

Elections yield low voter turnout

BY JENNY NGUYEN
Pride Staff Writer

Students may have many opinions on how to improve their campus, yet it would seem that few acted on those opinions in this year's ASI Elections. The voter count for the 2006 Cal State San Marcos' ASI Elections was much lower than last year. The polls were open online for students to vote over the course of four days, from March 20-23, and yet the number of voters totaled to a mere 578, versus the approximate 1500 voters that participated in the 2005 ASI Elections.

The process of voting has not changed from previous years, scheduled the week before Spring Break, as an online process.

"I believe one of the contributing factors to the lower number of voters this year was the lack of a student referendum," said Heidi Doyle, current chair of ASI Elections.

Jeremy Mills ran unopposed and won his position of Vice President of Legislative Affairs with 376 votes. He and Doyle explain that last year there was an Athletic Fee referendum that was on the ballots coinciding with the ASI Elections. The President's office used the opportunity of the ASI Elections and asked that the referendum be placed on the ballot. According to Mills and Doyle, students who did not want a fee increase were more compelled to go online and vote.

Another contributing factor to the lower number of voters may have been the fact that there were more candidates running and campaigning for a position last year than there was this year.

Ashley Dunn ran unopposed, returning for her second term as the Vice President of Finance with 367 votes. Dunn believes the number of voters were low because "students as a whole don't vote." Dunn recently attended CHES (California Higher Education Student Summit) held in

Elections, SEE page 3

Social Activist speaks out about civil rights

BY CHRISTINE VAUGHAN
Pride Staff Writer

Dolores Huerta, social activist and labor leader, addressed social issues pertaining to immigration and civil rights to a packed-house on Tuesday, April 4.

Applause turned to cheers as Huerta began her one-hour speech. Huerta, mother of 11 children, began social activism in the early 1960s, collaborating with key labor leader César Chávez. Huerta discussed how past events are mirroring current policies relating to immigration and civil rights. Emphasizing the need for political activism, Huerta suggested that the immigration reform is being utilized as a distraction from the military occupation in Iraq.

"We need to remind Congress that no terrorist came through

Mexico," argued Huerta. "The only terrorists that have come into the United States have come in through Canada."

"The fight is not over," said Huerta. "For the next month or so, maybe longer, we are going to need to be super diligent."

Huerta explained how with foreign policies and trade agreements small farmers in Mexico are unable to compete with the market in the United States and are being exploited, causing large migration over the border. Highlighting recent visits to Venezuela and Cuba, Huerta argued that the United States could learn a lot from these Central and South American nations in regards to free education, national healthcare system, literacy, and healthy race-relations.

"In our society, we are taught

Activist, SEE page 4



Dolores Huerta speaks to students about social activism.

Photo by Christine Vaughan / The Pride



Cheyenne Barr and Didi Lund perform the symbolic ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Women's Center.

Photo by Christine Vaughan / The Pride

ASI vision made a reality Women's Center celebrates Grand Opening

BY CHRISTINE VAUGHAN
Pride Staff Writer

Associated Students Inc. celebrated the official Grand Opening of the new Women's Center on Tuesday, April 4, applauding the successful foundation of ASI's vision.

The Women's Center was among five goals established by the ASI Board of Directors, including textbooks, campus life, and parking.

We modeled our vision after UCSD's Women's Center, said DiDi Lund, co-founder of the Women's

Center.

Made possible through the Chancellor's Undergraduate Diversity Leadership Institute, the UCSD Women's Center operates with a \$360,000 budget, has four full-time professional staff members, approximately eleven interns, and a large facility, including a resource library, play area for young children, and a private lactation room. When we toured the facility, we were literally drooling, joked Lund.

The current Women's Center Com-

mittee anticipates turning its humble accommodations into comparable quality with UCSD's center.

"Right now, we're focusing on our funding," said Heidi Doyle, member of the Women's Center Committee.

Back in Fall 2005, ASI coordinated a signature petition to evaluate if there was a need for such a center on campus. The results were astonishing for the ambitious group, receiving over 940 signatures.

"It started out with a Women's Center, SEE page 4

Lady Cougars Win! Campus wishes final farewell

BY CHRISTINE VAUGHAN
Pride Staff Writer

The Lady Cougars Dance Team received national recognition for winning first place at the National Dance Alliance Championship, on Saturday, March 25.

The three-day NDA U.S. Championship, hosted at Knott's Berry Farm, showcased the best national talent in a highly competitive environment. The Lady Cougars participated in the open dance division, in the 18 and over category, competing against more than 50 teams.

Routines were judged on a tight scale of 1 to 10, according to Desi Silva, team captain. The Lady Cougars received a score of 7.3, earning the team first place. The Lady Cougars were awarded with a trophy, which is being showcased at the Clarke.

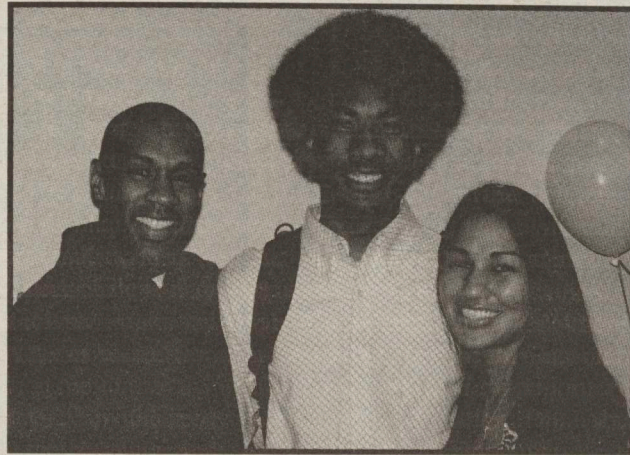
Lady Cougars, SEE page 7

BY CHRISTINE VAUGHAN
Pride Staff Writer

Students, faculty, staff, and alumni shared their final formal farewell to Dean of Students Jonathon Poullard, on Thursday, April 6, after his nearly six-year service and commitment to the students of Cal State San Marcos.

"I want to be famous... and like the Dean, touch one life," said Anthony Blacksher, CSUSM graduate and poet. Blacksher shared samples of his poetry in a tribute to Poullard, attributing much of his inspiration for poetry from the support of Poullard.

Since 2000, Poullard has collaboratively worked to unite campus organizations to



(From left to right) Jonathon Poullard, Anthony Blacksher, and Francine Cepeda say their final farewells.

Photo by Patrick B. Long / The Pride

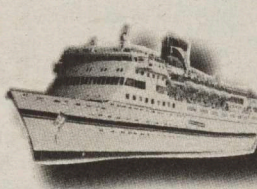
better serve the students. Poullard came from Occidental College in Los Angeles, where he

Farewell, SEE page 3

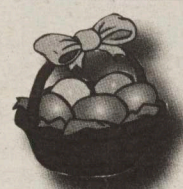
MurderBall
event on
campus
See News
PAGE 4



International
Fair
See Features
PAGE 5



Honeymoon
in the
Caribbean
See Travel
PAGE 9



Easter
Facts
See A & E
PAGE 10

INSIDE



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Get 'well' at the Cougar Sports Night and ASI Luau

BY RACHELL REYES
Pride Staff Writer

As part of Wellness Month, the Clark Field House will present Cougar Sports Night and the ASI Luau on Wednesday, April 12.

"It's a mission to provide hopefully an educational opportunity for students, staff, and faculty over the campus community," said Lisa Bengtson, the Fitness and Wellness coordinator.

The Cougar Sports Night and Luau event, hosted by the University Student Union Advisory Board (USUAB) and ASI, will be the first time that two activities will be presented together at once.

"I always try to collaborate with other campus organizations because I really want cross campus connections," said Liz Sheets, director of Social Programming. "I think that's a really important thing for building a

community on campus."

In addition, students and guests will not have to choose between the two events, they can attend both.

"It'll give students opportunities to see something they may not have been a part of before," said Bengtson.

Cougar Sports Night will be located near the outside courts, and sign-ups for the competitions will begin at 6 p.m. According to Bengtson, three competitions will be a three-point shoot out, golf (closest to the pin), and hopefully, dodge ball.

"We're going to have a variety of sports activities. We are trying to take advantage of the extra hour of sunlight," said Bengtson.

At the same time as Cougar Sports Night, the ASI Luau will be held at the Field House terrace. This will be the third year that ASI has hosted the luau. Attendees will have the opportunity to

embrace the culture of the Pacific Islands and enjoy the food, music and entertainment, according to Bengtson and Sheets. The food is provided by L&L Hawaiian Barbecue, which will include a whole roasted pig.

"We've done a lot of other cultural events that celebrate other cultures," said Sheets. "We want to really highlight this particular culture and give it time in the limelight."

This event is one of many other events that will be promoting Wellness Month.

"This is the time of year in spring where you lose your motivation getting ready for the summer, and there's a lot on our plates," said Bengtson.

Cougar Sports Night will embrace physical wellness, while the luau will be the social aspect of wellness, according to Bengtson.

"It's a really nice blend of food,

fun, and some activities, while becoming more aware of different cultures and appreciating the customs associated [with the Pacific Islands]," added Bengtson.

Students who will attend the event will not only get a chance for a free gas card, but as part of Wellness Month, they will receive \$10 of Fit Bucks.

Fit Bucks is a promotion that will encourage students to participate in several activities including fitness classes and events throughout the month of April. Students can then use the Fit Bucks at an auction (prizes for different equipment and Michael Vick memorabilia) on Tuesday, April 25.

"There are eight different dimensions of wellness. But some of us only attribute working out and eating right," said Bengtson. "But that's only part of how we grow and what healthy is."

Let's play dress up! The ELC Fashion Show

BY LORA PAINTER
Pride Staff Writer

The fourth annual ASI Early Learning Center Spring Fundraiser Fashion Show Dinner will take place on Friday, April 14, at 5 p.m. at the Clarke Field House.

This year's theme is "Let's Play Dress Up."

The children of the Early Learning Center will be modeling the latest in adult fashions, keeping with the theme of "dress up." What makes this year's fashion show different from previous years is that this show will feature cultural dress.

"It's hard to imagine, but it will be cute," said Sonya McIn, administrative assistant for the Early Learning Center. It is an opportunity to see "cute children modeling their parents' latest styles."

Not only will attendants see fun

fashions modeled by ELC children, guests will also enjoy dinner and have opportunities to participate in prize drawings.

Tickets are \$10 each, which includes dinner and the show. Proceeds from ticket sales will go directly to the ELC to help pay for new classroom equipment, computers, playground equipment, and other needed supplies. The ELC conducts two fundraisers each year and "Let's Play Dress Up" is this year's spring fundraiser.

All CSUSM students and staff are welcome to attend, especially parents, family and friends of the children in the ELC. The ASI Board, ASI staff and other CSUSM staff will also be attending. As many as 150 people are expected to participate in this year's fashion show fundraiser, according to McIn.

"We have many student parents

here [at CSUSM]," said McIn on the significance of this event for CSUSM students. "This event is just something fun and relaxing, it's worth the \$10."

According to the ELC website, the "ASI Early Learning Center provides a warm, nurturing environment, which promotes self-esteem and creativity as well as social, emotional and cognitive, and physical growth through hands on experience."

Established in 1999, the Early Learning Center is located off campus at 233 S. Twin Oaks Valley Road. It is licensed to accommodate

48 children, ages two to five years old. It provides child care needs for CSUSM students and faculty, as well as local community members.

For more information on the fashion show, contact Sonya at 760/750-4999.



Photo courtesy of ELC

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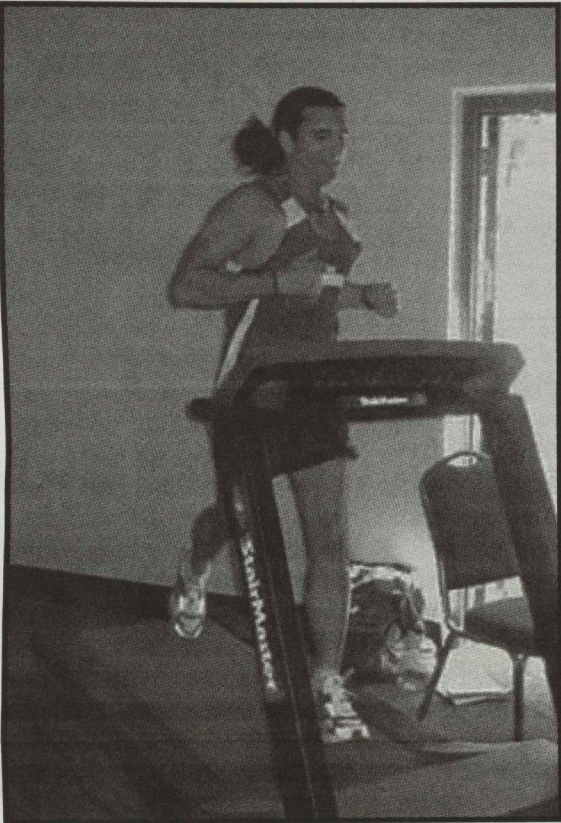
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The Road to Wellness leads to a better life

BY PIYAMAS SABLAN
Pride Staff Writer

The annual Road to Wellness Fair will take place on April 19, from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., at the M. Gordon Clarke Field House/University Student Union. The event is sponsored by the University Student Union Advisory Board with participation from campus organizations including ASI, Student Health and Counseling Services, the Human Development Club, and the Kinesiology Department,



File photo / The Pride

said Lisa Bengtson, fitness and wellness coordinator.

“The purpose of the Road to Wellness Fair and Wellness Month at the Clarke Field House/Student Union is to help promote positive well-being through participation in the eight dimensions of Wellness among the students, faculty, and staff on our campus. The dimensions of Wellness are: physical, emotional, spiritual, intellectual, occupational, cultural, environmental, and social,” said Bengtson.

Some community partners will be at the event including MADD San Diego, Panera bread, Project Athlete, InnovativeBody Science, and Chipotle, added Bengtson. Free food, beverages, and health and wellness information will be provided at the fair. The fair

is open to the public and is free for all students, staff and faculty, said Bengtson. Attendees can participate in the Road to Wellness Passport Challenge to learn about the eight different areas of wellness and to be entered in the USUAB Opportunity Drawing and earn a CFH/USU digital pedometer. According to Bengtson, Opportunity Drawing prizes will be available, including food gift certificates, spa packs, healthy food gift baskets, and fitness evaluation certificates. Some wellness presentations and demonstrations will take place at the fair.

Sergeant Dan Koehler and the University Police will provide information and demonstrate a few safety techniques from their Rape Abuse Defense training programs from 12:30 p.m. to 1:00 p.m., said Bengtson. Holly Malan, of the City of San Marcos Trails Committee, will present information about the local hiking and biking trails

around campus from 1:15 p.m. to 1:45 p.m., and Alicia Walder, M.A., Pilates instructor and personal trainer, will teach a Pilates and Functional Fitness demo class to promote interest in ASI leisure class opportunities for the Fall 2006 semester from 2:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

“With the continued growth of our campus community and increased knowledge of the importance of health and wellness, I expect a great turnout for our upcoming Wellness Fair,” said Bengtson. “I hope students, staff, and faculty will take advantage of the opportunity to learn and appreciate a great variety of community and campus resources, as well as enjoy free food, giveaways, wellness presentations, and have a fun, information-filled experience.”



Aamara Ysrael (far right) with her campaign team, before being elected Vice President of Communications.

Photo courtesy of Aamara Ysrael

From Elections, page 1

Sacramento, Calif. She learned that the age group of 18-25 is the lowest voting range. Dunn believes this applies to voting on any level, whether it is voting for school elections or voting on a national level. An interesting fact Dunn learned is that there are an estimated 490,000 students in the CSU school systems.

“We have a lot of power that we are not aware of. If all 490,000 students got together and voted one way on a particular issue, imagine what that can do,” said Dunn.

“I always vote,” said Logan Goolsby, a senior Psychology student. Goolsby was one of the 578 voters that actually took the time to log online to cast their votes. “I don’t think most students are interested in campus activities because most come to campus, go to class and then leave. It’s a question of priorities,” said Goolsby.

In order to ensure a higher voter count for next year, Heidi Doyle is preparing to bring the issue of lower-voter turnout to the ASI Board and ask that the bylaws be changed. Currently, the bylaw states that ASI must post an advertisement about the ASI Elections in The Pride, along with 3 designated locations on campus two weeks before the election date. Instead of advertising just two weeks before the actual elections date, Doyle

would like to have, in addition to that, notices posted 2 weeks before applications are even available.

Doyle had scheduled two speak-outs this year, versus only one that was held last year. After the first speak out this year, the number of voters went up tremendously. “At the beginning of the week, there was about 200 votes, after the speak-outs that were held on Wednesday and Thursday, the votes increased to the 578 that we have now,” said Doyle.

Tamira Jubber, a freshmen who ran unopposed and won the position of Director of Recruitment & Student Mobilization, would like to see promotion on the actual Cal State San Marcos webpage. “I want a huge link on the site,” said Jubber. “Many students go onto the school’s website daily to log into their e-mail accounts; it would just make more sense to have a link to the voting on there.” This will be the task that Jubber will have to tackle next year in her new position.

Mills hopes that next year’s University Hour will increase student life and activities. University Hour is a two year pilot program where between the hours of noon and 1:00 p.m. there will be no classes scheduled. This allotted time will be reserved for scheduled activities, programs, events, and pos-

sibly more office hours with professors.

Aamara Ysrael was one of the few candidates running with an opponent; she won her position of Vice President of Communications with 303 votes. Ysrael’s pink themed campaign was seen all over campus. “I chose not to make my campaigning look political; instead, everything was pink. Pink is my favorite color and I wanted people to see what I had in common with them through my campaigning before judging me if they were to see a red, white and blue political flyer or poster,” explained Ysrael.

Ysrael believes that there is always room for suggestions. She hope that more students will be involved and run for positions for the 2007 ASI Elections. “When there are more students running, it pressures candidates to work harder against their opponents and in grabbing the attentions of students,” said Ysrael.

Dunn’s solution to obtaining a higher voter count next year is to educate students on the importance of voting. “ASI Elections is not a popularity contest. We are all here to serve you, the students. Our offices are open for you; we work for you!” said Dunn. Every student has a complaint, yet it is ironic that not every student took the initiative to do something about that complaint, said Dunn.

From Farewell, page 1

served as Associate Dean of Students for six years, as well. His efforts have forged stronger bonds of communication with the Student Affairs office, the Student Life and Leadership office, the Residential Advisors, and the ASI student offices. But in just three days, Poullard will leave Cal State San Marcos for UC Berkeley, where he has accepted the position of Dean of Students.

“I have watched talented people leave our campus,” said President Karen Haynes. “I wish to thank Jonathon for his continual advocacy for students, his clarity and intelligence, his honesty of views which are always expressed and for exhibiting the ‘University First’ vision. We congratulate him and thank him for

his service to Cal State San Marcos.”

During the Farewell Ceremony held at the Clarke Field House, many administrators, staff, and students shared their praise, and loss, of Poullard as an influential entity on the campus.

“We have sincere appreciation for all that [Jonathon Poullard] has done,” said Tom Bennett, on behalf of Academic Affairs. “[His] footprints are everywhere on this campus, so truly, [he] is never really leaving here.”

Yet, a common theme was expressed by many speakers during the controlled-mic farewells. Jonathon was more than just an employee of Cal State San Marcos; he was a friend, a colleague, and a very spirited man.

“Jonathon is an amazing person, and a

great hugger,” said Marti Gray. “He is one of the most open-minded, broadly opinionated person I’ve ever met, and that’s a positive quality.”

“He has never slowed down,” said Susan Mitchell. “Above all, we’re going to miss [his] compassion for the students. Jonathon’s energy is infectious.”

“When [he’s] had his fun at the UC, maybe [he’ll] turn to the CSU,” said Matthew Ceppi, director of strategic planning.

Despite the sad undertones of the ceremony, Poullard’s tearful goodbye expressed the hope that Cal State San Marcos has more greatness in its future, and that through the students, the campus could achieve any greatness.

“We have always agreed that energy

should reside where the students reside,” said Poullard about the energy and spirit of the Vice President of Student Affairs office. “I am one person who has hopefully made some good contributions, but so are all of you. Silence is complacency, and I am many things, but not complacent. I urge for everyone to collaboratively raise their voices.”

Poullard’s career move will enable him to simultaneously earn his Ph.D. from UC Berkeley while working. Poullard leaves Cal State San Marcos with a deep impression on the institution, and advice that he hopes will resonate for generations of Cougars.

“I have always loved my job,” said Poullard. “And I have always put the students first, even above the institution.”

'Murderball': High-impact sport defies media stereotypes

BY CHRISTINE VAUGHAN
Pride Staff Writer

Murderball, the independent film featuring the intense wheelchair rugby, will be screened on Thursday, April 13, offering students and staff a unique and free opportunity to gain insight about the sport and its athletes.

"Murderball is the original name for the wheelchair/quad rugby," said Kelli Turpin, CSUSM student and volunteer for wheelchair sporting events. "Think of the roughest game you've ever seen played, amp up the speed, and toss it onto the basketball court."

The film screening will commence at 4 p.m. in the Grand Salon at the Clarke Field House, followed by a panel discussion about the game and the players. A former competitor in the 2000 Paralympics, and Cal State San Marcos alumni, will participate in the panel, offering first-hand experience about the intense sport.

Murderball, the sport, originated in Canada in 1979 and was introduced in the United States two years later. Sometimes referred to as Wheelchair Rugby, there are currently over 30 national teams in the US, with more than 400 active players. Murderball is among the

sports played in the Paralympics, and it is played professionally in 19 different countries. Eligibility depends on a combination of upper and lower extremity impairment; however, most participants have some level of quadriplegia.

Utilizing a basketball court layout, the teams pass a volleyball among four court players attempting to advance the ball over the marked goal-line. The sport combines elements from various sports, primarily rugby, with specific regulations on impairment classification. Murderball is not discriminatory about age or gender: men and women, as well

as teens to older adults, are eligible to play.

Turpin explained how media often portrays quadriplegics as fragile, or incapable of participating in such a dangerous, high-energy game.

"After I started volunteering with wheelchair sports, I realized exactly how far off movies usually are," said Turpin. "Since Murderball (the independent film) came out last year, and it only played in independent theaters, not many people had the opportunity to see it. The connection was fresh in my mind. I suggested doing a screening and hosting a panel discussion

because Murderball is so completely different from anything else out there about Spinal Cord Injuries (SCI). I know that quads are far from fragile, but with the movie, everyone else does too."

With the aid of a co-curricular grant, the Literature and Writing Department proudly sponsors the screening of Murderball. The event is free to the public, and free food will be served.

"It's a great movie with serious action and competitive athletes," said Turpin. "It's about regular guys busting their butts to be the best in the world at what they do."

From Activist, page 1

that we need to go to college, why, to get a degree, for what, to make money," said Huerta. "Forget that. We need to do like César Chávez said; we need to go to school to get a degree to help other people. And don't ever, ever think that just because you got that diploma, that you somehow know more than the person sweeping this building or picking the food out there. Because people out there just didn't have the opportunity to be able to go to college, but that doesn't

mean they don't have any intelligence."

Huerta's speech dabbled in all prevalent social issues, challenging racism and homophobia, promoting gender equality and economic fairness, and discussed the struggle of the new civil rights movement.

Welcome to the new civil rights movement," exclaimed Huerta. "This will be a movement against racism and for economic rights. We need our money and our tax dollars to come back to us. Our schools are the soul of

our nation, and when you have an education, your voice gets louder, not softer! We do have power, but we just need to exercise it and learn how to use it."

In order to make changes, Huerta believes in active democracy and encouraging civil duties of voting, protesting, and lobbying the government.

"About 50 percent of people are not voting. We've got to make it a top priority to go out and get voters to vote," said Huerta. "Imagine if we got the other 50 percent out to vote, then

we could change what's happening in Washington and change what's happening in Sacramento. But change isn't going to happen unless we do it. We need democracy in action."

The rain did not deter over 200 people from gathering in Arts 240 on Tuesday to listen to Huerta speak on behalf of migrant workers, constitutional rights, and social priorities. In fact, many people were turned away from the auditorium. But those who were able to find a seat were inspired by Huerta.

"I came to see her speak because she's a highly respected woman-activist in the Latin community," said Gaby Ruiz, senior Communication and Spanish student. "I also came because I wanted to learn more information about the movement."

But the movement will not be easy, according to Huerta. "The movement has cost a lot of sacrifice, but all changes come from the bottom. Tonight, we are making history, and you are making history by being here."

From Women's Center, page 1

dream, then it quickly became a vision. Then it became a group of students that all shared the same vision," said Marc DeGuzman, president of ASI.

"I am proud that these students made their dreams a reality. Through vision, commitment, and collaboration, lots of change and lots of dreams can become a reality," said President Karen Haynes.

The vision of the Women's Center was shared by committee founders, Leah Avalez, Cheyenne Barr, Heidi Doyle, Sara Leonard, Lissa Lim, DiDi Lund, Sara Mead, and Lori Walkington.

"I am proud of the complete support that we found in creating the Women's Center," said Cheyenne Barr, co-founder of the Women's Center. "We received support from every angle possible."

The Women's Center was established to educate, advocate, and empower women and men by offering programming and a safe environment, according to the center's mission statement. The focus of the center is to improve conversations and relationships between various gender, ethnic, and sexual orientation groups on campus,

increase awareness on issues that primarily affect women on campus, pursue equity for all women through support, programming, advocacy, and discussion, provide resources for women's intellectual, professional, and personal success, and serve as a liaison for students to existing campus services.

"The Women's Center is for anyone and everyone," said Barr. "We want to make sure that people bring all of their cultures to the table. In that, this center is not just for women. It is for women and men, and all genders, and all sexual orientations and all sexual identities; all people can find amazing information here and can feel safe here."

The Women's Center has posted their new hours of Monday 10-1; Tuesday 10-2 and 3-5; Wednesday 10-5; Thursday 11-2 and 3-5, and Friday 1-3.

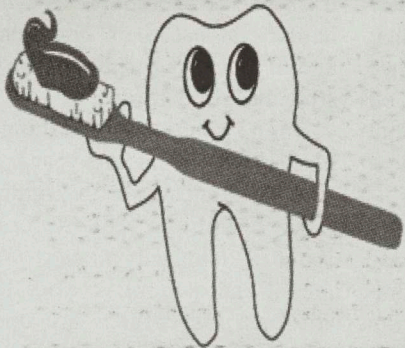
"Just as this new campus grows with each student that comes in and makes a difference, this center will change and mold to whomever comes in and says something. If someone says something is missing, we will listen to them, and we will bring it in. So, the students have complete power; this is a new center, and we invite all people from all situations to come and be a part of this dream."

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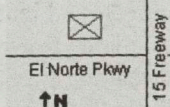
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International Fair: food and dance unites cultures

BY PIYAMAS SABLON
Pride Staff Writer

There couldn't have been a better time for the fourth annual International Fair than on the bright beautiful Spring day that it did. Organized by the University Global Affair Committee, CSUSM was privy to a major cultural awakening.

With about fourteen different booths sprawled around University Hall Plaza, students couldn't help but be in the mix of Thursday's International Fair. According to Danielle McMartin, the International Student Advisor, ten student organizations were represented and another six department and campus groups set up tables for representation. Clubs, such as Persian, Japanese, Chinese, Indian, Priority, Ecuadorian, and German clubs, as well as SGI, EIE, APSS, International Programs, and The Global Connection represented themselves to the students at CSUSM. International Flags loaned from the United Nations of San Diego lined the stairs ascending from the first floor of University Hall to the second as well as on the stairs leading to the Mezzanine area. There were activities like karaoke, trivia games and fear-factoresque eating games.

Taliah Chatterfield said of the fair, "I really enjoyed the Karaoke by the Filipino group, it was a lot of fun." Naturally there was plenty of free food, a favorite way for many to "immerse" themselves in culture. At least three tables had food for students. Global Connections supplied orange chicken and cold pasta, the German Club had Polish hot dogs, APSS had salad and chicken over rice, and other booths had cultural snacks.

Large crowds of students visited each booth or stopped to watch the many activities and dances taking place at the makeshift wood stage, curious about this event that only happens in the Spring semester.

"This event is important for several reasons," McMartin said, "it brings the campus together to share time together and appreci-

ate where we come from and to learn from each other about our cultural differences. Another big reason I think this Fair is successful is that our campus puts this Fair on. I mean, most of the performers are from this campus and our campus community gets out and supports each other. We are a small enough campus to recognize a dancer or a singer and we hang out and support each other."

Indeed, there did seem to be an extra buzz of excitement as students performed, while their friends cheered them on from the sidelines.

One woman single handedly entertained the whole crowd with her Irish dancing. Later she took some audience members up on stage to learn a few moves. A performance the crowd seemed to really enjoy was the Afro-Cuban Salsa dancing. There were six people involved in the dance, coupled up and dressed in black and white. In contrast to the lack of color in the Salsa performance, the Indian dancers had enough colors to shame a rainbow. The eight girls wore gold veils and dressed in vibrant colored fuchsias, blues, and multi-colored folk dresses as they formed a circle and spread their arms on the makeshift stage.

Machelle Jordan, a student in the Indian dance class, said, "A lot [of the dance] is up for interpretation depending on where they're performing. The music is about worshipping god and the focus is on the facial and hand gestures because they tell a story."

The Ecuadorian dancers also paid attention to color, wearing black and brown long skirts, white shirts and shoes and a fuchsia flower on the right side of their heads. Close runners up in color richness were the contestants in the origami fashion show. The APSS club put on the fashion show, which consisted of students in bright colored paper shaped to appear as a kimono with detailed origami on the backside.

Student Anne Skidmore exclaimed, "It's really cool how diverse the cultures were represented and how many student

organizations were involved. It also was exciting how many people from the crowd got involved and dressed up culturally. I can't wait to go again next year."

Along with the intricate apparel accompanying the events, the booth settings were equally brilliant. The Persian booth was headed by the Persian club President Tannaz Safavi who wore a teal with gold dress that's sometimes worn in Bojnourd, a city in Southern Iran. The booth she set up was displaying The Haft Seen- which means the Persian New Year's setting. She explained the articles on the table, especially pointing out the seven elements that all begin with 's' which are associated with the Persian New Year. Many golden and symbolic edibles (not meant to be eaten) were present on the table.

The Indian booth was just as decorated, displaying a book on India, holy artifacts, along with Chakri (a spicy snack) and Soapapdi (a sweet dessert from Northern India) on the table. Representatives from the Chinese table wore traditional garb, men wearing "maguas" and women in "qipaos," and handed out lucky coins and birthday fortunes.

A student who identified herself as Ciara, commented on how



Traditional dancers entertain cultural organizations and passers by.

Photo by Jenny Nguyen/The Pride

nice it was to see "students, faculty and staff not only enjoying the various cultures but seeming to have the eagerness to learn about each one as well; I only

wish we could see that reaction more often. We shouldn't have to wait until the International Fair for people to be curious and understanding of other cultures."



Photo by Kayonni Williams / The Pride

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Visual Performing Arts Play the Fool

BY SUMMER CONNERY
Pride Staff Writer

'Entertaining' is not typically the word of choice when it comes to a college senior's final project. It has been called daunting, scary, and horrific, maybe, but not enjoyable by any means. Yet, when you combine three extremely talented performing artists, and an unexpected script, it can be just that.

"Fool for Love," written by Sam Shepard, is the capstone performance for Krystene Zehnder, Russ Ferguson, and Wig. Directed and produced by Russ and Wig, this three-person show presents the culmination of their hard work and education at San Marcos.

The group read through about six plays before choosing this particular script. When asked

why they chose this script over any other, Russ said, "We just kept coming back to this one. We were drawn to the idea of being trapped within your own personal, mental state."

"I kind of liked it because the subject matter is typically very taboo and offensive," added Wig, "but the way it is presented is not raunchy." As described by the artists, "Fool for Love," is the same love story: girl leaves boy, boy finds girl, and the love and hate saga unfolds, but with a few very unexpected twists and turns.

Along with a controversial story, there are also characters strong enough to stand up to such a script. "Mae is a very full character," stated Krystene, when asked about what drove her character. "Mae knows who she is, but at the same time she cannot get away from her love

for Eddie." Her largely emotional role gave her the opportunity to go against the grain of the stereotypical weak female role.

Russ Ferguson explains his character Eddie as "Your typical jerk, but there is something likable about him. He is just a typical man that wants to get what he wants."

Proving that motivation can come from just about anywhere, Wig says that "the inspiration for me was the teal shirt."

A quaint set, sparsely decorated with a table, two chairs, and a bed, allowed the actors' work to shine through without distraction. The entire story takes place during one night in a dingy desert motel room. While the scenery may not change, there is a constant charge of emotion exchanged between the actors and the audience.

In order to set their capstone apart from any other performance, the group decided to include a very special technological aspect to the show. "We had been toying with the idea of doing something multi-media before even electing a play," said the trio, who were enthusiastically supportive of their interactive choice.

When asked about their experiences in the CSUSM VPA program, the Performing Arts majors looked back upon their education with gratitude. They appreciated the fact that the instructors at San Marcos knew students' strengths and know your weaknesses. They loved the program and felt that the intimate setting and supportive staff set it apart from many other large campuses. By watching the performance these friends brought together through the pro-

gram, one could truly get a sense of the value they've placed on their education.

When asked why the students at Cal State San Marcos would be interested in coming to the student-directed show, Ferguson explained, "It's an intense play that explores many different subjects that people are usually too afraid to discuss."

Showing support to your fellow students, especially when it comes to the recognition of their achievements here at CSUSM, can not only boost student moral, but also provide an otherwise unexplored cultural experience.

The final showings of "Fool For Love" will be taking place in Arts 101 at 8pm. The cost is only \$10 for general entry, and \$5 for students. For more information please contact Russ at fergu014@csusm.edu.

Is wealthumbmen.com your lucky date?

BY KAYONNI WILLIAMS
Pride Staff Writer

Ladies, have you ever thought about finding a mate? What qualities must he possess? Tall, dark and handsome, that's always nice, but what about his financial stability?

It is widely believed that many women would love to have a rich man, and in an age of internet dating, one website claims to have an answer for all

these supposed 'gold-diggers'. Wealthumbmen.com is supposed to be a site where women can find "professional men making \$100k+ a year" and where men can "celebrate their success". The site claims to have "profiles of real men who have excelled greatly in their life, but are still seeking a partner to share their experiences with." All women can set up a free profile, but "only a select few men can join, as each of our members are verified by a salary approval process."

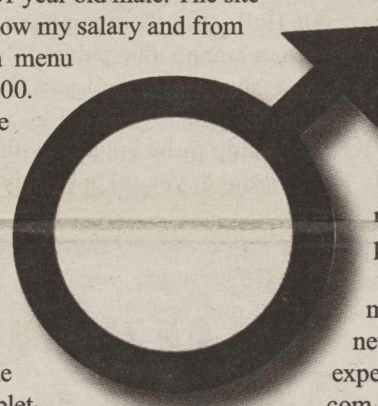
To see if this was the real deal or if they were just blowing smoke, I decided to experiment with the site. Through this

mini-experiment, I found the site to be making untrue claims. First off, I, a female, signed up as a 31 year old male. The site requested to know my salary and from the drop down menu I chose \$100,000.

Contrary to the site's claim, the salary was not verified. In my profile I put that I was a lawyer living in La Jolla. The day after completing my profile I had

requests from three female screen names, each one claiming what they could do for me, as well as asking for a visual image of me. I wanted to send each of them a message reading, "Haha fooled you! Beauty fades, dumb is forever," but that would have been mean, as well as ruin the "high caliber online dating experience" that wealthumbmen.com is supposed to offer.

This does not prove that wealthy men don't exist on the site, just that you never know what you're going to get. The experiment was not to bash wealthumbmen.com, but to remind everyone that you can't believe everything you see on the internet.



Sarakasi African acrobats thrill a full house

BY LISA LANDERS
Pride Staff Writer

Sarakasi, an authentic African circus, arrived at the CSUSM campus on Wednesday, April 5. The high energy show was scheduled to begin in the ARTS Building in room 111 at 6 pm, however, there was a delay in getting the show started, due to the large turnout. Program Coordinator David Ortiz said that for these types of performances they would like to see an auditorium that could accommodate at least 500 people. Currently, the ARTS Building holds about 140 seats. To accommodate the anticipated overcrowding, additional fold out chairs were brought in and placed around the borders of the actual stage. Many joked that they were going to become a part of the actual act due to being seated so closely to the stage. In addition, patrons were asked to double up if they had small children who could easily sit on a lap. Even though the amount of people who attended the show happened to be larger than seats available, the crowd was still eager to see the performance. When talking to married couple Alan and Mar-

garet Dolit, their enthusiasm was obvious. "We are excited to see tonight's performance because we went to last month's showing of Middle Eastern Music and we loved it." Asked how they found out about tonight's performance, they said, "We saw the write up in North County Times and it looked interesting." Margaret Dolit was quick to add, "We also liked the price." The price, in this case, was free and the show was open to anyone, even those with no connection to CSUSM. The turnout reflected this, bringing families, students, senior citizens, and everything in between.

The show featured seven men originally from Africa who could perform acrobatics, fast pyramids, limbo, tumbling, contortion, ring jumping, double rope skipping and chair balancing. The hour long act was accompanied by authentic African beats and whistles, yells and claps by the men. One act involved chair balancing and was a particular crowd favorite. Ever so slowly, the performer called "Little Monkey" built up anticipation by compiling eight wooden chairs towards the ceiling while doing handstands on top of each

chair. As he went up, he crossed his heart and mimicked praying to engage the crowd, while doing this death-defying balancing act. When he reached the top the crowd became breathless, their eyes huge with fear. This was just one stunt that seemed impossible. Indeed, the high energy of the performers, whether engaging in an intense stunt, or clapping to synchronized dance moves, kept the audience transfixed.

At the end of the performance, the audience was invited to question any of the performers, whose ages ranged from 22 to 31. Attendees soon learned that the men had been working together for seven years now, practiced

about five hours a day, and ate only one meal a day to produce such a performance. With regards to Africa, they cited forest animals as inspiration. Furthermore, this is their first time at CSUSM and their first time in San Diego County. They tour all over America and have been to

Washington, New York, Boston, Canada and were headed to Los Angeles for a competition this Saturday. They all grew up as neighbors in the same village, but referred to themselves as brothers. A standing ovation closed the performance, and Sarakasi deserved nothing less.

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Jock Talk With Josh

BY JOSH SANDOVAL
Special to The Pride



Some things are just unexplainable. For example, why does 50 cent still rap about having it rough, and why do people think Dane Cook is funny?

There is not much I would rather do less than discuss Barry Bonds, but for some reason I bought the book, "Game of Shadows" by Mark Fainaru-Wada and Lance Williams. I also watched the premier episode of "Bonds on Bonds" on ESPN, and attended the Giants versus Padres game on April 5. It might be because I like to stay informed about things and people that I despise so I can say why they are idiots. That's probably the same reason why some of you read this.

Imagine what its like right now to be Barry Lamar Bonds. He goes to work and 40,000 fans boo him. He goes to the grocery store and the girl scouts selling cookies mockingly pretend to give each other shots. He passes by an old person's home and the residents offer to sell him their pills.

I couldn't believe the atmosphere when I went to the Giants versus Padres game. There was a ton of Giants fans in attendance and every single one was in support of Bonds. I don't know how you can condone his

attitude, even if he is the best player on your team. The thing that bugs me most about sports is that they are not even reality anymore. Name another profession where you are allowed to perform whenever you want, show up whenever you want, criticize your boss, yell at your co-workers without punishment, get paid 20 million and get cheered by your hometown.

Bonds has won seven MVP awards, but one award he deserves is for the person who just doesn't get it. This guy makes Bill O'Reilly look like a reasonable person. Bonds is like most people in this world, he is a walking contradiction. He says and does different things when it suits his particular situation at the time. He wants the press to leave him alone, yet he is doing his own reality show. He wants his peers to recognize him as the best ball player ever, yet he treats everyone around him like crap. He is the first one in line at the bank to cash his 20 million, yet he says he isn't playing for the money. Apparently that's not enough money to knock some common sense or reality into him.

If you are a professional athlete, common sense should tell you that if you inject yourself with steroids made for cattle, and overnight go from looking like Urkel to the Incredible Hulk, then there might be a small uproar among the public. Common sense should also tell you that your problems aren't going to go away by continuing to be volatile with everyone around you. Apparently, when

you're on steroids your common sense is the second thing to shrink, right after your testicles.

With all that said, I could care less if Bonds used steroids, because he isn't hurting me by using them. Also, cheating and performance enhancing has always been a part of sports. I am not saying that I condone the use of illegal performance enhancers. I am just saying that you shouldn't condemn this generation, because cheating has always been a part of sports. The older generation is always telling me about how baseball players in their generation were better than players from this generation because they didn't cheat. I always tell these old guys that they have lost their memory, because cheating was a part of the game back then, too. Ball players in the early 1900's would take greenies for a boost right before a game. They would also use the spitball, as well as sand paper and glue on the ball. Performance enhancing can even be traced to 776 B.C. according to "Game of Shadows", where it's stated that the Greeks ate sheep testicles because they thought it spiked testosterone levels. Human Growth Hormone (HGH) and anabolic steroids are just a whole new level of cheating.

Either way, I am still going to enjoy chanting HGH! HGH! while Giants fans cheer MVP! MVP!

Comments can be sent to Sando026@csusm.edu.

From Lady Cougars, page 1

"Our routine had to be 2 minutes long, and we were judged based on our technique, use of the stage, formations, character and overall performance," said Silva.

Seven of the nine team members participated in the competition; however, the entire team had been working diligently for six months to perfect the routine.

"All 9 of us had put a lot of time, commitment, and hard work into the routine which we learned in October over an intensive weekend dance camp," explained Silva. "All of us are very excited about our results. The goal for this team was to represent CSUSM in the best way possible and raise school spirit on campus. We also hope to get the word out that CSUSM has awesome club sports and teams."

The Lady Cougars will be performing their routine at ASI's Crash Awards Night on April 26, in addition to a new performance.

"Congratulations Lady Cougars: Courtney Beck, Rachel Gold, Bridget Henwood, Stephanie Kolb, Amanda Kuboyama, Kristen Peterson, Aliesha Walencikowski, and Stefanie Williams," said Silva. "I am very proud of each of you."



Photo courtesy of the Lady Cougars

The Lady Cougars Dance Team. Back Row: Stefanie Williams, Amanda Kuboyama, Desiree Silva, Kristen Peterson. Front Row: Stephanie Kolb, Courtney Beck, Rachel Gold. (Not Pictured: Bridget Henwood, Aliesha Walencikowski)

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Letter to the Editor: So what is marriage anyway?

Dave and Cathy had been engaged for 3 months and they decided it was high time to begin the arduous task of planning their wedding. Dave's parents initially objected to a non-Jewish bride for their son; however they reluctantly agreed to give their blessing provided that the couple was given a traditional Jewish wedding. Cathy's Parents on the other hand, had other plans! As devout Catholics, Cathy and her parents view marriage as one of the sacraments of the church. Not surprisingly, they wanted the ceremony to be performed at St. Michaels. (The church where Cathy's parents were wed) Arguments ensued as both sides fought over how they wanted this wedding to be carried out. They fought over everything from location, to music and food. In fact, the only thing they agreed upon was that the marriage was to be legalized at the county courthouse (since it was close to where Dave lived).

In this example, what is really being debated is the "ceremonial" aspect of marriage, while the legal aspect is pretty much a non-issue. Many people defend their view of how a wedding should be held with such passion because a wedding ceremony is based on cultural and religious traditions; two very personal subjects. Due to the cultural and religious diversity in the United States it is no surprise then that heated wedding debates often arise. How-

ever, the inherent legal aspects of marriage are not typically questioned. The average couple who decides to "get married" will have the ceremony however they see fit and then register with the state to legalize the marriage with all benefits and responsibilities that a marriage will include. It is possible to be legally married without a ceremony (think Vegas). Similarly, it is possible to have a million dollar wedding ceremony and not be legally registered if the paperwork has not yet been completed. What I would like to impress upon the reader is that "ceremonial marriage" and "civil marriage" are distinct. Think of one as a "union of the heart" and the other as a "union of the wallet".

What many people take for granted is that there are a lot of implied marriage rights; rights that married couples have, rights that a single person may not have. For example: joint adoption rights, military pay structure, hospital visitation rights, citizenship, joint taxation, inheritance rights, legal title to a home, privacy rights, insurance rights . . . just to name a few. The list goes on and on. These things all occur "automatically" as a result of a "civil marriage". We as a species tend to have monogamous relationships and the civil institution of marriage accommodates for that behavior. Since couples who live together will share income,

childrearing responsibilities, and ownership to their home and such, it makes perfect sense that we create a system that streamlines the legal implications of this "joint-lifestyle". If couples had to register jointly for each individual right that marriage currently gives it would be a needless bureaucratic nightmare. So rather than have each couple apply independently for the same 4000 or so rights, we roll it all into a package deal that we call "marriage".

The bureaucratic "nightmare" described above is exactly what gay couples have to face when applying for "joint-lifestyle" rights. Since legal marriage does not currently allow gay men and women to wed they must apply for each right separately, and some rights are flat out denied. Civil unions and domestic partnerships attempt to resolve this disparity, but these legal contracts fall painfully short of marriage. To further compound the problem, each state has different domestic partnership, civil union standards, so a Californian domestic partnership may not be honored equally in Texas. When gays say they want marriage equality, what they are saying is that they want to have the same 4000+ rights available to them that heterosexual couples currently have. They want to have a federally supported legal system that recognizes their families as equal to heterosexual families.

Gays can legally hold ceremonies celebrating their love and commitment for each other, but none of these ceremonies are recognized by the state, even if performed by a clergy member.

Religious freedom is one of the things that make America such a wonderful nation. It has been part of our society since its inception. This freedom has allowed many people of differing faiths to live together under one government. This freedom is also supported by the concept of separation of church and state; meaning that the government will not (and should not) federally endorse one religion over another. Currently there are many religions that condemn homosexual relationships, however there are also many that accept and support homosexual relationships. The government has no place denying civil liberties and rights based on a religious belief that homosexuality is wrong. To do so is a violation of church and state. If the government is to give truly equal rights to all its citizens, this must include the rights of gays and lesbians to marry the person of their choice, regardless of gender. This does not mean that people must abandon their personal religious convictions and embrace homosexuality themselves. It simply means that people must respect our differences and acknowledge that all members of society are deserving of equal rights regard-

less of gender, faith, or sexual orientation.

Now imagine for a moment that gay "civil marriage" were legal. How radically transformed would the American society truly be? For the heterosexual population really nothing would change. The divorce rate would still be around 50%. The major religions would still have the same attendance. The economy wouldn't really be affected either. Children in existing families would still have the same parents. Also, all the social problems we face will still be present. In fact, the only really noticeable difference would be for the homosexual people that have been in a relationship for years. From their perspective a great freedom that was previously denied would now be legal. Finally they can go down to the county courthouse and register their union with everybody else, with all the joys, pains, and responsibilities that are included. Finally their committed and loving relationship would be equal with other marriages in our country! I believe that both gay and heterosexual people can live together in a nation that recognizes both unions. For gay people in America to truly have equal rights to life, liberty, and happiness, we must be given federally endorsed equal civil marriage rights.

Josh Lovelace

Letter to the Editor: ASI, a disservice to this Campus

I do not appreciate reading in the latest edition of "The Pride" that ASI was among the participating organizations that brought to fruition the mock wedding of several gay couples on campus this past Monday. While it has always been quite apparent that the inclinations of Associated Students, Inc. has been rather liberal, following the yen of more democratic among us, I think it safe to say that it was assumed that, being a representative governing body designed to equip the campus for the betterment of "all" students, engaging in political events that are clearly polarizing and partisan would be at all costs avoided.

Instead, ASI threw itself into the arms of catastrophe Monday by joining PAN and LGBTA in the public dissolution of the biblical institution of marriage, which has been and must continue to be the sacred and completely sanctioned legal relationship between one woman and one man. While I am sure that the majority of the Cal State San Marcos community was not as distraught over the malefaction attended even by faculty members, I have talked with several rather liberal classmates who, although they agree with the

right of homosexuals to enter into marriage, were rather uncomfortable with ASI's involvement with the matter, thinking it was better left untouched.

I am very concerned about the message this malfeasance sends not only to students on this campus, but to the adjacent community as well. The implications of a "mock" homosexual wedding are enormous, indicating that only the sentiments of opinions of the more liberal of our gentle, college community will be tolerated and supported by the administration (which, however fallacious it may be, is include ASI). Granted, the majority of college students are quite "free-thinking" and "tolerant", but I doubt a demonstration celebrating the sanctity of biblical marriage would have garnished as much—if any—support from the CSUSM administration or ASI. It appears that we as a campus are only concern about the offending of minorities or liberal-minded populations, and swift to censor the voices of the more conservative—however scarce they may be.

Lee Joseph Mitchell

Letter to the Editor: ASI speaks on behalf of Gay Weddings

Let me start with saying that I am the ASI member who took on the Spring Wedding last Monday. I wanted to explain the importance of such an event and its relevance to ASI. One of ASI's core values is diversity, and ASI continues to strive to promote diversity and stand for minority viewpoints to better serve all students at CSUSM. As the Director of Women's Issues of the Programming Board on ASI, I saw a direct correlation of what the Progressive Activists Network and the Lesbian

Gay Bisexual Transgender & Allies organization had to the promotion of women/gender/sexuality issues under my job description and its relevance in the promotion of diversity within ASI's values. We funded the event with the recognition that this event's main purpose was to engage student discussion in this important and controversial issue of same

sex marriage and encourage student voting on the issue in the June election.

Associated Students Inc. leads efforts in organizing students as active members of the campus community. In the ASI vision statement, ASI is "leading a collective effort to build campus life [and believes in the expanding of] opportunities for student engagement and leadership development". And as this Pride issue reveals, there has been stimulated debate over the issue,

and students such as those writing in this article are most definitely engaged. If any students are interested in knowing more about ASI's values, vision statement, would like to know more about the funding of this event or would like to get involved in the programs of ASI as I have, e-mail me at barr022@csusm.edu.

Cheyenne Barr
Student
Director of Women's Issues

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Honeymoon saved by Costa Mediterranea

BY AMANDA KEELEY
Pride Staff Writer

The Star Princess caught fire
and our cruise is



cancelled! What?!

After finishing my last mid-term on March 23, my husband met me with the bad news. I was in shock the whole way home! I was already packed to leave that weekend for our honeymoon in the Caribbean, and now, because someone didn't discard their cigarette properly, our cruise ship and my honeymoon had been ruined ... or so I thought.

As it was spring break most everything was booked, but after staying up all night searching on the internet we finally found a cruise line that had a couple rooms left for more than half off.

The Costa Mediterranea was an Italian ship I had never heard of, but being desperate to salvage our honeymoon, we sent an e-mail to Vacationstogo.com to book the cruise. Phew! Despite the stress of last minute, plan-

ning we were jetting off to spend a romantic week on an Eastern Caribbean cruise.

Though I had nothing to base any expectations on, I was

terrified at what I might find. My fears, however, were washed away the moment we

stepped on board as the staff greeted us with smiles beam-

ing from sleek, white-gloved tuxes.

The ship was extravagantly decorated with gold, mirrors and glass, making everything as shiny and colorful as a royal palace. The ship was such an amaz-

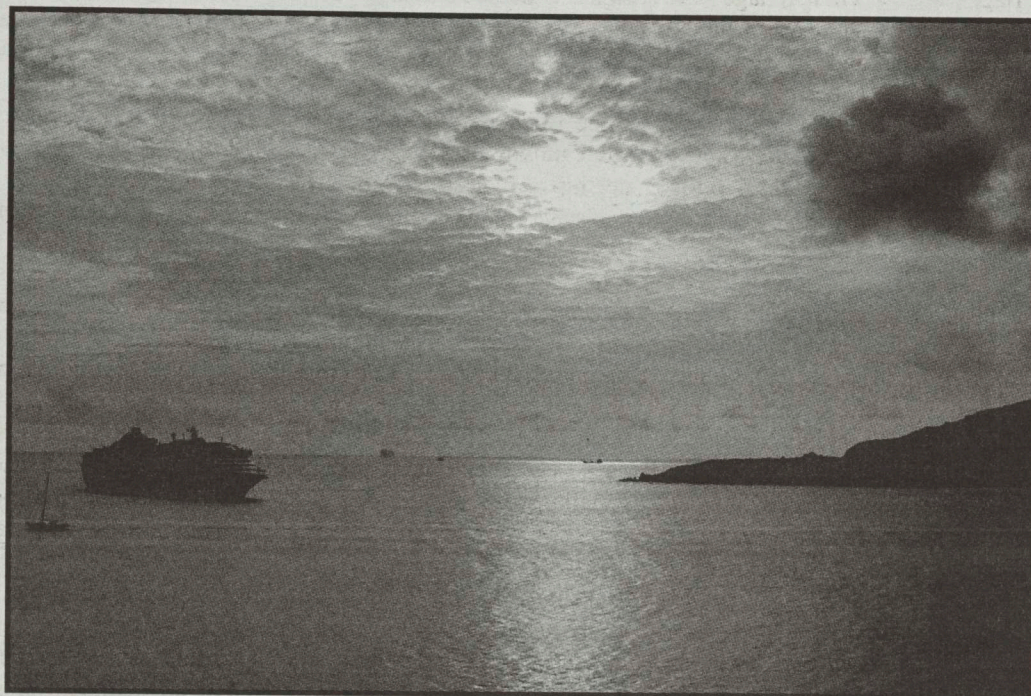
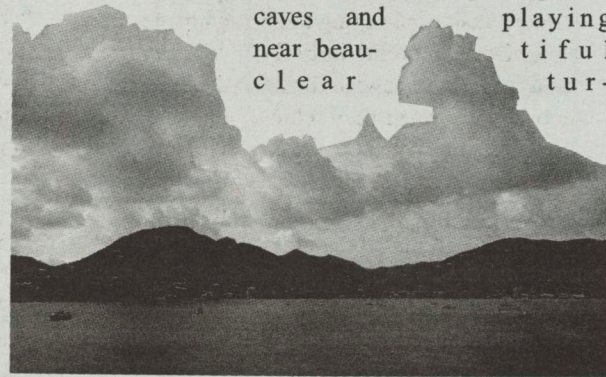
ing destination in itself that I almost forget we still had ports to see. Every night there was an incredible meal, a fun activity or show, and finally, a mid-night buffet, which left everyone feeling delightfully bloated and exhausted.

After two days at sea, we reached our first port, St. Maarten. The hot sticky air made us feel like were instantly somewhere tropical, far, far away. Shopping there was exciting, with exotic items like Guava berry rum and Cuban cigars, and everything was duty free and negotiable. We spent the major-

ity of our time at Orient Beach, which is a clothing optional beach. Even though my husband and I did not participate in the legal nudity, we sure enjoyed sitting back and observing those who did.

The next port we arrived at was Tortola, where we took a

boat ride to the island of Virgin Gorda. We spent the day climbing boulders, exploring the caves and playing near beautiful clear tur-



Photos by Amanda Keeley / The Pride

quoise water, so clear you didn't even need goggles to see the bottom. The shopping there was more expensive than St. Maarten, but Pusser's Rum is a must buy!

Our last port, the Bahamas island of Nassau, was my favorite. There we took a ferry to Paradise Island and spent the day exploring the Atlantis Resort and Casino. It was astonishing, like Las Vegas on a little island. If you're in the market for jewelry then this is the place to shop. The prices are a steal and it's all legit; real jewels, gold and silver.

Before we knew it, we were leaving the ship and on the plane ride home. The Caribbean is a must see and a cruise is the best value. Even though we're back to reality now, the memories will keep us going until our next vacation.

Stranded in the town of Taft: *My time in a boom town gone bust.*

BY DAVID BAUER
Special to The Pride

My first experience with a resident from Taft would provide an accurate prediction for the rest of my stay there. I had been driving up to visit my parents, who were temporarily staying in the town of Taft, when my car broke down. The tow truck operator's name was "Eddie." He was a polite and simple man, and had no bottom teeth. On the thirty mile drive into Taft he excitedly told me about the town's big upcoming event: the demolition derby. He

laid out the town-site and somewhat prophetically named it "Moron." A year later it was renamed "Taft" when the town was incorporated. Built in an oil rich area of California, 40 miles southwest of Bakersfield, it produced millions of barrels of oil in its time. The Lakeview Gusher alone produced 9,000,000 barrels of oil, the largest ever in the world. It was even the setting of the 1986 small town football film "The Best of Times," but the town has clearly seen better times. As the oil production slowed, and the middle class relocated as local companies were bought out, Taft quickly became a boom gone bust.

The downtown area, with two and three story brick façades crumbling, is now a shell of its former self. Years ago the town built a skate park and BMX track for kids to use for free, but now struggles to keep their one theater open. Its award winning schools, which were built

completely by donations and local taxes in the 1930s and 40s, are also beginning to decay badly. The paint has peeled, and boarded windows do not look as if they will be replaced any time soon. The town's junior college is even less fortunate. The same college that had been able to afford a world class football program to win the 1984 national championship is now unable to get enough funds to prevent it from literally sinking into the ground. The oil rich soil was so heavily drilled between

the early 1900s and the mid 1980s that the land under the city is 'dropping' in some areas, giving many of the town's buildings a noticeable tilt.

The evening streets were empty save for a few shuffling figures in tattered clothing, often lurking in the shadows. I first assumed them to be homeless people, but later found that a few Taft residents quite literally wander around the empty streets at all hours of the day and night for lack of anything else to do, giving the town a very Twilight Zone-esque feel. Most of the people of Taft also did not see the need to wear what others would consider "appropriate attire"—that is, clothing that is appropriate to wear outside of the house. It was not uncommon to see otherwise normal looking individuals wearing badly stained and tattered clothing as they went about their business. Then there was the issue of their teeth. Methamphetamines are extremely popular in Kern County, where Taft is located. This has lead to many

residents suffering from so called "meth mouth" (indicated by rotting brown and black stubs where teeth once were). Perhaps, seeing the prevalence of this condition, others in the community decided to relax their own dental standards. Maybe it's just a difference in local values, but the end result is clear: an unpleasant experience for anyone with modern dental standards.

My parents were staying in an apartment on the East side of town, across from

a roped-off parking lot with three cars in it (which I was informed comprised a local auto-dealership), and a grocery store (which doesn't stock individual bottles of water, but has one of its six aisles completely dedicated to generic soft drinks). As I was leaving the store, I asked the bedraggled clerk what people in Taft did for fun. She looked at me, surprised, and answered "leave." A middle-aged woman behind me in line hacked and wheezed in agreement with her.

The next day at the repair shop, I met a young lady, well groomed and with all of

her teeth relatively intact. She had recently moved there from Pacific Beach with her new husband, and upon hearing I was from San Diego said, "Take me with you."

After I picked up my newly repaired car and began the drive back home, I thought about our exchange. I was sure that she had intended to say it in a joking manner, and I had politely laughed with her. But by her faulty delivery, and the slight tearing in her eyes, I knew that she'd been serious.



also received three incoming calls on the ride, one of which was a car that had driven into a house, another to haul a stolen car that had been torched. I wondered if it was typical for him to receive this amount of business on a Sunday night in a town of 6,500 residents. I also wondered why a man whose job involves cars that are destroyed would be so excited about watching cars get destroyed. In hindsight, after actually staying in Taft, I completely understand.

In 1909, the Southern Pacific company



Photos by David Bauer / The Pride

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
INFORMATION PROVIDED BY DUSTIN FRANKS AND DAVID GATLEY		11 	12 	13 	14 	15 Fenix TX SOMA \$10
16 Better than Ezra with Sister Hazel House of Blues \$20 21 and up	17	18 Yellowcard SOMA \$25 Dresden Dolls Epicenter \$15	19 The Stills The Casbah \$15 21 and up 	20	21 Rob Zombie SOMA \$35 and up 	22
23 	24 Emanuel SOMA \$13.50 	25 	26	27 Eisley SOMA \$12 	28 Avenged Sevenfold with Coheed and Cambria Tipayone Center (Sports Arena) \$25 	29 COACHELLA Depeche Mode Daft Punk Franz Ferdinand Sigur Ros Damian Marley Common \$85
30 COACHELLA Tool Massive Attack Madonna Yeah Yeah Yeahs Bloc Party Paul Oakenfold James Blunt \$85	31 COACHELLA 	APRIL CONCERT CALENDAR				

COACHELLA

SATURDAY LINEUP

DEPECHE MODE
 DAFT PUNK
 FRANZ FERDINAND
 SIGUR ROS
 DAMIAN JR GONG MARLEY
 COMMON
 ATMOSPHERE
 CARL COX
 MY MORNING JACKET
 TV ON THE RADIO
 LADYTRON
 CLAP YOUR HANDS SAY YEAH
 TOSCA
 CAT POWER
 ANIMAL COLLECTIVE
 +MANY MORE

SUNDAY LINEUP

TOOL
 MASSIVE ATTACK
 MADONNA
 YEAH YEAH YEAHS
 BLOC PARTY
 PAUL OAKENFOLD
 SCISSOR SISTERS
 MATISYAHU
 JAMES BLUNT
 SLEATER-KINNEY
 MOGWAI
 COHEED AND CAMBRIA
 WOLF PARADE
 GNARLS BARKLEY
 PHOENIX
 +MANY MORE

What is Easter?

BY ANTOINETTE JOHNSON
Pride Staff Writer

Easter Sunday is April 16 and will as usual be marked with decorative spring pastels and baskets filled with sweetness. For many, Easter is known as a celebration of Christ's resurrection, and the days leading up to it are upheld through a series of observances relevant to Christian and Catholic faiths.

Ash Wednesday marks the first day of Lent on the Christian calendar and receives its name from the 8th century custom of marking the foreheads of worshippers with ashes as a penitence. Wednesday actually occurs 46 days before Easter, but is counted as 40 days prior because Sundays are not counted during the period of Lent. The

ashes of burnt palm leaves of the previous year's Palm Sunday are used for the markings. Lent is the 40-day period leading up to Easter, marked by fasting and penance. In the past, fasting for lent was more strictly imposed, which included the prohibition of eating meat.

Palm Sunday, observed by most Christians, is usually celebrated the Sunday before Easter and serves as a celebration of Christ's arrival at Jerusalem. Biblically, this event is known as Christ's Triumphal Entry, occurring days before His execution.

Passover begins the Wednesday before Easter and traditionally continues for eight days, commemorating the exodus of the

Hebrews from Egypt. Maundy Thursday, known to Catholics as Holy Thursday, is the Thursday before Easter. It is believed that the last supper would have occurred on this day and is observed through various acts of cleaning, such as foot washing, a ritual for the apostles in preparation for their meal with Christ.

Good Friday is a day of remembrance of Christ's crucifixion, celebrated by Christians with special church services and vigils. Catholicism calls for observance of this day through a reliving of the day through a reading of psalms, gospels, and hymns about Christ's death. Eastern Catholics meet to pray three times during the day, once during "forenoon," to pray the Royal Hours appointed for that day; in the afternoon, the Vespers of Holy Friday; and in the evening, the Matins of Holy Saturday.

Holy Saturday is the day before Easter and is often referred to as Easter Even. In the Catholic church, holy sacraments are limited on this day and penance is only granted to those considered to be in dire need. Dusk marks the beginning of Easter and is touched off by an Easter Vigil celebration.

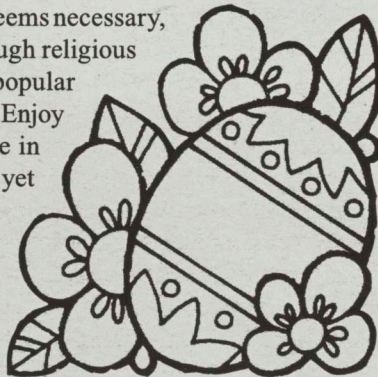
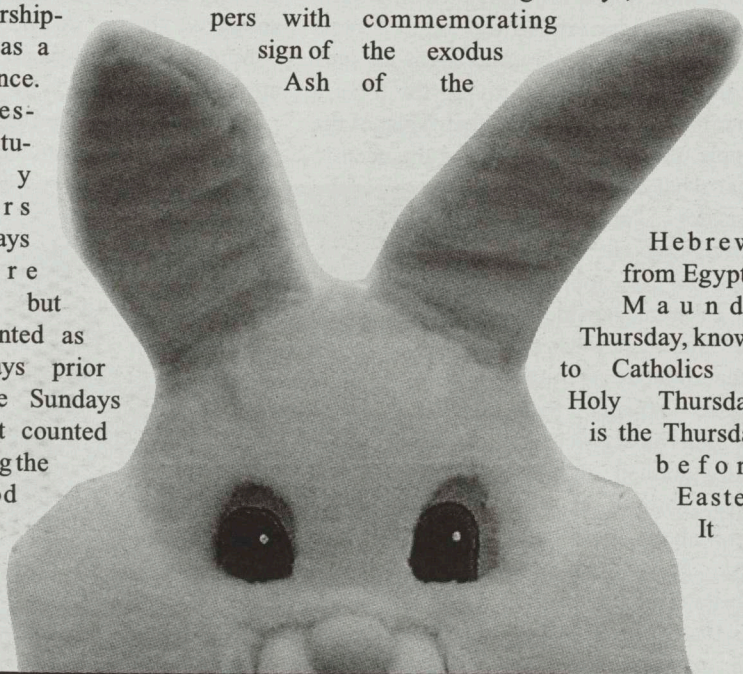
In the non-religious sense, Easter has been observed through our culture as the decorating of Easter eggs on Saturday night and a hunt for these same eggs on Sunday morning, where many small children find baskets filled with treats and gifts said to have been delivered overnight by the Easter Bunny. The history of colored eggs at Easter time emerges from the

Catholic observance of Lent which forbids the consumption of eggs, providing for an overabundance of eggs during this time. It is said that

German Protestants wanted to introduce children to the ritual of Easter and adopted egg-painting as a favored alternative to fasting. The notion of the egg-laying hare was introduced by German immigrants in New England who told of the "osterhase."

Hase is the German term for rabbit, and it was said that only good children received gifts from the osterhase in their caps and bonnets (which had been turned into "nests" prior to Easter). It was assumed that the osterhase had laid the eggs there while the children were asleep or not looking.

Regardless of faith or popular belief, Easter should be observed in whatever means the observer deems necessary, either through religious piety or popular tradition. Enjoy and partake in this day as yet another reminder of the beauty of spring.



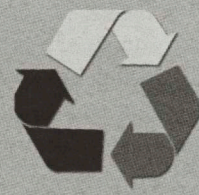
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'Intimate Apparel' One Size Fits All



BY KAYONNI WILLIAMS
Pride Staff Writer

San Diego Repertory Theatre (at the Lyceum in Horton Plaza) brings us a new production of Lynn Nottage's play, "Intimate Apparel". A great script and well

performed cast tells the story of a 35 year old seamstress who lacks love for so many years, finds love, and then learns that self love and empowerment are the way to happiness. Though told from an African-American perspective and based on an African-American woman, this play includes characters from all walks of life and should be seen by all.

The audience can feel the characters, because we are the characters. Esther, a 35 year old seamstress, resides in a boarding house for women. She makes a living by sewing intimate undergarments for women ranging from white socialites, like Mrs. Van Buren (Lisel Gorell-Getz), to saloon whores, such as Mayme (Lisa H. Payton), who both become her closest friends.

Esther's first love interest is Mr. Marks (Lance Smith), a Jewish cloth merchant, who obviously shares the same feelings as Esther. It's not just the era, having been set in 1905, but also Mr. Marks' religion that keeps the soulful connection constrained. His religion states that he is unable to touch any woman with whom he is not married or related to, plus he's married to a woman in Romania, whom he has never met. Things start to look up for Esther when she starts receiving love letters from a West Indian (Barbados) laborer, George (Michael A. Sheppard), who is working on the Panama Canal. She predictably falls in love with him and they spark up a relationship through the mail. Esther, being illiterate has to have her friends, Mrs. Van Buren, who's lonely because her husband ignores her and Mayme, the booty shaking hooker with a dream (to be a concert pianist) read and respond to George's letters. Esther agrees to marry George and it is at this time that her confidence level noticeably rises. Esther's landlady, Mrs. Dickenson (Sylvia M'Lafi Thompson), advises her against marrying George, by warning her that their relationship is destined for doom.

Esther learns the hard way as

George takes his frustration at his lack of work out on her and becomes abusive. We learn that he is also a womanizer when he starts to eye the 18 years of savings Esther has stitched into her quilt. This money, Esther dreams, will one day open up a beauty parlor where African American woman can go to be not only treated well, but pampered. It isn't until she finally leaves him that she is finally able to get the parlor. The play silently closes with her standing caddy-corner in the room she has rented, with her arms crossed over her tummy and her face wearing a smile.

Through Mrs. Van Buren, the socialite, and Mayme, the whore, both wanting intimate undergarments, Esther and Mr. Marks common love of fabric (not to mention each other), the play shows that though separated by class and race, people can still



Photo courtesy of scrp.org

possess the same desires.

"Intimate Apparel," directed by Delicia Turner Sonnenberg, who also owns Moxie, the feminist theatre based in Encinitas, will be play its last show on April 9, yet this is only one of the many exceptional shows playing at San Diego's Repertory Theatre at the Lyceum www.sandiegorep.com.

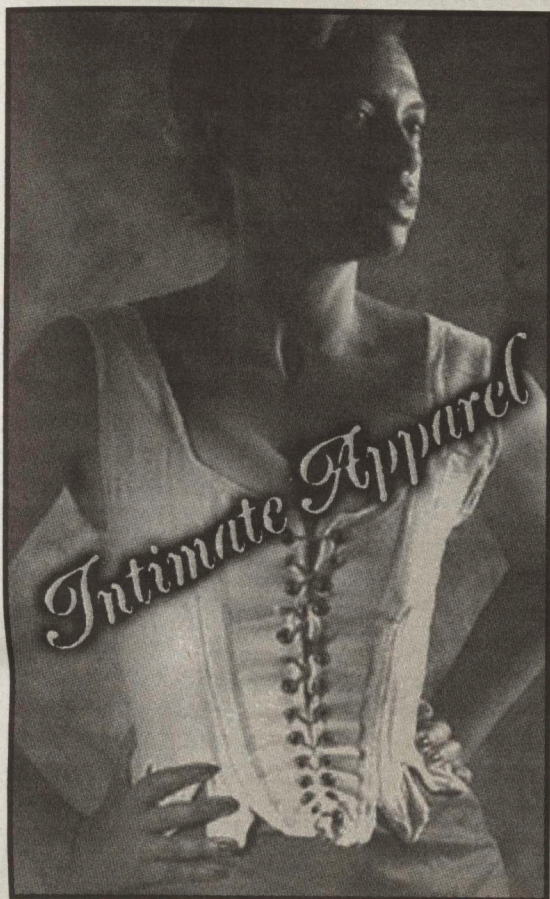


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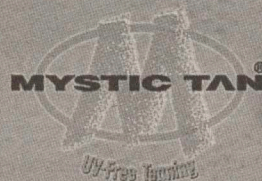
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So noTORIous

BY AMANDA KEELEY
Pride Staff Writer

"So Notorious," is the new unreal reality show that makes fun of former "Beverly Hills 90210" star Tori Spelling's life. According to Spelling, in an interview done by The Seattle Times, "Making fun of myself is like therapy. Everything that used to bother me is now material for the show." Tori Spelling plays herself while Loni Anderson plays her mother, Kiki (a mock version of Tori's real life mother Candy). Her famous father Aaron Spelling is portrayed as just a voice in the show, though not his own. The material for the show is gathered from old, ugly and untrue tabloid stories about Tori and it's used to make a scripted, comedic, reality series. This is the first show of this type for

VH1, but the sharp and sometimes curt humor seems to be a perfect match.

Though the idea of a mockumentary is entertaining and shows like "Curb your Enthusiasm" have had great suc-

talents go beyond her last name. There are doubts that this show will be as successful as "Curb your Enthusiasm," in fact, some critics have lumped Spelling's show with Lisa Kudrow's brief attempt at a mock reality show.

Never heard of it? That's because it only lasted a couple episodes. The question remains, will Spelling's show share the same fate as that of Kudrow's? According to an article by Tenley Woodman from Boston Herald.Com, "The gal is on to something, but her star power isn't strong enough to fuel a long running series." So far, reviews for the first episode haven't been

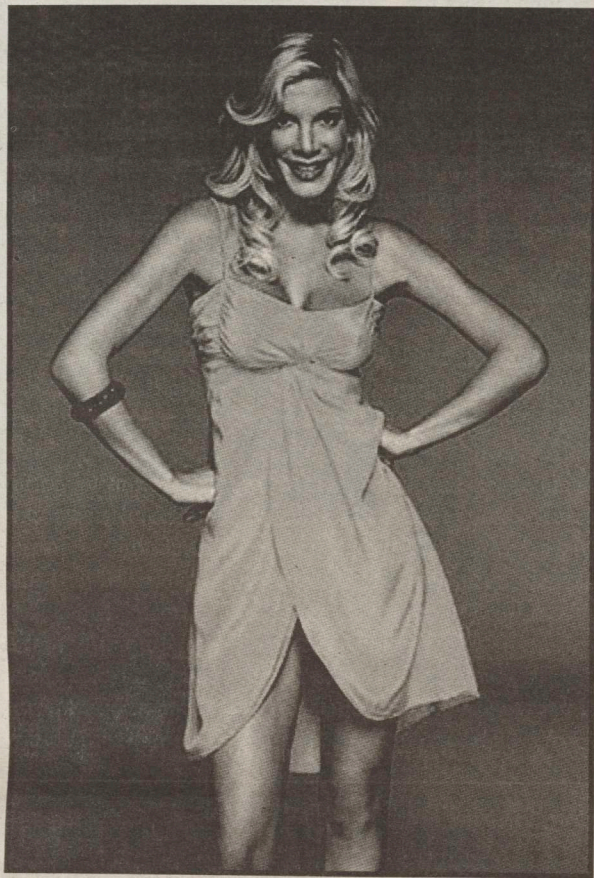


Photo courtesy of VH1.com

cess, "Notorious" has left some wondering; who cares about Tori Spelling's life after "Beverly Hills 90210?" According to Reuter/Hollywood Reporter, the show is another attempt for Tori to demonstrate that her

but it's a new show and sometimes they need time to develop, but check it out on VH1 Sunday nights at 10:00p.m. What is there to lose? The worst that can happen if you hate it is thirty minutes of helping Tori make fun of herself.

Beer of the week GORDON BIRSCH MÄRZEN

BY MATTHEW SCHRAMM
Pride Staff Writer

If you are a lover of good beer, then you are probably familiar with the products of Gordon Biersch; if not, then you are missing out on some of the finest beer available in California. Located strictly to a handful of western states, and especially California, Gordon Biersch has risen in leaps and bounds during its short time on the market. Among the most notable of Biersch beers is their amber-colored Marzen.

Easily the most popular of Gordon Biersch beers, the story goes, according to its website, that Marzen is originally based off a recipe from Bavaria. During its first days of being brewed,

Marzen was brewed in early spring and then stored in cool caves so it could be enjoyed throughout the summer, with whatever was left over being consumed at once in October. While the process is not quite the identical for this American version of Marzen, its

and clean tasting medium-colored beer, good in warm weather, and especially at night after dinner.

Gordon Biersch also put out several lighter beers of notable quality, such as their pilsner, as well as a few seasonal brews. Perhaps chief among their limited seasonal beers is the Gordon Biersch Winter Bock, which compares in color and texture to Guinness Draught, yet with a much different and lighter flavor. Gordon Biersch beers, as well as Marzen, can be found



Photo by Antoinette Johnson / The Pride

most enjoyable properties remain the same. Pouring thinly, Marzen has a malty and slightly sweet flavor to it, with some flavors reminiscent of a darker beer, yet with the body of a light beer. Overall, Marzen is a smooth

at many local stores, as well as off tap at Gordon Biersch Brewery Restaurants throughout California.

For more information on Marzen and the beers of Gordon Biersch, visit gordonbiersch.com

Get cultured with 'ATL'

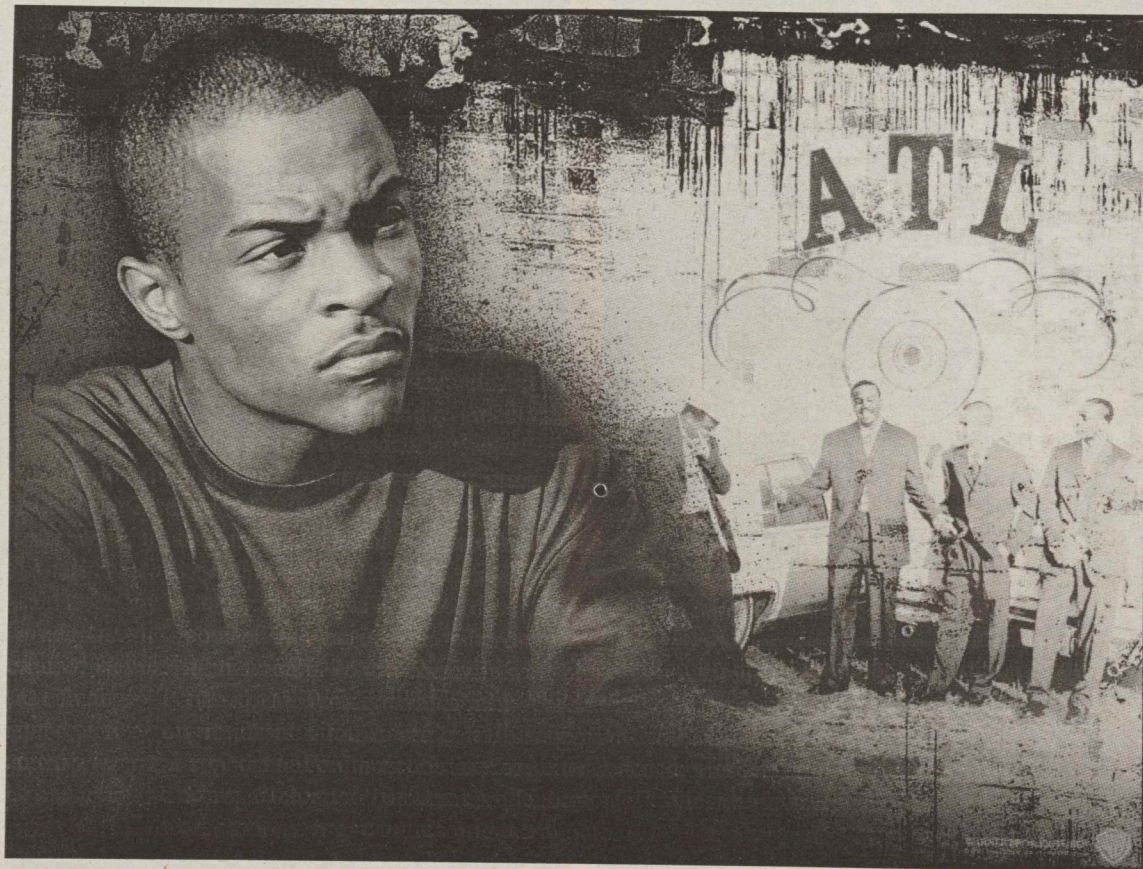
BY RACHELL REYES
Pride Staff Writer

Oh no. Not another rapper turned actor. Fortunately, this movie is not about Tip Harris (also known as T.I. for hip-hop fans). In Chris Robinson's directorial debut, "ATL" brings a whole new meaning to southern hospitality.

For anyone who hasn't been outside of San Diego, there's a whole new life outside the borders of California. In the same way Eminem brought Detroit to the big screens, Harris shows the audience what Atlanta, Georgia is really like.

Since Harris was born and bred in Atlanta, it's no surprise that he could play Rashad. However, Harris doesn't play himself. As the 17 year old Rashad, Harris's character is far more complex than the typical ghetto boy. He's like any other person out there who just wants to get out of his deadbeat life. He doesn't dream big, but he definitely has bigger plans for him and his brother, Anton (played by Evan Ross Naess).

This movie was not marketed correctly. The trailers made



"ATL" look like another drug dealing and gangster movie. But that's where the prejudice has to end. Had I not been asked to watch this movie for a review, I would

have never given it a chance.

"ATL" is a whole new culture. This movie has so much going on that there is no single plot. It's about an older brother who

looks after a younger brother. It's about four friends in the last year of their high school. It's about the working class and the upper class. It's about a boy who meets

a girl. It's about a roller skating crew against another roller skating crew. It's about one drug deal to another drug deal. The list can go on. In 100 minutes, "ATL" should have given you the feel of Atlanta.

The direction of the movie is a whole new story. Robinson, a former music video director, definitely was experimenting with his filming techniques. Many of his shots made the movie feel like an extended music video, and that's a good thing. The variety of shots and takes makes Robinson look like a veteran behind the camera.

With exceptions to some of the stereotypical characters in the movie, it's about time there's a positive role model. Keith David plays John Garnett. Garnett is a multi-millionaire who didn't earn his money through drugs and pimping. Garnett made his money the right way, through hard work and education. It's refreshing to see a powerful minority with optimistic aspects to the character.

The movie serves as not another highlight of the stereotype, but rather a stepping stone for the basis of learning about Atlanta.

Photo courtesy of Warner Brothers