

Changes coming to The Dome

BY ADIA BESS
Pride Staff Writer

The Dome is not a name on campus that most people become excited about. We've all heard the conversations bashing the food quality, the prices and the look, but the conversations might just come to an end.

The Dome is getting ready for an extreme makeover, Cal State San Marcos style.

Christopher Wood, head chef for the Dome, is expecting some money (the amount is not yet known) from the Cal State San Marcos Foundation to begin what many students say are much needed renovations.

"I have a very positive outlook for food service in the Dome in the near future," said Wood. "It will certainly be something to look forward to."

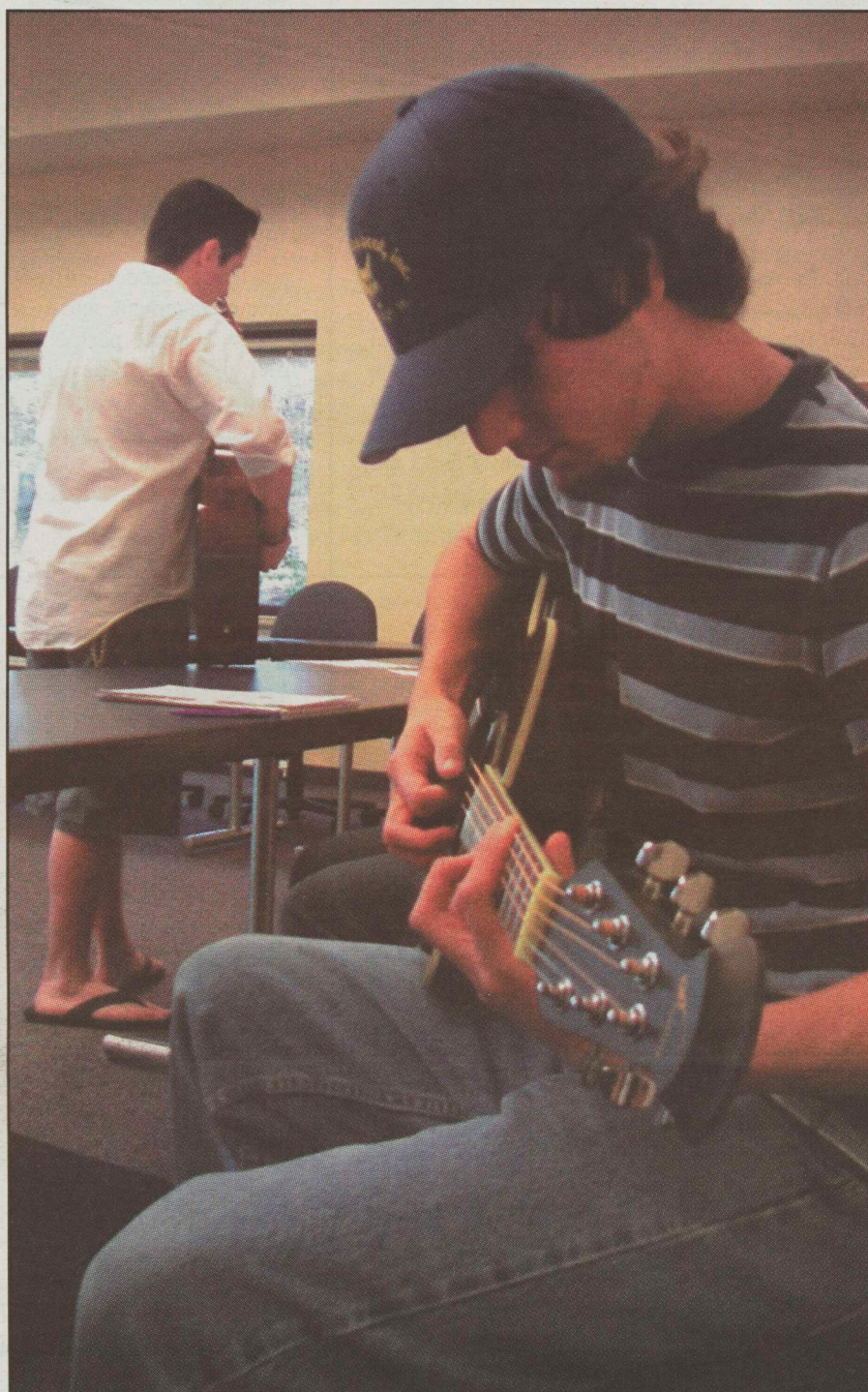
Ginny Robertson, a senior at Cal State San Marcos, said, "I think the Dome is ugly. It's been the same color for the past ten years, so they should change it."

Another student, junior Nelenie Aronce had some unenthusiastic thoughts as well.

"The food is expensive, and it's a last resort when you're really, really hungry," said Aronce.

When talking to Woods, he stated his goals were both long term and

See DOME, page 4



Daniel Cuevas practices a power-chord while guitar instructor Bud Sketchley coaches other CSUSM students at the Field House.

Photo by Jason Encabo / The Pride

Wellness Month at CSUSM

Several health-related events scheduled in the following weeks

BY BRYAN MASON
Pride Staff Writer

At CSUSM March is Wellness Month, a collaboration to bring students into the Clark Field House to experience fun stress relieving techniques as well as to learn ways to live a healthy lifestyle. Wellness month is also aimed at helping to promote a sense of well-being around the campus.

All month long events will be held in the Clark Field House and free lunches and prizes will be given out. In addition advice will be given on many emotional and mental issues Cal State San Marcos students face.

Along with prizes given out at individual events, a wellness pursuit card can be obtained at every Wellness Month event attended, and at the end of March the cards can be redeemed for shirts and other prizes.

The biggest event of Wellness Month, The Wellness Fair and Expo, is being held tomorrow Wednesday March 9. From 11 am - 2 pm at the Clarke Field House there will be wellness information along with prizes, free food, a golf clinic, and raffles. Following the expo, free massages will be available until 5 p.m. The Fair and Expo is being put on by the Clark Field House in conjunction with Student Health Services.

"We want to help Students and Staff to get positive networking and relationships skills with

See WELLNESS, page 4

Women's History highlighted on campus

Activities planned for entire month of March

BY ANDREA MORALES
Pride Staff Writer

Women's History month is being celebrated this March with over 25 activities sponsored by CSUSM's Women's Studies Department.

Today Tuesday March 8, International Women's Day, is being celebrated on campus with two activities. At 1 p.m. in Commons 206, an event called "Beauty and Body Image" is taking place where students will tell their stories of struggle with the ideals of beauty presented by the media and society. In the field house at 4 p.m. the National Latino Research Center will celebrate International Women's Day, with an event named "Women in International Perspective."

On March 3 an event entitled Women and Hip Hop highlighted

Mizliberty (student Stacy Goldstein) performs at "Women in Hip-Hop."

See WOMEN, page 4



Photo by Chezare Milo / The Pride



Photo by Chezare Milo / The Pride

Physical Education for elementary school teachers

On Thursday March, 3 from 10-11 am in Founders Plaza Dr. Laura deGhetaldi's PE 203 class was learning an activity called "Panel chutes and parachutes." The multi-colored banners and chutes attracted the attention of many passers-by.

According to deGhetaldi, budget cuts in public education have caused a lack of formal physical education in elementary schools.

As part of her class, Dr. deGhetaldi is instructing student teachers fun and innovative ways to incorporate physical education back into the elementary school system.

"It's critical for us to continue teaching physical education at the elementary school level," said deGhetaldi.

Students in the class seemed to enjoy learning the activities.

"It's a fun class, a lot better than normal PE," said Carrie Wade, a student in the class.

ASI elections this month

Students will vote for their new ASI representatives March 21-24. Candidates have now started their campaigning process to vie for your vote. To be an informed voter, students can read statements from the candidates in this issue of The Pride. On pages 2-3, candidates have submitted statements to students along with the position they are running for.

See FULL
CANDIDATE
COVERAGE
pages 2 & 3



The future of CSUSM

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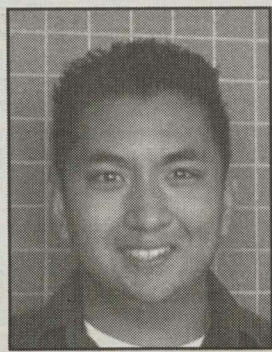
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Marc Deguzman

Business Major, emphasis in Accountancy
President

As the current VP of Finance, I know the intricacies of ASI and have working knowledge of the corporation. Cal State San Marcos is continuing to grow as a university and as a student population. I possess knowledge, have developed leadership skills, and obtained the necessary experience to effectively perform the duties of the position. I believe I have the attention to detail and the vision in order to expand the services and the corporation. ASI is a key factor in the growth of student life on this campus. Student advocacy, timely communication, and innovation are areas in which I perform well. This is why I feel I am the best candidate for the position. Don't forget to vote for EXEC TEAM 2006.



Sarah Leonard

Sociology Major
President

I want to be ASI President because I love being a student advocate and I am dedicated to working whole heartedly to resolve student issues. I am determined that we will continue to grow as a campus and grow as students towards goals of academic freedom, diversity, equality, leadership development, student engagement, and an active campus life.

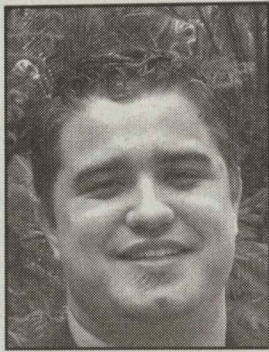
I will create partnerships between students, the community, and the university to develop opportunities for students before and after graduation. If I am elected as ASI President it will be my honored obligation to represent ALL students of Cal State San Marcos and actively pursue the goals of our student community. I SUPPORT THE ATHLETICS FEE REFERENDUM; GO COUGARS!



Mark Weber

Political Science Major
V.P. of External Affairs

My name is Mark Weber and I am a political science major and I am writing this statement in hopes of obtaining the position of Vice President of External Affairs within ASI. Having founded a chapter of Amnesty International at CSUSM, I have come to understand the importance of each student's experience and the reward of enhancing those experiences. When elected, I will show leadership by actively listening to the student body and directly addressing their needs. In addition, I look forward to any challenge that may be presented and am confident that I will be able to excel once given the opportunity. In addition I am in support of the Athletic Referendum, GO COUGARS!!!!



Jeremy D. Mills

Social Science Major
V.P. of External Affairs

I am a Junior who transferred from Palomar Community College in Fall 2004. As VP of External Affairs I would like to:

Create More Accessible Advising- Most students go over their required units due to lack of class availability and inadequate advising. My solution is to create a peer-advising group.

Increase Class Availability- The CSU system's budget has been cut so that some classes can no longer be offered. I will lobby for an increased budget for better class availability.

Stabilize Tuition/Increase Financial Aid- As part of Lobby Corps, I have met with legislators to discuss the rising cost of tuition and the decreased availability of financial aid and will continue to fight.

EXECUTIVES 2006 / VOTE FOR EXPERIENCE
Questions: mills011@csusm.edu



Cheyenne Barr

Women's Studies Major
V.P. of External Affairs

My name is CHEYENNE and I am running for VP of External Affairs. You should vote for me because I ADVOCATE for minority groups on campus. I am proud to be part of this DIVERSE campus and strive to continue its growth. I have EXPERIENCE on the ASI board of directors as the current elected College of Arts and Sciences Representative, the Lobbying Coordinator for Statewide Issues on the ASI Lobby Corps and the VP of External Affairs for PAN.

As VP of External Affairs, I will:

CONTINUE MY COLLABORATION WITH ADVISING to get students prompt appointments.

Organize our Lobby Corps to DEMAND LEGISLATIVE ATTENTION to student Financial Aid and tuition concerns.

STAND up for STUDENTS by representing CSU San Marcos on the STATEWIDE LEVEL.



Kellie Klopff

Business Major, emphasis in Service Sector Management
V.P. of Communications

My name is Kellie Klopff and I am currently the CoBA Representative of ASI and I am running for VP of Communications. Being in ASI for the past year, I have come to learn and understand the inner workings of the organization and the needs of the students. Being involved in other areas on campus, I have networking capabilities and knowledge needed to successfully communicate to and for the students. I am majoring in Business (SSM) with a minor in Communications. I know that I can create a successful marketing plan for the future of ASI and the entire campus. I want to make CSUSM a name people will recognize and a name that students can be proud of. Vote for experience, Vote for Kellie!

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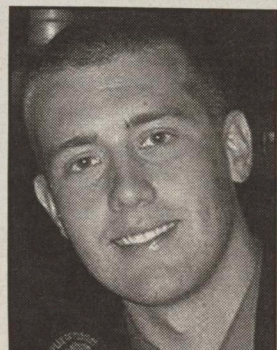
Andre' Rosemond

Human Development
Major
**Undergraduate
Representative**

Hello, my name is

Andre' Rosemond and I

am currently a junior studying Human Development here at one of the most rapidly developing campus's in California, Cal State San Marcos. As Cal State San Marcos grows into the campus that it is destined to be, I feel excited and motivated to have the opportunity in shaping the future of this school. As the current Undergraduate Representative, I will continue to battle for inclusiveness and shared governance for the proud students of our campus.



Nicholas J. Bonomi

Business Major,
emphasis in Service
Sector Management
**College of
Business
Representative**

Hello everyone, I am running for ASI College of Business Rep. I would appreciate your vote for the following reasons. The Annual 04-05 ASI Projected budget was nearly 1.1 million dollars. Many students don't know what ASI stands for. If a student can identify ASI he/she is unlikely able to explain the organizations purpose. Most of the budget is spent on 150-200 students. 40.6% of the 1.1 million is spent on Administration, 17.7% is spent on the board of directors, and 15.3% goes to the ELC (Early Learning Center). This adds to 73.6%; if elected I will push to have funds allocated towards the campus population as a whole. I hope I get your vote to make ASI an efficient organization. Have a good semester.

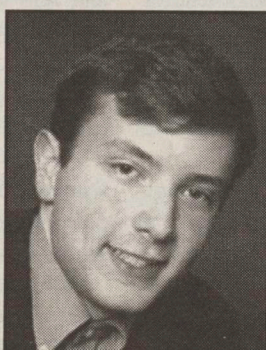


Ashley Nichole Dunn

Bio-Chemestry Major
V.P. of Finance

I believe our purpose as executive members of ASI is to serve

the students. One of the main things that I would do as V.P. of Finance, is listen to the things that you as students would like to see at CSUSM. A few things that are important to me is keeping the cost of tuition and parking down, increasing class availability, and increasing advising availability. So vote for me, Ashley Dunn as V.P. of Finance. "GET ER' DUNN!" "Exec Team 2006" Remember the name- I'm a WRITE IN!!!



Michael R. Laisne

Pre-Business Major
**Undergraduate
Representative**

L. A. I. S. N. E.

It's pronounced "La-nay"
Please vote for me!

My name is Michael Robert Laisne and I want to be your Undergraduate Representative!

I feel I have the leadership ability to represent all of my constituents with a passion to do what is best for them. In college, thus far, I have already served as Treasurer of a Student Organization and led class groups with great success.

My main goals, if elected, will be to increase attendance to ASI events and to find ways to cut ASI's budget and, thus, decrease OUR tuition without cutting any essential programs.

And, yes! I am perfectly aware of how corny that slogan sounds, but, it's a hard name to remember and to pronounce!

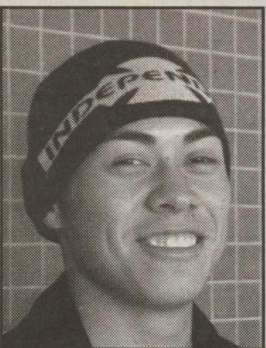
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Dustin Lacasse

History Major
**Environmental Affairs
Officer**

Hey, what's up everyone my name is Dustin Lacasse and I am a history major here at California State University,

San Marcos. I am running for Environmental Affairs Officer. Every person should have their voice heard and I am willing and ready to take on that challenge. I am ready to be the activist this school needs to fight for student rights and take a stand against policies that will directly hurt the student population on this campus. Vote for me and I will communicate your ideas, advocate for positive change, and deliver what needs to be done.



Albert Genegaling

Business Major,
emphasis in Global
Management
V.P. of Finance

I would like to become an interactive member for the

students here at Cal State San Marcos. I want everyone to see ASI as a group of individuals who are there to consistently assist and work with organizations and students in the creation and execution of many different projects.

As the VP of Finance, I will ensure the integrity of the financial practices to guaranty that the funds are well used towards practices and activities that will bring about life, fairness, and diversity to our campus.

Let's not forget our sports people. Support the Athletic Fee Referendum. Go cougars!!!



Heidi Doyle

Communication
and Women's
Studies Major
**College of Arts
and Sciences
Representative**

As a student of the College of Arts and Science, I will be an asset in representing the students at CSUSM. I will dedicate my time to build a better life for the students on campus. I believe in my fellow students' concerns regarding to student life on campus. I will assist in making CSUSM one of the more diversified campuses allowing the students to freely voice their opinions. I will take my roles and responsibilities seriously. Therefore, I hope to be given the opportunity to guide CSUSM into a more active role in today's challenging world. I will be a strong asset as a member of ASI I want to be your VOICE!!! I support the athletic fee referendum! GO COUGAR PRIDE!!

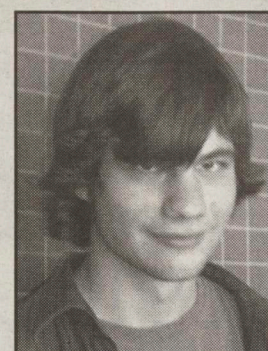


Madeline Aaragon

Liberal Studies
Major
**Childcare
Representative**

My name is Madeline Aaragon. I am a Liberal Studies major

and I am running for the Childcare Representative position. I feel that the student parents on this campus are underrepresented and I would very much like to be the voice of that population. I feel that I could improve my CSUSM campus community by promoting Early Learning Center programs, bringing awareness to the community, and by helping to enhance the social emotional welfare of our future children.



John Baden

History Major
**College of Arts
and Sciences
Representative**

Write in John Baden for College of Arts and

Science Representative, because I will ensure that ASI represents all of our students. It seems that too many people have no say in the decisions our school makes. The history department is an example of this. Our department traditionally has few or no representatives and there is no one to advocate for our needs. As a representative of the College of

Arts and Science I will push for the inclusion of Latin American history into our campus. I will advocate for the general student body as well by pushing for fair prices. If you want an ASI that represents you and are sick of paying too much for a dirt parking lot, write in John Baden.

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WELLNESS, from page 1

peers and campus establishments," said Devon Romero, a coordinator of this month's events.

According to Romero, getting students and faculty to work together and promote a better campus environment for learning and relaxing is a big part of Wellness Month.

During Wellness Month, coordinators like Devon will be promoting the six dimensions of wellness.

The six dimensions of wellness are physical wellness, intellectual wellness, emotional wellness, spiritual wellness, social wellness and occupational wellness. Each of the six dimensions of wellness will be represented through different events pertaining to a particular dimension.

Organizers are planning many different events that students can come and take place in, such as yoga, self-defense classes, and a seminar entitled Chicken Soup for the Cougar Soul.

Each Monday during Wellness Month will be known as Blue Monday, and different events such as yoga, progressive relaxation, and guided imagery will accompany the morning's events. Each blue Monday will try and undertake one of the six dimensions of personal well-being.

More information about Wellness Month and the Wellness Month calendar can be found at <http://www.csusm.edu/cfhusu/Fitness/Calendar.htm>.

WOMEN, from page 1

local female artists who compete in a genre of music largely dominated by men. The show featured performances by CSUSM student, Stacy Goldstein, AKA: Mizliberty. Students Shawnda Dorantes and Tasha Iglesias helped put on the show.

Heather Hitson, senior women's studies major, organized this year's Women's History Month events. She said she struggled because of lack of funds, however was able to incorporate events suited for all.

"We put together events that will accommodate all women. We wanted to create an array of events to accommodate any kind of person whether it is through culture or music to name a few," said Hitson.

Women's studies was given a grant through CSUSM last year; however, this year Hitson was on her own to find funds to put together these events. Through various proposals written by Hitson some money did come through.

"I didn't know coming into this position that I was going to have to put so much effort in finding the funds because last year Women's Studies had funds straight from CSUSM. I was disappointed at the lack of help from CSUSM since 63 percent of our campus is made up of women," said Hitson.

Hitson said she and her colleagues want to bring the information about the extraordinary achievements of women to campus.

Hitson said women's studies hopes to diminish the tendency to dismiss and trivialize who women are and what they accomplish. She said in celebrating women's historic achievements, women's studies also hopes to bring the power to learn about all kinds of women onto campus.

Hitson also wants women to gain a sense of their own talents or accomplishment through these planned events.

Cheyenne Barr, a junior majoring in women's studies, didn't want to be another statistic when she started her freshman year at CSUSM. She wanted to find a major that had "meaning to her."

Barr has been part of Women's Studies since her sophomore year and has loved every part of it.

"Women's studies opened me up. Before I was a shy and timid person but since I've been in women's studies I've become more aware of myself and confident. I wake up ready for class wondering... wow what are we going to do today in class?" said Barr.

Women's Studies looks at the roles of women and men domestically and throughout the world.

According to the CSUSM women's studies website, Women's studies searches to understand how gender is related to ethnicity, race, culture, social class, sexuality, and other factors that have shaped women's and men's lives. Both women and men choose Women's Studies as their major.

Felipe Robinson-Zanartu, a women's studies Major, is comfortable to call himself a feminist.

"There are so many misconceptions of the study of women and feminism. I am proud to call myself a feminist. Men and women need to work together to make long lasting change in this world. As a women's studies major I don't only study women. We study men, races, cultures and gender," said Robinson-Zanartu.

When students on campus were asked if they knew March is Women's History Month and if they knew CSUSM had a women's studies major on campus responses were mixed.

Brenda Aguilar, a junior majoring in communication said she knew.

She said that women's studies are, "Just to study women's roles. To study women's roles today."

Eric Caballero, a junior communication major said he didn't know but made a guess, "They study women...they study the history of women things that are significant to them."

"They study Business ... women like business," said Hy Tran, junior communication major.

Brian Johnson sophomore biology major said, "Women's Studies like to hate on men... they study why they are treated unfairly."

Information on Women's History Month can be found at www.csusm.edu/Womens_Studies/home.html.

DOME, from page 1

short term. He is aiming to tackle the short term goals during the summer of 2005.

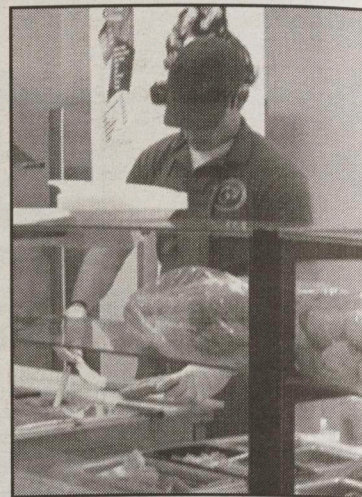


Photo by Adia Bess / The Pride

Wood has lots of ideas that he is ready to begin working on.

"I love working in a University environment, but I wish I could just go, go, go! There is a radical sense of urgency," said Wood.

Short term plans include mirrors to make the Dome look bigger, painting with neon or bright colors, and an upgrade to the look and names of the five eateries currently in the Dome.

In addition the food will also have a new taste. The salad bar will offer more choices, we will be introduced to new pizza flavors such as b-b-q chicken and four cheese, the sub station will adopt a new superhero theme, the quick serve grill will incorporate a blue plate special and the House of Tsang (half Asian and half Italian) will transform into a bigger Mexican food concept.

Long term goals include picking up square footage to make the Dome bigger, and possibly bringing branded units into the new area.

This wouldn't be the first extensive renovation in the Dome's history.

In September of 2002, the Cal State San Marcos Foundation spent more than \$575,000 to design and outfit a new kitchen which included professional ovens, stoves, steamers, fryers, a stainless steel food prep area, pass-through refrigerators, and separate areas for dishwashing, food storage, and offices.

Wood said he is very excited about implementing new menus that keep pace with the changing tastes of students.

"Years ago it was ok to serve grilled cheese and tomato soup; now campuses have to offer as many choices as possible," he said.

Wood said that even with changes in the menu he wants to, "maintain foods that will be affordable to the masses."

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Inside the lines

The sports scoop on and off campus

BY BRITTANY S. FREDERICK
For The Pride



One season ends, another season begins.

February 21 saw the close of the ASI intramural dodgeball season, with the defending champion Ducks successfully staving off challengers Duck Hunt and the Disaster Squad to reclaim their title. Balls—and words—flew in perhaps the most exciting night of dodgeball of the season. This is a sport where adrenaline breathes.

From the outset, it was competitive but it was never anything less than good, clean fun, no egos involved. Though the play was hard—I'm still healing from a direct hit to the head that I took in Monday's final game—the people were all class acts. One of

my most fond memories is that everyone seemed to be concerned with my welfare. When I went down, multiple people asked if I was all right. I'm talking at least three different people. Many of them didn't want to throw at a girl, and when they did, it always seemed like they were going easy on me, not to mention some of them looked downright apologetic when they actually hit me. Now I know what I signed up for, but that's charming nonetheless. I came to ASI dodgeball for the game, but I'll be coming back for the people.

Speaking of comings and goings, this past weekend saw me dispatched to Peoria, Arizona, spring training home of your San Diego Padres.

Last season proved to be surprising for the Swinging Friars and 2005 will bring the same veteran corps of players who made them the divisional dark horse—Mark Loretta, Khalil

Greene, Sean Burroughs, Ryan Klesko, Phil Nevin, Brian Giles, and Ramon Hernandez. All will return for an organization that had its share of platoon years. This is to say nothing of the triad of young, smart starters who could rival Oakland's Big Three given time — Brian Lawrence, Jake Peavy and my personal favorite, Adam Eaton.

Padres boosters have a lot to look forward to this season. Other than the usual big San Diego names, there were solid performances coming out of return Padre and bench player Mark Sweeney, infielder Taggart Bozied, center fielder Dave Roberts and pitcher Rusty Tucker. This Padres team should have the bench depth that the 2004 squad sometimes struggled with. If Darrell May or someone else can perform as the fifth starter, expect them to go above and beyond their 2004 performance and contend for the division title.

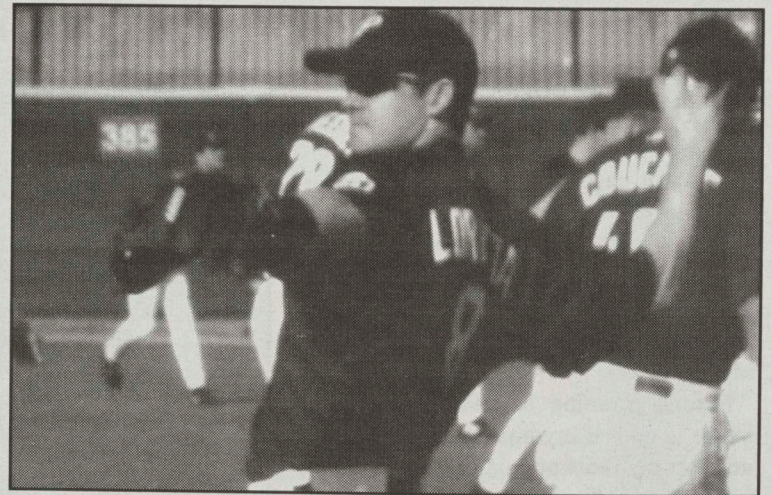


Photo courtesy of Brittany Frederick / The Pride

As for other predictions, look for Mark Loretta to continue to lead the team both on and off the field with his great defense, solid offense and admirable conduct. The 2004 National League ERA champ Peavy will build on his impressive season with another one, Lawrence will continue to be a rock for the staff, and Eaton will get past his consistency prob-

lems now that he's had a chance to prove to the world that he's a contender.

Jake Peavy signed a new long-term deal, and so I can say my brother in arms will be with me for a few more years as we grow up together — after all, he's only four years older than I am. A foundation is now in place for a team I can feel will be here for years to come. Even now, though, as we start to form our future, it's impossible to forget the heroes who came before and paved the way. They were just ordinary men, whether you're talking about Cammy or Tony Gwynn or Andy Ashby, but they were heroes in my book. Now we have a chance to be heroes of our own.

It all begins right here, right now. I wouldn't miss it for the world.



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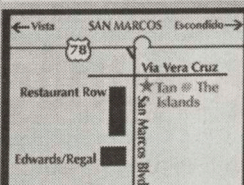
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Have a blast during *spring break*

Tips and suggestions for a fun and care-free vacation

BY PATRICK B. LONG
Pride Staff Writer

Between parties and sun-bathing, students do not want to spend their Spring Break vacation worrying about minor details. So, the smart student will plan ahead. Spring Break vacation can be enhanced with the right tools of knowledge.

Before planning a getaway, knowing where to go is a key point and several web sites list the most popular destinations for fun in the sun. The Travel Channel web site has its own list, including Cancun, Mexico as the second most popular destination. Since international destinations come with some much needed precautions, students should arm themselves with knowledge of health concerns within a certain region. Fear not, help is as easy as the Center for Disease Control (CDC). The CDC's traveler's health site contains information regarding health risks in regions throughout the world. Our own CSUSM web site has travel tips located on the University Global Affairs site at <http://www.csusm.edu/UGA/Travelresources.htm>. This site has links for traveler's health, currency converters and airport guides. There is also great information on problem areas that students should avoid traveling to.

For international travel, students have many concerns to consider and should be aware of organizations like International Students Travel Confederation (ISTC). ISTC will help students to get organized for travel and offers student discounts around the world with the aide of an international student I.D. card. The group also provides company information for travel agents that deal discount fares for full time students. They can keep students informed and safe while traveling and list approved travel agencies that students can use in conjunction with ISTC.

STA Travel is one of Itch's approved travel agencies and they have offices on the SDSU campus and one in the Pacific Beach area. Mike Medina of the SDSU office explained that students should be prepared when traveling, especially to a

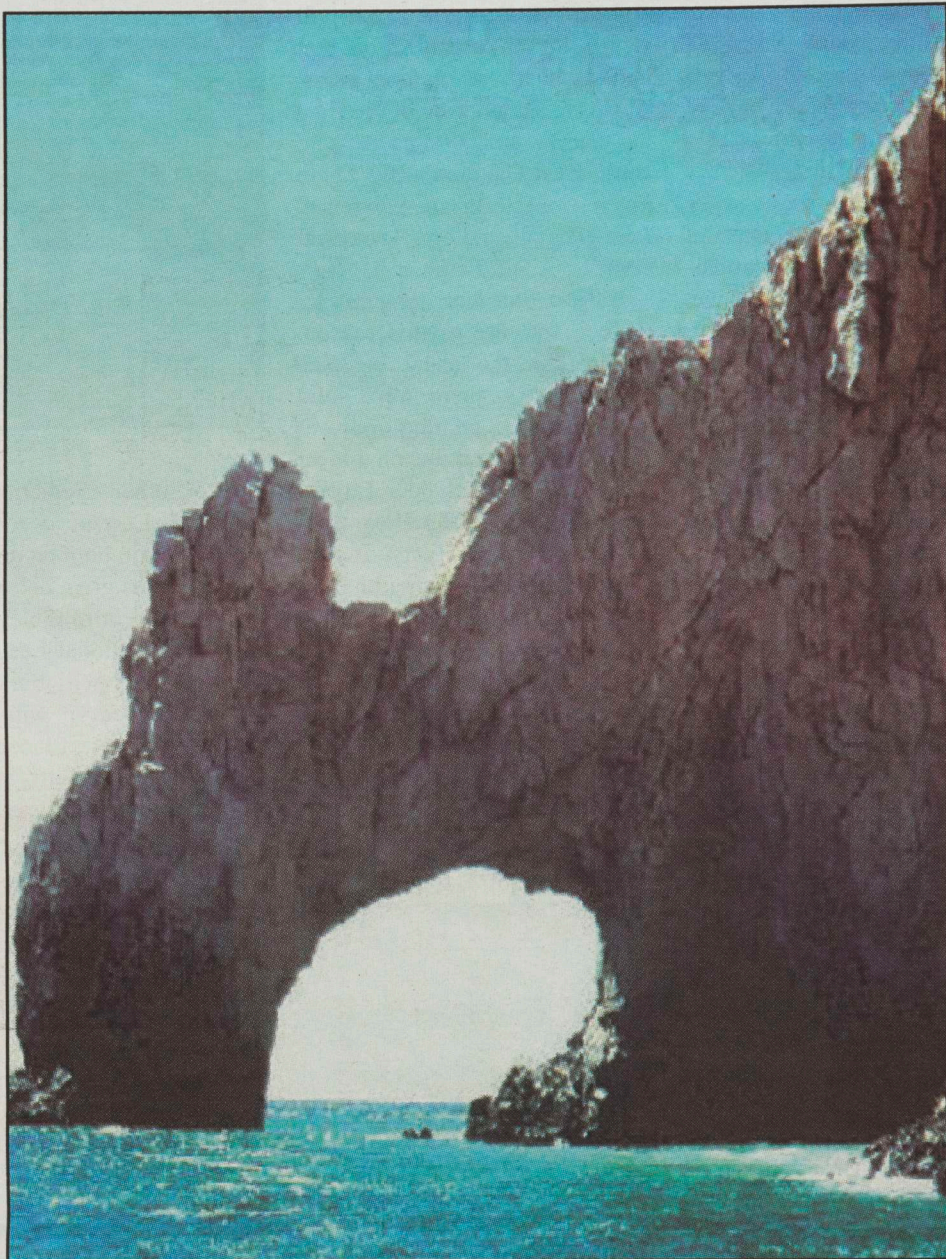


Photo courtesy of www.totalescape.com

Above: Take time out to enjoy the outdoor scenery of Cabo.

Right: Socialize with other spring-breakers in Cancun.

foreign country.

"Do a little research," said Medina, because students must know the laws of the country they plan to visit. STA Travel offers package deals to students traveling and is already booking for summer vacation.

Local all inclusive travel companies, such as Summer Winter Action Tours (S.W.A.T.), offer full packages and group tours. For one price, they include transportation, accommodations and free S.W.A.T. events. They have trips to Mexico that include Rosarito and San Felipe. The tour is for members only and gives a safe way to travel in a large group. The company has EMT's on site and corresponds with the local law enforcement to ensure cooperation.



Photo courtesy of www.springbreakcancun.com

"We are the largest company on the west coast and we offer peace of mind of a large group," Frank Pompeo of S.W.A.T. said.

For more information on the CDC and traveling, log onto <http://www.cdc.gov/travel/>. More information about ISTC and S.W.A.T. can be found at <http://www.istc.org> and <http://swatup.com/>. STA Travel can be reached at (858) 452-0630 or on the web at www.statravel.com

Slam poetry

Poet Bridget Gray coming to campus for Women's History Month

BY YVONNE BRETT
Pride Staff Writer

Race, love, abuse, heartbreak, women's rights, and life in general...tough issues, but someone needs to talk about them.

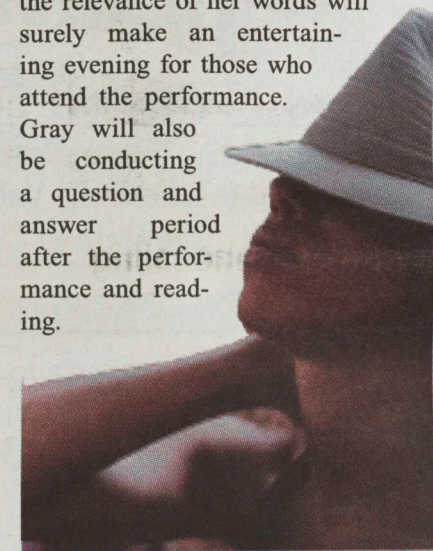
Poet and performance artist Bridget Gray will be making her third appearance at CSUSM in honor of Women's History Month. Sponsored by Student Residential Life, Gray will perform in Arts 240 at 7 p.m. on Monday, March 14.

Regarded as one of the most refreshing spoken word artists, Gray is not afraid to tackle the issues in life that others tend to avoid. Her signature piece, "Shades of Gray," was released in 2001, and her second CD, "Self Love," will be issued this year.

Gray has won many poetry slam competitions and has recently been the host of a nationally syndicated radio show called "Electric Moyo."

Her dynamic stage presence and the relevance of her words will surely make an entertaining evening for those who attend the performance.

Gray will also be conducting a question and answer period after the performance and reading.



TRAVELING TIPS

With any trip or vacation, personal safety is number one priority. This list is compiled to serve as a platform of good advice that should be incorporated with common sense.

- Leave your contact information with family and friends
- Prepare a list of emergency contacts
- Make sure you know how to contact the local police and hospitals - 911 does not always work in other countries.
- Bring a safety kit
- Use the buddy system.
- Never give the appearance that you are lost.
- Stay hydrated, wear sunscreen, watch for careless drivers.
- Know the laws of the place you are traveling. They WILL be enforced.
- Be sure to have adequate medical insurance that covers foreign travel. Does your plan include medical evacuation coverage?
- Investigate available resources on safety. Check web sites of the US State Department for travel warnings, embassies abroad, travelers health web sites, Federal Aviation Authorities, etc.

The fall semester is right around the corner...

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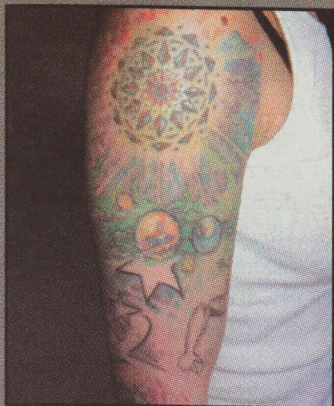
is now accepting submissions and denying capitulators

The Pride

Submit Writing and Real Art to the PLS at pride@csusm.edu

UniversityVoice

Do you have a tattoo?



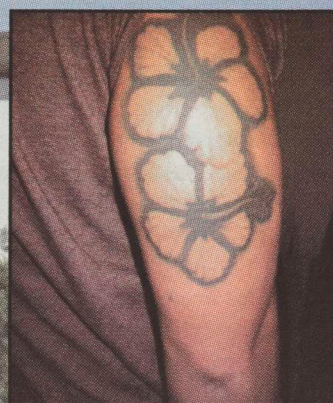
Julie Oxford



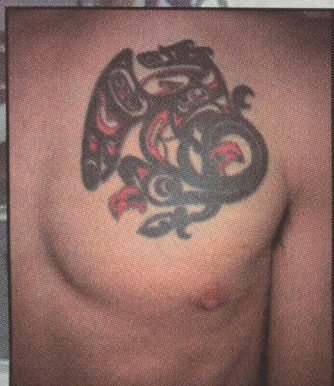
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(and Pride Copy Editor)



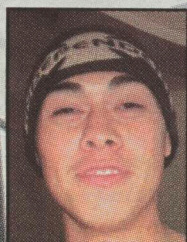
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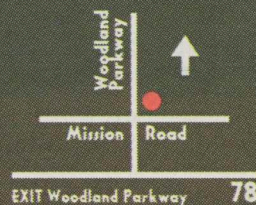
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Athletics director responds to Pride staff writer

Stephen Nichols offers a rebuttal to Phoenix Lindgren's article

To the Editors of The Pride:

An article by Staff Writer Phoenix Lindgren in last week's issue of The Pride noted that while students will be voting this March on a proposed student fee to expand our intercollegiate athletics program, they will not be voting on a fee to support The Pride.

A central focus of the article is a search for some rationale for this decision. Several are considered – perhaps President Haynes values athletics more than the newspaper? Or is it a bit of revenge for The Pride's coverage of the Michael Moore situation? Was the fee proposal not good enough? Don't people see how much improved the paper would be with twelve pages and color? Who could object to only \$2.50, none of it going to salaries?

As the author of the athletics fee proposal, I would like to share my experienced in the long process of developing the proposal – because what I learned as I went through the process sheds a lot of light on why my fee is on the ballot, while the newspaper fee is not. And not to give away the punch line, but...it has nothing to do with any of the above.

When I took the position as Athletics Director, my first task was (is!) to address the funding problems we face. Despite a record of excellence that might surprise you if you haven't been following our golf, cross-country

and track teams -- eight Far West Regional Championships, 15 finishes the Top Twenty in year-end national rankings, 44 NAIA All-Americans, a national champion in the women's marathon – our department was on the verge of being shut down due to lack of funding.

I quickly learned why. I contacted every other AD in the CSU system and discovered that we are the only campus in the entire CSU that has no student fee funding for intercollegiate athletics! At every other CSU campus – in fact, as one AD told me, at virtually every other public university in the country – students pay a set fee to fund the athletics program. State money supplements that fee revenue, but no athletics program exists on general fund money alone, as we had been trying to do.

So the problem was clear; the solution, though, was not so simple. Several of the Athletics Directors I spoke with over the summer shared something else with me: the CSU Chancellor's Office had imposed a "soft moratorium" on campus-based fees. What's a soft moratorium, you ask? I had to ask, too – and so began a series of conversations with some pretty important people in the CSU hierarchy: Patrick Lenz, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Budget Development, and Chris Canfield, the CSU's Lead Budget Analyst.

Here's what I learned from them: the Chancellor is concerned that, in this era of budget cuts to the campuses, individual CSU schools might be too quick to turn to campus-based student fees to make up the difference. Hence the moratorium: no offsetting the declines in funding by imposing new campus fees; no asking students to foot the bill for things that were once funded by other sources, because you worry that those other funding sources might be dry up.

This is where the "soft" part of the fee moratorium comes into play. The CSU recognizes that not all proposals for new fees will fall into the category just described, and thus an absolute ban on any and all fees is too extreme. So the Chancellor's Office will consider allowing a new student fee under certain circumstances – but the proposer has to make the case for it.

That is exactly what I did with the athletics fee proposal. I made the case that we are the only CSU in the system that does not have an athletics fee – that this is a standard fee, found at all CSUs (and all public universities); we just don't have it here because we are a relatively new campus, and our athletics program is newer still. The folks at the Chancellor's Office accepted that reasoning and indicated they would allow our fee to go forward.

The Pride finds itself in a very

different situation. As I understand it, it is very rare in the CSU for a student paper to be supported by its own student fee. It may be, in fact, that only Sacramento State has such an arrangement. This puts The Pride at a real disadvantage: not only is such a fee not commonly found throughout the CSU, the fact is that almost nobody else does it that way.

That being the case, I can tell you, based on my own conversations with the people who make these decision in the Chancellor's office, that there is virtually no way the Chancellor would have approved The Pride fee. A novel, new fee that exists at very few other campuses is simply not something the CSU administration will support now. President Haynes, well aware of all this, made the tough decision: since there is no chance it will be approved by the CSU, there is no sense spending campus time, money and energy campaigning for it and voting on it.

So the fact that the newspaper fee is not on the ballot has nothing to do with anyone placing greater value on The Pride than on athletics; it's not "athletics versus The Pride" in any sense. Both are good for this campus, and just as campus life will benefit from more vibrant athletics offerings, especially spectator sports, so too would it have been great for the newspaper to be longer

and in color. It has nothing to do with Michael Moore; if you think President Haynes is so petty and vindictive as to operate that way, you don't know her very well. It has nothing to do with the quality of the proposal (members of the Student Fee Advisory Committee have told me it was very good), and no, \$2.50 is not too much to ask. But none of that is the point; rather, the point is that the newspaper fee, even had students passed it overwhelmingly, would have fallen victim to the Chancellor's soft moratorium.

I'll conclude with a wish and a hope. I wish someone had alerted those who worked on The Pride fee proposal of this reality long ago, before they spent considerable time and energy on their fee proposal; it is a long, arduous process, and I'm sorry to see anyone go through it for naught.

And the hope? The athletics department is not even going to apply for any funds from the Instructionally Related Activity fund this year (if the athletics fee passes, we won't need it; if it fails, the IRA funds won't save us). I sincerely hope The Pride gets a nice share of what we might have gotten; twelve color pages would be nice.

Sincerely,
Steve Nichols
Director of Athletics
Cal State San Marcos

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Parking Services is located in the Foundation Classroom Building (FCB), room 107.

Office hours are Monday – Friday, 8:00 am-5:00 pm.

Telephone number – (760) 750-7500

Any person planning to drive and park their vehicle on campus needs a parking permit.

Parking is enforced 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

There is no grace period.

Need A Permit?

General Student, University Village Apartment (UVA), and Faculty/Staff parking permits can be purchased at the Parking Services Office (FCB 107). General Student parking permits can also be purchased on-line through the Parking Services website: www.csusm.edu/parking or at the Cashiers Office (Craven Hall 3108).

Helpful Tips

- If you are running late and want to save time, go directly to Lots X, Y, Z or SMACC to park.
- Reduce off campus trips during the first several weeks of classes.
- When parking at SMACC, be sure to park in the stenciled CSUSM parking spaces.
- **NEW CALL-IN SERVICE** - Parking lot counts are done hourly between 9:00 am – 2:00 pm. Call ext. 7502 to find out which parking lot has parking spaces available.

USEFUL PARKING INFORMATION

- Carpool spaces are available in Lots C, J, and N.
- Designated Faculty/Staff parking spaces are available in Lot N.
- General parking spaces are available in Lot O and are designated "General Parking Only".
- Guests of UVA residents can park overnight in general spaces in Lots O and N with a valid overnight parking permit. Cost of an overnight parking permit is \$5.00/night, or \$11.00 for an overnight/day permit (overnight/day permit expires following evening at 11:59 pm).
- New UVA parking lot was opened Fall 2004 semester (Lot K - main entrance on La Moree Rd.).
- New General parking lot has opened just in front of the Clarke Field House/University Student Union (Lot L).
- Additional Disabled parking spaces will be added to Lot C during the Spring 2005 semester.
- New **AlterNetRides** program coming mid-Spring 2005. Check Parking Services website for updates on this program (www.csusm.edu/parking).

Parking Services at Cal State San Marcos is a self-support program established to provide parking facilities and resources. It derives no support from the State for capital outlay or operational costs. All costs of operation, including staff and benefit costs, debt service, maintenance and construction of parking lots, and in the future, parking structures, are paid for by income received from parking fees. Revenues received from citation payments support the operating costs for the fines and forfeitures program, alternative modes of transportation, and for surcharges paid to San Diego County. Revenues from fines and forfeitures cannot support the cost of parking construction.

For information about Parking Compliance (citations) or Photo IDs, go to the Parking Services website:

www.csusm.edu/parking

Parking Lot Information In which Parking Lot is your permit valid?

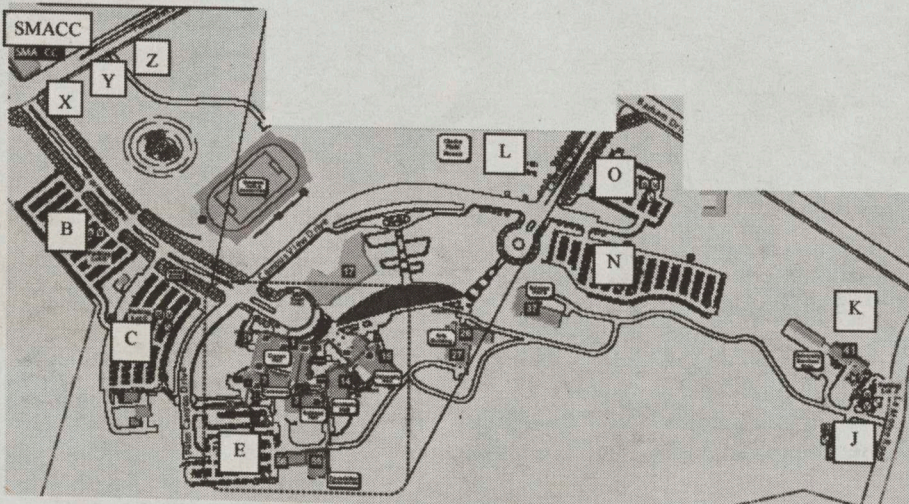
Faculty/Staff – Lots E, C, B, L, J, N, X, Y, Z, San Marcos Ambulatory Care Center (SMACC), and spaces in Lot O designated for General Parking ONLY.

Students – C, B, L, J, N, X, Y, Z, SMACC, and spaces in Lot O designated for General Parking ONLY.

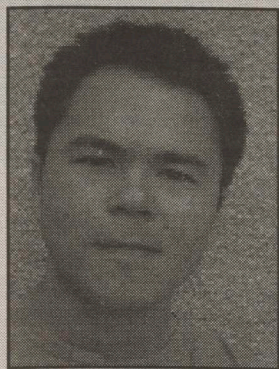
Visitors – C, B, L, J, N, X, Y, Z, SMACC, and spaces in Lot O designated for General Parking ONLY.

University Village Apartment (UVA) Residents – O and K ONLY.

Disabled parking is available in Lots E, C, B, L, J, N, O



OMBUDSMAN'S *Notes*



By JASON NICHOLS
Pride Ombudsman

Dear Readers,

This is a bit difficult for me to say. My trepidation stems from the nature of my request. This is personal. Somewhat embarrassing. I've made requests of this sort before, but only to those I felt comfortable in asking. I ask you now, because I believe we've established a trust of one another over these past months. A trust that affords a comfort level that allows me to ask, 'Can anyone spot me for a venti white mocha, non-fat with whip?'

- LP Record Scratch - the sound you just heard.

So what the hell was that about?

Why, it was my wee little example of paper-pimpin'. (Five dolla will make ya holla, Sugar.) Paper-pimpin' is that self-serv-

ing article in a 'news'paper dressed in a skin-tight red vinyl skirt hustlin' every reader that drives their eyes by it.

Sometimes it's an editor knockin' boots on UCSD's closed circuit boob-tubes, but not this time. Our editors aren't so bold. (Or they're just lonely people.)

Fortunately for our eyes, trust me on this; you weren't subjected to any naked Pride staff in the literal sense. Figuratively though, our editors-in-chief had no problems with smackin' on the blush and bad eye shadow in their 'News' article "Pride denied ballot access."

Let me remind ya, cause I know 2 weeks is way past the shelf life of our 'alcohol ridden' campus memory.

We were treated to glimpse of color. Pretty, pretty colors. I dug the colors. I'm sure most did, less you got problems with reds and greens.

I didn't realize that those colors were meant to settle a gripe of \$2.50.

On the front and center was an article by Elizabeth Baldwin, one of the editors-in-chief, detailing the "Students to vote on new sports fee." Now, here's the kicker.

On page 3 of the 'News,' right

where this Athletics fee article ended, Phoenix informed us via the interviews of Mike Dolan, the other editor-in-chief, and Elizabeth Baldwin (remember her?) that the Pride was denied the chance to be on the ballot in order to request their own fee of \$2.50. The article took issue with President Haynes and torpedoed the \$40 fee being asked for Athletics.

Wanh, wanh! 'How come they got on the ballot, and the Pride didn't?'

Now, I ain't about to say that we should give up 40 bones so a bunch of health nuts can show off their physical prowess on our campus instead of doin' it at SDSU. I'd rather crack open a book for me college money, than shake a pom-pom. But, that's me.

As for the \$2.50 fee for the Pride. Maybe, I'd back that scheme if I was sure the \$ would go to bringin' us NEWS.

'Light bulbs going out' doesn't cut it. And lifting a skirt to show me a peak of the color that might be with one hand, while puttin' out a hand for my cash in a paper-pimpin' article with the other, only insults a reader's intelligence. If Mike and Elizabeth want our money, than they can write an editorial, or a per-

sonal letter in print. But, don't make this paper a mini-skirt for your agenda. Don't hide your machinations under the heading of NEWS. You may think you're doing us the favor, but you need to remember that it's your privilege to serve on this paper. Just like it's mine.

I'll give Mike and Elizabeth credit for working hard. And I'm sure in their minds they were doing right by us. But we ain't children, and we ain't so friggin' naïve that we can't read between the lines, and see the color for what it was.

A tease.

If you want to be the NEWS, make a Seymour Butts' video and follow the Koala down under.

On the up side of things...

An angel/devil tapped my shoulder 2 weeks ago and pointed out something worth sharing. Zach Simon, who knows no bounds of the sacred asked Evan Trown, prez of the Priority Christian Challenge club on campus, a few Qs.

My favorite, "Do people who die having rejected Christ go to Hell?"

You don't get more pointed than that.

I'm diggin' Zach's style.

The answer from Trown

(taking out all the "um"s), "I believe so, yes. We as a club and as an individual believe that people who have not asked Christ to...have a personal relationship with them are going to Hell."

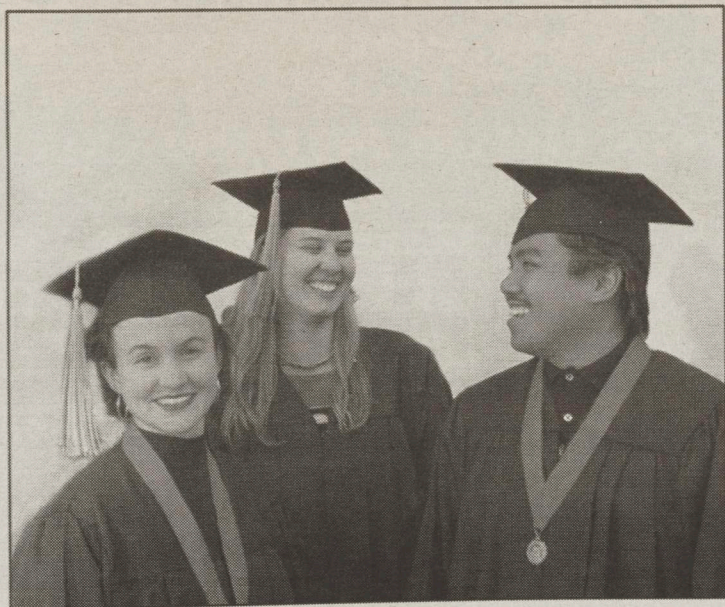
Now, I'm not sure what was lost with the ellipsis, but the message is pretty friggin' clear. I happen to be in the group going to the Lake of Fire (great song) since my Roman Catholic and Southern Baptist childhood never managed to stick. However, that's not the joke.

The funny was on the Calendar of Events that showed Priority Christian Challenge was having a guest speaker who would "compare Christianity, Islam, and Jewish faiths." Givin' the words of Trown, I wonder how fair the comparison would be? I wonder who I should hedge my bets on to getting through the pearly gates between the three religious groups? You gotta love a campus with clubs that believe fellow alumni are gonna burn for all time, then have a discussion about it.

Save me a seat amongst the sulfur Zach.

And that'll do it for this heretical text. You can tell me to 'go to hell' at nicho028@csusm.edu or pride@csusm.edu.

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Maybe "He's Just Not That Into You"

BY HEATHER HOFFMANN
Pride Staff Writer

Men are simple.
They don't play games and they don't need to be figured out.
If he likes you, you'll know.
If you don't know then "he's just not that into you."

Greg Behrendt and Liz Tuccillo have written an amazing self-help/get a clue book titled, "He's just not that into you: The No-Excuses Truth to Understanding Guys."

This book gives single women the answers they've been looking for and provides them with tools to help them stop making excuses for men.

Behrendt says in the book "when it comes to men, deal with us as we are, not how you'd like us to be."

Each chapter reveals the different excuses used by women to justify men's behavior.

Don't wait by the phone and make up a million excuses, if he likes you he'll call. If he doesn't call you, he's not that into you.

If you're not dating, he's really not that into

you. If he likes you, you'll date.

Don't share. If he's with someone else he's not into you. Don't make any more excuses for him and find someone who deserves you.

At the end of each chapter there is a check list to make sure the lessons from the chapter were learned as well as a workbook to instill the ideas from the chapter.

The workbook activities are silly, but they help the reader see that sometimes their behavior is also a little silly.

By far the best workbook exercise is a coloring activity that makes you color a flag red, this teaches you to spot a red flag in the future and take it as a sign to move on.

This is a self-help book that actually helps. "He's just not that into you" may be the most important words you ever learn. Those words empower you to get what you deserve and stop trying to get something that's not good enough for you.

The book is a super easy read and only 165 pages. It is fun to read and very informative. You could read it while you're waiting for him to call and learn to never wait by the phone again.

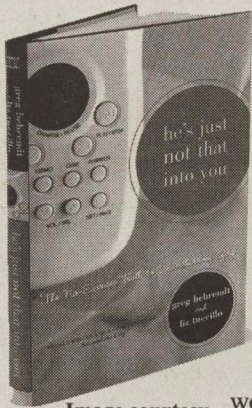


Image courtesy
of www.bn.com



Hasslehoff's pecks "Spongebob"-worthy



BY AMIRA EL-KHAULI
Pride Staff Writer

This may seem like an extension of what is now looking to be a regular feature of The Pride, but "The Spongebob Squarepants Movie" is definitely a guilty pleasure.

If you have kids or a younger sibling, you might be able to get away with renting or buying this movie without getting too much slack from the cashier. The rest of you may just have to wear dark sunglasses and a scarf for fear of recognition.

But the movie is just so funny you can't help but giggle. Like when Patrick asks the princess if she wants to see his underwear. Or when Spongebob gets killed off.

Wait. Did I just say that? Yes, Spongebob does get killed off in the movie. It might make all those horrible Spongebob haters out there smile.

David Hasslehoff makes a spe-

cial appearance in the movie and once again saves the day, but a little more comically than during his Baywatch days. And I must say he has the strongest pecks I have ever seen.

The premise of the story involves the Krusty Krab burger competitor, who is jealous of the burger joint's success. He steals King Neptune's crown and frames the restaurant owner. Spongebob tries to recover the crown so that he can save his boss and prove that he is a loyal employee.

The result is a comical adventure that amuses both young and old.

The DVD is packed with a few great features too. For animation buffs, there are two featurettes exploring the making of the movie, including one that focuses on the creator of Spongebob, Stephen Hillenburg, and the writers of the movie.

For Spongebob fans, there is an extra short clip called "Case of the Spongebob." You won't be seeing that on the Nickelodeon channel anytime soon.

Then, for video game buffs, there a small preview of the video game that also branched out from the TV show and movie.

It's just a lot of fun and laughs, but if you're too embarrassed to be spending somewhere around \$20 to own this movie, at least go out and rent it so you too can join in the fun.

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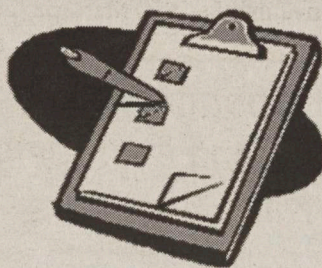
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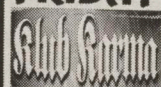
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Language is no barrier for Zelko

BY YVONNE BRETT
Pride Staff Writer



Zelko

Series at CSUSM on Friday, March 4.
The nonexistent plot allowed the audi-

With boundless energy and a seemingly endless repertoire of original onomatopoeia, Zelko Vukmirica from Croatia performed as "Mr. Single" as part of the Arts & Lectures

ence to experience "Zelko" waking up, traveling on the subway, and spending the day at work. He delivered this sequence in a completely made up language full of expressive sound effects and pantomime.

When the weekend came he slowed down a bit and revealed his attitude about politics, disgust of war and conflicts, and his feelings about having a son in the future.

Using only a podium and creative lighting as props, the virtually wordless narrative was easily understood by the audience.

Zelko proceeded to interact with the spotlight as well as fantasize about characters on an imaginary TV. He dramatized his longing for a relationship by pulling someone out of the audience onto the stage to help him fight his lonely battle.

This unique performance was a showcase for Zelko's acting skills, and his journey through time and space illustrated that the imagination can be a powerful tool.

Zelko has been at CSUSM for the past two weeks providing a workshop for students in the Performing Arts Department. In June a group of these students will be traveling to Croatia where they will spend two weeks touring and sharing what they have learned in the workshop.

There will be one more presentation of "Mr. Single," before Zelko leaves for Europe at the City Heights Library in San Diego on Friday, March 11.

Ghostlight: Inspiration in drag

BY YVONNE BRETT
Pride Staff Writer



Photo by Yvonne Brett / The Pride

Karen Schaffman, Richard Move and Craddock Stropes.

What is a six-foot tall man doing dressed up like a woman leaping across the stage? Why pretending to be Martha Graham of course!

The independent film, "Ghostlight," starring Richard Move is the story of legendary dancer and choreographer, Martha Graham, told through the eyes of a fictitious filmmaker.

Move plays the part of Martha, which in itself is ironic because he is over six feet tall and she barely measured five feet. As he towers over the other dancers, he delivers his words of advice to them in a controlled, alto voice, teaching them the moves as well as infusing Martha's philosophies.

Time in the movie is non-linear; it bounces backward and forward with fake historical film clips to help the viewer gain perspective into her life. Martha's famous

"I thought it was inspiring," -student Katie Summers

friends, like the designer Halston, Liza Minelli, Helen Keller, and Deborah Harry (who appears in the film) also add an interesting dynamic to the movie.

It is difficult to put a specific label on this movie. It seems like a biopic, but is delivered in a campy manner that has the audience trying to work out if they should take it seriously or not. In the end though, it felt like it was a heartfelt tribute to an icon of modern dance.

The preview of "Ghostlight" was sponsored by the La Jolla Music Society and shown last Monday in Arts 240. The star of the movie, Richard Move, introduced the film and was available afterwards to answer questions. He said that the film was started around 1998 and took four or five years to finish. He also stars in a live show about Graham called, "Martha @," that has played in New York and has toured around the world. He laughingly said, "Martha is finally being represented by a body that is able to live up to her stature."

"I thought it was inspiring," said CSUSM student Katie Summers. "I was really amazed."

Another student, Isabel Gonzalez said, "It teaches you about the arts and how the creative process comes about."

There is a tradition that dictates that a stage should never be completely dark after a show, and that is why a single lightbulb is left on all night. Richard Move's impersonation of Martha Graham has embraced the legend and he has become her own personal "ghostlight," keeping her memory alive in the hearts of her fans.

CALENDAR Of Events

Tuesday, March 8

Accounting Society General Meeting with speaker from Becker Conviser--free lunch 11am-1pm, Commons 206
Women's History Month--Beauty and Body Image presentation 1-3:30pm, Science Hall 2, room 242
Progressive Activists Network meeting 4pm, University Hall 449
International Women's Day panel discussion
4-6pm, Clarke Field House Grand Salon
College Democrat Meeting 7pm, The Dome
College Republicans meeting 9-10pm, Churchill's Pub, 887 West San Marcos Blvd.

Wednesday, March 9

Library book sale--benefits library 9am-3, Kellogg Terrace
Wellness Day Fair & Expo--free lunch, drawings, wellness giveaways 11am-2pm (fair), free massages from 2:15pm-5pm, Clarke Field House
Communications Majors job search 4-5pm, Craven 4201
Women's History Month--Sex Toys Workshop 7pm, Clarke Field House
Boots on the Ground Forum on Iraq, sponsored by Phi Alpha Theta and the History Club 7-8:30pm, Academic Hall 102

Thursday, March 10

Women's History Month--Women and the Labor Force Discussion 11am, Clarke Field House
Pre-Health Society Meeting, featuring Dr. Joanne Pederson, CSUSM Pre-Health Advisor--free food 11am-1pm, Academic Hall 407
CLIMB--In the Executive's Chair with Britta Justesen, executive director, Family Literacy Foundation 11am-12:50pm, Academic Hall 102
Women's History Month--Listen up! Students Speak Out About Their Lives 11:30am, University Hall 100
Progressive Activists Network meeting 7pm, Mocha Market Place, San Marcos Blvd.
Priority Christian Challenge Meeting--a guest speaker will compare Christianity, Islam, and the Jewish faiths. 7pm, Commons 206
Cougar Movie Series presents "Spanglish"--students \$2, faculty/staff \$3, guests \$4 8:30pm, Arts 240

Friday, March 11

Cougar Movie Series presents "Spanglish"--students \$2, faculty/staff \$3, guests \$4 7pm, Clarke Field House, Grand Salon

Saturday, March 12

Cougar Movie Series presents "Spanglish"--students \$2, faculty/staff \$3, guests \$4 7pm, Clarke Field House, Grand Salon

Sunday, March 13

ASI Rummage Sale--supporting CSUSM Alternative Spring Break Program 8am-3pm, Barham Villas Apartments, 574 E. Barham Drive, Unit 271

Monday, March 14

Summer Study Abroad Meeting--Spain 11:30am-12:20pm, University Hall 440
Summer Study Abroad Meeting--Mexico 12-12:50pm, University Hall 460

Tuesday, March 15

Summer Study Abroad Meeting--Mexico 12-12:50pm, University Hall 460
Cougar Movie Series presents "Iron Jawed Angels," with panel discussion--students \$2, faculty/staff \$3, guests \$4 4pm, Clarke Field House, Grand Salon
Progressive Activists Network meeting 4pm, University Hall 449
Arts and Lectures Series presents the San Diego Chamber Orchestra Concert--students/faculty/staff \$5, others \$10 7pm, California Center for the Arts, Escondido
College Democrat Meeting 7pm, The Dome
College Republicans meeting 9-10pm, Churchill's Pub, 887 West San Marcos Blvd.
Send information for The Pride Calendar of Events to pride@csusm.edu with "Calendar" in the subject.

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Cuernavaca, Mexico July 11 - Aug 6

Next info meeting is Tues, Mar. 15 from 12:00-12:50 in Univ 460

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Guilty Pleasures:

The TV shows we can't miss

Jonny Zero

BY PHOENIX LINDGREN
Pride Staff Writer

Until a few weeks ago, there was no reason at all to stay home on a Friday night watching television. Now there's Franky G in Jonny Zero.

Jonny Calvo (Franky G) was just released from prison after doing four years for beating a guy to death. He really wants to turn his life around (no drugs, no guns, no 'hos), but his world (which is, naturally, full of drugs, guns, and 'hos) makes it hard for Jonny to be a stand-up kinda guy. Jonny has a low-paying, legit job in a boxing gym, a high-paying job with the same boss/crime lord that helped him get into trouble in the first place (only this time Jonny is being forced to find some dirt on the guy for the cops), and he moon-



lights as a do-good, private investigator, helping folks in the 'hood with assorted problems, generally caused by drugs, guns, and 'hos.

There's lots of opportunity for moral dilemmas and chase scenes

involving his cherry muscle car--a red and white Chevy SS--but all that really matters is that Jonny has plenty of opportunity to remove his shirt--the guiltiest pleasure on network television this season.

Photo courtesy of Warner Bros. Television

Tour de France

BY YVONNE BRETT
Pride Staff Writer

It all started quite innocently six years ago.

Flipping through the channels, I landed on the Outdoor Life channel that was covering the Tour de France. Boring...but wait...these guys are pretty buff in their neon spandex! I started watching and next thing I knew I was hooked.

For the next 21 days, I was compelled to watch--two to three hours of coverage a day--while learning useful French words like "maillot jaune" and "peloton." I was fascinated by the picturesque French countryside rolling by and the obligatory shot of the local cathedral.

But it's not about the scenery, it's about the drama! Why is Lance chasing down the Italian hot shot? Is perpetual bridesmaid Jan fat again? Is Tyler on drugs? Will Robin do his comedy routine? Will the cameraman give us a good shot of a stalker?

I know I'm not alone in my secret obsession, there are many more out there. You know those people you see wearing Lance's yellow rubber bracelets? They'll tell you it's about cancer awareness, but don't let them kid you: they spend hours watching the TDF, too.

And we are all counting down the days until July 2.



Photo courtesy of Jon Marsh / www.velophoto.com

Seinfeld

BY BRYAN MASON
Pride Staff Writer

Opening with its now trademark poppy bass beat, the 1990s sitcom "Seinfeld" has brought me joy through all their kooky and crazy adventures.

Jerry struck gold with this ground-breaking sitcom that followed the lives of four friends in New York just living out their lives; it was dry, cynical humor that was an antidote to the 1980s; it was the comedy--the witty and sarcastic eccentricities of each episode--that "Seinfeld" fans fell in love with.

No matter how many times I've seen the same episode, you'll still see a smile on my face after every Kramer entrance or Elaine's "GET OUT" shove.

Be it the physical comedy of Michael Richards (Cosmo Kramer), or the neurotic ramblings of Jason Alexander (George Costanza), "Seinfeld" has kept me ecstatic since my first episode. It is the simple human interactions that make this show my guilty pleasure.

And with the release of the first three seasons on DVD you'll be sure to find me...well, actually you won't find me because I'll be bundled up in my room watching "Seinfeld" reruns.



Photo courtesy of Sony Pictures Television

Wifeswap



Image courtesy of www.abc.com

BY HEATHER HOFFMANN
Pride Staff Writer

When a wealthy Southern Republican swaps lives with a liberal middle class lesbian, they don't exactly blend in to their new lives and the result is a fascinating reality show.

I knew I was hooked from the beginning.

Every week "Wife Swap" takes two extremely opposite people forces them to trade families for two weeks.

For the first week they agree to live by the already established household rules and in the second week they are allowed to change the rules, forcing their new family to live by their rules.

When the rules change the drama begins. Children resent being punished by someone other than their parents, clean houses become messy, messy houses clean up, boring people have fun, and it's great.

At the end of the two weeks all the spouses are reunited and they sit down to talk. This gives people the chance to tell someone to their face what they think of their family, which often ends in a shouting match, or tears--many lessons go unlearned.

There is no cash prize on this show, only the opportunity to learn from the experience. Unfortunately most of the people are too unwilling to change or accept the world from a different perspective.