

## Update on Southern California wildfires

With the initial disaster over, the state begins to rebuild

BY JACKIE CARBAJAL  
Pride Staff Writer

More than two weeks ago, Oct. 21, the wildfires that tore through Southern California began their crusade, destroying thousands of homes and forcing hundreds of thousands of residents to evacuate. With the initial state of emergency having dissipated, South-

ern California residents and state officials are now moving into a recovery phase.

This past week, fire fighters continued battling the remaining flames. As of Thursday, Nov. 1, only the Poomacha and Santiago fires continued to burn in California of the 23 fires that plagued the state less than a week ago. In regards to the two remaining

fires, fire officials expected full containment by Nov. 3 and Nov. 4 respectively.

With evacuations lifted this past week, homeowners and city officials began assessing damages. In addition to various donations from non-profit organizations to aid victims of the fires, state and local

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Photo by Nick Strizver / The Pride

## CSUSM steps up emergency preparedness

New off-site emergency notification system enacted

BY BEN ROFFEE  
Pride Staff Writer

The Emergency Management Program at Cal State University San Marcos received its most important upgrade to date on Nov. 5. As part of an effort to provide all possible emergency preparedness resources to students, faculty, and staff, Emergency Management activated the MIR3 IN (Intelligent Notification) system. The system allows students, faculty, and staff to be notified of an emergency through a variety of means.

According to an e-mail sent out by the Office of Communications to all students, "MIR3 IN has been thoroughly tested and was scheduled to be implemented last week." The e-mail went on to explain, "Although the wildfires prevented implementation, the need for a comprehensive emergency notification system has been underscored by recent events."

Notifications can be sent in the form of SMS text messages, calls to cell phones, and calls to home phones; with users having the ability to choose desired forms of notification based on the information they provide.

With this new system, users will be able to update their secure notification contact information online at anytime. Participation in the program is not automatic and is entirely voluntary. For those interested in the program, simply go to the Emergency Management website (<http://www.csusm.edu/ep/Alert>) and follow the brief registration instructions.

## Black Student Union comes back strong

CSUSM students breathe new life into African-American community on campus



Sherray Blythe leads a group of students in re-establishing Black student organization.

Photo by Ben Roffee / The Pride

BY BEN ROFFEE  
Pride Staff Writer

For African-American students at Cal State San Marcos, the Black Student Union is the only group devoted to bringing together the African-American community on campus. Until recently, the BSU, a vital resource for an already underrepresented minority at CSUSM, had come to a standstill and ceased to be.

However, students at CSUSM have recently mobilized to revive the dormant organization. Led by Sherray Blythe, the newly restored group held its first meeting on Oct. 17. Blythe, the new BSU president and an active member in several campus organizations, said, "It [BSU] has been up before, but people never went to meetings."

Senior, Dominique Younger, characterized the previous

attempt at the BSU as "not a financially stable situation." Younger also attributed the previous failure of the BSU to a lack of activity.

On Nov. 1, during University Hour, The Pride sat in on the BSU's second meeting this semester to cover the restructuring efforts.

With the entire infrastructure of the previous BSU left bare, the first order of business at the

meeting was the nomination of willing individuals to fill vacant executive and administrative positions.

It was clear from the tone set at the meeting that this matter was not something taken lightly by those students in attendance. Candidates were subjected to a host of questions regarding qualifications, previ-

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## CSUSM women's soccer first ever playoff game

BY TIM MOORE  
Pride Staff Writer

CSUSM women's soccer made history Wednesday, as the Cougars defeated Concordia in the first playoff appearance in the program's two-year history.

In just the 15th minute, Taylor Ziencina scored from 18-yards out over Concordia goal keeper, Suzanne Torres thanks to an Annica Perez assist, to give the Cougars the early 1-0 lead.

In the 52nd minute, Ziencina struck again on a penalty kick.

Concordia bounced back, and just three minutes later, scored

their only goal of the game, bringing the score to 2-1.

The Cougars defense held strong throughout the game, proving to be the guiding light en route to the program's most important win ever.

The win meant the Cougars would go up against the #2 ranked Azusa Pacific team that they faced earlier in the season, losing by a score of 1-0.

The stage was set for yet another upset Friday, as the Cougars made the trip to Azusa to face a team that was unde-

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## Cross country team reaches national championship

BY TIM MOORE  
Pride Staff Writer

Ranked #3 in the nation, the CSUSM men's cross country team had nearly a month to prepare for the NAIA Region II Championships in Fresno on Saturday. The Cougars' patience paid off, as they placed first, punching their ticket to the National Championships.

Seniors Juan Mejia and Sergio Gonzalez led the CSUSM pack, much in the way they have done for the majority of the season. Mejia finished third overall with a time of

24:50. Gonzalez finished just five seconds back, with a time of 24:55.

The Cougars had a strong showing from senior transfer, Sean Brosnan, who finished 12th overall with a time of 25:31.

Freshmen, Alex Guaderama and Patrick Fitzgerald had strong showings in the middle of the pack that were key to the overall victory. Guaderama and Fitzgerald ran side by side for much of the race, as Guaderama crossed the finish line

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# THE PRIDE

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forward to help.

According to the San Diego Union Tribune, state officials plan to pay for 75 percent of debris removal efforts and the city of San Diego will pay the remaining 25 percent for those uninsured. During a news conference Thursday in Rancho Bernardo, San Diego mayor, Jerry Sanders, urged people in the community to sign up for the project in order to speed up the removal process.

"The program will make sure that homeowners are protected from scam artists and make sure that their properties are cleaned up in an environmentally proper way," said Mayor Sanders.

On Oct. 28, the Chargers hosted a home game at Qualcomm stadium, which just days prior housed more than an estimated 10,000 evacuees according to numbers released at the City of San Diego website. Fans donated more than \$72,500 at the game and the donations were immediately handed over to the Salvation Army and family members of injured firefighters.

According to the Associated Press, the NFL and NFL Players Association will donate \$250,000 through a disaster relief fund, which will directly aid victims of the San Diego wildfires.

Celebrities Gwen Stefani and David Beckham also offered donations of their own. Singer Gwen Stefani held a concert in San Diego on Oct. 30 and donated all proceeds from the concert to the San Diego Foundation, a local charity helping victims of the Southern California wildfires.

"When I heard about the devastation of the fires, at first I felt I should cancel my show out of respect, but then it occurred to me there might be a more useful solution," Stefani said Oct. 29, in a radio interview.

For his part, Los Angeles Galaxy soccer player David Beckham and his teammates

officials stepped

hosted a charity soccer game Nov. 4 with donations sent to the Salvation Army and Red Cross to help with wildfire relief aid as well.

The state government set up a website for California residents directly affected by the wildfires. The website (<http://www.rebuildyourlife.ca.gov/>) offers residents resources they need to get their lives back together.

As of Oct. 28, at least five people had been arrested on arson charges relating to the Southern California fires. A 12-year-old boy also came forward for starting a fire that burned 38,000 acres and destroyed 21 homes in Los Angeles. The boy claimed he started the fire accidentally while playing with matches outside his parent's ranch on Oct. 21. On Nov. 1, ABC news reported Los Angeles county prosecutors were still considering whether or not to prosecute the boy on arson charges. The boy's parents could also face civil liability for the damages caused by the fire.

Authorities continue to investigate more than 15 other fires whose causes remain unaccounted for. Arson, downed power lines, and construction work are known causes of five other fires.

Due to the expected resurgence of Santa Ana winds, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger asked state fire officials Oct. 31 to prepare for more fires.

In his weekly radio address, Oct. 27, Governor Schwarzenegger addressed all Californians.

"Now our recovery efforts have just begun. We have a lot of difficult work ahead. Homes, churches, businesses and entire communities must be rebuilt," said Schwarzenegger. "I promise you that we will not rest until every person is safe and that every person's life is back to normal. I know we can do this. We are resolute in our spirit. We are determined to rebuild. We are, after all, Californians."

From **BSU**, page 1

ous experience, commitment, and reliability.

Freshman and Sociology major, Kayla, was one of the candidates considered for the position of treasurer. When asked why she was interested in the position, Kayla replied, "I just really want to be involved with the BSU...I know that we are a minority on this campus and we need to stand out."

Standing out is just what the

BSU is looking to do, both on and off campus. "We feel invisible here on campus," said Sherray Blythe. One of the main concerns at the meeting was increasing the visibility of the BSU at CSUSM.

Students suggested reaching out to the community and local high schools to promote the presence of a united African-American community at CSUSM. They also hope to draw more CSUSM students into the group.

Because the group is still in its infancy, ironing out the financial situation was also a hot topic on the meeting's agenda. Danyelle, a sophomore, suggested the group look into "creative ways to do fundraising."

Apart from the logistical issues covered at the meeting, students were also attentive to the overall welfare of the newly reformed BSU and its members. "We should come together," said one student, emphasizing the need

for "team building activities." The group also communicated intentions to meet and connect with other BSU's as one of many things in store for the future of the BSU.

Building on this new momentum, the BSU stands poised to become a prominent presence on campus. The BSU encourages interested students to attend the weekly meetings on Thursdays during University Hour in Library 1111.

Oct. 31, 2007

**Provost, Emily Cutrer, sent out an e-mail outlining how faculty should proceed with the remainder of the semester in response to the time lost due to the wildfires:**

1. The Executive Committee decided that there will be no additional days added to the academic calendar due to the fires.
2. Faculty should "examine their syllabi to find way to accomplish their learning goals within the time remaining this semester."
3. Though some faculty "will find that they cannot accomplish their goals within the allotted time. In such cases, faculty should find means of covering course material that will not penalize students who cannot attend any additional class meetings."
4. If it is absolutely necessary for faculty to schedule additional class meetings, it should "consider times when classroom usage is at its lowest- University Hour and Friday afternoons."
5. Faculty may also use technology to cover cancelled classes. IITS has several different media formats available to use in order to make class material available for students.

# Police Beat

**10/10/07 11:15-4:10PM**

An unknown suspect forced entry into a 2 door Honda Civic parked in lot F, and attempted to steal the vehicle by hot wiring underneath the dash.

**10/11-10/12/07 6:00PM-10:00AM**

An unknown suspect stole an Apple lap-top computer from the University Bookstore. The value is \$1039.00

**10/15/07 8:20AM-5:30PM**

An unknown suspect stole a 2000 Honda Civic parked in lot N.

**10/16/07 1:00AM**

In parking lot O, an officer encountered a male under the age of 21, and found him to be in possession of alcohol. He was not cited, but he was referred to the Dean of Students.

**10/16/07 10:30AM-11:40AM**

In lot B, an unknown suspect broke into a vehicle by smashing a window, but no property was stolen.

**10/17/07 12:40AM**

In lot B, an officer observed suspicious behavior by 2 individuals in a vehicle, and followed them on to Barham. The officer proceeded to pull them over for a traffic violation. Once the vehicle stopped, the 2 individuals fled the car. After officers engaged in a foot pursuit past UVA, up Cesar Chavez steps, and up the Arts stairs, they apprehended the passenger, and booked him on possession of a stolen vehicle. The vehicle was stolen from the city of San Diego. UPD notified the owner, and he collected his vehicle.

**10/18/07 5:25PM**

In the 300 block of Twin Oaks Valley Road, officers contacted 2 individuals in a 2002 Toyota Tundra, and arrested them for possession of marijuana, approximately 1 gram. The two individuals were cited and released.

**10/21/07 2:00AM**

In lot N, an officer on bike patrol contacted a couple that were arguing. The verbal altercation took place between an 18year old female and a juvenile male. Officers found both to be under the influence of alcohol. UPD turned the minor over to his parents, and released the female to her friends in lieu of arrest.

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feated and untied on their home field.

The game was scoreless until the 52nd minute, when Azussa Pacific midfielder Sarah Yoro scored on a penalty.

CSUSM scored just two minutes later, as Katelyn Krauss headed a goal after splitting two defenders on a Taylor Ziencina free kick. Krauss' goal tied the game at 1-1 suddenly opened the door to the possibility of a huge upset.

The CSUSM defense stayed strong, holding the tie through the end of regulation and into overtime.

Four minutes into the overtime, Azusa Pacific defender, Katie Rorabaugh scored to the lower right corner of the net, ensuring victory to Azusa Pacific.

This season was only the second of the program's existence; that combined with the youth of the team, having only four seniors on board, shows that the future is bright for CSUSM women's soccer.

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just two seconds faster with a time of 26:07.

The victory in Fresno sends the team to the NAIA National Championships in Kenosha, WI on Saturday, November 17.

## Chargers record now 4 - 4 after losing to the Vikings on Sunday

BY TIM MOORE  
Pride Staff Writer

The Chargers came into Sunday's game fresh off of a heartwarming victory last week in fire ravaged San Diego. The Chargers stepped onto the field in Minnesota, Sunday looking to capitalize on a 2-5 Vikings team that has already seen its ups and downs.

Vikings rookie running back, Adrian Peterson stood between the Chargers, and their hopes of winning their fourth straight game.

Peterson, one of the highest touted rookies drafted in April, saw huge success at the University of Oklahoma, where he set the NCAA freshman rushing record with 1,925 yards en route to

nearly winning the Heisman Trophy.

While the Chargers scored first, on a LaDainian Tomlinson rush, the real story was the performance of Peterson.

Peterson rushed his way into the record books, passing Jamal Lewis by one yard for first all-time rushing yards in a game, with 296 yards.

Peterson first struck near the two-minute mark in the first quarter on a short rush to the left.

Despite Peterson's performance, the biggest highlight came at the end of the second quarter, when Viking's kicker, Ryan Longwell missed a 57-yard field goal. Waiting in the end zone was Chargers cornerback Antonio Cromartie, who caught

the field goal that fell short of the uprights, and returned it for 109 yards; the longest play in the history of the NFL.

Minnesota came back strong in third quarter, tying the game at 14-14, as Peterson rushed for a 64 yard field goal.

Minnesota scored again, this time through the air, as quarterback Brooks Bollinger passed to wide receiver, Sidney Rice for a 40 yard touchdown.

The Chargers scored their last points early on in the fourth quarter, on a 36-yard, Nate Kaeding field goal.

Adrian Peterson scored once again for the Vikings, this time, at 7:44 in the fourth, rushing for 46 yards.

Vikings back up running

back, Chester Taylor scored on a two yard rush with 4:28 remaining in the game, to solidify the victory.

The final score was 35-17 Vikings, in a game that saw two all-time NFL records get shattered.

The Vikings, relying heavily on the success of Peterson, improve their record to 3-5.

The loss brings the Chargers to an even 4-4 record, with the pivotal part of the season knocking on the door.

The Chargers face the Indianapolis Colts next Sunday on Sunday Night Football at 5:15 p.m. on NBC.

The Colts are fresh off of their first loss of the season, Sunday, losing to the now 9-0 New England Patriots.

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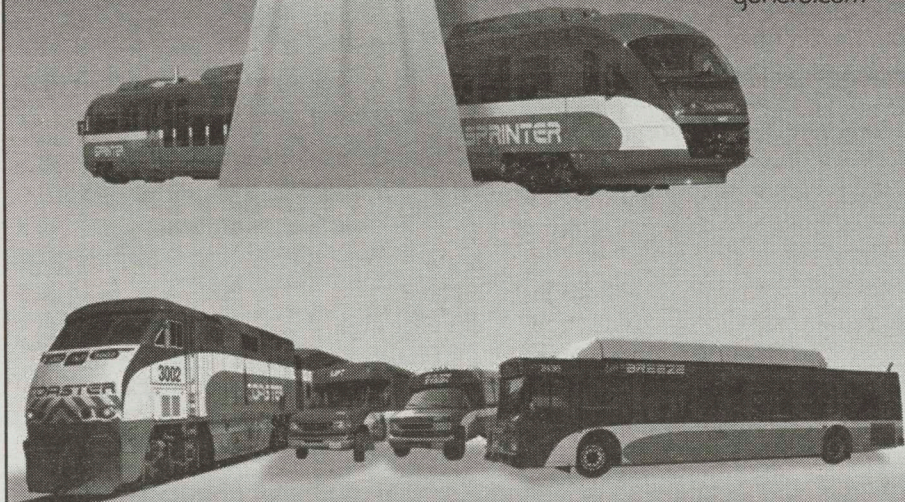
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THE PRIDE  
STUDENT NEWSPAPER

# We're Expecting!

It's true! A new addition is about to join our family and we can't wait to share the news with you. Joining the NCTD line up of BREEZE buses, COASTER trains and other transit services will be the SPRINTER light rail trains beginning operations later this year. With a station conveniently located on campus at Cal State San Marcos, we're expecting you to love it!

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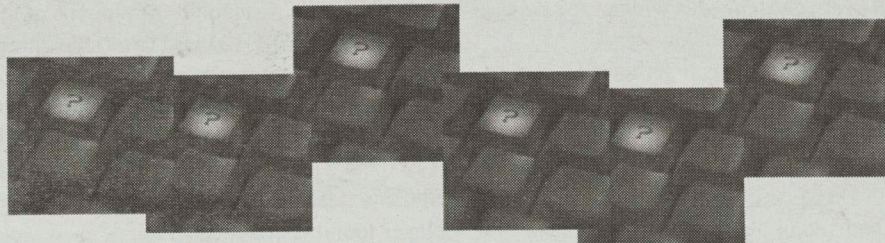
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# Washington DC, more than just big white buildings

The nation's capital is full of learning experiences for those who enjoy US history

BY VIRIDIANA PACHECO-ISAAC  
Pride Staff Writer

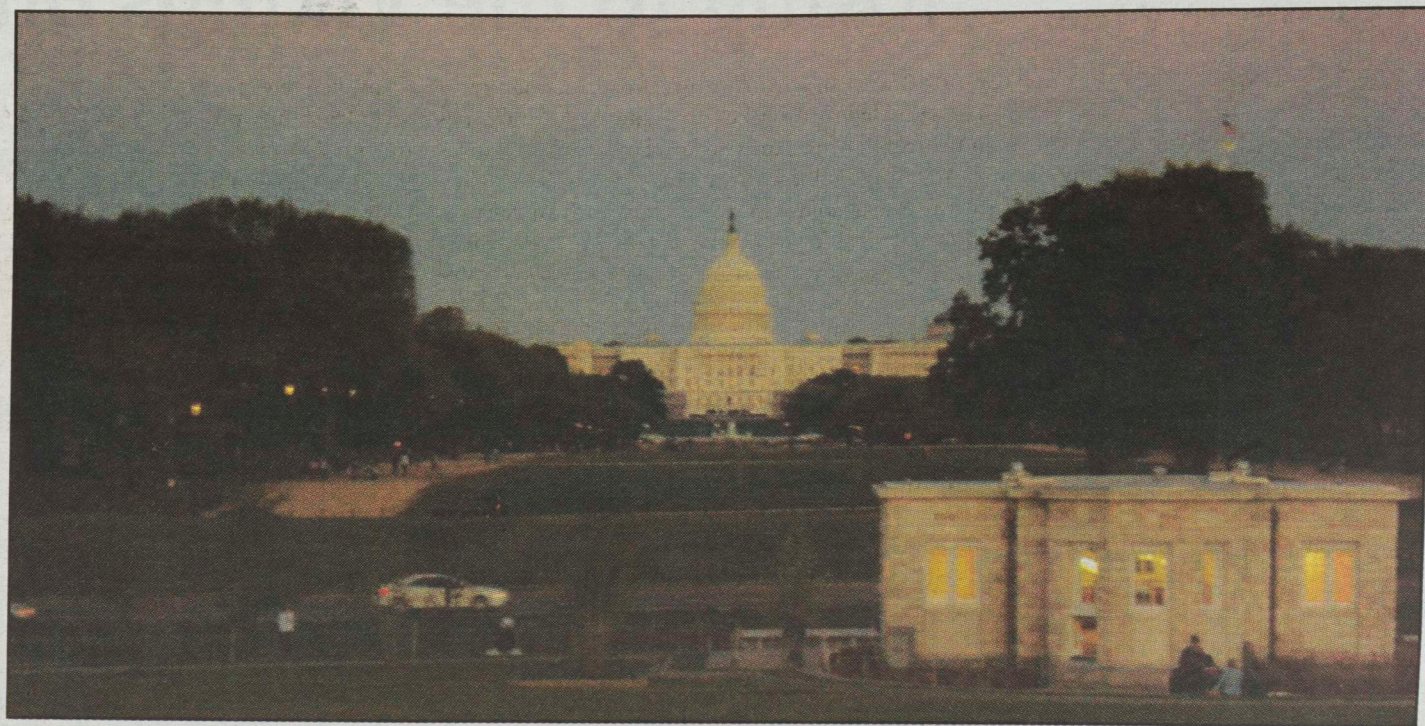
For those of us who consider ourselves history buffs, we know our nation's capital is not just for uptight politicians. The city of Washington D.C. is actually a place to visit if you enjoy cool weather and, of course, the history of the foundation of our country.

The city, masked by the White House and Capital building, is one of those places where one would find something to do, even for those who may break into a rash by the thought of a history lesson. With a wide variety of pubs, restaurants and night clubs, there is something to do for everyone. However, if you are like me and enjoy a good travel back in time, Washington D.C. is a place where you must go at least once in your life time.

The most obvious attraction is the White House, where the President and First Lady live. Scores of tourists visit this site every day, as well as its usual batch of anti-Bush protesters. However, while the White House is the icon of the city, its most interesting attractions reside in the National Mall.

One must-see spot is the Washington Monument, built in the 1800's in memory of George Washington. It stands more than 500 feet tall, surrounded by American Flags. On any given day one can visit inside the monument and experience the tributes to the nation's first president.

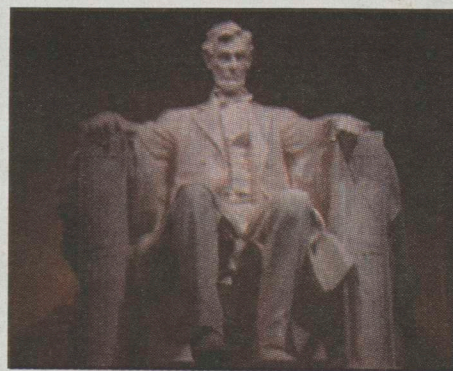
To the west of the Washington Monument lies the Reflecting Pool, a wide



rectangular pool leading westward to the Abraham Lincoln Memorial. The Lincoln Memorial is one the most breath-taking monuments in the National Mall. Built to commemorate the life and achievement of the nation's 16<sup>th</sup> president, it consists of a large sculpture of a sitting Lincoln and two of his well-known speeches carved along the walls.

But the Lincoln Memorial has also been the site of many famous speeches, including the 1963 Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech at the height of the civil rights movement. A rectangular step has been carved out in memory of the King's speech at the very spot where he stood all those years ago.

The Potomac River is the body of water with its most historical significance in the



area. Once crossed by General Lee to invade the North during the civil war, the Potomac River is also known to be a place where George Washington spent much of his life.

Across from the Potomac River and along the outskirts of the DC in Arling-



Photos by Viridiana Pacheco-Isaac / The Pride

ton, VA, is where one can find the Arlington National Cemetery, home of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, where soldiers from past wars who were not identified are buried. The cemetery is also the final resting place of Bobby Kennedy who was shot down in Los Angeles in 1968 and his brother President John F. Kennedy who was shot in Dallas in 1963.

At the very least at the end of the day you will leave this interesting city having learned something new. If nothing else, there is always Georgetown University about ten minutes away from Washington DC where one can enjoy its majestic old-fashioned buildings and culture. If nothing else, fraternities at Georgetown are known for their fun parties.



In today's technology

## Blu-ray vs. HD-DVD

Has 12 months of sparring led to a split decision?

BY ELBERT ESGUERRA  
Pride Staff Writer

It was touted as a main event match-up, a fight for the ages, a unanimous winner, the step that will take us into the next generation of technology.

Yet the war of attrition between the high definition media formats of Blu-ray and HD-DVD has left many wondering which one is the superior format. To add even more speculation, major film studios have exclusively chosen sides which they believe is the mightier of the two.

If they can't come together on an opinion, then what chance do we have to make a decision? Still to be fair, we should take a look at the facts.

HD-DVD (introduced back in 2005) has had major backing by Microsoft and Toshiba and it was the public's introduc-

tion to home high definition. Compared to standard DVDs, HD-DVD holds almost 60 percent more storage capacity and up to 8 hours of high definition video. It is exclusively supported by studios like Universal (*King Kong*, *The Bourne Ultimatum*), Paramount (*Blades of Glory*), and DreamWorks (*Shrek 3*). Last week, retailers announced that they'd offer HD-DVD players for \$99 along with bonus offers for free movies.

In 2006, Sony had announced their exclusive partnership to manufacture Blu-ray Disc. The discs hold 40 percent more storage than HD-DVD and five times more information than standard DVDs. Columbia Pictures (*Spider-man* trilogy), 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox (*X-Men* trilogy), and Disney/Pixar (*Cars*) have all thrown their support toward Blu-ray. However, the cheapest Blu-ray player found is at \$400.

There remain a handful of movie compa-

nies that offered support to both formats: Warner Bros. and New Line. That decision has actually created key victories for both formats. *300*, released back in August, outsold on Blu-ray 2:1 over HD-DVD becoming the fastest and best-selling high definition title.

Each decision has had positive effects that have worked out individually and universally. *Transformers* last month became the top selling HD-DVD ever. Last week, *Spider-man 3* on Blu-ray held strong sales but was outmatched on first-day sales 3 to 1 compared to *Transformers*. HD-DVD will be anticipating strong sales once again with the release of *Shrek 3* on Nov. 13. Blu-ray will counter in December when *Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End* hits the shelves.

Still, after a year of trading blows, Blu-ray



has held a roller coaster's edge over HD-DVD by a 2:1 ratio in the United States – a statistic largely attributed to Sony's PlayStation 3, a platform the has worked out well to consumers. Blockbuster Video also recently announced that only Blu-ray would be available in stores for rental.

Many questions still linger about both formats. "Which of the two is the superior one" seems to be the most obvious and even that question is a bit loaded.

# Hack your life into order

Lifehacker.com allows users to organize and simplify their way of life

BY TIM MOORE  
Pride Staff Writer

When it comes to school, maximizing productivity is a necessity. Whether it is keeping a comprehensive planner, organizing notes online, or running a tight ship in your backpack, everyone has their own ways of keeping organized and boosting productivity.

Over the past few years the productivity niche on the web has boomed to create a monster, "Life Hacking."

Don't be scared off by the word "hacking," these websites will not teach you how to gain compromising information by illegally trespassing into somebody's computer. "Life Hacking" is a phrase coined by technology journalist Danny O'Brien who, after polling a group of ultra-productive computer programmers, found that many of these individuals used custom computer programs and scripts to streamline not only work, but life itself.

From getting the most out of a dual-monitor display setup, to converting vinyl records to MP3s, to how to argue productively and blog, Lifehacker.com has one of the most diverse structures of the front running "Life Hacking" websites.

Lifehacker, which is owned by Gawker Media, launched in Janu-

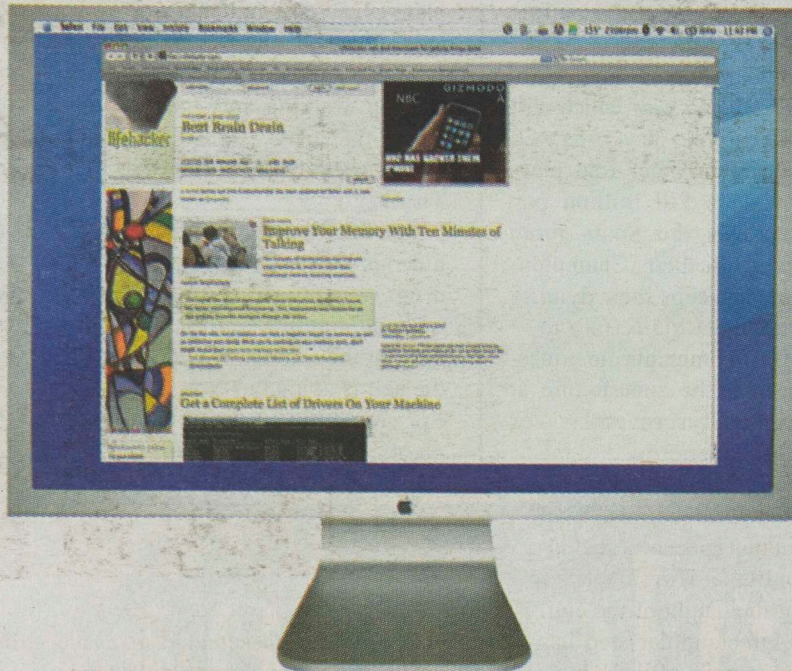
ary of 2005, and is currently the most popular "Life Hacking" site on the web. Lifehacker puts a focus on applying helpful computer or technological solutions to the real world. For instance, how to prioritize RSS feeds in Google Reader when time is short, or providing a way to remind yourself and loved ones of the time change.

Lifehacker's broad range of coverage means there is something that literally applies to everyone.

For a little more of a focused sub-

ject nature, blog, hackcollege.com offers the best "Life Hacking" tips with a nucleus of the college lifestyle. Hackcollege covers anything from recovering lost .doc files, to eating cheap and healthy with a microwavable diet.

In a day where technology is so prevalent through the course of learning, using computer-based tools that increase organization, productivity, and quality of work is key to getting the most out of what the World Wide Web has to offer.



# Women's Center's publication, The Rag, inspires and enlightens women

BY KATHRYN  
MCBRAYER  
Pride Staff Writer

"The Rag" is a women's magazine put out by the ASI Women's Center. Monthly editions feature articles on hot topics such as gender socialization and body image.

The mission of the ASI Women's Center, from their web site, is to "educate, empower, and advocate on behalf of women, men, and individuals of diverse gender and sexual identities."

The magazine addresses issues that impact men and women alike despite any sexual orientation. Sections on monthly awareness include topics such as domestic violence and breast cancer. Both articles offer simple solutions, points of awareness, and questions to ask yourself.

The magazine is composed mainly of submissions from students about

their own personal experiences and thoughts. On the back page of the magazine is a Q & A section where readers can submit questions to "Aunt Flo" with inquiries readers are not likely to ask their mother.

Also, there is a section with historical acknowledgments to events from the past that have progressed liberation in the United States and abroad.

Throughout the magazine are themes of positive thinking for women. It gives examples of empowerment and thought-provoking articles encouraging women to analyze their lives and think about why they do what they do.

A section on bodies asks women to ask "what do you like about your body? What do you dislike? What do you want to change?"

A paper free version of the magazine is available on line at [www.csusm.edu/asi/womens/home.htm](http://www.csusm.edu/asi/womens/home.htm).

## Vespa of Oceanside inc.

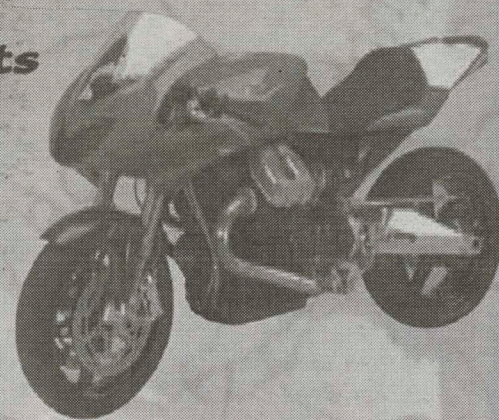
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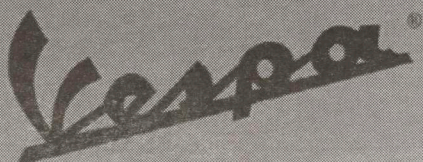
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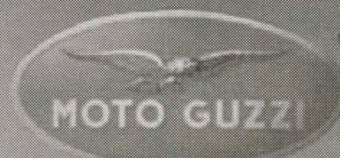


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## Church's Influence on Sports The Good, the Bad and the Worse

BY DAVID CHURCH  
Pride Staff Writer

With so many rumors and signings occurring this week, it seems only right for me to praise Tim Duncan and belittle the selfish A-Rod and Kobe Bryant.

I will start by talking about A-Rod and how he choose the biggest day in his sport to announce that he is opting out of his contract. A-Rod showed no respect for the game, the Boston Red Sox, and the World Series - something that he has never played for.

A-Rod rejected an offer by the New York Yankees because they failed to offer a prerequisite of \$350 million starting bid. Now A-Rod will be looking to capitalize on potential buyers, which seems to only be the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim at this time as the Dodgers are unlikely to increase a payroll for a single player when they have a stingy owner who

won't be signing A-Rod's checks anytime soon.

Then there is the egotistical Kobe who was put in his place by Lakers fans when he was booed during introductions opening night. Fans eventually opened up to Kobe as he once again carried the team to a loss.

When I saw the introductions to the game and heard the fans booing him, it brought a huge smile on my face. After everything that Kobe has done: forced Shaq out of LA, bought his freedom in Colorado and now demanding a trade from "his" team.

Here is some advice for Kobe. Grow Up! Make some sacrifices for once. You can carry a team to a 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> seed, but you aren't going to do much more. Since the Lakers were unable to bring any named players in the off-season to you, you are now forced to ask for a trade and deplete a new team.

Have you ever thought that

you are the reason that no one came to your team this off-season. You have already made your team drop the most dominate center to ever play the game for you for Lamar "I'm one drug test away from being banned from the NBA but I don't have a drug problem" Odom who wouldn't help you at all.

But Kobe, if you want to learn how to build a dynasty around yourself, ask Duncan. Duncan once again took a pay cut for his team's future. Duncan just signed a two-year, \$40 million contract extension.

Duncan saved the Spurs \$10 million a year which will help keep role players as well as bring in other role players. This \$10 million pay cut allows the Spurs room to defend their Championship and keeps their dynasty intact.

Any comments or questions can be sent to me at [churc009@csusm.edu](mailto:churc009@csusm.edu) or [pride@csusm.edu](mailto:pride@csusm.edu).

## Blood, Sweat, Tears, Christmas in October

BY TORIA SAVEY  
Pride Staff Writer

Do you know when Christmas starts? Historically, Christmas falls on December 25<sup>th</sup>. Some people celebrate the twelve days of Christmas, or get an advent calendar and count down all the days in December, while doing things like listening to the world's most annoying songs while watching Family Channel holiday movies.

You know, I hate the people with advent calendars. Eat your little Christmas tree shaped piece of chocolate every day and shut up. And in case I wasn't angry enough at the 'month o' Christmas' people, I always end up walking into one of those stores that plays "Frosty the Snowman" on a consistent loop starting on Thanksgiving.

But there's a new breed rising. A hideous breed. I can't walk in to the drug store/grocery store/porn store without running into a Christmas aisle in the middle of October. What the hell is going on? You know, when I'm slumming in the middle of the night, trying to pick up clearance

Halloween candy, I don't want to be assaulted by a light-up reindeer. My overwhelming desire to rip the beards off mall Santas everywhere while small children are watching has even more time to fester within me. It's a lot harder to be morally decent when it requires self control. FOR THREE MONTHS.

Maybe you're saying, "But Toria, doesn't your heart swell when you see the first Christmas decorations?" No. I make the Grinch look like an over-emotional doormat. I do not need to be reminded, starting in October no less, that I'm going to have to deal with drunken office mates, gift disappointment, fugly sweaters, and more dysfunctional dinners than you can shake a stick at. I have some very innovative ideas about where you can shove that tinsel, friend.

So, stop the madness. Put that crap away until after Thanksgiving, preferably until December if you can control your obnoxious holiday cheer until then. And I'm telling you right now that if I walk over to Ralphs and they already have eggnog, I'm going to start a riot.



# Calendar of Events

### TUESDAY, NOV. 6

**Enterprise Career Campus Tour**  
12:00pm - 1:30pm  
CSUSM Library Plaza  
\*Bring your resume to enter a 32" Vizio Flat Screen LCD TV Raffle

**Cougar Watch meeting**  
12:00pm - 12:50pm  
University Hall 101  
University Police officers will be discuss reporting Hate Crime in our community.  
For more info: 760-750-4567  
**ZBT Blood Drive**  
10:00am - 3:30pm  
Library Plaza  
Zeta Beta Tau is sponsoring an American Red Cross Blood Drive.

**Career Center event**  
**Job Search for Liberal Arts Majors**  
12:00pm - 1:00pm  
Craven Hall 1400  
**UVA Alcohol Awareness event**  
**Rape & Alcohol**  
7:00pm-8:00pm  
UVA Classroom

### WEDNESDAY, NOV. 7

**ASI Club Soccer**  
5:30pm - 8:00pm  
Mangrum Field  
Associated Students, Inc.  
For more info (760) 750-6001  
**UVA Alcohol Awareness event**  
6:00pm - 8:00pm  
Mocktails & Movie  
UVA lobby  
Showing A&E's "Intervention"

### THURSDAY, NOV. 8

**Veterans Day Ceremony**  
11:50am - 12:50pm  
Veterans Club  
Library Plaza

**Multicultural event**  
12:00pm - 12:50pm  
University Hall 100  
Student Life & Leadership  
For more info (760) 750-4970

**Love Your Body workshop**  
7:00pm - 9:30pm  
Clarke Fieldhouse 113  
Women's Center (A S I)

**UVA Alcohol Awareness Event**  
Root beer kegs & Drinking games  
10:30am - 1:00pm  
Library Plaza  
Music, BBQ, Pledge cards, MADD crash car, Alcohol information, Obstacle course with drunk goggles & tricycles.

**UVA Alcohol Awareness Event**  
**Athletes and Alcohol**  
7:00pm - 8:00pm  
Dinner and Presentation  
Clarke Field House  
**Career Center event**  
**Job Search for Business and Economics Majors**  
12:00pm - 1:00pm  
Craven Hall 1400

### FRIDAY, NOV. 9

**Tukwut Leadership Circle**  
12:00pm - 12:50pm  
University Hall 373  
Student Life & Leadership

**ASI Student Organization Leadership Workshop series**  
12:00pm - 1:30pm  
Academic Hall 102  
Associated Students, Inc.  
For more info (760) 750-4907

(Email event submissions to [pride@csusm.edu](mailto:pride@csusm.edu) ATTN: Calendar of Events)

# Pride Comics



Just for Shiggles By Jenny Bigpond

## Community and World Literary Series Presents: K. Silem Mohammad

*Flarf poetry gives CSUSM a post Halloween Trick or Treat*

BY JACKIE CARBAJAL  
Pride Staff Writer

"When Snoopy goes Hawaiian, is it art?" A shrewd philosophical question posed by contemporary poet K. Silem Mohammad during his reading Thursday Nov. 1 at Cal State San Marcos.

Mohammad, author of poetic collections "Deer Head Nation", "A Thousand Devils", and "Breathalyzer", is an associate professor of language, literature, and philosophy at Southern Oregon University. Most notably, however, Mohammad is a key participant in the flarf poetry movement.

While difficult to pinpoint an exact definition, flarf is a fairly new trend in poetry today that focuses on the use of Internet search engines to find and piece together quirky phrases. The end result becomes a purposely disturbing and oftentimes humorous assemblage of nonsense. In Mohammad's own words, flarf itself is "essentially a method of collage unlike any other."

Poet Gary Sullivan first used the term flarf as part of the title of an intentionally bad poem he submitted to Poetry.com in order to test the standards of the publication.

Soon after, the Flarflist Collective, a group of writers, including Mohammad and Sullivan, formed. According to Mohammad, the flarf movement originated out of sheer boredom. "It was something to do when you're supposed to be working. A way to avoid facing real life," Mohammad said.

For his part, Mohammad kept much of his browsing exclusively to Google.com. When asked about his choice in poetic devices, he confessed, "The Google thing is like an addiction. I'm not proud of it." He joked. "I'm like the poster child. Don't let this happen

to you."

In Mohammad's defense, why bother looking elsewhere when the popular search engine rendered such peculiar lines in the first place? In his poem "Exorcist Voice", Mohammad read, "O.M.G. Your hair is so Jurassic Park," and the poem "Anti Ass" included the line, "Your butt is like a performance car, baby. Uber hotness, like, I don't know."

Mohammad's words read strange on paper but as a performance piece, they transformed into a rare interpretive art that left the audience laughing out loud one minute and deep in thought the next.

His shift in tone, volume, accent and speed further accentuated humor throughout the evening. In his upcoming book, Dutch Sound, the poem Bionic Iraqis reads "No. I am not okay. You sat on me. Oh well. Enough about me."

It's difficult to ignore the controversial nature to Mohammad's choice in poetic titles and content. This poet revels in it, choosing shock value as yet another poetic device. Anything political, contentious, vulgar, or shamefully humorous is fair game in the writings of K. Silem Mohammad. The poet however manages his work with class. No matter how shocking one line may be, the following could potentially have an insightful twist. That ability in itself is exactly what generates such a following for the flarf movement and Mohammad's poems.

The final Community and World Literary Series event this semester is Thursday, Nov. 15 at 7 p.m. in Academic Hall 102. The event will feature readings from native California poet, Joanne Kyger. For more information visit <http://www.csusm.edu/cwls/>

Guitar Hero 3

## Let there be rock!

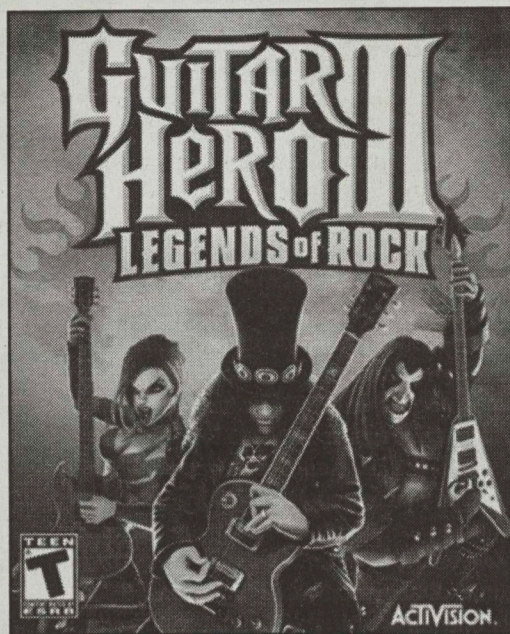


Photo courtesy of Amazon.com

BY BRYANT TINTLE  
Pride Staff Writer

I must admit that I am a procrastinator when it comes to school work. Instead of doing my Spanish homework, I decided to do something else that took up my time. For a lot of my college time, my main distracter was "Guitar Hero". And with "Guitar Hero 3: Legends of Rock" out for a week now, I can expect my homework to be "forgotten" yet again.

In case you've been living under a rock (no pun intended) for the last year, Guitar Hero is a video game where you use a guitar controller and must hit the fret buttons and strum in time with the song.

The first notable thing about the game is the wireless guitar. In the old games, I was always afraid that I would accidentally pull the guitar too hard and disconnect it. Let those fears be put to bed. Now with a wireless guitar, I can freely walk around the room while still rocking out. Another new feature is the

co-op career mode. Not only does this mode break down the songs into guitar and bass so that two players can play together, but this is also the only way to unlock certain songs. However, don't fret (again, no pun intended) if you don't have any friends willing to rock out with you, as the single player career mode is still available.

The songs featured in this edition cover many aspects of the "rock" genre. If classic rock is your cup of tea, then enjoy the hits "Welcome to the Jungle" by Guns n' Roses and "La Grange" by ZZ Top. If metal is your favorite, then head-bang to "One" by Metallica and "The Number of the Beast" by Iron Maiden. Or enjoy the modern hits like "Miss Murder" by AFI and "When You Were Young" by The Killers.

So, whether you are a fan of the original "Guitar Hero" games, or just a fan of rocking out to great music, I suggest picking this gem up before the gods of rock take it back.

## Book Releases

### Comedy

**Borat Sagdiyev**

"BORAT: Touristic Guidings to Minor Nation of U.S and A. and Touristic Guidings to Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan"

The new quintessential how-to guide to traveling, making friends and influencing people.

### Non-fiction

**Jonah Lehrer**

"Proust was a Neuroscientist"

Lehrer writes about how various novelists, poets, and even cooks anticipated scientific breakthroughs through their art.

### Non-fiction

**Slash**

"Slash"

Just in time for Guitar Hero III comes the autobiography of the groundbreaking guitarist from Guns N' Roses and Velvet Revolver. Hopefully, it'll be like a cross of watching A&E's Intervention and reading Penthouse letters.

### Fiction

**Donald McCaig**

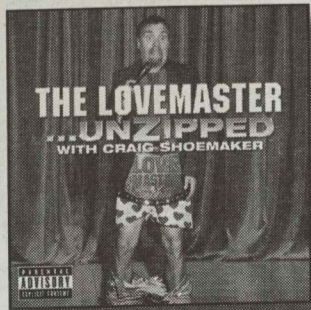
"Rhett Butler's People"

Oddly, the top fiction seller on Amazon is this book, a retelling of the period covered in 'Gone with the Wind' and then some. After the popularity of retelling 'Pride and Prejudice' with a focus on the male lead, this book seems to be hoping to cash in the trend.

# DROPPING: CD RELEASES

By Tiffanie Hoang & Toria Savey / Pride Staff Writers

Tuesday, Nov. 6



### COMEDY

**The Lovemaster... Unzipped**  
CRAIG SHOEMAKER  
Track #19, "Hamster Nipples". That's right, hamster nipples.



### RAP

**American Gangster**  
Jay-Z  
Inspired by the Frank Lucas story, Jay-Z speaks about the life of a gangster. Now that he's retired, he has a lot of time to release new albums.



### COUNTRY

**Bluegrass Interpretations**  
VARIOUS ARTISTS  
Different musicians take some of Reba's classic songs back to their bluegrass roots.



### Indie/Folk

**Motion Sickness: Live Recordings**  
BRIGHT EYES  
Features live recordings of various songs, plus covers of Leslie Feist and Elliot Smith.

# AMERICAN GANGSTER

MOVIE  
REVIEW



## More career advice than a school job fair

BY TORIA SAVEY  
Pride Staff Writer

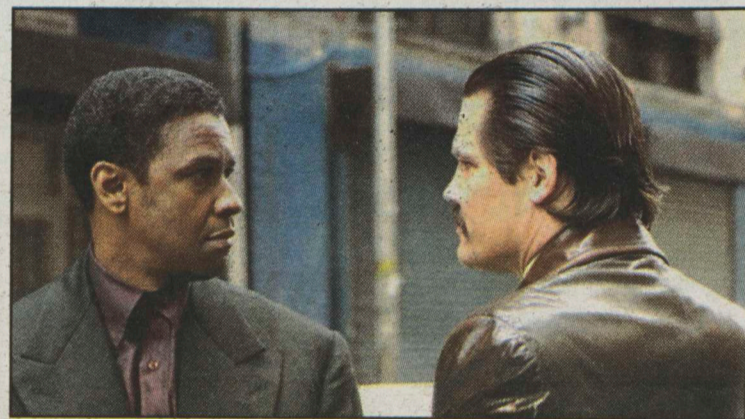
Do you like good acting? Do you enjoy fabulous storytelling? Do you want to beat the crap out of every person who rushed to see *Saw IV* the minute it came out? If so, then shell out a couple of bucks to see "American Gangster", starring Denzel Washington and Russell Crowe.

Based on a true story, the film focuses on the rise and eventual downfall of Frank Lucas, who became a leader of the Harlem drug scene in the late '60s and early '70s. The film does an

excellent job of portraying a man who is capable of incredibly violent acts, while at the same time caring for his family and running a business. After coming up with an innovative way to get high quality heroin at a bargain price, he brings his entire family into his crime empire, basing it on "honesty, integrity, hard work, never forgetting where we came from." Played with a fine mixture of emotions and appropriate amount of stoicism by Washington, Frank Lucas makes drug running sound like a more decent profession, with better practices, than working for most major corporations. (Hey, isn't it a toss up

as to whether one would be better off dealing drugs or working for the corporate sector of Walmart?)

Like any good crime drama, there's an equal focus on those trying to stop the criminals. Russell Crowe is Richie Roberts, a cop who remains clean in New York City, an almost impossible feat during that era. His dedication to his job, and dogged pursuit of Lucas, take a toll on his personal life, and the audience begins to feel a modicum of pity for him. Admirably, Crowe doesn't play the part as pitiful; he simply plays a man on the edge, who needs a solid victory against crime to justify the righteousness he exhibits.



Images courtesy of Universal Studios

tify the righteousness he exhibits.

Critics have said that the film only truly develops the two main characters. This is, for the most part, true. Several smaller characters in both Lucas' and Roberts' orbit are still infused with passion though, and without them, the personal interactions

on which the film is built would feel empty.

As I said, the sign of a good crime drama is a clear focus on both the criminals and those trying to apprehend them. The sign of a great crime drama is one that has half the audience, or more, rooting for the 'bad guy'.

## Beer of the week Oktoberfest

BY JONATHAN THOMPSON  
Pride Staff Writer

Oktoberfest carries on for 16 to 18 days during late September and early October. The annual festival occurs in Munich, Germany. Beer signifies a key role in festivities. The event begins with the tapping of a keg by the Mayor of Munich. Breweries create a special brew for Oktoberfest. The special brew generally has darker

taste and more alcohol. Large amounts of beer and food such as sausage, chicken, and sauerkraut are consumed during the event. The popularity of the event has led to many other cities around the world mimicking the annual festival and breweries from all over the world creating a seasonal Oktoberfest styled beer.

Karl Strauss Brewing Company brews Oktoberfest in Pacific Beach, California. The brewery began when Chris Cramer and Matt Rattner co-founded Karl Strauss Brewing Company in February of 1989. In the summer of 1988, Chris visited Fremantle, Australia and became fascinated with micro brewing. He returned from the vacation and began discussing plans with Matt to open their own

micro brewery. Fortunately, Chris' uncle Karl Strauss had extensive knowledge in brewing beer. Karl Strauss was a renowned German brewmaster and knew the business of beer.

Pastel yellow and blue hues dominate the cardboard container of Oktoberfest. A colorful scene of energetic and happy people enjoying themselves and healthy servings of beer marks the main portrait of the packaging. The scene most likely depicts a common sight during Oktoberfest. A red bottle cap with the breweries logo seals a 12 ounce beer with a 4.9 percent alcohol by volume.

The dark golden amber beer pours smooth like a running creek and generates a quarter inch thick head. The beer has a pleasantly faint aroma

that soothes the soul. The beer enters the mouth and quickly resonates with the taste buds. For a second or two the beer floods all aspects of the mouth with powerful surges of spiciness from the hops. A dry tingling sensation lingers as the beer trickles down the throat. The distinguished tasteful sip creates anxiety within the brain as the brain craves for more of the now famed beer.

The seasonal beer should disappear like a magician's trick from store shelves in the following weeks.



Photo by Jonathan Thompson / The Pride

