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THE PRIDE

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY SAN MARCOS

INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 05, 2008

VOL. XX NO. 11

Chancellor Reed cuts \$31.3 million from CSU budget CFA questions chancellor's decision

BY BEN ROFFEE
Managing Editor

As national and state economies continue to limp, the California State University system will once again feel the symptoms of an economic crisis and a straining state budget. Chancellor Reed recently approved a giveback of \$31.3 million from California's budget in response to Governor Schwarzenegger's request for budget cuts across the board.

Chancellor Reed's giveback will come from the CSU's already \$250 million budget shortfall, and will contribute to Governor Schwarzenegger's \$390 million request from government agencies. The California Faculty Association was quick to criticize Chancellor Reed's decision, noting that the \$31.3 million giveback was not mandated. In a release issued on Oct. 27, the CFA contended that Chancellor Reed "misled the campus community by incorrectly reporting the CSU among agencies that need to cut a total of \$390 million from the current budget."

The charge refers to a memo issued on Oct. 23 in which Chancellor Reed revealed the cut as a necessary response to Governor Schwarzenegger's call for a statewide budget cut of \$390 million. The memo issued to all CSU employees states, "we have been informed by the State Department of Finance that state agencies and departments need to cut a total of an additional \$390 million."

See CSU, Page 4

Barack Obama elected president



Photo courtesy of about.com

BY JACKIE CARBAJAL
News Editor

Nov. 4, 2008 -- The Cal State San Marcos community assembled together in the Clarke Field House Tuesday night to witness history in the making as the nation elected Barack Obama, the first black president. Shortly following the closing of precincts in California, Obama clinched the

presidency, widely surpassing the electoral vote of 270 needed to win.

All day, students across campus proudly sported their "I Voted" stickers, and checked exit poll figures on their cell phones.

Upon hearing the news, Psychology major Gemma Fields said, "I've been waiting fifteen years to become a citizen and to be able to vote in such an important part of history brings tears

to my eyes."

Students in the Clarke filed into various rooms to watch as McCain addressed his supporters in Phoenix, Arizona to concede.

"This is an historic election, and I recognize the special significance it has for African-Americans and for the special pride that must be theirs

See Election, Page 10

Pizza and Politics discusses immigration

Obama and
McCain portrayed



as
having
similar
views on

the issue

BY JONATHAN THOMPSON
Pride Staff Writer

Pizza and Politics, hosted by the American Democracy Project, held the final event for the fall semester on Thursday, Oct. 30 during University Hour in Commons 206. Roughly 80 students attended the event. CSUSM's National Latino Research Center Director Arcela Nunez-Alvarez lead discussion as she highlighted general immigration concepts and the fact that Obama and McCain are in unison in more than one way on immigration.

ADP Director and Professor Pamela opened the event. "I'm sure you are all excited and ready for the election to be over with," she said.

For the next 45 minutes, Nunez-Alvarez lectured. She first covered the basics of immigration before moving on to dissect Obama and McCain's individual views on border security and immigration reform. The last ten minutes opened the floor to students to either ask questions or make statements about the covered material.

Nunez-Alvarez covered the fact that people for the most part think of immigration in individual categories. The categories are history, legal, domestic and global economics, and political.

See Pizza, Page 4

Gathered
from
noaa.com

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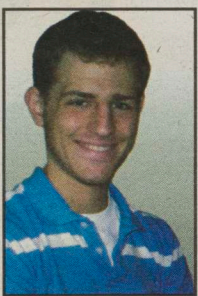
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Patchy
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Bill of Rights Wait on 'screw-ray'

BY BILL RHEIN
Pride Staff Writer



The transition from VHS to DVD was the most exciting change in home entertainment since the invention of the television. The playback features alone made DVDs the best choice. Along with being physically smaller, having better video quality, and including 'special features,' the DVD was definitely worth switching over to.

Yet they are supposedly inferior to the shiny new high-definition Blu-Ray discs. Although Blu-Ray is better quality, it is not worth the change thus far. Blu-Ray is fancy and boasts new features, but not worth the costs.

Blu-Ray is certainly better than

the standard DVD. Images are superior in high-definition and the sound is less condensed, hence clearer. Moreover, the discs can hold more data, resulting in more 'special features'. As well, Blu-Ray boasts that it immediately plays the film and the menu can be accessed at anytime during the movie at the bottom of the screen.

On the surface, this seems nice. I appreciate high quality images and features that make for a better viewing experience. It would make sense to switch over to the new form, if it were not so expensive. The manufactures of Blu-Ray players have slapped an inflated price on the machines. For what the buyer is getting, this is a rip off.

Besides the cost of the player, one must also buy a HD television.

In consumerist America, this is very desirable. Though one might be able to afford it, this is an inappropriate use of money considering the financial crisis. As well, Blu-Ray discs are \$5 to \$10 more expensive. The special features are not worth that much money.

Advertisements try to convince that standard DVD is a pain compared to Blu-Ray. DVDs are fine.

They are still high quality and much more affordable. The appeal of Blu-Ray is the lust for fancy new electronics.

There is no need to buy a Blu-Ray player. They may be nicer, but not worth the jacked up price. Blu-Ray discs may be shiny and new, but DVDs are still high quality and more affordable.



Cutomer service The cruel, perpetual joke

BY BILL RHEIN
Pride Staff Writer

In America, stores will do anything to keep shoppers coming back. Advertisements and sales are only part of this equation. Shop employees are inexplicably nice to strangers. Customer service is artificial kindness, guised as an additional benefit to shopping.

Though appreciation is nice, customer service is a joke for the customer and employee. It is the employee's job to helpful and

attentive, but the overbearing service is an illusion of service. The formulaic greeting, serving, and thanking are fake and customers must know this.

Employees have the proverbial gun to the back of their head to be unnaturally pleasant. This becomes especially difficult when the job itself is responsible for the unhappiness that employees must bury their sentiments to keep from losing their job. Workers must hide their feelings because the customer believes he or she deserve special treatment.

Employees can and should be helpful, but they do not need to put on a show for the customer. The excessive conversation only slows done the transaction or interaction. Customers should appreciate getting what they need, not the imposed kindness.

Yet the system is so deeply sunk into America, it is near impossible to be undone. The customer expects royal treatment while shopping because the stores perpetuate this process. Since customers naturally think this service is a good thing, it

becomes part of a store strategy to make more money. If a store did not impose customer service, people would think poorly of the store.

It is unfair for stores to expect workers to be overly friendly to the customer. The real measurement of a store should be the quality and availability of products, and not how much a worker 'brownos' the shopper. For now employees just have to keep smiling. Shoppers must remember their place in the world and give some respect to the worker.

Left-handed people are left out

BY JONATHAN THOMPSON
Pride Staff Writer

It's true! Left-handed people are a minority living in a majority right-handed world. We deal with our aggression by dreaming of our Holy Grail, stores that only sell left-handed products. Notice how the right hand is RIGHT and the left hand is not the right hand. "They" might have as well called the left hand the wrong hand. The story goes back.

I was in elementary school, kindergarten to be exact. One day after eating some minty paste and chasing the girls around in the sawdust, I was asked to grab a foreign object that I would later learn was a pencil. I was told to scribble on a piece of paper in whatever hand I felt most comfortable with. My right hand must have been a negative and the

pencil a positive, because my left hand calmly and firmly grabbed the object.

The following day I was asked to repeat the above-mentioned task. With minty breath I repeated. After a few days my writing was going nowhere. It looked like I was trying to create a Jackson Pollock artwork. My teacher, Mrs. Kristiansen, if I recall correctly, told me that I should try writing with the RIGHT hand. I thought, right hand, it must be right if they are calling it the right hand. I regretfully admit I gave it a chance. My body rejected. I felt like I was abducted by aliens—creepy and weird. I went home, paste in hand, and cried to my mommy. "Mommy, I want to use the left hand, I don't care if it's the RIGHT hand, I'm left handed."

16 years later I'm left handed and proud. Of course I'm even

more confused as I throw, bat, and punch with my right hand. I leave the light duties such as eating and writing to my left hand. I wear my watch on the right hand and keep my wallet on my right pocket. I know. I do not get it either.

So next time you see a left-hander ripping the sheets out of their three ring binder because we cannot write between the rings and the starting section of the paper, give us a break. We're just left-handed people living in your right-handed world.



Photo retrieved from lefitorium.com

Special Note from the Editor-In-Chief RE: Starbucks and water

Part of being a responsible member of the press is recognizing one's mistakes.

For The Pride, this time is no different.

In the Opinion Article titled, "Starbucks Charges for Tap Water," [October 28, 2008], The Pride allowed for the printing of an opinion piece that argued the water

students are being charged for at the on-campus Starbucks was unreasonable. However, the author failed to incorporate correct information into the piece, thus incorrectly referring to it as "tap water." The Pride has since been informed that Starbucks does serve water directly from the faucet, but rather triple-filters the water they do serve

through reverse osmosis.

The author of the piece claims to have received correct information after press time, although that is in fact no excuse for the use of such information, and further precautions will be used in future articles that run in our student newspaper. Please understand this is a student-run newspaper, and our newsroom

is a laboratory for the production of such, therefore we are bound to make mistakes.

While the author's opinion remains validated, The Pride offers its deepest apologies for any misinformation projected to its readers, for defamation and harm to anyone whatsoever was the farthest thing from our intentions.

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Letters to the editor 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 submitted via electronic mail to pride@csusm.edu, rather than to the individual editors. It is the policy of The Pride not to print anonymous letters.

Display and classified advertising in The Pride should not be construed as the endorsement or investigation of commercial enterprises or ventures. The Pride reserves the right to reject any advertising.

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Letter to the Editor

A Message from Lt. Douglass Miller, campus police

Fellow Cougars,

I hope that you all have seen an improvement in the morning traffic coming onto campus. We at the University Police would like to extend a huge “thank you” to everyone in Planning, Design & Construction and in Parking & Commuter Services for the open collaboration that made a great team and the success of this project possible.

This team was able to recommend and institute a number of improvements that we believe helped reduce the time it takes to get onto campus each morning. One of these changes was to remove the stop sign at the top of Palm Canyon Drive as it enters Parking Lot F. This seems to have reduced the back up onto Craven Road from Palm Canyon.

We also worked very hard at improving the timing and sequencing of the traffic control lights. We also implemented a suggestion to offer reduced rate parking in Lots XY&Z. The increased number of people parking in XYZ is notable and has made an impact.

One of the suggestions that we were not able to implement was adding an additional turn lane to the intersection of Craven Road and Palm Canyon Drive. Everyone felt that this idea had terrific merit. However, when we tried to put concept to implementation we found that this intersection is not a true 90 degree intersection.

The corner of the intersection is in fact less than 90 degrees. If an additional lane were put in, vehicles would not be able to make the turn safely from either direction unless the

road was widened. We then explored widening the road slightly to make this change.

Unfortunately, the new traffic control signal is too close to the curb to allow making any significant improvement. In the end, adding this turn lane would have required a significant capital outlay that in the current fiscal situation was simply not an alternative.

To further mitigate traffic congestion we would encourage everyone to consider using the Sprinter, even once or twice a week would significantly help. Monthly passes can be purchased at Parking Services in the Foundation Class Room Building behind Craven Hall. The campus is also installing additional Bicycle racks for those energetic enough to ride a bike to work. Your continued understanding during these periods of growth is greatly appreciated.

Although we have seen some improvement, please keep in mind that we will never be able to “return to the old days” when you could drive right onto campus without delay. It seems we have jumped straight from adolescence to adulthood and all the accompanying problems associated with a larger campus. You have my assurances that we will continue to monitor the morning traffic, accept suggestions, and mitigate problems as they present themselves.

Lieutenant Douglass Miller
CSU San Marcos Police Department

Re: Made in America... by convicts

Dear Editor:

An opinion piece recently published by the Pride newspaper, (Made in America.... By Convicts, 10/28/08) is an untrue characterization of the California Prison Industry Authority (CALPIA), the contributions of its inmate workers and the conditions under which they work. More disturbing, the article appears to be a plagiarized version of a rant written by an inmate nearly 15 years ago. The claims by John Caterino, and many of the lines in his article, appear to be lifted nearly word-for-word from that inmate’s previously published claims. They were untrue then, and certainly do not reflect the rehabilitative mission, or the efficient operation of the CALPIA today.

CALPIA provides inmates with the work and life skills they need so they can return to constructive lives when they leave prison. It operates over 60 light manufacturing and agricultural businesses in 23 of the State’s 33

prisons that give inmates real world experience. In many cases, it is the first job they have ever had.

Through their work, inmates can be accredited in more than a dozen technical job skills, as welders and carpenters, commercial bakers and laundry managers and optical and dental technicians, to name a few. In some instances, CALPIA programs provide a direct opportunity for employment when inmates’ parole, an advantage that many former offenders do not have.

Contrary to the claims by Caterino, inmates work under safety and occupational conditions that apply to all businesses in California. The thirty to ninety-five cents per hour that each inmate earns are the highest wages available to inmates by law. As a result, CALPIA jobs are highly sought after among inmates. Some of those wages help support their families, and some are used to help inmates repay their debt to society. Last year, CALPIA inmates contributed over \$927,000 to the Crime Victims Restitution Fund.

Among the products manufactured by CALPIA are dorm and office furniture, some of which has been purchased by CSUS-San Marcos. All of those products are high quality, were delivered on time, and within the campus budget. As a financially self-sufficient State agency, CALPIA gets no general fund tax dollars. It supports itself and its rehabilitation programs solely from the revenue from its products, which requires CALPIA to maintain quality and efficiency.

Research shows that CALPIA’s programs work. California struggles with the high number of former offenders who return to crime and prison. Yet, armed with the skills they learn in our programs, CALPIA inmate graduates return to prison at a rate 25 percent lower than the general prison population, saving taxpayers an estimated \$40 million per year.

So, as students sit in chairs in Markstein Hall or the Kellog Library or buy a diploma cover from the Cougar bookstore, they are using the products that have helped inmates turn their lives around. That makes life better for them and their families, makes our communities safer and saves taxpayers money.

Sincerely,

CHARLES L. PATILLO
General Manager
California Prison Industry Authority

Prop 8 discussion turns into gay bashing seminar

BY JAMES SEBRING

The College Republicans sponsored what was touted to be an informational lecture and Q & A on Prop 8. The speaker, Ryan Sorba, turned the event into a personal soapbox of gay bashing.

His fundamental premise, supported by a long litany of inferential studies and statements as to the nature of sex and man, implied that the only reason for sex is reproduction to be conducted in the coital position.

So for all of you out there who enjoy sex for reasons other than reproduction, you’re acting in a way that is against nature. Excluded in that relationship is kissing, fondling, stroking, certainly any kind of oral gratification, and definitely sodomy [undefined].

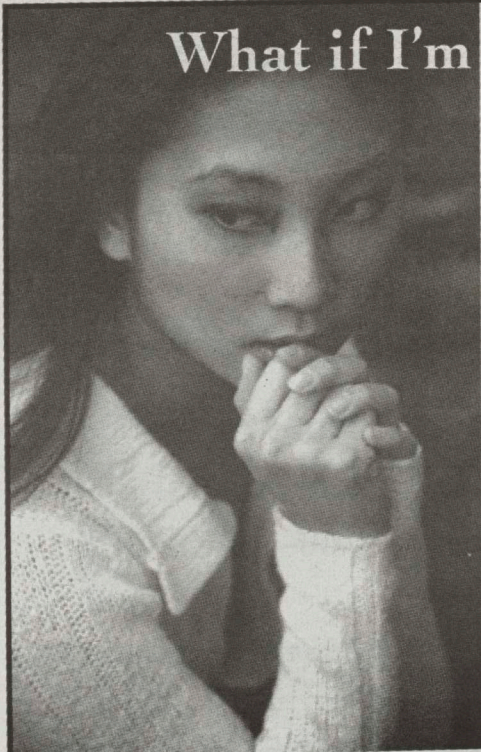
His statement that people are born with only male or female parts precludes the possibility that he may have participated in any upper-level physiology class. He also implied that one cannot be homosexual by nature, and so it must be learned. I’m

sure it is a great disappointment for all of those heterosexual parents who have failed to teach their children proper heterosexual behavior.

It’s possible, I guess, that they may have been using an unnatural position or having sex for reasons other than procreation. It certainly bears looking into and conducting further research as to how people learn to become homosexual.

When called upon to get to the discussion that was advertised, Prop 8, he launched into another diatribe. After 45 minutes I could no longer stand listening to the hate, misinformation and bile being spewed upon the audience.

We have had over 200 years of history in this country of fanatics trying to control who can marry whom. Almost every state in this union has at one time or another had a Jim Crow Law of miscegenation. Isn’t it time that we quit persecuting others for not believing as we believe? Don’t be fooled, the government cannot legislate the sanctity of marriage... that is between you, your partner, and your god.



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From PIZZA, page 1

"The United States doesn't mention global trends. Immigration is a global phenomenon. We live in a global world. Capital flows from one country to the next. We live in a global village," she said.

Referring to immigrants, "I ask you to think about whom these people we are referring to. Who we automatically assume is undocu-

mented in a broader political sense," she said.

She then talked about the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, the last large immigration reform.

"Overall the policies are not working. It's referred to as a broken system. Some departments don't even talk to each other," she said.

She noted that Obama and McCain want immigration reform.

"Obama feels that raids

on undocumented immigrants are ineffective and doesn't address immigration. McCain wants to produce a system that is fair and humane," she said.

"Does the amount of undocumented immigrants we have in our country affect other countries that we give [visas or citizenship] to," questioned one student.

"No. The number of the undocumented is not

tracked," responded Nunez-Alvarez.

"A lot of discussion about treatment of children born in the U.S. from undocumented immigrants takes place," said one student.

"It is the most controversial issue, stripping citizenship of new generations is an ongoing discussion," responded Nunez-Alvarez.

"Both Obama and McCain have the same positions across the board. This issue

won't sway you either way. There are only minor differences between the two," she said.

The University Activities Board and American Democracy Projects are hosting a special event on the night of the elections Tuesday, Nov. 4 at the Clarke Field House. The event starts at 7pm and ends at 10pm. The two hosting groups are providing food and soda.

From CSU, page 1

The CFA provided several documents supporting its assertion that the give back was not required. Included in these documents was Executive Order S-09-08 in which

Governor Schwarzenegger admitted to not having any "direct authority" over the CSU and its budget.

Several other documents corroborate this assertion, including a letter from Chancellor Reed to the Dept. of

Finance saying, "The executive order had requested, rather than directed, the CSU to undertake spending restraint measures." In the same letter, Chancellor Reed stated the CSU would pursue an "alternative compliance"

response to the Governor's noncompulsory request.

Included in the CFA's accusations is a call for Chancellor Reed to "rescind his give back of \$31.3 million, and take a strong stance in defense of CSU funding."

Despite the CFA's protest, Chancellor Reed insists that the \$31.3 million in give-backs will not hinder critical CSU operations. Thus far, the Chancellor has not shown signs of conceding to the CFA's demands.

Office of the President seeks faculty nominations

BY JACKIE CARBAJAL
News Editor

The Office of the President is asking students for nominations for the 2008-09 Faculty Awards by this Friday, Nov. 7. The awards open for student nominations are the President's Outstanding Faculty Award for Teaching Excellence and the President's Outstanding Faculty Award

for Outstanding Lecturer.

"We especially need students to identify and recognize great faculty in the two teaching categories, and in the "Teaching Excellence" category, only students can submit nominations," said Kate Callen, new Executive Communications Manager in the President's Office.

Last year's Outstanding Faculty Award for Outstanding Lecturer went to

College of Arts and Sciences Communications Professor Fredi Avalos-C'Debaca while Chemistry Professor Karno Ng received the Outstanding Faculty Award for Teaching Excellence.

Students, colleagues, and department chairs/program directors may nominate any current temporary faculty member for the Outstanding Lecturer award.

Faculty members who have received the award before is no longer eligible for nomination. The purpose of the award is to honor a faculty member who outstandingly contributes to the success of student learning and the advancement of the university mission statement.

The President's Award for Teaching Excellence is awarded to a faculty member who demonstrates

the advancement and excellence in teaching that contributes to furthering student achievement. Any currently enrolled student may nominate any faculty member for the award.

For more information regarding essay criteria, visit www.csusm.edu/president/initiative/presidentawards.html or contact Kate Callen at kcallen@csusm.edu

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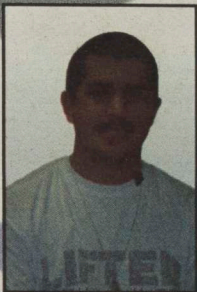
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University Voice

What is the change you want to see in America?



"I guess just a change in government spending. We really need to redirect our priorities."

Chris Newman
Sophomore



"Specifically, in California, I'd like to see a better educational system. I've lived in other states, and they have better elementary education."

Merhawit Mecha
Senior



"I think we're messed up enough, so we need a drastic change. We desperately need new leaders."

Danielle Salim
Sophomore

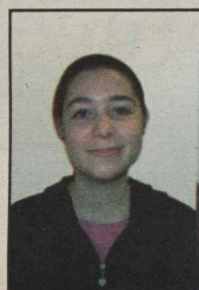
"I'd like there to be less media influence on political views, gay rights, and human rights in general."

Gina Plumey
Junior



"I would like to see more tolerance in America. I'm tired of people treating others as less than equals."

Stephanie Brimson
Freshman



Photos by Amy Salisbury / The Pride

What was the most important to you when choosing your presidential pick?



"I started out non-partisan I was not going to vote for Obama just because he is black, I looked at character and judgement and his views followed along with mine. I lost faith in McCain when he picked Palin it showed really bad judgement, because she was not qualified."

Jenna Davidson
Junior



"I have to say the economy and basically ending the war in Iraq and I do not want to see eight more years of the same. I want to see change and I am confident that Obama & Biden will be that change."

Mirna Ramirez
Senior



"For me, the main thing was Obama was against Prop 4. I also like that he is about the middle class."

Christina Wright
Sophomore

"Being an African American, I never thought I would see the day that we could have an African American president, he inspired so much hope and change and that's why I chose him and am proud to be an Obama supporter"

Erika Ervin
Junior



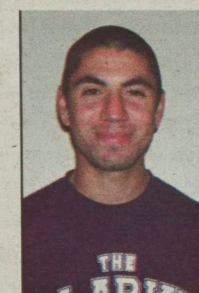
"By choosing John McCain would ensure the appointment of supreme court justices who would correctly interpret the constitution as opposed to activist judges who legislate from the bench and push their own agenda."

Paul Wysocki
Senior



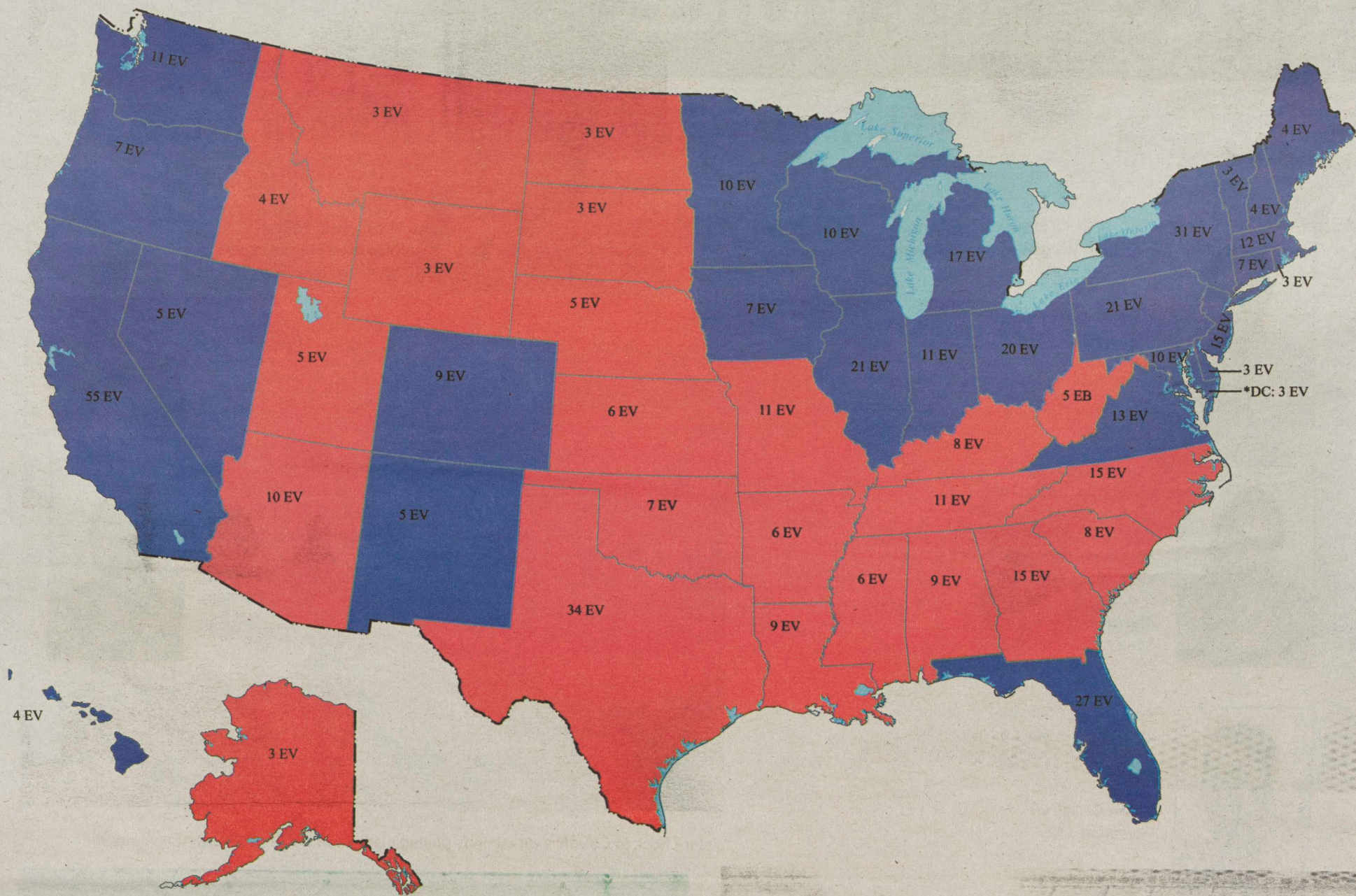
"The first thing I looked at was the fact that Obama can relate to the middle class and the issues that they have been going through throughout the Bush campaign."

Jose Rivas
Junior



Photos by Kristina Lawler / The Pride

2008 presidential election results



From ELECTION, page 1

tonight,” said McCain. “I’ve always believed that America offers opportunities to all who have the industry and will to seize it. Senator Obama believes that, too.”

“I urge all Americans who supported me to join me in not just congratulating him, but offering our next president our good will and earnest effort to find ways to come together to find the necessary compromises to bridge our differences and help restore our prosperity, defend our security in a dangerous world, and leave our children and grandchildren a stronger, better country than we inherited,” said McCain.

In closing, McCain stressed the importance of nationwide unity and patriotism, “I wish Godspeed to the man who was my former opponent and will be my president. And I call on all Americans, as I have often in this campaign, to not despair of our present difficulties, but to believe, always, in the promise and greatness of America, because nothing is inevitable here.”

Shortly thereafter, forty-seven-year-old Obama celebrated victory at Grant Park in Chicago with his wife, Michelle, and daughters,

Malia and Sasha by his side.

In his victory speech to a crowd of over 125,000 people, Obama declared, “If there is anyone out there who still doubts that America is a place where all things are possible; who still wonders if the dream of our founders is alive in our time; who still questions the power of our democracy, tonight is your answer.”

cheers.

“The road ahead will be long. Our climb will be steep,” said Obama. “We may not get there in one year or even one term, but America—I have never been more hopeful than I am tonight that we will get there. I promise you—we as a people will get there.”

“...to all those watching tonight from beyond our shores, from parliaments and palaces to those who are huddled around radios in the forgotten corners of our world—our stories are singular, but our destiny is shared, and a new dawn of American leadership is at hand,” said Obama. “To those who would tear this world down—we will defeat you.”

“This is our moment. This is our

time—to put our people back to work and open doors of opportunity for our kids; to restore prosperity and promote the cause of peace; to reclaim the American Dream and reaffirm that fundamental truth—that out of many, we are one; that while we breathe, we hope, and where we are met with cynicism, and doubt, and those who tell us that we can’t, we will respond with that timeless creed that sums up the spirit of a people: Yes We Can,” said Obama, in closing, “Thank you, God bless you, and may God Bless the United States of America.”



Photo taken by Ben Roffee

“It’s the answer spoken by young and old, rich and poor, Democrat and Republican, black, white, Latino, Asian, Native American, gay, straight, disabled and not disabled—Americans who sent a message to the world that we have never been a collection of Red States and Blue States: we are, and always will be, the United States of America,” said Obama.

With the lights dimmed in the Grand Salon, emotion washed across the faces of those in attendance with moments of complete silence followed by applause and

2008 election results

Electoral Votes

Obama: 338
McCain: 155
Pending: 45

Senate Seats

Dem: 56
Rep: 40
Pending: 4

House Seats

Dem: 252
Rep: 171
Pending: 12

Propositions*

Prop 1A Yes	Prop 5 No	Prop 9 Yes
Prop 2 Yes	Prop 6 No	Prop 10 No
Prop 3 Yes	Prop 7 No	Prop 11 Yes
Prop 4 No	Prop 8 Yes	Prop 12 Yes

*Results based on reporting at 1 AM Nov. 5 and are subject to change pending final outcome

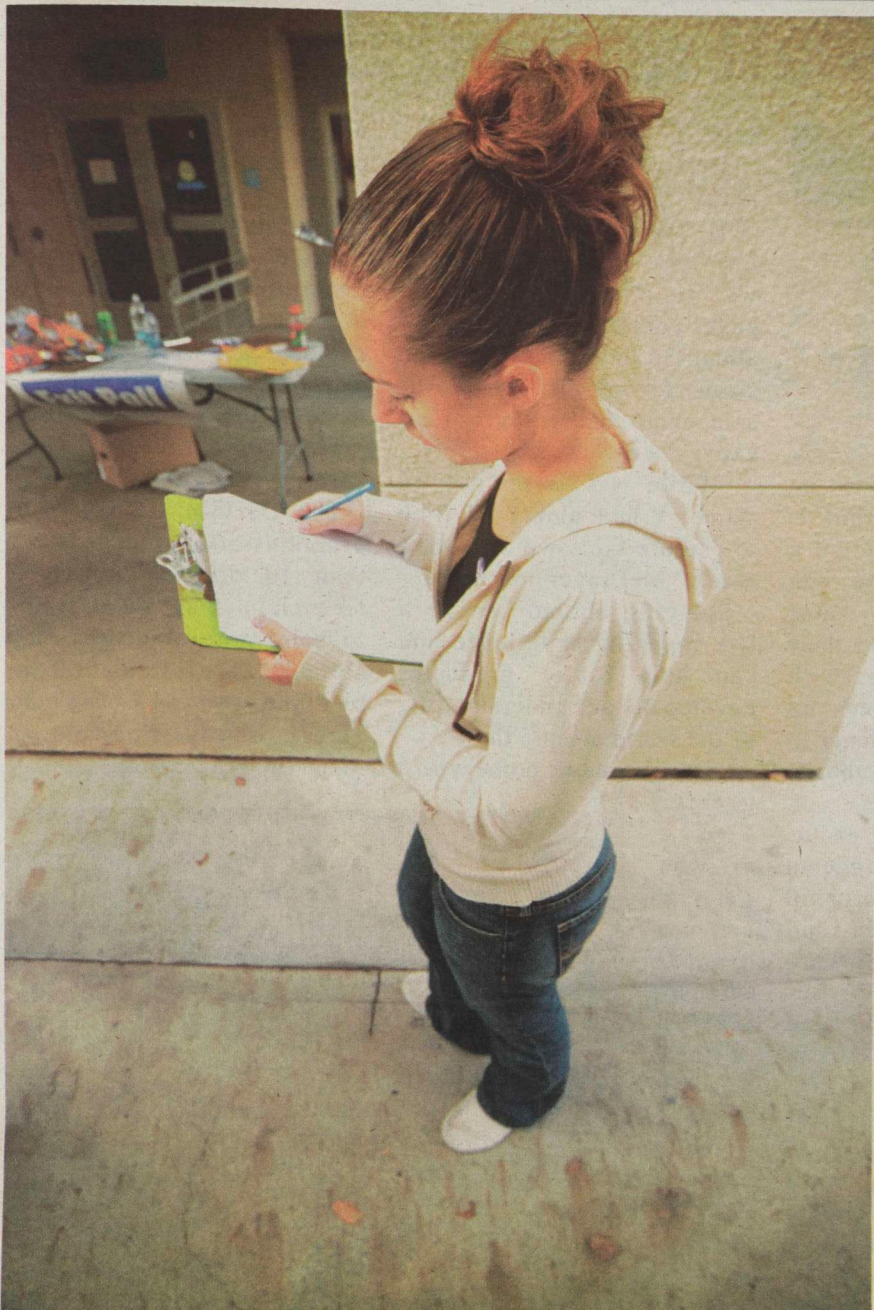


Photo taken by Ben Roffee

Mindy Geyer participates in student run exit polling.

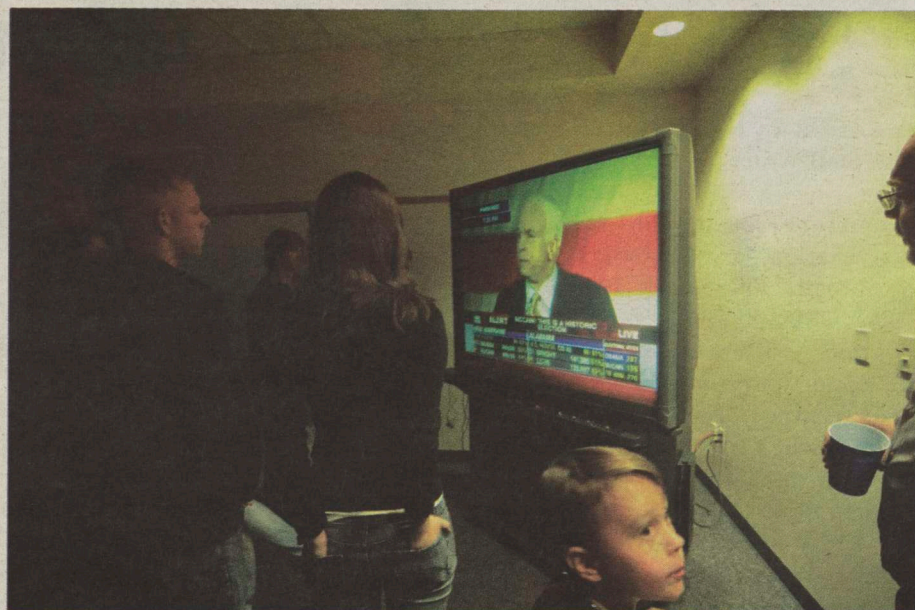


Photo taken by Jackie Carbajal

The Clark field house hosted 2008 election results viewing party.

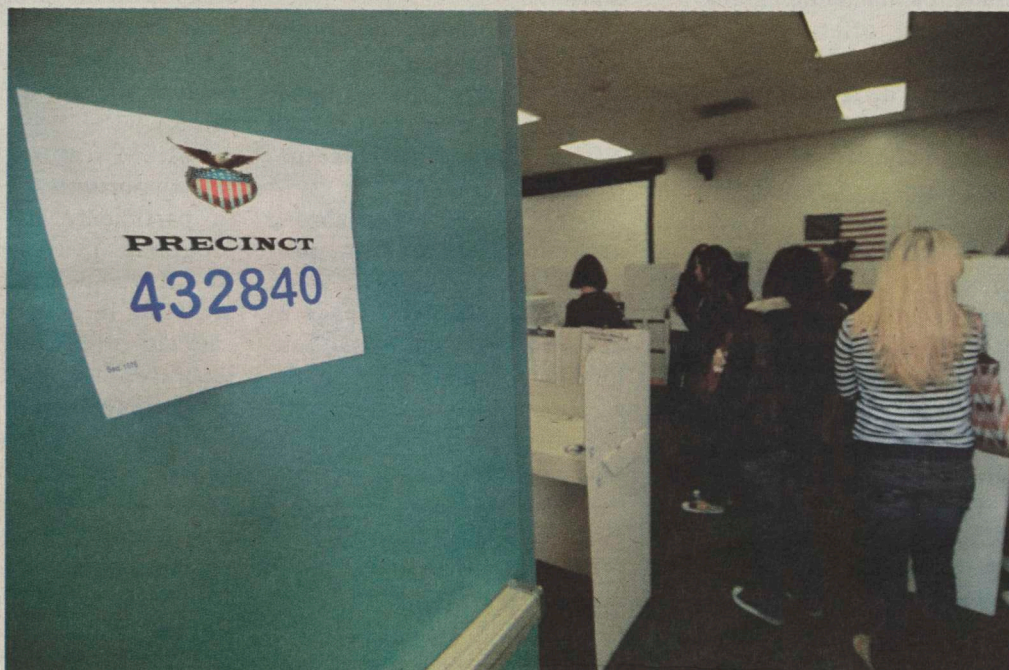


Photo taken by Ben Roffee

Voters flock to CSUSM's on-campus polling place to cast their ballots in Commons 206.



Photo taken by Ben Roffee

Students conduct exit polling for Dr. Shana Bass' PSCI 301 class.

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CSUSM students can study all around the world

BY SANDRA CHALMERS
Pride Staff Writer

Going to school can feel like vacation, if you're studying abroad.

The CSUSM study abroad program offers students the opportunity to study in Spain, France, England, the Netherlands, China and Costa Rica just to name a few. The opportunities to travel, study and learn about a different culture are just a glimpse of the immense benefits that studying abroad can do for a student's academic career.

CSUSM offers a plethora of programs, 35 programs in nine different countries to be exact. Also, CSUSM exclusively offers 11 student exchange programs, which are better known as bilateral agreements, meaning that when American students seek to study at an exchange school, that school's foreign students can come to CSUSM to study, according to Tiffany Gabbard, the new study abroad advisor.

The most popular study abroad locations are Western Europe, Spain, Italy and France. The Italy and France study abroad programs are particularly for students who are interested in studying the language and culture. Hong Kong, China is another popu-



lar location to study abroad, especially for business majors.

Japan and the Netherlands are other study abroad locations that are growing in popularity.

Some of the most unique locations students can study abroad are Fiji, Ireland, Sweden, Denmark, South Africa, South America, Australia and Israel.

The CSUSM study abroad program offers a unique program through World Link Education that enables students to learn the native language while living in the foreign country. Students can learn Japanese in Japan, German in Germany and the list continues with five other languages and countries.

Opportunities to study abroad don't just stop at CSUSM, students can also search for study abroad programs at another CSU campus that may offer different programs.



Image courtesy of World Link Education

"If for some reason an exchange or IP program is not offered in the location a student desires, he/she can be an intra-campus visitor to another CSU and do their study abroad program with their students. It opens up a lot of doors for students to explore the world," Gabbard said.

CSUSM features an exclusive opportunity for students to participate in internship programs in Australia and New Zealand. Internships are available in art, film, broadcasting, even business and law, according to the Australia Learn program.

Specific internship programs abroad are a great addition to a resume, since only about 1 percent of the students in the United States study abroad, according to the former CSUSM study abroad advisor, Jan Stockey.

Katie McBrayer, a senior at CSUSM, studied abroad in Galway, Ireland her junior

year.

"I took Modern Irish Literature and was able to study W.B. Yeats poems in the very locations he wrote them. It was so amazing to see the pages come to life by reading about the swans and watch the swans for myself," McBrayer said about her study abroad experience.

"While we were not in school I had plenty of time to explore the town and other areas," McBrayer continued.

Studying abroad can be a life changing experience and can help future graduates develop deeper understanding of the world around them.

"Students come home with a

greater sense of who they are, a greater appreciation of their own culture and world culture, and a much better perception of just how c o n -

nected the world is," said Gabbard.

"I have studied abroad in both Italy and England and considered them the most rewarding and enriching times of my life. Students must go explore this vast wonderful world of ours, and I'm happy to help them plan for their journey of a lifetime," Gabbard said.

The CSUSM study abroad programs offer students more than 10 different types of financial aid and scholarships to help more students study abroad. More information can be found at www2.csusm.edu/global, or at the study abroad office in Craven Hall 3200.

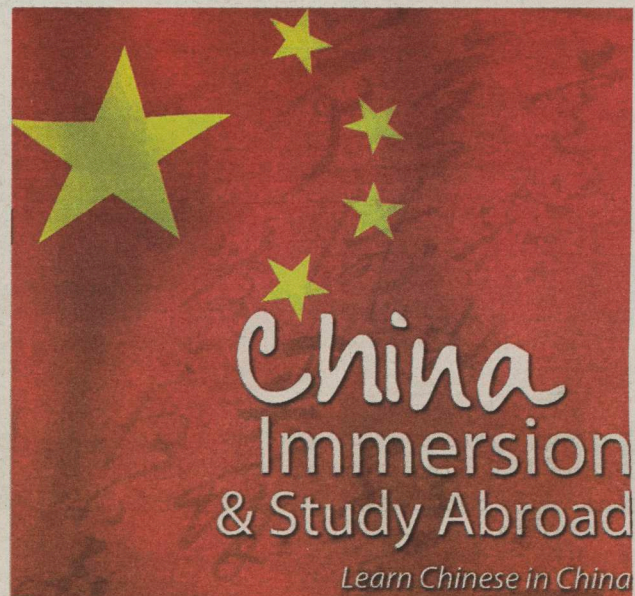


Image courtesy of World Link Education

Student raises funds for wells in Africa

Money to benefit village of a lost boy from Sudan who spoke at Cal State San Marcos

BY CRYSTAL EVANS
Features Editor

The lush jungles, vast miles of desert and the exotic wild animals bring people from around the world to visit Africa, however, for the Lost Boys of Sudan the land was more like a death trap than a vacation.

After having read the gripping

tale of three of the Lost Boys in They Poured Fire on Us From the Sky and having heard one of the Lost Boys who coauthored the book speak at Cal State University San Marcos, student Katey Pfeil decided to do something to give back to the Lost Boys.

"I'm not usually the type to go out of my little box, but their story really inspired me,"

Pfeil said. "I did some research and found Water for Sudan, which is a project that collects donations to help build wells in Sudan so that the villages have fresh water, I just wanted to do something to give back."

Pfeil's inspiration to help came from the stories of three specific men, Alephonsion Deng, Benson Deng and Benjamin Ajak. The boys were all under the age of seven when they were forced by the civil war in Sudan, which became a genocide of the southern Sudanese people, to leave their families, homes and villages, and they were left to wander for years in the desert.

Animals, such as lions and hyenas, were one of

the dangers they face while crossing the desert. With almost all of the boys being under the age of 12 when they left their villages, the boys did not have anyone to keep them safe from the wild animals except themselves.

Alephonsion Deng, in his talk to students at Cal State San Marcos Oct. 9, recounted an incident in which he was sleeping in one of the refugee camps with a bunch of other little boys. He said he felt something above him and absent mindedly swatted at it. Moments later he woke to screaming and saw that the little boy who was sleeping next to him had a gaping hole in the side of his face where an animal had bit him.

During their journey the boys were often separated from each other and they faced additional hardships that most can scarcely imagine. They walked thousands of miles in the grueling heat and the bitter cold. They were faced with injuries, slavery, starvation, thirst and all too often death. In their desperate attempt to survive, at times they ate dirt and drank their own urine to survive.

However, when they reached the refugee camps, things were not much better. They received rations from the United Nations, however they were not sufficient. The cramped quarters and the

unsanitary conditions lead to the spread of disease, and they were never far from war.

In the western world it is nearly impossible to imagine people going through this, much less surviving it, and it is nearly always associated with a less humane past. However, this isn't a story from the past. Almost all of the Lost Boys are in their 20s, the civil war is still going on and there are still many people in refugee camps with nowhere else to go.

After spending years in refugee camps and facing the unimaginable, the three boys were relocated to the United States along with thousands of other Lost Boys. There are over 100 Lost Boys in San Diego alone. However, there are an even greater number of people who were left behind in Africa, including Alephonsion's mother and sisters.

All of the donations that Pfeil collects will be donated from Cal

State San Marcos directly to the village that Benjamin, Benson and Alephonsion came from, and where their family members still reside, in order to build a well that will provide them with fresh, untainted water.

For more information on how to help contact Pfeil at pfeil001@cougars.csusm.edu.

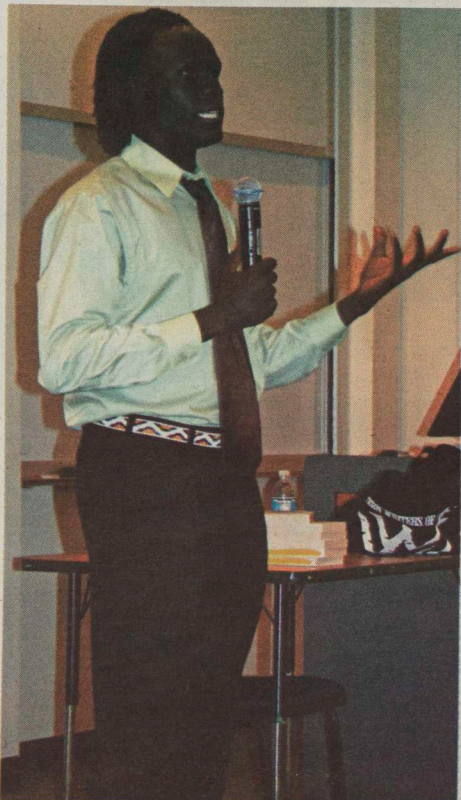


Photo by Crystal Evans

One of the Lost Boys of Sudan, Alephonsion Deng, addresses a group of students Oct. 9.



Photo by Crystal Evans

Student Katey Pfeil is collecting funds to be donated to a village in Africa, in order to build a well.

Cougar Sports Notebook

This week in CSUSM sports

BY BRIAN MANN
Pride Staff Writer

Men's Soccer

CSUSM's men's soccer team closed out their season with a 0-0 tie against Chapman at the Mangrum Track & Soccer Field on October 29th. With the scoreless tie, the men's team finished the season with a record of 8-7-3. They did not advance to the playoffs, but the record reflects an improvement from the 2007 season, in which the team posted a

6-10 record. Three seniors played their last game for the Cougars: Tashi Nakanishi, Chris Duncel, and Greg Reese. They were honored before the game.

Women's Soccer

The women's soccer team won their final regular season game 1-0 against Embry-Riddle in Prescott, Arizona. They have advanced to the playoffs and will face Embry-Riddle again in their first playoff game on November 14th in San Antonio.

Men's Golf

In their final tournament of the fall, the Cougar's men's golf team finished 11th at the Bill Cullum Invitational, played at Wood Ranch Golf Club in Simi Valley on October 28th. Sophomore Shezad Lakdawala placed the highest individually, tying for 45th.

Women's Golf

The Cougar's women's golf team placed 5th at the Aztec Fall Classic, their final tournament of the fall. It was a strong showing for the Cougars as CSUSM's Linnel De Villa tied

for second overall individually while Roxanne Mejia tied for fifth place. The event was hosted by San Diego State at Salt Creek Golf Course in Chula Vista.

Golf Note: CSUSM is hosting the Cougar Scramble on Friday, November 14th at Lake San Marcos Country Club. The event will raise money for the Cougar's men's and women's golf teams.

Cross-Country

Both the men's and women's cross-country teams will compete next in the USATF Cham-

pionships at Morley Field in San Diego on November 8th. Most recently, each team competed in the Cougar Challenge hosted by CSUSM on October 18th on the Mangrum Track & Soccer Field. In the women's 5k event, the Cougars fared well. Dallan Williams finished in 2nd place, while Morgan Sjogren and Jessica Sandoval finished in 3rd and 4th place, respectively. On the men's side in an 8k event, the highest placing Cougar was Dave Edwards in 4th place.

Sports notebook

Around the world of sports

BY BRIAN MANN
Pride Staff Writer

MLB

The Philadelphia Phillies won the World Series by defeating the Tampa Bay Rays four games to one. It is their first World Series title since 1980.

The final game of the series, the fifth, was delayed due to inclement weather. The game initially started on Monday October 27th but play was suspended in the 6th inning. The game was supposed to resume

the next day, but the poor conditions continued. Ultimately, play resumed Wednesday October 29th and the final three innings were played to conclude the series.

San Diego native Cole Hamels was named World Series MVP.

NFL

San Diego Chargers defensive coordinator Ted Cottrell was fired following the team's 3-5 start to the season. The team promoted inside linebackers coach Ron Rivera to the position. The Chargers rank among the worst teams

in the league defensively in multiple categories.

The NFL is investigating six to eight unnamed players for violating the league's drug policy by taking weight-loss pills that are considered to be a masking agent for steroids.

NBA

Portland Trailblazers center Greg Oden sprained his foot on opening night against the Los Angeles Lakers. He is expected to miss 2-4 weeks. It is another setback for Oden, the number

one overall pick in the 2007 NBA Draft. He missed his entire rookie season due to knee surgery and has yet to score a point in his career.

SOCCER

David Beckham will join AC Milan, a team in Italy, in January. He will be on a three-month loan from the Los Angeles Galaxy. He is expected to rejoin the Galaxy in March. As a result of this, the Galaxy canceled a scheduled exhibition game in Australia. The game was scheduled to be played December 11th and was expected

to be sold out, with many of the fans expecting to watch Beckham.

GOLF

Professional golfer John Daly was detained by police for several hours after passing out drunk at a Hooters restaurant in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. He was released upon sobering up and no charges were filed. The 42-year-old two-time major winner has had problems with drinking and gambling over the span of his career.



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Animoto uses your photos and music to make videos

Even computer illiterate users can make amazing multimedia projects with Animoto

BY CRYSTAL EVANS
Features Editor

Animoto: The End of Slide-shows is a site that stitches together photos with cool effects and puts them to music. The site allows even the most computer illiterate to produce a multimedia project that will be the envy of everyone on Facebook.

This user friendly Web site walks users through its process in an easy to use manner. The site does have a few downfalls, the first of which is the required registration. Though it is a hassle, it is free and doesn't require too much personal information. Also registration allows users to be e-mailed their

videos.

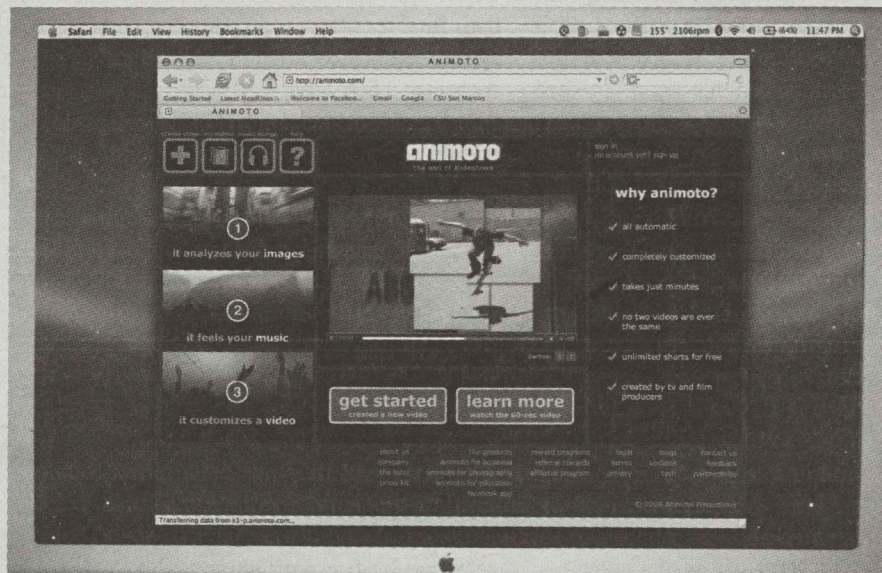
The site has two options for making videos. The 30 second videos can feature eight to 12 photos and is completely free. Users can also opt to pay \$3 for one extended video, with the length depending on the music and pictures selected, or pay \$30 per year to make unlimited videos.

The site allows pictures to be uploaded from either the computer or from another site, such as Facebook. The photos can easily be organized, added to or deleted from to make the perfect photo mix.

When the photos are all in order it is time to choose a song to accompany them. Music can either be uploaded

from the computer or users can choose a song from the sites list which includes hip hop, pop, indie rock, jazz and other genres, though their music selection is small and is mostly from unknown artists.

Once a song is chosen, the site automatically designs the video. When it is finished, the video can be used in a variety of ways. It can be e-mailed to friends, downloaded onto an iPod, exported to YouTube, prepared to be posted online



or upgraded to DVD quality. No matter how the

video is used, the result will be well worth the minimal effort it took to produce.

CSUSM Writing Club organizes second student reading

BY CRYSTAL EVANS
Features Editor

November 6, 2008 the Creative Writing Community and Workshop is hosting the second student reading at CSUSM. Students from CSUSM will be reading from their own creative writing in Markstein 125 at 7PM.

Participating readers announced

by the Creative Writing Community and Workshop are; Andrew Garai, Tristan Rust, Molly Peterson, Joseph Irraggi, Ellie Yambrach, Jaryd Weiss, April Gigliotti, Melissa Haklitch, Lori Greenstone, Stefanie Lamkin, Jennifer Hylander, Jerrica Escoto, Jeannine Clark, Derek Mobraaten and more.

Kimberly Koga, the clubs sec-

retary, comments on the variety of genres in this years reading, "We have a lot of different pieces this year; spoken word, a pantoum, short fiction, excerpts from longer pieces, poetry, prose-poetry, sci-fi/fantasy, and all kinds of stuff!"

This reading will be the second Creative Writing Community and Workshop student reading.

The group is planning on hosting another reading at the end of this year tentatively planned for Dec 4 with more to come in the spring.

When asked why student readings are important to CSUSM Koga states, "These reading help to create and maintain a creative writing community at CSUSM. We want to make these readings a tradition, much like the 'Comm-

nity and World Literary Series' that brings us many national and international writers."

Students who wish to participate in future readings should register for the Creative Writing Community and Workshop email list by sending first, last name, and email address to csusmcreativewritingcommunity@gmail.com.

DROPPING:

Tuesday, Nov 04 DVD RELEASES

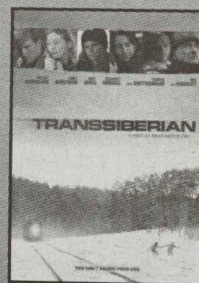
By Bill Rhein / Pride Staff Writer



"GET SMART"

GRADE: B-

Though it provides a far amount of laughs for the family, it sticks to the standard plotline of an action comedy film. Steve Carell stars in the film version spin off of the 1960's television show of the same name. Though there are some funny moments, a better story would have improved the film.



"TRANSSIBERIAN"

GRADE: B

This thriller went very much under the radar in its limited release. Woody Harrelson and Ben Kingsley star in this tight thriller about a murder mystery aboard the titular train. It is a unique and tense film, yet its stylistic elements pays tribute to the classic thrillers.



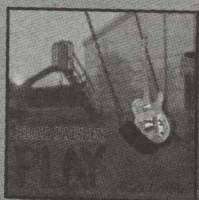
ALTERNATIVE/ROCK

Take it to the Limit

HINDER

Seems as though Hinder has long planned to take it to the limit after their debut album sold over three million records. Their sophomore album, "Take it to the Limit," is expected to be a crowd pleaser and show a more matured side of the

Oklahoma rockers. This means no more "Get Stoned" song titles or shirtless girls on the cover.



CD RELEASES

COUNTRY

By Sandra Chalmers / Pride Staff Writer

Play

BRAD PAISLEY

After winning a GRAMMY award for Best instrumental performance, Paisley has really turned Country music into hot stuff. "Play," features musical collaborations with Keith Urban and B.B King just to name a few.



RAP/HIPHOP

The Renaissance

Q-TIP

Standing along artists such as T-Pain, T.I and Ice T, Q-Tip was obviously a very distinguishable choice in name. His new album, "The Renaissance," is jazz influenced and features guest vocals from Norah Jones and D'Angelo.



SOUNDRACK

Twilight Soundtrack

VARIOUS ARTISTS

Vampires and humans can find love in the much-anticipated books turned to movie, Twilight. And with this sci-fi love plot comes an amazing soundtrack. Featuring artists such as Muse, Linkin Park and Paramore.

Images courtesy of amazon.com

Prose for The Pride

“The Midst”

BY ADAM BISHOP

The sky is closer now than it has ever been and I'm walking beneath it with my hair being thrown by its steady hand. My sunglasses are sitting tight and the eyes they hide are wandering, wondering along my path.

Tight-trim edges of grass line the walk ahead, each meeting pavement with an abrupt, aberrant end. The flower-beds lay below single trees in each tight-trim sprawl of grass, nature of the suburban standard.

Tan tiles, beige tiles, salmon tiles, too, with white stucco and contrasting trim inviting the hiding wandering, wondering eyes into a uniform view.

The sky is closer now than it has ever been. It's sitting tight atop the suburban roofs. The five clouds atop the sky, atop the shake-shingle, suburban roofs, move askew within the suburban sky.

My clock tells me it's five-O-eight because the neck-tie cars are entering the community of shake-shingle-suburbia. They enter with tinted windows with wandering, wondering eyes behind them. They think: "A stranger in our midst, shaded by hair and spectacles, possibly dangerous with a pair of testicles."

Tinted neck-tie windows enter their piece of pavement only to close the doors behind them. Engines still billowing from their neck-tie tail-pipes – each within the skeyes of this shake-shingle suburbia closed within its pavement parking garage.

They are tucked neatly inside. They are sucked sweetly inside. They are fucked and numbed,

soured and succumbed by the images devoured with their nightly supper.

I step forward, a pace unbroken, along a white-paved-path with my sunglasses tight and my hair still dancing in the sky's steady hand while the shake-shingle on my left and the one on my right, the one before it and the one after it, open their windows to a glinting blue glow... an audience laughter wafting from within. I hear tap-tap, plastic digits and neck-ties masticate to rhythms of the MAN-kind machine and its glinting blue tractor beam.

"He is a stranger in our midst who's danger and spectacles, with his hair and testicles,... tonight at ten!" The neck-ties will never, never win with carousels set to speed: Consume.

Beyond audience mastication and tappy-tap plastics, my clock tells me it's five-thirty-three and the sun's touch agrees – warm, pleasant, solar breath before its light fades to night.

One still remains outside, out front, on top of the neck-ties water-worked, tight-trim green grass. He is without his neck-tie, not grown into it. The one still remaining, sitting in a small red wagon, handle lying on the neck-tie grass, watches this stranger in his midst with wandering, wondering eyes. He, sitting in his small red wagon, without his neck-tie, hiding from glinting blue lights, holds up his hand to the stranger in his midst.

The stranger waves back.

Images courtesy of wikipedia.com



BY JOSEPH DERAGISCH
Pride Staff Writer

Are you tired of the same old restaurants with the same tired menus? Do you want to ignite your meal with some excitement and entertainment?

The answer to flat, boring nights out on the town is Katsu Sushi and Teppan Grill. Located on Restaurant row on San Marcos Blvd, this 20 year old, authentic Japanese gem creates a great atmosphere, blending great food, exciting theatrics, and fantastic service.

Katsu works well for a night out with a group of friends, a first date, or for the celebration of the long lasting rela-

Katsu Sushi and Teppan Grill

An entertaining sushi experience

tionship. Tables are grouped together accommodating several parties and creating the potential to make new friends.

Guests sit around a massive grill on which the chef slices, dices, grills, and sears the food. The show includes comedic and clever remarks from the chef, as towers of flaming onions, shrimp flying through the air, and knives dancing all over the place.

Servers place the delicious food onto plates as the show from the grill ends. "Every time I come here it's a different experience. Each chef brings their own style to the table, and I am never let down by their skills as J a p a - n e s e

cooks", Ian LeFarry said, looking at the man in front of him flip steak slices into the air.

Katsu Sushi and Teppan Grill has over 50 different types of fish on the menu, Katsu is one of the most thorough Sushi establishments around. Whether you like your California Rolls or seaweed wrapped eel, Katsu has it all.

For the older crowd they have an excellent beer and wine selection that will impress the Asian alcohol enthusiast as well as the non-adventurous drinker.

At the end of the theatrical dining experience the hostess', take a pictures of the parties to place on the wall, adding you to a collage of hundreds of photos spanning the life of the establishment. The pictures are a fitting end to a great night with friends, strangers, food, and fun.



Photo by Kathryn McBrayer

Student Spotlight: Matthew Chewiwie

BY KATHRYN MCBRAYER
A&E Editor

Matthew Chewiwie is a Visual and Performing Arts student at CSUSM. Chewiwie uses computer art in the form of, "film/video editing, photography, and animation" as his main medium of artistic expression. He also experiments with anything that comes along getting his, "feet wet" with a variety of artistic methods.

Music is another keen interest for Chewiwie. Throughout middle school and high

school, Chewiwie played music but lost interest in later on. Recently he has begun to pick it up again as a curiosity in electronic music. "I took the computers and music course at this campus and composed a handful of songs, one of which became the theme to a short film I just made," says Chewiwie of his renewed pursuit of music.

Chewiwie will graduate in the fall of 2009 if he does not decide to add a minor to his Arts and Technology major. He comments on his plans after graduation, "I'm going to look for a job doing something I more enjoy, whether that be editing wedding

videos, constructing websites, or any time of creative computer job I can get my hands on."

When asked of his artistic inspirations Chewiwie says, "I am inspired by the nearly no-name 'celebrities' who are huge on the Internet." He names people like the "chocolate rain guy" as one of his favourites and admits, "I would love to have that type of Internet infamy."

Chewiwie uses life experiences and interest to build his

artistic creations. He says, "I often start with what I know and expand from there." He recently gave a poem reading of his use of the game Dance Dance Revolution. The game had a profound impact on his life by helping him, "get back in shape, rid [himself] of frustrations and inner demons and basically redefine who [he] is."

His goal in designing art is not solely or even mainly about self-expression. Chewiwie sees himself as an entertainer striving to generate a response in his audience. He says, "I want to entertain, amaze,

make people laugh, cry, be inspired, confused, bewildered."

Chewiwie stores most of his work on his website www.fravit.net where he has a blog and exhibits of his work.



Image courtesy of Matthew Chewiwie



Image courtesy of Matthew Chewiwie

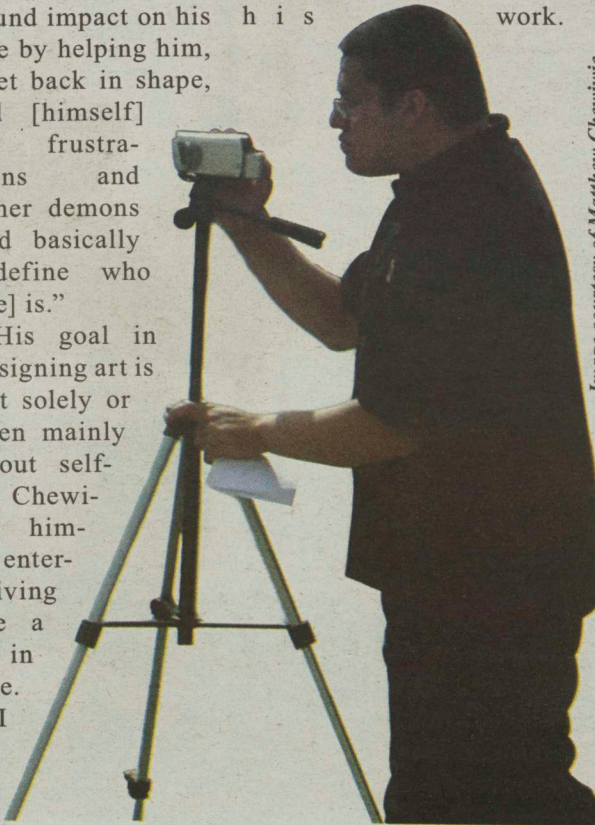


Image courtesy of Matthew Chewiwie

Genuine Draft Light 64

A Calorie Conscious Brew



BY JONATHAN E. THOMPSON
Pride Staff Writer



Miller Brewing Company produces Genuine Draft Light 64. The company operates out of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Frederick Miller began the brewery in 1855. In October 2007, SABMiller and Molson Coors joined forces making them the second largest United States brewery trailing Anheuser Busch.

The Pride's "Beer of the Week" columns typically focus on microbreweries. However, Miller's new recipe deserves coverage. In general, Californians are health conscious. Several years ago people were going on the Atkins diet like it was going out of style. Well, it did eventually fade out like any fad diet but demand still exists for low calorie beers. Most light beers currently on the market offer around 100 calories per 12 fluid ounce serving. Miller offers a beer with only 64 calories. Six packs of the brew retail for \$6.

A quick pour of the light brew generates a shocking behemoth one inch thick head. The head gradually dissipates into a frothy lancet. Bubbles of bliss glide joyfully to the top of the glass emitting slight fragrances of malts and hops. The beer

enters smooth then releases a surprisingly strong bitter taste. Unfortunately, the light brew, as natural of a light calorie beer, finishes too mild.

"It's not as raspy as most beers. It goes down really smooth. It's not too strong. It doesn't have any aftertaste,"

said non-student Josh Chamberland

The low calories of the brew are perfect for those on diets or searching for ways to cut out unnecessary calories. The beer should be enjoyed in social settings such as barbeques or pool days as the beer does not produce a full filling like most beers do. The simple taste of the beer will not pair well with meals. A more flavorful beer should be chosen to consume while eating.

"This seems like

the kind of beer I would drink if I had a sensitive stomach," said non-student Madison Huntington.

The math is simple. The more a person consumes the more calories they accumulate. Rotate in Miller's Genuine Draft Light 64 and enjoy less calories and a lighter stomach feeling. Raise your glasses!



Photo by Jonathan E. Thompson / The Pride

Gordon College recreates Super Mario Bros.

BY JOSEPH DERAGISCH
Pride Staff Writer

Everyone has been to at least one school talent show where the show was not exactly worth the admission price. Originality and production value are not usually spilling off the stage either. The show deserves to be seen when it's something the audience can actually enjoy and relate to.

The stage reenactment of the classic video game, Super Mario Bros, is viewable at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M7Rs8Wdyfzc>. Gordon College created the show in 2006. The Super Mario Bros show is full of surprises, excitement and is extremely well done.

As the first note from the 16-bit classic theme erupts from the speakers, the crowd goes wild and Mario struts out onto the stage, ready to face the dangers ahead. Clouds and rocks begin to float by

while Mario breaks into his signature run under a blue sky produced by a large LCD projector floating above the audience. The rest of the scene is created using pieces of cardboard artfully made into fireballs and coin ejecting blocks, all carried around by students in complete black against a black backdrop.

The skit lasts about five minutes, encompassing everything from the classic game. The cast of about 20 actors perfectly recreates the game. The replicated flaming flowers and the deadly turtle shells convince with impressive precision. It is an exiting scene of nostalgia for anyone who has ever joined Mario on his adventures though the sewers and among the clouds on their own living room couch.



Images courtesy of youtube.com

MADAGASCAR

ESCAPE 2 AFRICA

BY JACKIE CARBAJAL
News Editor

Madagascar is back for round 2 but don't write off this movie as just another disappointing sequel. The star filled cast that shined in the first film include Ben Stiller, Chris Rock, David Schwimmer, Jada Pinkett Smith, Sacha Baron Cohen, Cedric the Entertainer and the later Bernie Mac.

After a brief sequence introduc-

ing Alex the Lion as a young cub in the wild, Madagascar 2 picks up

where the last film left off. The quirky animals formerly from the Central Park zoo are finally ready to leave the

island of Madagascar. Alex, Marty the Zebra, Melman the Giraffe, and Gloria the

Hippo board Air Penguin, led by Skipper, Kowalski, Rico in their quest to return home. After a short stint in the air, the penguin crafted plane experiences extreme turbulence.

While the plane plummets, Alex admits to Marty that he lost his iPod and Melman professes his love for Gloria while Gloria in turn, remains sleeping.

Fortunately for the gang, the plane makes a rocky but safe landing at an unknown location initially suspected to be San Diego. The character animation is

instead landed in Africa and once again have to learn how to survive in the wild. The gang avoids a dangerous confrontation with a pack of lions when the King and Queen Lion of the reserve recognize Alex as their long lost cub. Marty is thrilled to find a herd of zebra who are exactly like him, Melman becomes witch doctor to a pack of giraffes, and Gloria's search for an eligible bachelor may be over once she meets Moto Moto. Though each of the characters embark on their own subplots, they come together nicely with the kind of ending fit for an animated feature film.

Sure, the film isn't in the running for Oscar nods but for the kid at heart, it's definitely worth the price of admission and popcorn.

Images courtesy of Dreamworks

