

UCSD Reaches 'Historic Labor Rights Breakthrough'

University supports Honduras union workers by revising apparel contract with bookstore.

By Regina Ip
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Workers Rights Consortium, an independent labor rights organization, recognized UCSD on Nov. 18 for its

efforts in reaching a "historic labor rights breakthrough" with the apparel manufacturer Russell Athletics, a subsidiary of Fruit of the Loom.

Along with nearly 100 universities across the nation — including Duke, Columbia and Harvard — UCSD boycotted Russell Athletics, the largest licensee of retail sales at UCSD, for labor rights violations at its factories in Honduras, where it serves as the largest private-sector company.

In June, UCSD terminated the trademark-licensing contract with

Russell that authorizes the company to use the university's artwork, preventing Russell from legally applying UCSD logos to garments.

The long-time suppliers of UCSD logo apparel — including sweatshirts, T-shirts and sweatpants — agreed to provide workers in Honduras fair labor standards and working conditions on Nov. 14.

"We think these are tremendously positive and indeed historic agreements," WRC executive director Scott Nova said. "We think Russell

deserves credit for embracing this kind of sweeping change. We are very optimistic about the ability of the company and the union to work together to implement the accords."

The company also agreed to open a new factory, rehire workers, provide them with economic assistance and establish a joint union-management training program.

"The effect on students will be satisfaction that products carrying the

See HONDURAS, page 3

Sherlock Holmes

Dec. 25 — The same tweedy, weirdo detective with a pipe who made Granny swoon is getting an extreme makeover this holiday season. Thanks to Robert Downey Jr., Holmes is now a major badass.

See HOLMES, page 9

Low-Tech App Aids in Crossing Mexican Border

Scientists debate over the legality of an application potentially used by illegal immigrants.

By Connie Qian
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

UCSD researchers have developed a cell-phone application to help illegal immigrants cross the U.S.-Mexico border more safely. The application — the Transborder Immigrant Tool — is a controversial device that some consider a humanitarian project and others an illegal aid to smugglers.

The project to create the application, led by assistant visual-arts professor Ricardo Dominguez and coded by research theorist Brett Stalbaum, is aimed at reducing death rates among migrants crossing from Mexico into the U.S. by directing users to water caches and safety beacons via inexpensive cell phones.

"What we're studying is whether very inexpensive mobile phones with GPS devices can be repurposed as an emergency life-saving tool," Stalbaum said.

The development of the application has spanned more than a year. The researchers described their methods as a five-step process: mapping out the land surrounding the U.S.-Mexico border, researching both dangerous and safe communities in the area, testing GPS coordinates and vocal instructions, testing the application by walking between Mexico and the U.S. and letting immigrants in both countries test the tool for further feedback and development.



Director of the California Immigration Policy Center Reshma Shamasunder said she commends the collective effort of UCSD researchers.

"There is a human tragedy occurring along the U.S.-Mexico border, as people attempt to cross and find themselves lost or abandoned by smugglers who care little or nothing about them," Shamasunder said. "Efforts to provide emergency information or assistance that can save lives are a compassionate response to this situation."

Most of the tool's funding

See PHONE, page 6

WATER WARRIOR



As part of UCSD's tribute to World AIDS Day — which included informational booths and a station to assemble care packages for caregivers of AIDS patients — a student dances in honor of a friend who passed away from the disease.

KEVIN WU/GUARDIAN

STUDENTS DEMAND REFUND FOR EXTENSION PROGRAM

By Tanja Fijalkowski
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

A number of UCSD Extension students have filed formal grievances against the administration, claiming that the 2008 Digital Arts Center (DAC) program did not adequately prepare them for a career in Web design, as had been promised.

Students in the year-long program released a statement to administrators expressing dissatisfaction with the man-

agement of the program and demanding monetary compensation in the form of half their tuition — or \$6,750 per student. Twelve of the 19 students enrolled in the DAC program signed a statement of complaint addressed to the university, and seven filed formal grievances.

According to the statement, the majority of student complaints revolved around the teaching methods of instructors Harrison Watts and John Lane. The students claim that Watts used unclear,

inadequate modes of teaching and that Lane, a lead instructor and DAC faculty advisor, left town for 20 days during the quarter and sent e-mails that stated the class would review old material during this time. However, DAC student Kevin Root claimed the material was new and unfamiliar.

"The e-mails are not only insulting to our intellectual abilities, but untrue,"

See EXTENSION, page 6

up in the air

by sonia minden

Dec. 25 — Leaving the theater with the googly-eyed spine tingle you



get when a movie's turned your night upside down — when it's packaged so tight to perfection that you dread the final credit roll — it was admittedly a little hard for me to

believe that "Up in the Air" had been so fucking good. Hard to believe, because it happens to be directed by the same guy who brought America its first Sunny D-chugging hipster hero who (honest to blog) almost made me scratch out my eye sockets.

See AIR, page 8

nine

Dec. 25 — It's a bit asinine, even obscene, how preoccupied Hollywood has been with the number nine this year. Off the heels of "9," "District 9" and (triple whammy) "\$9.99," Rob Marshall's latest, "Nine," loses itself in the fray. To be fair, though, it's better than that: This grand girl party is a spin-off of a Tony Award-winning Broadway musical first produced in 1982, and the last screenplay of late legend Anthony Minghella.

See NINE, page 9

SPOKEN

"When I started making movies years ago, I was a single guy living in an apartment in my twenties. I was a contrarian."

JASON REITMAN

DIRECTOR ("JUNO," "UP IN THE AIR")

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NIGHT WATCH

THURSDAY	FRIDAY
SATURDAY	SUNDAY

SURF REPORT

THURSDAY Height: 2-4 feet Wind: 3-5 mph Water Temp: 61 F	FRIDAY Height: 2-4 feet Wind: 6-8 mph Water Temp: 61 F
SATURDAY Height: 4 feet Wind: 3 mph Water Temp: 61 F	SUNDAY Height: 3-5 feet Wind: 3-6 mph Water Temp: 61 F

GAS PER GALLON

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HIGH \$3.45 Kwik Stop, El Cajon 2410 Fletcher Pkwy & Garfield Ave

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SUNNY-SIDE UP By Philip Rhie



TWO COKES SHORT By Sam Pelle



UC System Extends Application Deadline

By Hayley Bisceglia-Martin
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Thousands of panicking, last-minute UC applicants received a nasty shock earlier this week when the UC of the President Web site experienced a “slowdown” that prevented students from submitting their college applications.

“I wouldn’t categorize it as a failure — it wasn’t,” UCOP spokesman Ricardo Vasquez said. “It was a slowdown — [it’s just] what happened.”

The problem began Sunday night, when an unknown computer malfunction appeared less than a day before the Dec. 1 application deadline.

“We haven’t found the source of the problem,” Vasquez said. “Each year, we do rigorous stress tests on the system prior to opening the application and filing period, and we have planned for a heavy load at the end of the filing period. But our preliminary analysis indicates that this is not a problem of capacity or volume.”

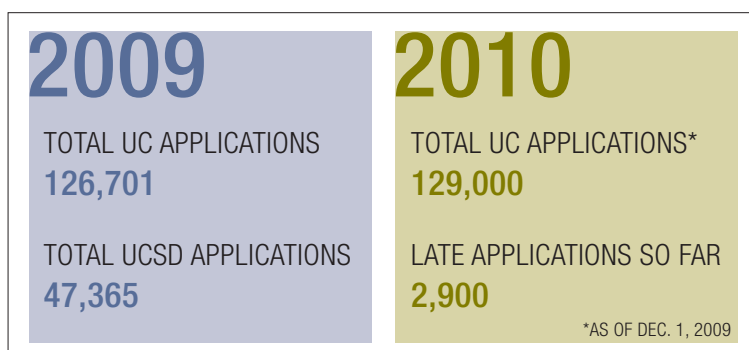
Because of the number of students affected by the slowdown, UCOP Director of Undergraduate Admissions Susan Wilbur made the decision to extend the deadline by two days, to 11:59 p.m. on the night of Dec. 2.

The extension came as a relief to Miramonte High School senior and UC applicant Tucker Kahn, who said he tried to submit his application on Monday night.

According to Kahn, the Web site stalled repeatedly at the eighth step of the application process, remaining on the “loading” page for over an hour through multiple attempts to submit.

“I was pretty pissed off,” Kahn said. “I didn’t understand how a Web site like Facebook can operate with millions and millions of people, but people try to submit stuff to one Web site for one night and it crashes. I just don’t get how that works.”

Kahn, who was applying exclusively to UC campuses, was finally able to submit his application at 2:30



a.m. — two and a half hours after the official deadline.

Kahn was not the only one to take advantage of the extension. According to Vasquez, approximately 2,900 applicants submitted their late applications over the course of an 11-hour period from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday. These were in addition to the roughly 129,000 students who had already turned in their applications before the Web site malfunction — and not counting the thousands of students who continued to submit their applica-

tions until Wednesday night.

The UCOP took steps to get the word out about the extended deadline to worried students by posting information about the extension on its Web site and notifying high-school counselors.

“This is a very stressful period for students — we wouldn’t want to do anything to add to that stress,” Vasquez said. “We will look into it and get to the bottom of it.”

Readers can contact Hayley Bisceglia-Martin at hbiscegl@ucsd.edu.

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JOHN HANACEK/GUARDIAN
Five local a capella groups congregated Dec. 2 to put on their second annual holiday concert in support of the San Diego Food Bank. Attendees were asked to bring canned food as donations.

Hang-Ups Over Survey Language Keep Council Until Wee Hours

The particulars of the language of a Winter Quarter 2010 student survey — as well as a prolonged debate over various allocations of funds — dominated the drawn-out final Fall Quarter A.S. council meeting last night.

An especially lengthy presentation from Professor **Ross Frank** of the Ethnic Studies department encouraged the council to install an impartial director within the A.S. Local Affairs office to review American-Indian representation.

Student **Kayvan Ghaffari** presented a resolution to make the graffiti stairs in Mandeville Hall a legal place for free expression. Ghaffari proposed Winter and Spring Quarters as a trial period for students to tag freely without fear of being prosecuted by police.

President **Utsav Gupta** updated councilmembers on the Fall 2009 happenings. Gupta successfully created new positions within his office, obtained 'B' parking permits for senators and college chairs, expanded the UCSD football team support group on Facebook to 4,000 members and cinched lieutenant governor lead candidate **Janice Hahn** to speak on campus in March.

During the rest of his term, Gupta hopes to increase A.S. visibility efforts with weekly video podcasts, create better public relations by holding more press conferences and town-hall meetings and fight for priority enrollment for A.S. councilmembers in spring.

Eleanor Roosevelt College Senator **Pauline Nuth** said that ERC is currently seeking a new provost and looking to revamp the Making of the Modern World core program.

The most heated discussion of the night began with a debate over \$2,160 allocated to the Center for Student Involvement for the annual Martin

Luther King, Jr. parade. In past years, A.S. only funded the parade \$1,500. Councilmembers were split over the amount, but decided to allocate a nice median of \$1,900 for the event.

AVP Academic Affairs **Jordan Taylor** and VP Finance and Resources **Peter Benesch** got into a two-person debate over the Course and Professor

Evaluation student-survey funds. Benesch wanted to protect C.A.P.E. by providing a "necessary" Memorandum of Understanding

for funding, but Taylor insisted that it would slow the process and hinder the program. An allocation of \$10,000 was approved to move from C.A.P.E. to the U.S. grants line item.

As the night dragged on, a number of councilmembers left, and the fourth-floor forum was left with 17 members — exactly quorum, or the minimum number of members needed to be present for a valid vote.

Wording of the Winter Quarter student survey posed the biggest time-hog of the night. Councilmembers debated for more than two hours over a 16-question survey.

Vague word choices, such as "something other than the above," drove councilmembers into the most intense debate of the night. They discussed wording and potential hidden messages behind questions about food ideas at the Grove Cafe, the proposed A.S. store merchandise and different types of Loft events.

Freshman Senator **Kevin Hoang** accidentally referred to students as "children" when discussing whether or not students visit the Grove Cafe.

By 1:15 a.m., councilmembers were still dissecting the survey questions, citing a motion to add questions about how much students are willing to spend to support a potential football team, the Loft and transportation.

New Business

KELSEY WONG
kiw009@ucsd.edu



Turk: Student Activism Drove Boycott

► **HONDURAS**, from page 1
Russell label, maybe in the bookstore in the future, will be produced under much-improved labor conditions," UCSD Bookstore director John Turk said. "Some students are acutely aware of that and care deeply ... [They] will feel pretty good about this because their actions made a difference, not just on this campus but nationwide. There's a lot of power in student activism."

Turk is also a member of the Committee for the UC Code of Conduct for Trademark Licensees, which advised the UC Office of the President to eliminate contracts with Russell Athletics. The committee stated that the company was not in compliance with the code of conduct, and would not be able to retain its license until it met the required standards.

The bookstore requires every one of its vendors to join the Fair Labor Association so it can be informed of any labor-condition violations.

The bookstore replaced Russell with alternate company Wideworld, which manufactures spandex-based products in the United States.

Since January, Russell faced the largest collegiate boycott of an apparel company ever recorded after the WRC investigated the closure of the factories (due to an attempt by workers to unionize) last October. As more student activists and garment workers from the unions of the Confederación General del Trabajo and Sitrajzerzeesh campaigned, several members of the UC Congress wrote to the Russell CEO. Shortly after the Fair Labor Association put the company on probation, Russell announced it would make concessions.

"They became much more responsive because they were very concerned about the impact on these university relationships," Nova said. "The kind of action that UCSD took put a huge amount of pressure on the company, and that made them more interested than they were initially in finding a resolution."

The Student Workers Collective of UCSD petitioned Chancellor Marye Anne Fox and passed the Resolution for Sweatshop Workers' Right to Associate

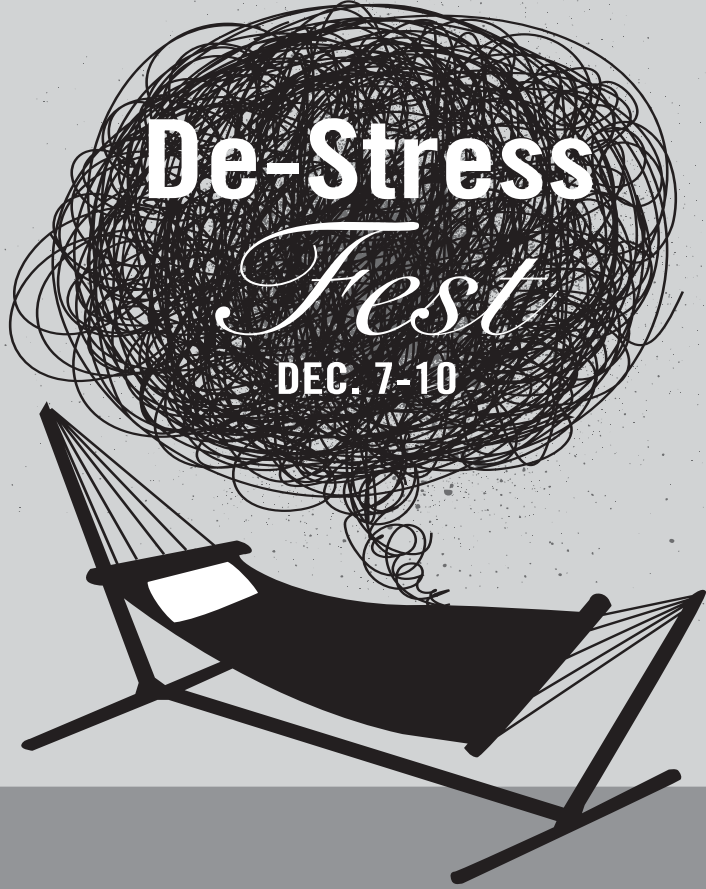
See **WRC**, page 6

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WHICH OF THE PROPOSED REFERENDA ARE YOU MOST LIKELY TO SUPPORT IN SPRING? VOTE ONLINE.

- ✓ The shuttle service
- ✓ The Loft
- ✓ The football program
- ✓ None of them

OPINION

CONTACT THE EDITOR: opinion@ucsdguardian.org



Props to Susan Wilbur, UC Director of Undergraduate Admissions, for extending the UC application deadline after the Web site crashed Nov. 30, preventing many hopefuls from making the deadline.

Flops to the New York State Senate for voting 38-24 against a bill to legalize gay marriage on Dec. 2, despite overwhelming support in the State Assembly.



Broke off Macy's? Visit the Land of Secondhand

As the holidays approach, it's hard not to worry how you'll be able to afford everyone on your list. If you're anything like How-to Guru, you're also probably wondering how to pick up some stuff for yourself in the meantime.

How-to Guru



guru@ucsdguardian.org

Two words: thrift store.

Here's how you'll know you've found one. It must carry the faint smell of a flatulent grandma and constantly play a CD full of '80s power ballads on low volume. Thrift stores are full of ugly shit — dresses covered in mysterious stains, porcelain clown lamps and Bill Cosby sweaters. But every once in a while — when the stars align mid-Toni Braxton howl — you will stumble upon the most awesome \$5 cocktail dress of all time.

Buffalo Exchange, on the other hand, is not a thrift store. It's full of barely worn, mildly priced merchandise. The difference between the two is a girl in trendy glasses who's already picked out the hip stuff for you.

You must be hip girl — sort through the shit yourself. And doing so, young thriftshopper, requires strict adherence to the following rules.

Be patient. When you step into secondhand world, the rules of consumerism change. That sweater doesn't come in a small, customer service means a creepy grin from the guy at the register and all dressing-room surfaces are questionably sticky. If you want to find that vibrant sequined frock, you must flip through every piece of puke clothing in the store. Don't think of it as a chore — it's an expedition into a world of society's most deject objects.

Make quick judgements. If you think that windbreaker *might* have potential, it probably doesn't. You don't have time to meditate on it anyway — there are six more aisles of crap you still have to comb through before you find your glory item: the worn-in shirt with the nonsensical saying that you love at first glance.

Beware of thrift eye (a less serious strain of Triton eye). When surrounded by mediocrity, your attractiveness standards plunge. But much unlike your drunken one-night stand with a crusty-faced slob, your decision to bring home that damp shoulder-padded blazer may have long-term effects.

Never buy purely out of nostalgia. If it reminds you of Grandma, it will make you look like Grandma. If it's a pair of high-waisted jeans you've seen on *Full House*, slowly back away. If it's something from a Richard Simmons work-out video, save it for Halloween.

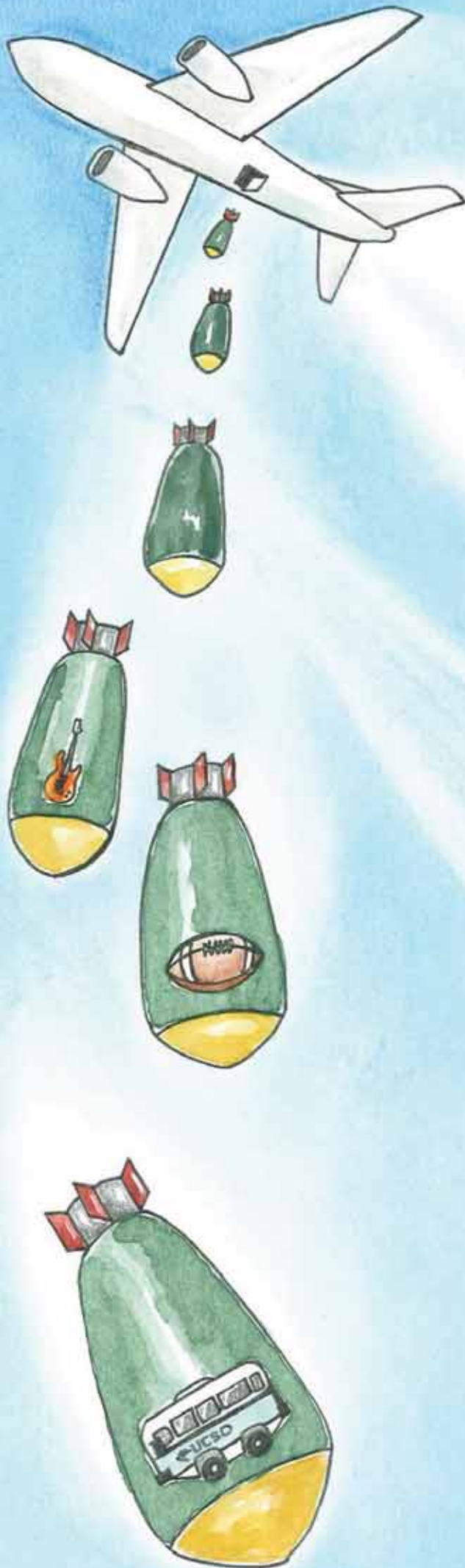
Always do a stain inspection on potential purchases. You'd be surprised at how many people suffer from chronic perspiration nowadays.

Avoid conversation with thrift-store staff. They're all freaks. OK, some of them are cool. But most have minor drooling problems.

Finally, never purchase used socks, underwear or bedsheets. It's just gross.

Now that you're armed with all the skills of an eBay entrepreneur, try your hand at a scrounge — just watch out for those creepy clown lamps.

Special how-to requests? Contact the guru at guru@ucsdguardian.org.



EDITORIAL

Keep Your Eyes Peeled — the Hits Aren't Over Yet

Next quarter, your education is going to cost more. A lot more. A small group of important people in suits made that decision for you last month.

As expected, this made students angry. They protested. They cried. They made a lot of Facebook groups. As also expected, the increase passed anyway.

It's always frustrating to look back on these periods of tumult and realize how futile our efforts sometimes are. No matter how outraged we get, how much of a ruckus we make or how often we walk out of class, rarely are we able to prevent the passage of major university policy.

But there are some things we can influence a lot more readily. Starting in January, the A.S. Council — your elected student representatives — will be debating a series of student-fee referendums. Two of these are designed to bail out failing campus enterprises. The other is meant to bring you a football team. There might even be a few surprise proposals along the way — we'll just have to wait and see.

The difference between this type of fee increase and the one dealt by the UC Board of Regents, however, is that referendums actually afford students some say in the matter at hand. You get to vote. You get to decide.

That doesn't mean you should wait until Spring Quarter rolls around to have your voice heard, though. There's a lot to be done in the meantime.

Most importantly, it will be crucial to ensure that the council comes up with referendum language that allows students new degrees of control over the operations they would be funding. This concern will be most apparent in the council's discussion of the transportation and Loft referendums — both of which could easily leave students monetarily shafted if certain necessary precautions are not taken.

The Loft, in particular, merits a closer look. This is the second year in a row now that campus officials have tried to implement a student fee to fund the fledgling nightclub. And, for the second year in a row, many students are rightfully skeptical about the proposal. The fact that the university built a performance venue without the foresight to secure it a funding source should raise all kinds of questions.

Many councilmembers, unfortunately, appear ready to throw together a hasty referendum that would ask students to pay for the Loft without gaining any significant degree of control over its operations. Fortunately, A.S. President Utsav Gupta has outlined an alternative proposal, one that gives students power over the venue's annual budget and significant oversight into Loft spending. Here's hoping the rest of the council catches on.

The transportation referendum will require the same sort of checks and balances — that is, if the council even agrees to sponsor it. Not much has been discussed so far, but the core issues remain the same: If we're going to be paying for the campus shuttle service, we better make sure we have some say in how it runs. It's all too easy to buy into the "If you don't fund us, we're going to cut service" mantra currently being espoused by transportation officials. Rather than let panic take hold, let's make sure our councilmembers take a calm, collected approach to this issue while maintaining the goal of student empowerment. They need us. We have the upper hand.

In general, the university doesn't like the idea of ceding control to students. Our campus officials will likely resist providing us with any real sort of governance. With that in mind, be wary of "governing boards" and "oversight committees." These tend to be largely symbolic and almost entirely ineffective (see: Athletic, Recreation and Sports Advisory Board). The key is to establish a student majority on these boards. Which we now have the opportunity to do.

There's certainly going to be a lot to talk about next quarter, and every student would be wise to take part in the discussion. This is your university, after all. More importantly, it's your money.

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REBEKAH HWANG/GUARDIAN

ON THE LINE By Christina Aushana



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

*Sustainability Efforts
Require Greater Exposure*

Dear Editor,

The Nov. 23 article "Grass with No Roots" brought to light several issues with sustainability efforts on campus. The author's apparent confusion concerning those efforts, however, highlights an even more pressing matter: the lack of communication and collaboration regarding sustainable endeavors.

When a reporter for the *Guardian* does not even have enough information to write an informed article about sustainability on campus, the community of students, staff and faculty dedicated to a sustainable campus clearly need to outreach more effectively to the rest of the UCSD population. The Sustainability Resource Center (SRC) is that outreach.

The Sustainability Resource Center is not a "special interest club." It is a resource center that is dedicated to environmental and social issues pertinent to the campus community. Just as the Cross-Cultural Center, LGBT Resource Center and Women's Center each inhabits its own physical space to maximize outreach and effectiveness, so too does the SRC.

Moreover, none of the funding for the renovations of the physical space came from the \$2.34 quarterly student fee passed in the last referendum. The quarterly fee supports sustainability programming, provides resources to students and sustainability-oriented campus organizations and provides innovative student projects with grant money through the Green Initiative Fund.

We agree that UCSD's shuttle system is a critical part of sustainability. Transportation Services cur-

rently needs around \$3 million to maintain current services.

We regret that the SRC lacks the capacity to make a significant impact on this deficit financially, but we are working to advance alternative transportation in other ways.

For example, the SRC supports Biofuels Action and Awareness Network, a student-led organization that creates fuel from waste vegetable oil and researches efficacy of biofuels in campus shuttles. The SRC budget comes from students and goes directly back to the UCSD community through student-led sustainability efforts.

We also agree that because the UCSD undergraduate student body has voted to allot a significant budget to sustainability on campus, a permanent position in the A.S. Council needs to be created to represent the students' call for a sustainable campus and to ensure that allocated funds are spent effectively. We have been working with the A.S. Council to create an AVP of Sustainability that will help oversee these efforts.

As students working within UCSD's sustainability community, it is often hard for us to step back and understand how the rest of the school perceives sustainability efforts on campus.

Articles like this help us to re-evaluate both the work we do and the way we relate to the student body. We appreciate both the publicity and the accountability that the *Guardian* provides and hope to foster this relationship for the duration of the SRC.

We hope that soon students will understand that if we are the grass, they are the roots.

— Elizabeth Elman
Director, Student
Sustainability Collective

*Tax Water and Gas to
End State Budget Crisis*

Dear Editor,

George Skelton's Nov. 22 article in the *Los Angeles Times* titled "California budget's going to be dreadful" claimed, "There's no use getting upset about it. Until long-term structural issues are fixed, there is no way legislators can produce an honest spending plan so the state lives within its means."

What's all the fuss about and what seems to be the problem? All we need to do is charge one penny per gallon of water, and/or \$1 per gallon of gas in taxes to rectify California's budget crisis.

Such an action, although of little financial consequence to most, would be the beginning of long-term water promotion and gas conservation. It would also provide more incentive to develop truly renewable forms of energy.

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— Milton Saier
Professor, Division of
Biological Science

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Students Demand Monetary Compensation

► **EXTENSION**, from page 1
Root said.

Ashley Lewis, one of the students who filed a letter of grievance, claimed the student complaints negatively affected their grades.

"After my classmates and I submitted our original letter of complaint, our primary instructor was evidently so upset that he docked all of our final grades by at least one full letter," Lewis said in her letter.

Assistant Deans of External Affairs for UCSD Extension Henry DeVries said the circumstantial causes for the class's downfalls were unique.

"There was a change of instructors," DeVries said. "It was not curriculum or policy which affected this class — it was an unforeseen personnel change, and in these circumstances, there are always chances for things to fall through the cracks."

The university responded to the complaints with a formal investigation lead by Interim Register and Director of Student Services Elizabeth Silva. She addressed the complaints by offering extended opportunities free of cost to students. These offers included online classes, Saturday morning workshops and course offerings from Fall Quarter 2009 and Winter Quarter 2010.

According to DeVries, four of the seven students who filed grievances accepted the offers of extended instruction.

"We listened to the students' concerns about their lack of training and offered them opportunities for further education," DeVries said. "The reparations the students were offered were very fair and reasonable."

However, Root said the offers, including online classes at Lynda.com

— valued at \$75 each — were both "insulting" and a "slap in the face." He claimed the offers were not equal in monetary value to the tuition paid by students for the classes, and that one of the classes offered was taught by an instructor who the students claimed had admitted that he could not teach the material adequately.

"I will be pursuing further appeals," Root said in response to the decision. "If those do not work, I will pursue legal actions. Along the way, I will continue to speak out about the poor quality of education from the DAC program."

Students such as Root demand monetary compensation, a motion the university has denied per the UCSD Extension Refund Policy. The policy states that students who withdraw are refunded 75 percent of the tuition if they withdraw by second week, 50 percent by third week and 25 percent by fourth week. Since the students filing the complaints did not withdraw from the class, university associates maintain that a refund is not possible.

DeVries said that although monetary compensation is unlikely due to the policy, the university is still concerned about the grievance complaints. He added that major revisions to the DAC courses are unlikely since the change of instructors was a one-time occurrence.

"Complaints are rare occurrences," DeVries said. "This is rare, but when it happens it's important. Our biggest concern is that students get the education they need, and we take complaints very seriously."

Additional reporting by Angela Chen.

Readers can contact Tanja Fijalkowski at tfijalko@ucsd.edu.

App Offered to Humanitarian Groups

► **PHONE**, from page 1
has been research money allocated by UCSD. The application also received funding from the Transnational Communities Award given by the U.S. Embassy in Mexico.

However, organizations like the Center of Immigration Studies — a nonprofit group that researches the effects of immigration on the U.S. — vocally disapprove of the application.

CIS communications associate Bryan Griffith said an application to identify an individual's location would be used to promote further unsafe activity when in the wrong hands.

"Anytime people make a high-technology tool that will identify where a person is, I don't think it will be used only to find water," Griffith said. "The tool will not only help illegal immigrants, but help drug smuggling and human smuggling."

According to the U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act, anyone helping illegal immigration is subject to Title 8 of the U.S. Code, Section 1324, which states that aiding in the transportation of illegal aliens across the border is an offense that can potentially lead to fines or imprisonment.

Stalbaum said legality should not be an issue for a "public safety tool."

"The technology itself isn't real-

ly useful for navigating and making the whole trip into the United States from Mexico," Stalbaum said. "You really have to raise questions as to why there's such criticism over a device that is really only useful within an hour of time and within a couple kilometers of safety sites to help someone who's disoriented to get to a water site."

Researchers are attempting to address some problems before the release date, such as cost and life span.

"You can install it on a mobile phone that is operable — that somebody could use in an emergency situation in the desert — but after a couple weeks, that data is going to time out because of the stale data problem," Stalbaum said.

The researchers plan to offer the tool to various humanitarian and church organizations by the end of the year at minimal to no cost.

"We're making all of the software available as open source software," Stalbaum said. "We're providing our services at a public university to the larger transglobal community, which we're a part of."

The application has won two Transborder Awards from the UCSD Center for the Humanities.

Readers can contact Connie Qian at coqian@ucsd.edu.

WRC to Monitor Unionization Process

► **WRC**, from page 3
and Enforcement of UC Code of Conduct with Russell Corporation.

Working alongside United Students Against Sweatshops — a national organization that advocates for worker rights — SWS arranged an open forum in which two union workers from the Jerzees de Honduras factory talked about the conditions they worked under and how they lost their jobs for unionizing.

"I'm really glad that student solidarity efforts really helped to boost the momentum ... to open the factory again," A.S. Vice President of External Affairs and SWC member Gracelyne West said.

WRC will now monitor the agreements made between the company

and the union workers and provide the involved universities with a follow-up report on the implementation process.

"They recognize that it's a positive step for their company," Nova said. "They've said that they're very committed to this new partnership with the union. We've been encouraged by what they said, and the initial steps they've taken to implement the agreement."

If UCSD receives positive reports from the WRC on the implementation progress, Turk said the decision to send Russell an application to renew its license would be forthcoming early next year.

Readers can contact Regina Ip at rwip@ucsd.edu.

Runner Returns Favor With Strong Senior Leadership



JOSHUA MEADOR/GUARDIAN

► **WRIGHT**, from page 16 but it's been something I've enjoyed. I enjoyed both being a freshman and being a senior, but for totally different reasons."

As a freshman, I had no idea what to expect. I had all my goals laid out, and every time I had a question, I just had to ask somebody. As a senior, I've really enjoyed being able to answer a lot of those questions when the underclassmen have them."

Wright's learned leadership came into play during his last cross-country race in a UCSD uniform: the 2009 NCAA West Regional Championships. About one half-mile into the race, he noticed that nearly all his teammates were running near each other — but not together as a group.

Wright called for them to stay together for about a mile of their 10K race, after which a smaller group broke off and kept together for more than half the race, helping lead his team to a ninth-place finish.

Individually, Wright finished 43rd overall and second on the team. It was his best regional finish ever —

and a fitting way to close out his UCSD career.

"I could see them running close to each other, but I'm not sure they knew they were that close," Wright said. "I just came up to them and said 'Hey let's get together,' and we fell into a pack. I definitely think that helped calm us down and [got] us focused early on in the race."

Wright said he had great respect for the Triton seniors he has run

with over his years on the team, and kept them in mind during his final season as a Triton.

"No matter what, regardless of ability or anything like that, I'll always look up to the upperclassmen that I ran with," he said. "The knowledge that they imparted on me while they were here is invaluable."

Wright's favorite moments in his UCSD career include breaking four minutes in a 1,500-meter race and dressing up as the solar system for the UCSD Athletic's annual costume contest. Although his four years as a member of the Triton cross-country team are over, he said he sees himself continuing to run long into the future.

"Once I'm done running for the university, I can be more flexible," Wright said. "I'd like to branch out and try some half-marathons or marathons."

Readers can contact Liam Rose at lfrose@ucsd.edu.

“No matter what, regardless of ability or anything like that, I'll always look up to the upperclassmen that I ran with.”

MIKE WRIGHT
CROSS COUNTRY

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- Girls "Lust for Life"
- The Grouch "Whatever I Say"
- Fashawn & Exile "Life as a Shorty"
- Dan Auerbach "Goin' Home"



the lovely bones

Jan. 15 — From Peter Jackson, the same epic nerd who brought us "Lord of the Rings," comes the haunting story of 14-year-old Susie Salmon. After being raped and murdered, the littlest angel observes her grieving family from a personal heaven as they attempt to solve the mystery of her death. Based on Alice Sebold's best-selling novel, the film follows Susie's father Jack (Mark Wahlberg) as he pores obsessively over the case, her emotionally unstable mother Abigail (Rachel Weisz) and her younger sister, who is determined to find out the truth even if it means risking her own life. Highlights include Jackson's psychedelic interpretation of Susie's heaven with fantastical cinematography, lush colors and the same out-of-this-world vision that made him famous. With Stanley Tucci topping off the creepy as Salmon's next-door neighbor, we're bound to get goosebumps — and not the good kind.

— **Neelaab Nasraty**
STAFF WRITER

WINTER MOVIE PREVIEW

HOLIDAY FARE

THANKSGIVING'S CROP WAS SUBJECT TO DROUGHT, BUT CHRISTMASTIME CINEMA IS BULGING AT THE SACK — WITH PERIOD COSTUMES, CIRCUS MIDGETS AND A DOUBLE SHOT OF NORTON TO MAKE THE 'NOGG GO DOWN.

the imaginarium of doctor parnassus

DEC. 25 — Even if you, for whatever reason, don't like strip-free acid trips or aren't fan of midgets, curiosity alone should be enough to pull you into "The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus." Not to mention, it's the last movie Heath Ledger — our generation's James Dean — will ever appear in. After his tragic and untimely death, production was put on hold until three of his buddies (no-big-deal stars Johnny Depp, Jude Law and Colin Farrell) took it upon themselves to split the role and finish up the film.

Dr. P, played by the versatile Christopher Plummer, makes a deal with the devil — an always outrageous Tom Waits — to trade in his daughter for immortality. Mysterious outsider Tony, played by all four sexpots, travels through magical parallel worlds in order to save the girl.

Written and directed by Terry Gilliam, "Imaginarium" is sure to be the hallucinogenic journey of the year. Come on, even Verne Troyer — yes, the freakish midget from "Austin Powers" — stopped by for a cameo. As if we didn't have reason enough to see it twice.

— **Amanda Martinek**
STAFF WRITER



Up in the Air

STARRING GEORGE CLOONEY, VERA FARMIGA & ANNA KENDRICK
DIRECTED BY JASON REITMAN
RATED R
01:49



up in the air

► **AIR**, from page 1
But on the real: Jason Reitman took the best things about "Juno" — its heart-wrenchingly human conflicts, its compassion, its tongue-in-cheek dialogue (sans the forced quirkiness) — and cherry-topped the whole thing with George Clooney and a handful of other unreasonably good-looking actors. A film this uplifting, this strangely disarming, this relevant and even timeless, is enough to make an audience

cry and laugh at the same time (just when you thought happy-sad must be a promotional myth), and sometimes simply stare in a stupefied hush.

Clooney hits top form as the self-assured, no-strings Ryan Bingham — in essence, corporate America's dreamy hitman. A "termination specialist," he's paid to fire people for bosses too spineless to do the deed; indeed, it takes a steely soul to bear countless tragic pleas of the economically down-

trodden.

But after wrapping up a day of tearful, exasperated, how-could-you-do-this-to-me breakdowns, Bingham clicks his briefcase closed with a little satisfied smile and heads back to the airport, unscathed. Striding through metal detectors like the drill were a cakewalk, he enjoys an in-flight lifestyle 322 days out of the year: To know him is to fly with him.

Problem is, we're still half crushed — and that's what makes

the movie brilliant. Reitman's constant push and pull from devastating reality to a slick utopia of tiny cocktails and V.I.P. cards leaves us vaguely empty and utterly absorbed.

The casting ultimately makes it work: No one but Clooney could have played white-collar jet-hopper so charmingly, and no one but real people — who really got the boot — could have made

See **REITMAN**, page 10

serious moonlight

DEC. 4 — A romantic comedy with one too many revenge plots for comfort, "Serious Moonlight" takes "All's fair in love and war" to heart (a la "Intolerable Cruelty"), spelling out all the reasons not to date a high-powered attorney — as if we needed more than one.

A lip-pumped Meg Ryan plays Louise, superwoman lawyer who finds out her husband Ian is having an affair with a young floozy (Kristen Bell). Instead of flying into hysterics, Louise has a more novel idea: duct-tape him to the toilet and hold him hostage until he loves her.



Hilarity ensues (or doesn't) as she-devil attempts to reignite the spark through a parade of old wedding footage and truly horrific a capella.

Desperate for freedom, Ian screams for the attention of neighbors — only to realize he has alerted "bad guy" robbers that they're in the clear.

While the storyline may be dubious, the cast has potential: Ryan, no longer America's sweetheart, tries her hand at domineering bitch, while Bell sets aside sass to do dumb blonde. It may not have the merit of screenwriter Adrienne Shelley's early work (read: "Waitress"), but it does teach a valuable lesson: Before duct-taping your estranged husband to a toilet, lock the door.

— **Angela Chen**
SENIOR STAFF WRITER



sherlock holmes



► **HOLMES**, from page 1

As the murderous cult leader Lord Blackwood (Mark Strong) conspires to destroy London, Holmes and Watson team up once again to stop evil from running amuck. But don't expect the same fingerprinting and clue-sniffing that rocked you to sleep as a wee one. After all, Sherlock 2.0 comes complete with action-packed explosions; a hot, half-naked Rachel McAdams; and Jude Law, the embodiment of everything sexy in Britain, in the passenger seat. Peppered with cheesy quips and shot in picturesque London, director Guy Ritchie's rendering of this sleuthing superstar will knock this classic on its ancient butt — and we can't wait to see it go down.

— **Amanda Martinek**
STAFF WRITER



nine

► **NINE**, from page 1

A musical in its own right, "Nine" sings and dances its way through the midlife crisis of world-renowned Italian film director Guido Contini (Daniel Day-Lewis). Drained of creative juices and racked with personal strife, the midlife-crisis victim juggles the demands of shooting his next film — for which he has no script — and his wife of 20 years (Marion Cotillard), who is tiring of his absence. Schizophrenic tendencies warp Contini's mind, and his fugitive imagination soon blurs the line between reality and fiction. As if within a mid-'60s Christmas

Carol adaptation, Contini revisits women of his past whilst contending with those of the present: his mistress (Penélope Cruz), costume designer (Judi Dench), film star muse (Nicole Kidman) and an American fashion journalist (Kate Hudson).

Much in the same vein as Marshall's 2002 hit "Chicago," "Nine" leverages from ornate costuming, subdued colors, flashy dance numbers and an ensemble cast that collectively boasts six Oscars.

— **Leila Haghighat**
SENIOR STAFF WRITER



leaves of grass

DEC. 25 — Down to spend this year's break getting high to something other than "Home Alone"? Cue Edward Norton, crossbows, Edward Norton, mistaken identities, Edward Norton talking in a hick accent and um, Edward Norton, and you've got Tim Blake Nelson's "Leaves of Grass."

Norton plays two parts: a brilliantly blazed Oklahoman and an eloquent Ivy League professor who happens to be the pothead's twin. Enter Susan Sarandon and Richard Dreyfuss, and it's the perfect stoner comedy that isn't.

"Pineapple Express" may have taken itself a tad too seriously, but the deadpan faces of Norton and Norton on the black-and-white movie poster have us wondering if this comedy truly has a dark side. Sure, the trailer promises hilarious hijinks that only a "pair" of charming twins could cause — using mistaken identities to their advantage; paying the price — but we hope this buddy flick is more than a couple Mary J. jokes and jabs at the intelligentsia and/or corn-crunchin' farmers. But seriously — two Edward Nortons. Now that's hot.

— **Hannah Kang**
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

the young victoria



DEC. 18 — Missed out on "The Queen" and "Marie Antoinette"? No need to fret — a new royalty introspective produced by Martin Scorsese is about to be bestowed upon all the girly history buffs and costume-drama lovers of the world (with emphasis on the word costume, not drama). Apparently, Victoria's life as a young woman lacked any significant degree of substance, although her budding relationship with Prince Albert (the focal point of the film) might allow a somewhat endearing romantic yarn. Mind you, the couple will hardly pose a challenge to "Pirates" heartthrobs Elizabeth Swan and Will Turner, and there will be no convenient vampires to perform neck-piercing love scenes. So don't get too excited. Emily Blunt and Rupert Friend are sure to steam things up a bit, but it's rumored to be a show-stealing performance for Paul Bettany, who plays Prime Minister Lord Melbourne. Cheers, mate!

— **Gretchen Wegrich**
STAFF WRITER

DEC. 4 — Though the tell-all trailer for director Jim Sheridan's latest leaves little unanswered, there is something about the idea of a supposedly dead soldier returning home that leaves us itching to know more. The A-list cast doesn't look half bad either. With Tobey Maguire, Natalie Portman and Jake Gyllenhaal leading the way, we find out what happens when a grieving army widow seeks comfort in the arms of her deceased husband's black-sheep brother.

But what begins as a post-mortem therapy session quickly transforms into something else entirely, when the apparently "dead" first husband arrives at the front door to discover a blossoming romance between his wife and brother. Sound familiar? That's probably because it has the same exact plot as "Cider House Rules." And "Pearl Harbor." Oh, Hollywood.

Though hardly groundbreaking, Maguire's post-traumatic stress meltdown and consequential shoot-out with the cops does look epic, and will undoubtedly earn an Oscar nod or two. To hell with originality.

— **Neelaab Nasraty**
STAFF WRITER



brothers

druthers

HIATUS PICKS THE WEEK'S BEST BETS

LANDMARK THEATRES POSTER SALE

LANDMARK LA JOLLA
DEC. 5 / 10 A.M. / FREE

Know a movie buff who's dying to cover up the ward-white walls of his dorm? Look no further for Christmas gifts, because Landmark's got the hookup. This Saturday, the SD theater chain will host its annual poster sale. And with over 500 movie posters at \$1 each, you would have to be one lazy bum not to head down to Landmark's La Jolla Village location to take advantage of this one-day sale. Whether your friend worships indie flicks or swallows high-energy blockbusters by the bucket, there's something here for everyone on a college budget. (JB)

HOW THE GROUCH STOLE CHRISTMAS

THE BELLY UP
DEC. 7, 9 P.M. / \$17

Head north to the Belly Up for some raw, sticky Cali hip-hop. Living Legends mainstay the Grouch will headline the event, rocking cuts from his upcoming *Three Eyes off the Time*. But the Grouch might not steal the show with openers this awesome — Mistah F.A.B. is ghostridin' his yellow bus down to get the crowd hypy beforehand. Also opening the show is newcomer Fashawn, who recently teamed up with LA producer Exile (of Blu & Exile fame) for his debut album *Boy Meets World*, which dropped in October. And yes, he's still a boy — the 20-year-old Fashawn would have to use a fake to get into the club if he didn't have a wristband. (JS)

LEONARD BERNSTEIN'S MASS

MANDEVILLE AUDITORIUM
DEC. 4 & 5, 8 P.M. / DEC. 6, 3 P.M. / \$18

This weekend, Conrad Prebys' neglected ancestor of a music hall will play host to one of the most controversial, rarely performed pieces by late American composing legend Leonard Bernstein. Combining the secular and sacred, Berenstein's "MASS: A Theatre Piece for Singers, Players and Dancers" was originally performed as an anti-Vietnam War statement in the '70s. The La Jolla Symphony teams up with UCSD music icons Ken Anderson (gospel-choir guru) and Steven Schick (young-at-heart percussionist) to bring a taste of retro rebellion and progressive composition to UCSD's original stage. (JS)

exit strategy

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

"500 DAYS OF SUMMER"
PRICE CENTER THEATER
DEC. 3 & DEC. 6, 6 P.M. & 9 P.M.
\$3

JENNY SCHEINMAN
THE LOFT
DEC. 3
\$5

FOOSH
HSS 1330
DEC. 3, 8 P.M.
FREE

NAPPY ROOTS
PORTER'S PUB
DEC. 3, 4 P.M.
\$5

CHE BENEFIT SHOW
CHE CAFE
DEC. 4, 9 P.M.
\$6

7 SECONDS, BOUNCING SOULS
CHE CAFE
DEC. 9, 7:30 P.M.
\$6

Juno Follow-Up Straight Soars

► REITMAN, from page 8

those blubbing breakdowns so convincing.

"We read from a legal form used to fire people," Reitman said, describing how he prompted reactions from people with no prior acting experience. "The second they would hear it, their eyes would turn red; their postures would change. If someone asked me what the worst part was about getting fired, I would have said, 'Loss of income.' But it's not the money — it's the lack of purpose. It's the reason to get out of bed in the morning."

But the pink-slip moments of outrage aren't overwhelming or overly sentimental; instead, they're just sporadic enough to generate a kind of lingering unrest, framing Bingham's mildly existential journey and reminding us of catastrophes much greater than a guy in his 40s who can't commit.

Alex Goran (Vera Farmiga) plays the stunning female counterpart to Bingham's effortless cool. "Think of me as yourself, only with a vagina," she purrs, admiring in equal parts his stolen room-key collection and frequent flyer miles. After doing the dirty, both flip open their laptops to arrange another domestic booty call.

But Bingham's world of hotel sex and complimentary peanuts comes to a slamming halt when he's introduced to Natalie Keener (Anna Kendrick), a fresh-faced graduate with ambitions to fire workers without stepping foot on another plane again. Using videoconferencing, one needs only to sit at his or her computer and read a carefully designed script to break the news, hundreds of miles away.

Of course, her cost-effective plan threatens Bingham's rose-tinted universe. Convinced his job is an art form requiring more grace and experience than the equivalent of a text-message breakup, he dares the naive overachiever to do the nasty job herself, face-to-face with a world outside the Ivy League nest. His challenge proves transformative for both — in the end, all our expectations are shot in a wedding scene that shifts the movie from Bingham's airbrushed, air-conditioned gaze to a softer place where real people live, in all their imperfections and insecurities.

The perspective shift mirrors Reitman's own journey while conceiving the film. "When I started making movies seven years ago, I was a single guy living in an apartment in my 20s; I was a contrarian," he said, chewing a fish taco thoughtfully. "But then I became a father, I got a mortgage ... Ryan starts to recognize similar things that I was recognizing."

But the movie doesn't set out to villainize Bingham for shunning his family or refusing a shot at substantial intimacy; if anything, the guy's just too damn likeable to fault. Nor does "Up" blindly applaud the sanctity of marriage and feed us an easy ending, just in time for the holidays. Instead, it merely suggests that "life's better with company." Whether or not you find the right co-pilot or crash and burn, remains, well — you get where I'm going here.

CONCERTPREVIEW

PRETTY GIRLS MAKE FLOWERY GRAVES

Life in San Francisco Births Brokenhearted Honesty from the Kind of Pill-Poppers Who Belong at the Loft. By Chris Kokiouis

Christopher Owens and Chet "JR" White have hit a vein of melancholy so deep, it's hard to listen to their debut *Album* in the wrong mood. If you're bummed, Girls' retro ballads might not help; then again, they also could be the perfect remedy. Their syrupy brand of Cali-pop quivers under

Owens' weathered Costello croons for some pure, simple pleasures — friends forever, a box of pizza and a bottle of wine. Heralded as one of 2009's most profound new records, *Album* is natural, elegant and timeless, borrowing the flair of rock from the past four decades, but managing it within the mellow and jan-

gling reverb sadness/madness that only a particularly lovable kind of weirdo could cultivate.

Much has been written about Owens' tragic and fascinating backstory as a boy raised in the Children of God cult, where he could only listen to certain records approved inside the group — mostly praise anthems and songs that David Berg (the cult's founder) enjoyed.

There's a lot more to Owens' story — a millionaire mentor in Texas, a drug-addled San Francisco lifestyle, some girl problems (obviously) — but it's Owens' songwritten honesty that saves this band from hype overdose. Forlorn cuts like "Laura" ride warm, unadorned chords from the desperate first verse all the way to the "Reach out and touch me I'm right here/ And I don't wanna fight anymore" chorus plea. We also get a wishlist of all his ex's luxuries in "Lust for Life," — like a suntan, a beach house and a father, to begin.

There's no irony here, and while the band is Girls and the album is *Album* — bringing to mind so much subpar minimalist hipster music from this decade — Girls are genuine to a refreshing fault. With the songs pouring out and another LP on the way next year, these Bay burnout heroes will bring their twisted peace and love to the Loft Friday in search of good times. So sing along.

Girls will perform live at the Loft with the Morning Benders on Dec. 4 at 8:30 p.m.



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THEATERREVIEW

Outlawin' Lovebirds Keep It Raw in Hearty Playhouse Remake

Old-School Hustlers Lend Some Sweet Emotion to Gunpoints and Stick-Ups.
By Leila Haghighat

Warren Beatty and Faye Dunaway may have robbed hearts and banks in the 1967 film "Bonnie and Clyde," but the La Jolla Playhouse's world-premiere musical — based on the bandits' rip-roarin' life story — runs off with more substance and excitement than the Hollywood classic. In an emphatic departure from the film's sensationalism, director Jeff Calhoun flawlessly exposes the raw personal conflicts underlying the iconic pair's life on the lam in the Texas Dustbowl. Even a slow first act and misplaced, ironically upbeat song and dance can't put more than a small dent in this magnetic ray of sunshine.

We all know the story of Bonnie and Clyde: Robin Hood of the 1930s — 24-year-old Clyde Barrow — wanders debonairly through the central states in stolen Ford V8s, living off bank holdups. "Everybody's got dreams," sure, but he's "got plans," an escapist mentality that draws aspiring poet and fame-monger Bonnie Parker to join his crime spree. Clyde's brother Buck and God-fearin' sister-in-law Blanche tag along, and the Barrow gang soon steers its way atop the nation's list of public enemies. In the midst of an otherwise notorious plot, the musical injects a refreshing dose of realism by giving voices to Bonnie and Clyde's worrisome parents and Bonnie's deferred suitor Ted, who ultimately spearheads the police chase for Clyde.

Under the direction of John McDaniel, the live instrumental pit injects the onstage action with a sense of immediacy, while the musical score — composed by Frank Wildhorn and set to the evocative lyrics of Don Black — jumps from one genre to the next, giving life to the stagnant Texas setting. The melancholy violin vibratos in Clyde's opening number, "This World Will Remember Me," melt away into the pick-me-up staccato of drums and distorted electric guitar in the foul-mouthed Sheriff's manifesto, "Long Arm of the Law."

Despite their sparseness, ensemble routines resuscitate the production, giving it back that life-on-the-run feel — especially in the first act, which is saturated with forcedly gushy strings. The chorus transforms into a calico-swishing Sunday parish in "God's Arms Are Always Open," whoopin' and hollerin' with bibles in hand to call-and-response gospel blues.

Michael Lanning's dual role as preacher and legal judge is a subtle critique of religion and judgment by God — a critique supported by the starring duo, who advance together in an era where "God's dead" and "freedom is something we've gotta steal."

Those murky moral questions are the grime behind the glitz that Calhoun's production attempts to unearth. Whip-cracking sounds of shell fire, followed by clouds of musky-smelling smoke and oozing bloodiness rev up the second act, with design by Tobin Ost and Brian Ronan. Instead of reveling in the "sensationalized bullshit" that turned

"criminals into heroes," the musical questions Bonnie and Clyde's tabloid celebritydom. The soundtrack achieves this especially in "The Devil," when Bonnie's mother laments behind tears that "Love was served up every day/When did the Devil take my girl away? ... What changes a rose into a thorn/When did my baby doll get tossed and torn?"

The production is still anchored by its antiheroes' bold romance, tugging on all the strings of a sappy chick flick — but a damn good one. Clyde serenades Bonnie with an endearing love ballad on the ukulele that could very well be Jason Mraz's next hit. Add Stark Sands' striking resemblance to Michael Cera, and presto! You've got yourself an edgy tearjerker.

The award-winning actors channel a good chunk of the same celebrity that canonized Bonnie and Clyde. Laura Osnes, winner of 2007 NBC reality show "Grease: You're the One That I Want," diligently portrays Bonnie, exuding redheaded fieriness as inextinguishable from memory as her wide range of voice. A Texas native himself, Tony Award nominee Sands delivers a well-tempered and palpable Clyde, who never goes over the top with the Southern twang. The real show-stoppers, though, are Melissa van der Schyff and Mare Winningham, who play Blanche and Bonnie's mom, respectively. As comic relief, Van der Schyff's Lord-praisin' Blanche is a needed break from the morally heavy production.

The most artistically daring and successful play, however, is not deliv-

ered by the actors. Designer Aaron Rhyne's backdrop projection screen links history to fiction, interpolating scenes on stage with actual photos from the 1930s, including mug shots and Bonnie and Clyde's facetious modeling for the camera.

Toward the end of the first act, bright-eyed Bonnie and ambitious Clyde chime in unison, "Helluva ride' will be on our epitaph" — and indeed, this ride is as wild as their stiff musical genre could ever hope to become.

Bonnie & Clyde

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WINTER MOVIE PREVIEW



it's complicated

DEC. 25 — Alec Baldwin trades in the under-the-breath cynicism of "30 Rocks" Jack Donaghy for far less abrasive schemes of chivalry in this Christmas day release. Complications arise when Baldwin steps into the middle of a budding relationship between two of Hollywood's other cash cows, Meryl Streep and Steve Martin, birthing a star-struck love triangle.

Like all good divorcees with three children, Jane (Streep) and Jack (Baldwin) have separated ways, buried the hatchet and let bygones be bygones. Ten years later though, their son's graduation reunites the indepen-

dent-minded baker with her attorney ex-husband, who's by now remarried a hot thing of his own (Lake Bell). Any other genre would portray the reunion as a highly awkward affair, but this is a romantic comedy — and a Nancy Meyers one, at that. Accordingly, a plot twist of family ties ensues à la director/producer/screenwriter's Nancy Meyers' "Something's Gotta Give" and "The Parent Trap." And so, as the divorcees' innocent dinner rekindles romance, it threatens to undermine Jack's marriage and Jane's relationship with Adam (Martin), an architect who she's contracted to

remodel her kitchen.

Undoubtedly, the film will, once again, laud Streep for the acting chameleon she is and exhibit yet more of her recent shift toward less Oscar-worthy, more commercial blockbuster roles. The film will also be a must-see for Academy Awards geeks. With the male leads, Baldwin and Martin, slated to co-host next year's show, think of "It's Complicated" as a pocket guide to the jokes likely to be cracked among the silver screen elite, come Oscar night.

— **Leila Haghighat**
STAFF WRITER

A SIMPLE MAN

DEC. 11 — The fashion world's McSteamy, the sunglassesed Tom Ford, steps behind the camera for the first time with "A Single Man," a film that has already generated significant Oscar buzz for its "great

sensitivity" and for leading actor Colin Firth's "moving performance" as gay and grieving 52-year-old professor George Falconer, suffering in a world that cannot make room for homosexuality. The story begins as Falconer attempts to live out a day of his life as normally as possible, suppressing the fact that his lover of 16 years has just died in a car crash.

Set in LA in the 1960s, it is the heyday of Hitchcock, Mad Men and Audrey Hepburn. Ford's world is clean-cut, sophisticated and glossy in the most precise ways. It will be

interesting to see if his attempt at poetic sensitivity falls short, however, due to the acclaimed designer's innate need to sweep all the ugliness away. We'll certainly be left with something pretty, but the unrealistic ideal may not appeal to everyone.

Ford and Firth may present some of the most exquisitely tailored misery out there, but hopefully we won't find ourselves yearning for a fray — after all, it's in the unraveling that the most real unhappiness dwells.

— **Hannah Kang**
STAFF WRITER

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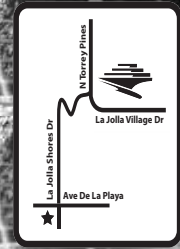
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► **BLANC**, from page 16
verge of a mental breakdown or starting an on-court fight. Baseball might have Milton Bradley's temper tantrums, but the NBA has Chris Andersen and his pure insanity.

3. Super Bowl commercials
Notice, please, that I am not including professional football on this list. It's sad but true: The television advertisements between plays have become more important than the game's championship show-down. The NFL has become a bastion for overpaid and uncooperative egos (read: Michael Crabtree, Terrel Owens, Chad "Eighty-Five," Jerry Jones and about half the Cowboys' roster). This football season will most likely close with a classic Peyton Manning-Tom Brady matchup at some point, and perhaps a game-winning field goal somewhere between unnecessary clumps of timeouts and official breaks. But for what it's worth, the big boys in the NFL have very little to offer.

So feel free to space out until the Super Bowl approaches, then tune in and gear up for a real slice of Americana — normally a toss-up between a busy Go-Daddy girl or E-Trade's talking babies.

4. Winter general-manager meetings
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Which team will Scott Boras swindle into signing Jason Bay and Matt "Good Thing I Remembered to Wear My Cup" Holliday? Will Pedro Martinez decide to skip out of the AARP line and have another go at being New York's daddy? Personally, I just want to see if San Francisco general man-

ager Brian Sabean takes a page out of his Cy Young winner's playbook and tokes up at the meeting to celebrate a blockbuster deal.

5. March Madness
Just as baseball's spring training is moving into first gear, college basketball will be the perfect substitute for the stretch run. I'll never understand it, but year after year, it seems that every single March Madness game unfailingly ends with a thrilling buzzer-beating shot soaring through the air and swishing into the net, setting off a swarm of crazed college students and creepy mascots.

Hyperboles aside, the beautiful 65-team dance is easily the non-baseball sports highlight of the year (No. 5 on this list solely for chronological consistency). Who will be this year's 12-5 upset? Can the Kansas Jayhawks run the table? Just how freakin' old is Dick Vitale? Somehow, Cinderella shows up at the big dance every year, and — pumped with March Madness spirit — never fails to put out.

So there you are: five solid reasons to keep your head above water this offseason, and away from a Prozac addiction. Life may seem a bit more bleak without the joy that a 162-game baseball season brings, but hang in there, follow up on my top five and just remember: only 123 days until Opening Day, 2010.

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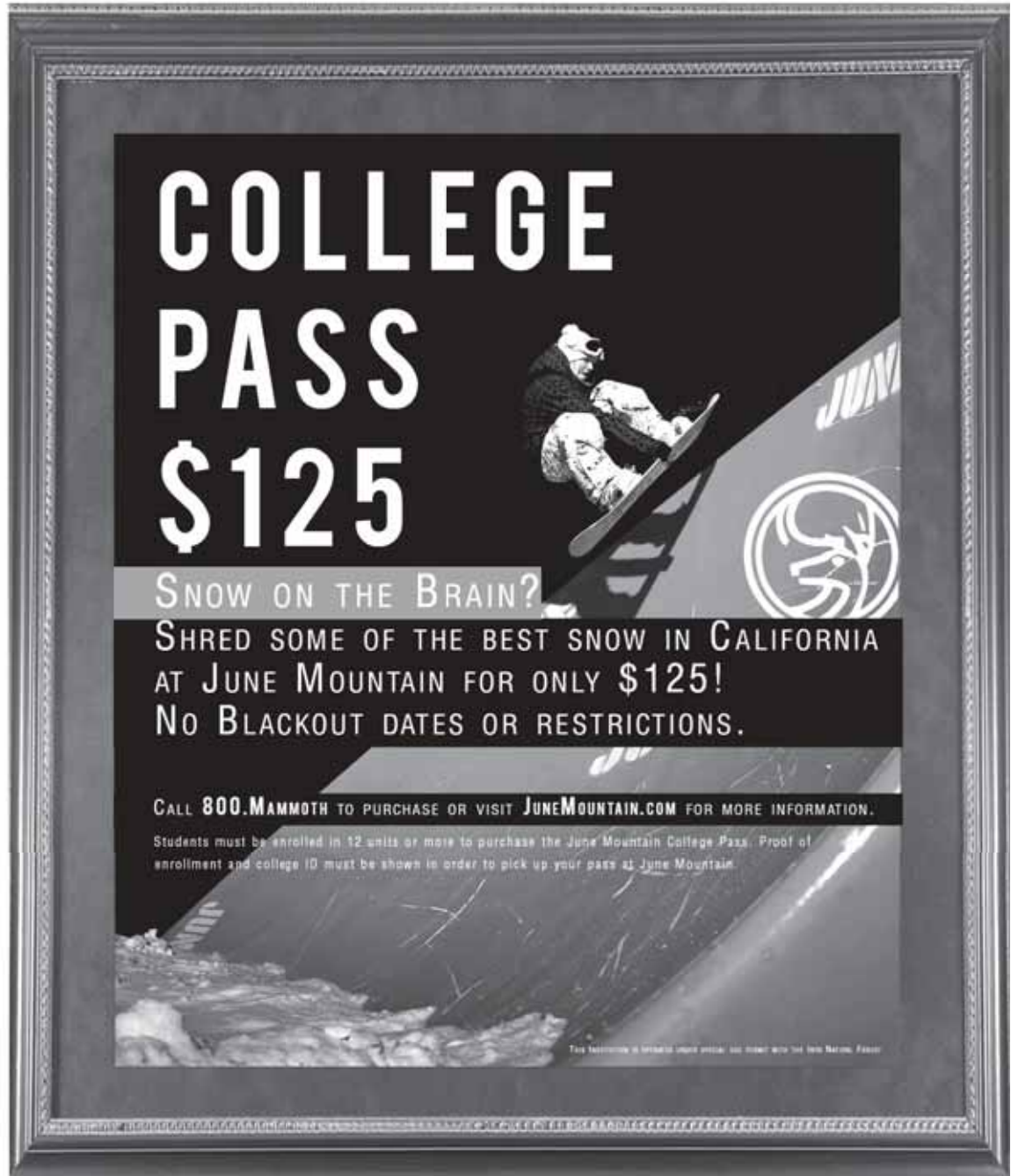
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9	5	2	3	8	1	7	4	6
7	8	3	5	6	4	9	2	1
4	1	6	2	9	7	3	8	5
3	4	5	6	1	2	8	7	9
6	9	1	7	3	8	4	5	2
2	7	8	4	5	9	6	1	3

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N	O	L	O	S	E	Y	E	A	R	T	C	B
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A	L	I	T	O	R	E	O	O	L	S	E	N
P	L	E	A	S	E	N	D	D	Y	E	R	S

SUDOKU

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

Level: 1 2 3 4

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

Level: 1 2 3 4

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

Level: 1 2 3 4

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

Find the Sudoku solutions online at www.ucsdguardian.org.

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SPORTS

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QUOTABLE QUIPS

"You can't sit on a lead and run a few plays into the line and just kill the clock. You've got to throw the ball over the damn plate and give the other man his chance."

— EARL WEAVER
LEGENDARY BASEBALL COACH



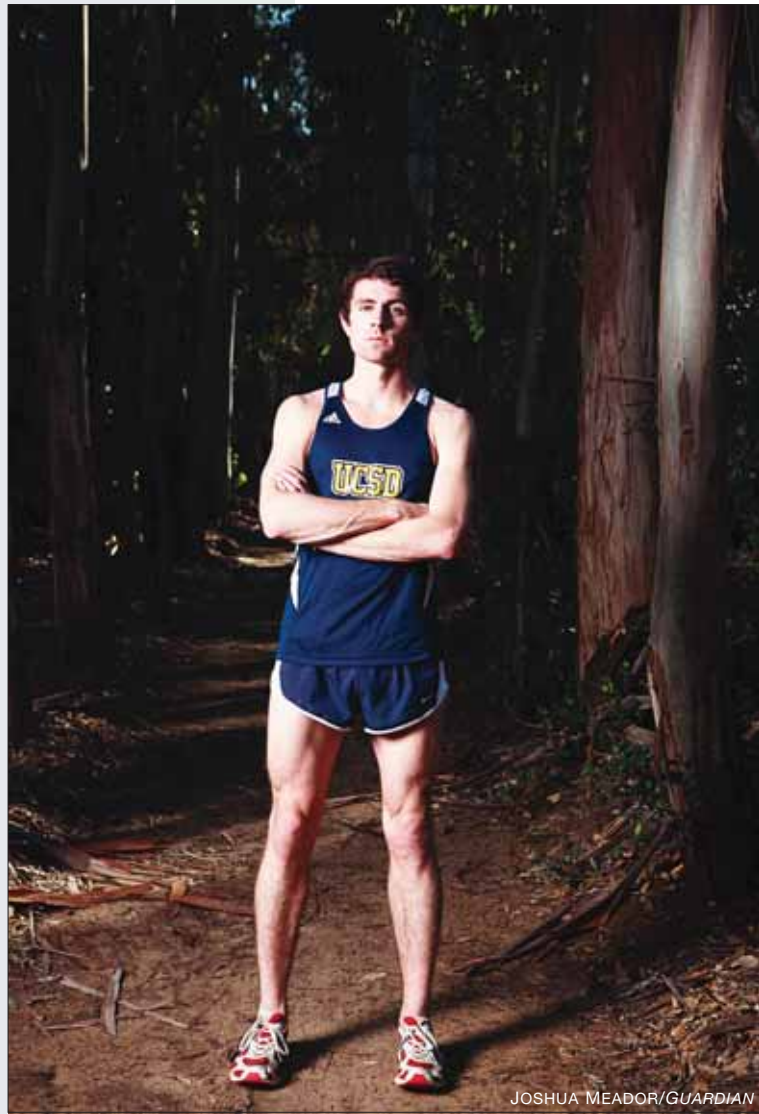
HOTCORNER

ELAINE CHEN | VOLLEYBALL

The senior setter was one of three UCSD players to earn American Volleyball Coaches Association All-American Honors. Chen finishes her Tritons career with 3,094 assists — second all-time in school history.

CROSS COUNTRY

PROFILE



JOSHUA MEADOR/GUARDIAN

NAME ▶ Mike Wright

GRADE ▶ Senior

MAJOR ▶ Mechanical engineering

HOMETOWN ▶ Shingle Springs, Calif.

HIGH SCHOOL ▶ Ponderosa High

UCSD CROSS-COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS ▶

2009

- Second-best team finish at the NCAA West Region Championships, with a 33:26.7 time.
- Best Triton finish at the CCAA Championships, with a 26:22.7 time.

2008

- 19th overall at the Triton Classic, with time of 33:40.8.
- Third-best finish for UCSD at the NCAA West Regional Championships with a time of 35:39.9.

2007

- Ninth place versus Point Loma Nazarene University, with a time of 23:34.8.
- Ran the Bob Firman Invitational in a time of 26:39.62.

2006

- Fifth-best Triton finish at the NCAA West Regionals, with a time of 34:50.89.
- Turned in a time of 28:34.65 at the Griak Invitational.

CAREER ACCOMPLISHMENTS ▶

- Named Most-Improved Runner in 2008.
- Only senior runner on active 2009 roster.

Survival Guide for Baseball's Offseason

Last week, the 2009 baseball season came to an end with the announcement of the Most Valuable Player and Cy Young awards, marking the start of the six longest months of every baseball fan's year: the offseason. For over half a year, we watched teams evolve as they transitioned from spring training to the dog days of summer and an eventual pennant race. As the

Blanc on Base

JAKE BLANC
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postseason wound down, we turned to our national pastime to keep us distracted from the decaying world around us. The Yankees' Evil Empire was kind enough to take a break from counting their piles of cash to let a pair of World Series games slip to the Phillies, keeping the baseball season on life support for a few more moments.

But — like all good things in life — the season came to an end. Now, baseball fans have reverted back to post-breakup 16-year-old emotional states; looking back over old pictures, rereading old baseball articles and piecing together the previous year to see where we went wrong.

The main difference is that when Chelsea Huang broke up with me sophomore year in high school, she made it pretty clear that we were through forever. With baseball, I get the satisfaction of knowing that, in only six short months, I will form a beautiful and compassionate relationship with the sport all over again.

But what am I supposed to do in the meantime? Instead of binging on nachos and garlic fries to drown my off-season tears, I plan, instead, to find solace in the sloppy seconds. Here are my five top picks:

1. College football

Aside from the Florida Gators' run at their second-straight national championship, the 2009 season has delivered plenty of surprises. If, like me, you're sad that you can no longer watch baseball rivalries like that between the Giants and Dodgers, the Civil War Game between Oregon and Oregon State on Dec. 3 for the Pac-10 title and Rose Bowl birth should provide enough drama to make Ralph Branca jealous. Heated rivalries not cutting it? Try your hand at guessing how many sweater vests Ohio State head coach Jim Tressel owns.

2. Chris Andersen

If you ever get a pang of nostalgia for baseball's drama kings — or queens, in the case of Manny Ramirez — just keep tabs on the Denver Nuggets' unpredictable center, Chris "Birdman" Andersen. Once a top prospect, Birdman spiraled out of the NBA due to a crack addiction. Now a celebrated graduate of rehab, the oh-so-tatted Andersen is back as a successful member of a Nuggets squad looking to reach the NBA Finals.

Playing just over 20 minutes a game while contributing an average 5.9 points, 6.3 boards and 1.6 blocks a night, Birdman finally has the productivity level to match his eccentric behavior — he always seems on the

See **BLANC**, page 14

THE EXTRA MILE

By Liam Rose • STAFF WRITER

Considering the dependability and endurance that Warren College senior Mike Wright showed during his stellar four-year career on the UCSD cross-country team, it may come as a surprise that he started off as a sprinter.

Wright began his competitive running career speeding through races measured by hundredths of seconds on his junior-high track team. After moving on to high school, however, he found the further he ran, the luckier he got. So he tried his legs at cross country.

"I went out for the track team with the idea of being a 400-meter runner," Wright said. "But as the distances increased, I would perform better, [so] I gradually became a distance runner."

After running with the track team at Ponderosa High School in Shingle Springs, Calif., Wright was persuaded by some of the long-distance runners on his team to join the school's cross-country

team. This, he knew, would be a crucial step in his future as a runner.

Wright's team lacked plans for weekend or summer training, so he challenged his team to new limits by increasing their weekly training mileage from about 40 miles to 100 miles.

As a junior, Wright and classmate Dillon Brook began to organize runs for the team on off-days. The team visibly improved — as did its top two runners. By his senior year, the Ponderosa Bruins were in a position to compete for a spot at the California Interscholastic Federation state championships. In what Wright calls the highlight race of his high-school career, Ponderosa went into the San Joaquin section finals with a spot in the CIF championship on the line.

"Our whole high-school career, a school called Oak Ridge had dominated our league," Wright said. "At section finals my senior

year, we beat them for the first time, and got to take the last spot to state championships."

Once the dust had settled after the thrilling finals victory, Wright looked for ways to continue his cross-country career. After a grueling college search, Wright chose UCSD because of its location and top-notch academics and athletics.

Like all cross-country hopefuls, Wright arrived on campus more than a month before classes to try out for the team. At first, he was shocked at the step up in intensity of college workouts, but eventually eased into the routine with the help of the UCSD coaching staff.

"The warm-ups we were doing for our workouts were as long as what I would do for an entire workout in high school," he said.

In the end, Wright survived the extra mileage, made the team and went on to have a stellar freshman season. He competed in almost every meet, finishing the season at the NCAA Division-II West

Regional Championships with the sixth best time for UCSD.

After his freshman campaign, Wright became an established member of the squad, continuing to improve through his sophomore year. But his breakout performance came his junior year, when he made an impressive showing at the West Regionals, finishing third on the team and 45th overall. Wright's achievements did not go unnoticed — he was named the team's most-improved runner at the end of the season.

This year, he inherited a significant leadership role on the team after senior Daniel Anderson suffered an early-season injury, leaving Wright as the team's only competing senior on the 2009 roster.

"It's definitely a different experience being a senior," Wright said. "There are a lot more responsibilities associated with the seniority,

See **WRIGHT**, page 7

ON DECK ►► WINTER SPORTING EVENTS

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Dec. 4 @ Cal State San Bernadino
Dec. 5 @ Cal Poly Pomona
Dec. 15 @ Cal State East Bay
Dec. 18 vs. Biola
Dec. 19 vs. Alaska Fairbanks
Dec. 28 vs. Seattle Pacific
Dec. 29 vs. Western Washington
Jan. 2 @ Cal State Los Angeles
Jan. 3 @ Dominguez Hills

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Dec. 4 @ Cal State San Bernadino
Dec. 5 @ Cal Poly Pomona
Dec. 15 @ Cal State East Bay
Dec. 22 vs. San Diego Christian
Jan. 2 @ Cal State Los Angeles
Jan. 3 @ Dominguez Hills

SWIMMING & DIVING

Jan. 2 @ Truman State University

FENCING

Jan. 2 - Jan. 3: Bladerunner Classic @ UCSD

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Jan. 2 - Jan. 3: Bladerunner Classic @ UCSD