

www.csusm.edu/pride

Jason Williams speaks

CSUSM student whose arrest sparked police probe talks about his ordeal

BY CHEZARE MILO Pride Staff Writer

Jason Edwin Williams was at the height of his school and athletic career when he was arrested by CSUSM police on October



fic stop that occurred on campus. The 22y e a r - o l d junior communication

20, 2004 fol-

lowing a traf-

major had earned a 3.0 grade point average the previous semester and was running the 400meter hurdles for CSUSM on a scholarship, boasting times that placed him within the top 25 of all Division I and Division II colleges for that event.

Following the October 20

See WILLIAMS, page 2

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2005

VOL. XIII NO. 5

Advising problems at CSUSM Students face difficulties getting advising services

BY MATTHEW SCHRAMM Pride Staff Writer

In an effort to aid frustrated students, the CSUSM History Department, under the direction of Dr. Patricia Seleski, has recently contacted Advising Services in hopes of regaining some control over major advising. The decision came after numerous complaints to the History Department and instructors from students over the inability of Advising Services to meet their needs. Although history professors have attempted to deal with the individual advising needs of its students in the past, a more concentrated effort is now underway to deal with the issue. Student problems with advising have been especially rife with history majors, probably because of the major's special requirements such as themes and portfolios.

The most common complaints that history professors have received from students is the lack of advising availability. For example, history major Claudia Hernandez

See ADVISING, page 3

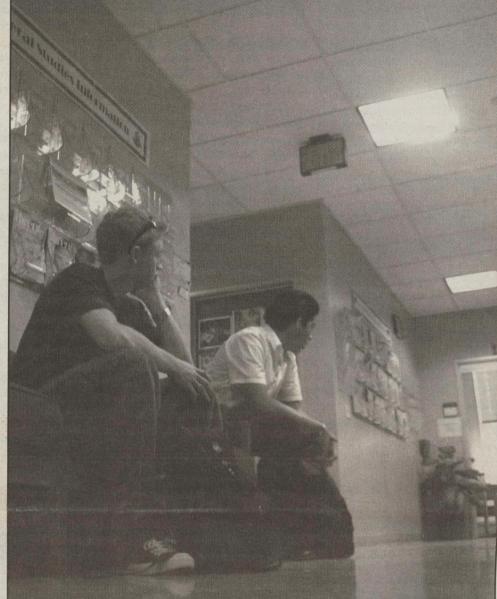


Photo by Jason Encabo / The Pride David Halttunen (left) and Daniel Vareal (right) await assistance at Advising Services.

ASI sets up singles Student organization throws

first annual Valentine's Day dating game

BY JENNIFER IANNI Pride Staff Writer

For all of those who found themselves single or dateless on Valentine's Day, the ASI held their first annual Valentine's Day Dating Game on February 14 on the lawn just outside the library. In front of an audience of students and faculty, the ASI handed out lollipops, sold roses and played a version of The Dating Game. The event was organized by Tera Ulbert, the ASI director of Educational Programs, and was used to promote unity and fun among students at Cal State San Marcos on Valentine's Day. One member of ASI



Events to highlight sexual responsibility

BY PATRICK B. LONG Pride Staff Writer

Several on and off-campus organizations in conjunction with Student Health Services are co-sponsoring two events this week that are aimed at promoting sexual responsibility among students. As part of Sexual Responsibility week on campus, these events will raise topics such as safe sex, sexual orientation and being comfortable with one's body.



Photo by Jennifer Ianni / The Pride Dating game winners Kristin Fischetti and Sam Shirakhon See VALENTINE'S, page 3

Photo by Andrea Morales / The Pride Black Student Union holds fashion show

BY ANDREA MORALES Pride Staff Writer

The Black Student Union (BSU) celebrated Black History Month in high fashion.

The BSU invited all students, guests, and faculty to view traditional African Buba--traditional African fabrics--and urban Afri-

See FASHION, page 2

On Tuesday, February 15, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. the Sexual Awareness Resource Fair will be held in Forum Plaza. The fair will have booths from many different organizations to give a wide range of views on the subject.

Campus organizations involved with the fair include the American Indian Student Alliance (AISA), the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender alliance (LGBT), the Priority Christian Club, the Women's Studies Student Association (WSSA) and Triota.

Off-campus organizations Planned Parenthood, The Sexual Assault Institute and The Fraternity House are also helping put on the event.

Booths at the fair will feature everything

See **RESPONSIBILITY**, page 3

Staff

Writers

Adia Bess

Yvonne Brett

Alfred Chu

Joelle M. Frankel

Thomas F.

Gorman III

Heather

Hoffmann

Jennifer Ianni

Patrick B. Long

Bryan Mason

Andrea Morales

Julie Oxford

Matthew

Schramm

Zachery J. Simon

Heather Zeman

All opinions and letters

to the editor, published in The

Pride, represent the opinions

of the author, and do not nec-

essarily represent the views

of The Pride, or of California

State University San Marcos.

Unsigned editorials represent

the majority opinion of The

should include an address,

telephone number, e-mail

and identification. Letters

may be edited for grammar

and length. Letters should

be under 300 words and sub-

mitted via electronic mail

to pride@csusm.edu, rather

than the individual editors. It

is the policy of The Pride not to

fied advertising in The Pride

should not be construed as the

endorsement or investigation of commercial enterprises or ven-

tures. The Pride reserves the

The Pride is published weekly on Tuesdays during the

right to reject any advertising.

and

classi-

print anonymous letters.

Display

Letters to the editors

Pride editorial board.

Editorial

Staff

Editors-in-Chief

Elizabeth Baldwin

Michael Dolan

Layout Design &

Photo Editor

Jason Encabo

News Editor

Chezare Milo

Features Editor

Christine

Baldwin

A&E Editor

Phoenix

Lindgren

Copy Editor

Julie Oxford

Adviser

Jenifer Woodring

NEWS

Photo by Andrea Morales / The Pride

Hardin also stated that the

BSU wanted to highlight the

variety found in African-Ameri-

can culture into the clothing pre-

show our heritage as well as to

raise money for our upcoming

events," said BSU advisor Gezai

Money was raised through

Berhane said that the money

raised will go toward future

endeavors that the BSU is

"Everything we do costs

have to raise the money our-

selves. Even this fashion show

cost money with set-up, rental

equipment and food," Berhane

The BSU is holding several

other events this month. Times

and dates of the upcoming

"We

money," said Berhane.

post-show sales of corn-on-the-

cob and soft drinks.

"We put this show on to

American clothing.

sented.

Berhane.

involved in.

said.

WILLIAMS, from page 1

arrest, Williams was charged with failure to stop, possession of an open container of alcohol and felony possession of a deadly weapon (steak knife). The charges have since been reduced to an infraction of having an open container of alcohol in his vehicle and misdemeanor possession of a knife on a college campus, which in total carry a possible sentence of up to a year in jail and a substantial fine.

Williams said that the traffic stop was unwarranted as well as the subsequent search of his vehicle. He also said was he was treated inappropriately by officers. Williams filed a formal complaint against the officers involved in the stop, CSUSM Police Officers Bronson, Pike, Sainz and Panza. An independent investigation conducted following the complaint concluded on February 1 that, "the officers involved in this case acted within the policies and procedures established for the CSUSM police department," and made numerous recommendations for change within the department.

"I did nothing wrong," said Williams when asked if he felt he was unfairly targeted by police.

Williams said that despite the embarrassment of going public with his arrest it was, "the risk I had to take to let people know."

Williams said that he was unfairly targeted by police due to his race. He said he felt compelled to tell his story because he wanted others to "know how things are in the world.'

Williams talked about the details of his arrest and subsequent impact it had on his everyday life.

"While I was in jail I got jumped for pissing in the wrong urinal," said Williams. He talked about how he was attacked in jail several times and was put in the same cells with murderers.

THE PRIDE

After his time in police custody, Williams said he had problems sleeping and studying, and as a result his grades suffered. He said he was asked to quit the track team following what he described as 'racial separation' amongst team members. Williams said he quit the team to avoid further conflict.

"Basically, if this whole thing had never happened, I would be winning titles right now," said Williams.

He said his legal worries are constantly on his mind due to the fact he cannot afford a private attorney. Williams also worries how he will pay for tuition and other expenses next semester now that he no longer has his track scholarship.

Despite the legal and financial setbacks as a result of his arrest and pending trial, Williams still aspires to be an educator. He also is currently in a local rap group Elm Street.

"I am trying not to let things like this get me down," said Williams.

When asked what he wanted the readers to know Williams said, "In this society people are so quick to judge others on the way they look, talk, and dress, never seeking to find the truth inside. We are in college. This is where we learn about new cultures, new people and new ways of thinking. For once let's begin judging individuals for who they are and what they stand for, because no matter what religion or belief you have you eventually will be judged for how you treated others."



February 9.

Traditional African garments from Nigeria and Cameroon were presented during the first performance, followed by a presentation of the urban wear. Dominique Younger--better known as Domi Young--also provided entertainment with music from his upcoming CD.

major Bee Bee Shey, emceed the show, giving a brief description of the Buba's each model was wearing. Shey was uniquely qualified to discuss the garments

"Some of my family still lives "My

According to senior and BSU co-president Angi Hardin, the was to raise student awareness



can-American clothing such as Rocka Wear, at a fashion show in Forum Plaza on Wednesday,

Sophomore and kinesiology since her family donated them.

in Africa," said Shey. family donated the Bubas either from what we had here, or had shipped over from Africa."

BSU's goal for the fashion show

events are posted on numerous of different styles of African- flyers around campus.

CLASSIFIEDS

EGG DONORS NEEDED Healthy Females ages 18-30. Donate infertile couples. Some of the many eggs your body disposes monthly. COMPENSATION \$5,000.00 starting. Call Reproductive Solutions: (818) 832-1494

Marketing Firm expanding into San Diego and Riverside counties. Various positions available. \$300-\$400/week p/t. Flexible schedule. Great Resume builder. Call for Details: 888-301-0636

\$150 QUEEN PILLOW-TOP Mattress set. Brand new. Still in Plastic Del. Aval. (760) 271-5228 FULL MATTRESS SET. NEVER USED. Still in pkg. Sell \$120. (760) 271-5228



local eateries and other San Marcos community establishments.

academic year. Distribution

includes all of CSUSM campus,

The Pride Cal State San Marcos 333 N Twin Oaks Valley Road San Marcos, CA 92096-0001 Phone: (760) 750-6099 Fax: (760) 750-3345 E-mail: pride@csusm.edu http://www.csusm.edu/pride Ad e-mail: Pride_ads@csusm.edu

Happy Hour every M-F from 4-7pm Free Wireless Internet

North County's Best Fish and Chipsu 12 Beers on Tap!! **Guinness Stout** Harp Stella Artois Bass Ale Newcastle Brown Boddington's Pub Ale Mcewan's Export Ale Smithwicks Fullers ESB Dry Blackthorn Cider Yellowtail Pale Ale Reaper Sleighor Double IPA

Be part of a Guinness world record attempt!! Join us for the Guinness Toast February 18th, 2005

Join us for the best St. Patrick's Day in North County. March 17th, 2005

2 Real Dart Boards, Pool Table, Foosball Table, Digital Juke Box with 100,000 songs and EA's "PGA Tour" Golf 760-471-8773~www.churchillspub.us

Age 19-29

Please Visit Us and Complete Our Pre-screen Form Online! www.bldgfams.com

Contact: Building Families Through Surrogacy & Egg Donation [800] 977-7633



THE PRIDE

NEWS

ADVISING, from page 1

attempted, beginning in October 2004, to make an advisement appointment via the Advising Services Web Scheduler. For six weeks, Hernandez was unable to reserve a space due to the huge flood of requests that barraged Web Scheduler every Monday morning when it opened. When emailing Advising Services directly did nothing to resolve the problem, Hernandez turned to one of her history professors for advisement. A number of frustrated history majors have similarly fallen back on their teachers for advisement assistance.

Many of the advising problems that have been frustrating students lately have their root in the financial cutbacks that recently affected CSUSM. Aside from having funding for both advisors and staff slashed, Advising Services also underwent a number of structural changes that included gaining advisement aspects that had previously been regulated to professors. At the same time there has been a continual influx of students to the campus, all of who need advisement, only adding to the woes of Advising Services. In other words, Advising Services has become smaller while taking on more responsibilities.

Despite the immediate problems, both the history and advising departments stress that they look forward to working together to better serve student needs. The department was "really decimated" by the loss of funds, but has been "trying to be really creative to meet the challenges" said advising director Andres Favela. Looking towards the future, Favela's department is attempting to imple-

ment a recovery plan to help counter the hits it took from the financial cutbacks including experimenting with group advising sessions and walk-in appointments which the department implemented temporarily last fall. Advising Services is aware of the disputes students are having and see the recent decision by the History Department as a good development which will hopefully relieve some of the problems for students. In the meantime Favela advises students to be proactive when it comes to seeking advisement. a sentiment echo by the history department.

Yet despite its efforts, many students still feel ignored by Advising Services. History major, Theresa Francis has been proactive in her attempts to work with Advising Services yet has continually run up against a brick wall. In September 2004, Francis submitted her form for grad check only to get it back with the incorrect history themes listed. Despite numerous attempts to contact Advising Services and remedy the problem, Francis has been unable to correct the situation, and has had difficulties in getting Advising Services to respond.

The relief of problems with grad checks is one of the major issues the History Department will be tackling immediately. "Advisement is almost as important as instruction," notes history professor Dr. Jill Watts, who echoes Advising Services complaint that financial cutbacks and structural issues have hampered advisement. Students need the "whole educational package" said Watts, a thought that many teachers and students hope will be met with future cooperation between the two departments.

RESPONSIBILITY, from page 1



from free condoms to informational pamphlets. Students can also ask questions regarding sex.

"We really hope to get students involved," said Vice President of the College Democrats Sarah C. Leonard.

At the fair students can help raise money for the Fraternity House. The Fraternity House is San Diego's only licensed residential care facility for chronically ill for patients living with HIV/AIDS.

"Everyone will also be taking donations,"

VALENTINE'S, from page 1

explained that the event was also educational because it provided dating tips for students. Using the traditional dating game format of the contestants not being allowed to see each other, Sara Long, the ASI coordinator of Student Activities, acted as the hostess, leading female contestants through a series of questions posed by the male contestants. The questions ranged from "If you were an animal, what kind would you be?" to the ever-popular "What is your idea of a perfect date?" After hearing all of the answers, the Photo by Patrick B. Long / The Pride

said Leonard. Money donated will go to much needed upkeep of the house.

On Wednesday, February 16, there will be a "Lets Talk About Sex" forum. The event will run from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Commons 206.

"We will have speakers on sexuality, birth control, being comfortable with your body, HIV/AIDS and much more," said Leonard. The goal of the forum is to get students comfortable with their bodies and discussing sex.

male contestant would then choose which lucky lady he wanted go on a date with. In the end, four happy couples received restaurant gift certificates and movie passes. One couple, freshman Kristin Fischetti and sophomore Sam Shirakhon, both liberal studies majors, planned on using their prizes that evening.

"I was going to try and find a date. This seemed fun and interesting, although I wish more people had shown up," said Fishetti.

For more information on upcoming ASI events, check out their website at http://www.csusm.edu/asi/.





All New Leg Tanner

- Five Levels of Tanning
- Mystic UV Free Spray-on Tanning

MYSTIC TAN





COLLEGE SPECIALS Every Night

Monday Night Madness \$6.00 Pitchers of PBR or MHL "Pabst Blue Ribbon" or "Miller High Life" \$3.00 Microbrew Pints

TUESDAY T.J. Tuesdays 2.00 Coronas, 2.00 XX 2.00 Tecates, 2.00 Tacos

WEDNESDAY College Nite 2.50 U Call It THURSDAY Cheap Bastard Thursdays 2.00 Wells 1.50 MHL & PBR "Miller High Life" or "Pabst Blue Ribbon"

FRIDAY

55 Night Burger and Beer Fridays Buy any Burger and get any Domestic Beer



SATURDAY Ladies Night 3.00 Martinis 3.50 Cosmos

2.50 Coors Lights Miller Lites, Aspen Edge Mich Ultra

SUNDAY Trade Night "Hospitality Night" If you're in the Trade, You're "IN." 2.00 wells 1.75 Miller High Life or Pabst Blue Ribbon

1020 West San Marcos Blvd., Suite 114 • San Marcos, CA 92069 tel: 760.744.1960 • fax: 760.744.1961

Franchises are coming our way

CSUSM Foundation working to bring outside eateries to campus

BY ADIA BESS Pride Staff Writer

CSUSM is in the process of increasing the variety of brand name eateries on campus to supplement the food service currently offered in the Dome.

Many students on campus are reluctant to eat at the generic eateries in the Dome for a variety of reasons.

"Sometimes I get sick off of the food on campus, and it's not the best quality we could have," said student Jackie Espinoza.

"There's not a lot to choose from," said student Marco Garcia.

Yet many students are unaware that Cal State San Marcos could not bring permanent franchises on our campus due to the low student population.

"Most franchises require a student head count of at least 10,000 to even consider setting up on a college campus, and Cal State San Marcos is only around 7,500," said Pam Edmonson, director of Commercial Services for the Cal State San Marcos Foundation. "We didn't meet the criteria of outside operators."

It seemed like there would never come a time when outside restaurant franchises would come to fruition at Cal State San Marcos. That was until Starbucks arrived on campus.

The Starbucks in Kellogg Library was the first stepping stone for other vendors.

"Bringing Starbucks on our campus was not easy," said Edmonson, "a lot of negotiation and persuasion went back and forth between Starbucks Company and the Foundation."

The Starbucks across the street at the Campus Marketplace shopping center had to give their okay for the Starbucks on campus before it could be completed. The final agreement put the CSUSM Foundation in control of Starbucks making it a licensed store that pays a portion of proceeds back to Starbucks. Edmonson feels this is the best way to bring outside franchises onto campus because the control would be in the hands of the University and not the company. She said that giving the university control over franchises on campus is more beneficial to students who need part time jobs because they



Photo by Chezare Milo / The Pride

Starbucks was the first famous franchise on campus. can apply for employment at the franchises directly through the CSUSM Foundation.

Now that other businesses are looking at Cal State San Marcos as a place to make money, Edmonson has begun speaking with Subway and Smoothie King in the Campus Marketplace. Both franchises are in the process of working an agreement with the CSUSM Foundation to test how their products would fair on our campus.

NEWS

Many students are eager for any new places to eat on campus, even at the cost of higher prices.

"The prices for food in the Dome are high, but I would be willing to pay higher prices for brand names like Subway," said

Edmonson said that for students, "it's all about the brand." Despite the desire for outside vendors, however, Edmonson is reluctant to sign agreements too

quickly with any franchises recognizing that there are changing trends with foods.

"Just look at the fast food chains that are incorporating low carbohydrate menus. And on our campus, the sale of bottled water has gone up over the sale of bottled soda in Cougar's Corner and Cougar's Den," said Edmonson.

Changes may not happen right away, but Edmonson and the CSUSM Foundation are working on them. According to Edmonson, there will be a small space reserved in the new business building for food service but no decision as to what kind of food service has been made. Allowing brand name vendors to set up carts around the Arts building is also currently under consideration.

The CSUSM foundation is inviting student input and is setting up an online food service survey for the fall of 2005.

SUBS



Spring Semester Checklist



IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL STUDENTS

THE PRIDE

PLS

CSUSM'S

Art

Magazine

is now

accepting

submissions

and

denying

surrenders

Say it with

me now:

"I'm a

delirious

little

parasite...

But at least

sent

something

to the PLS

The Pride

Submit Writing and Real Art to the PLS

at pride@csusm.edu

- Catch up on everyone's holidays. V
- Sign up for intramural sports.
- Buy books.
- **Earn Extra Money at PRACS!** V
- **Call PRACS Dermatology!**

A leading clinical research organization that specializes in testing skin related products for safety and effectiveness.

participant.





If you're a healthy non-smoker, you can earn up to

Call (866) 857-Skin (7546)

to find out more about our current studies

(866) 857-Skin (7546) or

www.pracs.com

\$300 by becoming a PRACS study

PLEASE READ

March 21-24, 2005

Intercollegiate Athletics

All students at CSUSM will have the opportunity to vote on a proposed fee establishment on the dates indicated above. Information will be available by February 15, 2005 and can be obtained in the following offices:

- Cashier's Office & Student Financial Services, Craven 3107
- Financial Aid & Scholarship Office, Craven 4204
- Student & Residential Life, Craven 4116
- Library Field House/University Student Union
- University Village Apartments
- Enrollment Services Information Center, Craven 5110

BE AN INFORMED VOTER!

For further information please contact: Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs, Craven 5306, 760/750-4056

Dermatology

VARIETY THE PRIDE Tuesday, February 15, 2005 5 Thinking about getting an iPod? The pros & cons of shelling out big bucks for music at your fingertips

BY JULIE OXFORD Pride Staff Writer

The Apple iPod is filling the ears and pockets of consumers everywhere. It is rare to walk around this campus without seeing the signature white earbuds donned by students who just can't live without their music. When asked about her iPod CSUSM student Lindsay Watters said, "I am a total proponent. I have nothing but good things to say about it." So what is it and why is it so coveted?

The Apple iPod has gone through seven different designs (including the iPod mini, the iPod shuffle, and the iPod photo.) The current design, the fourth generation iPod, has two models. One has 20GB, holds up to 5,000 songs and retails at \$299; the other has 40GB, holds up to 10,000 songs and transferring of music will take some time.

retails at \$399. There is an educational discount available which decreases the prices to \$269 and \$369.

One of the favorite options on the iPod is the shuffle feature, which allows you to shuffle through entire albums or individual songs. By opting to shuffle through individual songs you can have the equivalent of

your own radio station, without having to hear that annoying song 18 times a day. and without commercials.

The 20GB model could play continuously for 13 days without repeating one song.

Another favorite feature is the On-the-Go playlist. This feature allows you to pick favorite songs, as many as you'd like, and put them on a playlist. This can be done on the iPod itself, without using a computer. You can make multiple playlists and each one is saved individually. It's like making a mixed tape or cd, in less than two minutes.

You can also use the iPod as a backup hard drive, as an organizer (it includes contacts, calendars and to-do lists), as a

voice recorder (by purchasing the Griffin iTalk voice recorder), or as portable storage for your digital photos (by purchasing either the Belkin digital camera link or media reader.)

A fully charged iPod battery can last up to 12 hours. Other options for power include a car adapter, an a/c adapter, and the Belkin AA battery pack, for those times when there are no plugs.

The iPod can be played through your car or home stereo using a tape adapter or the Griffin iTrip. The iTrip transmits your music through a station on your FM dial. It has gotten mixed reviews though, with complaints of music cutting in and out, a beeping noise when there is no signal, and occasional distortion or interference.

When you first get your iPod the initial

Less than a month later my replacement made a couple of funny noises... I was not happy.

First, your music has to be put on your computer. When you do this you have to input the information for each album (artist, song, and album titles) through your itunes folder. This could take several days, weeks, or even months. Then once all of your music is on your computer you plug in your iPod and all the files transfer over. This can take anywhere from 30 minutes to two hours, depending

on how many songs are being transferred.

The reason why everyone wants it: the iPod allows you to have all of your music with you at all times. The days of picking out cd's to put in your car changer or your cd case are gone. Lindsay Watters said, "I can go anywhere with it, traveling is so much easier now."

So what happens if it breaks?

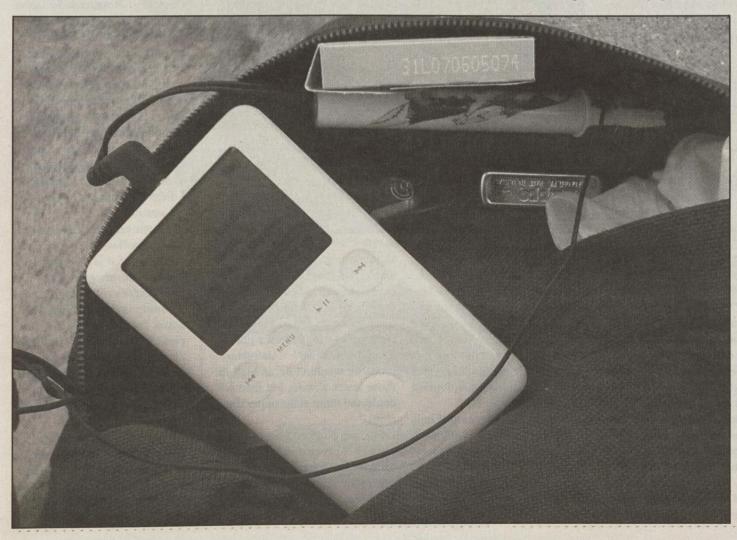
Unfortunately iPods have been known to simply stop working. Sometimes the unit may get stuck on one song, or the unit will turn off and not turn back on.

There are directions and a tutorial on troubleshooting for your iPod at apple. com/support/ipod/. Often the unit simply needs to be reset. But sometimes there is

no hope and you will have to request an online repair.

The iPod comes with a one-year limited warranty, which "...warrants the iPod product against defects in materials and workmanship." This warranty includes 90 days of phone support and prompt replacement of defective models. Unfortunately if it has been more than 180 days since the date of purchase you will have to pay \$29.95 for shipping.

The entire process is very quick. It only



Photos by Julie Oxford / The Pride takes two to three days, from the time you fill out the online form, before you have your replacement.

There is a catch though.

Your replacement will, more likely than not, be a refurbished model. According to the warranty, Apple will, "...exchange the product with a product that is new or which has been manufactured from new or serviceable used parts and is at least functionally equivalent to the original product." Most of us, however, don't want a refurbished product. We paid \$300+ for a new, and functioning, iPod and that is what we want. But according to the representatives from customer relations there is no way to guarantee that you will receive a new iPod in place of a defective one.

I own a third generation iPod. One day it started making funny noises. Then it would turn off suddenly. Then it stopped working all together. I filled out the repair form online and promptly received my replacement.

MENU

Less than a month later my replacement made a couple of funny noises. Then it turned off and froze. It would not turn back on or respond in any way. I was not happy. I called AppleCare Support to find out how they could help me.

I talked to four different people and asked them all the same question, 'how do I get a new iPod or a refund'. I got the same answer from all of them, there is no way to guarantee that your broken iPod will be replaced with a new iPod, and you cannot get a refund. This made no sense to me because when I received the replacement it included a letter in which Apple claimed to be, "...committed to (my) total satisfaction." I was definitely not satisfied. I wanted a new iPod or I wanted my money back. But there was no talking to

See IPOD, page 6



Nick Aralis

Lindsey Ridd

classes"

IPOD, from page 5

these people. I had already been transferred four times, and I was late for school.

So I finally gave up. I got online to fill out the repair form, again, and I was prompted to enter a credit card number to pay for shipping fees. This was the last straw. I was not going to pay to send back my defective iPod. I called back to Apple Customer Relations to solve the problem. What I got was a customer representative who could not complete a sentence and had me on the phone for nearly an hour before he transferred me to someone who was, I'm guessing, his superior. This man said that the only way to avoid having to pay shipping was to pick up my replacement at the retail store in La Jolla. So I did. . I am now on my third iPod, and I am nervous that this will not be my last. There is no way of telling if it is new or refurbished. I am simply hoping that this one does not break after my warranty is expired. If it does I could get it replaced for \$249 plus \$6.95 shipping and handling. That is, I could pay more than \$250 for a refurbished iPod. It is very unlikely that I will buy anything from Apple again.

Language requirement: waste of time or essential part of a college education?

BY ZACHARY SIMON Pride Staff Writer

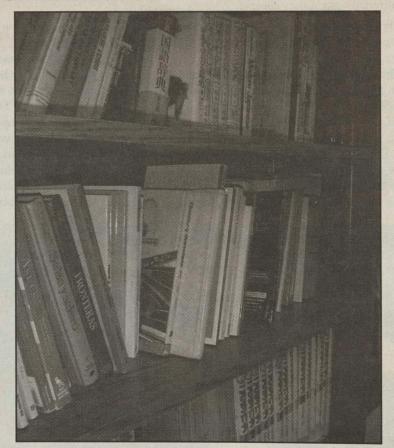
Students uncertain or unhappy about the foreign language requirement at CSUSM (here in a region with a particularly wide spread of tongues) might find

reassurance from Catherine All students should Sarnecky, transfer student be fully aware who recalls her of the language high school language classes to say that there is a far superior program here (at CSUSM), citing "more immersion." In spite of, or perhaps due to her times abroad, when asked if she anticipated better retention after CSUSM she answered positively, in Eng-

retention as "hardly any." To those who imagine, with joy

or fear, a day when this requirement is stricken from the graduation curriculum, Kevin Igasaki, head of foreign language proficiency assessment, has a smile and a little laugh. "The require-

ment was something envisioned by the university's founders," he explained, likening it to writing the requirement as part of the goal to "make future leaders...prepare



proficiency requirement before enrolling in classes Kevin Igasaki, head of foreign language proficiency assessment

Conversely, Antoinette Johnson, a twenty something junior wasted no time in sharing her experience with foreign language studies; "I only took it here because I had to." As for the lasting value of adding on to high school, she described her current

lish, without hesitation.

for an interna-

tional marketplace." For students who still hold tight to their native tongues, or otherwise feel that a few language classes at the college level are a waste, Igasaki responds without malice or sympathy, "all students should be fully aware of the language proficiency requirement before enrolling in classes."

Many, however, are not so offended by the classes themselves as by their placement on the education timeline. After making a loose reference to the number of studies that show languages are best taught at the elementary level, Mr. Igaskai agreed with the findings, yet added "It's great, but that's not the way it is (in the US)...that doesn't mean we should just have no program at the university level."

As to why California still fails to act on these studies, he said, "Funding, lack of commitment on the part of administrators, on the part of politicians." Though hard pressed to form a speculation on the reason behind these Photo by Christine Baldwin / The Pride shortcomings, he imagined there would be more work for foreign language teachers should they catch up. And if the minimum foreign language proficiency was dropped as a graduation requirement? "Attendance probably wouldn't be as high in those lower classes, but then we could add more at the upper divisions."

For more information on fulfilling your requirement log onto http://lynx.csusm.edu/llc/graduation requirement.asp or contact the very helpful Professor Igasaki at kigasaki@csusm.edu.

For more information on iPods and warranty service go to apple.com/ipod/ or call customer relations at (800) 767-2775.

THE PRIDE

OPINION

FROM THE RIGHT What should we do about SOCIAL SECURITY?

Amira (<20) and Phoenix (>40) tell students what they think should happen to Social Security

BY AMIRA EL-KHAOULI Pride Staff Writer

I can't believe I'm about to admit that President Bush has a good idea, but his plan to re-vamp our Social Security program is needed.

With the way the system works now, someone who has worked one month out

of their entire lives will still receive the minimum amount of Social Security. It is an amount that exceeds what the person has put into the system. I can't help but feel somewhat resentful to be paying for that.

One of the biggest and most irritating problems afflicting the system is that immigrants who gain US citizenship, people who have never before paid

dues into Social Security, can still collect from it.

Now, these things wouldn't be a problem if we lived in a utopian society where our government has unlimited amounts of money and can hand it out to every Tom, Dick, and Harry.

But we don't. And it can't.

When the time comes for my generation to collect

on its Social Security, the program will most likely bankrupt. be Proof of this is in how the retirement age slowly continues to get older and older. It's because the government can't afford to pay everyone right now.

How ironic since it seems that the younger generations are working more and therefore putting in quite a bit of money into this system, yet probably won't see that money later when they'll need it. If the government were to pay everyone what they deserved at that point, who knows what kind of programs would need to be cut because of the level of bankruptcy we would be in. According to Social Security Trustees, as posted on www.whitehouse.gov, if nothing was to be done and we left the system as it is, it will cost future generations \$10.4 trillion. Then, by 2042, when individuals in their mid-twenties now will be beginning to retire, the system will be bankrupt.

I haven't even gotten to the age of twenty yet, I have been working for three years already, and I know I will be holding a steady job in the future. I pay taxes and I most certainly pay into Social Security, yet I won't be seeing any of it. In fact, most people in college right now won't either.

What Bush wants to do is instead allow each person to get from Social Security what they would put into it. That makes

much more sense. With Bush's plan, older generations, who most likely cannot and should not work any longer, will be getting what is left of our present Social Security system. Everyone else will start making payments into, what I understand to be, a person's own retirement account, except they cannot gamble with it.

It sounds like a good idea to me because most people can't be trusted to keep a retirement account themselves and everyone will get what they deserve.

BY PHOENIX LINDGREN Pride Staff Writer

Social Security? It's been Social Insecurity for all the years I've been getting a paycheck.

Since before I became a wage slave, pundits have been talking about how it wouldn't be there by the time I retire, that there are

I drooled at the

idea of having the

opportunity to invest

it a la Suze Orman

and retire at forty

too many retirees and not enough workers, that the system is headed for insolvency, that it needs to be reformed--or else, yadda, yadda, yadda.

So now my fair Bushy has decided to make reforming Social Security his lame duck issue.

Not a bad strategy since anyone who's ever even thought about touching this undisputed heavyweight of entitlement programs has figuratively found himself drawn and quartered by America's most consistent block of voters--old people. So what the heck? Bush has nothing to lose, why not take a stab at reform?

The thinking, as I see it, is pos-

itively brilliant: ensure the old-farts-whovote that their checks will keep on coming, and get younger, non-voting, (ergo inconsequential) workers to join the privatization experiment.

Now don't get me wrong--I actually like the idea of privatization (personalization, tomato, to-mah-to, whatever.) When I saw that chunk of change coming out of my pay-

> checks--possibly never to be heard from again--I drooled at the idea of having the opportunity to invest it a la Suze Orman and retire at forty.

> But now I'm a fulltime, mid-life-careerchanging student who has all but proved I have

no investment skills whatsoever, and I'm not so sure I really can be trusted with my own retirement (though I still cringe every time I hear Boxer say it out loud--that the American public can't be trusted with their own money, ugh! the nerve of those Democrats!) Another aspect of reform that you don't hear anything about is what will happen to Social Security Disability. I'm still in my house today because my husband received SSDI while he was sick and dying, and private disability insurance would take a pretty big chunk out of any private investment money that refunding my Social Security payments would bring.

Bush is proposing a lot of safeguards so that even an inept investor would come out rich--like not being able to take the money out for anything but retirement (sorry, you'll have to find another way to buy that Mercedes), and moving the money to safer investments at age forty-seven--but there would always be the possibility that some scumbag, Enron-type swindler would come along and take your money, leaving the government (read "other taxpayers")

Security, yet I won't be seeing any of it. In fact, most people in college right now won't either

I pay taxes and

I most certainly

pay into Social

FROM THE LEFT

That's a scary thought for me because

Coming soon: The Pride Literary Supplement

Photo illustration by Jason Encabo / The Pride

by.

to keep you off the street.

Social Securit. If you're still wondering what I'll do if given the chance, then admit it: you really haven't been reading anything I write for the paper, now have you? Of course I'll opt for a private account. I left a job that paid more than most of you will make within ten years of leaving our lovely little campus, because I wanted to follow a dream. That, my dear readers qualifies me as a certifiable magical thinker, and I certainly don't intend on letting this opportunity for magical thinking, and great retirement riches, to pass me

I'm just wondering if the Feds will agree that a nice pair of Gucci shoes is a good investment?

OPINION





By JASON NICHOLS Pride Ombudsman

Pride-ugese: "Light explodes outside Commons."

English: "A light bulb went out."

Let me start by givin' props to those who managed to trump the banality of 'beam-signing.' Who knew it could be done? Perhaps next week we'll see the headline "A star nearly incinerates Earth" on the front-page and get to read that the sun came up.

An earth-shattering article like that would fit nicely next to the report that parking fees will increase in 2009.

Oh god! Say it ain't so!

2009! We best warn the juniors in

high school so they can save up before they get to this campus! 'Flip those burgers Acne-boy!'

Now, it ain't the total lack of pertinence in the light bulb and parking articles of last week that is actually chappin' my bum-bum. In a 12-page issue, the super-sized version of this collection of tree skins, I'm not surprised by an abundance of French fry filler articles that tells us that lights go out and parking fees go up. What splits my hairs below the belt is that last week's menu came with an Un-happy Meal surprise on the Opinion page that revealed Nixonesque self-absorption of 'I am above the law.'

Chez Milo, the man working the counter as News editor got a parking ticket. He got to take issue with it in print (as though we cared), and Joelle Frankel was kind enough to garnish the article with a comic. Two articles and a sketch dedicated to the issue of parking just after our News editor got a ticket. Hmmmn. Watergate became Tailgate.

This Tricky Dick media blitz last week was so necessary to our knowledge, that the results of the investigation concerning 'racial profiling' by police got "shafted" to the second page of the news. It seems that when the cops on campus are accused of wrongdoing this 'News'paper has no probs plastering word of it on the front (four issues now), but as soon as we discover that they're off the hook we put the tidbit on the down-low to page 2.

And while I'm on 'racial' issues, I'm gonna bring up Reed's arrival. You know, I could'a sworn there was something special 'bout February besides Vermont Teddy Bears. I guess I heard wrong, February must be Chez's History Month. Cause not only did the boys and

girls in blue get the boot, but this paper also seemed to miss the fact that we've got a big time writer coming to campus. I gotta say that it rubs me raw to think that Ishmael Reed's arrival got page 5 of Variety. Maybe if Reed wore a ball cap and offered us free noodles and underwear we'd hear about him on the front. I won't even say the name of the dude I'm referring to, cause this collection of treeskins managed to beat that dead horse all the way to China.

Last issue wasn't all empty calories though.

Hidden amongst the media blitz of the banal was the funniest rebuke of Valentine's that graced this paper in a long time. Amira El-Khaouli put to words what most of us feel, save for the hopeless romantics (a.k.a. Stalkers). And the Reject Hotline (858) 492-8002 actually worked. I called it half-expecting an ex-boyfriend of Amira to answer, but was pleasantly surprised and given a string of reasons why I was given the boot. Pretty friggin' cool.

If only I had known 'bout that number on those blind-date favors for friends that saw me across the table with someone who had a "great personality."

Coupled with that diamond was another "pearl in the bed of oyster phlegm" from Zach This guy's quickly Simon. moving up on my list and is neck in neck with Phoenix as a fave to read. Zach managed to turn an article on a poetry reading into some chuckles. Any

bulbs going out should be tossed his way.

Hell, I'd bet he'd make the Accounting Society look good.

Those guys could use some P.R. after the mug shots that graced our pages last week. Patrick Long wrote a decent article on the subject, but at first glance I thought the article was gonna be 'bout how the one dude (Gallegos' pic) victimized the other dude (Carter's pic). Opposites attract I suppose.

While on the subject of pics and attraction, I gotta bring up the sexy spots suggested by Phoenix on the A&E last week. Now, I haven't tried these places myself cause I, like a lot of other people on this campus, live south of the 52. (Hint, hint North County obsessed Editors.)

You know, there's a whole city just south of this place called San Diego. You might want to check it out. It's got these things called buildings, and places where a person can meet other people. It's even got this pier where Maverick was told to take a lady to bed or lose her forever. It used to have the diner where the Doc on E.R. played the piano and sang "Great Balls of Fire" with that lady who did the orgasm scene while eating a sandwich before she got mail from Tom Hanks. But that place is gone now.

Side-note Anecdote: When I was in the Nav, I used to jog past the spot where a bunch of babyoil greased soft porn Volley Ball playin' "Naval Aviators" were

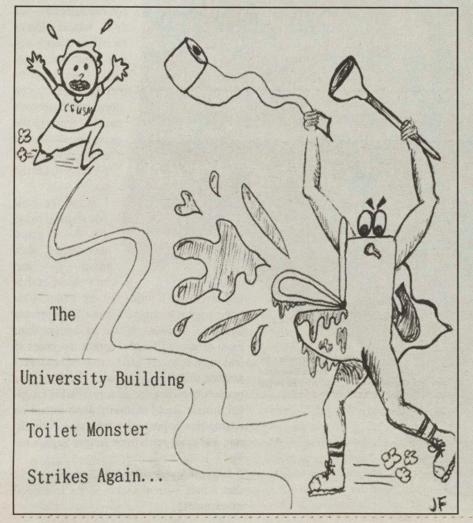
future articles concerning light filmed. Tag me Phoenix, and I'll give you directions.

As for the pics that accompanied this list of love-laden locals, I gotta say that Tom Gorman is the best of the best with an eye skilled in the ways of Kodak. But. Some of those places looked a bit too friggin' scary in my book. If the Palomar Mountain shot had a cabin in the background, it'd be dead on for Evil Dead. Daley Ranch looked like the place you'd dump a body, and Dixon Lake should'a had the Creature from the lagoon basking on the rocks. These were romantic spots alright, but only in a video where a pop-star accused of molestation turns into a werewolf. Anyone dating Tom right now is seriously considering giving him the Rejection Hotline number.

And to end this gray box, I'd like to say that I'm pleased to report that Mr. Zanartu, the Phantom Writer, is in good health and still sending in Letters to the Editor. I'm wicked happy you found the Opinion Section (which I'm a part of) "honoring and hilarious." Keep up those jabs on the powersthat-be and be ready for Bonomi's response, which I'm sure is on its way.

And that'll do it for this Southside livin', movie lovin', Valentine's hatin' fool with a "great personality." You can buy me dinner at nicho028@csusm.edu or pride@csusm.edu. Or you can call me at (858) 492-8002.

Comic BY JOELLE M. FRANKEL Pride Staff Writer



AN INVITATION TO OUR READERS We want to know how you feel about: 1.) How do feel about North Korea processing Nuclear Weapons? 2.) Is President Bush a divider or a uniter? 3.) Is Michael Jackson a child molester or just a weird guy? 4.) Do you think the cease fire between Israel and Palestine will last? 5.) Would it be okay if Sponge Bob & Tinky Winky tied the knot?

Please e-mail your opinion to pride@csusm.edu. Limit opinions to 450 words.

THE PRIDE

& E

Dating disasters don't defeat Will Smith in "Hitch"

BY ALFRED CHU For The Pride

Romantic comedies just don't do it for me. Why? Well, what's the typical romantic comedy plot? Boy meets girl, they fall in love and live happily ever after. But what drove me to see "Hitch" was its basic premise--"Nice guys finish last"--which I've been a victim of.





Looking for research participants (18 to 45 years old) already diagnosed with ADHD for participation in a behavioral study at UCSD. No medication involved. Monetary compensation provided.

UCSD School of Medicine For more information, (858) 534-5562 or adhd@sdepl.ucsd.edu

Alex "Hitch" Hitchens (Will Smith) is a professional date doctor for men who are in love with their "perfect" woman. He advises them on clothing, body language, dancing--the whole works: his tactics work. He sets up situations where his clients can get more intimate with their mate. But he doesn't guarantee or promote sex, only love. He doesn't want you to hire him if you're only interested in sex.

His newest client, Albert (Kevin James), is the overweight, clumsy, shy, accountant and financial advisor to Allegra Cole (Amber Valleta)--his boss and the woman he's in love with. Can

me of an

intelligent

and sane

Chris Farley.

Quality Fish Everyday

Resonable Price

Good Service

Sushi Station

San Marcos Blvd # 120

San Marcos, CA 92069

(in Albertson's Shopping Mall)

10% Discount Every Monday for Cal State University Students with this coupon

someone rich and powerful like Allegra be interested someone in Albert? like Apparently so. He gets attention her standing by up and yelling at the other board members in Allegra's defense,

thanks to the help of Hitch.

Hitch is busy coming up with last minute solutions to Albert's mistakes, when he meets Sara (Eva Mendes) a gossip columnist. After a series of disastrous dates, Hitch and Sara fall for one another. You can guess the rest of the movie.

> and ship is funny and goofy but logical at the same time. In a memorable scene where Hitch teaches Albert how to dance, Hitch vetoes Albert's

dance routine with a simple "No" and tells Albert just to snap his fingers and move from side to side. James reminds me of an intelligent and sane Chris Farley.

I enjoyed the "Hitch" from minute one and after each minute, I smiled optimistically. Some of the scenes made me laugh. But the last half hour of the film just carries on and doesn't end where

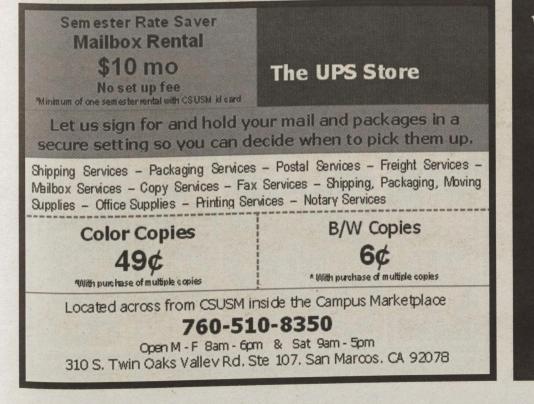
it should. It teases the audience for an ending sometime in the near future that doesn't happen. Overall, "Hitch" enjoyable and perfect for post-Valentine's movie



going.







What if I'm pregnant? make informed, healthy, confident choices 760.744.1313

real answers, real help

277 S. Rancho Santa Fe Rd San Marcos

more info? birthchoice.net

SERV/ICES FREE!

A & E There's nothing "Modest" about this "Mouse"

BY AMIRA EL-KHAOULI Pride Staff Writer

You know your act is hot when at least one person passes out at your concert.

Modest Mouse had two soldout concerts this weekend at the SOMA venue on Sports Arena Boulevard, one on Saturday and another on Sunday. The Sunday date was added after the Satur-

Go see this band

the next time you

have a chance.

Their hype from

surpassed their

talent.

day concert sold out too quickly.

T h e crowded venue provided barely any room to breathe, let alone move, and if you weren't in line an hour prior to the concert, forget it,

there was no way you were going to make your way to the front of the stage. In fact, many people couldn't even see the band, but this was of no consequence; everyone could hear the band and that was all that was important.

Modest Mouse created a surreal atmosphere and all you had to do was close your eyes, tap your feet, and nod your head to become absorbed in it.

talent of the opening band, Love As Laughter, who had the difficult task of keeping 2,300 Modest Mouse fans entertained while the feature band didn't even begin to play until 10 pm.

Love As Laughter was the perfect opener with mellow, soothing music.

But when the boys everyone had been waiting for strolled on stage, the crowd erupted, and for

good reason. The band mixed it up with favorites from their most recent album, "Good News For People Who Love Bad News," such as "The OC" has not "Float On" and "Black Cadillacs," with older from songs "The before OC" featured the

> band, like "Paper Thin Walls"-requested by the audience.

Modest Mouse has the uncanny ability to create a strange combination of invigorating music that can get anyone on their feet while singing about the darker side of human emotions like bitterness and anger.

It's the instrumentals that tie it together, with drummer Jeremiah Green, Eric Judy on bass, an elec-A pleasant surprise was the tric cello, and lead singer Isaac

enough, and when it came time for an encore the band reveled

Brock also playing the banjo.

in the glory of the cheering as the audience tried to coax them back onstage. The concert officially ended with "The World At Large," a peaceful ending to a breathtaking concert.

Go see this band the next time you have a chance. Their hype from "The OC" has not surpassed their talent.









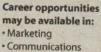
If you're ready to apply your knowledge and skills in the post-graduation job market, then toss your hat in with State Fund.

State Fund, the leading workers' compensation insurance. carrier in California, is interested in graduates seeking opportunity and stability. We offer a wide range of positions throughout California, plus an environment that will foster your continued growth.

At State Fund you'll find exceptional benefits, professional training to expand your horizons, and many advancement possibilities.

Learn how you can join us by visiting www.scif.com or by contacting Human Resources at 415-565-1722. Then launch your career with State Fund and rise to new heights.

State Fund is an equal opportunity employer.



- Underwriting
- Claims Loss Control Business Services Customer Service
- Legal Information Technology
- Finance and Accounting Human Resources Administration

STATE FUND

A & E

CSUSM grad rocks "The **Gunfight**"

BY MICHAEL DOLAN Pride Staff Writer

Despite my best efforts, I did not make the Troubadour on time for the Sunday night January 24 show on the premiere weekend of punk rock legend Duane Peters' new project The Gunfight. Speeding through the Sunday evening congestion on the Orange County stretch of Interstate 5 and opening it up to a constant 90 to 100 mph once the traffic broke in Los Angeles could not overcome a miscommunication about the scheduled time of the show (9:15, not 11:00 p.m.). The Troubadour show was the second show of weekend; fortunately, I had caught the debut show of the band two nights earlier at the Galaxy Concert Theatre in Santa Ana.

Duane Peters of the U.S. Bombs and Die Hunns has been a punk rock staple for many years on the true underground scene. The Gunfight represents a fusion of Peters' punk influence mixed with straight up rock n' roll.

Peters recruited the talent of four established musicians for The Gunfight. Included in the mix are three members of



the local band the Ultravires-Gabe Schiavone and Chad Spinks on guitar and backing vocals and Henry Trejo on bass. I have followed the Ultravires for about a year and enjoy the rock n' roll they play. Know-

ing that three members of the Ultravires would be in the Gunfight coupling the punk elements of Peters indicated to me that this would be a seriously fun band to watch.

Spinks is a CSUSM alumnus and a former Pride staffer, so there is a sense of satisfaction watching one of our own make it in the real world. Michael Belfer

from Black Lab (guitar) and Marcos Mora (Masons) on the drums round out the fivepiece line up.

The music is reminiscent of stripped punk/rock n' roll. Peters' vocals coarsely scream out (think Motorhead's Lemmy

teners mind away the radio friendly pop punk in fashion on the airwaves and MTV. His stage presence commands respect as sweat drips from his tattooed pores and

...there is an innate

simplicity to the

music, something

to it that breathes

a sigh of releif in

a music world of

overproduced self-

righteous crap

Kilmister) with intensity that jars the lis-

the lyrics rise from his soul.

Photos by Michael Dolan / The Pride

The three-guitar assault of Schiavone, Belfer and Spinks harkens a better time when music was not overly pretentious. The three play hard and fast, but there is an innate simplicity to the music, something to it that breathes a sigh of relief in a music world of overproduced self-righteous crap. Their stage

presence is also fun to watch from the synchronized movements of Schiavone and Spinks to Schiavone's solo phallic presentation of the guitar.

The three guitars in the band is in itself a unique feature to the Gunfight. It is rare for a band these days, especially a punk band, to employ this type of musical front. Most bands have a one or two guitar front, which has become a somewhat industry standard. There was a time, however, when the three guitar front was prominent (particularly, in my mind, with the stadium bands of the '70s). The rhythm kept by Trejo and Moras provides a solid foundation for the band. One can move to the beat, the pit was going pretty strong on the parquet dance floor of the Galaxy, but keep your arms up and eyes open or you might find yourself bowled over fairly quickly. The Duane Peters' Gunfight is about to go on tour with The Weirdos. Upcoming dates include two stops in North County. The first show is in San Marcos on Friday, February 25 at the Longshot Saloon. The band is playing the following night, February 26, at the Hellfire House in Vista. Contact those venues for ticket information and age restrictions.



Tuesday, February 15 Sexual Awareness Resource Fair sponsored by Progressive Activists Network and Student Health Services as part of Sexual Responsibility Week-free condoms

10am-1pm, Library Plaza

Progressive Activists Network meeting 4pm, University Hall 449

Award-winning writer Ishmael Reed will presents "Honoring Black History Month" as part of CSUSM Celebrates 2005 Black History Month-free admission 7pm, Arts 240

College Republicans meeting

9-10pm, Churchill's Pub, 887 West San Marcos Blvd.

Wednesday, February 16 "Let's Talk About Sex" Forum sponsored by Progressive Activists Network and Student Health Services as part of Sexual Responsibility Week

1:30-3:30pm, Commons 206

College of Business Meet and Greet--free snacks

2-4pm, Clarke Field House Grand Salon

Thursday, February 17

Escondido's Mayor, Lori Holt Pfeiler, is In The Executive's Chair, sponsored by the Center for Leadership Innovation and Mentorship Building (CLIMB)

11am-12:50pm, Academic Hall 102

Pre-Health Society Meeting, featuring a speaker from Ross University Medical and Veterinary Schools--free pizza

11am-11pm, Academic Hall 407



ALIFORNATAN.

Pacific Beach, 2200 Garnet Ave. (858)581-5060 5254, 6165 El Cajon Blvk. (819)286-1554

ITANSANDIEGO.COM



ASI State of the Campus Address--free lunch 12-1pm, Mezzanine

ASI Casino Night--drawing for free prizes 6-10pm, Clarke Field House Grand Salon

Progressive Activists Network meeting 7pm, Mocha Market Place, San Marcos Blvd.

Send information for The Pride Calendar of Events to pride@csusm.edu with "Calendar" in the subject.

Tuesday, February 15, 2005

A & E THE PRIDE Guilty Pleasures: The TV shows we can't miss South Park The O.C.

BY CHRISTINE BALDWIN Pride Staff Writer

Every Thursday night at eight o'clock I turn the phone off, get into my jammies, and get comfortable on the couch to watch "The O.C."

There, I said it. I will admit that I am a fan of "The O.C." I love this high school drama show that makes light of sex and substance abuse.

This season unfolded more drama with Marissa's tantrums



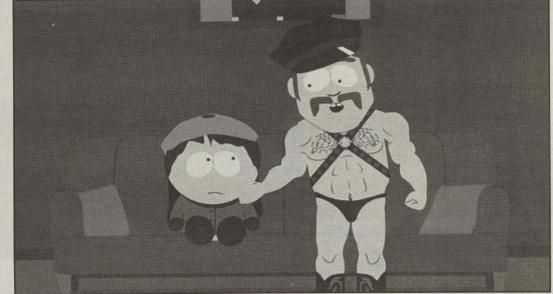
Image courtesy of FOX Network

and rebellious behavior. Many new characters have emerged, such as Caleb's bastard daughter Lindsay; Alex the rebel with purple streaks in her hair; Summer's new beau Zach (who is oddly similar to Seth...except Zach is way cuter) and Sandy's old flame has come to the O.C.

Even with all of the makings of a hit series, I often ask myself how I got hooked on such an asinine show. The plot is formulaic (except Marissa turning lesbian...didn't see that one coming), the acting is horrendous (Marissa's awkward scenes with hottie newcomer Alex) and the costumes (if you could call them that) are totally sexist. I can scarcely recall Marissa or Summer wearing anything that covered up their fantastic cleavage.

Yet, week after week I am drawn to "The O.C." Maybe it's the bad acting, or maybe it's the suspense that keeps me coming back for more. Whatever the reason, I actually feel my I.Q. dropping a notch or two after each episode, and at this rate, I'll never get into Mensa.

Who cares, "The O.C." is way cooler.



BY CHEZARE MILO Pride Staff Writer

My guilty pleasure is South Park; I drop whatever I'm doing and make time to watch each new episode.

Full of racist epithets, foul language, and poor taste, South Park is the ultimate parody of American life; every episode is so wrong that I have to laugh out loud.

My guilt stems from the fact that unquestioning individuals, and/or children, will see Kenny's recurring bloody dismemberment and Mr. **Image courtesy of Comedy Central**

Slave's sexual antics in the classroom as appropriate behavior rather than outrageous. The only way I can justify supporting the show through my ritual viewing is that the antics of Cartman, Stan, Kyle, and Kenny are not only entertaining, but bring important social issues to light. Parody is unique in its ability to make people see the absurdities that are occurring around us all the time, and perhaps consider other views before automatically holding on to learned societal norms.

Mr. Hanky the Christmas poo serves an important societal role.....yeah right!

Adult Swim



Image courtesy of Cartoon Network

BY ZACHARY J. SIMON Pride Staff Writer

Love is in the Heir BY JOELLE M. FRANKEL

Pride Staff Writer



Image courtesy of E! Entertainment Television

Strange Love

Dare I admit my addictive obsession with E's reality TV show "Love is in the Heir?"

Sad but true, each week I eagerly tune in to find out about the exciting and amusing life of Ann Claire; a London princess turned country singer/songwriter in Los Angeles.

Her painstakingly terrible musical performances, dramatic exchanges with her unqualified personal assistant, and her dating disasters keep me coming back for more.

Despite the fact that she is the only person in her family without an English accent, that she claims to fear getting cut off from her parents even though she has her own TV show, and the atrociously poor acting that is exhibited by both her personal assistant and

her personal trainer/boyfriend, I somehow manage to convince myself week after week that the show is real.

After watching this program religiously for an entire season I find myself listless, wondering if and when it will once again reappear on television. Thus far there has been no mention of any plans for further episodes on the E! Network or on their website.

For now I will sit on my couch, remote in hand, distraught look on my sad, sad face and long for the day that "Love is in the Heir" returns to my TV screen. Overly dramatic you say? Watch the show once and you will be hooked--I'm currently researching treatment programs to rid me of this misery.



It began, as so many of the few remaining worthwhile ventures, in the early 90s, with a handful of geeks in Atlanta re-dubbing old Hanna Barberra Sixties Saturday Sci-fi into a talk show that ranged from silly to surreal.

Long too obscure to be shameful, its appeal to the intoxicated/antisocial, now horrifyingly united by Al Gore's failure and media's greatest Ziggurat, at last birthed a Satan of animation to rival any demon in the Spike & Mike Goetia.

"Adult Swim" is not only the best excuse to get cable; it is the best reason to own a television.

Originally confined to Sunday's late night, it is now proof positive that the Cartoon Network is not, was never, 'just for kids.' This is the kind of funny that keeps your mouth agape in lobotomy-awe for a good five minutes before one of two reactions: an unnerved notion that TV is finally spitting in your face, or laughter that leaves you even wetter.

Some of the shows are/were better than others, but give them all a wade, a stroke, a dive.

"Adult Swim's" DVD collections might be available for rent, but buy them, in public, and share in my ecstatic shame.

BY ADIA BESS Pride Staff Writer

If you've never seen "Strange Love" then you're missing one of the oddest shows of all times.

A spin-off of last season's "Surreal Life," VH1 decided to take up where that show left off, focusing on the love and drama of rapper Flavor Flav and actress Brigitte Nielsen. Just looking at the two of them is enough to qualify as strange, but it's their quirky personalities that make this show a winner.

But there's a twist: Brigitte is engaged to be married to a man who couldn't be a more opposite to Flavor, so he's on a mission to win her back.

Brigitte walks around in her black netted lingerie bodysuit half the time, and Flavor (or "Fluffy-Fluffy" as Brigitte calls him) looks like a little kid with a Viking helmet on his head.

Am I embarrassed to say I watch this show? Hell no! It's got all the right elements; love, scandal, beautiful scenery (Italy), and characters with great personalities. Watching an Amazon woman and a little man from completely different cultures taking the romance back to high school level is beyond entertaining. In fact, it's the best escape I've found from my real world. Reality TV just doesn't get any better than this!

Image courtesy of VH1