

Celebrating Veteran's Day at CSUSM

Active duty students to host event

BY PATRICK B. LONG
Pride Staff Writer

Active duty Marines attending Cal State San Marcos will host this year's Veteran's Day celebrations on Friday, Nov. 11. The ceremony, commemorating veterans of all of the armed forces, will be held next to the Kellogg Library main entrance, from 1 to 2:30 p.m.

The ceremony will be a joint celebration for Veterans Day and the 230th Birthday of the United States Marine Corps, which is on Nov. 10.

The ceremony will consist of a color guard, a reading from a letter from the Marine Corps Commandant and a cake cutting ceremony. The cake cutting ceremony will be an opportunity where a piece of cake is presented to the youngest Marine on campus, Cpl. Jorge Caro, and the oldest Marine on campus, Joe

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U.N. speaker tackles issues of policy

Guest to host open forum at M. Gordon Clarke Field House

BY CHRISTINE VAUGHAN
Pride Staff Writer



Gillian Martin Sorensen

Cal State San Marcos' Model United Nations Club is scheduled to welcome Senior Adviser of the United Nations Foundation and former Assistant Secretary-General for External Relations,

Gillian Martin Sorensen to enlighten students about the U.N.'s international role and address concerns regarding the challenges this governmental body faces over the next hundred years.

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Sexual battery at University Village

Police investigation leads to off-campus suspect

BY ANTOINETTE JOHNSON
Pride Staff Writer

The University Police Department received two reports of sexual battery in October. These are the only reported cases — there have been no confirmed reports of rape.

Chief of Police, Aaron Woodard, has confirmed that the first sexual battery incident reported occurred on the night of Oct. 20 when a 19-year-old male approached a 16-year-old female, while at University Village.

"Through our investigation of this case we received word of the second incident that occurred approximately three weeks prior to the first, which involved the same 19-year-old male," said Woodard.

According to Woodard and Lt. Douglass Miller, they have a strong lead in the case as to who the suspect is. He is not a student at CSUSM, and currently he is classified as a strong suspect in this matter.

Currently, this case is in the hands of the District Attorney's Office for further investigation.

According to the California Penal Code: Any person who touches an intimate part of another

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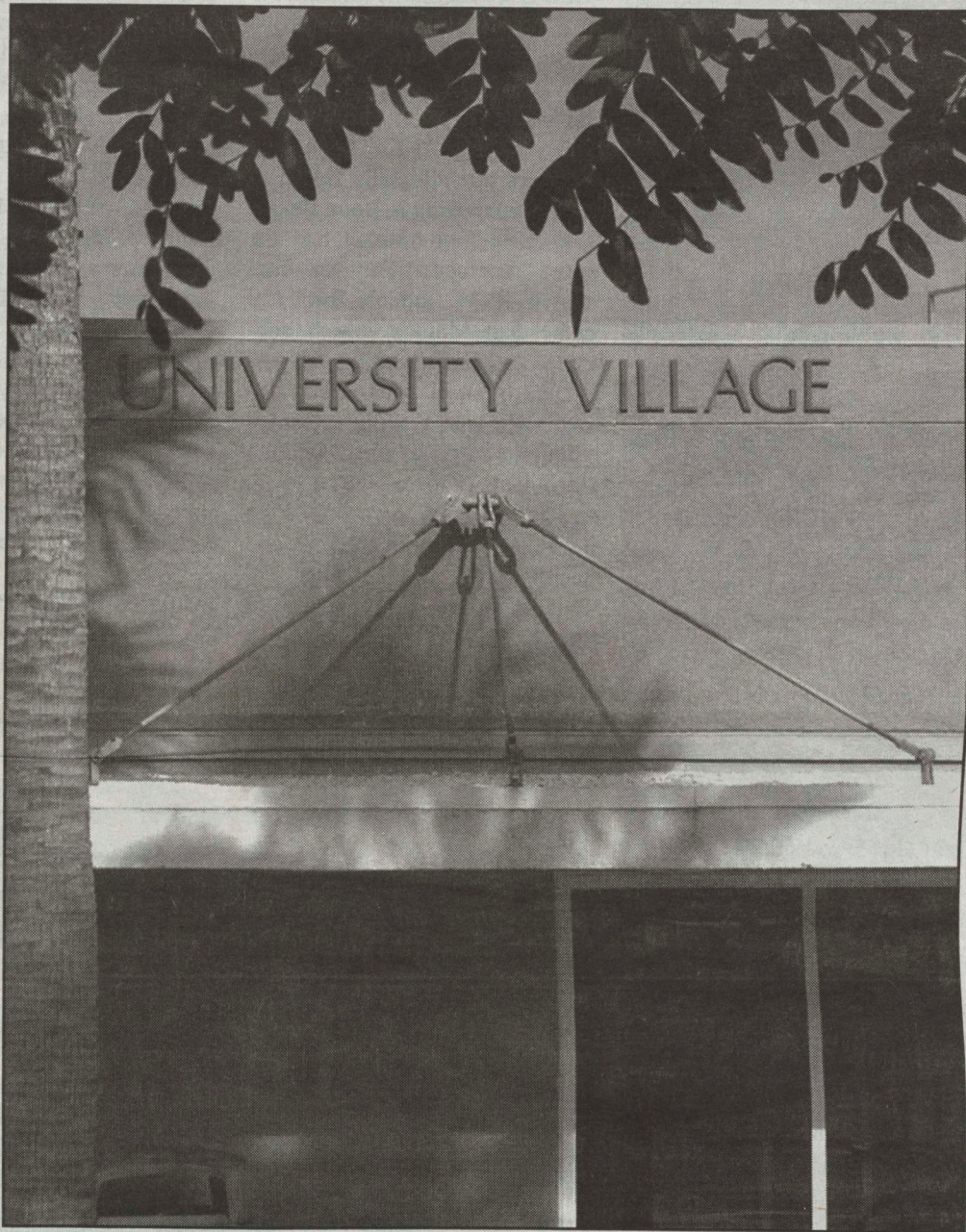


Photo by Antoinette Johnson / The Pride

CSU fee increase approved

Students can expect an annual 8-10 percent tuition increase

BY PIYAMAS SABLAN & KIMBERLY RAYMOND
Pride Staff Writers

The Board of Trustees of the California State University adopted and approved a 2006-2007 budget request and fee increase proposal on Oct. 27, 2005. The State University Fee for undergraduate and credential students will be increased by eight percent, and will increase by ten percent for

graduate students, according to the California State University web site.

The web site also states that revenue from the student fee increase will be \$107 million. Thirty-three percent of the revenue will be used to provide \$32.7 million in additional funds for the State University Grant financial aid program, providing financial aid access to 5,100 additional students. The revenue from the budget

request and fee increase will also be used to fund increases in health benefits, new space, service-based salary increases for certain employee groups, and higher energy costs.

The current 2005-2006 annual State University Fee is \$2,520 combined with the average campus-based fees totaling \$664, makes the CSU average for tuition a total of \$3,164 for undergraduates. A link to the Finance Committee

Agenda/Student Fee Schedule is provided on the CSU web site for a detailed 2006-2007 fee schedule.

Many people wonder why the board members are resorting to taking money from the students. One of the board members informed the students that they were unable to find money from anywhere else and all of their other resources

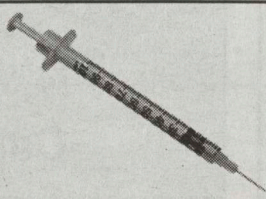
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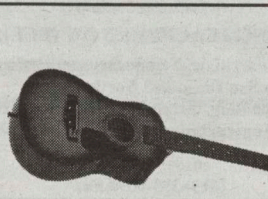
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person, if the touching is against the will of the person touched, and is for the specific purpose of sexual arousal, sexual gratification, or sexual abuse, is guilty of misdemeanor sexual battery, punishable by a fine not exceeding two thousand dollars (\$2,000), or by imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding six months, or by both that fine and imprisonment.

"There is no history of sexual violence at University Village," said Woodard. The University Police Department offers students the chance to learn self-defense through courses such as Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) which

educates students on the statistics of assault among college women and how to combat this threat.

RAD is offered once each semester and the next class is scheduled for sometime in Spring 2006.

Information about these classes can be obtained at the University Police Station located off of La Moree road across from Lot K, or through flyers distributed at University Village, the Kellogg Library and other spots on campus.

Chief Woodard and the University Police Department urge any students or faculty members who have more information regarding this issue to contact University Police at 760-750-4567.

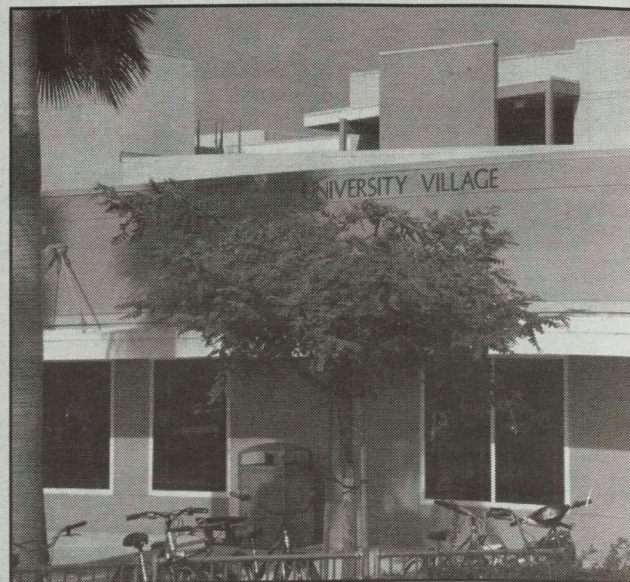


Photo by Antoinette Johnson / The Pride

FEE INCREASE, from page 1

were tapped out so they were forced to look to the students for the extra money.

There were 23 Cal State Universities attending the Board of Trustees meeting in Long Beach. Cal State San Marcos had the most representation. An estimated 30-35 students from Cal State San Marcos, which consisted of MEChA members, students from GEL classes, and students who were recently informed about the increase who wanted to participate in the protest.

The students caravanned to Long Beach to join students and faculty from the 22 other Cal State campuses in attendance at the Oct. 27, 2005 CSU Board of Trustees meeting and to unite in protest against the fee increase. Students wanted to send the message to the CSU Board of

Trustees that they have taken a stand against the constant tuition increases, and they also wanted to ensure their testimonies regarding the affect of the fee increase on their lives was personally heard, said Marc DeGuzman, president of CSUSM Associated Students, Inc.

DeGuzman estimated that there were about 150-200 students present at the protest. Due to the amount of students present and concerns from the chancellor's office regarding the fire safety code, students were permitted to rotate throughout the meeting to ensure everyone had a chance to be present.

"There was a live stream available in one of the rooms as well. Our presence at the Chancellor's office was felt," said DeGuzman. The protesters were solemn and respectful throughout the meeting and the

CSU Board of Trustees seemed receptive to the testimonies and aware that students would be affected by the fee increase, stated DeGuzman. "This is not the end of tuition fee increases in the CSU. The Board of Trustees implied that an additional 10 percent increases, is expected for the 2007-2008 and the 2008-2009 school years."

A slippery slope affect is beginning to show its presence with recent parking fee increasing, as well. Gaby Ruiz, a student who attended the protest in Long Beach claims, "This will affect our future generations and will only allow the elite to attain higher education. I am really upset at the increase. I work 35-40 hours a week and am taking four upper division classes, I am exhausted and know that because I work so much it affects my grades. I am paying for school

and help support my mother, so I have to work, but I want a higher education."

CSUSM is known for its diverse campus. "The most affected will be the minorities because they already have such a difficult time finding the resources to come to college, their education is at risk," states Gaby. Students can make a difference in many ways. Even if you are not going to be here for the increases, it will affect you in some way in the future, especially if you plan to stay in California. There will be future efforts concerning the fee increase. Stay tuned for more information," said DeGuzman. "You too can make a difference."

Contact ASI for more information on upcoming dates, or for further information on the approved fees, please visit www.calstate.edu/pa/news/2005/budget0607.shtml.

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SGI Buddhist Club hosting guest speaker

Newly formed club introducing Buddhism to students on campus

BY PATRICK B. LONG
Pride Staff Writer



Shin Yatomi

The club will have its first meeting next Monday. The club will host a guest speaker Shin Yatomi, managing editor of Living Buddhism magazine, on Nov. 14, from 7 to 8:30pm in ACD 102.

SGI stands for Soka Gakkai

International which translates to: create value.

"We believe each person has Buddha in them," said Eiko Okita, club treasurer. "By praying, people can reach Buddha in nature." Okita went on to explain that Buddhism believes in cause and effect, "Whatever you cause, you get the effect."

The club's goal is to introduce Buddhism to the campus. Buddhism has multiple sects and the SGI club follows the Nichiren Daishonin (NSIC).

"SGI is a Buddhist association with more than 12 million members in 190 countries

and territories worldwide," Said Frank Rojas, SGI Buddhist Club president. "This Buddhism aims to awaken people to the limitless potential and value of their own lives. Buddhist philosophy and practice bring about a positive transformation in the depths of life, transforming fear into courage, deluded impulses into wisdom, and egotism to compassion."

"We believe people are responsible for their own life and they can change their life," said LouAnn Berg, the SGI local office community relations coordinator. The local office for SGI

is located in San Marcos and can be found on the Web site for SGI at < <http://www.sgi-usa.org/cgi-bin/locator.cgi>>.

"In India the word Buddha was originally a common noun meaning 'awakened one,' but in Buddhism it is used to mean one who has become awakened to the ultimate truth of life. In Hinayana the word means one who has entered the state of nirvana, in which both body and mind are extinguished." <http://www.sgi-usa.org/>

"Our members reflect a cross section of our diverse American society, representing a broad range of ethnic and social back-

grounds," reads the SGI web site.

"I cannot tell you how much a complete turn-around its done on my life, helping me achieve my dreams my educational goals-GPA, relationship, finances, and overall happiness," said Rojas about Buddhism.

The club started its recognition process on campus in September and became official in October. This will be the first meeting for the club. The event will serve snacks and beverages. For more information contact the local office at 760.591.9738 or email Frank Rojas at <frankienj@yahoo.com>.

SPEAKER, from page 1

The event will be hosted on Tuesday Nov. 15 at the Clarke Field House, room 113, from 11:30-12:30 p.m. With the support of ASI, pizza and refreshments will be available for all participants.

Dr. Cyrus Masroori, advisor of Model United Nations Club, highlighted that Sorensen will be focusing on "The United Nations and Challenges of the 21st Century" and she'll be pre-

pared to field any questions or inquiries students, faculty or staff may have about U.N. policies or positions in international relations.

"I hope students take advantage of this event," said Masroori. "Students have good questions about the United Nations. I cannot think of many people with more direct information about the United Nations than Ms. Sorensen. Events like this are not easy to organize. The Model United Nations at

CSUSM has worked hard to make this possible. In part, by organizing this event we want to thank the university, and particularly the students, for supporting student organizations like ours. We hope that students' participation in this event give us incentive to work even harder to contribute to our university by bringing more speakers in the future."

This event is made possible through CSUSM's Model United Nations Club, the Department

of Political Science, the U.N. Foundation and ASI. The event is free-of-charge and expected to be a "fortunate" experience for all who attend, according to Masroori.

"The United Nations has played an important part in bringing peace and security, humanitarian relief, health and education to people around the world. Probably because of the magnitude of its missions, it has also been subject to criticism," Masroori explained. "A good example is

the way that the U.N. has dealt with the situation in Iraq since early 1990's. Students have questions about the U.N., its usefulness, and its problems (e.g. oil for food program). Here is a great opportunity to learn more about the organization and ask questions about it."

For more information on the event or for details regarding the Model United Nations Club, please contact Dr. Cyrus Masroori, advisor, at cmasroor@csusm.edu.

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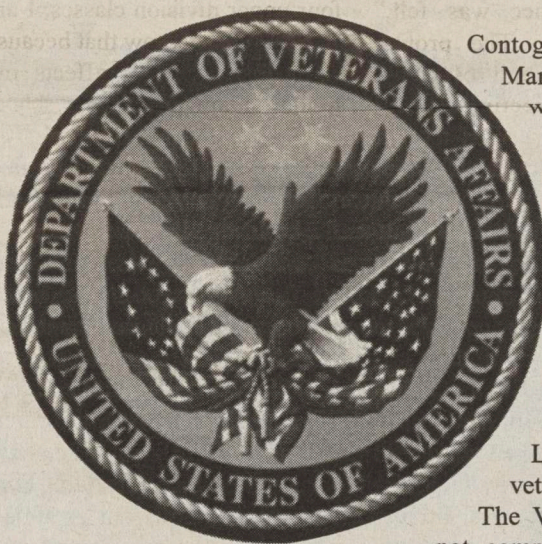
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VETERAN'S DAY, from page 1



Contogenis, a veteran Marine who now works in facilities here on campus.

This will be an ASI sponsored event. The Veterans Club has been going through a transition period since the retirement of Corkie Lee, the previous veteran's counselor. The Veterans Club did not complete the required

steps to have club-status for the Fall 2005 semester. The club will follow the procedures for club status for the Spring semester.

"It's a tradition on campus. We want to support that tradition," said Elizabeth Sheets, ASI's director of social programming. She went on to express how great veterans are.

Currently, John Segoria, director of Disabled Student Services, has been filling the role of coordinator for the Veterans Club until Corkie's replacement is found.

The color guard will be hosted by students currently enrolled at Cal State San Marcos in the Marine Enlisted Commissioning

Education Program (MECEP). The program allows active duty enlisted Marines to attend college while on active duty in order to complete their college education and become officers.

The color guard consists of Staff Sgt. Kevin Penn, Staff Sgt. Mike Holt, Sgt. Ben Carter, and Sgt. Nathan Loomis. The event is being organized by Gunnery Sgt. Dennis Herold.

"We want to pay tribute, not just to veterans, but to their families as well," said Herold.

Segoria has estimated that there are nearly 400 veterans and dependents of veterans attending Cal State San Marcos.

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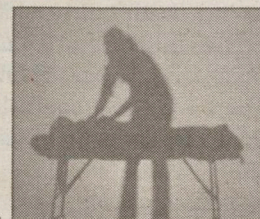


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Musical hopeful: Casey Sowa

BY JESSICA DAMBOWSKI
Pride Staff Writer

Casey Sowa is a guitarist who recently released the compilation album, "Backroom Sounds." Sowa, who was part of the band "Travesty," placed three of their songs on the album. Sowa describes the other featured artists as friends and the CD itself as a compilation of San Diego artists and a representation of San Diego's culture, along with his own.

"But," said Sowa, "there is much more that did not make it on the CD."

Before becoming a Cougar, Sowa attended SDSU for three years, followed by classes at both San Diego City College and Mesa College. He is currently in his second semester as a Communications major here at CSUSM, where he appreciates having a lot of the same people in his classes, all the technological resources, and always being able to find a parking spot.

When asked about the first time he began playing guitar, Sowa said he was about ten years old and that he enjoyed playing his favorite songs and playing for friends.

Currently, Sowa is in a nameless three-piece. He met Nick, who plays guitar and bass for the new band, at the SDSU dorms in 1998. The drummer, Jasha, arrived through Ed Barrena, Sowa's roommate.

"(We were) stoked about creating music and (to) move forward with being a

group," said Sowa.

Bradley Nowell of Sublime and Bob Marley hold high places in Sowa's music hall of fame, but despite their excessive popularity here, Sowa says that it was great being in Southern California because of the "diversity of music."

Sowa recalls the first year he was in the dorms, when some friends played the guitar, and it united them. Later on, according to Sowa, a guitar "showed up" at his house and he began to play. "It's a cool privilege to reproduce your favorite songs and play them whenever you want."

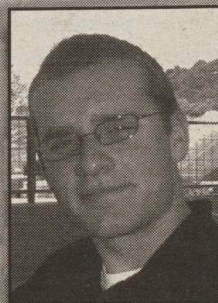
When asked if he liked where his future was headed, Sowa said he is content but wishes he could play more often. "It's hard when you love something and can't give enough time to it. It's frustrating."

When asked if the music industry was challenging Sowa offered this bit of advice: "Yes, but (the longer you hold off) the pressure to sign to record, the more you are independent. When you sign they own your music." He went on to explain that independent musicians need to network, make and hand out flyers, and promote themselves. "Just spread the word, and spread the music... when you put it down it doesn't get out."

To find out more about Casey Sowa e-mail him at cmsowa742@hotmail.com and check the Travesty band website for samples of his music at www.travestyband.com.

UniversityVoice

"Would you rather go without a feast in November or go without presents in December?"



David New

"Thanksgiving seems a little more wholesome because it's centered around family instead of commerce."

Junior
Economics Major

"I give priority to food because it's easier to shop on a full stomach"

Junior
Visual Arts Major



Roxana Righetti



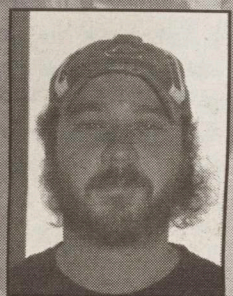
Euriqueta Nunez

"I'd rather not have presents because it's easier for some people to afford dinner."

Sophomore
Political Science Major

"I'd rather have the presents, because I need some clothes."

Junior
Business Major



Paul Schoot

Flu pandemic could well reach CSUSM

BY JEANNE SAPP
Pride Staff Writer

According to an AP report released on Nov. 1, President Bush announced a \$7.1 billion dollar plan to fight a possible flu pandemic. In a speech at the National Institute of Health, Bush explained his plan for education and prevention, and treatment in the event of an outbreak of Avian Flu.

United Nations officials are warning that the newest outbreak of avian flu, identified as H5N1, could lead to a pandemic killing upwards of 150 million people. However, according to comments made to the BBC News on line edition, World Health Organization spokesman Dick Thompson said the death toll would be between two million and 7.4 million. According to Mr. Thompson, "There is obvious confusion, and I think that has to be straightened out."

A pandemic is an epidemic which affects large portions of the global population. Other worldwide pandemics, also mutated from avian flu, include the Asian flu, which killed about four million people in 1957, and the Hong Kong flu, which killed about one million people in 1968. Swine flu, another virus which can be transferred from animals to humans, is responsible for the deaths of over 30 people in China so far this year. Unlike the avian flu, which can be contracted by merely coming into contact

with infected birds, according to the Calgary Herald, swine flu is "contracted by slaughtering, handling, or eating infected pigs."

Although there is confusion among experts as to how many deaths would result from a pandemic, there is no confusion about the source of the virus. Scientists have determined that the flu virus that killed 50 million people worldwide in the 1918 Spanish flu pandemic is similar to the avian, or bird flu which has killed over 60 people in Asia, primarily Vietnam, since 1997. Avian flu is spread by migrating birds which infect domestic flocks of chickens and turkeys.

Jeffrey Taubenberger, from the U.S. Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, reported that the 1918 Spanish Flu outbreak can be traced to an "avian-like virus that adapted to humans." Researchers have replicated the virus grown from samples of tissue from victims of the Spanish flu. Pharmaceutical companies, like Roche, have begun to develop vaccines for that specific virus, although a vaccine may be several months away.

In order to contract avian flu, a person must be simultaneously infected with the avian strain and the human strain of influenza. At that point of contagion, the virus can mutate and then spread by human-to-human contact. While the flu virus seems to strike primarily healthy, middle-aged people between the ages of 18 and 34, scientists believe that

some elderly people may have some immunity to the virus if they were exposed to it in 1918.

Although experts differ about the number of fatalities, they all agree that it is not a matter if the virus mutates and begins to spread among the human population, but when. Infected birds are being slaughtered throughout Asia and Europe, and several areas in Turkey and Romania have implemented quarantine strategies, including limiting travel in and out of cities that have reported avian flu. According to the October 16 issue of the San Diego Union-Tribune, Poland has "banned the sale of live birds at open-air markets and ordered farmers to keep poultry in closed quarters..." While national health organizations are scrambling to develop and implement strategies for fighting this threat, there are currently no plans to regulate travel.

During the SARS epidemic in 2003, travelers coming in and out of Asia were screened for the virus. Travelers exhibiting signs of fever or respiratory distress were not allowed to fly. In a report in the Journal of Infection, A.G. Gupta evaluated the efficacy of quarantine during the SARS outbreak. He reported, "Our results indicate that quarantine is effective in containing newly emerging infectious diseases, and also cost saving when compared to not implementing a widespread containment mechanism." And, he concluded,

"Despite somewhat daunting initial costs, quarantine saves both lives and money."

The United States Department of Health and Human Services issued a Draft Pandemic Influenza Response and Preparedness Plan on August 26, 2004. In the press release which accompanied the Plan, then-HHS Secretary Tommy Thompson said, "This plan will serve as our roadmap on how we as a nation, and as a member of the global health community, respond to the next pandemic influenza outbreak, whenever that may be."

According to the Pandemic Plan, the spread of SARS, and other infectious influenzas in the past, was greatly reduced by quarantining infectious people, as well as closing off uninfected areas to travel. The difficulty with quarantine in the current epidemic is that the incubation time for this specific virus is up to 14 days, which means that apparently healthy, yet contagious, people will be able to travel. While the U.S. government has a detailed plan in place to manage the spread of avian flu, its success depends greatly on public cooperation. The Pandemic Influenza Plan and more information can be found on the government web site at www.pandemicflu.gov.

New vaccines must be developed each year because the strain changes. Flu season runs between October and March, and the best time to be vaccinated is

October or November. December, however, is not too late. The shot can take up to two weeks to become effective.

Last season's flu vaccine shortage caused long lines and generated panic. There are no shortages being reported so far this year, and people are being encouraged to get a flu shot as soon as possible. Most insurance companies don't cover the cost, which can be anywhere from \$10 to \$35. The Flu Mist vaccine, which contains the live flu virus, is available for about \$35 in limited areas to healthy people between the ages of five and 49.

Although no vaccine exists yet to fight the avian flu strain of influenza, there are precautions that people can take to protect themselves and others from becoming sick. For example, focus on regular exercise and good nutrition; a healthy body has better immunity. Wash hands frequently, and if you become ill, stay home to avoid infecting others. Get a flu shot; even if it's not for the avian flu strain, the shot will prevent you from catching this year's strain and prevent a weakened immune system.

If you catch the flu in spite of these precautions, there are medications which can shorten the duration of the flu. Tamiflu, the brand name of the anti-viral medication amantadine, must be prescribed by a doctor within 48 hours of the onset of the flu. For more information, go to www.webmd.com.

Halloween education vacation

Pride editor visits a renowned Ohio university

BY ZACHARY J. SIMON
Pride Staff Writer

Last week, when I might have simply made myself festively sick on candy and rubber, fortune's gourd decided to smile upon me.

In reality she was smiling primarily on my friend, but I caught her eerie glow by proxy.

You see, this dear friend of mine, a moderate authority on a number of things oft-associated with Halloween, was again called upon by a former Palomar College professor to serve as a timely guest speaker. Although this professor now lectures at Case Western University in Cleveland, she was able to treat out some private funds to provide travel and boarding fees for both himself and a guest-assistant.

It's hard enough to afford rent within San Diego, much less pleasure travel from it, so I naturally jumped at the opportunity. I've always been fascinated by the alternate reality rush of an unfamiliar campus, and was certain that a much older city, in a region that actually experienced changing seasons, would provide more than ample opportunity to

blur the lines between scholar and tourist.

As for the journey itself, I must make two very important statements:

My last airplane took me to Hawaii...when I was eight years old, and I've never in my life been more than a few States' distance from home.

My traveling companion recently gave himself, body and soul, to the Nic Fit, and violently resents everything that stands between him and perpetuating the compulsion to spread toxic fumes with every other breath.

So, with him tight-lunged and surly and myself wide-eyed and dreamy, it's a wonder we made it through the airports at all. Once in Ohio, we realized that navigating terminals was a cake-walk compared to navigating last year's favorite purple state.

A fascinating observation I must make about that particular part of the country is that the highways not only speak their own language, but lead from lush rural atrophy, to rusty industrial decay in the blink of an eye. I found both picturesque in their own right, much to the chagrin of the driver, who

would have rather I familiarize myself with the directions.

For those who still think of cell-phones as an only quasi-necessary evil, let me tell you that in many cases they are the best defense against the arbitrary evils of internet maps. Luckily, through the grace of my T-mobile

green and more old than I've ever have seen.

Rather than a base covering of shorts and t-shirt, we were able to don our black coats with dignity. This contrast, however, soon made me realize how easily CSUSM students can take for granted the ease with which they evaluate the student bodies. In their turn, it seems Cleveland students take their precious cold for granted, pulling on drab fashionings of the word 'sweat'.

Even if they have been victims of San Diego's year-round beach-ball aesthetic, it still wouldn't have distracted me from the spectacle of their architecture. By comparison, our seemingly sleek campus would have seemed a pair of over-starched work-slacks next to a pair of jeans that kept breaking in, but never faded.

In Cleveland, they can treat red brick with the reverence of marble. A new business hall matched this with a roof that billowed stainless steal down against the walls, daring students to take a climb and a slide. Amid the thriving (if mostly green and brown) flora, one looked up through the shadows at the rela-

tively short, yet still imposing love children begotten between Victorian mansions and Gothic cathedrals.

Did this atmosphere, or the details of a more private institution make the students seem any brighter?

Not especially, but as we arrived with little time to spare, we had to attend to their patience and good humor for what must have seemed a somewhat haphazard presentation. All in all, like most classes, there were a handful who strived to get their money's worth while the rest fancied they were waiting to punch their own time clock.

When I think about the class time I missed for this rare opportunity, my only regret is that I didn't do some of the work ahead of time, unaccustomed as I am to missing class time, and unaccustomed as I am to doing any more class work than necessary.

I wonder now, if this more overt taste of travel, mixing business with pleasure, will affect the remainder of my time at this local school, among so much local lack of color. Rather than look for irony or steeled justification in my near-graduate restlessness, I think I'll thankfully trick myself into further blurring the lines between taking holiday, and reporting abroad.

Travel safe, and study hard.

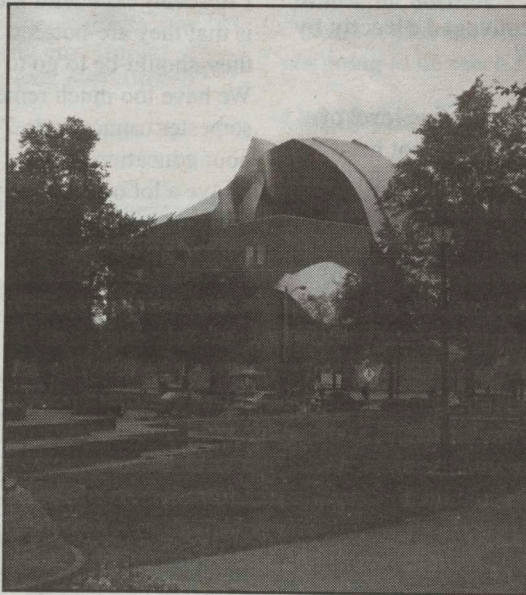


Photo by Zachary J. Simon / The Pride

Case Western University, Ohio.

account, the professor smiled fortune upon us again, instantly aware that my description of our destination matched the campus on the other side of town from her own.

At last reasonably parked, we stepped out into more cold, more

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Pride investigates

LTWR and Mathematics professors speak out

BY ZACHARY J. SIMON
Pride Staff Writer

In the interest of everyone at CSUSM, the Pride has brought together two interviews, one conducted last semester directly with professor Susan Fellows of the LTWR department, the other by recent email to Professor Marshall Whittlesey of Mathematics. Here they both respond to questions regarding grade inflation, an issue equally pertinent to all sides of the report card. Hopefully, through comparing answers given by educators in such contrasted fields, readers will gain both insight and foresight into their college experience.

S. Fellows:

Do we have the same concept of what grade inflation equates to, that of lowering academic standards concerning what earns one grade over another?

Yeah, absolutely.

One theory circulating is that, in the United States, this became truly epidemic during the Vietnam War where professors lowered standards to save students from the draft. Is that accurate?

I don't know if that's the reason, but it certainly happened that it was what's known as the 'great dumbing down.' Classes that were formerly taught weren't taught because they were no longer 'relevant'. That's when you began to get a slippage of real rigorous academic thinking. And I saw it a lot in what was being produced in the colleges at that time.

The late 60s, early 70s?

I'd say more in the early 70s. And I'm not aware of it being part of the draft, it could very well be. I certainly would do that.

Hypothetically, "if" it's happening here, would it be something that would be formally practiced by the professors

practice of their own volition, or would it be something encouraged directly by the administrators?

Well, I think the administrative level of speaking about it is: 'we will not have grade inflation, grade rigorously' BUT were supposed to graduate people on time, and we're supposed to get them through our classes expeditiously. Students are paying a lot of money for the classes, taking out loans, so it seems a subtext where you want to give them as much the advantage of the doubt as possible. If they're really doing failing work, they don't pass the class. But on the other hand if they're doing 'C' work and need a 'B' to get into graduate school, well, I don't care, nobody seems to be saying anything.

So the unspoken thing is 'just get help them through, because they've had such a lousy high school education, and they're so unaware, so just help them get through and maybe they can learn something at some other point. But I think it's VERY uneven among the professors. It's much more difficult in the humanities because things are more abstract and subjective, it's much easier to be rigorous with the sciences.

How do you respond to the speculation that grade inflation, as it exists now, is a means of keeping enrollment numbers up, or at least maintained?

I don't know, that would imply some kind of conspiracy theory, I don't know. I just know that the UC, CSU, community colleges are paid by the number of students sitting in the classrooms. I would hate to think that...but it may be.

At the school now there are no administrators officially encouraging it, but it's indirect?

Exactly.

What are some of the effects you're seeing now?

Well I'm really worried, because what

I'm seeing now with incoming freshman is that they are-not-educated-to-the-level-they-should-be to go to the university. We have too much remediation, and one semester cannot undo 7th through 12th very poor education. I have a lot of students who've never read a book.

What effects do you see beyond the classroom?

Businesses are complaining a lot that new hires don't know how to write, they don't know how to think, they just want to go through the motions. We're not going to come up with new paradigms if we don't understand how to take elements in a historical process. We are going to suffer as a country if we don't know how to take a risk in thinking. And if you look at China and India, they're way ahead of us. If you just pick up "The Economist" you'll see we're in their debt financially and now intellectually as well.

What do you think we can do to counteract this?

I have a theory that we need to blow up the entire school system and start over, because the people already in the middle of it are lost. Unless you've been lucky enough to come from a background with really good educational access, the California school systems is in a freefall. Blowing it up is really radical, but I honestly don't know at this point. And it's not that we don't have good teachers, but we don't pay teachers enough to encourage them to go into education.

M. Whittlesey:

Do we have the same concept of what grade inflation equates to, that of lowering academic standards concerning what earns one grade over another?

I think our concept is basically the same. But the exact scale would not matter so much, if only grades distinguished

people. Part of the problem is that when grade inflation happens, more people are getting the same kinds of grades (A and B, usually). If everybody is getting A and B, how do people (e.g., employers) determine which students are better than others? Maybe the problem of grade inflation is more one of selective inflation: some grades get raised (B,C, etc.) but you can't make A any higher than it is already.

One theory circulating is that, in the United States, this became truly epidemic during the Vietnam War where professors lowered standards to save students from the draft. Is that accurate?

I don't know a lot about this; I was born during the Vietnam War.

But I think the effect of that historical event is minimal today. There are plenty of other current trends to explain what's going on. More people are going to college expecting to pass; there are political pressures in that. Higher education is big business; institutions are expected to grow. The state gives us admission targets, so we admit students to reach those. Are we supposed to expect that graduation rates will remain the same? If so, that can result in grade inflation. Also, the rise of student evaluations in the 1960s made it a lot tougher to be hard on students - if your career depends on what students say about you, you're probably going to go easier on them.

Hypothetically, "if" it's happening here, would it be something that would be formally practiced by the professors practice of their own volition, or would it be something encouraged directly by the administrators?

Well, it depends on what you mean by 'own volition'. Every professor is evaluated by students at the end of the semester and works with the knowledge that those evaluations might affect his or her career. And every professor knows that students with higher grades are happier students, and happier students usually give better evaluations. If a

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grade inflation

on controversial education topic

professor decides to give higher grades than he/she otherwise might give without that evaluation pressure, is that their own volition, or pressure from above?

I don't know any in the sciences who give higher grades just because they felt like it. (I really know little about grading outside the sciences.) But we all do have a general sense that failure rates shouldn't be too high. I can't say I have felt any pressure from above, however - and I give a lot of low grades. It would be rare if an administrator encouraged this 'directly'.

For the record, student evaluations are mandated by the collective bargaining agreement between the faculty and the state of California. How they are used exactly is determined by local promotion and tenure committees, and administrators.

Have you ever worked for, or seen a school where grade inflation was happening?

That's hard to answer yes or no, mainly because it's hard to tell if one is being consistent from semester to semester in grading rigor. I don't give the same exams semester to semester, so I can't compare students exactly.

Perhaps I could rephrase your question: have I ever worked at a school where students got C's in classes where their grade did not represent meaningful mastery of the material in the course? Absolutely.

How do you respond to the speculation that grade inflation, as it exists now, is a means of keeping enrollment numbers up, or at least maintained?

Well, enrollment is probably a factor. We're in this business to make a living, after all. I think it is not as much of a factor here as it is elsewhere, however. My reasons for saying so are (1) when a student fails a class, it's not as much of a financial calamity as it is at private institutions. Students know they can take the course again for a modest fee. I fail far more students here than the private institution I once worked at. There, failing students results in lots of angry parents who spent tens of thousands of dollars on their kid and they will complain. (2) California, Cal State and North County in particular are growing so fast that we don't seem to have too much trouble finding students to come here. (3) If we lose enrollment to community colleges because we grade too hard, the state isn't as likely to give us a hard time about it, because the community colleges cost the state less money.

What of more macrocosmic theories, that political forces are encouraging a 'dumbing down' of students?

This is a big factor. In the last few decades many more people have started going to college who in past generations would not have. If collegiate education is to be for the masses instead of for the elect, it's reasonable to expect standards will come down.

Also, nowadays people are a lot more likely to expect/demand that college should be an enjoyable experience - more so than fifty years ago. If college is a

competitive place where lots of people get C's and A's are hard to get, it's probably not going to be much fun.

Could you describe what you've seen as, or what would see as inconsistencies in academic standards?

From students, I hear community colleges are easier graders than we are. I don't have any study to back that up, though.

Different departments have different grading cultures. Some give a lot of low grades and others do not.

Some of the future implications? What effects do you see beyond the classroom?

The real problem with grade inflation is that grades cease to become meaningful to people who look at transcripts. If employers hire one of our graduates with lots of good grades and they cannot do basic things, we have a credibility problem. Future effects: more employers not taking BA degrees seriously, and more people going to graduate programs because their college transcript isn't meaningful enough.

Colleges need to decide what the purpose of grading is. Are we trying to provide a system whereby students' talent can be distinguished? Is a class where everybody gets A or B meaningful?

What do you think can be done to counteract grade inflation, and or the

fear of it?

(1) I think the current minimum GPA's for graduation are too high. Title V of the state education regulations require that every students graduate with a GPA of at least 2.0 overall and in their major. What does this accomplish? It's just a pie-in-the-sky Lake Wobegon 'we're all above average' ideal that we can't possibly reach. If the min GPA were 1.0, would our graduates be any different? I doubt it. Grades given might be lower, but it wouldn't reflect less learning, just a different grading scale, and would be more meaningful to employers.

(2) If faculty felt assured that their careers would not be jeopardized (via student evaluations) by giving bad grades, that would make a difference.

(3) We need to return dignity to the grade of C. Nowadays, it's often the lowest possible grade to get by to something else, and most people regard it as a bad grade.

(4) Students and the public at large need to be made aware of the effects of grade inflation: that their degrees are taken less seriously.

Whether perceived as a mixed blessing, or slow poison, surely there are few students and fewer educators, entirely willing to dismiss grade inflation as a bureaucratic phantom. The Pride sincerely hopes to investigate this matter further with the help of both students, staff and the administration.

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University Village expansion

BY SHELLY MONROE
Pride Staff Writer

In Spring of 2006, there will be a market study conducted, which will determine when new residential hall apartments will be coming to Cal State San Marcos. This study will look at University needs, student expectations, affordability, building costs, and student and University needs.

Cal State San Marcos will be working with a marketing consulting firm who will interview students, study surrounding rental markets, look at the future of enrollment, the cost of construction and evaluate when they might be able to afford to build a project that will have full occupancy, when they open the residential hall apartments.

University Village Director, Brian Dawson says, "The campus

has planned for multiple stages of housing to be built with the goal of housing between seven to ten percent of the student population. We currently house only four percent of students with 468 beds. The University is looking at constructing a parking deck and housing to be built for 2010-2011, if the market study shows this demand." During the next ten years, Cal State San Marcos expects to add more housing next to the existing University Village, and plans to develop a new location just to the southeast of the existing faculty/staff parking lot.

Currently, University Village housing costs are set to increase three percent per year annually to cover the increased expenses of utilities, staffing and maintenance. Depending on what the university builds next, the

cost may be more or less depending on the demand and construction costs.

The university wants to provide excellent services where a student can succeed in school. With the market study, the university will see what services students want and need, the cost of building and managing and how much students are willing to pay for these services.

"What it means for students, is more access to Cal State San Marcos. Some college students consider only those colleges where they can be assured of having on-campus housing. More live-on campus opportunities for freshman and depending upon demand and enrollment growth, possibly more space for students who want to live on campus more than one or two years," mentioned Marti Gray, executive director of

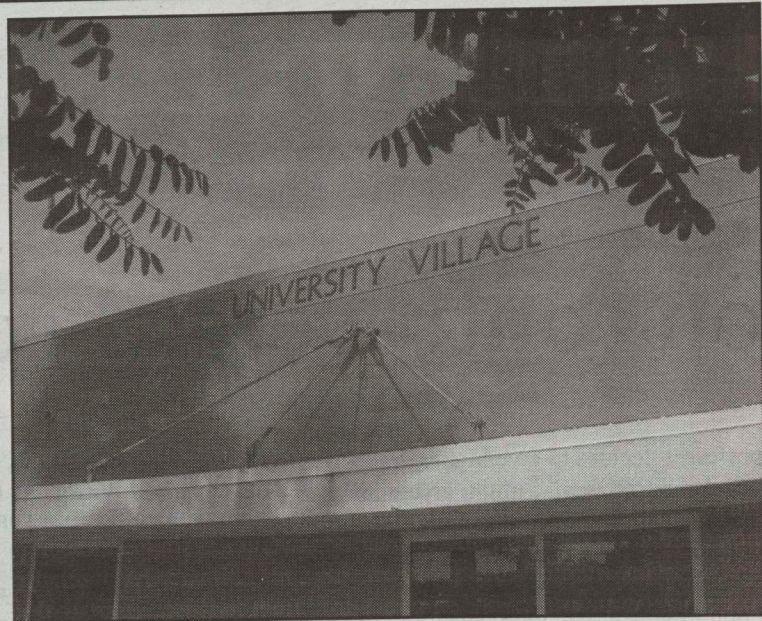


Photo by Antoinette Johnson / The Pride

the San Marcos University Corporation.

The application process is expected not to change in the future. All full time students have equal opportunity to apply. If demand for housing continues to grow, there may be lotteries or restrictions on how many years you can return to give first time students the opportunity to live on campus for at least one year.

Depending upon where the new residential hall apartments are built, there might be an opportunity for a small food service in the residential hall. More students provide more opportunities for events and programs in student housing.

Dawson says, "If I had a magic wand, I would want for it to include more programming space and a pool. It is hard to find inside

space on campus that can fit more than 100 students, at tables or just hanging out. If they build another building close to UVA, I would ask for it to include a large connected and enclosed breezeway just for hanging out and programming space. One of the first questions we are always asked by new students is 'Do you have a pool?' I would love to say yes for the future. I know both of these items cost money, but it would sure add a lot to campus!"

If new residential hall apartments do get approved they will not be opened until Fall 2009. This is all depending on the outcome of the market study in Spring 2006 and what the university needs, student expectations, affordability and what building costs are projected to be.

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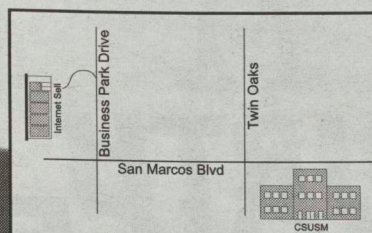
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Jock talk with Josh

BY JOSH SANDOVAL
Special to The Pride



I don't know why, but I still can't sit through a whole hockey game. I really have tried. After I've turned the

game on I've taped my eyelids to my eyebrows, thrown away the remote control, and tied myself to a chair. However, the T.V. somehow finds its way to a basketball or football game.

I thought that after the short hiatus I would have been more interested. I watch the occasional period or two of the Kings game whenever I pass by Fox Sports

Net. Now that the Outdoor Life Network is carrying NHL games, the sport is no longer on my radar. I mean, I don't even know what channel OLN is on.

I do like the rule changes that the NHL has adopted, such as shoot outs if there is no winner after overtime, and the limitation on goalie equipment. However, the sport just doesn't interest me, and no, it's not because I can't skate more than two feet without falling down and catching frostbite.

I think Comedian Alonzo Bodden said it best when he claimed it's hard to like a sport where the darkest thing on the ice is the puck that everyone is trying to smack. There is truth behind all humor and Alonzo brings up

the point of diversity.

Several months ago I was at The Laugh Factory in Hollywood for a taping of the "Best Damn Sports Show Period". Alonzo was one of the comedians on the show, and after his set I had a conversation with him about this subject. I came to the realization why Hockey hasn't peaked my interest to this point in my life.

I can't identify with any of the hockey players. Off the top of my head I don't know of any Latin hockey players. Please, if you know of one, bring it to my attention. Also, without doing research, the only African-American hockey player I know of is Donald Brashear. Once again, if you know of others then drop me an E-mail.

It's widely known that in the hood or barrio there are more basketball courts and baseball fields than ice rinks, which explains why there are so few great Caucasians in the NBA, and hardly any great African-Americans and Latinos in the NHL.

Why is this accepted? Is this just another form of segregation? I know all of you don't want to hear this, especially those of you who complain that I don't write enough about sports, but it's something that's on my mind. I mean I haven't even been to a hockey games and sports consume a large portion of my life.

I want to like hockey, but in order for things to change, the sport is going to need a Tiger Woods. Look what happened

to the game of golf when Tiger began having success. African-Americans all of a sudden hit the links in unison. The same can happen in hockey.

Don't act like this is Calculus. It is really quite simple. When you see someone doing something positive, and they look like you, it helps you realize that you can do what they are doing.

I don't know when the Tiger of the NHL will roar, but I am sure I won't have to tie myself to a chair to watch.

If you have any praise (haha, who am I kidding?), topic suggestions, questions, comments (No, I am not going to stop talking about serious issues), or concerns then send an E-mail to Sando026@csusm.edu.

Cal State San Marcos Cross Country Teams Finish in Top Three at Regionals

The men's and women's cross country teams from Cal State San Marcos competed today, November 5, 2005, in the NAIA Region II Championships in Fresno. The women's team placed second overall with a team score of 93. The men's team placed third with a team score of 108. The event was hosted by Fresno Pacific University at Woodward Park. The men ran 8,000 m and

the women ran 5,000 m. Full results are available at <<http://athletics.fresno.edu/>>.

Women's Individual Results:

3rd, AnneMarie Byrne, senior, 17:33
5th, Ava Jones, junior, 17:53
18th, Bonghabih Shey, junior, 19:12
28th, Danae Hough, 19:25
39th, Kristina Hill, junior, 19:48

40th, Aimee Bradley, junior, 19:49
42nd, Anna Hough, senior, 19:52
Women's Team Results (Top Five):
1st, Concordia University, 46 pts.
2nd, Cal State San Marcos, 93 pts.
3rd, Point Loma Nazarene, 95 pts.
4th, Westmont College (Santa Barbara), 104 pts.
5th, Azusa Pacific University, 108 pts.

Men's Individual Results:

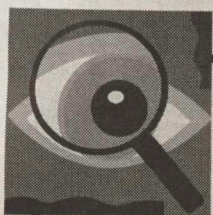
10th, Sergio Gonzalez, sophomore, 25:39
19th, Moises Alvarez, junior, 26:11

22nd, Phil Hoffman, sophomore, 26:17
27th, Tim Irwin, senior, 26:26
30th, Eric Gustafson, junior, 26:30
38th, Jace Getskow, sophomore, 26:53
40th, Richie Gray, junior, 27:01

Men's Team Results (Top 5):

1st, Concordia, 26 pts.
2nd, Azusa Pacific, 81 pts.
3rd, Cal State San Marcos, 108 pts.
4th, Westmont College, 127 pts.
5th, Vanguard University, 147 pts.

Information courtesy of Paige Jennings



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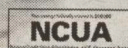
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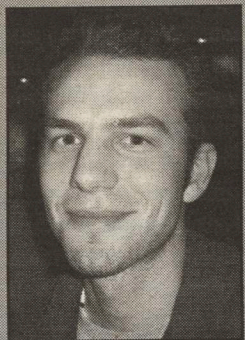
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OMBUDSMAN'S NOTES

BY MATTHEW SCHRAMM
Pride Staff Writer



Another day, another week, another Ombudsman; except this time I'm not going to bag on anything. Instead, in rhythm with my Pimp The Pride line of thought, I'm going to offer my own friendly suggestions of some of the things each section of The Pride could do to improve, and how it has improved thus far. I don't want to sound like a broken record each week, but I feel that slowly but surely The Pride is improving through all this self-examination and you're suggestions – so keep them coming.

Now enough of the bad cliché expressions, and onto the first section

I'm going to offer advice to – A&E. First off, I think The Pride should give Alfred his own weekly movie column, I mean he practically has one already, but just not officially. It seems to me that people like weekly columns that they can depend on, especially when writers make themselves available for critique.

Second, I actually like the idea of the recurring "How to" section. It was a good idea, because it fits into the weekly column thing again, and gives people practical stuff to try at home. It could be edgier, though; I mean last week was good with the aphrodisiac foods, although Amanda could have just stopped with wine, because if you're not ready to go after a glass or two, no amount of vegetables are going to help you get it on. This leads me to my next point about A&E, which is where is the weekly piece on sex and/or beer? Personally, I've found a correlation between the number of times I put the word "sex" and "beer" in the Ombudsman and the number of emails

I get. How about incorporating such topics into the weekly "How to" ... use your imagination. And before anybody gets on me for suggesting all that, let me just say that we all know that a majority of college students, hell, people in general, have both these topics on their mind often.

Opinion: as a section it's really getting better. Last week was proof, with a couple of great letters to the editor, and that odd piece by Zach – still interesting though. The Pride is also going to be getting a weekly column on politics on campus soon, so if you're passionate about that kind of stuff, keep your eye out for it; I have a feeling its going to be a good column.

The Feature section has also been looking pretty good to me lately. Bryan had a good piece in there last week about the CSUSM police department. One common problem with features though, like news, is that a lot of writers put too much personal opinion in their articles, which needs to be limited to the Opinion/A&E

pages. Still, back to Bryan's article, which (along with Patrick's article on breast cancer awareness) was a good example of the kind of interesting stuff going on around campus that nobody knows about.

Finally we come to News. I usually like to hit this section, often because it's so easy to do, but it's getting better. Last week we had a couple of the best News writers on The Pride, in my opinion, Shelly and Piyamas, do front page stories. And it was a pretty nice front page in general, with good topics; I mean, sure Haynes' address is sort of boring, but come on, its news for CSUSM, so it was good.

So see, The Pride is improving, and it can continue to improve. Though don't take my word for it, look at it yourself, and then let me know. Of course, this is all just my opinion, because the inside of this gray box (blue for one issue... what happened?) is a dictatorship, but my inbox is fair game. Thus, as usual, fire away at schra009@csusm.edu

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

VOL. XIV NO. 8 - Byline for article 'University Police offer Escort Service and RAD workshop' should read Christine Vaughan only.

Robbins Report

BY JASON ROBBINS
Special to The Pride

Originally, I wanted to try and judge the political climate here on campus. The first draft of this article asked the student readership to answer a few political questions.

But I've decided to provide my own answers; and you're welcome.

I'd like to highlight a recent event that might reflect the political climate at CSUSM: The ASI-sponsored "Sluts Unite" affair.

I have to admit, I was surprised to see the term "sex-workers" printed in "The Pride." In fact, after reading the story, I had

to ask myself a few questions. I thought, "Aren't sex workers the folks that break the law and sell meaningless sex to strangers." In an attempt to acquire some working-knowledge for this article, I visited google.com, and sure enough my hunch was confirmed.

So let me get back to supplying this article some purpose. How does your political commentator feel about the fact that ASI sponsored an event for a sex-worker advocate? He feels disappointed.

In a Supreme Court-like fashion, I'm going to use a three-part test to evaluate ASI's "Sluts Unite".

Part 1: How much could such an event work to further the intellectual endeavor at CSUSM? In my eyes, college ought to be a place where people are inspired to answer critical questions and forge meaningful ideas. It's difficult for me to prioritize the need to determine whether or not folks have a right to sell meaningless sex to strangers. I guess I just expect students to act more like Socrates, and less like Jerry Springer.

Part 2: Would Joe/Sally Taxpayer be likely to agree to appropriate his/her tax dollars to the state so that an institution could host events for sex-worker advocates? Many taxpayers already

gripe about paying taxes for things that help everyone. Furthermore, I think that some people simply take for granted the fact that public institutions are in large part financed by the public. Such a fact ought to compel those in charge of our funds to show an interest in being accountable to taxpayers.

Part 3: Would you reveal to your younger sister that you organized/hosted an event for a sex-worker advocate? Call me a softie, but I care very much about the sort of America that my younger sister grows up in. It seems as though there is already plenty of pressure/influence on younger woman these days to

engage in random sexual acts. I can't imagine one trying to explain to his/her younger sister why he/she organized/hosted an event for people that don't seem to care about such an influence.

So for the foregoing reasons, your political commentator feels disappointed that his student government would host such an event. And sitting here in Kellogg Library, I'm looking at my fellow scholars and wondering if they too feel disappointed. If you folks do, then I might consider that to be evidence that the political climate here on campus is a healthy one. If you folks do not, then I'm probably just an elitist, uptight, fraud of a liberal.

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Andrew Kenny plays at M-Theory Records

BY BRYAN MASON
Pride Staff Writer

Andrew Kenny, the lead singer of The American Analog Set, made a solo performance in a dark corner of M-Theory Records, a North Park record shop. The solo performance on Wednesday Nov. 2, 2005, was scheduled before the band's set later that night at The Casbah.

The crowd waited, as 8 o'clock turned to 8:15. Finally around 8:30, a black old-school Chevy pulled up to the curb. Local resident and musician Jimmy LaVelle, the brain child behind "The Album Leaf," stepped out of the car with non other than Andrew Kenny himself. They pushed through the crowd and towards the back of the store, short-stack amp in hand, with a fellow band member carrying his guitar.

After Kenny spent a short time setting up, the music in the store came to a halt as the needle was lifted from the record player with an abrupt scratch.

"Testing," said Kenny, then with a couple of taps on the microphone, he introduced himself in a saccharine way. Jumping right into the songs, Kenny started with "Jr," a soft blend of guitar and Kenny's easy voice. He immediately thanked the crowd for applauding after the end of the first song, noting something about San Diego's weather.

For the next song, Kenny played "Immaculate Heart 1," which was a little more upbeat than the first. The song, off of the new album "Set Free," was different

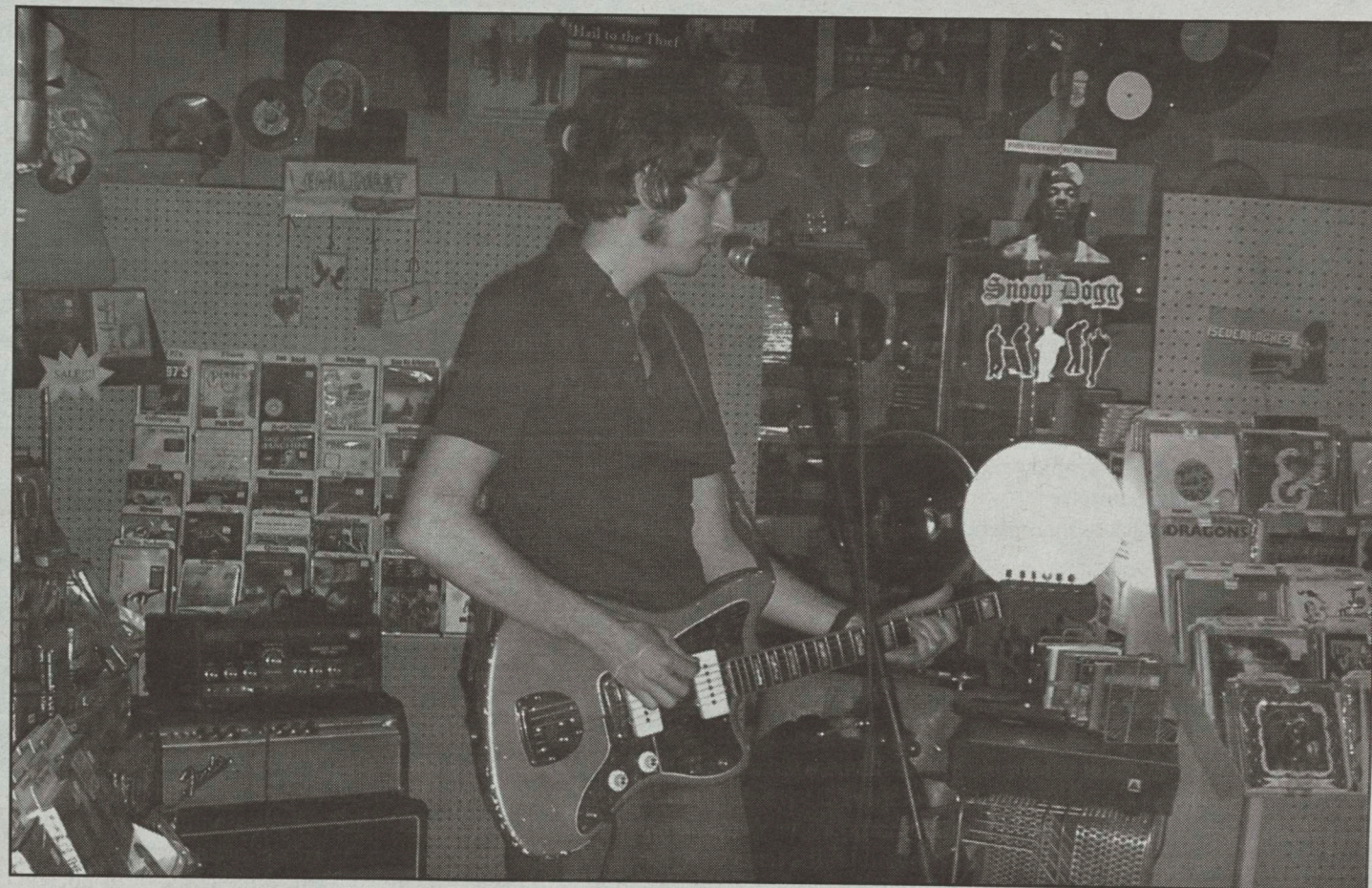


Photo by Bryan Mason / The Pride

to hear without the full band, but Kenny pulled even this solo performance off with grace, not missing a single beat as he made it clear that he was there to entertain.

For the last songs, Kenny played a mixture of fast and slow. The crowd responded to these songs with a variety of expres-

sions, some patrons looked awe-struck, others looked content.

Kenny later went on to play a twenty-one and up show at The Casbah later that night.

The short pre-show at M-Theory was a great way to get in touch with fans and for

Kenny to show his appreciation for fans of all ages, not just the twenty-one plus crowd.

For more information on Andrew Kenny, or the American Analog Set, visit www.amanset.com or pick up their new CD "Set Free."

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TOUCH SHOW

'Jarhead' ... the life of a Marine



BY ALFRED CHU
Pride Staff Writer

While being a Jarhead is the basic premise and plot for the film "Jarhead" that takes place during the first Gulf War. Jarhead is a slang term for a U.S. Marine. Young, ambitious and proud men and women go through basic training and when finally are shipped out to war, they ready themselves. But ready themselves for what? Let's come back to this question in a minute.

First, a little history recap. On August 2, 1990, Iraq invades Kuwait which creates world wide attention. This was first known as Operation Desert Shield and

changes to Operation Desert Storm. In the following months, scud missile attacks filled the sky as hundreds of oil wells were ignited. About 500,000 U.N. troops, mostly from the U.S., were deployed Saudi Arabia by January. The ground forces mobilized on Feb. 23, and four days later, a ceasefire was declared. Iraq accepted the terms on March 1.

Anthony Swofford (Jake Gyllenhaal) and his friend Troy (Peter Sarsgaard) are two of those men that are psyched and ready for war. They enroll in sniper division where their squad leader, Staff Sgt. Sykes (Jamie Foxx), constantly chews them out but only to prepare them. They are shipped to Saudi Arabia where they're told that casualties could be very high. But at camp, they spend their days

and nights training, debating differences, masturbating, writing and receiving letters from home, hydrating, dehydrating, playing football in 112 degree heat in full body gas suits, and whatever else they can do to keep themselves from being bored and disappointed from a promise of a war that isn't delivered.

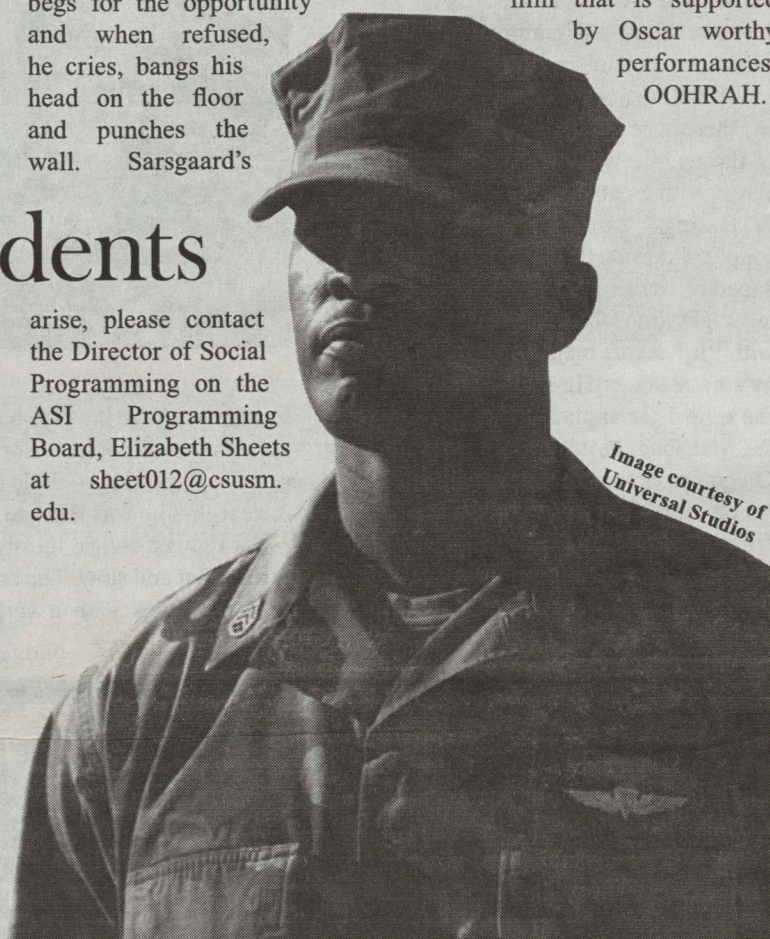
"Jarhead" spends a lot of time describing what these men go through psychologically. Other war movies stress what can happen to the men psychologically when they are in war. "Jarhead" stresses realistically what can happen when not in war. These men are eager to use what they learned in basic training in actual combat but instead they wait and wait and wait. After spending months in the desert,

Swofford says "Four days, four hours, one minute. That was my war. I never shot my rifle."

The best scene in the film is when Anthony and Troy are sent on a mission to assassinate two enemy military officers. They have the officers in their sights and wait for clearance. When given the go ahead, their finger grips the trigger but in the next second, their commanding officer enters and orders them to stand down. An air strike is in bound and taking the shot would be unnecessary. Shocked and disappointed, Troy explodes. He begs for the opportunity and when refused, he cries, bangs his head on the floor and punches the wall. Sarsgaard's

performance makes you absorb the pain and frustration these men share.

This film was based on Anthony Swofford's 2003 novel, "Jarhead". Some may question the accuracy of the events portrayed, but I won't. Some aspects from the novel may have been changed for the reputation and consent of the actual people involved, exaggerated sequences, dramatic effect, logistical issues, etc. This is a movie, not a documentary. Whether it's based on fiction or non-fiction, director Sam Mendes creates a powerful film that is supported by Oscar worthy performances. OOHRAH.



Movie night for CSUSM students

BY JASON SAUMUR
Pride Staff Writer

Students have the opportunity and option to attend a free movie with student ID in hand. Edward's Cinemas and ASI are proud to present free student movie night every month at nine p.m. located at Edwards Cinemas 18 on 1180 West San Marcos in the city of San Marcos.

This month, on Nov. 15, Edward's will offer the war movie "Jarhead" at the nine p.m. showing for all students to view free with student ID.

"Our goal in promoting and providing this activity is to offer students a venue to attend a

movie they may have wanted to see but couldn't afford while at the same time fostering a sense of community by having a group of Cal State San Marcos students at a movie together," said Elizabeth Sheets, director of social programming on the ASI Programming Board about the significance of the event to the CSUSM campus.

Since Cal State San Marcos is commonly considered a commuter school, the ASI Programming Board promotes a more sustained connection of its student body to campus and the surrounding community.

Sheets also added that ASI attempts to schedule movie nights

for Tuesdays because with registration to the Regal Crown Card, students can get free popcorn along with a free movie.

According to <www.imdb.com>, "Jarhead" chronicles the missions of a Marine unit during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm in the Middle East. The movie stars Jake Gyllenhaal and Jamie Foxx.

Former Marine Anthony Swofford's book of the same title is adapted to the movie screen with a screenplay by William Broyles Jr. The book reveals Anthony Swofford's experiences in the Gulf War as a Marine sniper.

If any other relevant questions, comments, or concerns

arise, please contact the Director of Social Programming on the ASI Programming Board, Elizabeth Sheets at sheet012@csusm.edu.

How to... Throw a wine party

BY ERIN YOUNG
Pride Staff Writer

Hot summer nights may be long gone, but the fun doesn't have to stop there. Autumn brings chilly weather, fireplaces, heavy food and a desire for good wine.

Pass the time away with family and friends sipping and swirling the afternoon breeze away with tasting a variety of wine in the comfort of your own home.

Throwing a wine-tasting party can be rewarding but at times a bit stressful. Below is everything you need to know on 'How To' Throw a Wine Tasting Party.

Select a theme

Try establishing a theme for the tasting by considering the time of year. A rainy day in December may not be the best time for Sauvignon Blanc, your better off with serving heavy reds. Themes can be anywhere from tasting an array of rose champagnes for Valentines day or tasting chardonnays from around the world, comparing those from California, Australia, France and South America. Keep in mind traditional vertical or horizontal wine tasting. Vertical refers to tasting several different wines all produced

from one winery in consecutive years. Horizontal tasting consists of wines from the same vintage year but represented from several different wineries. Remember to choose a price range for your guest's selections. Twenty to 30 dollars a bottle is average, but it's your tasting, so it's your money and your call.

What you need

Six to eight different wines is plenty for a casual party. It's best to serve guests about two ounces of each wine for tasting purposes. Keep in mind you want your guests to remember your party the next day, so the more wines there are, the more everyone is drinking. For eight guests one bottle of each wine should be sufficient, but keep a few bottles handy so your guests have something to sip on with appetizers later.

Blind tasting is proper and over all preferred. Simply place each bottle in a numbered wine bag. The advantage of tasting blind is you're not swayed by fancy labels.

Professional tastings would guarantee a fresh glass for each wine, but for a laidback at-home gathering, one glass per person is plenty, just provide a water pitcher for rinsing between rounds.

People may also wish to dump the rest of their wine if they don't finish or prefer it. Supply dump buckets; you don't want you guests feeling pressured into finishing.

Don't forget the corkscrews, there is nothing worse than having all those bottles of wine and not being able to drink them. Provide three or four just in case one gets misplaced throughout the party.

Pens and paper are a must, notes will serve to remind guests and yourself which wines were tasted and enjoyed.

To create a sense of ambiance, begin with white tablecloths, it gives a formal atmosphere and your guests can hold their glasses against the white background to examine and compare the wine color. If you're having your party indoors, be selective about lighting you don't want harsh florescent lights. Dim them if possible, or create accent lighting with Christmas lights and a log burning fire.

Food

Serve cubes of sugerfree white bread during the official wine tasting; this allows you to clear your taste buds between wines. Although we normally pair wine with great tasting rich food,

it is best to get a clear point of view of the wine before you mix and match it with meals. After the wine tasting is over, feel free to cook up a storm, dish up a delightful lunch, or a serious three course dinner.

Don't forget

-Remember: to thank each guest individually for making a presence and bringing a bottle of wine. Thank you cards are appropriate for the host to mail. To add a nice touch, include duplicates of pictures when sending them to your guests.

-Remember: everyone has been drinking. Offer to call a taxi. It's only polite and you don't want to promote anything against the law.

-Remember: it's a party, something is always going to get broken, just deal with it.

Last but not least, don't forget to have fun. "Ready, set, sip, San Marcos."

