



WINTER MOVIE PREVIEWS

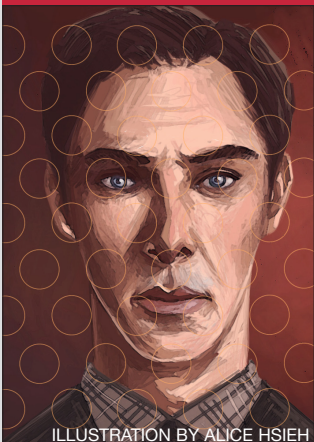


ILLUSTRATION BY ALICE HSIEH

With so many films hitting theaters over the holidays, check out our winter movie guide to find out what flops and what's worth seeing during winter break.

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VERBATIM

“I could not be more proud of this staff and the work we have all accomplished. Thank you to all the Guardians who have stayed and supported our mission.”



- Zev Hurwitz
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CAMPUS



UCSD medical and pharmaceutical students participated in national, White Coat “Die-In” Protest on Library Walk on International Human Rights Day to bring awareness about police brutality.

PHOTO BY ALWIN SZETO / GUARDIAN

CALIFORNIA

California State Senate Proposes Plan to Take Over UC System

BY ANDREW HUANG SENIOR STAFF WRITER

In the wake of the UC Board of Regents' controversial five-year tuition hike, two California State senators introduced a constitutional amendment on Thursday, Dec. 4 which would return control of the UC system to the state legislature if passed. Dubbed SCA-1, the proposed legislation would need a two-thirds majority approval of both the State Assembly and Senate before being placed on the 2016 ballot.

SCA-1 is the bipartisan brainchild of Sen. Ricardo Lara (D-Bell Gardens) and Sen. Anthony Cannella (R-Ceres). While the amendment does not list specific powers, it would empower the California Legislature to oversee all necessary UC regent decisions if passed. For example, it could create laws that veto tuition increases or chancellor pay hikes, among other things.

“At a time when access, affordability and diversity are in question, we should allow the public to have a direct say in how its public university system operates,” Lara said in his statement.

SCA-1 would end the UC system's historic independence from state control — which has continued for over 100 years — and implement a system more similar to how California State Universities are run. A similar measure was created by former Sen. Leland Yee in 2009, although it failed to win Senate approval.

“This constitutional amendment will accomplish [accountability] without interfering with the daily operations of the UC system,” Cannella added in Lara's statement. “The students working hard to earn a degree and the families that support many of them deserve no less than a university system that utilizes its funding judiciously.”

However, SCA-1 is not without controversy. It has attracted the favor of some parties, like UC Berkeley's A.S. Council, but has drawn sharp rebukes from the UC Office of the President.

“There are constructive discussions in the Senate, Assembly and with the administration about how we

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SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Goltz Syndrome Critical For Cell Reprogramming

UCSD Researchers Studied Stem Cell Behavior and Wnt Proteins For Over Six Years

BY BRYNNA BOLT
STAFF WRITER

Researchers from UCSD have found in a recent study using Goltz syndrome that Wnt proteins, regulators of cell interaction during embryogenesis, are crucial to the process of cellular reprogramming. Their study, led by principal investigator and assistant professor in the Department of Cellular and Molecular Medicine Dr. Karl Willert, was published in the Nov. 20 online issue of Cell Reports.

For the past six years, Willert's lab has focused on the unique role of Wnt proteins in the regulation of stem cell behavior. These proteins are also present in areas of the body where there exist high stem cell populations throughout adult life.

His most recently published study used a rare human syndrome called focal dermal hypoplasia, or Goltz syndrome, to determine what effect Wnt proteins have on the reprogramming of skin cells back into embryonic-like stem cells called induced pluripotent stem cells, or iPS cells.

Goltz syndrome is a genetic disorder that primarily produces abnormalities of the skin, skeleton, eyes and face. It is an extremely rare disease, with only 200 to 300 cases documented worldwide, which makes it difficult to collect samples to perform experiments with. In order to collect the necessary biopsies to conduct his studies, Willert traveled to Orlando, Florida, where he attended a meeting with families who are affected by Goltz syndrome.

Once there, he collected skin biopsies from 10 different patients with varying degrees of the condition to use for the study.

Researchers at UCSD then used the PORCN gene, a gene that is essential to activating Wnt proteins but is mutated in those affected by Goltz syndrome, from the samples to abolish any Wnt signaling within the skin cells.

As a result, it became impossible to reprogram the skin cells back into iPS cells. Willert and his team determined from these findings that Wnt signaling was needed to establish the linking route necessary in reprogramming cells.

“We found it to be absolutely required,” Willert told the UCSD

See **CELLS**, page 2

A.S. COUNCIL

Engineering Senator Resigns Prior to Impeachment

Salman Alrashed submitted his resignation after exceeding the maximum number of unexcused absences.

BY BRYNNA BOLT
STAFF WRITER

A.S. Council Engineering Senator Salman Alrashed resigned from his position Friday, Dec. 5, citing personal reasons for his departure. At the time of his resignation, a motion was in place for Alrashed's impeachment on the basis of attendance issues.

Alrashed, a Warren College senior and mechanical engineering student, was elected in Spring Quarter 2014 with the Tritons Forward slate. As Engineering Senator, Alrashed was one of the five Academic Senators — all voting members — on A.S. Council. His term would have carried him through the 2014–15 academic school year had he not resigned.

Following his resignation, Alrashed sent an email to the other members of the council saying, “My personal life, professional life and the nature of my academic rigor are in the way of my position, and I wouldn't be doing right by all of you hard-working individuals if I stayed.”

Alrashed further elaborated in an interview with the UCSD Guardian on why he did not feel he was able to fulfill his obligations as a voting member of A.S. Council.

“I ran so that I could do things specific to the engineering community,” Alrashed told the Guardian. “But a lot of the time, we would be voting on things that didn't pertain to that, and I didn't feel it was fair for me to stay without being able to take sides.”

Alrashed sent in his formal resignation after accruing a total of five unexcused absences.

The Standing Rules of the A.S. Council currently state that each voting member must attend all council meetings, all A.S. Senate meetings, all meetings of their committees and all mandatory events as specified by the A.S. President.

The total number of unexcused absences allowed by the Standing Rules under Title VI, section 4.2, is three. Each missed roll call, which occurs at the beginning and the end of all meetings, is considered half of an absence. The A.S. Council had already resolved to impeach Alrashed on the grounds of unsatisfactory attendance at the time of his resignation.

A.S. President Robby Boparai told the Guardian that the A.S. Council will move forward to replace Alrashed.

“There are going to be open applications this week,” Boparai said. “And we will keep them open until probably the first week of the next quarter. After that, a committee will be put together to screen applicants and select the best one.”

Boparai went on to say that he hopes the work started by Alrashed will

See **SENATOR**, page 2

A COUPLE OF DERPS By Elyse Yang



SAN DIEGO

Local Nonprofit To Hold “American Idol”-Style Singing Contest

BY KRITI SARIN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Students enrolled at San Diego County colleges and universities have a new opportunity to showcase vocal talent through Campus SuperStar, an American Idol-type singing competition with celebrity judges whose finalists will have the chance to win up to \$5,000.

Benefiting Hillel of San Diego, the contest is open to all full-time undergraduate and graduate students in the area who do not already have professional talent representation. The final competition will feature 10 finalists and take place at The Auditorium at The Scripps Research Institute on March 15.

Keri Copans, the Lori Bolotin Director of Development at Hillel of San Diego, told the UCSD Guardian

that the Campus SuperStar judges will not be publicized before the audition period begins and said that they would probably be San Diego celebrities.

“The judges will be revealed in either January or February,” Copans said. “The judges will most likely be local performing arts professional[s], [for example, the] director of the Old Globe Theatre, as opposed to Hollywood celebrities.”

Finalists will ultimately be crowned by the audience. The first, second and third place contestants will be awarded monetary prizes of \$5,000, \$1,500 and \$1,000, respectively.

Proceeds from the event will go toward increasing student involvement in Hillel at local college campuses. Copans said that the event aims to reach far beyond the Jewish

student community.

“Each year, hundreds of thousands of college students find community, create connections and build leadership skills on campus,” Copans said. “Hillel recognizes that college is a natural time for exploration and identity formation, and Hillel relies on leadership, motivated students and demonstrated university support to create positive memories for scores of students. While Hillel focuses on the needs for Jewish students, our programs are inclusive to all students and an event like Campus SuperStar shows our commitment to this.”

The event’s finalists will be narrowed down through a system of auditions and callbacks. According to the website, auditions should be between 45 seconds and two minutes in length and all vocalists will be expected to sing live with a

professional accompanist.

Students can visit the event’s website and sign up for one of three audition dates at three different San Diego universities: Jan. 11 at UCSD, Jan. 25 at San Diego State and Jan. 27 at Cal State San Marcos. Finalists will be expected to attend callback auditions on Feb. 1 and all subsequent rehearsals scheduled by the music director.

Copans added that although the concept of Campus SuperStar is not new, this will be the first year that Hillel of San Diego hosts the event.

“Campus SuperStar was created in 2004 by the Hillels of Georgia. Other Hillels that put on Campus SuperStar are Indiana University and the University of Pittsburgh,” Copans said.

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Engineering Senator Resigns from Council

► SENATOR from page 1

be built upon by the next Engineering Senator.

“He put in work in this position that I would like to see expanded upon,” Boparai said. “Ideally, we’ll get the best candidate possible to both continue [Alrashed’s] work and start their own projects in service of the engineering community.”

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goodluck
on finals

Looking for the New Business Column?

Check back next quarter for the column posted every Wednesday night, after the A.S. Council meeting, online.



Proteins May Be Used to Regenerate Limbs and Promote Healing

► **CELLS** from page 1

Guardian. "It cannot be done without these signals."

The goal of the studies conducted within his lab is to understand how Wnt proteins affect different biological processes, but recent findings could also be important to future medicine, according to Willert.

As Wnt signaling has been found to be important in cell regrowth, one idea is to block these signals with genes

such as PORCN in order to treat cancer. However, this idea is precarious, Willert said, as Wnt is so essential to many other functions within the body, such as the maintenance of the intestinal tracts.

Wnt proteins are also being considered as a future regenerative medicine, an idea inspired by certain animals' ability to regenerate limbs through the reawakening of pathways present in stages of embryogenesis. Since Wnt signaling is present and crucial during this period, it is believed that this signal-

ing could also be used to promote tissue regeneration and growth in wound healing.

"For right now, I'll settle for regrowth of skin that's been damaged because of a cut," Willert said. "But in the future, these Wnt proteins have great potential for regenerative medicine."

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"[SCA-1] Is A Weapon to Use in Reaction to Proposed Tuition Increases."

► **REGENTS** from page 1

ensure that University of California remains accessible to future generations," UCOP media specialist Brooke Converse told the UCSD Guardian. "This proposal, however, is a distraction from the central issue of the necessity for adequate state funding of higher education. It's unclear what the goal is."

She added that the entire UC system already submits public accountability reports to the state legislature every year, and believes that changing the California Constitution would be counterproductive to maintaining its current education standards.

"Autonomy for the University of California has been guaranteed in the constitution since 1878. This was a deliberate decision by the state's leaders at the time," Converse said. "The UC [system]'s autonomous governance has worked out very well for people and communities in every part of the state for well over 100 years."

Mary Gilly, chair of the UC Academic Senate, also raised concerns over political interference in the UC curriculum and implications for other nonfinancial problems that the system faces.

"It seems to be someone looking for a tool or a weapon to use in reaction to the proposed tuition increases," Gilly said in a Dec. 5 San Jose Mercury News article. "It seems to be a nuclear weapon."

Gov. Brown was a vocal opponent of the tuition increase, though he has thus far remained silent on the issue of SCA-1. The amendment would not require his signature to be implemented if the legislature and California voters both approve the bill.

UCSD A.S. Council President Robby Boparai finds the amendment intriguing, but is reluctant to form a definite stance on the matter while the legislation is still in such early stages.

"I don't know what the outcome of this will be; there's a lot of interesting politics and repercussions going on with the UC system," Boparai said in a UCSD Guardian interview. "I think, in general, this bill has more pros than cons if passed, although there are a lot of concerns I think I might have ... Keeping the status quo and changing it to Lara's system both aren't ideal scenarios, but maybe this new proposition might be a little better."

He added that SCA-1 would ideally provide students with more incentives to go out and vote, should it

pass through the state legislature, since voters have a greater pull on elected officials.

SCA-1 is one of several proposals released by the state government due to the recent UC tuition crisis. In a flurry of activity, Senate President pro tempore Kevin de Leon (D-Los Angeles) announced Senate Bill 15 on Dec. 2 — his planned alternative to the Board of Regents' five-year hike — while Assembly Speaker Toni Atkins (D-San Diego) suggested that Sacramento review the annual UC budget line by line starting next year.

AVP Local Affairs Daniel Firoozi also told the Guardian that while state legislators may not all be on the same page, they have increasingly been reaching out to the UC Student Association with new initiatives to address tuition hikes and other issues.

Both Firoozi and Boparai agreed that more concrete progress would need to be made on these proposals before A.S. Council or the UCSA could start student discussions and endorsing particular viewpoints.

Additional members of the UCSA could not be reached by press time.

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OPINION

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UC Leadership Needs Reform

POTENTIAL UC TUITION PLANS

GRAPHICS REPORTING BY CHARU MEHRA// INFOGRAPHIC BY ALLISON KUBO

INCOME LEVEL	THIS YEAR (2014-2015)	REGENTS 5 YR. PLAN (2019)	STATE SENATE PLAN (2019)
<i>less than \$80k</i>	\$0	\$0	\$0
\$80k-\$100k	\$10,482	\$9,363	\$12,192
\$100k-\$150k	\$11,300-\$12,000	\$10,143-\$14,045	\$12,192
<i>more than \$150k</i>	\$12,192	\$15,605	\$12,192
<i>Out-of-state and International</i>	\$35,070	\$44,889	\$41,031

The figure above shows potential costs for UCSD students in the next 5 years, based on which budget plan gets implemented. All numbers have been taken from the UC Office of the President's website or calculated based on protected tuition levels.

With multiple unfeasible solutions for the budget gap floating around, it has become apparent that the leadership of the University of California needs to be shaken up.

After the events of the past two weeks, it suffices to say that UC students are not happy with the recent turn of the UC system's financial plans. The cost of tuition is set to rise by almost 28 percent in the next five years, with the UC Board of Regents approving a 5-percent increase of tuition per year till 2019, unless the state approves more funding for the UC system. In light of the current situation and the gap in the budget, the California Senate has proposed its own plan to fix the crisis. However, neither of these supposed solutions is without fault.

To begin with, let's take a look at the plan proposed by the UC Regents. As mentioned above, this method of filling the budget shortfall would raise tuition by approximately 28 percent in the next five years, putting the cost of tuition at over \$15,000 by 2019. This plan is simply wrong in

principle. It strays even further from the Master Plan than we already have and would be akin to treating students of all socioeconomic tiers like cash cows.

We do understand the reasoning behind this idea coming from the UC Regents: There is a lack of funding in the system, and the state should be paying for it, but as of yet, they are not. What it is not OK to do, however, is to instead ask the students to pay for the gap in the budget and then put that money toward things like raising the salaries of certain chancellors at UC campuses by up to 20 percent. It is also not OK to call this a solution to the current budget problem. A plan like this sets a dangerous precedent for future years when there is a gap in the budget, and the first thing the UC Regents think of is turning to the students to pay for it with higher tuition.

See **LEADERSHIP**, page 5

This Is Where I Leave You, Guardians

EDITOR'S SOAPBOX
 ZEV HURWITZ ZHURWITZ@UCSD.EDU



Groucho Marx famously said, "I won't join any club that would have me as a member." My sentiments match this for student media: Any newspaper that would hire me as its editor has got to be out of its mind.

But I was here. And I loved it. We yelled. We screamed. We cried. We moved text boxes a pica at a time. We attended A.S. Council meetings. We endorsed candidates and then told you they were bad at their jobs. We fell in love. We threw parties. We recorded interviews. We transcribed press conferences. We sat courtside. We drove a beat-up golf cart and dropped off newspapers all around campus. We drank too much coffee. We drank too much "coffee." We report, and you read.

As my tenure as editor-in-chief comes to an end, I feel like we did what we set out to do. We are the first responders to UCSD news, and we work to connect our readership with the news about what happens here.

This has been a marquee quarter for the UCSD Guardian coverage. We sent a reporter/photographer team to Oakland to hear Janet Napolitano's tuition plan in person. We had a reporter walk onto Interstate 5 to cover a protest. Our reporters have marched with the Che, walked the halls of Superior Court downtown, notched awards in design and content and have been a beacon of light for all that is student journalism. I could not be more proud of this staff and the work we have all accomplished. Thank you to all the Guardians who have stayed and supported our mission.

The next chapter of the Guardian begins with our incoming Editor-in-Chief Aleksandra Konstantinovic. Aleks has the motivation, determination and drive to make sure this paper keeps going strongly. I have no doubt that the professionalism and stature of the Guardian will continue after I'm gone under Aleks' leadership.

To Lauren and Rachel: You have been the best managing team I could have asked for. I thank you both for your years of service and wish you the best in your future endeavors. You've really kept this going, and I cannot appreciate that any more than I do. I have loved every second of being "Queen Jew." MRAW.

To Luis, Raymond, Kyle, Karl, Kailen, Lena, Megan, Meghan and Josh: Are you happy? I finally wrote an article about you. Pay up.

To Mekala, G-Fleisch, Tina, Meryl and all of my other news babies: Keep doing what you're doing. You were the fuel to my fire.

To Laura Martin, Rebecca Horwitz, Rachel Uda, Angela, Arielle, Margaret, Madeline, Nikki and Allie: Thank you all for helping me get to this point. We're about to see if you're right about the joy of retirement.

To Claire: Thank you for the support and for meticulously decorating my office wall with my press clippings and post-its. You da best.

To my most avid readership, my parents: Fine. You can send this to the relatives. I won't fight you.

And to you, the reader, for staying with us until the very end — thank you for your support.

Students and Police Must Cooperate for Change

An individual's rights, as an inhabitant of this country, dissipate once the very people entrusted with the responsibility of protecting and serving those rights begin to attack them.

This past weekend, students at UC Berkeley chose to demonstrate their rights as U.S. citizens. They assembled to protest the injustices committed against fellow citizens of color. However, the price of their actions was to experience firsthand the same discriminatory police brutality they were demonstrating against.

Videos and photographs taken at the protest show police officers aimlessly attacking peaceful protesters by hitting them with batons hard enough to break a few rib cages and throwing tear gas bombs in an attempt to disperse them. Note that in most cases, these attacks came entirely unprovoked.

By, quite literally, trampling on this basic right, the police force becomes the enemy of the people. When police officers begin to punish the very people they swear to protect, we are forced to ruminate on whether they can even be

trusted in a time of severe hardship and crisis.

French Enlightenment thinker Voltaire said, "With great power comes great responsibility." Law enforcement officers are entrusted with the freedom and power to commit acts that the average citizen would go to jail for in order to protect the rights and well-being of those lacking that power. Inarguably, injuring nonviolent demonstrators illustrates a misguided definition of responsibility and an abuse of power.

Nonetheless, there were individuals that took advantage of the moral and civil obligations of protesters by looting and causing property damage. They are, in many ways, just as hypocritical as the police officers who hurt them, though they lack the training and equipment that police officers have. However, demonstrators, once again, clearly conveyed their intention of peacefully communicating their grievances by walling off and protecting businesses from those hypocritical individuals.

Although protests do inconvenience those not participating in them and occasionally get out of hand, their importance cannot

be diminished. Change can only occur if people are aware of the fact that such an action is imperative. Unfortunately, drastic actions like protests are the only way some people come to realize an injustice exists.

Sadly, the actions of some police officers at the demonstrations put on by UC Berkeley students clearly validate the cause for protest. Instead of wasting resources on a preemptive strike on peaceful protesters, police officers should have focused on keeping those engaged in the protest safe.

Believe it or not, college students will listen to police instructions and obey the law. So far at UCSD, students who have stood up for what they believe to be right have been fortunate not to have faced the type of harassment and harm that those at Berkeley have experienced. Although the protests on other campuses were a lot larger in size, protests at UCSD still prove that police officers and students can work together in harmony to fulfill their civil and moral obligations to upholding and utilizing basic rights.

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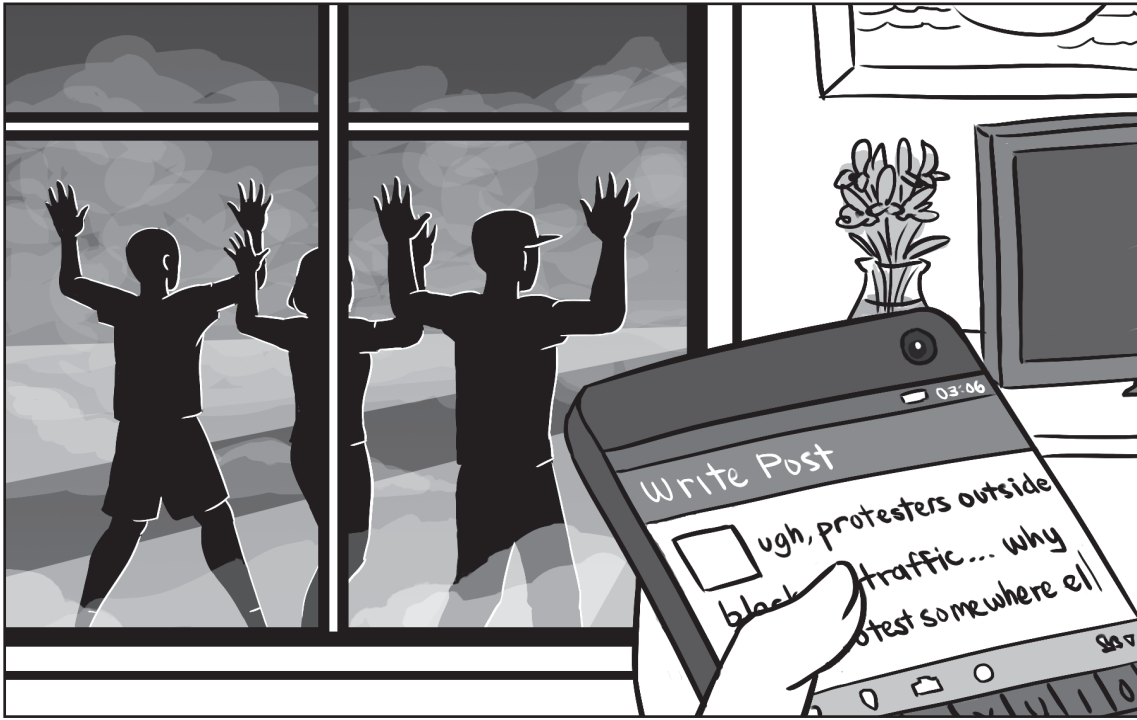
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FUNGLY By Kyle Trujillo



Regents, Senate Plans Both Fail to Address Deeper Problems of System

► LEADERSHIP, from page 4

The senate plan also has its woes. When we took a closer look at how this way of doing things would change tuition costs for different economic groups, we found that it would actually hurt the same people who need the most help. The main fault with the senate plan is that it gets rid of the recently established middle-class scholarship, championed by previous Speaker of the Assembly John A. Perez. The group that gets hurt the most when tuition goes up is not the poorest students in the state — who don't currently pay tuition under the Blue and Gold Opportunity Plan either way — but the lower-middle-class students whose families make between \$80,000 to 100,000 and whose costs would go up by close to \$2,000 if they lost the middle-class scholarship money. The senate

plan sounds wonderful in theory, especially when its proponents highlight the fact that tuition would not rise, but in practice, it would be highly detrimental to the large group of middle-class students attending UC schools.

In a previous editorial, we argued for a “cap-and-screw” policy, wherein the number of out-of-state students admitted to the system would be capped, but the out-of-staters who did still attend UC schools would have their tuition raised. We still think this is the best plan, seeing as how it protects tax-paying Californians, keeps the middle-class scholarship and patches the hole in the budget. Speaker of the Assembly Toni Atkins agrees with us, to some extent. But we also understand that this is not a long-term solution. Tuition for any group cannot automatically be raised every time there is a gap in the UC budget.

As a result, we are heartily in favor of the proposed ballot measure SCA 1, which hands veto power over the UC Board of Regents to the state. Letting the system be run by elected officials who answer to their constituents every election year would be a far better solution to the financial woes we have faced over the past decade than letting the UC Regents line their own pockets and then charge students extra tuition to pay for it. If there was a budget shortfall or a question of a tuition hike, elected officials would need to fix it or vote on it while effectively representing the California citizens who put them into office. UC President Napolitano and the regents have proven time and time again that they don't have the best interests of the students, faculty and staff of the UC system in mind. It is time to push them out of power and fix the broken leadership of the UC system.

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ILLUSTRATION BY JENNA MCCLOSKEY

BIG EYES

Directed by Tim Burton
Starring Amy Adams, Christoph Waltz, Krysten Ritter, Danny Huston
Release Date: Dec. 25

How would you feel if someone took credit for your hard work? Based on true events, “Big Eyes,” directed by Tim Burton, tells the story of Margaret Keane (Amy Adams), a single mother and struggling artist whose signature pieces are paintings of big-eyed children. With her prospects limited, she marries Walter (Christoph Waltz), a talentless painter but a savvy businessman. Walter begins selling Margaret’s work and taking credit for it, forcing Margaret to deny attachment to her own work as she endures the horror of watching shameless marketers sell her paintings under her husband’s name.

Tim Burton is well-known for making quirky macabre films, but this year’s “Big Eyes” is a revival of sorts for Burton who, in the ‘90s, made films that reverse the outsider, like “Ed Wood” and the classic “Edward Scissorhands.” Margaret Keane, a female hero in a male-dominated art world, had a story that Burton knew was worth telling.

BY NAFTALI BURAKOVSKY STAFF WRITER

THE UCSD GUARDIAN

MOVIE PREVIEW

DESIGN BY

A MOST VIOLENT YEAR



ILLUSTRATION BY ROGIO PLASCENCIA

Directed by J.C. Chandor
Starring Jack O’Connell, Miyavi, Domhnall Gleeson
Release Date: Dec. 25

After his gorgeous man vs. nature epic, “All Is Lost,” director J.C. Chandor shifts gears once again with “A Most Violent Year.” Set in the savage winter of 1981, the film portrays the life of a Colombian immigrant trapped by the corruption of New York City. The film follows Abel and Anna Morales (Oscar Isaac and Jessica Chastain), a couple determined to remain honest amidst a place bleeding with filth and broken morals. Chandor reinvents himself with the mettle of a fearless artist. After the frantic dialogues of “Margin Call” and the marathonlike silence of “All Is Lost,” Chandor zeros in on the American Dream, exposing it as if it was as delicate and as majestic as a tower of cards. Juilliard School classmates Chastain and Isaac promise to deliver powerful, Oscar-worthy performances — something that has become customary for the beautiful and talented Chastain. “A Most Violent Year” aims to be, at once, a stylish epoch piece and a character study — a moral tale within a gangster movie. With the versatility of the gifted Chandor, the expectations are as high as the city he depicts.

BY MARIO ATTIE STAFF WRITER

THE INTERVIEW



ILLUSTRATION BY JENNA MCCLOSKEY

Directed by Angelina Jolie
Starring Jack O’Connell, Miyavi, Domhnall Gleeson
Release Date: Dec. 25

Action, vulgarity and absurdity — what else is expected of a Rogen-directed film? Seth Rogen and James Franco’s on- and off-screen friendship shines through in “The Interview.” Using their reputation and popularity from their tabloid TV show “Skylark Tonight,” David Skylark (Franco) and Aaron Rapoport (Rogen) get to interview North Korean dictator Kim Jong-un, who is a big fan of their show, in hopes of validating their skills as journalists. They find themselves in the midst of a top-secret mission from the CIA to assassinate Kim Jong-un. The helplessness of these two men leads to a highly anticipated, thrilling comedy. Audiences can expect a lot from this comedic duo, as their past comedy movies, like “Pineapple Express,” have demonstrated the hilarity that comes when these two actors are together. The plot in “Pineapple Express” showcases the close “bro-ship” between these two men, something that can be expected from the new action-comedy, “The Interview.”

BY ALEX DIAZ STAFF WRITER

IMITATION GAME

Directed by Morten Tyldum

Starring Benedict Cumberbatch, Keira Knightley, Matthew Goode, Mark Strong, Charles Dance

Release Date: Dec. 25

While Nazi Germany held Europe in its horrific grip, a small group of British mathematicians were racing against time to break the Germans' secret communication code, Enigma. "The Imitation Game" tells the story of the man who led this effort, Alan Turing.

Benedict Cumberbatch, building on his past performance as a quirky yet brilliant Sherlock Holmes, plays the eccentric Turing, the so-called "father of computer science." The film is not merely a tense tale against the backdrop of global terror. Cumberbatch delves into Turing's heartbreaking backstory with brilliance, as Turing faces the consequences of being gay in 1940s England, where homosexuality was viewed as a crime.

With a strong supporting cast, including Keira Knightley and Mark Strong, and themes that span from World War II to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights to scientific discovery, "The Imitation Game" is a captivating experience, regardless of one's personal taste in films.

BY DIETER JOUBERT SENIOR STAFF WRITER



ILLUSTRATION BY ALICE HSIEH

GUARDIAN'S WINTER

VIEW 2014

Joselynn Ordaz

UNBROKEN



ILLUSTRATION BY CHRISTINA CARLSON

Directed by Angelina Jolie

Starring Jack O'Connell, Miyavi, Domhnall Gleeson

Release Date: Dec. 25

Not even Hollywood could invent a tale as filled with inspiration as the unbelievable, true story of "Unbroken." Angelina Jolie's second film tells the story of Olympian Louis Zamperini (Jack O'Connell) after joining the Air Force in 1941. Zamperini's plane crashes in the Pacific Ocean, but while lost at sea, he is captured by the Japanese. In a prisoner of war camp, our hero is tormented by a sadistic army sergeant played by Miyavi, a Japanese singer and surprisingly intense actor.

Acting as the guiding force for talented actors, Jolie keeps the movie true to the story, having developed an intimate relationship with the real Zamperini, who died earlier this year. The runner-turned-World War II bombardier is played by the up-and-coming O'Connell, who gives an expressive performance. With an emotional story and talented cast "Unbroken" hopes to win awards while remaining a faithful tribute to an astounding story of survival.

BY ALLISON KUBO STAFF WRITER

INTO THE WOODS



ILLUSTRATION BY IRENE LUU

Directed by Rob Marshall

Starring Meryl Streep, Emily Blunt, Johnny Depp, Anna Kendrick, Chris Pine

Release Date: Dec. 25

Admit it: The exhausted trend of updating Brothers Grimm fairytales doesn't exactly have you begging for another Cinderella story. So how do you react when Disney announces the premiere of "Into the Woods," another classic tailored with theatrical alterations? Do you talk through the trailer because you're sure you've seen every possible path Little Red Riding Hood could take to get to Grandma's?

No — forget everything you know about the Brothers Grimm. Director Rob Marshall refurbishes the clever fusion of the classic Grimm tales inherited from the original 1986 musical with dramatic cinematic elements, coloring the tale of the Bakers, who cross paths with familiar fairytale characters when they set out to break a curse cast by an evil witch (Meryl Streep) that has prevented them from having a child. Though the film faces the challenge of rivaling its Broadway counterpart, surely a star-studded cast and a charming soundtrack will make it a box office hit.

BY KARLY NISSON STAFF WRITER

FILM REVIEW

EXODUS: GODS AND KINGS

PHOTO USED WITH PERMISSION FROM TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX

Scott's latest epic fails to deliver its ambitious interpretation of Moses' life

Directed by Ridley Scott

Starring Christian Bale, Joel Edgerton, Ben Kingsley, Maria Valverde, Aaron Paul, Indira Varma, John Turturro

Rated R

Release Date Dec. 12

When Ridley Scott announced he was going to direct "Exodus: Gods and Kings," those of us who admire the legendary director of "Blade Runner" and "Alien" shook our heads in disbelief. Scott, the outspoken atheist, examining the relationship between a prophet and his God? Scott, the obsessive artist, portraying Moses, the insecure but inexorable lawgiver? Yes, this had to be better than winning the lottery — much better. Sadly, "Exodus" fails to deliver in almost every aspect. The



plot feels fragmentary from start to finish — too many episodes are put together without a coherent argument. Even the nearly perfect visuals, which combine the elegant with the grandiose, are tainted by unnecessary and distracting 3-D. The film does a lot but accomplishes little.

"Exodus" follows Moses maturing from a prince of Egypt to a Jewish prophet. Scott and two-time Oscar-winning writer Steven Zaillian ("Schindler's List") deviate from the biblical story to focus on the relationship between Ramesses II (Joel

Edgerton) and his adopted brother, Moses (Christian Bale). The struggle begins early when a pagan prophecy — which the rational Moses dismisses with a laugh — predicts the emergence of a new leader in an upcoming battle. Ramesses naturally suspects that it refers to Moses and starts mistrusting his brother. The conflict explodes when he discovers Moses' Israelite identity and pushes him into exile. Each sibling becomes the leader of his people; the film turns a political battle into a fraternal clash.

The biggest fight of all, however, occurs within the prophet's head. Moses' doubts about God's mission and the initial rejection of his Jewish identity are the brightest spots of an otherwise disorganized storyline. Zaillian tries to do it all: Moses vs. Brother, Moses vs. Wife, Moses vs. God, Moses vs. Moses — you get the idea. The result is a highly complex character study, played with mastery

by Bale but juxtaposed with a horde of underdeveloped characters who offer next to nothing. An obvious example is Joshua, played by Aaron Paul. "Breaking Bad" fans will be greatly disappointed seeing Paul underutilized in such a grotesque manner. Joshua stands awkwardly, almost speechless, for the entire movie. Similarly, Edgerton and Maria Valverde (Moses' wife) are little more than walking clichés.

The strongest part of the film, Scott's treatment of God and his motivations, is also its biggest flaw. "Exodus" has no qualms in representing God as a furious, cruel, tribal and sadistic force who kills innocent kids and torments entire civil populations with undeserved suffering. Is it about freedom, Moses asks, or is it really about vengeance? God is unapologetic in his answer — there is no freedom without vengeance, he seems to respond.

This is "Exodus" at its best; however, as with the rest of the film, the flaws eclipse its virtues. Scott chooses to portray God as a scary 11-year-old boy. We get the symbolism: kids are instinctive and aggressive, but they are also truthful and free. The problem is that it's not convincing. The otherwise fascinating exchanges between God and Moses become outright ridiculous by the presence of the kid-God. We simply do not buy it.

The film makes us sigh for what it could have been. Scott's ambition ends up collapsing into nothingness. We leave the theater with an empty feeling, as if someone stole something great from us. In the end, the film is going to be remembered for its visual effects and Bale's heroic acting. A sad ending indeed.

— MARIO ATTIE
STAFF WRITER

Q & A

Anna Kendrick and Chris Pine talk about their roles in Disney's upcoming remake of the classic fairytale musical "Into the Woods."

WRITTEN BY TEIKO YAKOBSON
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

PHOTO USED WITH PERMISSION FROM WALT DISNEY STUDIOS

Into the Woods" has been engulfed by buzzing anticipation as Disney and Stephen Sondheim fans alike wonder what sort of magic this unbelievable collaboration has in store for its Christmas Day debut. With a big-name cast starring Meryl Streep, Emily Blunt, Chris Pine, Anna Kendrick and Johnny Depp, the musical-turned-film has sparked high expectations for its modified retelling of the eerie Brothers Grimm fairytales. The UCSD Guardian caught up with Pine and Kendrick for their insight on Disney's latest marriage of theater and film.

Guardian: What can this movie offer for different audiences, both adults and children?

Anna Kendrick: I think that, thematically, a couple of pieces are about parents and children and the disappointments of parents and the failures of parents. It's based on stories that parents have told their children for generations, so there's the element where it's pure fantasy and it's exciting for kids and then the elements which [are] specifically centered toward parents, which is [the message that] we have to be careful what we tell our children and [that] children take lessons to heart. And it's sort of about under-

standing that they are listening to us even if it doesn't feel that way, and it's our responsibility to prepare them for the realities of the world, which is what the second half of the film is really about. And right now Chris Pine is harassing me.

Chris Pine: I'm going to rip your wig off right now.

AK: Oh! Chris, something that you want to add?

CP: I think what Anna [said] deeply resonates with my own beliefs about the film.

G: How are each of you taking [your] roles and really making them your own?

CP: For my part, you know everyone in this film goes through these really complex journeys, and they experience joy and heartache and sorrow and grief and then my prince is just way more two-dimensional than that. He's kind of wonderfully self-absorbed, and I think that I had a lot of fun bringing some levity to the picture — or tried to — and there's a bit of a buffoon in the prince. And he realizes [that when], I think finally, wonderfully, Cinderella gives him the chance to

really feel and to really connect with her. And I think he does for a brief second but then does make the choice to go back and run off and relive over and over again this storybook life that he is so accustomed to. But I had a lot of fun making the prince kind of buffoon-ish.

AK: I had a lot of fun watching Chris be a buffoon. But I think that the great thing was that [director] Rob [Marshall] really embraced a modern sensibility for all the characters because, since these stories kind of belong to the ages, it makes sense that in some ways we update them every generation, and one [way] that he allowed me to do [that] was to sort of be a sort of overthinking, over-logical, neurotic princess. And I think modern women have a tendency to overthink everything, and they don't trust their gut, and we have to think at everything from every angle to find the right decision and she's doing that [through] the entire piece until something that she really has to reckon with happens. When the community is in crisis, suddenly, it's very clear for her what's important. And when the prince comes to her and tells her to come back to the castle, she's very centered, and she's very calm

more so than she is in any other moment in the piece. And she says to the prince, "Do you understand me? Do we understand each other? Do we even live in the same emotional world?" And when the answer is no, it's very easy for her to say, "I choose the unknown. Even though you represent security and a better life, I choose the unknown."

G: What was the vibe like on set? What was the biggest advantage of working with such a talented group?

CP: I think Rob really set the tone in the beginning. You know, he's a director who comes from the theater world, so he recognized the importance and the real luxury of having a month for rehearsal before you ever show your [performance] to the public and he made sure to build that in. And even though ... he didn't get a chance to work with everyone, we did get a chance to see one another to see what everyone was doing, and I think that really helped infuse the project with a sense of community and that we were all kind of on the same page. And I think that you'll hopefully feel that great feeling in the film.

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When it comes to restaurant recommendations, word of mouth is the best source of information on secretly delicious food joints. More and more people use websites like Yelp to spread the word and tell the world about their favorite “hole-in-the-wall” eateries. Yelp, by including Alforon in its Top 100 Places to Eat, helped Alforon, a Lebanese restaurant on El Cajon Boulevard the size of a living room, become famous countrywide. Out of all 100 places, five are located in San Diego, making this Middle Eastern restaurant a must-visit for UCSD students.

Admittedly, Alforon makes an ambivalent first impression. Located on a deserted part of El Cajon and surrounded by a bike shop and two smoke shops, it does not look like a top-25 restaurant in America on Yelp. As you enter the eatery, the impression does not change. There are only six tables in a relatively small one-room space; the walls and ceiling are painted terra-cotta, making the place look dark, and as they are currently in the middle of renovations in an effort to expand, the left wall is currently left destroyed and covered with a black drape. However, if you convince yourself that the odd exterior and interior only make Alforon more distinct and stay to try the food, you will be soon rewarded with exceptional service and dishes. In fact, one of the owners, George or Samia, will make sure

you are not left alone with your first impression and will seat you at a table immediately.

Undoubtedly, service is a very special part of the Alforon experience. George and Samia operate the whole restaurant — they both make your food and bring it to your table. Choosing food at Alforon is more of a conversation than an order-making process. One of the owners, usually Samia, will sit at your table to ask about your preferences and cravings. Based on what you say, she chooses dishes for you. Such a service approach makes Alforon a perfect place for indecisive customers. You might be taken aback by Samia’s enthusiasm as she helps you out with an order, but it is simply a sign of how passionate the owners are about their business. This passion is also the reason why the owners made all their dishes truly affordable. The most expensive item, a dozen falafel pieces with tahini and pickles, costs \$12.75 and should definitely be shared because one person alone can’t eat all 12 pieces. In fact, you have to make a serious effort to go over \$12 per person for the entire meal.

Just as music is a harmony of sounds and a painting is a harmony of colors, any Alforon dish is a harmony of flavors. Both well-known Middle Eastern dishes, such as falafel, hummus and shawarma and Alforon-special oven-baked flatbreads represent a perfect combination of flavors.


With the soujouk — Armenian-style ground beef flatbread with tomato, onion and white cheese for \$6.95 — or chicken tawook — chicken flatbread with garlic paste and pickles for \$6.95 — all flatbread toppings combine in one smooth and rich flavor, making you wonder whether there is a secret ingredient designed to tie meat, vegetables and spices together so perfectly. Just like pizza, Alforon flatbreads are meant to be shared; therefore, bringing two or three people with you is a perfect way to try a wide variety of dishes. This is especially true in the mezza menu section, which has a selection of small appetizers that can be easily shared. Spreads like humous (\$5.45), labni (kefir cheese spread) or baba ghannouj (\$5.95) are simply put on a thin pita bread that is included in the price, while signature Alforon grape leaves stuffed with rice, tomatoes, parsley and spices are served by a dozen or half a dozen. Many of the mezza items do not contain any type of meat, so carnivores and vegetarians are equally welcomed at Alforon.

Presenting Middle Eastern cuisine at its finest and providing cozy, home-like service, Alforon is a place where you feel like a guest at your friend’s house. So take your foodie friends and get ready to share the best dishes Lebanese cuisine has to offer.

— OLGA GOLUBKOVA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER




PHOTO BY BRANDON RAHMAN

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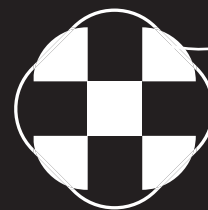
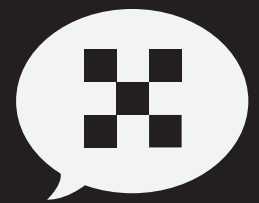
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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Tritons Split on the Road

UCSD defeats CSUMB, blows lead in loss to CSUEB

BY MARCUS THULLIER
STAFF WRITER

The UCSD women's basketball team (3-4, 1-1) opened up conference play for the California Collegiate Athletic Association on the road this past weekend and went 1-1 over the two-game stretch. The Tritons defeated Cal State Monterey Bay on Friday (68-57) before losing to Cal State East Bay on Saturday by a 74-57 score.

UCSD had a dominating defensive showing on Friday, as it forced 20 turnovers and scored 17 points off of them. The Tritons blew the game open right from the start with an early 20-5 run to pull ahead 30-13. At the end of a strong opening half, senior center Dana Webster put back an offensive rebound to beat the buzzer and give UCSD a 34-19 lead entering intermission.

Five minutes after halftime, UCSD jumped to its biggest lead at 43-25, after a three from sophomore guard Beth Mounier. However, the Otters slowly skimmed the lead down until they only trailed by single digits at 62-54 after a Jenna Bandy shot from beyond the arc. Senior guard Miranda Seto and junior forward Farrah Shokoor came up big in the closing minutes of the game to hold off the run by the Otters and ultimately earn a 68-57 win.

"Now [our matchups] are in our league and obviously every game is important," UCSD head coach Heidi VanDerveer said. "We went to Monterey, and I thought our defense was very solid. We got in a nice offensive rhythm and that gave a nice flow to the game."

UCSD's scoring was balanced, with Shokoor leading all with 17 points and six rebounds and Seto adding 12 points, as the aggressive pair combined for 19 free-throw attempts. Webster also had a solid game coming from the bench as she recorded her first double-double of the season with 12 points and 11 rebounds.

The following night, UCSD again started the game off strong but could not maintain its momentum against Cal State East Bay. The Tritons got a 30-13 early lead, with six minutes and 29 seconds left in the first pe-

riod after Seto sank a three-pointer and senior guard Stephanie Yano chipped in a pair of free throws. However, East Bay showed resilience and slowly crept closer, until the Pioneers made it a six-point game at halftime at 36-30 on a junior guard Shannon Bland layup to beat the buzzer.

"We played against a very good East Bay team, and we played very well in the first half," Vanderveer told the UCSD Guardian. "In the second half, we struggled to find an offensive or defensive rhythm. We got some decent shots but missed them — shots that we normally would make."

With 14 minutes and 13 seconds left in the second period, back-to-back threes by Cal State East Bay's junior guard Mo Fegan first tied the game up at 41 apiece, then provided the lead for the Pioneers. After sophomore forward Cassie MacLeod tied it up again on a three for the Tritons, Cal State East Bay pulled away and outscored the Tritons 30-13 in the remaining minutes en route to a 74-57 victory.

Senior forward McKennan Bertsch came close to a double-double as she scored 18 points and added nine rebounds. Shokoor had seven points and game-high 18 boards. Seto, Yano and sophomore guard Haley Anderson, the three starting guards, struggled with their shooting, going for a combined 7-26 from the field. Cal State East Bay had four players in double-figures scoring.

"We had some foul trouble with Miranda [Seto]," VanDerveer said. "We have to play through foul trouble, and we are deep enough to be able to do that. Our defense needs to help our offense find a good rhythm and we just couldn't do that this time."

UCSD will remain on the road for one more game this week before taking a short break from action. The Tritons will have a tough matchup in league opponent No. 25 California State Polytechnic University Pomona this Friday, Dec. 12. The game will tip off at 6 p.m.

READERS CAN CONTACT
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SPORTS CLUBS

Clubs Battle in Dodgeball

Sports club play in annual dodgeball extravaganza.

COMPILED BY
BRITTNEY VIERRA

Over this past weekend, UCSD's Sports Clubs hosted the annual Dodgeball Extravaganza in the RIMAC Arena.

Teams comprised of members from several different sports clubs on campus competed in a double elimination-style dodgeball tournament for prizes and fun.

The event also focused on collecting new toys for the Toys for Tots Foundation. The women's club soccer team came together to bring the mostly new, unwrapped toys of all squads for children in need. Aside from the dodgeball and toys, teams also participated in a movie-themed costume contest and social games of Spikeball.

The women's club ultimate team won first place in the costume contest by arriving dressed as the cast from Pitch Perfect. Women's

ultimate was also recognized for its outstanding turnout at the event.

With two counts of dodgeball games happening at once, the tournament quickly progressed from 16 teams down to two. Men's lacrosse and baseball went head-to-head in a best-of-seven championship game.

The games were close, going back and forth between the two teams. Eventually, the tournament came down to the last match with both baseball and lacrosse at three wins each. Ultimately, the men's lacrosse team came out victorious.

All in all, the teams had a great time socializing and enjoying a friendly competition. This event would not have been possible without its sponsors: Sprinkles Cupcakes, Toys for Tots, Starbucks, Chipotle and Trader Joes; UC San Diego Sports Clubs thanks you for your donations and support.

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SPORTS

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BRANDON YU

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UPCOMING
UCSD
GAMES

W. Basketball	12/12	AT Cal Poly Pomona
M. Basketball	12/12	AT Cal Baptist University
W. Basketball	12/21	VS Cal Poly Pomona
M. Basketball	12/21	VS Cal Poly Pomona
Swim & Dive	12/29	AT San Diego State

FALL SEASON IN REVIEW

THE 2014 FALL TRITON SEASON WAS A WILD ONE, WITH FOUR TEAMS OUT OF FIVE CLINCHING AN NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP BERTH. IN CASE YOU WERE TOO CAUGHT UP IN THE SWING OF THE QUARTER, TAKE A LOOK AT THE GUARDIAN'S REVIEW OF AUTUMN'S ATHLETICS.

BY BRANDON YU, JOHN STORY, & DANIEL SUNG SPORTS EDITOR & ASSOCIATE EDITORS
DESIGN BY SHERMAN ALINE

MEN'S SOCCER



Despite the loss of an incredibly talented senior class after the 2013 season, the men's soccer squad constructed a surprisingly formidable set of new leaders in the 2014 campaign. Senior midfielder Brandon Bauman broke out in his final year, scoring six goals and tallying nine assists through 20 games. UCSD's stout defensive front, along with the strong play of junior goalkeeper Cameron McElfresh, also recorded a stellar nine shutouts on the season. With a reliable collection of veterans and rising young talent, the Tritons produced a wild ride of a season. They performed well in the regular season but fell early on in conference playoffs. However, following what seemed to be the end, the team was given new life after a surprising qualification to the NAACs. The Tritons would officially end their season in the first round of the tournament to nationally ranked No. 14 Cal State Los Angeles via a prolonged and ultimately heartbreaking series of penalty kicks, but their efforts in reaching such a point were undoubtedly impressive.

OVERALL RECORD: 9-4-5
ELIMINATED 1ST ROUND OF NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP

CROSS COUNTRY



After an impressive showing of teamwork at NAACs Regionals, the entire women's cross country team qualified for nationals. The team performed well, placing 21 out of 32 teams at the NCAA Division-II National Championship in Louisville, Kentucky on Dec. 6.

On the men's side, senior Tanner Collins, qualified for the individual race and placed 78 out of 245 runners. Though the Tritons will bid farewell to standout Michelle Le Roux along with Collins and Madison Tanner, both the men's and women's teams will welcome back a strong group in 2015 with full potential to make a return to the national stage.

ELIMINATED IN NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP

MEN'S WATER POLO

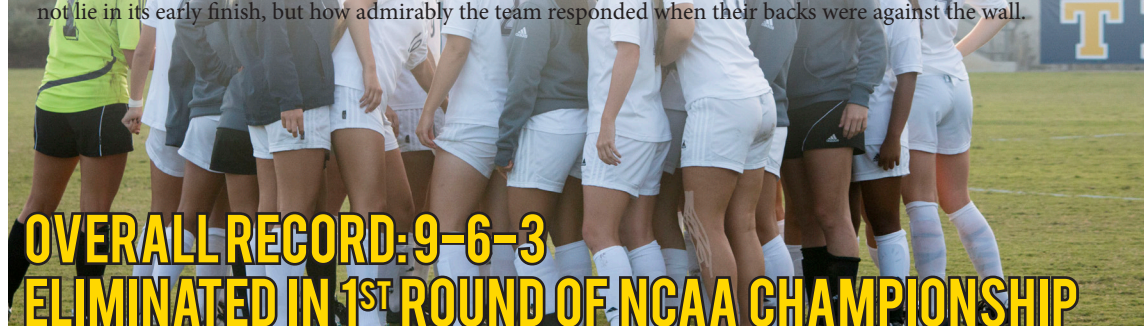


OVERALL RECORD: 16-11
4TH PLACE AT NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP

The men's water polo squad undoubtedly had the most success of all Triton teams in this fall athletic season. While UCSD was slated early on to host the 2014 national championship at home at Canyonview Pool, securing a competing spot themselves was far from a guarantee. As a Division II team consistently facing the top Division-I teams, the Tritons had an exceptional challenge ahead of them. However, this year's group seized control of their fate with the help of a strong core of veterans including senior utility Josh Stiling, who earned his second Western Water Polo Association MVP award, and senior goalkeeper Cameron Ravanbach, who tied UCSD's single season saves record, among others. The Tritons eventually fought their way into the Final Four, during which they fell to the top two teams in the nation in No. 1 UCLA and No. 2 Stanford. Despite the losses, fighting for the national crown in front of a home crowd appeared satisfactory enough to a spectacular season. While an invaluable set of eight seniors will depart, expect longtime head coach Denny Harper to maintain the respected status of the men's water polo program in 2015.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

The women's soccer team's overall record and its final placement did not do justice to the memorable season that was. After starting the season with a 1-3-1 conference record, the Triton women would go on an undefeated streak in the final six games of the season to miraculously force their way into the postseason. During that entire final stretch, in which UCSD won five matches and tied in another, the Tritons amazingly allowed only one goal. Leading the Tritons was senior midfielder and team captain Cassie Callahan, who wraps up her decorated collegiate career with another impressive year, scoring four goals with three assists — three of the goals being game-winners. The year also gave way to a new star for the blue and gold in freshman midfielder Jordyn McNutt, who scored five goals and recorded a team high seven assists. Unfortunately, the squad's momentum would not carry into the playoffs, as they would be upended by Cal Poly Pomona in the first round of the conference championship. Despite the abrupt ending, the success of the squad's season does not lie in its early finish, but how admirably the team responded when their backs were against the wall.



OVERALL RECORD: 9-6-3
ELIMINATED IN 1ST ROUND OF NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Women's volleyball finished 2014 just above 0.500 with a final win against Cal State Monterey Bay on Nov. 15. The Tritons entered the year with high expectations, but ultimately wore down at the crucial stretch of the season. Though the team fell in rankings throughout the 2014 campaign, the team did at least produce two players with California Collegiate Athletic Association postseason honors in senior opposite Caitlin Brenton and junior outside hitter Danielle Dahle. Brenton also earned an American Volleyball Coaches Association All-West Region honorable mention and recognition as a Capital One Academic All-American. In 2015, UCSD can expect better outcomes within both CCAA competition and its overall record. With Brenton being the exception, all other players are due to return for the 2015 season along with a promising recruiting class that will give UCSD a competitive edge as a veteran squad in league play.



OVERALL RECORD: 14-12
FAILED TO MAKE THE POST SEASON