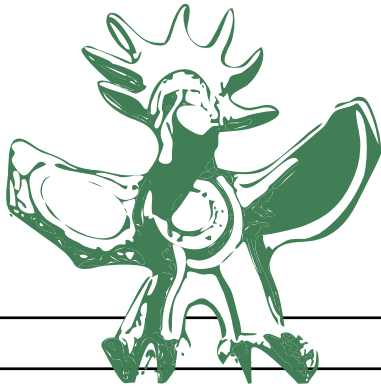


THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO GUARDIAN



www.ucsdguardian.org

Thursday, November 15, 2007

The Student Voice Since 1967

UC Scrutinizes Fine for Lab Security Breach

By Silhan Jin STAFF WRITER

The University of California is seeking a formal review of a \$3-million fine assessed after a former employee of the UC-managed Los Alamos National Laboratory was discovered with stolen classified data.

The university was fined after authorities linked 1,219 pages of documents and classified computer data devices to then 22-year-old former laboratory archivist Jessica Quintana, who lived in a trailer that New Mexico police raided for drugs in October 2006.

UC officials said that they are requesting the legal review because of the limited time they have to discuss the issue with the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration.

"The final notice of violation called for UC to respond within 30 days," UC Office of the President spokesman Chris Harrington said. "[The Judicial Review] preserves the university's right to continue ongoing discussions with the department regarding the notice of violation."

The university objected to the alleged violations, claiming that Quintana was not employed by either the university or the laboratory when she was found with the classified material. After working at LANL for three years, Quintana's work contract had expired a few weeks before the raid. She worked in three divisions at the laboratory, including Safeguards and Security, a physics division and the top-secret X-Division.

University officials also argued that they had taken preventative steps while managing the laboratory, such as reducing the number of removable drives and other forms of portable media.

Despite these claims, the NNSA found that the university showed "a fundamental and disturbing misunderstanding of the proper approach to security matters."

A D.O.E. notice said that the university failed to manage its classified data, having not implemented suitable measures such as physical checks or escort oversight to prevent unauthorized removal of classified materials from the "vault-type room" where such information is stored.

The final notice of violation from the NNSA also outlined five infractions relating to the security of classified materials, alleging the "negligence" of classified material protection requirements which led to the breach by an individual subcontractor.

See LOS ALAMOS, page 7

Red Tape Delays Demise of Historic House



WILL PARSON/GUARDIAN

University House was recently nominated for the National Register of Historic Places, which could potentially impede UCSD's plans to demolish the structure.

Local groups create roadblock for campus' impending demolition of chancellor's house. UCSD to review proposal.

By Sneha Bhamre SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The State Historical Resources Commission unanimously decided on Nov. 9 to nominate University House for a position on the National Register of Historic Places. The 6-0 vote could make it much more difficult for UCSD to move forward with its plans to demolish the La Jolla Farms mansion.

Deemed uninhabitable in 2004 due to extensive mold and poor structural integrity, the university has since been looking for a way to rebuild on the

property.

UCSD Deputy Director of University Communications Dolores Davies said that the house holds a historical importance to the campus, as almost every chancellor has resided on the property since the university purchased it in 1967. The house has also served as a functional setting for assemblies and other past events hosted by the university.

Opposition to the project has come from a number of eclectic sources, including historians and American Indian groups that have a vested interest in the property's archeological and historical value. Despite suggestions that the house be built on a different site to reduce public protest, the university decided that it was not a feasible option.

"There have been people associated with the university that feel it would

be a mistake for them to dispose of the property," Davies said.

Among the groups opposing the house's demolition is the La Jolla Historical Society, which until late last year was still negotiating with the university to keep the house intact. Don Schmidt, a La Jolla resident and board member of the society, said that dwindling progress on the matter led LJHS to create a committee to apply for the national registry.

Built by historical architect William Lumpkins in 1952 in a style called "Pueblo revival," historians view the property's unique architecture as an important resource to the community and country. The house also sits atop an ancient American Indian burial ground — a pivotal concern of American Indian groups — that was found to contain

See MANSION, page 7

MOORES QUILTS BOARD OF REGENTS

Notorious rabble-rouser suddenly departs, with no explanation, more than a year before his term was to expire.

By Matthew L'Heureux NEWS EDITOR

After an eight-year tenure fraught with controversy, outspoken UC Regent John J. Moores unexpectedly resigned from his position on Nov. 12.

Moores did not provide any reason for his departure, nor did he give the UC Board of Regents advance notice of his plans to leave, UC Office of the President spokesman Trey Davis said.

Appointed in 1999 by former Gov. Gray Davis, Moores resigned more than a year before his 10-year term would have come to an end.

Moores' relationship with fellow regents was historically rocky, dating back to a 2003 report where he lambasted the university for allegedly circumventing Proposition 209, which bans California public schools from using race and ethnicity in admissions decisions. He went on to lead an unsuccessful fight to ban research funded by tobacco companies at the university last year, which the regents rejected 14-4 on Sept. 20.

Former Regent Ward Connerly, Moores' ally in the Proposition 209

See MOORES, page 3

Grad Report Highlights Community-Building Techniques

By Jesse Alm CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Graduate and Professional Student Experience and Satisfaction Committee recently released a report containing recommendations meant to transform the campus environment and improve both graduate and undergraduate life.

The committee, formed at the request of Dean of Graduate Studies Richard Attiyeh and former Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Joseph W. Watson in spring 2006, spent the last year collecting student input through thousands of public interviews, as well as surveys like the Graduate Student Association's Graduate and Professional Student Experience Survey, which was conducted in 2005.

Graduate Student co-Chair Derek Lomas encouraged students to take advantage of the administration's request for suggestions as to

how the university could improve.

"For students who are interested in change in general, this is the kind of thing that you can get behind," he said. "The more the changes are supported by students, the more likely they are to happen."

The report outlines five major areas in which it claims improvement is needed for graduate students: sense of community, academic life, housing, student support services and communications. It also recommends the formation of a permanent GPSSES Steering Committee and creation of an assistant dean of graduate student life position.

However, Lomas stressed that a sense of campus community, which he considers to be the report's principal topic, is not something that is specific to one group of students.

The report's proposals include everything from the creation of ethnic food carts to landscaping

the area around Geisel Library to allow for recreational space, ideas he said would benefit the campus as a whole.

"Changes that improve community for graduate students will also improve community for undergraduate students," he said.

Lomas said that in contrast to the Undergraduate Student Experience and Satisfaction Committee report of 2005, which received criticism for being too long-winded and broad, Assistant Dean of Graduate Studies Tim Johnston praised the GPSSES committee for limiting and consolidating the issues that it addressed.

"The intent was to focus attention on major issues and give the steering committee a direction and goals rather than specific action items," Johnston said.

He added that the report will allow the permanent steering committee to base its actions on current situations rather than previously

Coming Together

Report requests improvement in these graduate life areas:

- Sense of community
• Academic life
• Housing
• Student support services
• Communications

SOURCE: GPSSES COMMITTEE

mandated instructions.

However, Lomas emphasized that the report only contains recommendations.

"We didn't release policy," he said. "We provided a vision of graduate student life for five years down the road."

In one survey, just 10 percent of graduate students reported feeling a sense of community, a figure Lomas

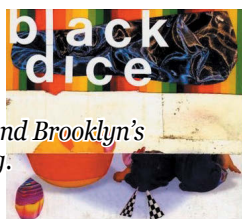
See REPORT, page 7

HIATUS

High Rollers

La Jolla's Contemporary Art Museum and Brooklyn's Black Dice showcase the art of sampling.

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SPORTS

Double Trouble

Women's tennis struggles with doubles play in season finale at UC Irvine Invitational.

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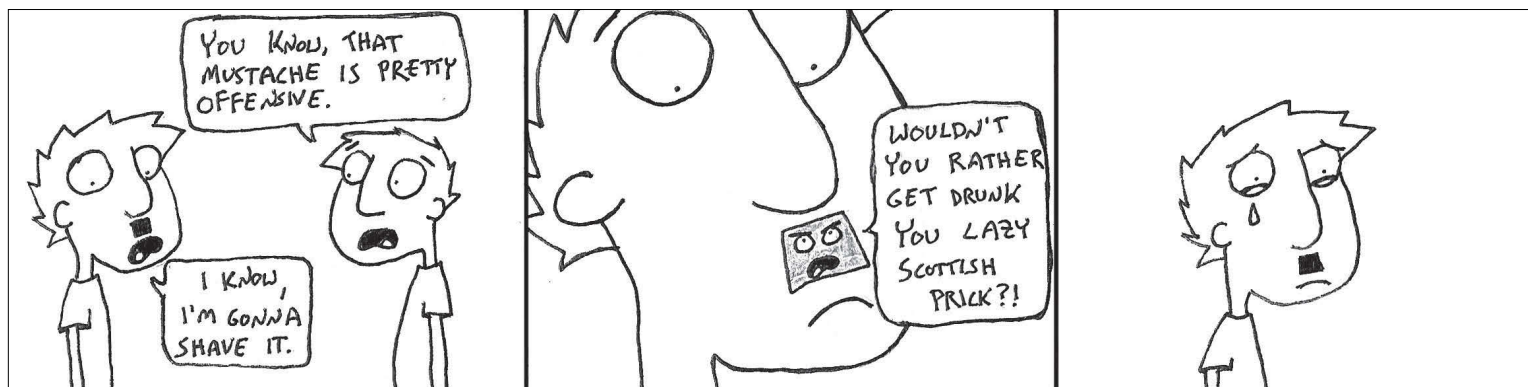
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WEATHER

Weather forecast for Nov 15 and Nov 16, including high/low temperatures and icons for sun and clouds.

POORLY DRAWN LINES

BY REZA FARAZMAND



CURRENTS

New UC Merced Chancellor Inaugurated

Sung-Mo "Steve" Kang was inducted as the chancellor of UC Merced in a Nov. 6 ceremony on the university's campus.

Kang was joined by UC President Robert C. Dynes and Vice Chairman of the UC Board of Regents Russell S. Gould, as well as other UC and government officials.

More than 600 people, including UC Merced faculty, staff, students and invited friends of the campus, witnessed the inauguration and keynote speaker Arno Penzias, who received the 1978 Nobel Prize in physics.

"UC Merced is just stepping into its new phase, which, as an engineer, I would call, 'UC Merced 2.0,'" Kang said to the audience. "We have come a long way in the short time since our campus opened. Our well-loved campus is thriving and poised for great achievements."

In his speech, Kang said he would strive to innovate every aspect of the campus' endeavors, including academic excellence, international partnerships, community service programs, entrepreneurship, technology for distance learning and medicine.

"Kang will lead UC Merced into a new era of ascendancy and distinction," Dynes said during the ceremony. "And it will be my privilege and my joy to watch him do it. His passion for innovation will help realize the founders' vision of transforming the valley."

Kang is the first Korean-American to lead a major research university. More than 60 percent of UC Merced

students come from underrepresented ethnic or socioeconomic groups. In addition, more than half of the university's students are first-generation college students.

Study Suggests Curvy Women Are Smarter

Results from a new UC-led study reveal that larger hips correlate with higher test scores for both a woman and her child.

Researchers from the University of Pittsburgh and UC Santa Barbara analyzed data from a study in which body measurements, education levels and various cognitive test scores of more than 16,000 women and girls were recorded from 1988-94.

The report shows that women with waists that were about 70 percent of the diameter of their hips scored slightly better on intelligence tests and tended to have a higher level of education than women with a higher waist-to-hip ratio. The researchers also contend that men, whether they know it or not, tend to prefer curvier women because of this advantage.

Although the differences in cognitive ability were small — on average between 3.6 percent and 7 percent — the reason behind the findings may lie in the differences between the fat stored in the hips and legs and fat stored in the stomach. The fat surrounding fuller hips and thighs, researchers said, holds higher levels of omega-3 fatty acids, which foster brain growth.

The study was published in the journal of Evolution and Human Behavior.

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OPINION

Web poll: Would changing "a-g" requirements boost competition among UC applicants?

HIATUS

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Schedules: Find the best games for Fall Quarter.



- Classifieds
- Comment on stories

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Educating Minds and Hearts to Change The World

Council Navigates Campus Maze for Glimpse of Future Developments

Price Center's future Loft nightclub took center stage at yesterday's council meeting during a presentation that emphasized its wine bar and sociable setting. Next up was a presentation regarding the pending overhaul of UCSD's Web site, making it a great night for anyone who knew his Cabernet Sauvignon from his XHTML.

However, before these matters could be tended to, several councilmembers needed to work their way into the building. A scheduling conflict forced the council to conduct its business outside of its usual Price Center Ballroom location.

The imposing locked doors of the Mandell Weiss Forum sent some councilmembers snaking down an entry ramp, in through a backstage exit, up a cramped flight of stairs, and, remarkably, out an upstairs exit that left them right where they started.

Biological Sciences Senator **Emma Sandoe** started the meeting after an 11-minute delay.

"Hopefully we all learned something about campus today," she said.

Director of University Events Office **Martin Wollesen** then launched into his promotion of the Loft, an on-campus nightclub that's scheduled to open by late March or early April.

Wollesen explained that the Loft was founded on three pillars: event programming several nights a week, food and beverage service and a unique interior design.

He added that his office was considering daytime alcohol service to attract more students as well as a "Loft lift" to help transport off-campus students

home safely.

Following Wollesen was TritonLink Project Director **Beth Surrell**, who demonstrated a closed beta version of the new UCSD Web site. She said the update will affect both TritonLink and the campus site, the latter of which hasn't been redesigned since 2001.

The new Web site will have a more consistent, streamlined appearance. Similar to the current site, the new one will make use of updates from University Communications for its front-page content, now complete with a rotating lead news photo. Councilmembers

had some reservations about the redesign.

Associate Vice President of Student Advocacy **Neetu Balram** noted the marginalization of the color yellow in TritonLink's new look.

"It doesn't look as happy," she said.

In expressing his skepticism, Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs **Long Pham** said, "It looks like WebCT. Maybe that's why I'm not getting the ..." and awkwardly rolled his hands over each other toward Surrell in lieu of completing the criticism.

The new Web site will launch on Dec. 17.

After Surrell's presentation, Associate Vice President of Local Affairs **Aida Kuzucan** followed up last week's discussion of a "fabulous parade" for UCSD by telling the council she had secured a float in La Jolla's upcoming holiday parade.

"It's not actually a float," she said, to rising laughter and cheers, "but an imaginative one in my head that needs to be built in two weeks and I need help. I've never made a float before."

Ex-Regent: Moores Was Very Frustrated

► **MOORES**, from page 1 battle, told the *San Diego Union-Tribune* that his friend had been frustrated with delayed efforts to restructure the university's much-criticized operations.

"If he felt it was a productive use of time, he would still be there," Connerly said.

Earlier this week, UC President Robert C. Dynes issued a brief statement that praised Moores for his various accomplishments and service to the university. Specifically, Dynes mentioned Moores' role in developing StatFinder, an online tool released in October that provides detailed information about UC admission statistics.

"John Moores has been a generous philanthropist both at the university and beyond, he has been actively engaged on issues of interest to him at the Board of Regents and he has worked to improve public access to data regarding student admissions at the university," Dynes said.

Apart from his career as a regent, Moores is the owner of the San Diego Padres, as well as the chairman of investment firm JMI Services, Inc. and the Carter Center, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of human rights. UCSD's Rebecca and John Moores Cancer Center was renamed in his honor after he and his wife donated \$20 million in 2001.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger will nominate a successor to complete the remainder of Moores' term, which will expire in March 2009. A date for the appointment has not yet been announced.

Readers can contact Matthew L'Heureux at mlheureu@ucsd.edu.



New Business

Michael Bowlus
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Designation Does Not Prohibit the Mansion's Demolition

► **MANSION**, from page 1
skeletal remains dating back to roughly 9650 B.C. In addition to disrupting the ancient resting place, reconstructing a new house raised environmental concerns over plant and wildlife situated on the property.

Although the national-registry designation does not prevent the university from moving ahead with its plans, Courtney Coyle, an environmental attorney who helped one of the Indian tribal nations submit the application to the SHRC, said that raising awareness across different communities about the prop-

erty's significance would be the effort's primary benefit.

"The designation would elevate the status of the property and become more of a public relations issue that they have to deal with," Coyle said.

Stagnated construction would give way to additional scrutiny of what is being done and how, Coyle said. University officials would have to show that they have done their best to preserve the site's integrity and could find no way to preserve the house, she added.

An environmental impact report released in June detailed several different options for refurbishing or demolishing the house on the property. The university cited the lessened costs of demolition as evidence against renovating the mansion.

Schmidt said he disagrees with the finding, and said LJHS has since hired consultants to survey the property. While they found the house

needs rehabilitation, they said it is not falling apart. Additionally, he added that the house can be refurbished for less money and should be kept as a "moment in time" for both La Jolla residents and future UCSD students.

"This is the kind of historic structure that preservationists want to keep intact, not just elements of it taken off the site," Coyle said.

The university has proposed several alternatives to combat the loss, including using the house's frame as garden walls or providing a detailed video history of the site.

Why, when you know you have a historical resource, would you create a little historic petting zoo?"

— Don Schmidt, board member, La Jolla Historical Society

S c h m i d t, along with other historians and preservationists, said that these are unsatisfactory means of upholding the property's archeological and historical value.

"Why, when you know you have a historical resource, would you create a little historic petting

zoo?" he said. "I mean, would we tear down the Eiffel Tower and leave a few scraps of metal as remnants?"

Davies said the university has yet to review the designation in order to best address the issues it presents. A final proposal was meant to be submitted in September, but now the historical designation must be taken into account before submitting the project for approval.

The SHRC is expected to make a final decision on the nomination within 60 to 90 days.

Readers can contact Sneha Bhamre at sbhamre@ucsd.edu.

University Uncertain About Appealing Fine

► **LOS ALAMOS**, from page 1
"The UC system] may not escape liability for these deficiencies because an individual subcontractor exploited weaknesses in [the university's] security management controls shortly after the university's tenure ended," the notice said.

The university managed the laboratory from 1943 to May 2006, just five months before the breach.

Los Alamos National Security LLC — an entity of which the university is a member — currently over-

sees the labs, and has already paid a \$300,000 fine for seven security-related violations. Though the university had fewer violations in total, it was fined more heavily because the D.O.E. found fault in the university's inadequate management, according to the letter.

Quintana said she had taken the material home to catch up on work and later forgot about it. She has since pleaded guilty to a single misdemeanor count of negligent handling of classified documents.

LANL representatives could not be reached for comment.

Despite the university's decision to seek a formal legal review, it is uncertain if the university will ultimately decide to appeal the decision.

Harrington said that the university wants to communicate further with the D.O.E. on the issue, which the legal review permits.

Readers can contact Silhan Jin at sijin@ucsd.edu.

Report: Good University Needs More Than Academics

► **REPORT**, from page 1
said should upset all students and inspire them to voice their concerns.

"We need to pay attention to the things that don't get measured by academic performance," he said. "We are really trying to change the thinking in the administration."

The report argues that a high academic standard is not the sole determinant that makes a great university.

"The 'mastery' of an academic discipline is not the solitary goal of the graduate education," the report

said. "Connectivity" is also a primary value that must be consciously cultivated."

Johnston said that he is confident that the report will be successful in influencing future university decisions.

"I think they did a great job at putting the report together and collecting information, and I am looking forward to seeing some of their goals implemented," he said.

Johnston said that Attiyeh and Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs

Penny Rue are scheduled to appoint members to the GPSES Steering Committee by the end of Fall Quarter.

He added that on-campus departments, student groups and service units have already begun to consider several of the recommendations of the report.

The report is available online at www.vcsa.ucsd.edu.

Readers can contact Jesse Alm at jessealm@gmail.com.

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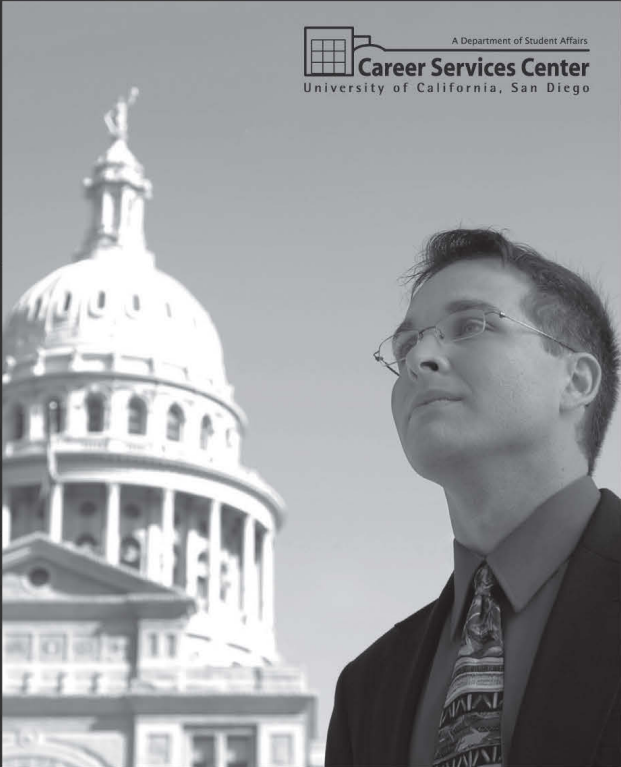
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EDITORIALS

Admissions Changes Will Breed Unready Students

A proposed alteration to the UC admissions process, via a policy that would provide admissions consideration to applicants who have not met all required “a-g” courses, among other changes, is simply another naive attempt by the university to boost the admission rates of underrepresented applicants.

In actuality, the changes outlined by the UC Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools will do little to improve access to the nation’s premier public university system.

The policy, known as “entitled to review,” would scrap the university’s Eligibility Index, which is aimed at the state’s top 12.5 percent of high school graduates. Using a combination of factors such as GPA and standardized test scores, the index currently sets a minimum threshold for those students’ admission eligibility.

It also eliminates SAT II Subject Tests, which B.O.A.R.S. members say contribute “very little to [the university’s] ability to predict which applicants will perform well initially” at a UC campus.

However, the new policy’s most troubling aspect is its plan to coddle certain applicants who do not complete all required “a-g” classes, but who demonstrate “substantially equivalent academic preparation.” These applicants would be granted a campus-based comprehensive review through which they could be

offered admission.

B.O.A.R.S. claims that the current admissions guidelines favor “affluent” high schools made up of “large proportions of white and Asian students,” and that the new policy will better reflect the state’s other high schools.

But skirting the “a-g” requirements does nothing to address the social factors contributing to low application rates among minority students. The university also fails to clarify what “equivalent academic preparation” means, leaving admissions officials armed with a vague policy that could easily be subject to abuse.

The minimum requirements were put in place to ensure applicants can succeed at the university level, and most admitted students complete well beyond the 30 semesters currently required for admission, in addition to numerous community and personal achievements.

Upon enrolling, students missing a year or more of English, math or laboratory science would inevitably find themselves disadvantaged when compared to other students who have completed those classes, whether they were student body president or not.

If enacted, the policy will also undoubtedly lead to an increase in the number of applications to each UC campus, thus increasing competition among all students regardless of



ILLUSTRATIONS BY MICHAEL CAPPARELLI/GUARDIAN

their level of academic preparation.

According to B.O.A.R.S., students accepted under the new policy will be offered admission on a “by-exception basis entirely consistent with the existing Admission by Exception policy.”

If this is the case, then high-achieving students missing one or two required courses already have an available option. So changing the entire admissions policy is, in effect, pointless.

Although some ideas detailed in the proposal, such as the elimination of the SAT II Subject Tests, are worth exploring further, encouraging students who do not meet minimum requirements to apply is ultimately a disservice to qualified students who do.

THE GUARDIAN

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Computerized Life Stomps Out Human Contact

A few nights ago I was hanging out with friends when we decided to grab some food. The excursion started like any other — fighting over who should drive, a few U-turns and some loud music — but when we finally arrived at Carl’s Jr., I made a shocking discovery.

Beside the normal human-



Stealing the Shoes

Hadley Mendoza
hsmendoza@ucsd.edu

attended register were two automatic-teller-looking machines that took food orders.

I don’t know why I found this so outrageous; I should have seen it coming. But for some reason this fast-food order apparatus took me by surprise. I mean, really people? Really?

Similar mechanical helpers already exist at banks and grocery stores, but I guess I just ignore them in favor of human help. You can already order pizza or buy movie tickets online, not ever having to deal with an actual person, and hardly anyone goes into the post office anymore.

We all walk around, plugged into iconic white ear buds, not interacting with one another. And have you ever needed help with a bill payment, traffic ticket or computer problem?

Good luck navigating the 40-minute phone tree.

With all these simple interactions already mechanized, it’s plausible to believe that the majority of our everyday exchanges will soon be automated.

Wow, the future really is here. And man, did it sneak up on me.

Now this might sound ridiculous coming from a 20-year-old, but what happened to the good old days when you could go to Carl’s Jr., order a chocolate milkshake, hand money to your little brother’s pimply high-school friend and have that drink bused to your table?

Where will high-school kids get work experience if these tasks are now being taken care of by machines?

If your first job wasn’t at a fast-food restaurant, it was probably something similarly blue collar — maybe you took movie tickets, washed dishes or, if you were lucky, filed papers at an

See **SHOES**, page 6

Mini Time Tiff Could Mean Bearish Problems for Rue

In relationships, it’s the smaller interactions that best signify the bigger picture. Expect a broken rapport, then, between new Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Penny Rue and A.S. councilmembers. The wildly popular council-sponsored Bear Garden has undergone a series of time-swaps; those changes, made at Rue’s behest, could sour students’ taste with an administrator that said she is committed to personal interaction.

The implementation of Bear Gardens has been perhaps the A.S. Council’s most notable achievement over the past year. Each time the council’s programming department hosts the multi-quarterly event, it achieves the intangibly dreamy goals laid out by the Undergraduate Student Experience and Satisfaction Report: to build, strengthen and reinforce community ideals. Those were parallel to Rue’s goals when she began her tenure earlier this year.

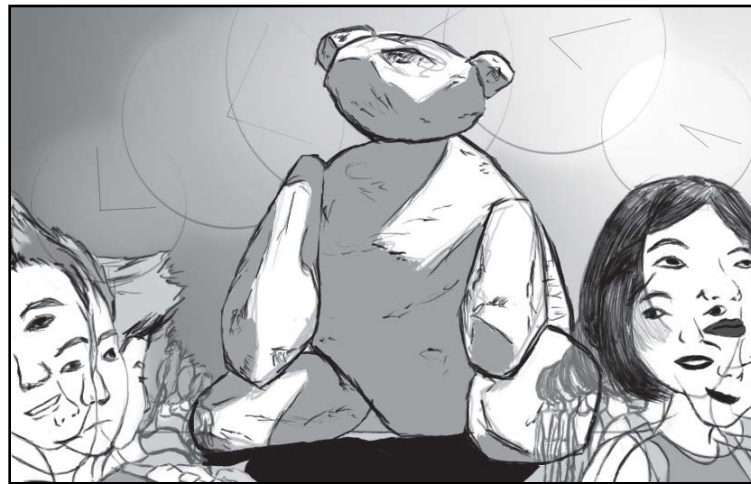
In an interview with the *Guardian*, Rue acknowledged UCSD’s lack of cooperative spirit and the pains created by its decentralized structure — then

she said she could fix it. Rue’s solution was to interact directly with students; to actively seek out and hear the student voice; to minimize bureaucratic fluff. The efforts were far from revolutionary, but admirable in scope.

The recent snag between councilmembers and Rue speak against her early-year ambitions. Fearing that alcohol consumption would clash with the university’s academic mission, Rue ordered this year’s first Bear Garden to be moved to a later time.

The same rule-of-thumb, used against the Nov. 30 Bear Garden, inflamed councilmembers, who said that wintertime brought darkness earlier in the day. The extra costs to support the needed lighting for nighttime, councilmembers said, would force them to cancel the event.

After a meeting with Rue, which produced no gainful results, councilmembers lamented her attitude toward their coveted event. Then, after a meeting with Assistant Vice Chancellor of Student Life Gary R. Ratcliff, Rue acquiesced to beginning



the Nov. 30 Bear Garden at 2 p.m. It’s alarming that the same arguments supporting the Bear Garden — its service to the U.S.E.S. report and community-building principles — worked to two opposite ends. Ratcliff should not be the deciding voice in an issue concerned mostly with students, and Rue should respect A.S. councilmembers as the embodiment

of student interests.

Rue came into this year stressing principles of shared governance and fully open communication. But she isolates councilmembers, and will continue to do so when she invites bureaucracy to solve student problems. It is exactly what UCSD had hoped not to see again in the leader of its largest student-related sector.

Latest State Law Too Myopic to Fill Education System’s Gaps

State plans to change high school performance ranking system fail to address true problems with California education.

By Jim Shen
STAFF WRITER

STATE NEWS — In another misguided attempt to reform California’s faltering education system, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed a bill last month that will expand the factors used to calculate a high school’s Academic Performance Index, start-

ing in 2011.

Currently, the state bases a school’s API score on the performance of enrolled students on the Standardized Testing and Reporting and California High School Exit Examination tests. These scores are then used to determine funding eligibility and school rankings.

The new law would extend the scores to include underperforming students who were sent by their school to an alternative education program, thus lowering the API score. Additionally, it would take into account the dropout rates for eighth and ninth grade students.

According to a recent article in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, nearly

300,000 of the state’s high school students, or 15 percent, attend such alternative programs. Despite the high number of students omitted from the score, the new law would have little impact.

Although including these parameters in schools’ API scores would more accurately reflect performance, it would do little to actually improve that performance because it fails to attack the issues causing poor performance.

And rather than remedy an education system in dire need of improvement, it would penalize high achievers at low-performing schools by saddling them with the reduced funding resulting from a

low API score.

Reducing the dropout rate is one of those lofty, feel-good goals with which everyone should agree. However, lawmakers rarely propose appropriate solutions to address the problem. The law points out, correctly and poignantly, that many California students fail to graduate high school, and that those students will likely spend their adult lives disadvantaged and reliant on state welfare.

By calling for only a change to the state’s performance indicator of schools, the law fails to remedy California’s education woes. Simply including underperforming students in an API score will not change their

performance or prevent them from dropping out.

One conspiracy theory put forth by the *Chronicle*, relying on supposed circumstantial evidence, suggested that schools are secretly pushing lower-performing students out of their district to boost API scores.

Rather than placing the blame on a shadowy cabal of corrupt educators who want their school to be ranked higher at all costs, examining statistics would be useful. According to the National Dropout Prevention Center/Network, over half of eighth- to tenth-grade stu-

See **EDUCATION**, page 6

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Nuclear Weapons a Necessary War Deterrent

Dear Editor,

This letter is responding to the letter by Isaiah Sage that said the use of nuclear weapons cannot ever be justified and also that having them is tantamount to terrorism. He is erroneous on both counts.

First of all, any country with viable nuclear weapons makes itself undefeatable through "mutually assured destruction," a term which means that any attack would be responded in kind, ensuring the destruction of both countries. Furthermore, any nation with a nuclear arsenal is infinitely more powerful than any other nation without an arsenal. The threat of a nuclear offensive is the best defense. If the U.S. were to completely disarm, it would leave itself open and could be conquered by any nation with an arsenal. Conventional armies mean nothing in the face of nuclear bombardment.

Is it unreasonable to assume Russia could have simply wiped out the United States if we had not had our nuclear arsenal? The reason the Cold War is only known as such and not anything else is because of M.A.D. The threat of nuclear war not only kept both countries from experiencing a nuclear holocaust but also from fighting a conventional war, because any conventional attack could have been immediately followed by a nuclear attack. Sage's statement asserting that nuclear weapons were not needed to counter the Russian threat is completely absurd.

However, nuclear weapons have only twice been used against civilian targets: in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. These bombings are justified for one reason, which is that all war boils down to simple truths: kill or be killed, us or them, there is no in

between. It is foolish to believe it is possible to "play" nice in war. When former President Harry S. Truman made the difficult decision to drop the bomb, hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions, of U.S. soldiers and civilians were saved who could have died in the resulting invasion. His duty was to U.S. citizens, and he chose his own people over the enemy, and that decision saved many American lives.

The difference between a nuclear arsenal and a terrorist attack is that a nuclear arsenal guarantees a nation's continued sovereignty through M.A.D. A terrorist attack is meant to draw attention via the killing or the threat of killing government officials and/or civilians. Also, a nuclear strike has not happened in over fifty years thanks to M.A.D., while terrorism occurs every day. Obviously the two ideas cannot be equated because their nature and uses are inherently different.

Supporting a continued nuclear arsenal does not mean that someone is a "nukemonger" or "warhawk." It is meant to act as a defense, a deterrent. Nuclear weapons have forever altered the course of human history and are now an integral part of any country's dealings with the international community. To ignore that fact would not only be foolish but suicidal.

— Rodolfo Sclafani
Earl Warren College senior

Activism Article Inflates Iraqi Civilian Death Toll

Dear Editor,

Before Jake Blanc gets on his soapbox and tells us the rousing tale of the "noble exploits of the tree sitters," he should get some basic facts right first. Iraqbodycount.org, the premier anti-war Web site dedi-

cated to tracking civilian casualties during the Iraq war, counts upward of 83,000 documented civilian deaths so far — a little less than the "hundreds of thousands" Blanc claims have occurred. The war in Iraq has been tragic enough for Iraqis without Blanc needing to inflate the death toll.

— Travis Weinger
Revelle College senior

Enterprise Not a Financial Burden for A.S. Council

Dear Editor,

I would like to address some points that were brought up in a recent article titled "Coddling a Prodigal Enterprise." The Challenge Course started as an enterprise less than four years ago. In this a short amount of time, it has been a well-used facility appreciated by a variety of students. The agreement that was made stated: "The net proceeds, after payment of direct and indirect operating expenses, will be split 85 percent to Campus Recreation and 15 percent to the Associated Students."

The fund subsidizing the cost for student groups to utilize the course was created in order to provide student organizations access to a leadership-development program on our own campus. Subsidizing student organizations' use of the course will provide them with team-building and leadership-development programs that they may not have access to without the support of the council.

This young enterprise has not been a financial burden for the Associated Students. Every year, the Challenge Course draws a variety of on-campus and off-campus organizations. These organizations have left positive feedback, consistently

commending the enterprise. The allocated funding for the Challenge Course is designated to benefit the student body. Subsidizing students' costs to use the course is not an attempt by the Associated Students to funnel more money to the enterprise. Instead, it is providing a valuable leadership opportunity for our student organizations.

— Chelsea Maxwell
A.S. Associate Vice President of
Enterprise Operations

Challenge Course Helps Build Student Character

Dear Editor,

My first response to reading the article about the Challenge Course being a waste of money left me outraged, disappointed and offended. After the initial emotional outburst wore off, I got to thinking. You know my biggest complaint about UCSD? No one ever looks at you. While walking down Library Walk, no one makes eye contact — cell phones are out, iPods are on and eyes are down.

How did our campus get to be so unsociable? Why is everyone afraid of meeting each other and taking social risks? When was the last time UCSD encouraged you to learn from the people next to you? When are you going to learn to rely on your peers and trust your own abilities to overcome a real-life challenge? Where are all these life lessons?

There is a simple answer: the Challenge Course. You want to learn about confidence? Try climbing the 40-foot tower with nothing holding you but a single rope. You want to learn to trust people? Try laying strapped into a stretcher, being held up by 10 strangers — three of whom are blindfolded — walking across a log. Want to learn about team-

work? Watch 12 people try to travel between two platforms 10 feet apart without touching the ground. After a day at the Challenge Course, you have no choice but to feel connected to the people around you. Now try to tell me you get that same feeling from a parking pass or a textbook exchange Web site.

When I look back and remember UCSD, it's the lessons I learned from the Challenge Course that I remember most. It saddens me that a representative of another UCSD program, one with the same goals of empowering, strengthening and teaching, would ever dare call those lessons useless and a waste of money. I would gladly pay the \$20 to \$30 fee (not \$300) to learn what I learned from the Challenge Course any day.

I have just one thing to say to the senior staff writer and others who feel the same way: I'm sorry. I'm sorry you will never learn the lessons I did from the Challenge Course. And I'm sorry for all of those people you insulted out there who *have* experienced it and understand its magic. I've said what I have to say. You can turn your iPods back on now.

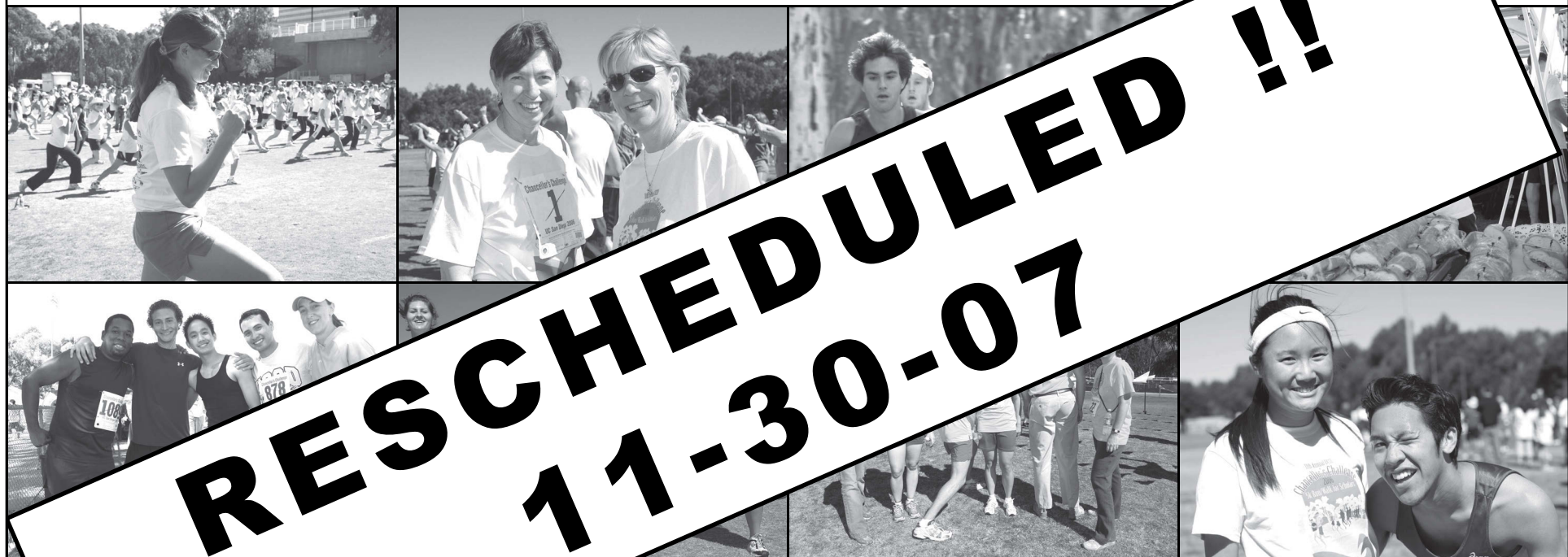
— Marissa Palin
UCSD alumna

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Automated Cashiers Rob Youth of Entry-Level Job Experience

► **SHOES**, from page 4
office — but if this trend of automation continues what will teenagers do 15 years from now?

When I mentioned my frustrating discovery to a friend, I was even further appalled when he said he was excited about the new machines because they wouldn't mess up his order the way a human might.

Sure, a computer may be marginally more economical, and will definitely cut costs for executives, but the losses easily outweigh the efficiency gain — and come on corporate big shots, is minimum wage really too pricey?

In high school I, like many, worked at a restaurant taking names and busing dishes. This taught me problem-solving and time-management skills while dealing with the pressure of 10 whiney, unseated parties, and that sometimes you just have to suck it up and clean that baby-spit-and-scrambled-egg mess, because no one else is going to. Not only are we losing a valuable source of entry-level work experience but, more importantly, we're losing simple human contact.

Imagine riding a remotely operated trolley to school each morning, grabbing some coffee from a completely mechanized cart, sitting

through a video lecture, then going out with friends after class to a carnival where every ride is computerized and every concession stand is automated. While a world made solely of robotic relationships is the stuff of eerie science fiction novels, things do seem to be moving in that direction.

Though what we're giving up by accepting these person-supplements is to some degree intangible, there is something to be gained from common human contact. Machines just aren't engaging; they won't spot you that nickel and won't help give you directions to the elusive product you're trying to find. They're dull, and sometimes they make annoying beeping noises or malfunction altogether.

So yes, machines might improve efficiency. But frankly, knowing where your money goes and where your food comes from, for example, are good things.

And true, with the current Carl's Jr. system I might just know that when I hand my money to the pimply cashier it goes into a register to be counted and deposited at the end of the day, and that my milkshake comes from somebody in the back scooping soft-serve and chocolate syrup into a blender — but at least that's something.

Changes to API Scoring Produce Adverse Domino Effect

► **EDUCATION**, from page 4
dents who dropped out said they did not like school.

However, widening the net of students incorporated in the API score does not cure the problem caused by dropouts not enjoying school. These students will most likely continue to fail at the same frequency despite any scoring changes.

According to the text of the new law, schools are expected to "engag[e] pupils," but how can schools engage students who are themselves unwilling to learn, push themselves or do schoolwork?

These issues heavily depend on parental and community involvement in youth education — factors that the approved legislation completely fails to address. Reform is unlikely without tackling the core of the state's secondary education problem.

Furthermore, the bill provides no funding for secondary schools to address the issue it demands they improve.

Granted, public schools constantly seem to need more money from state legislators to quench their growing troubles, but the programs necessary to revamp the system generally require longer hours from teachers and added resources for students — demands that both mean higher budgets.

However, the legislation offers

no increased funding for schools to implement after-school programs, mentoring, tutoring and professional development of educators identified by the NDPC/N as the best strategies for dropout prevention.

Ironically, implementing alternative schooling is one of the most effective ways for schools to reduce dropout rates, yet the law would penalize schools that use that tactic

the Public School Accountability Program. Schools that fail to meet API targets will lose funding, and could become subject to sanctions and eventual state intervention.

Re-indexing the API to include alternative education students and dropouts will undoubtedly cut funds from the neediest schools, thus taking a backward step in education reform. Instead of curtailing dropout rates, the state will have robbed educators of their most prized resource in education improvement, leaving students to suffer the consequences.

With so much at stake, it makes sense that some educators would push students into alternative education programs — they would rather not lose valuable funding that could otherwise be spent on efforts to lower dropout rates.

Even if the accusations of conspiracy theorists are true, educators should not be faulted for their honorable intentions.

California's state legislators need to come up with a plan that addresses the realities of state education rather than antagonizing over score results.

Anything less would do a tremendous disservice to California students.

Readers can contact Jim Shen at jshen@ucsd.edu.

California's state legislators need to come up with a plan that addresses the realities of state education."

by bringing down their average API score.

Equally troublesome are the effects of lower API scores on funding allotments of the state's secondary schools.

A school's API score and its ability to increase its API score every year is tied directly to "monetary and nonmonetary awards" that a school can receive, according to

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bark **in** the byte

MODERN-DAY GALLERY

**JOCKEYS PLAY WITH
THE PAST FOR A
VISUALIZED SOUND**

By Chris Kokiousis
Staff Writer

Sampling as an art has often been criticized as blatant plagiarism — a cheap way for hip-hop producers and Vanilla Ices to rip off other artists' work as their own. "Soundwaves: The Art of Sampling," the latest exhibit at the Museum of Contemporary Art in La Jolla, examines the term "sample" when applied to various forms of media — such as film, paintings and sound installations — and how the use of derived snippets in a new framework gives them a refreshed sense of direction.

Three inflatable kiddie pools rest on concrete, surrounded by chairs, while a whirring motor in the water prompts an assortment of bowls and glasses to chime against each other in Celeste Boursier-Mougenot's "Untitled (series #3)." Although the artist arranged the china beforehand, the resulting note combinations are mainly left to chance, so that no two performances are the same. He creates a space where ordinary sounds are repurposed as delicate compositions.

Tim Bavington transcribed classic segments of rock greats into visual art, using his own color-wheel methodology to represent tones as they correlate to the musical scale. Examining the way we consume music through material acquisition and archiving, Christian Marclay's "Soundsheet" pokes fun at our nostalgic infatuation with the vinyl records. Dario Robleto goes one step further, stripping the music of physicality by removing pictures and text from the album covers of deceased musicians, leaving behind an eerie footprint of what once captivated audiences.

Popular and accessible tools like YouTube.com and Garageband have made it easier for us to shape outside influences of all types into more palatable forms that emphasize the collage-artist over the direct source. The exhibit showcases the ideology that the past can always be reinterpreted, and take on new relevance with an active manipulator and audience.



COURTESY OF MCASD

Art-Trance Trio Grab Samples and Run

Black Dice

▪ Load Blown

PAW TRACKS

★★★★★

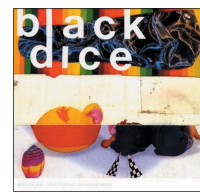
Ar on Warren and brothers Eric and Bjorn Copeland tend to hole themselves up in their Brooklyn practice space for months without seeing the sun. As Black Dice, they dedicate endless hours to sonic experiments that eventually become "songs," but really function more in the public context of provocative art. The Dice mold electronic samples beyond the point of recognition, to where they must be defined in an entirely new language. In place of standard notation, the band maps out a song's progression with self-made symbols and abbreviations, denoting each part and its placement. *Load Blown*, their new LP, transports us into futuristic drum circles, where household appliances riff off each other in free-jazz fluidity.

We don't know what indigenous alien music would sound like, or what instruments would create it, but we can begin to imagine how strangely exotic and inaccessible it would be. Black Dice appropriate that unfamiliar folk tone by manipulating effects pedals and software into a hectic collage. "Bottom Feeder" ambles like a Disneyland

ride gone awry, where the backing soundtrack to the attraction shifts pitch and speed as the carts malfunction. "Drool" resembles a fucked-up 1970s sci-fi soundtrack from the aliens' point of view. Their society bustles beneath the Martian soil as humans touch down on the quiet planet. Dig the alien barbershop quartet on "Manoman" — its minimal percussion and moaning space-invader bleeps accentuate the garbled harmonies. When the aliens try to communicate with humans via CB radio, but the language barrier poses a problem, they give up and start using a Morse code of pops and whirrs; that's the gist of "Bananas."

Black Dice have built a world that is at times fascinating and peculiar, but also distant in its unfamiliar origin. *Load Blown* will polarize anyone curious enough to endure its noise, either taxing or arousing the psyche. Whether or not you're feeling it now, expect their neurotic trance to fill dance clubs in the not-so-distant future.

— Chris Kokiousis
STAFF WRITER

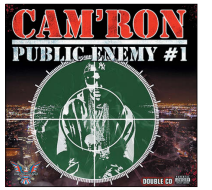

**IT'S ALL 'NET GAME
FOR KILLA CLOWN**

Cam'ron

▪ Public Enemy #1

DIPLOMATS

★★★★★



By Willy Staley & Andres Reyes

STAFF WRITERS

Cam'ron's *Public Enemy #1* came out this week, following Lil' Wayne's example as a free Internet download. Considering how net-based Cam's marketing was for the album, we decided to hit the instant messenger and chat about the new mixtape, available at www.myspace.com/killacamspace.

Willy: All right, so of course we have to start with the intro. Amazing.

Andres: I think Cam is making a point to come extra gully on the intro. He does that pretty much the entire tape, which is surprisingly consistent.

Willy: My favorite part is when he runs into the hip-hop cops in Newark, and they ask him about a recent YouTube video. He said, "Why do y'all keep watching YouTube.com? Why y'all on YouTube? They said, 'That's our job to be on YouTube.'" His timing is brilliant; he's a comedian.

Andres: I think the first real standout is "Just Us." There were two lines about giving girls Dirty Sanchez-es... don't know what to make of that. He even uses it in verb form: "Started to Sanchez her..."

Willy: That track also highlights how the free mixtape can be a great new medium for rappers — they don't have to clear any samples. So Cam'ron can rap about Dirty Sanchezes and whatever else over Journey's "Don't Stop Believin'" without facing legal troubles.

What do you think of the two new rappers Cam seems to be showcasing? I can't really tell them apart, but I haven't really been paying attention.

Andres: I'd say Tom Gist is better than Penz, but they're really just supporting actors. They're like Average Mixtape Rapper X.

Willy: And they take themselves far too seriously, which isn't what Dipset is all about.

Andres: It kind of turns me off. You don't listen to Dipset for harsh realities of inner-city life; I want to hear songs like "Cha Ching Cha Ching."

Willy: My least favorite part has to be Duke da God's incessant DJ drops. They're pointless because this is not really a mixtape — it's an album with a free online release.

Andres: As if DJ drops weren't pointless already. What I do like is how Cam shows so many different sides of himself — like on "Weekend Girl" — but somehow all those sides deal with swagger, smoking hella weed, selling crack and havingsex.

Willy: But if you accept the premise that swagger, sex and drugs are what hip-hop is really about, Cam'ron does it the best, by far.

Andres: Yeah — Cam entertains first and foremost.

Willy: As he tells the hip-hop cops on the intro, "This is the WWE" Just like a professional wrestler, Cam'ron knows exactly what he's doing.

COEN BROS. DRAW BLOOD FROM DEAD 'COUNTRY'

By Chris Mertan

ASSOCIATE HIATUS EDITOR

The hills of West Texas are dried and fissured, filled with harsh sand that seems ready to cave at any moment, and jagged rocky earth that yields vegetation only to hide its ruthlessness. Skies roll with menacing clouds and the rivers are so cold you'll freeze before you drown.

For the Coen Brothers' adaptation of Cormac McCarthy's "No Country For Old Men," this landscape could suggest any number of shadowy premises. Maybe it mirrors the mortality of the grizzled, solitary Llewellyn


No Country for Old Men

★★★★★

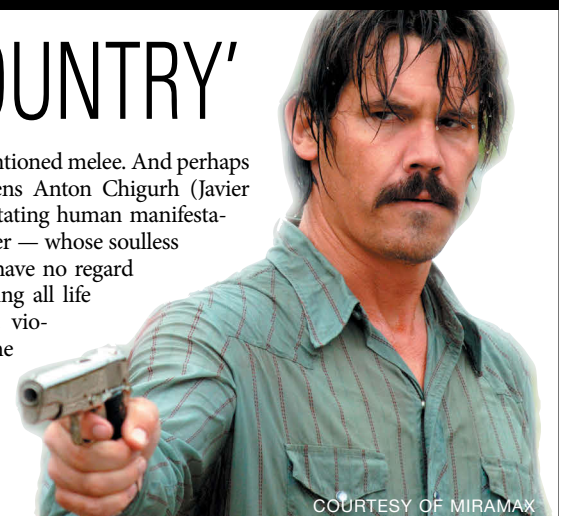
Starring Josh Brolin, Tommy Lee Jones & Javier Bardem
Directed by Joel & Ethan Coen
122 min.

Moss (Josh Brolin), cluelessly opportunistic after stumbling upon a drug deal gone south. Or maybe it deepens the scars of Sheriff Ed Bell (Tommy Lee Jones), whose righteous moral code is challenged by his own bitter

observations of the aforementioned melee. And perhaps the bleak scene also blackens Anton Chigurh (Javier Bardem) — the most devastating human manifestation of evil since Darth Vader — whose soulless eyes and malicious trigger have no regard for the innocent, condemning all life guilty as he by painting a violent trail of blood across the Southwest desert.

While out hunting, Moss stumbles upon the

See **MEN**, page 16



COURTESY OF MIRAMAX

Grads Empty Studios into Puzzling Garage of a Gallery

By Sonia Minden
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

It's hard to imagine a world where lumpy stuffed animals are grouped with leopard-clad karaoke singers, but UCSD's latest Master of Fine Arts exhibition manages to cram an otherwise incohesive body of media into one cleanly lit space at the center of campus. Yes, we have an art gallery again — and while many pieces are worthy of a walk-by (hey, it's free), the overall intrigue of its innards is muddled by the program's poorly conceived effort in textually or spatially unifying such thematically disparate works. While there's something to be said for art left open to interpretation, the gallery's lack of supplementary context (save the artists' names) often renders the viewer more mystified than moved.

Take, for instance, Evelyn Donnelly's "When Will I See You Again." At first glance, we see only an amorphous, blue furry cross between a Sesame Street character and alien spawn, its two construction-paper eyes lending a troubled

stare in hastily glued afterthought. At the show's opening, Donnelly was available to inform puzzled observers that the unmarked arctic collage hanging three feet away was actually the backdrop to her polyester creation, a crucial supplement that is easily overlooked. Although the artist remained enigmatic in her explanation (is it a representation of "Grizzly Man"? A fear of the unknown? A statement on global warming? Not even she seemed to know.), it's an oversight that could be avoided with the inclusion of a simple wall label.

Steven Rubens' series — "Watching, Waiting (I, II, and III)" — was less baffling, but still much-enhanced by an artist's personal explanation. With a heavy background in photojournalism, Rubens related his images of Iraqi refugees — frozen in the anonymity of grainy news photos — to the lack of war exposure in the media, and the nation's collective ignorance. With this information, the haunting clarity of the refugees' gaze became instantly more relevant and arresting — but instead, many uninformed passersby left unaffected.

They were most likely waiting to see Emiko Lewis-Sanchez (or "Dr. Niku") perform in the newest installment of her pop culture "cocoon," pink neon closet spaces in which she recreates the evolution of celebrity identity through mechanized lip-synch (this time, to Eurhythmics' "Sweet Dreams"). As Lewis-Sanchez emerged — sporting animal prints, a flashy cowboy hat and robotic gaze — one couldn't help but wonder if her piece would preserve the same aura after opening night, left alone as an empty flashing box.

A few works managed to succeed without explanation: Documentary "Maquilapolis," traces the lives of women working in Tijuana's assembly factories (or *maquiladoras*), and Caleb Waldorf's architecturally playful photo collage "Tower 4 (C-Print)" depicts hundreds of tiny buildings repeated in neutral tone strata. Whether or not you understand the rest, our very own University Art Gallery is a convenient stop en route to Hi Thai, so make sure to take a quick detour — the show lasts until Nov. 18.



JACKIE SNOW/GUARDIAN
One detached half of "When Will I See You Again," by UCSD grad Evelyn Donnelly.

druthers

HIATUS PICKS THE WEEK'S BEST BETS

"Before the Devil Knows You're Dead"

LA JOLLA VILLAGE CINEMAS / NOW PLAYING

Legendary filmmaker Sidney Lumet is called the "actor's director," known for breathtaking character pieces with a New Yorker's grit, like "Dog Day Afternoon" or "Network" in the 1970s. Now, the director returns with one of his most acclaimed films — Philip Seymour Hoffman and Ethan Hawke play strapped-for-cash brothers (the resemblance is uncanny, eh?) who plot to rob their parents' jewelry store. Naturally, everything goes wrong. Boasting an Oscar-buzzed cast, Lumet's film reminds us where he's been the last few decades and gifts a new generation with a thoughtful suspense-thriller to call their own. (CM)

José González

BELLY UP TAVERN / NOV. 26 / 9 P.M. / \$18

José González makes no grand entrances — only what he can announce by way of delicate guitar picks and crooning vocals, ad nauseum. To his credit, he does give a charismatic first impression as one of Sweden's finest folk-poppers — part of a curiously expanding genre whose musical history casually ties songwriters as classic as Simon & Garfunkel with composers as distinctly present as Yo La Tengo.

Gonzalez may not inspire, but he can certainly hypnotize. His airy voice, coupled with gentle, hooked melodies, evokes moments of self-imposed exile or daily daze-walking through the streets of our home city. His is the best kind of background music — each note dropped gently as a snowflake with unabashed pseudo-intelligence. (JG)

exit strategy →

THIS WEEK'S ON-CAMPUS EVENTS

"THE SIMPSONS MOVIE"

Price Center Theater
Nov. 15, 6 & 9 p.m.
\$3

CHLOE DAY

Porter's Pub
Nov. 16, 12 p.m.
FREE

XBRRX & MORE

Che Cafe
Nov. 17, 8 p.m.
\$6

"THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH"

Potiker Theater
Nov. 19, 8 p.m.
\$12

SCARLE SYMPHONY, THE PRAYERS & MORE

Che Cafe
Nov. 24, 8:30 p.m.
\$5

"MEDEA"

Mandell Weiss Forum
Nov. 26, 8 p.m.
\$12

"THE ROOT OF ALL EVIL"

Che Cafe
Nov. 27, 8 p.m.
FREE

ROCKY VOTOLATO

Porter's Pub
Nov. 28, 8 p.m.
FREE

part of Thurgood Marshall Week

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4-9pm
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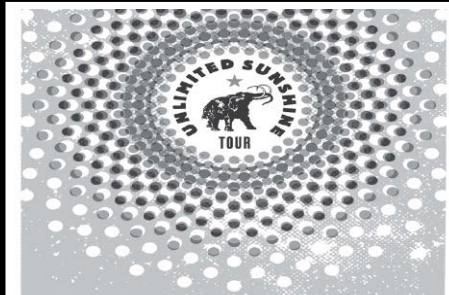


LAZARO CASANOVA, SHARK ATTACK,
KID LIGHTNING & BUDDY AKAI
NOVEMBER 21

IRON AND WINE



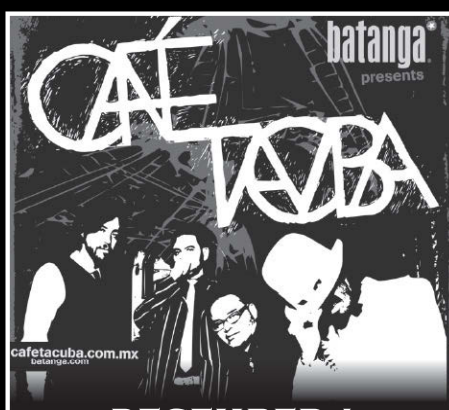
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NOVEMBER 27



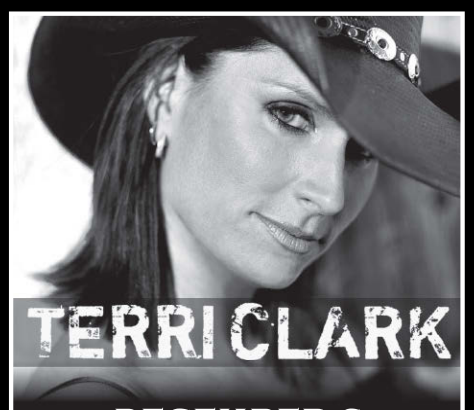
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ALL AGES! NOV 18

Up Close & Acoustic with
Teddy Geiger
HOB DELTA ROOM
ALL AGES! NOV 18

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recordings

TomC3 & Prince Po

■ *Saga of the Simian Samurai*

THRESHOLD

★★★

Every morning when Kool Keith wakes up — after the hip-hop sandman has tired of slipping LSD under his lids and before he's ready to start slurpin' on a bowl of Planet-Os — the loony-bin old-timer takes another new day's giant, messy, wonderfully worthless crap and calls it an album. An album to which he doesn't even raise a nostril before sending it down the sewer pipes, where it can mingle in the stink of every other fartsy art-rapper testing the waters of weird-hop.

But seriously — Keith has whipped out over two dozen full-lengths in the past five years alone. So once every few sunrises, if only by odds of luck, the former Ultramagnetic MC manages to work up something really absurdly hot. Unfortunately, no one has stuck around long enough to feel the heat — last year's fetishistic, moon-romping *Return of Dr. Octagon* received microscopic recognition compared its hailed original. And nothing was slept on like *Project Polaroid*, produced by some skinny kid named TomC3 who'd crawled out of a conspiratory space-lab somewhere, balancing on his shaky skeleton an angry funk-tide and drum so heavy it'd mash any other white kid into sidewalk chalk.

Thankfully, Tom made friends with the right street freak — Keith decided to open

half an eyelid one morning and kick the kid's stormy science experiment square in its over-confident jaw. And thus *Project Polaroid* was born, a barely heard feat in grime that oozed its way through the dankest of back alleys for only the strays to love.

Prince Po should have known better. You'd think a guest spot on *Polaroid* would have been enough for the second-best Organized Konfusion dropout — but apparently, Tom's costume box was too shiny to keep his paws off. It's difficult enough to avoid imitating the king of strange even when steering clear of his beats and topics; here, Po slips down a rabbit hole montaged with every character Keith has ever played. Finally, his highness (joined by a heated Motion Man) stops by for a cameo: "Everybody's baby fat puffed up like a furry rat/ You say to yourself 'Somebody's gonna need a dump truck, a bulldozer/ F that," Keith growls. "Buying the same black coat your friend got, where's the success at/ It's like a hundred million rappers rappin', but nobody's got the best rap." Po is nothing but a kid in somebody else's candy store — and when Keith is that Wonka, better watch out for the razors inside.

— Simone Wilson
HIATUS EDITOR



Angels and Airwaves

■ *I-Empire*

SURETONE/GEFFEN

★★★

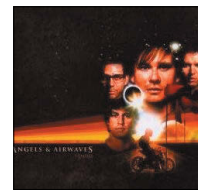
Before the release of *Angels and Airwaves'* inaugural *We Don't Need to Whisper*, lead vocalist/guitarist Tom Delonge (of Blink-182 fame) promised fans the "greatest rock-and-roll revolution for this generation." While such brash confidence seemed slightly delusional, Delonge did deliver a welcomed and quite revolutionary reversal of 2006's ubiquitous emo-band despair, in an intoxicating ode to the promised beauty of life and love.

The revolution rages on with sequel *I-Empire* — though a stagnant halt in Delonge's evolution of basic soaring riffs and ethereal melodies indicates he may be stuck in his pop-punk past, with structures too repetitive to achieve any of the eerie hypnosis his matured self now strives to achieve. The album requests an impossible amount of patience and will-power from its listener, necessary to absorb the meandering

(yet vaguely rewarding) build-ups and interludes that pervade every dramatic track.

The same monotony that left Blink-182 in the early 2000s is likewise this band's greatest pitfall. Most of the group's new songs are in desperate need of a good pruning, and all the sweet, innocent soliloquies to *carpe diem* that are so enthralling at the outset start to wear heavy by the album's close. The quick, compact "Everything Magic" works toward what should be the celebratory climax of a lengthy set — "Just sit back and hold on, but hold on tight/ Prepare for the best and the fastest ride/ And reach out your hand and I'll make you mine." But the album's peak only arrives after we're emotionally spent, drained of any ability to attain Delonge's attempted musical nirvana, instead ready to pass out and dream up a few fantasies of our own.

— Imran Manji



No-Good Threesome Fight a Human Duel With Mortality

► MAN, from page 13

remains of a Mexican-standoff blood bath. One group stocked the heroin, the other held enough cash to keep Moss and his wife (Kelly Macdonald) content for the rest of their days. Almost a footstep behind him is Chigurh, who's been hired to retrieve the money, and Bell, who finds something strangely apocalyptic in Chigurh's growing murder spree.

Over the next few days, these three men come in close and often oblivious contact with each other — though not always directly, and especially not under amicable circumstances. In the most heart-racing scenes, we spy these near misses, as when Moss and Chigurh stand face-to-face with only the adjoining wall of their hotel rooms keeping the chaos at bay. That Chigurh's weapon of choice is a high-powered rifle or, more often, a simple oxygen tank, makes the threat not only frightening, but precise and messy all at once.

We're tirelessly familiar with the Coens' lighter fare — "The Big Lebowski" and "O Brother, Where Art Thou?" are student favorites and fantastic comedies. But you'll find no Dude or Ku Klux Klan dance number in these desolate canyons, where a mere silhouette can entail one's death. Over a decade out, the Coens have returned to the cynical universe of early masterpiece " Fargo," trading the Dakota snow for Texas dust. Both films, along with first feature "Blood Simple," depict human existence as hopelessly flawed: We construct legal pillars to affirm our own brilliance, only to instinctively ignore them for our natural idiosyncrasy. So it's quite appropriate that the source for their latest work of lightning-striking-thrice is McCarthy's prose, in which characters often struggle for moral honor in the face of human brutality. These morals are often at odds with survival, and even dark behavior doesn't go without merit. As the sneaky Woody Harrelson character notes, Chigurh — ruthless as his murders are — is still more principled than the rest.

What easily lifts "No Country For Old Men" miles above the Coens' previous work is " Fargo" cinematographer Roger Deakins' haunting portraits of light and shadow. Whereas the landscape of " Fargo" spans empty, snowy plains that deceptively hide the truth from the cops, Deakins' desert is dangerous for everyone. Hiding is not an option; every man's fate is laid out before him in foul, predestined science.

The Coens have succeeded in fusing every frame with indelible meaning; each camera movement, each word of dialogue by the startlingly realistic cast, each desperate in Carter Burwell's minimalist score. That there really is no country for old men is a foregone conclusion during Bell's opening monologue. As his weary voice eulogizes life, set against yet another sunrise, we see that the country gave up old men a long time ago, granting their dated existence an absolution of right and wrong in morality's natural selection. After all, death and disorientation are a younger man's game.



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First-Year Coach Starts With D-I Upset

► **BASKETBALL**, from page 20
going to win us games, but I think the confidence both from experience and from coach's trust in us to make the right decisions will be the biggest difference from last year," Allard said.

Carlson, who was also a staffer under Bruins head coach Ben Howland at Northern Arizona University and the University of Pittsburgh, agreed that defense is key in bringing the Tritons back from the depths of a sub-.500 season.

"Our success is going to lie in our ability to stop people," he said.

Along with the 13 returning letter-winners, seven of whom started games last season, the Tritons will also welcome back senior guard Jason Bull, who did not play for the team during his junior year, and former CCAA Freshman of the Year guard Andrew Hatch, who redshirted the previous season due to injury.

While the team had only one senior in each of the past two seasons, this year's squad will be led by a quartet of senior players, including Allard, Bull, forward Brett Stuckey and guard Jon Ward.

Carlson said he feels that the veteran leadership has already paid dividends.

"Having guys who have played a lot of games with this program and a lot of games at a high level like Clint Allard, [junior forward] Henry

Patterson and Andrew Hatch, guys like that, it's really shown up already in terms of their leadership skills, leadership ability, and leading this program and leading the rest of the guys in just trying to get a little bit better every day," Carlson said.

Carlson's first game as head coach ended in success this season during an exhibition upset over Division-I

duplicate the victory against another tough D-I opponent, Drake University, UCSD again mounted a balanced attack with 11 Triton players scoring, led by Patterson's 10 points on 2-of-3 field goal shooting and 6-of-8 free-throw shooting.

The Tritons will face their third-straight game against a D-I opponent when they square off against SDSU, but Carlson said he welcomes the challenge.

"I think the thing you gain [from playing D-I opponents] is you certainly go against a higher caliber of program in terms of people's perceptions," he said. "I think what happens is for us in having a chance to compete against UC Riverside, Drake [University] and [SDSU], it provides a real gauge of where we are at."

This season will conclude with a CCAA Championship Tournament for the conference's top eight teams, preceding the NCAA D-II West Regional and Elite Eight tournaments.

Carlson enters his first year as the Tritons' head coach looking for his squad to excite and involve the UCSD campus both with success on the basketball court and by being active members of the campus community.

"I hope we can provide the campus and the community with a team they can rally around — a program they can be proud of," he said.

I hope we can provide the campus and the community with a team they can rally around — a program they can be proud of."

— Chris Carlson, head coach

squad UC Riverside. Allard led the way with 20 points, while Hatch added 14 points in 26 minutes off the bench, and eight Tritons played at least 10 minutes en route to the 67-61 victory.

The Tritons were able to rebound UC Riverside 30-28, while connecting on 7-of-13 three-point attempts.

While the team was unable to

UCSD Tennis Aiming For Fifth-Straight League Title

► **TENNIS**, from page 20
Northern Arizona University took out Fonte and Perlman, respectively, with Hasegawa winning a close battle, 5-7, 6-4, 6-1. Meanwhile, Pinchbeck routed Perlman, 6-1, 6-2. The final two results of the tournament were a 7-5, 6-3 loss by Sullens to Yassaman Sakhakorn of UC Riverside, and a 6-4, 6-3 win by UC Riverside's Plata over Tran.

LaPlante and the Tritons can now set their sights on the team's season, and a bid for a fifth straight conference title. The quest to make the NCAA tournament begins on Feb. 2 when UCSD travels to battle Azusa Pacific University in Azusa, Calif. Conference play begins a week later when the Tritons host Cal State Bernardino.

Successful Interim Coach Unsure of Role Next Year

► **SOCCER**, from page 20
"Of the players that I brought in this year, three newcomers got all-conference awards this year, which is very good," Holohan said. "I'm still bringing a few more players that can have an immediate impact and then I think we'll be very close."

While it is not guaranteed that Holohan will return to the team next year, he already has plans for the team's off-season, including strength and conditioning programs through winter and competitive soccer games during spring in order for the team to get back into the playoffs.

"We're going to do a lot of off-season workouts," he said. "In the summer we're going to have a summer program, which they will have to adhere to, so that way when they come back next year in August, they'll be that much more ready to go, that much more prepared. We want to get the team back to competing for the conference playoffs. We were a perennial NCAA

appearance and that's what we want to get back to."

Additionally, the administration will be busy gathering applications and conducting a formal hiring process to select next year's new head coach.

Holohan reiterated that he wanted to be back for next year and beyond.

"I really, really want the opportunity," Holohan said. "I think the players and myself have a good working relationship and I really want the opportunity ... I look forward to doing that if given the chance."

Levy said he believed that most of the players would welcome and support Holohan's return.

"There is a definite overall feeling that he did a good job," Levy said. "There is an evaluation of the coach every year and I'm not sure what the overall consensus was. But with most players returning, I would assume probably that they won't mind him back with the success late in the season."

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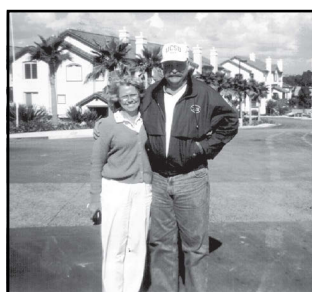
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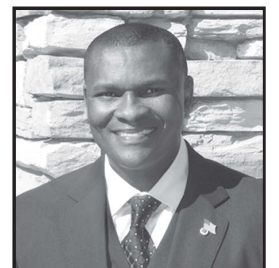
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ALL AGES

The junior midfielder earned All-CCAA second team honors in his first year as a Triton after leading UCSD in scoring with five goals and one assist during the season.



Doubles Struggles Cap Fall Season



SANH LUONG/GUARDIAN FILE

Senior Justine Ang Fonte was one of many Tritons who had a hard time at the UC Irvine Invitational, losing her singles match and falling 8-0 in her doubles match with freshman Dalya Perlman.

Tritons only manage two singles wins and lose all seven of their doubles matches at UC Irvine Invitational.

By Neil Joshi
STAFF WRITER

The UCSD women's tennis team finished its fall season on Nov. 10 and Nov. 11 at the UC Irvine Invitational, where head coach Liz LaPlante sent nine of her best players to compete in the singles and doubles tournaments.

The four-time California Collegiate Athletic Association conference champions had high expectations going into the invitational, but had a rude awakening after they struggled in doubles play and went a combined 0-7 in the two-day tournament.

The troubles in doubles play began on day one, when the four-time CCAA Conference Champion Tritons went 0-3, with every loss coming against a squad from Northern Arizona University. Senior Justine Ang Fonte and freshman Dalya Perlman lost to the Northern Arizona University tandem of Kim Van Ginkle and Leslie Vial 5-8, while UCSD freshmen Taskeen Bains and Kimmie Dao lost 3-8 to Edit Suhajda and Orsi Golovics. The day's final loss came from the Triton doubles team of freshman Valerie Tang and senior

Molly Sullens, who also lost 8-3 to Amiee Oki and Yumi Hasegawa.

The problems continued into the next day where UCSD went 0-4, completing a winless tournament in doubles. Dao and Bains were defeated 3-8 by the UC Irvine doubles team of Heidi Kaloi and Brooke Bartlett, while junior Tessa Tran and sophomore Pooja Desai lost their only doubles match of the weekend, a lopsided 1-8 defeat to the UC Riverside duo of Angelique Corpuz and Erynne Oki. Fonte and Perlman had the most discouraging result of the day, losing 8-0 to UC Riverside's Roxanne Plata and Donna McCullough. The weekend's final doubles result was an 8-5 loss by Tang and Sullens at the hands of UC Riverside sisters Yassaman and Nadia Sakhakorn.

If the uninspiring doubles play at Anteater Invitational is any indication of the Tritons' ability, they may struggle in the spring season.

However, although LaPlante wasn't too worried about her team's disappointing showing, she knows that the squad has a lot to work on.

"It's still early," she said. "We are working toward improving so that we can hit our stride when the team season begins in February."

In singles competition, UCSD was able to turn its luck around, going 4-3 on the first day of action. Perlman was the first to redeem herself, winning a 7-6, 6-2 decision over Yassaman Sakhakorn of UC Riverside. Joining her in the win column were Dao, a 6-0, 6-3 winner

over UC Riverside's Corpuz, Fonte, who won 6-4, 6-1 over Ali Welliver of UC Irvine, and Tang, who beat Alexandra Khoury of UC Riverside 6-2, 7-6. Other singles action from Nov. 10 saw Tran lose 6-4, 6-4 to Hasegawa of Northern Arizona University, and Bains go down 6-4, 6-2 to Regan Newman, also of Northern Arizona University.

If the Tritons hope to have any success this season, they will certainly look to depend on Desai. She has been an asset to the team in the past, but is working to recover from a foot injury that has plagued her for the last month.

"Pooja has been steadily improving her game since the injury," LaPlante said. "We expect her to be one of the most important players on our team this season."

Although Desai stumbled early and lost her first singles match of the tournament, 6-1, 6-2 to Nadia Sakhakorn of UC Riverside, she showed tremendous heart in winning her next match, a 6-7, 7-5, 7-5 marathon against Oki.

The rest of the team didn't have as much luck on Nov. 11 as Bains was the only other Triton to win her match. Her victory was decisive, a 6-2, 6-1 beatdown of Shawnell Russell of Loyola Marymount University. Alexa Costa of New Mexico State University defeated Dao 6-2, 6-2, while her teammate Bianca Discordia beat Tang 6-4, 7-5. Yumi Hasegawa and Stacey Pinchbeck of

See TENNIS, page 18

Young Team Has Bright Future

By Joo Yoon
STAFF WRITER

One year removed from a 7-10-2 season, the UCSD men's soccer team finished this past season with another sub-.500 record. But this season's results marked the first time in the storied program's history that the team posted losing records in two consecutive seasons, and the longest stretch between playoff berths, with the last one coming in 2003.

The Tritons knew that they would be hard-pressed to be successful this season after losing four All-California-Collegiate-Athletic-Association players last year. The team was expecting a rebuilding year — the lineup was comprised of 16 freshmen and sophomores and just three seniors — and its play in the beginning of the season definitely reflected its youthfulness and inexperience.

Senior captain and defender Josh Levy said that coming into the season, the team had to be careful of having overly optimistic expectations about its success.

"I think basically when we started out, we knew that we had a large number of new guys, so taking that into account, we couldn't have too high hopes, too extreme hopes that were not practical," Levy said. "Our basic goal was to get into the CCAA playoffs, and it seemed like a reasonable goal at the time."

The Tritons then suffered a sudden and shocking loss when head coach Derek Armstrong abruptly retired, because of health issues, just eight games into his 26th season at the helm.

Athletic Director Earl Edwards said that while Armstrong's retirement was unexpected, he had no choice but to respect his wishes and accept his retirement.

"That was a total shock to everybody: to the players, to the coaching staff [and] to the administration, partic-



SANH LUONG/GUARDIAN

Junior midfielder Ali Shams (left) and junior forward Tom Caplan were already elder players on this year's team, but will have to step up to even more of a leadership role when the young Tritons take the field next year.

ularly during the season," Edwards said. "But we understood once he explained what was going on with his knee and it was clear that he couldn't continue, so we were just fortunate to have an assistant like [interim head coach Paul Holohan] that could step in and get the team not only through the season but to get through on a very high note."

After taking over, Holohan led the Tritons to a respectable 4-3-2 record, including a huge win against then-No. 6 Seattle Pacific University for his first victory as head coach. Under Holohan's guidance, the team went on an undefeated streak over the season's last four games, winning three and playing to a draw against Cal State Stanislaus on Oct. 21.

Holohan had high praise for his squad and said he appreciated the effort that the Tritons put forth throughout the season.

"We knew that we were going to be a young team and it was going to be a rebuilding year," he said. "Our goal was

to do the best we could and see what we had. We always wanted to make the conference playoffs because we always want to try to do that every year."

Despite the relatively young team, not all was bad for the Tritons this season, as evidenced by three All-CCAA team selections, just one less nomination than last year. Junior forward Jason Le, a transfer from Vanderbilt University who led the team in scoring with five goals in just 13 matches, and junior goalkeeper Peter Akman, a transfer from Mesa Community College who had a 1.43 goals-against average, each earned All-CCAA second team awards. Freshman defender Jared Kukura received honorable-mention honors for his work in the backfield.

Holohan was very proud of the achievements and looked forward to more newcomers next year to help push the Tritons back to the top of the CCAA.

See SOCCER, page 18

Tritons Ready for SDSU After Exhibition Upset of D-I UCR

By Joe Tevelowitz
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Following a 12-15 record last season and a sixth-place finish in the California Collegiate Athletic Association, the UCSD men's basketball team will open its regular season

Nov. 17 at

Cox Arena	UCSD	67
against	UC RIVERSIDE	61
San Diego State University		

University under new leadership and renewed hopes.

Following former head coach Bill Carr's departure, the Tritons found a new head coach during the off-season. Chris Carlson, a San Diego native who served as UCLA's director of basketball operations over the previous four seasons, was announced as the Tritons' head coach in June and will lead a team that, apart from the new head coach, will remain remarkably consistent with 13 returning letter-winners.

Carlson said he wanted the job because he believes in the Tritons' ability and is confident that they will be CCAA title contenders.

"I've always believed in the promise and the potential of UCSD, both as an institution and as an athletic department," he said. "The chance to be the head basketball coach here is something I've always found to be really enticing."

Senior guard Clint Allard, who has started all but 10 of the games he has played throughout his UCSD career, described Carlson as very personable and has found him to be a good teacher of the game.

"Defense and good shots are still



ERIK JEPSEN/GUARDIAN FILE

Sophomore guard Jordan Lawley and the Tritons will look to try and upend another Division-I opponent, this time in the regular season, when they take on cross-town rival San Diego State University in Aztec territory on Nov. 17.

See BASKETBALL, page 18

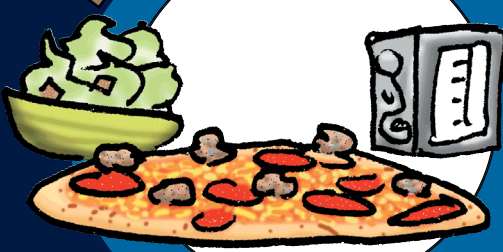
BEST OF SAN DIEGO

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Best Food at 7 a.m.



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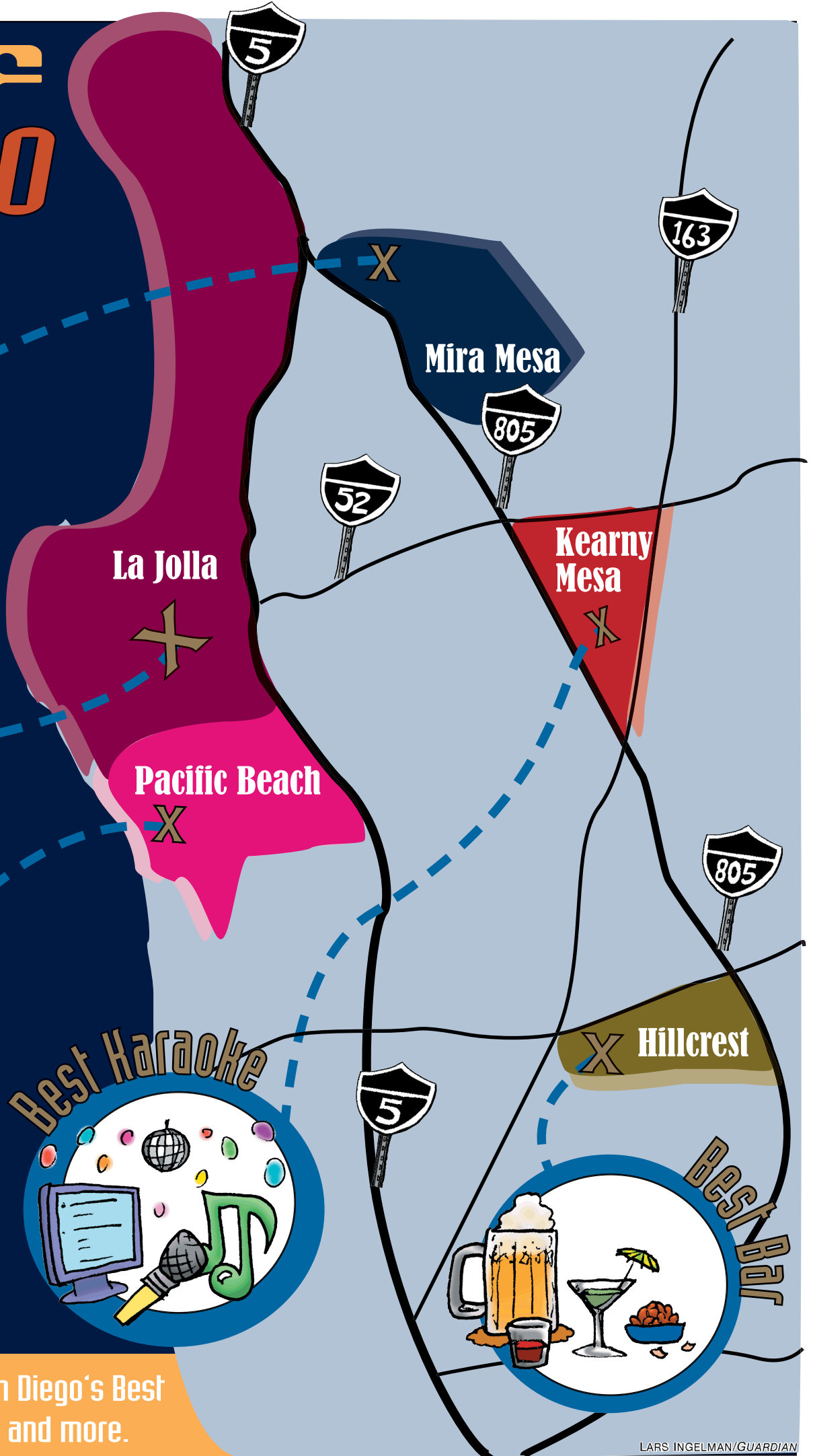
Best Karaoke



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858-271-0170

SIPZ CAFE
5501 Clairemont Mesa Blvd. San Diego, CA 92117
858-279-3747

SUSHI DELI #2
135 Broadway St. San Diego, CA 92101
619-233-3072

BEST FOOD @ 1 A.M.

By Hadley Mendoza

Whether induced by inebriation or extensive studying, late-night hunger can hardly be ameliorated in the early-to-bed La Jolla bubble. So next time you're craving something hearty at 1 a.m. — and OceanView Terrace burritos don't look so appealing for the seventh night in a row — it's time to venture off campus for some good-old fast food.

IN-N-OUT BURGER

The Pacific Beach In-n-Out Burger is always a classic destination. With made-to-order staples and a secret menu we've loved since high school, it's hard to beat the chain's friendly service (not to mention those iconic hats). Only problem is, In-n-Out isn't open 24 hours. But if you do manage to get yourself down there before it closes, be sure to make those fries animal-style — who knew Thousand Island and onions could be so delicious? Only problem is, In-n-Out isn't open 24 hours. But if you do manage to get yourself through the door before closing time, be sure to order those fries animal-style — who knew Thousand Island and onions could induce such euphoria?



Pacific Beach

JACKIE SNOW/GUARDIAN



CARL'S JR.

Miramar

Chances are, though, if you're really pulling a late night you'll miss the In-n-Out opportunity-window before hunger really hits you. So ditch PB and head down Miramar Road to Carl's Jr. where the milkshakes are bountiful and the kitchen doesn't close. Sure, the automated order-takers are creepy, but with a supremely extensive selection, this fast-food giant is guaranteed to please your late-night pallet.

ROBERTO'S

Miramar

Or if you're not in the mood for burgers, cruise down Miramar Road a little farther to Roberto's, for San Diego's hands-down best after-hours Mexican food. If you get the easy-going kind of hunger pains, go with the archetypal carne asada burrito. But don't worry if you're more finicky, the friendly cashiers are down to customize your order — cheese fries anyone? And not only is Roberto's delicious; it's also cheap, which is great because nothing goes better with a full stomach than a full wallet.



BEST EATS

SUSHI

Sushi Deli 2, Downtown San Diego

Located in the heart of downtown, you might expect Sushi Deli 2 to be as hoity-toity as its ritzy Horton Plaza neighbors. But despite all odds, delicious and cheap sushi has landed in the midst of San Diego's nightlife.

Enclosed in a tiny urban nook, Sushi Deli 2 manages to rotate tables quickly, leaving you waiting for a bit but not dying of hunger at the door. And, the food is well worth the wait because, despite its name, Sushi Deli isn't just for sushi lovers. It has tasty combos featuring four different types of rolls for around \$8 and excellent single rolls starting at \$4, as well as bento boxes and miso soup. The only downside to Sushi Deli 2 is that, because it's in the heart of downtown, you might have to fight for street-side parking.

The trick is to bring a large group of people and share roll after roll so that you'll walk out of the deli \$11 poorer but stuffed to the gills with sushi goodness. And if downtown is too far away, the restaurant has two sister locations in Hillcrest and on Clairemont Mesa Boulevard.

Runner up: Sushi Garden
— By Autumn Schuster

BREAKFAST

Hash House A Go Go Hillcrest

With its extravagantly generous, mouth-watering servings, Hash House A Go Go wins the title of San Diego's Best Breakfast. Not far from the heart of Hillcrest, this award-winning restaurant draws crowds of hungry visitors from all over San Diego each morning — especially on weekends, when the wait can be up to an hour long.

But the wait is worth it for Hash House's farm-inspired, industrial atmosphere, which complements its elaborate presentation of savory American-style comfort foods while providing a hip flair and stylish interior to the restaurant.

The menu is full of simple yet delectable breakfast items, ranging from farm scrambles to gigantic Snickers pancakes and griddled French toast dipped in banana cinnamon cream with pecan maple syrup. Sample one of the House Hashes, tossed with tasty eggs, crispy seasoned potatoes and accompanied by a biscuit and fresh fruit.

Just be sure to bring your appetite — the Hash House's oversized portions are more than enough to satisfy you and a friend. Though the surfboard-sized plates might be overwhelming to newcomers, the reasonable prices will definitely have you coming back for seconds.

Runner up: the Cottage
— By Marissa Blunski

DESSERT

Extraordinary Desserts, Hillcrest

If you find yourself in dire need of a sweet fix or a birthday cake for a friend, Extraordinary Desserts is your best bet. Located in Hillcrest, Extraordinary Desserts offers everything from cakes to handmade sorbet in a variety of colors and flavors, which look as good as they taste. Started in 1988 by Karen Krasne, the restaurant has managed to notch up a series of impressive awards, a testament to the excellent sweets created there. Baked fresh, each cake has a unique texture and taste that will be sure to have you craving more. But don't expect to see the same pastries every day; the dessert menu is constantly in rotating. These cakes aren't the only thing worth going for — the atmosphere is serene and

See BEST EATS, page 11

BEST BEACH TO... HANG

Windansea, Downtown La Jolla

By Simone Wilson

The winding trek down to our secluded Black's Beach — for tourist-free sand castles by day or full-moon drum circles by night — is more than worth it during the standard two years on campus. But after being devoured alive by sand fleas and drunkenly scaling the "shortcut" for the 200th time, one begins to desire a little less rugged adventure and a little more of the luxury that a beach trip would hope to connote.

La Jolla, our own plastic kiddie pool of yuppies and their vacation homes, conveniently boasts the best sand-spots in all of San Diego County, rivaled only by Del Mar's just-north coastline. In a perfect world, we could roam Shores' warm stretches and the Cove's sweet little natural-wonder habitat without bother; the reality is, however, that on a rare scorcher during the school year, you won't get a towel- or board-sized space in

See BEST BEACHES, page 12



WILL PARSON/GUARDIAN

SURF

Black's Beach, La Jolla

By Serena Renner

Perhaps more acclaimed in the San Diego community than UCSD's top-notch biology programs or batch of Nobel-Prize-winning researchers is the world-renowned surf break that lies at its base. While some students study to become engineers, others are here primarily to become surfers. Their classroom? Black's Beach.

Black's is a legend among surf spots for its close proximity to the Scripps Underwater Canyon — a 900-foot trench that sucks in storm swells from across the Pacific and pumps them into peeling waves. Positioned to absorb swells from several directions and holding shape even during the heaviest of winter storms, Black's is hands-down the best beach break around, arguably, the best in the nation. The three main peaks host their share of contests throughout the year and pros can often be seen in the lineup, dropping

See BEST BEACHES, page 12

BEST KARAOKE



Kearny Mesa

Karaoke joints are a dime-a-dozen (hell, my shower is a karaoke joint), especially when you're looking around San Diego's Convoy Street, the mecca for all mic-equipped Asians. Denizens visit the area's many Asian businesses, from supermarkets to banks and video stores. Complexes neighboring the hole-in-the-wall J Music Studio (conspicuously absent from the Yellow Pages) house the famed Tapioca Express, site of Asian habitues sipping on boba, and Sunny Donuts, an old-time eatery with a classic ambience. So grab a pho bowl, slam down sake, then rent out a karaoke room at J Music Studio to croon, serenade and tickle that inner diva.

Reenactments can go beyond Beyonce or Celine — there's a host of Korean songs to go along with a latter-day pop selection ranging from Akon to Snoop Dogg.

Considering most karaoke establishments

offer similarly listless song choices, it's hard to judge a place by its catalog. Its decor, then? J Music has walls that belong in an off-color Howard Johnson, and carpet that's not much better. Could it be the price? Forty bucks an hour per room ain't bad, but that's standard price. Maybe it's the tambourine they lend upon request? Can't be.

J Music Studio is this year's pick because I feel about it the same way I feel about my first bike: it may have not been the best, but I sure do remember my times with it. Equally memorable times at J Music Studio include Mariah Carey, Britney Spears, R. Kelly and a whole lot of booze. And who could ask for better company?

Runner up: DJ Karaoke
— By Charles Nguyen

BEST BAR

Lamplighter, Mission Hills

Imagine what would happen if your favorite Pacific Beach bar grew up a little bit and moved over to Mission Hills — but still had a drinking problem. You get the Lamplighter.

The Lamplighter opens at 6 a.m., and happy hour lasts for the next 12 hours. Go in at 10 a.m. and you might feel just a little out of place — serious alcoholics really do go there for early-morning cocktails. Come back at 10 p.m. and the place will be packed with a bizarre mix of drunks — North Park hipsters, East County bros, college students, professionals and your regular run-of-the-mill San Diego douchebags.

The drinks are cheap (ask for a Lamplighter Ale), but the real draw is the karaoke sideshow that goes on all night, every night. The song list is seriously encyclopedic and eclectic — have you ever wanted to sing Ja Rule on karaoke?

Runner up: Pink Elephant Lounge
— By Willy Staley

BEST SEX SHOP

By Matthew McArdle



"This 24-hour sex shop makes traditional XXX adult stores look like child's play."

Smacked with an eye-catching XXXX logo — that's right, four Xs — and located conveniently off Route 52, Adult Emporium II offers the most extensive array of grown-up entertainment you could ever want or imagine.

Simply put, this 24-hour sex shop makes traditional XXX adult stores look like child's play. And until we decriminalize it, child's play may be the only thing the store lacks; browsing aisles upon aisles of pornographic DVDs, you will find an impressive selection capable of making even the most seasoned adult-store veteran pause for a second take.

From the usual gay porn, straight porn and obligatory midget porn to "Chicks With Dicks," "Large and Lovely" and "Cumfart" (not even joking), the emporium leaves nothing to the imagination. Why ever imagine sex, especially when 50,000 titles are displayed right in front of you?

If you need help browsing the massive selection for that hard-to-find fetish flick or obscure dildo length, don't be afraid

to ask. And there's a store bonus: this shop offers 160-channel, air-conditioned private minitheaters if roommates are occupying your whack-off space.

Even if videos aren't your thing, the store features an extensive toy and accessory area complete with the fattest and longest dildos — and fists — you'll probably ever see. Along with a variety of flavored lubricants comes a multicultural selection of blow-up dolls (some molded from on actual porn stars!) Also available are penis pumps and those inflatable bounceballs normally used for exercise — except now equipped with a rideable appendage.

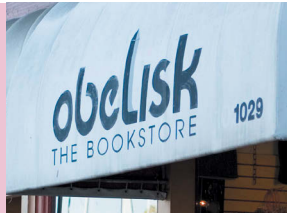
Even if you don't buy anything, a visit to Adult Emporium II is well worth it. Something you never even thought existed might catch your eye. And at the very least, the store offers great gag gifts.

Runner up: Dr. Love's

Kearny Mesa

BEST BOOKSTORE

By Alyssa Berezna



"The pet-friendly bookstore also offers pride products such as rainbow-soaked towels, doggy-wear and mugs."

Just as its moniker hints, Obelisk: the Bookstore, located on University Avenue in Hillcrest, is a shaft of light for San Diego's gay community. It offers how-to literature on coming out, gay marriage, encountering adversity and the like, covering topics from gender roles to Karma Sutra. As a bonus, the pet-friendly bookstore also offers pride products such as rainbow-soaked towels, doggy-wear and mugs. For those looking for a bit more excitement but weary of the sleazy sex-shop stink, Obelisk tastefully houses an impressive display of erotic homosexual videos, magazines, lubes and shaft rings.

Although merchandise like Village People teddy bears make it obvious where the shop's loyalties lie, Obelisk's eccentric collection of nude calendars, complete with steamy girl-on-girl photos and snapshots of chiseled asses, can appeal to any straight guy or girl. Also, friends looking to deliver some extra-special birthday cheer can choose from cards featuring three-dimensional penises or downright unflattering nude close-ups. Gender-neutral goods, such as Bill Clinton's biography and "Desperate Housewives" DVDs are also available. No matter which way you swing, Obelisk is an intriguing book-nook well worth a visit.

Runner up: DG Wills

BEST SMOKE SHOP

By Charles Nguen



"I could spend hours counting the chambers on one bong — I'd just have to be lit as hell."

Catering to a neighborhood full of college-dropout bros, surfers with long blond locks and the mooching bitches that hang with them, Pacific Beach's Garnet Avenue is lined with smoke shops, including the perennial Da Glassworks (last year's choice for "Best Smoke Shop"). Wiseguys, though, belong at the Godfather Smoke Shop, where "smoking" a fool doesn't require killing anything but brain cells.

But beyond the legendary status of its namesake, the Godfather stands above the hood's other smoking establishments. Its sweeping selection covers all manner of stoner-ism, from simple pieces to mechanized vaporizers and fully stocked bongs. The store's glass-related artistry is always an awing sight to behold; I could spend hours counting one bong's many chambers — I'd just have to be lit as hell.

And as always with establishments of notoriety, hag-gling is an accepted practice. Try to buy in bulk for the chance to lower your price.

Runner up: Da Glass Works

Pacific Beach

BEST EATS

Continued from page 10

stylish, making you a little less eager to grab your pastry and go. But be sure to have enough money when you show up; these sweets are expensive, especially for on student's budget. So save up and go buy yourself a cupcake, since you might as well gain your Freshman 15 eating something sweet.

Runner up: Golden Spoon
— By Neda Salamat

MEXICAN FOOD

Pokez, Downtown San Diego

Pokez isn't just any San Diego Mexican restaurant. The walls are packed with customized artwork; everything from huge canvas paintings to skateboards and photos. The service is also unconventional; — everyone who works there seems to have a genuine personality. But most importantly, the food is amazing. Boasting everything from spinach soyrito (vegetarian Mexican sausage) burritos, to homemade soups and delicious enchiladas, Pokez serves a variety of classic Mexican dishes and original alternatives at affordable prices. To make things even better, it recently re-opened its bar after a lengthy hiatus, fully equipped with a jukebox and pool tables. But what really puts Pokez a cut above is its community spirit, reflected in its artwork and patrons. People of all walks of life frequent the restaurant, proving that it's not just alternative-eating boho shit. Pokez has grown to be a sub-culture staple of San Diego, and the restaurant of 20-something years continues to be locally owned and operated. If you still have yet to try Pokez, please do yourself a favor: give Roberto's a break and try some real food.

Runner up: Taco Motion
— By Andres Reyes

PIZZA

Regents Pizzeria, La Jolla

Located conveniently near to campus, Regents Pizzeria serves up pies to impress any well-traveled connoisseur. It offers both the New York flat-and-foldable — dripping ever so slightly in glorious grease — and Chicago's deep, and even more delicious, dishes. (This pizza is so good it'll make you alliterate.) But seriously, Regents is the ultimate La Jolla treasure hidden in a Pottery Barn wasteland of bland.

With the option for delivery (note the classic brandless boxes) and prices comparable to any cookie-cutter pizza shack, there's no reason not to check it out.

Ignite your inner angry cabbie and order a meat lover's New York plate, or grab some silverware and tackle a Chicago style monster. Or if you're perfectly content with your pleasant little unaccented self go for something a little left-of-center; nothing tops the New York style white.

So whether you're searching for one of the two iconic pizza-eating experiences or just something new, hit up Regents for a little attitude and a lot of damn-good food.

Runner up: Bronx Pizza
— By Hadley Mendoza

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BEST ON-CAMPUS SPOT TO...

CHECK THE HOTTIES

By Sonia Minden

Anyone who claims that UCSD's student body has a hottie deficiency *clearly* isn't looking hard enough. Start with the RIMAC gym. RIMAC is gold for hunk-scoping because, as we all know, PIKE has mandatory workout hours. Furthermore, the elliptical machines are strategically positioned above the renowned weightlifting pit, so cardio-crazed, bronze-legged sorority sisters can bask in the testosterone secretions of their male counterparts. Don't forget to catch these gazelle-like sisters thrusting their hips in sexually suggestive yoga moves on the stretch mat (just don't get ringworm).

Your next best bet would probably be International House (because, let's face it, foreign imports are usually of a higher caliber). The reason why everyone likes out-of-the-country hotties is because they're always up for a good time, and thus will throw out-of-control parties. International students also tend to have: 1) fewer inhibitions, 2) better fashion senses and 3) sexy accents.

Finally — and this is going to seem obvious — the Price Center food court offers an array of delicious goods — and I'm not talking about the orange chicken. Take your pick: the Alpha Epsilon Pi guys congregate outside the Sunshine Store (there are usually about six of them at any given hour), or inside, where Espresso Roma's magnetic force attracts an inordinate amount of painfully good-looking teacher's assistants (maybe you'll share a cup o' Joe with that Chemistry tutor you've been eyeing).

GET YOUR DRINK ON

By Nathan Miklos

While you can count on a few old standbys among the 20-some-odd beers on tap at Porter's Pub, plenty are rotated seasonally, with a decent spread of brews to please anyone. When you're done brushing up on quantum mechanics, the pub's happy hour discounts and respectable selection of pale and amber ales, porters and stouts make it a great place to educate yourself on beer's sensory pleasures. Those with something to prove can knock back a pint of Arrogant Bastard Ale (with a girlish 12 percent alcohol content).

Dim lighting and a friendly atmosphere make the pub a great place to kick it with your friends (or make new ones); the eclectic decor's questionable humor reflects the approachable, laid-back staff. An outdoor patio with ample seating and an open grill gives you the opportunity to sober up over a burger before your evening classes. While service speed from the kitchen can vary wildly, the sandwich combos, melts, salads and fried stuff are usually worth the wait; weekly

TAKE A CAT NAP

By Hadley Mendoza

Not only is the new Student Center Lounge a great place to grab Thai food or study, its comfy chairs and wall-length padded benches are perfect for grabbing a post-all-nighter nap between classes. Although restaurant noise does permeate the scene, this area is by far the comfiest — no matter what the weather. If it's a bright day outside (but you're too concerned with wildlife and passersby to sleep out on the lawn) sunlight beats through the floor-to-ceiling windows, warming the atrium-like study room; and if it's cold the lounge has a super-cute fireplace that is prime for curling up beside. But if the thought of rubberneckers psychs you out, you can always opt for a more private locale — try one of Geisel's study rooms. True, the harsh tables aren't nearly as comfortable, but the space is quiet *and* you won't have to worry about having your exhaustion-drool judged by an onlooker. Plus, when you wake up still tired and grumpy, you can always run down to the front lounges and laugh at people checking themselves out in the one-way mirrors.

Or if you really are a nature lover, but want to avoid the crowds of Student Center and Library Walk, there's always the lawn beside Warren Mall. Just lie back all hippie-like beneath the shade of a tree; the land is slightly sloped, which allows moisture to runoff and stops the soggy-back phenomenon from happening. So though there's nothing like the comfort of your own bed, campus does have some sweet nappy-time spots.

shows will keep you coming back to the Student Center.

With over 20 beers on tap, Round Table Pizza cultivates a sports-bar feel: A big-screen television and generous indoor seating make it an ideal gathering spot for the Super Bowl and 2008 Olympics, and the selection of domestic beers is respectable. Round Table's location in Price Center — the center of UCSD, and the intersection of the campus' two largest footpaths — along with plenty of outdoor seating make it a natural place to meet friends. Capitalize on monthly specials and occasional pitcher deals. The pizza isn't bad, either.

The focus at Price Center's Shogun is the food, and as such the beer selection is painfully limited to two ubiquitous Japanese imports. However, it's also the only place on campus with warm (or chilled) sake and plum wine. The adjacent game room lends itself to intense, sake-fueled ping-pong battles; the moderate selection of sushi can keep you busy while you nurse an Asahi.

BEST BEACHES

Continued from page 10

Windansea

edgewise. Instead, head the extra five minutes down La Jolla Boulevard to a significantly less crowded Windansea, this beach town's best-kept and most historically awesome secret.

With just the right ratio of clean, powdered-sugar sand (for the tan) and cool rocks (for the cave-happy kid in you), Windansea's always-changing shore sees a younger and more laid-back crowd than its northern sisters, drawing the more motivated (read: lower alcohol content) of nearby Pacific Beachers and maintaining La Jolla's beer-free class. The surf is rough on beginners — and the territorial regulars are even tougher — but become one of the dedicated few and you'll never go back to any other beach. Just stake out a deserted ledge, bask in the shade of the palm-leaved Surf Shack, feel the spray from an exhilaratingly close break and thank the Sun God that you're not caught beneath a heap of fly-buzzing kelp and sunburnt family vacations — or that stray nudist looking for his comrades at the other end of Blacks.

Runner up: La Jolla Shores

Black's Beach

into sets that can reach over 20 feet. The steep, breathtaking cliffs that seclude the beach are the spot's saving grace, keeping crowds — and cops — on top of the hill. The beach is also famed for the nudist, naturist groups that coexist with surfers despite a 1976 citywide nudity ban. The clothing-optional status on the north side of the beach, the notorious full-moon festivals held once a month and epic surf all meld together to form the Black's experience that we know and love.

Runner up: Tourmaline

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whirling dervishes

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Carmel Valley family with 4 year old

THE GUARDIAN CLASSIFIEDS

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Solution to Last Tuesday's Crossword

I	C	E	E	E	L	T	O	N	S	P	E	W		
B	R	E	T	L	A	I	R	D	S	I	N	E		
S	U	N	R	I	S	E	S	E	R	V	I	C	E	S
	I	C	I		S	E	I	S						
M	S	S		U	N	D	O		A	R	T	F	U	L
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M	O	O	N	L	I	G	H	T	S	O	N	A	T	A
E	R	I	C	A		S	E	T	A		T	U	R	N
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C	A	A	N		E	T	Y	M	A		E	R	O	S

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Level: **1** 2 3 4

8			3	5				4
3			2		1			7
		6				9		
					7		8	
5								3
	9		8					
		3				1		
1			9		3			2
4				8	6			9

Level: **1** 2 3 4

	9							5
			8		7			
2		4		6			8	9
	3	6				4	7	
5								3
	4	9				1	2	
9	7			4		5		2
			9		3			
	2							4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit **www.sudoku.org**.

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Find SUDOKU solution in Monday's issue