at monro008@csusm.edu.

Toys for Tots

The CSUSM Veteran's Association is sponsoring a traditional *Toys for Tots* drive. For more information, please see the calendar section or contact association president Gary Taylor at gary@Computer-Essence.com.

Santa's Village Visits San Marcos

The 9th annual City of San Marcos' Christmas celebration paints a smile on the face of kids

By JASON PADILLA
Pride Staff Writer

It was three weeks before Christmas, and San Marcos was the city. There was a huge Christmas celebration, and all the children were giddy. Saturday, Dec. 7th, marked the 9th annual City of San Marcos' Christmas celebration, known as Santa's Magical Village, which lasted between 4:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. at the San Marcos Civic Center. With the celebration geared toward younger children, who always seem to have a double dose of the Christmas spirit, events were there to keep adults occupied as well. Those in attendance had the opportunity to view and purchase a variety of arts and crafts, all displayed by vendors throughout the village.

Santa's Magical Village had been decorated inside and out, in order to bring the yearly Christmas feelings to life; even the ample parking lot was filled with lights and a 35 ft. Christmas tree, which was to be lit later in the evening. Upon entering the village, all were greeted by

Photo by Tristan Nickey/The Pride



children dressed as elves and holiday music. With no more than a few steps, crafts and vendors bombarded the hallways. Crafts featured included a wide variety of men's, women's, and children's clothing and jewelry, as well as photography displays, Christmas decorations, and for those who missed dinner, foods ranging from burritos to hot dogs and desserts were sold. Of course

all items displayed were for sale and sported the typical holiday mark up.

Later in the evening, after the seller's booths and customer's wallets both had a chance to cool down, parents and kids could enter an auditorium in order to view local children's groups - mostly boy scouts and such - perform favorite Christmas

carols. In attendance, San Diego State student Beth Outlaw had to say, "I've always liked caroling; it is always fun to sing to strangers, especially when you are a kid." It seemed the kids did have a little fun singing the carols to anyone who cared to listen. Farther down the hall, kids were encouraged to sit on Santa's lap and get their photo taken.

As the evening grew darker, a fire engine's bullhorn announced that it was time for the Christmas tree lighting. With everyone leaving the village in order to gather around the tree, positioned in a grassy park just shy of the parking lot, all awaited to see the spectacle. When the crowd was large enough, the firemen flipped the switch and the tree came to life with a mediocre display of a few strands of Christmas lights. Nonetheless, the children who were still energetic from all the caroling and sweets were thrilled at the tall tree.

Although the celebration continued until 9 p.m., most in attendance departed after the lighting of the tree. Even as fun as the holidays are, playing games and seeing the same things can only take your breath away once, and making numerous trips through the crowded village could be very time consuming. All in all, the event was a success and the children seemed to enjoy the Christmas celebration. If anyone has kids and missed the event, be sure to catch it next year.

Talented CSUSM students presented *La Pastorela*

The Mexican Piquin Pepper is Much Hotter than the Devil Himself!

By MARÍA SOLEDAD ACUÑA
Pride Staff Writer

The Visual and Performing Arts departments' Arts and Lectures series, in conjunction with the California Center for the Arts in Escondido (CCA), showed from Thursday through Saturday its 2nd annual presentation of the play, *La Pastorela*. On Thursday and Friday the presentation took place at 8:00 pm, on Saturday there were two performances at 2:00 and 8:00 pm.

Directed by Dora Arreola and adapted by Ursula Tania, this traditional Mexican performance is a religious story that was first introduced to Mexico in the sixteenth century to teach native people about Christianity. The central idea in this adaptation is that no matter how hard the devil and his wife Luciferina try to impede the shepherds from going to Bethlehem to adore the child Jesus, the shepherds triumph over evil.

The play was subtitled *The Mexican Piquin Pepper is Much Hotter than the Devil Himself* to give the play its humoristic side and in a comic, well performed



Photo by Tristian Nickey / The Pride

way it shows the temptations that Satan offers the good people who want to follow God's purposes. Lucifer (Dimas Constanza) and Luciferina (Lydia Tonantzin) tempt the shepherds with the seven deadly sins: sloth, greed, pride, envy, anger, lust and gluttony. The public witnessed Pas-

cuala (Martha Moran) overcome lust after dancing "la quebradita" with Satan, and Pancho (Joe Cordero) beat gluttony, and all the other characters overcome temptation with the help of the Archangel Gabriel (Philip Jerge).

The enjoyable, entertaining

presentation was in Spanish and kept the approximately 170 people laughing and singing. CSUSM's Ballet Folklórico Mixtlan mixed folkloric dances with the pastorela and Jesus Jimenez and Ramon Parra interpreted Mexican songs as well. These two artistic interventions

gave a fascinating, colorful, and distinctive touch to the play. The people cheerfully accompanied the singers with applause and songs. However, it did not break the momentum of the play, which the spectators were able to perceive and comment. "It was wonderful, funny and very well organized. I did not know anything about this Mexican tradition, because I am from Guatemala, but I enjoyed it a lot," said Ana Gonzalez, who came with some other Palomar College students to see the play.

The cast included CSUSM students and people from the community. Professor Marcos Martinez, Associate Professor of Theater from CSUSM was in charge of the stage production. Martinez invited the public in general to participate in the next year presentation, since they are planning to perform it every year. He also gave special thanks to the Bravo Foundation, the Escondido Swap Meet and the CECUT (Centro Cultural Tijuana/Tijuana Cultural Center) for their support. The play was worth the \$10.00 cost per person. Well done and congratulations to all the artists and all the people that participated in the creation of this lovely, yet hilarious play!

Can I Stay up to See Santa?

By ADRIAN CUNDIFF
Pride Staff Writer

"Is Santa Clause real?"

This question has been asked to almost every parent at least once in his or her lifetime. Many parents are not ready to look straight into a child's face and tell them that Santa is not real. Yet who are parents to judge what is real and what is not real? Many parents of today are too wrapped into working all the time that they don't rejoice and see the world around them, let alone figure out if a Santa really exists.

In today's day and age, parents have stopped believing in something in which they have believed for all of their childhood. What makes a

child question whether Santa is real or not? Is it that they did not like the presents they got the year before or is it that the stories of St. Nick have been so radically transformed during the years that it is difficult to believe in them anymore?

The history about St. Nick dates as far back as the fourth century, when a wealthy Christian bishop made a name for himself by giving many gifts to poor children. After his death, the Christian church named Dec. 6 a day of remembrance for the bishop. He then became known as Father Christmas and was from that point forever linked with the holiday. Like his name, Santa Clause, his attire was not always the standard red and white suit that we know of today; it changed from

story to story.

Some stories had him wearing a purple or blue suit, and other stories called him an elf. In the 1930's, Coca Cola officially hired Santa Clause as one of their spokespersons. Coca Cola standardized Santa Clause as the Santa that we know today, sporting the traditional red and white company colors. Many of the stories that came about from this bishop were based on legends and mythical creatures.

One legend, which is known, is that he carried around a bag-full of toys and rode on a flying sled that was pulled by reindeer. In 1822 Clemente Moore wrote a series of poems and named all the reindeer that pulled the sled. Although

Rudolph was not one of the eight original reindeer that Moore described, he was the most popular. Rudolph was merely a byproduct of the advertising genius of Montgomery Wards, which was in turn created by Robert May.

Advertising plays a major role in our life by shaping our beliefs and traditions. Many times it is hard to tell whether an event from the past really happened or not, because of the fact that second hand information can be twisted around so much. So next time when a child looks at you with their big brown eyes and asks you the question I asked in the beginning of the article, think about the ramifications it could have if a child does not have hope.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Study Abroad - Submit CSU IP Faculty Recommendations before Finals and the December Holidays! Pick up an application today to study abroad for an academic year. Application Deadline is February 1. University Global Affairs, Craven Hall 5211, Tel: 760/750-4090, e-mail: goabroad@csusm.edu

Sociology Club's First Annual Canned Food Drive. Drive Days are December 4th through December 20th. Please bring a can to the Sociology Department, Craven Hall 6145 or our participating faculty members. For More information contact Michelle at demon002@csusm.edu

The CSUSM Veterans' Association is sponsoring the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program beginning Dec. 9th and ending around Dec. 20th. We are collecting toys for needy children within San Diego County for Christmas. Please bring some new, unwrapped toys to donate to the Office of Admissions. There will be a collection box/barrel located there.

There will be a meeting at the ELC on 12/12/02 at 12 p.m. between the ELC parents, Keith Speers and Laura Poggi.



Is There a Computer Lab Policy for Saving Work, or Not?

By JENNIFER JARRELL
Pride Staff Writer

As a follow up to last week's story, "A (Not so) Funny Thing Happened to Me in the Computer Lab," I would like to update students about my latest findings.

Evidently, Mr. William Craig, systems integration specialist, was correct. There was a glitch in the computer system, which was erasing the work that students were saving to the desktop and "My Documents." I am also here to testify that the glitch has

been dealt with. After returning from the Thanksgiving break, all the work I've saved on the desktop and in My Documents for the entire semester has magically returned. Even the work I had erased from the desktop two months ago is back. However, during the two weeks or so when the "glitch" had occurred, the work that I saved has still not returned. Maybe there was a virus in the system, who knows?

What I *can* say? It now appears safe for students to save anywhere within their personal settings. If there is not enough storage space to save something, a window will pop-up letting students know to save their work somewhere else. However, I do

make sure to back-up all my work on a ZIP disk. (I've learned my lesson.)

My big questions are: Where did the lab people get the information that there was a new policy implemented, not allowing students to save to the desktop? Why does Mary Atkins believe that for 10 years now, it's been a Cal State policy to save only to the H: drive or disks? I don't remember being warned to only save to the H: drive or a disk when I first came to San Marcos. It is my contention that there are no policies at all. I guess people just have their opinions and decide to pass them off as a policy.

I told Mary Atkins and William Craig that I was writing a story in the Pride about deleted work in the lab, and they both felt strongly about their knowledge of the computer lab policies. They both had no problem letting me know that it was okay to quote them on the information they had given me. Sadly, I haven't heard from either one of them, letting me know that they read last week's story. I was hoping that if they did, they could talk amongst themselves about lab policies, and letting students know which places are okay and not okay to save work. It would straighten out any misunderstandings--but more importantly; it would keep Cal State students from losing valuable text.

The Great Society Worked

By JEFF BROWNLEE
Pride Staff Writer

Since the late 1970s, social conservatives have made much of the alleged damage done to the poor in the United States by overly generous welfare benefits and other forms of government aid. Government subsidies to the poor are blamed for a host of social problems such as unemployment, illegitimacy, and teen pregnancy.

The basic theory advanced by conservative commentators like Charles Murray posits that government assistance serves as a disincentive

to work, encouraging the poor to live off the largess of the state. These same social theorists also suggest that as welfare payments are tied to the number of children a female recipient has; welfare payments encourage women to

have children. A corollary to this line of reasoning suggests that as women can receive public assistance whether they are married or not this assistance essentially encourages illegitimacy.

These arguments may seem sound at an intuitive level, and they appeal to the cherished American myths of self-reliance and independence; however, they are patently false.

"In 1963 20 percent of the American poor had never received an examination from a doctor; by 1970 this figure had been cut to only eight percent."

Lyndon Johnson's great society programs, the poverty rate in the United States had been cut from 19 to 12 percent. In 1965, 20 percent of American children were considered poor; by 1969 this figure was cut down to 15

percent. In the period from 1959 to 1969, the poverty rate for African Americans was cut from 55.1 percent to 32.2 percent.

Thanks to Medicaid and other government funded health programs, infant mortality in the United States after was halved between 1965 and 1980. In

1963, 20 percent of the American poor had never received an examination from a doctor; by 1970 this figure had been cut to only eight percent. Poverty among the elderly, rampant prior to 1964, has subsequently been all but eliminated.

Social conservatives assert that the dependency rooted in government assistance to the

poor outweighs the benefits they provide. Once again, the

actual data suggests otherwise. Economists William Darity and Samuel Myers discovered that across diverse geographic regions in the United States, the higher the welfare benefits the lower the rates of illegitimacy and welfare participation. In other

words, illegitimacy and dependence are inversely related to welfare payments.

Between 1972 and 1980, the percentage of children living in female-headed households in the overall population rose from 14 to 20 percent. In households receiving public assistance this same category held steady at 12 percent. Studies show that states

with higher welfare benefits tend to have lower rates of teen pregnancy. Unfortunately, many of these improvements have been undone since serious cuts in government funded social programs began in the late 1970s. These figures and many more may be found in the book *The Way We Never Were* by Stephanie Coontz.

The fundamental point is that beating up on the poor may be emotionally satisfying for some; however, this practice is in fact based on emotion, not on reason or data. Any economist, even the coldest laissez faire disciple of Adam Smith cannot help but be impressed by the hard data corroborating the success of *The Great Society's* attempts to ameliorate economic conditions for the poor. It is time to jettison the superstition of Compassionate Conservatism and return to a compassion that really works. It is time to rebuild The Great Society.



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Regarding The Power Of The Written Word

By TERESA MCNULTY
Pride Staff Writer

I am one of those individuals who attended school when I was young, floundered a bit, and really didn't know what I wanted to do. I got very close to an Associates degree but bills got to be too much, so I started working full time and didn't finish school. About six years ago, when I was in my 30s, I became frustrated, wanted a life change and decided I need to finish school. I began attending Palomar College and realized immediately that this was the best decision I had ever made. Attending school in the evening became so much more rewarding than watching sitcoms on a nightly basis. Of course, it hasn't been easy.

Starting my day at around 6:00am and ending it at around 9:00pm, as I walked across Palomar's parking lot, I found myself thinking on a regular basis, Long Day's Journey Into Night. It felt okay, though, because somehow I thought I would be rewarded, and I passed on all the weekend events that I was invited to because studying needed to be done.

My friends would all say how proud they were of me or "I really respect you for doing that, but I couldn't." But like I said, I thought it would pay off in the long run, not only financially but also mentally. The education began to fill up those holes of insecurity, and that feeling that I was lacking something. From the moment of my return, I wanted to teach; I knew though that things would have to change financially once I transferred to CSUSM because it costs more money.

I was happy when I was offered a position that paid well enough for me to support myself while I was in school – not something I'd be happy spending my life doing, but a good interim job while I finished my degree and credentialing. It's not great pay, but it was more than I was making and it would pay for the added expenses of University schooling. Except there is a problem: CSUSM doesn't offer the classes I need to graduate in the evening. I have been attending CSUSM

for 1-½ years and next spring, only one course that I need is offered at 5:30. It is an elective: Film and Other Genres. There is another course that I haven't taken, Sacred Texts, which is offered at 4:00.

Unfortunately, even if I leave work in Sorrento Valley at 4:00, I don't make it to CSUSM till 5:30, and at the salary he pays, there is no chance my boss will let us go early. I only need five more classes to graduate and I am heartbroken. My choice is to quit school or quit my job and take a loan. If I take a loan for this semester and the year for the teaching credential it should set me back at least \$20,000.

I will then, if I am lucky, get a job teaching where my starting salary will be \$36,000 since I can't really leave the San Diego area. That's \$500 dollars more a month than I am making now, before taxes. I am struggling with the decision to take out student loans because it will probably be more than \$20,000 and the thought of being that much in debt at this point in my life makes me ill.

The signals that I am getting from the administration at CSUSM are that night students are not respected here and that my major, Literature and Writing, is not important. Everything in this world revolves around literature and writing, in some capacity. The textbooks and the newspapers we read, the films we see, and the novels we read, it's really quite a long list if you think about it and what about the extended amounts of emails written daily on a professional level?

When I see the lack of courses in this major, it tells me that teaching English at the high school level is not important to CSUSM. But I know that it should be. I had an old boss who lost all of his credibility because he had poor writing skills. He may have been a great salesman, but when an email is sent that says, "For the porpoise of sales trang..." and when I approached him about it – he was my friend, no one else's – he says, "I used the spell check."

I didn't ask how trang passed the spell check, but what can you say? Porpoise is a word but not the right word. Porpoise pens and other porpoise memorabilia started showing up around the office but he didn't. His arrogant behavior was trying to cover up the fact he had poor writing skills and in the long run was fired. This is just one incident that shows how High School English is important. Not all jobs need college but in most jobs, reading and writing are needed.

So here are the facts: US History of Literature I & II and English Literature I & II are required courses that have not been offered in the evening at all since I have been attending CSUSM. I can understand that there are not a lot of electives offered but it would really help if the required courses were offered in the evening. Not all of them, but a series offered on some sort of yearly rotating basis would be nice.

Here are a few other things that make it hard for evening students attending CSUSM: Cashiers office hours are 8:30 – 4:30. Financial aid office hours are Monday and Thursday 9:30 to 5:00 and Tuesday and Wednesday 9:30 to 6:00. The automated answering machine says an operator is available only during office hours. I tried all week and went from automated voice to another automated voice. I need to get a small loan now and I had just one

question. Plus, if you are attending classes in the evening, it's really hard to just stop off on your way in because evening traffic is tough and it's usually a sprint from the parking lot to get to class on time.

Let's try some other departments. The Career and Assessment Center has the same hours as financial aid office. The parking permit office hours are 9:00-5:00, Monday through Thursday and closes early on Friday. Everything closes early on Friday, which makes me think: couldn't they stay open later one night to compensate for leaving at 2:00 or 3:00 on Friday? The Community Service Learning Center hours are also 8:00-5:00.

Here is another really important department especially for me, the Writing Center; this also closes at 6:00. I have never been there and my professors are concerned that I can't write a formal argumentative paper. Actually, I am concerned too, unfortunately I can't get any help!

I feel that something's lacking regarding the importance relating to the power of the written word. That and evening students are not wanted at CSUSM. Of course, I really should have known exactly what I wanted to do when I was 20; I did but that Country Western singer thing didn't work out!

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Quitting Smoking

I have quit smoking now for seven years. It was one of the hardest things I ever did in my life. When I was a smoker we were able to still smoke everywhere. I did. I didn't blow smoke in people's faces but I did smoke in buildings. I quit smoking while attending a junior college. Our college was putting into effect a smoke free campus. I was even on the committee. I fought hard for smoker's rights. One thing did

come out of it, designated smoking areas. These areas were away from the people traffic, most of them were in parking areas. Smokers complained at first, but were great after a while. The only problem we were having was who was going to be the 'cops'. I know they have solved the problem by now though. But now for CSUSM, the smokers definitely need to get away from the doors and hall ways. The

smoke is quite disturbing. I also hold my breath when walking by these students. I am an asthmatic and the smoke does irritate my lungs. BUT, CSUSM needs to put the ashtrays away from the buildings. They need to be in open areas. When it rains, we all have umbrellas. To smokers: Please stay away from the buildings and the enclosed walkways. Smoke in open areas and try to quit. It will save your life.

I watched my mother and her husband die because of smoking and it was a very ugly sight. I was not ready to quit at the time but it wasn't much longer before I did. Our campus has many resources when you are ready to quit.

Dorothy Bruno
Senior-LTWR



La Pastorela

According to Rick Moore's latest "In the Loop" electronic campus news wire, he states that our publicly funded university is going to play host to Pastorela: a traditional Mexican holiday. This original Spanish production brings together Cal State San Marcos students and community members in a festive presentation of a traditional Mexican **nativity** story. I have a hard time understanding why and how this religious "production" that has its roots in Christianity, can actually be allowed to be presented on campus. Is it because its organizers thought that it is harmless? After all, aren't they just "getting in the spirit of Christmas?" Doesn't this production promote a religious myth that without publicly funded facilities, would hopefully be relegated or limited to being shown in a church rather than the academy??

Shawn Harris
Senior, History

The Smoke in the Air

Forget about finals, midterms, papers, or cramming for surprise quizzes; my biggest struggle is breathing. Every morning I struggle to make it up the numerous flights of stairs leading to the campus, only to face the clouds of cigarette smoke that hang in the air morning, noon, and night. Which is why I was so pleased to see Steven Zamora's article "Cigarette Smoking: A School Problem" in the last issue of the Pride. This article addressed the problem...

I feel that I must strenuously address the problem of smoking on campus. Aside from the issue of second hand smoke which I do feel is a pressing concern, the

issue of students with respiratory problems (myself included) are at risk to dangerous toxins that have severe negative effects.

A few years ago in the heart of my teenage years in which I was a nationally ranked swimmer I began to have to fight for breath, at first I thought it was a cold or something as equally small. Then the pain started in my lungs and near my heart. Panic overwhelmed my life as I learned that I had a rare heart condition in which the bones surrounding my heart were weakening and swelling, leading to a crushing effect on my heart and lungs, thus causing me to have to breathe harder

in order to get a small amount of oxygen into my lungs. It's a never ending cycle; riddled with pain as I struggle for each breath, a combination of several pills and minimum of 4 puffs on my various inhalers must be taken to sustain my life. Shortly after beginning this my freshman year in college I was told my condition had developed and that my life would most likely come to an early end. What was the cause of this sudden increase in my disease? My doctor said poor air quality and the excessive amounts of toxicants my lungs were exposed to as the primary result of a single cigarette were killing me.

Non-smokers and smokers alike have rights, and I do not wish to infringe on anyone's rights, however I feel I do have a right; the right to live.

Dozens of public places have adopted policies where they have designated certain areas as smoking zones, and have left others as smoke free areas; couldn't Cal State San Marcos do the same?

Thanks,

Alison Sayer
Freshmen

ASI's Early Learning Center

We are concerned parents of preschoolers enrolled in the ASI Early Learning Center, and are writing you to voice our opinions regarding the changes in the preschool's schedule for next semester.

It just recently has come to our attention that starting January 1, 2003, all children at the ELC will be required to attend five days a week, and half-days will be eliminated after March 1.

A large number of children at the ELC attend two or three days a week, half day. The availability of this schedule is part of the reason the ELC is such a terrific program. Many parents use the ELC as a quality preschool experience for their children, not as a full-time day care setting.

The ELC is, hands-down, the best preschool program in North County. By implementing the schedule changes to full-time only, you in effect are destroying the program. You are making it inaccessible to children who have already been at the center two or three

years and were looking forward to graduating with their class in May. You are shutting out parents who have been heavily involved in volunteering their time and making donations to the school. Do you realize that the tuition increase for non-funded community parents who have their children in three days a week part-time will be from \$216 a month to \$640 a month? And even if a family could afford it, not everyone wants their children in preschool full-time.

What is disturbing is that these changes were made without soliciting any input from the non-funded families. We were not invited to the grant meeting where the reasons for the ELC dropping the CDE Preschool Grant were discussed. These changes came as a total shock to many, and it is upsetting to think that our children may not be able to finish out their last semester at the ELC.

We are asking for a meeting with you to discuss these changes in person before they are implemented. The contact person is Stephanie Nunez, 760-744-2533.

Dear Editors Fin-
kelstein and Sarabia,

I am a community parent of a child enrolled at the ASI's Early Learning Center preschool. The preschool serves students and faculty/staff of CSUSM as well as community families.

The preschool has run into fiscal difficulty, and as a result, drastic changes in the children's class schedules are being implemented next semester. I am forwarding you a copy of a petition that I am currently circulating at the preschool, protesting these changes. I will be delivering the petition to Keith Speers, Executive Director of ASI, at 10 am on December 12.

While the majority of students at CSUSM are not parents, these changes at the preschool are of major concern to the students and staff members who are. Starting March 1, all student parents will be required to have their children

enrolled full days instead of half, and will be losing ELC tuition funding at a time when tuition is increasing substantially. Staff and community parents will be required to enroll their children five days a week starting January 1, with the half day option ending March 1 as well.

The result of these changes is that the preschool will become inaccessible to most parents due to scheduling and monetary constraints. It undoubtedly will spell the end of the program in the long run, which will mean student parents will not have a campus preschool option for their children. This issue may be a deciding factor of where to attend school for many student parents.

I wanted to share the information with you. Thank you for your time and attention.

Stephanie Nunez
Community Member

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