

Graduating seniors face uncertain future

Diminished job market and dwindling economy force students to weigh their options post graduation

BY JACKIE CARBAJAL
Editor-in-Chief

College graduation should be met with feelings of relief, joy, excitement, and accomplishment. For the Class of 2009, however, this right of passage and entrance into the real world will bring about more than the typical nervous butterflies.

Like it or not, 2008 involved everyone in the economic crisis. With gas prices surging beyond fathomable levels and familiar businesses like Mervyn's shutting its doors by the year's end, it is safe to say that anyone leaving their home was aware enough to recognize the toll the teetering economy had on our neighbors and the country as a whole. Down the street, a family just foreclosed their home. Johnny Carino's off San Marcos Boulevard closed one day to the surprise and dismay of even its own employees.

Though the onset panic came and went, the harsh reality is that things will likely get worse before they get better. The state of the nation may in fact be worse than it was before the election, but the consensus since shifted from panic to patience. In a "New York Times" article, polls showed that while 79% of Americans are optimistic about the next four years, most believed that the country would remain in a recession for at least two more years.

California is facing its own predicament as well. With the state's budget crisis and Governor Schwarzenegger's call for a statewide cut of \$390 million back in November, the California State University system is scrambling to find ways to cut corners to alleviate the ramifications of the tanking economy. On Jan. 28, the CSU suspended construction on over 130 projects at all 23 campuses.

Graduating seniors are about to enter the workforce during what President Obama called "the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression."

Though the outlook appears grim, students

have a support system for their transition into the workforce through the Career Center located in Craven 1400. The Career Center offers workshops geared to assist students in resume writing, interview preparation, and job searches. On February 26, the Career Center is offering its Extreme Makeover Resume Edition workshop. Students can sign up in advance for a 20-minute time slot with a corporate recruiter to review their resumes and receive feedback. Additionally, the Career Center offers a 24 hour resume critiquing service in which students can submit their resumes through e-mail at careers@csusm.edu or by dropping off a hard copy at Craven 1400 and will have it back within 24 hours with critique.

Director of the Career Center, Ron Gaschler stresses the importance for students to capitalize on the opportunities offered at the Career Center.

"Every day we hear the gloom and doom news about massive layoffs causing assumptions by most that there are no jobs to apply for," says Gaschler. "While it is competitive, and there are less openings now, there are openings, but students need to prepare to compete in a tough market. They also need to do their research of where and what openings are available. They also need to realize that while they may have to take a less than desired position for now, it is still helping them develop professionally and add to their resume."

Gaschler assures that there are companies within San Diego County where students can pursue career opportunities. Northwestern Mutual Financial Network plans to hire 37 full-time Financial Representatives this year, 12 in Downtown San Diego, nine in Del Mar, four in Hawaii, and six in their Carlsbad office.

Many CSUSM alumni work for Northwestern Mutual. CSUSM alum Andy Rubin will run the newest office for Northwestern Mutual in Carlsbad. The company also offers internship positions that can transition into full-time positions depending on the intern's job performance. Students interested in careers in financial advising could capitalize on this company and its connection with CSUSM.

With a limited selection of job options out there, students should research various career opportunities within companies that are hiring.

"In regards to jobs, job seekers need to expand their horizons. Often times their sites are far too narrow and they don't realize the opportunities many organizations such as Wells Fargo has beyond Bank Tellers and Target has beyond Cashier," said Gaschler. "Many organizations like these can offer management training opportunities on various tracks and provide pathways into corporate careers whether immediately upon graduation or upon students rotating through positions within the organization."

Another option for students is Petco. Petco plans to expand 50 stores this year thanks

to their steady increase in sales throughout the economic crisis. Kohl's also plans to expand and take over some of the closed Mervyn's locations. The FBI and IRS are hiring to fill vacancies in positions due to retirement and terminations. Geico, Wells Fargo, and Naval Supply Command are other options Gaschler mentions as job opportunities.

While there are options out there for students eager to enter the workforce post graduation, the number of applicants competing for these jobs will be greater than in the past says Gaschler. "Bottom line is that there are many more people competing for the same position than in years past, so students need to expand their horizon and prepare for the interview process."

The state of the economy also affects current and incoming students as well as those graduating that plan on entering graduate school.

In a press release issued by the California Faculty Association on January 26, CSU East Bay professor and Vice President of CFA Kim Geron stated, "The situation for students right now is flat-out scary. Tuition costs have sky-rocketed and so many students can't look to their parents for help given the current economic crisis. More students are working multiple jobs to pay their bills, but they still count on Cal Grants to get by each month."

The Alliance for the CSU echoed the same sentiment in a Feb. 8 press release, citing staggering statistics that reflect the affect of the budget cuts on the CSU.

"For the first time in its history, the CSU was forced to turn away 10,000 qualified students this year. Another 10,000 could be turned away this fall. Undergrad student



Image courtesy of Connecticut Regional School District

fees have risen 113% since 2002 and are likely to rise at least another 10 percent during 2009, making it an increase of 135%," the statement read.

If these numbers mean anything, they reflect the effects of a nationally widespread economic downturn to the most local level. Students that previously expressed their disinterest in the news and current events can no longer claim they are not personally affected by the budget crisis.

Even with talks of stimulus packages and spending caps, the state of the nation will remain unforeseen for the upcoming months. Instead of waving the white flag, however, students must take a proactive stance in order to ensure their own success in the future.

Figure 6: CSU Undergraduate Student Fee History and Governor's Proposal for 2008-09

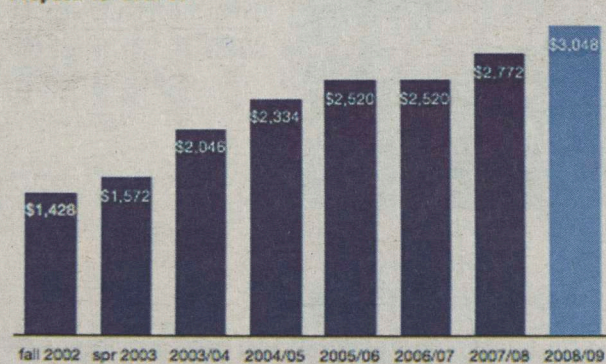


Image courtesy of California Faculty Association
With another 10 percent fee hike, fees in 2008 were more than double what they were in 2002.



Image courtesy of NOVA

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Lo 48°
Partly Cloudy
73°
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THURS

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73°
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Partly Cloudy
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The budget crisis and you

BY BLAINE H MOGIL
Pride Staff Writer

"The only thing we have to fear is fear itself," so spoke President Franklin Delano Roosevelt in his first inaugural address in 1933, during the First Great Depression. He fearlessly led us through, and out of the Great Depression. Seventy-six years later, we have new leadership in the White House, and President Obama has proclaimed in his inaugural address "On this day, we gather because we have chosen hope over fear," and in the process reaffirms FDR's commitment to overcome fear.

Fear paralyzes. The subsequent inaction is precisely what leads to crisis. When we stop, catch our collective breath and work together to find solutions to this crisis, then and only then, can we begin to replace the fear in our minds with new hope in our hearts.

As the bright and talented students you are, it is important that you release any fear you are carrying. You are living some of the great times you will have in your life. You are gaining great knowledge and great new friends. You are traveling, all together, on life's road into the future. For most of you, you have not driven far enough to be able to see a deep reflection in the rear view mirror. As one who is rolling over the odometer on life's journey, I can assure you that this is a great time for you.

We are all living together in what I believe will come to be known as the Second Great Depression. People are losing their jobs at record rates; foreclosures and bankruptcies are recorded at breakneck speed. Yet, at the risk of coming across as maudlin, in these difficult times we will find our way out, and we will do so together.

As you read this, stop and catch your breath. If you are faced with personal or family crisis, I stand with you. I stand peering into a deep and foreboding personal financial abyss. Yet, the health of my family is good. We have a place to call home, we are able to feed ourselves, and through this struggle we clip coupons together, and eliminate unnecessary spending in order to make it from day to day. Should the bottom fall out from under us, should our busi-

ness close, should I become the next to join the millions of our fellow countrymen and women on the unemployment lines, I can state with absolute certainty that our family will find a way through it together.

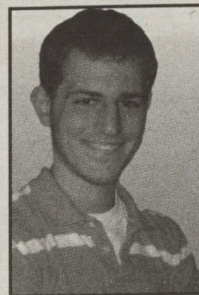
As classmates we need to recognize that we are also family, and the more fortunate among us should lend a hand up to those in need. If nothing else, we should be there to listen to one another. Sometimes all we really need is for someone to listen. If you can't find someone to listen, then you can talk to me at mogil006.

Perhaps I can offer some worthwhile insights. After all, I have made enough mistakes in life, and in the process have learned a better way. For starters, we have all been borne into a nation which exists on consumption. Consumption is the fuel that feeds our economic engine. When consumer confidence falters, and spending slows, tough economic times follow. Those of you studying economics will undoubtedly take exception to some of what I advise, so please accept that I speak on this topic from personal experience, not from formal studies on campus.

Consumption and the consumer economy is a relatively new concept, arising to prominence in the second half of the 20th century. In the process, we as a country forgot our history, and the lessons of the Great Depression. Banks and financial institutions were deregulated, and they partied like it was 1999. They gave money out to anyone with a pulse. In the process home prices ballooned into the stratosphere, and as we all know, the bubble inevitably burst. Today, we are facing a \$ 2.5 trillion dollar bill to pay for the party fun of an unregulated financial system.

We must demand that our new administration puts a leash back on these institutions become giving them free reign with another trillion dollars. If these financial institutions blew up our financial system, why on earth would the people we elect to represent us, turn around and give these same financial fools another \$ 1 trillion dollars or so? This makes no sense. A trillion dollars here, a trillion dollars there in Iraq, add it

See Budget, Page 4

Bill of Rights
Zombie cultureBY BILL RHEIN
Senior Staff Writer

Though the idea of zombies originated as an association with Voodoo practices, theories of the living dead are gaining popularity due to their influx into horror films in theaters today. Zombie culture exploded in 1968 with the release of George A. Romero's film "Night of the Living Dead." The idea of reanimated corpses infected with a virus died down for a while but is now making a comeback.

Film director George A. Romero has a cult following after establishing the idea of zombies in his films, especially "Dawn of the Dead," where the dead rise and mindlessly hunt living humans. Now modern directors and thinkers are expanding on zombie theory causing me to fall in love with zombie culture.

Directors often repeat the formula for zombie films, but nonetheless, they are always exciting. There is a mysterious outbreak of the virus that reanimates corpses and then hordes of the infected grow as they stack up a high body count. Then the protagonist and others bond together out of necessity to fight and survive.

I find the struggle to perpetuate humanity a brilliant

concept. Few horror films besides zombie films feature the fright where an ally can suddenly become the protagonist's enemy due to a virus.

Zombie stories also offer insight on popular culture. Films such as "Dawn of the Dead" and "Shaun of the Dead" cleverly compare normal life with the activities of zombies to make a statement. The mentioned films show the audience how people become zombies because of the way routine and consumerism makes their lives mundane.

Other insight based on zombies comes from metaphors based on religion. Some zombie stories pin the blame on humanity for the outbreak. These films claim that the virus is punishment for living immoral lives.

Alternatively, some films claim that the dead are rising because there is no more room in Hell. Both are preposterous, but get across the idea that we should behave better as a civilization because there are consequences.

The once popular idea of zombies brought about by Romero's films is once again gaining popularity for whatever reason. Whether it's the excitement of horror films such as "28 Days Later" or the fun generated from zombie-themed video games such as the "Resident Evil" series or "Left 4 Dead," popular culture is getting into zombies again.

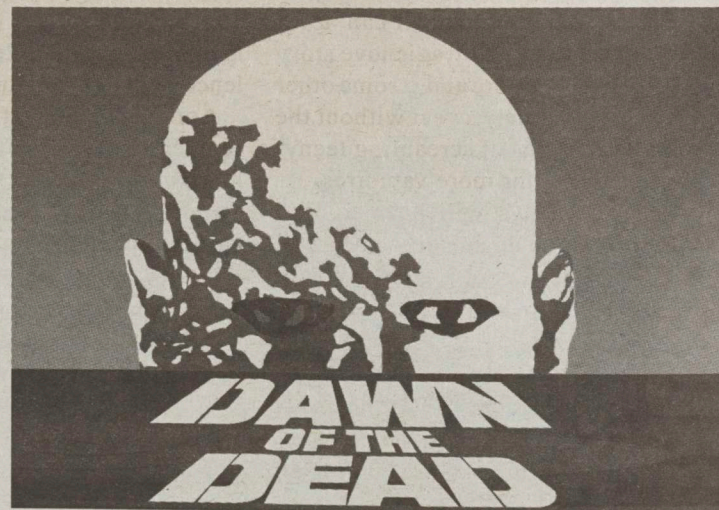
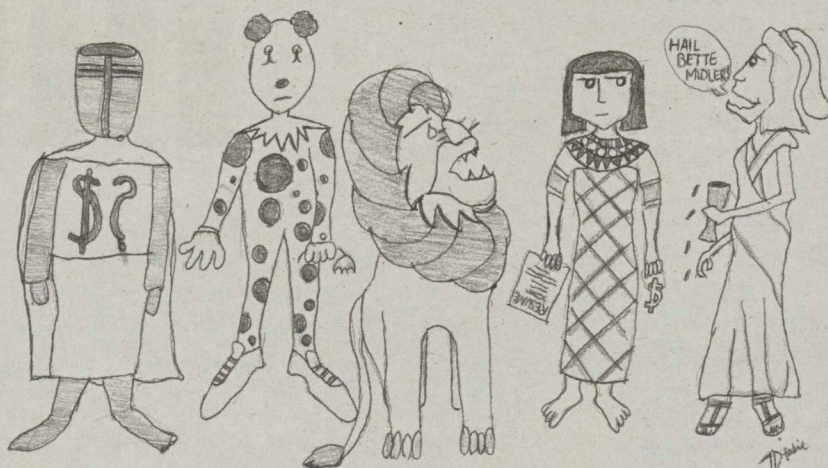


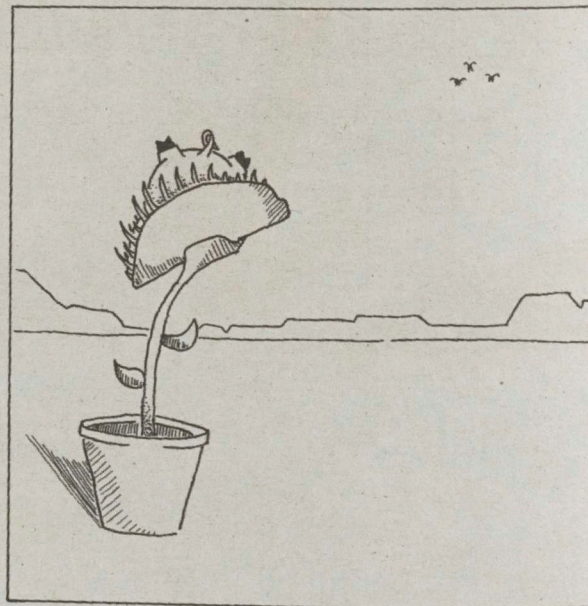
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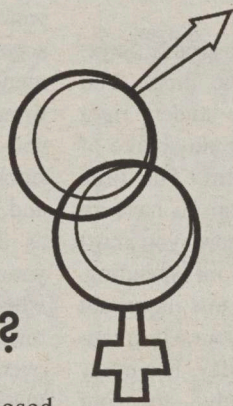
Artwork by Jericho Fabie

Simple Days by Robert Knauf



When Pigs Fly.

SEX 101!



Could the recession help my sex life and relationship?

BY IVAN GARCIA
Pride Staff Writer



Honestly? I have no idea...but I will list off some reasons as to why it may or may not. Before I continue any further, I have to confess, I have NO idea at all as to the state of the economy at this time. I do not know what a recession is and something called a "stimulus package" just sounds like an overpriced sexual implant for men.

If I were somehow (and god forbid) ruler/king/hegemon/etc. of America one day, I would think that fixing the economic crisis would just be to print more money. And also to take guns away from Dick Cheney, permanently! Officials say that we're out of money, so print more, or let's replace dollars with something that's more abundant, like grass or ketchup packets.

Beyond my delusional fantasies, the question still remains: does a recession improve our sex life? Our relationships? Personally, I think it goes both ways. On the physical side of the spectrum, I think a recession would totally help out when it comes to "doing the deed." Think about it: there's a recession taking place and everyone is tight on money. Obviously, that means couples will start going out less and staying in more meaning that watching "A Walk to Remember" will lose its appeal after the ninety-seventh time. Considering how much I love that movie, personally, I think it is ten times better than "The Notebook." I can never personally get tired of a tragic love story featuring Mandy Moore and...some other guy. It's just genuinely sweet without the fan-base of millions of screaming teenyboppers chanting for more vampires.

Couples nowadays will have to find more activities to do in the comfort of their own home (free) instead of going to expensive places (not free). So what are two hormone-enraged lovers to do with an empty apartment/home/etc. and an empty bed? Sleep...or not (har har)!

That's right, having sex is definitely going to become an activity practiced

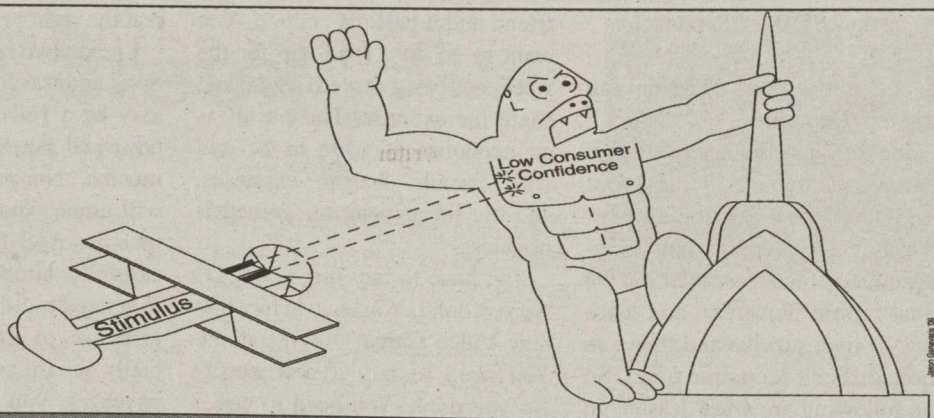
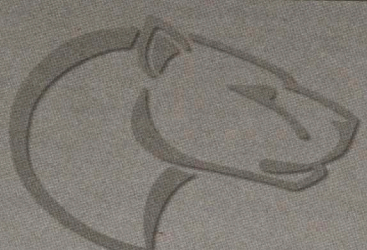
more often as opposed to spending money. But even so, don't ever sacrifice thriftiness for safety. Go out, buy protection and use it! There are organizations that provide free condoms, dental dams, and so forth, so please take advantage of those resources.

Please make sure you switch it up when it comes to having sex. I would assume that the "bionic seahorse" would get boring eventually. Be adventurous and try something new, otherwise, your sex life could be as depressing as October 29, 1929.

On the other end of the spectrum, this recession might actually cause some disruptions in the relationship aspect as well. One of the biggest, if not *the* biggest, reasons as to why couples fight is due to financial concerns. Sure enough, with an economic crisis of this magnitude occurring, this is the time to watch for any falling television sets from 7th story windows. Financial stability is definitely a factor when it comes to relationships. Unfortunately, we live in a capitalist society. The world revolves around the idea of consumerism (just look at prostitution or iTunes).

Think about it. You and your partner, sitting back enjoying a nice dinner that you made at home. Suddenly, he/she asks how much the ingredients cost and all hell breaks loose because you bought Prego tomato sauce instead of the bargain brand. In these cases, I like to reply with sarcasm, "So what? I can take your plate of delicious lasagna away if that'll make you feel better." I wouldn't recommend this action unless physical violence or rough sex turns you on.

Amidst the hardest of times, always remember that a relationship requires hard work, a team effort, and understanding even though the situation may be out of anyone's control. At the very worst of times, make sure you remember your friends and hobbies, watch a favorite movie or listen to a favorite song like "Cool for Cats" by Squeeze. That one, in particular, always seems to set the mood.

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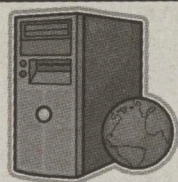
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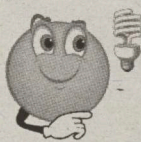
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**Don't wait
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From **BUDGET**, page 2

up and pretty soon you're looking at some real money.

The bill for the party always comes back to us. So what do we do? Other than demanding prudent fiduciary action from Washington, DC (and Sacramento), we must retrain ourselves, and learn how to live, survive and thrive in these difficult economic times. So the following are a few lessons to help us get on the right track.

Lesson one is simple. If you don't need it, don't buy it. If you do need something, look at the resources you already have at your disposal. Maybe you already have what you need, or perhaps a friend does. You'd like to read a book? Don't buy one, go to the library. You want to go out for dinner? Make sure you go with a

friend and a half off coupon. You want to go on a road trip for the weekend, bring three friends, and share the expense. There truly is an economy of scale to be had with friends sharing expenses, and the life experience gained is priceless.

You have to buy that new CD? No you don't. You have to buy that new Video Game? No you don't. You need to buy a new outfit? No you don't. You need to buy a new guitar? NO YOU DON'T! If there is anything you must, and I emphasize **MUST** have, then find a way to buy a used one, or shop until you get the right deal on whatever you must have from a reputable company. But you must first answer this basic question, is the item I want to buy nice or necessary? If it is nice, pass. If it is necessary, then find a way to buy

it at the right price.

Lesson two is also simple. Save, save and save some more. You may be a full time student right now, and may have no source of income. No problem. The time will come when you do have an income. And for now, you must carefully budget your spending. You need to follow this important principle to find yourself financially secure someday. For every paycheck you receive, for your entire life, you must budget the first chunk of your income to an untouchable retirement account. Never use this money for anything other than your retirement-EVER. If you can put away fifty percent of your income and live comfortably on the remainder then do so. Your financial independence will come rapidly. The minimum you should allocate is ten percent of

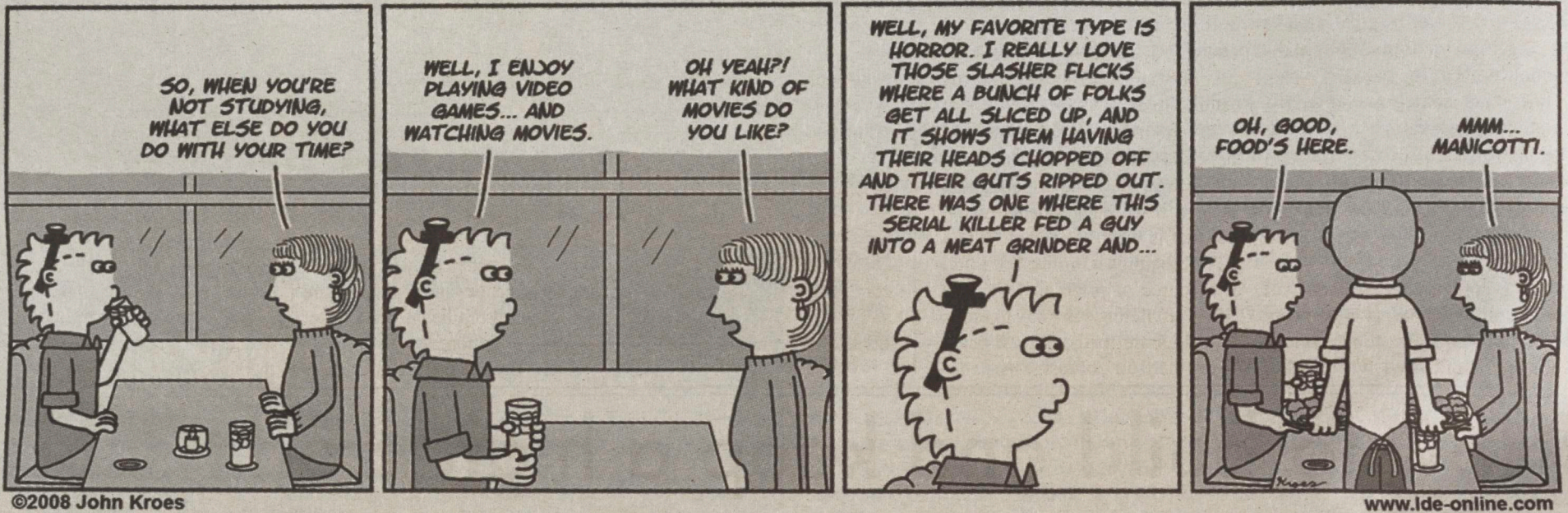
your income to your retirement account and never ever touch the money for anything else. You may wonder where to put the money, and that is understandable. The stock market has been tumbling, and it has always been marketed as the place to invest. You are young. If you begin investing when the market is at or near historic lows, you will benefit greatly over the long run. Don't fear the market, just don't wade into it until it is clear it has bottomed, and is on the rise. For now, keep life simple and put your money in federally insured Certificates of Deposit. Save, don't spend.

Anything important you wish to buy, home, auto or other large expense, it is best to save for as large a down payment as possible, once again by setting aside a savings account specifically for that

purpose.

Reprogram your brain. We live in a world of instant gratification. If your desires are all satiated quickly, the satisfaction will fade just as quick. If something takes years to accomplish, like graduating from college, the satisfaction of your accomplishment will last a very long time.

Lesson three is also simple. The best things in life are free. If you have to have this explained, then I'll write an article or two on this subject. Just remember you don't have to spend money to enjoy all that life has to offer. Being among friends is always the best way to start, the best way to be, and the most important thing you will see when you look back into life's rear view mirror when you are approaching the end of the road. Life's a journey. Enjoy the ride.



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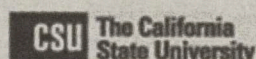
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University Student Union Student Forums

As Cal State San Marcos continues to grow and approach its 20th anniversary, we are exploring options for constructing a facility for campus life, programming, social interactions, and leadership development that will impact the entire campus community. The proposed University Student Union (USU) project will enhance the quality of campus life by providing a mix of informal gathering spaces, retail and food services, and venues for events. However, an increase to the existing Student Union fee would be necessary to support construction and ongoing operational costs associated with the facility.

CSUSM will be utilizing an alternative consultation process which provides opportunities for student, faculty, and staff input regarding the proposed USU building and student fee increase through forums and a website (<http://www.csusm.edu/usu/>) designed to be both educational and a means to obtain feedback. This feedback will then be compiled into a report and presented to the Student Fee Advisory Committee and President Haynes.

Your participation is crucial to the process since the proposed University Student Union will have broad implications affecting many aspects of campus life. By attending one of the forums, you will have an opportunity to learn more about the proposed building, view artist renderings, ask questions and provide us with your thoughts and ideas.

The open student forums are scheduled as follows:

- **February 25, 2009 in the Clarke Field House, Room 113, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.**
- **March 12, 2009 in Markstein Hall, Room 125, from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.**

Free pizza will be served!

Check out the USU website (<http://www.csusm.edu/usu/>) to learn more and to leave questions or comments.

A Day in the Life of An R.A.

The R.A. convention

BY BILL RHEIN
Senior Staff Writer

By worldly standards, most people would mark RAs as nerds. That is probably true. We spend our weekends ensuring CSUSM does not degrade into a wasteland of alcohol and drugs described by rapper Asher Roth's song "I Love College." We even go to conferences to meet and be with other RAs.

In November 2008, we went to Scripps College for the Southern Residential Activities Programming (SRAP) conference. This conference, which began in the 1970-'71 school year at UCLA, is a one-day gathering of RAs from Southern California. This year's theme was "008- License to Thrill," a pun on James Bond movies.

The conference is about all things RA. There is a keynote speaker who talks about college life and workshops where other

RAs share ideas for programming. Parts of the festivities include awards for individuals and schools with good programming ideas as well as the "Spirit Stick" award. This prize goes to the school with not only the most spirit, but also those who participate in philanthropy, programming ideas, and festive giveaways.

To match the theme of undercover secret agents, we dressed up as Waldo, from the book series "Where's Waldo?" The judges appreciated our costumes, program ideas, and attitude because for the second year in a row we won the "Spirit Stick."

We might have looked like fools dressed in red and white shirts and going away for a day to talk about how to serve out residents better, but that is what it means to be an RA. It requires humility, but I find it a source of pride as well. The SRAP conference is a day to prove that RAs are nerds, but we enjoy being there for our residents.

The Breax

Hip-hop for the soul

BY MATT LEWIS
Pride Staff Writer

On February 11 at 6 p.m., a Christian Hip-Hop show hosted by a group called The Breax performed at the Clarke Field House.

The Breax is made up of three artists: Ruslan Karaoglanov, the emcee and a CSUSM student, Beleaf, the DJ from Baltimore, Maryland, and Mic B, the drummer who is from Oceanside. The event included local artists like Heavenly Host from Oceanside, and a Portland, Oregon native artist called Braille.

This event marked the beginning of the "Broken Television" tour for The Breax, which will take them to New York City, Maryland, and Los Angeles. The idea of the concert was to

let The Breax and the local artists express themselves and their beliefs through both Hip-Hop music and spoken word poetry.

"Hip-Hop is a powerful medium, and it is important to support artists you enjoy as well as local rising Hip-Hop artists," said CSUSM student Rajah Gainey to the crowd shortly before the show.

The performance opened with songs from local artists, including one from Oceanside called Heavenly Host. Although he only played a few songs, his powerful instrumentals and thoughtful lyrics made him a crowd favorite.

Next was Braille, a.k.a Bryan Winchester, from Portland, who incorporated a lot more dancing into his songs and had a much longer set than the first two artists. He definitely had much more experience with stage presence, and was able to use humor and enthusiastic showmanship to get the crowd ready for the main event. Although he will not be touring with The Breax, he will be playing local venues in the near future (go to www.braillehiphop.com for more information).

The Breax themselves com-



Photo courtesy of Matt Lewis

manded the audience's attention most out of all the groups. The fact that they use a live drum set (played by Mic B) and used turntables made their songs much easier for the audience to get into. Their sound is reminiscent of the People under the Stairs and Dilated Peoples, with obvious influences from groups like The Roots and Common.

In addition to entertaining the crowd with audience-influenced freestyles and spoken word monologues from all the members, the group conveyed how their beliefs have had a positive effect on both their music and their lives.

"It's good to see groups conveying a positive message through Hip-Hop, instead of the typical stuff you see on TV," said Anthony Carlson, a junior at CSUSM. "It seems much harder to promote a positive message through your beliefs than to give into societal pressure."

For more information on The Breax including upcoming tour dates, go to www.myspace.com/thebreax.



Photo courtesy of Matt Lewis

How to build and keep a high credit score

BY JESSENIA LUA
Pride Staff Writer

Ever wonder what determines your credit score? For many of us, it's a guessing game of confusing numbers only hoping to be high enough to financially qualify us for anything. Having a high credit score is important because it shows lenders you are responsible and financially trustworthy. With a high credit score, you can borrow money from banks with better interest rates, easily qualify to rent a home, and in some cases, get a new job.

If you just turned 18 and have no credit history whatsoever, a great way to establish credit would be to open a checking and savings account with a bank. Deposits, withdrawals, and transfers are a constructive way

of showing financial responsibility. Starting slow is the best way to establish credit. Instead of jumping in and applying for a major credit card with a high credit limit, try to go for something simple like a gasoline credit card or even a line of credit at a department store.

Within time, your credit will slowly build up to represent a financially trustworthy person.

Credit scores are determined by using the FICO scoring system. FICO is an acronym for Fair Isaac Company who developed this system that became the standard creditworthiness for potential borrowers. FICO calculates your credit score by considering anything from payment history, amounts owed, length of credit history, new credit, and types of credit used. Credit

scores are anywhere between 300 to 850 with 300 being the poorest credit and 850 being the highest credit.

Keeping a high credit score is critically important especially when you are venturing out on your own. One thing that can help keep your credit score high is by always making payments on time. Missing and avoiding credit payments is the easiest way to damage your credit. If you forget to make a payment and pay it three days late, not to worry, this one little mistake will not affect your credit score. However, consecutively missing payments will definitely bring your score down. Also, if you have unexpected emergencies, credit companies will work out a payment plan to prevent any damage to your credit. While making payments to credit companies, it is not necessary

to make the full balance payment, but it is necessary to at least make the full minimum payment.

Credit scores are not determined by your age, but by the history of financial responsibility. Payment history is the most important factor in determining your credit score. However, having too many open credit accounts can hurt your credit. The fewer the credit cards you have, the better. Lenders might interpret several open credit cards as risky behavior.

If you have fallen into some hardships, there are a few things you can do to get your credit back on track. For one, don't be afraid to consolidate. If you're overwhelmed by all your payments and have fallen behind, choosing a non-profit credit counseling program can help you

improve your credit. Debt consolidation used to have negative effects on credit, but now only helps improve it. Craig Watts, an executive at Fair Isaac & Co., says, "Today the FICO score ignores any and all references in a credit report to credit counseling or debt management programs."

Always avoid bankruptcy completely. Bankruptcy can knock 200 or more points from your otherwise fair credit score, and recovering from it is very tough. Bankruptcy can stay on your record for up to 10 years, and the majority of lenders will reject bankrupt consumers.

Long story short, the next time you find yourself wondering about your credit, remember to start small to end up big, be patient to let it grow, and always make your payments on time.

UniversityVoice

Photos by Diana Valdivia /Pride Staff Writer

"How much of a difference do you think Obama's plan will make?"



"We'll see if it creates jobs. They need to regulate the money so we can see where the money is getting spent. Like Obama said it will take time to see a difference."

Matt Dobbs
Republican



"I believe that Obama's stimulus package has good intentions but for a student it may be very confusing to allocate where the money is being distributed."

Cameron McLaws
Republican



"From looking at different areas that are going to benefit from the stimulus plan like \$4 billion going to scientific research that will help the schools. Also looking at the new administration, they do seem to put more emphasis on education, more money will go to schools. That's going to be a good thing."

Daniel Wambua
No Affiliation



"I think it will have a good impact on both the economy and the school campus. For the economy it'll create more jobs for people and hopefully boost the economy in the next few years. For the campus I think it will help with struggling tuition costs and budget cuts that have been made."

Laura Sauter
Republican



"It can be a positive result from the Obama administration directing funds towards education. It might be a small bandaid on a bigger social problem."

Alejandro Avila
Democrat

Recession timeline

BY SANDRA CHALMERS
Senior Staff Writer

(October 8, 2008) **A.I.G.:** "The greedy get more greedy"

The Federal Reserve Board allowed for an additional \$37.8 billion toward A.I.G. securities even after news of A.I.G. executives investing in a luxury vacation. (federalreserve.gov)

(November 10, 2008) **A.I.G.** "Just a little more pocket change please"

A final revision to the Federal Reserve Board and U.S. Treasury financial support given to A.I.G. ends with an additional \$40 billion to keep the company strong and secure the progress of reconstruction. The total federal financial support adds up to staggering \$150 billion. (federalreserve.gov)

(November 23, 2008) **Citigroup** "Plane disgrace"

The government decided to secure Citigroup's \$306 billion in loans and securities and also instill \$20 billion in capital. "With these transactions, the U.S. government is taking the actions necessary to strengthen the financial system and protect U.S. taxpayers and the U.S. economy," according to a joint press release statement from Treasury, Federal Reserve, and the FDIC on Citigroup. (federalreserve.gov)
After receiving planned to buy protecting taxpayers seemed secondary.

(September 16, 2008) **American International Group (A.I.G.):** "insurance is no reassurance"

A.I.G.'s vital role as an insurance giant reported billions in loan losses and received federal support with a \$85 billion bailout to help reinforce stability. Less than a week after confirmation that A.I.G. would receive an \$85 billion bailout, A.I.G. executives reportedly took a vacation to the St. Regis resort in Monarch Beach, Calif. The total expense for the vacation was estimated at \$440,000. (ABCnews.com)

(September 7, 2008) **Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac:** "Double, double, toil in trouble"

Two of the largest housing finance companies took a nosedive in result of losing billions to the slumping housing market. U.S. government intervened by taking control of both companies and guaranteed up to \$100 billion for each to ensure neither would fall into bankruptcy. (NPR.org)

(November 18, 2008)

The Big Three

General Motors, Chrysler and Ford flew into Washington D.C. to plea for bailout to prevent bankruptcy due to significantly low sales.

(November 26, 2008) **Bank of America**
Bank of America buys out suffering Merrill Lynch & Company. (federalreserve.gov)

(December 28, 2008) **Wall Street**

The Dow Jones plummeting at 36.2 percent for the closing of 2008, the lowest record closing since 1931 during the Great Depression, which closed at 40.6 percent.

(January 26, 2009) **Home depot announces 7,000 job losses**

All of Home Expo Design Centers across the nation are to be going out of business.

(January, 2009) Unemployment rate rises to 7.9 percent (dol.gov)

UPCOMING EVENTS



MARDI GRAS CELEBRATION.
UHOOR. TUES. FEB. 24

VAGINA MONOLOGUES

6 P.M. FRI. FEB. 20.

COUGAR IDOL PRELEMINARIES.
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Congress approves stimulus package

Billions to boost financial aid, tax credits and employment

BY DIANA VALDIVIA
Pride Staff Writer

This past Friday, the stimulus package passed through Congress. The stimulus package is a \$787 billion bill that President Obama will sign early this week. There is no doubt that this package will go down in history without any controversy. The House passed the bill with no Republican support, 246 votes in favor and 183 votes against. The Senate had a similar situation, 60 to 38 votes, with only three Republican votes in favor.

According to the Associated Press and USA Today, the package will include billions towards colleges, public schools, and students.

The package includes the largest funding increase for Pell Grants. Nationally the package incorporates almost \$17 billion just for the Pell Grant program alone. Currently eligible students' benefits go up to \$4,700. With this package, financial aid would increase nearly 9 percent starting July 1 and up to \$5,550 in 2010. Most beneficiary students come from families whose income is less than \$40,000.

Another benefit that would come along is a tax credit. \$13 billion would go towards higher education tax credits. Students at four-year colleges and their families are to benefit from a higher education tax credit that would go up \$2,500. According to the San Francisco Chronicle, in California alone, this tax credit could help more than 500,000 students.

It is calculated that California would get the most out of this package. Over the next two years, California would receive 10 percent, around \$80 billion, of the package. California's current budget deficit would benefit from this package. The state is currently at a record high \$42 billion deficit.

College life among students will definitely be affected by the stimulus package. Student Michael Medel explained, "When it comes to college students, I do think that the stimulus package will positively affect many potential and current students who couldn't afford to pay for college."

"By increasing the amount of eligible students for the Pell Grant and helping with tax benefits, the plan might give that extra push to people who were only thinking about attending college to actually attend and help current students stay in college to finish their degrees," continued Medel.

Another student, Daniela Fulop, believes the stimulus package will have a positive effect. "I'm very optimistic about Obama's

plan. I believe it will make a difference, especially for college students. In these times, we need all the help we can get!"

Fulop commented on the difference this stimulus package will have on students, "I'm sure we'll see some differences, at least on our Financial Aid Reports. Those who got little or no financial aid in the past, now have higher hopes. I'm thankful that they are concerned about us 'poor college students!'"

Other benefits from this stimulus package include \$39 billion towards K-12 grade schools and colleges that would help to prevent state budget cuts. Additionally, nearly \$8 billion would go to schools' priorities such as building renovations.

More than \$4 billion would be for the Head Start, for other early education programs and childcare programs.

Home purchases from first-time homebuyers before December 1 would be eligible for an \$8,000 tax credit. Also, consumers purchasing a new car would be eligible to write off the sales taxes.

Starting around June, workers who earn less than \$75,000 would get a \$400 tax credit, about \$13 extra each weekly paycheck. The tax credit would go up to \$800 for couples who combined income earn less than \$150,000. These tax credits would be only for 2009 and 2010. Medicaid would receive \$87 billion. The food stamp program currently benefiting 30 million Americans would also receive more funding.

It is not clear when America will start to feel the effects of this stimulus package. According to the Associated Press, Obama will sign the bill sometime today.



Budget banter

Chancellor Reed announces more than bargained for

BY JAMES SEBRING
Pride Staff Writer

Chancellor Reed stated in a recent communication release to CSU employees that the previously proposed \$66 million budget cut will be permanent. He also established a fixed full-time equivalent student (FTES) number for fiscal year 08-09 and 09-10. FTES is a method of calculating the student population in terms of bodies and units taken.

Essentially, we are in a zero population growth situation, which equates to a very simplistic approximation that for every student that goes out the door, one can come in. As a result, first-time college applicants may find acceptance harder to come by. The state decided to have the CSUs take a regional approach to enrollment, meaning local applicants have priority.

One of the problems of zero growth is that the money coming in remains the same, so there has to be an increase in fees. The proposed fee increase for next year is 10%. In lieu of that negative image, Chancellor Reed froze salaries for CSU Vice Presidents and above, as well as some management levels.

Federally or privately funded programs are unaffected by state budget cuts, but according to Nathan Evans, Director of Admissions and Recruitment, there isn't that much federal funding here at CSUSM. Federal program funds are also very specific and don't contribute to general maintenance funds.

The belt tightening also affects equipment purchases. This consists of facilities design and construction, which includes new educational building construction and upgrade of old buildings. You will be happy to know, however, that construction of our new parking facility will be unaffected by these budget cuts since the funds for construction are provided through private funds, bond issues, and of course your parking fees.

The McMahan House is also included in this elite category since it is privately funded. The McMahan House is the construction project on the hill just above the Track and Field competition area. It is to be a ceremonial meeting place between the community and the University.

Neal Hoss, CSUSM Vice President of University Advancement, stated that "whatever the budget realities are, the campus and university leadership are committed to moving forward and doing the best we can."

In talking to Margaret Lutz, Public Information Officer, she said that the general morale of staff personnel was good, despite the budget cutbacks and wage freezes. Lutz further explained, "It is probably the number one issue on everyone's mind... faculty, staff and students. But President Haynes has positioned the university pretty good... knowing that there might be a shortfall this year. We are better off than a lot of the universities in the system, regarding the budget. And I think that is because of President Haynes' foresight... anticipating the situation and having us watch the expenditures closely last year."

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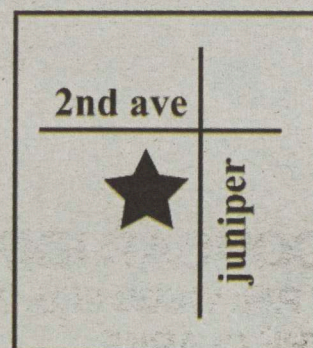
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Managing credit

High scores and no games

BY JESSENIA LUA
Pride Staff Writer

Ever wonder what determines your credit score? For many of us, it's a guessing game of confusing numbers only hoping to be high enough to financially qualify us for anything. Having a high credit score is important because it shows lenders you are responsible and financially trustworthy. With a high credit score, you can borrow money from banks with better interest rates, easily qualify to rent a home, and in some cases, get a new job.

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credit. Instead of jumping in and applying for a major credit card with a high credit limit, try to go for something simple like a gasoline credit card or even a line of credit at a department store.

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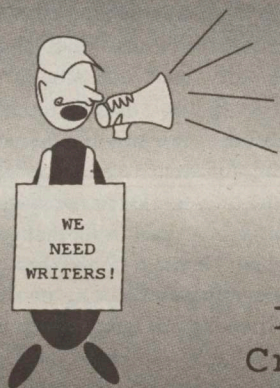
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you improve your credit. Debt consolidation used to have negative effects on credit, but now only helps improve it. Craig Watts, an executive at Fair Isaac & Co., says, "Today the FICO score ignores any and all references in a credit report to credit counseling or debt management programs."

Always avoid bankruptcy completely. Bankruptcy can knock 200 or more points from your otherwise fair credit score, and recovering from it is very tough. Bankruptcy can stay on your record for up to 10 years, and the majority of lenders will reject bankrupt consumers.

Long story short, the next time you find yourself wondering about your credit, remember to start small to end up big, be patient to let it grow, and always make your payments on time.



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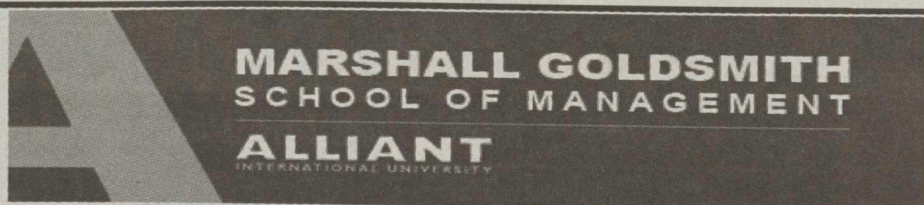
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BY CONSUELO MARTINEZ
Pride Staff Writer

Nowadays, there are a variety of cleaning sprays and solutions to choose from for home and laundry use. If you do any gardening, you can understand that pesticides and fertilizers are costly and not always safe for our environment.

For thousands of years, people have been using vinegar for a variety of uses. Vinegar is probably one of those things many of us saw as a kid but have forgotten about.

A household brand name, Heinz (yes, the makers of ketchup), are also makers of vinegar. The H.J. Heinz Company has produced vinegar in the United States for over 100 years. Vinegars range in taste, colors and use. The vinegars produced by Heinz are natural, low-calorie, kosher and gluten-free (with the exception of their apple cider flavored vinegar). Distilled white vinegar can be used for more than cooking and pickling. The use of distilled white vinegar ranges from home, outdoor and personal use. The following are just a few of the many uses of distilled white vinegar: Household and appliance cleaner, Mouth-

wash, Stain and odor remover, Fabric softener, Weed killer, Fertilizer and pesticide, Food seasoning, Shining solution (hair, car, shoes), Antiseptic (for cuts and scrapes), Soothes sunburns, Removes rust and other mineral deposits.

In a time when money is tight and more people strive to be green, it is time to return to the basics. Vinegar is a safe and inexpensive product with a multitude of uses. There is a reason people have been using it for thousands of years. So instead of spending money on those fancy housecleaning and laundry products, give vinegar a try! Your wallet and the environment will thank you.

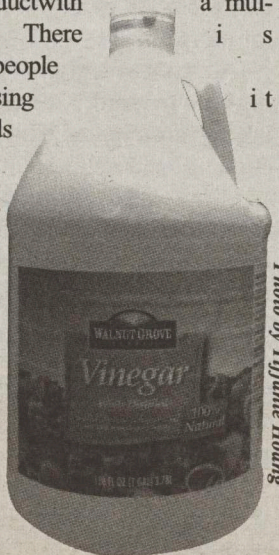


Photo by Tiffanie Hoang

Cougar Kitchen

Gihon Guisado (sautéed rice sticks)



Ingredients:

- Rice Stick you might also be able to use angel-hair pasta
- Two tablespoons cooking oil
- 1/4 large red onion (diced)
- 1 cup pork cubes or strips
- 2 cups shredded carrots
- 2 cups shredded Chinese cabbage
- 2 cups sliced green beans
- 1 cube Knorr chicken bouillon
- 3 cups of water
- 1 tablespoon Cajun spice (optional)
- 2 cloves chopped garlic
- 1 teaspoon black pepper
- 2 tablespoons oyster sauce
- 3 tablespoons soy sauce
- 1 teaspoon of salt

* salt may be a critical dietary concern so use judgment on the last three salty items.

Directions: Cook in large wok

1. brown pork until cooked (optional meats include chicken, shrimp, Turkey or if you or are truly on a budget, I suppose you could use hotdogs, sausage, or spam)
2. add chopped onions, garlic, oyster sauce, chicken bouillon, salt, pepper, and Cajun sauce, soy sauce and water after meat is thoroughly cooked
3. Let simmer for two to three minutes stirring occasionally
4. Add carrots, green beans and cabbage. Mix thoroughly and cook for a few minutes.
5. Add rice sticks and mix into the meat and vegetable mixture as the rice stick softens.
6. Cook on medium heat stirring

occasionally until noodles are completely soft and thoroughly mixed with the meat and vegetables. Continue to cook until satisfied that vegetables and noodles are cooked to desired softness.



Photo by James Sebring

A slice of Philly in San Marcos

BY MATT LEWIS
Pride Staff Writer

If there is anything that the residents of Philadelphia, PA, are more proud of, it is their Philly cheesesteaks. The ingredients are simple enough: roast beef, cheese, onions, and Italian bread (with many variations containing banana peppers, pizza sauce, etc.). But residents of Philly are often quick to pass harsh judgment on these 'imitators' and claim that a cheesesteak outside of Philly just is not the same. One local restaurant, however, is giving places that claim to serve 'real' cheesesteaks a run for their money. This place is Philly Franks, located at 151 S. Rancho Santa Fe Road (left off the exit) and is San Marcos' pre-

mier cheesesteak emporium.

Philly Franks was started by Linda and Frank Soper, the co-owners of the restaurant, who continue to run the restaurant as a family business. "We are from Philly originally; we've lived in San Diego for 35 years, and having been running this place for 9 years" says Linda Soper. If experience has taught them anything, it's that the two most valuable things in life are family and food. Not only does this restaurant make great food, it provides a sense of community and home to local residents who hail from Pennsylvania. The store is decorated with all sorts of paraphernalia from the Eagles, Sixers, Phillies, and Flyers. In addition to the décor, they serve local products you just can't find in Cali-

fornia, like Tastykakes, Wise chips, and Esposito's Italian Ices.

"The first time I went in there, I knew they were the real deal. I mean, to import that local food in addition to the atmosphere really makes it unique to San Diego. Plus, the food is incredible" said Geoff Acres, a San Diego resident and Philly transplant. Tina McAleese, the manager, imparts the sense of community people have in the restaurant: "When people get together here, whether they talk to us or the customers or the locals, and they get to talk about their hometown and the stuff they care about, that's really special." So most people come to Philly Franks for the food, many more stay for the casual and friendly atmosphere and the oppor-

tunity to catch a game with friends.

Some Cal State students have been singing Philly Franks praises since they opened. "The cheesesteaks are awesome, plus the fact that they're local makes it seem like friends are running the place" said Anthony Carlson, a junior at CSUSM. "I remember they once sponsored a blading contest down at the Kit Carson Park, and brought the grill out and everything. It was awesome, there's no way any chain restaurant would do something like that". With its close proximity to campus and selection of fine beers (including Stone and Alaskan Amber), Philly Franks is definitely worth checking out. Need more incentive? Well, they also offer a 10% discount with your student

ID. And when looking at the menu and are unsure of what to get, just remember the Philly saying: "It's all good!"



Photo by Matt Lewis

Cooking with gas

A review of "Kitchen Confidential"

BY MATT LEWIS
Pride Staff Writer

When asked to define "exciting" jobs, the average person would not put "chef" of the top of the list. This occupation would probably be even lower on the list of what would be exciting material for a bestselling book. However, "Kitchen Confidential: Adventures in the Culinary Underbelly" by Anthony Bourdain is an exception to this false impression. His tales of the down-and-dirty world of the restaurant industry carved a new niche for chefs everywhere in the popular consciousness. Whereas before people who worked in restau-

rants were looked at as reserved (if ever noticed at all), he showed that in reality, cooks and restaurateurs were often more on par with biker gangs and punk bands. What goes on behind the closed doors is behavior and actions that would strike shock and horror into the heart into the average naïve diner.

This goes beyond picking food off the floor after the '5 second rule'; how about enjoying a steak that's been sitting in the fridge for more than 2 weeks? That's often what is served when a person asks for 'well-done'. Sex with waitresses in the walk-in? Check. Shooting up and cooking for 12 hour plus shifts? Check.

Working at terrible restaurants that are fronts for the Mob? Check. The list goes on and on as Bourdain recounts his adven-

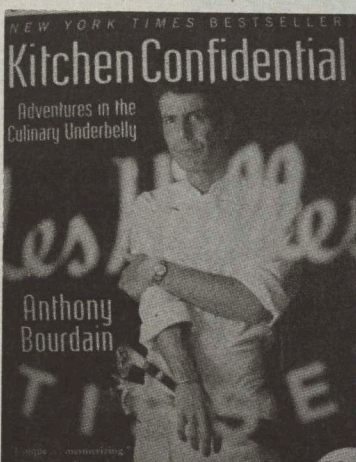


Image courtesy of Amazon.com

tures and misadventures working in a number of less-than-reputable eating establishments.

Perhaps the most important part of the book is the stereotype of the happy, obedient and invisible chef people often tend to believe. The cooks he talks about are real people -- people like all of us: mean, funny, addicted to drugs, in debt for gambling, have families. The chef community is full of bitter people who swear, get angry, and commit crimes, not unfeeling robots who cook food. There is a person behind that \$150 foie gras meal you ordered. -- a person who probably would have to save for weeks to afford the very same meal.

The book used somewhat of a dark humor and defiant attitude in describing the modern restaurant scene that may seem a little harsh for some readers. Bourdain's writing style is not intended to put readers off, but to open their eyes. Every person has flaws and emotions, and its time restaurant staff be recognized for being just that -- human, and therefore, imperfect. But before this turns too philosophical, just know that it's an entertaining and funny book that gives you a new perspective on experience of a cook. So take it easy the next time you get your food a little late, because it means that there's more to story than you might think.

Twilight: A night beneath the midnight sun

(a fanfiction of Bella and Edward's carnal rendezvous)

BY KEVIN CHATHAM
Pride Staff Writer

"Edward..."

Just his name, but suddenly Edward was able to identify the fluid tone in Bella's voice. He had heard it before, but only in his own head. He had never imagined that he would hear it aloud. He wasn't sure how to respond, and yet he was even less sure how to respond to the hand that slipped gently down the lines of his back.

The fingertips continued to trace his waist, achingly slow, almost apologetic, as though Bella knew that what she was asking for wasn't right, and somehow that made it harder for Edward to refuse her.

"Bella...no," Edward breathed, wishing he sounded more sincere. At that moment Edward's body shifted, betraying him by leaning into her ongoing touch. Bella's hand stopped, and without conscious effort Edward moved, his hips begging further exploration.

"You promised," Bella whispered. The proximity of her lips tickled his ears, sending torrents of electricity down his body.

Edward felt Bella's breath on his neck and sensed the paralysis of inevitability overwhelm him. Her breath was warm and fragrant, thawing every contour of his cold body. He struggled to find the strength to deny her; instead he felt his hips writhe involuntarily beneath her fingers. He wanted this, wanted it so hard and for so

long that he couldn't bear to lose it now, he couldn't bear to deny her, to deny himself.

"Please," Bella pleaded, her velvety voice relaxing all protest in his hard body.

Edward lifted one hand to caress Bella's face, purposefully running his thumb over the soft curves of her lips. His other hand moved, entangling his fingers within the endless strands of her cascading locks. Then he leaned in to finally claim the mouth that tormented his mind for so long.

It wasn't a gentle kiss. Edward poured all of himself into it, all the months of frustration melted. Edward found his passion met and equalled by Bella's unrelenting desire. He felt surprisingly strong hands slide around his waist, fingers pushing beneath the waistband of his trousers, gripping the skin beneath with bruising force. Edward closed his eyes as Bella's mouth grazed over his chin, hard sucking biting kisses, tongue, lips and teeth against his cold marble neck.

"Ohh Bella," Edward sighed. His head spun from a lack of traction. Bella leaned back and looked at him, forcing her hips into his. Edward felt the blood rushing in Bella's body scattering what remained of his coherent thoughts.

"Off," Bella commanded, tugging at Edward's shirt.

To be continued...

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DVD hits & misses

BY BLAINE H. MOGIL
Pride Staff Writer

Welcome to the second installment of a new feature in *The Pride*. Here, you will find reviews of a wide range of DVD's including new releases from the Hollywood movie factory, indie art films, documentaries, rockumentaries and mockumentaries, and even some foreign flix to broaden your movie horizons. From week to week expect to find a mix of 'What to See' or 'What to Miss' films, or perhaps some 'What You Missed' films, to help you to uncover a video gem hiding in the dusty corner of the local Video Store (or on Netflix!).

Our first selection this week is the highly praised, highly hyped and highly anticipated Hollywood Comic Book blockbuster, featuring Batman in "The Dark Knight." First, let it be known that although I love many comic book movies based on characters such as Hellboy and the X-Men, I am not a Bat-fan. Also, when viewing any movie that has garnered as much praise as this one, such great expectations can easily lead to great disappointment. With "The Dark Knight," I find myself straining to hold back on the praise. No one should be disappointed because I over-hyped it. Heath Ledger. Wow. He delivers a stellar performance unlike any I have ever seen. I don't think I will ever see a performance this great again. In this film, Heath Ledger doesn't simply create a character. He is the Joker mind, body and soul. His performance is so entrancing, and shines so bright that it almost, almost, leaves everyone else in the shadows. But with an amazing cast including such gifted actors such as Michael Caine portraying Alfred, Morgan Freeman as Lucius Fox, Gary Oldman as Commissioner Gordon, and Aaron Eckhart as Harvey Dent, there is little chance that Ledger's shining star performance will completely eclipse the others. The movie sets create a world so real that it's authenticity never comes into question. The direction, camera work and editing are all first rate. And, the story itself is a nicely woven tale of love, love lost, and the sacrifices we make in the interest of making our world a better place. If you can see it in Blu-Ray, make sure you do. The bottom line is that this movie is not only a solid 'What to See', but also a 'Not to Miss.' *****

Our second film, "The Visitor" is

the second film from indie writer/director Thomas McCarthy, whose first film, "The Station Agent," was a solid, quirky, and heartwarming story of friendship and connection. This film further examines these themes with Richard Jenkins delivering a solid performance as Professor Walter Vale. Walter has lost his wife, his connections to the world, and his sense of purpose. When Walter returns to his apartment in the city for the first time in years, he encounters Tarek and Zainab, portrayed by Haaz Sleiman and Mouna Khalil, who have rented the apartment from one of Tarek's acquaintances. In the aftershock of finding strangers living in his apartment, Walter finds a bond growing with his newfound friends, Tarek and Zainab. This connection can clearly be felt while watching the movie. Tarek and Zainab are both here in the country illegally. As events play out and Tarek is torn from Walter's life, Walter desperately grasps to hold onto Tarek, and will not willingly let him go. Do not look for a happy, clean Hollywood plot line or ending. Just know that if you are feeling adrift and disconnected in this world, this film just might help you to find your path back to connection. Don't live a life disconnected, and don't miss connecting to this solid 'What to See' film. ****

The final selection this week is a documentary about competitive break dancing entitled "Planet B-Boy." The stories in this film are at times a little choppy, and the editing a little sloppy. You may wish that they had not cut out so much of the actual competition video footage. That's the bad news. On the plus side, this film follows several competitive break dance (also known as B-Boy) teams from around the world as they converge in Germany for the B-Boy "Battle of the Year" competition. The competitors come from countries all over the world including Japan, South Korea, France, the United States and more, all trying to fulfill the common dream of being named the best B-Boy team on the planet. If you are not familiar with this art form, this film is the perfect introduction. All of these young men are committed to their art, their teammates and the hope to show the world that their country has the best B-Boy dancers in the world. There is majesty in their dance, there is athleticism in their performance and a brotherhood within and among teams that transcends the sport. My wife said it best after watching this film when she said, "Maybe it'll be an Olympic Sport someday." That day can't come soon enough for me. "What to See" for shizzle! ****



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Hits of Sunshine

Fleet foxes

BY AMY SALISBURY
Faces & Places Editor

Considering my current state of being, what I'm about to do is unfair. For the past few months, I've suffered a serious folk-rock trip, meaning I habitually assault my parents' superbly preserved *Déjà Vu*, *Pet Sounds*, and *Bookends* albums, get someone else to work the record player, and envy music generations past.

Within the silky black LPs seemed to rest a validity I've yet to experience in artists of late. Maybe the act of physically pursu-

ing the music led me to such a distressing conclusion. The weight of the vinyl combined with musty smells of old cardboard radiated sincerity I thought I'd never meet after about 1973. Then I heard White Winter Hymnal.

Gusts of cathedral-worthy harmonies snaked into my ears the way a stable stylus seamlessly glides into a record's grooves. Who are Fleet Foxes and why haven't I heard them before?

Robin Pecknold and best friend Skyler Skjelset spent their high school years developing a shared appreciation of Bob Dylan and

Neil Young. After self-releasing an EP, *Fleet Foxes*, in 2006, the Seattle-based band signed on with Sub Pop records in early 2008. Fellow musicians J. Tillman, Casey Wescott, and Christian Wargo complete the current line-up. Shortly following, Sub Pop produced their second EP, *Sun Giant*.

Well, this is starting to make sense.

Fleet Foxes's self-titled debut album, released in mid-2008, hosts a myriad of songs about nature and emotion. Pecknold designs his lyrics to exude the

perfection of Paul Simon's poetry. But beyond the standard guitars and pleasant words lies a world built on craftsmanship and brilliant vocal arrangement.

The first time I heard White Winter Hymnal, I didn't realize the song's structure was simply a repeated sequence of lines and chords. Eerily, the imagery takes you from winter to summer and back again without ever going anywhere.

The duly named Hymnal begins with Pecknold repeating a deceptively incomplete phrase thinly echoing until a tambourine's

icy clash introduces a four-part harmony. A full verse develops amidst a whimsical acoustic guitar growing to include lead guitar, bass, and a big, lumbering drum. Idyll "oohs" and "aahs" complete the backward imagery, spanning from red scarves to red blood to red strawberries. The song's journey takes it through Americana at its richest, bringing an aspect to pop music no one dared attempt since Buffalo Springfield.

Lush and blithe, Fleet Foxes breathe a new life into folk-rock. I discovered truth. Curiously, it didn't require a record player.

Attention all students!

The Pride is looking for student submissions for a literary magazine due out later this semester. Submit your work of poetry, prose, essay, fiction, non-fiction, artwork, or photography to csusmpride@gmail.com with the subject headline titled: Pride literary magazine. Submissions must be under 5,000 words; minimum of 2 submissions per person. Keep an eye out in The Pride for more details. Questions? Contact us at 760-7506099 or csusmpride@gmail.com

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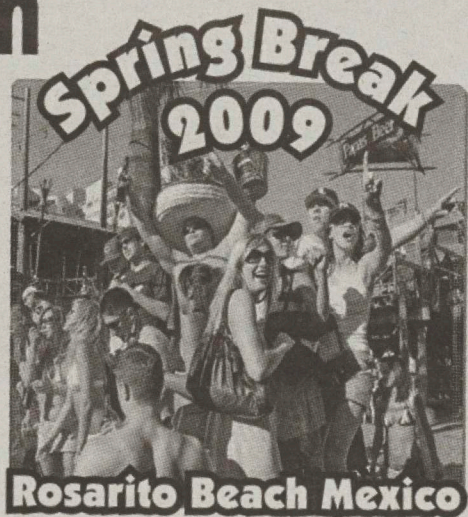
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In theaters this week

BY BILL RHEIN
Senior Staff Writer

People going to the cinema this week will have better luck at enjoying a film if they choose one already in theaters. There are only two major films releasing this week, neither are worth the price of a ticket.

First, there is Tyler Perry's "Madea Goes To Jail." Actor and director Tyler Perry once again brings back his character Mable Simmons, nicknamed "Madea,"

who is a sassy older African-America woman. He continues

to milk this "cash cow" that he started in 2005 with "Dairy of a Mad Black Woman."

As the title would suggest, this movie is about Madea going to jail. Like other movies by Perry, I expect this to be a flick based around jokes and gags rather than a plot. In the end, there will be an encouraging message jammed in right before the end. I doubt this

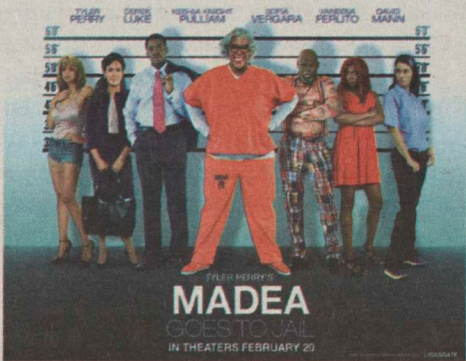


Image courtesy of Lionsgate

will be the film that increases Perry's score on Rotten Tomatoes.

The other new entry to cinemas this week is "Fired Up!" The movie poster, which boasts two large letters, an "F" and a "U," does not inspire hope that this film will be any good. "Fired Up!" is about two guys going to a cheerleader camp and the silliness that occurs. I expect this film to be an emulsion of other teen comedies, such as "Bring It

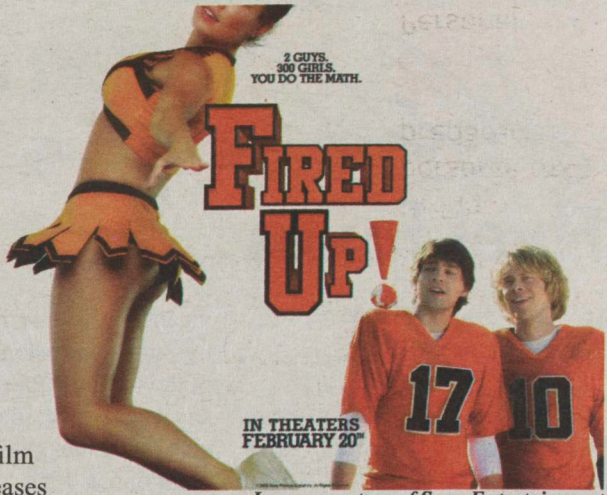


Image courtesy of Sony Entertainment

On," rather than anything entertaining or new.

Frankly, this film is going to be a waste of time. It is not artful or entertaining and will only gain an audience of teenagers because it borders on soft-core pornography. Unfortunately, movies like this will continue to be made because people who cannot handle a decent film go to see them.

Word(s) Recession

A solid collection of prehistoric ingredients referring to the colossal time trap between the 18th and 19th centuries with a dash of tapioca pudding

"You better pick up that recession over there by that turtle or else you will get pregnant and die."

Credit

The fictional currency in Star Wars. They call it "Galactic Credit Standard".

"Greetings, Jango Fett. I am Tyrannus. I have a proposition for you. You are one of select few to participate in a Special Hunt. For a Special Hunt. If you succeed, the reward will be in the amount of 5 million republic credits."

Budget

A popular and trendy term commonly used by the urban elite of Brooklyn to explain a shortage of funds while keeping your rep intact.

"See also broke, po, unemployed"

Finance

To embezzle. From the Gaelic, to steal your neighbor's eggs.

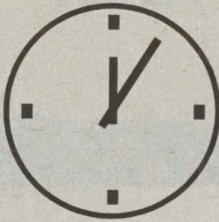
"Andy Fastow was Enron's Chief Financial Officer."

Mortgage

Possible root from the French verb "mourir" meaning to die. The english word "mortgage" refers to a home owner's loan that is usually with you until you die. Usage of the French root is supposed to make it sound fancier than "loan" - but it doesn't really.

"J'ai mort- meaning 'I am dead.' I have a mortgage- meaning 'My social life is dead because I own a house.'"

Courtesy of urbandictionary.com



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| | IN | 5 MIN. AGO | OUT |
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| Date Options | Sexy time at home | 2-for-1 dinner options | Dinner and a movie |
| Tax Prep | Turbo tax | H&R Block | Hiring a personal tax-preparer |
| Exercise | Clark Field House gym (free for CSUSM students) | L.A. Fitness | Personal trainers |