

NewsBank InfoWeb
The San Diego Union-Tribune

January 31, 1999

**Gays' attitudes on risky sex shifting
Warnings ignored by younger set
infection cases increase**

By Beth J. Harpaz; ASSOCIATED PRESS

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NEW YORK - Risky sexual behavior is on the rise among gay men: Sexually transmitted diseases are reported up among some groups, and federal officials are worried about a survey in San Francisco showing dramatic increases in unsafe sex since 1994.

These risky behaviors are casually described by gay men discussing their personal lives and increasingly documented by epidemiologists and gay organizations around the country. If the trend continues, HIV infection rates, now steady, could rise again.

The reasons are simple: AIDS is viewed differently now that new drugs are enabling people with HIV infections to live relatively normal lives. The safe-sex message is being ignored; young gay men who did not witness AIDS suffering firsthand are becoming cavalier, even defiant, about unprotected sex; and HIV-positive people are healthy enough to be sexually active, increasing the chance that they could spread the disease.

"There's a real sea change of attitude," said Mark King, education director for AID Atlanta, an AIDS testing site that reports a 50 percent increase in people testing positive for HIV since 1997.

"What we're getting from person after person in the post-test counseling office is that they slipped up (on using condoms) more in the last year than in all the previous years," King added. "Young men think the crisis is under control. They think the new HIV medicines are going to save their lives, although we have no assurances that that is true."

Some younger men feel they missed out on the 1970s, when gay men were coming out of the closet and into discos, bathhouses and parties for casual, and often anonymous, sex. Others express a bleak nihilism, a sense that because they are gay, infection is inevitable.

Two weeks ago in Greenwich Village, a standing-room-only crowd of 300 people attended a meeting on "barebacking" -- a term that means sex between gay men without condoms.

One attendee was Tony Valenzuela, a 30-year-old struggling writer from Los Angeles who is HIV-positive and makes no apologies for gay men, himself included, who have unprotected sex without disclosing their HIV status.

"I come from a generation that has normalized the epidemic," Valenzuela said. "It's not my experience to lose half of my friends and feel the debilitating effects of the virus."

Valenzuela said he cannot help but feel that transmitting HIV to another person is not that horrible of a thing to do.

"I don't have a reaction to it the way people who have had so much loss around it might have. . . . I wish I could say that to people and not be heard as defiant, irresponsible, delusional."

Valenzuela says he never volunteers his HIV status unless a sex partner asks.

"I feel comfortable to assume that they have a body of knowledge," he said.

"I feel like it's a consensual act."

But he says he avoids sex acts that involve transmitting his bodily fluids to others, decreasing the risk of spreading HIV.

Valenzuela spoke at the forum last month at the New York Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center. While he was publicly admonished by many in the audience of mostly older men, "there must have been 20 people who came up to me afterwards and said, 'I'm exactly where you're at,'" he said.

There are an estimated 40,000 new HIV infections annually, and there's no evidence that the number has gone either up or down in recent times, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta.

However, on Thursday the CDC cited what it called a significant survey, conducted by the advocacy group STOP AIDS, of 21,857 gay men in San Francisco. Of those surveyed, 39.2 percent reported having unprotected anal sex in 1997, up from 30.4 percent in 1994.

"It's happening a lot in the younger group, and the younger group hasn't grown up watching their partners and friends die of this disease," said Dr. Richard Steketee of the CDC's HIV/AIDS prevention branch.

Will, 38, a professional musician who lives in the New York area and who would not give his surname, has seen 68 friends die, takes 26 pills a day and suffers from fungus infections, nausea and diarrhea.

This does not stop him from having unprotected sex.

"It's not like we have a lot to lose," he said. "In my last days on this planet, I do not want celibacy."

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UCSD
UMBRELLA
GROUP

UNDER THE UMBRELLA

Volume 3, No. 1, Spring 1999

A quarterly publication of the Umbrella Group, the officially recognized UCSD faculty/staff association for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered employees and their friends. Under the "umbrella" are the UCSD Medical Center Bisexual, Lesbian, and Gay Network, the Lesbian Support Group, and Queer University Employees.

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BECOME A SUPPORTER

This newsletter and the activities of the Umbrella Group are funded by your generous support. Please consider making a contribution of \$5.00 for a one-year subscription to the newsletter to help defray costs. Contributions may be sent to:

Rich Belmontez
Mail code 8235
Addressee only

Checks or money orders should be made out to the Umbrella Group.

UCSD LGBT CENTER A Step Closer to Reality

The Ad Hoc LGBT Center committee received inspiring news from the Chancellor recently: an offer of two safe-space offices in University Center area of campus. The offer also includes joint use of a nearby conference room.

Even more significantly, the Chancellor has asked CACLGBTI to provide a list of nominations for a committee to work with his office in planning how to develop and use the new space. This "steering committee" will help move the proposal forward, first helping to determine staffing needs for the Center.

The Ad Hoc committee met Tuesday, March 2, to select ten or fewer people from a variety of campus areas (students, staff and faculty) to serve on the steering committee. According to Sarah Archibald, "It has been three years since we first made the suggestion that the Chancellor appoint a committee to develop the space and staff to address LGBT issues and I think we should all be pleased it is finally happening." Many thanks to Sarah and John White and all the members of the Ad Hoc Committee for their hard work on the Center proposal.

DOMESTIC PARTNER BENEFITS — AN UPDATE

UC Benefits Not Inclusive

Imagine my surprise when an Human Resources representative explained the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) during a recent staff meeting and in the process informed me that my family (grandmother and domestic partner) is not included.

FMLA, like other programs available from the UC system, seems to be lawfully driven instead of needs driven or fairness driven. The Domestic Partner benefits plan currently in place provides your defined same-sex domestic partner or adult dependent relative UC-sponsored health, dental and vision coverage. That's it.

If you want to see changes in the DPB Program at the local level, please contact the UCSD HR Benefits Manager at 534-2816. If you would like to forward your comments to the top, you can contact Judith Boyette, Vice President of Employee Benefits at 1-800-888-8267. You can also send letters

to Employee Benefits Plan Administration at this address:

Plan Administrator
P.O. Box 24570
Oakland, CA 94623-1570

California Domestic Partner Benefits Bill

The California Legislature will soon vote on legislation to extend domestic partner benefits to state employees. We have enclosed a sample letter you can send to state legislators in support of this proposed bill. Your mailings should include state Senators Ortiz, Haynes, Baca, Karnette, and Lewis.

Senator Deborah Ortiz (D-Sacramento)
State Capitol, Room 4032
Sacramento, CA 95814

Senator Joe Baca (D-San Bernardino)
State Capitol, Room 5108
Sacramento, CA 95814

(continued)

Senator Ray Haynes (R-Riverside)
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An electronic version of the letter, along with a list of email addresses, can be obtained by sending a request to umbrella@ucsd.edu.

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Tom Ramsey, a member of the

Sisters and Brothers, We Salute You

Take the worst of racism and the worst of homophobia and tell me if that doesn't describe a very harsh and lonely world. So when someone survives these odds and still is able to make a significant impact on history, they deserve an extra degree of honor and recognition. As we leave February, National Black History Month, let's acknowledge the accomplishments and efforts of African-American LGBTs.

Audre Lorde (1934-1992) Grew up in poverty in Harlem; best known for her writings that challenged racism, sexism and heterosexism; was also a lecturer and professor; *The First Cities*—book of poems, 1968; co-founded Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press, the first publishing company in the United States dedicated to publishing the writings of women of color.

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The most recent supplemental brief of the coalition of states, as well as the formal notice of California's withdrawal, may be found through the web page:

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The program's planners hope to hold a discussion with students and faculty addressing the diverse issues of sex between and within different cultures, as well as between men and women.

The committee, which is new this year, has been working to identify issues that pertain to women at UCSD. Please contact Nicole through the Cross Cultural Center if you are interested in helping out with this particular program or have questions about it.

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The cost will be \$25.00 total for your two nights in a campsite. A campsite can hold up to 8 persons or two tents maximum, and two vehicles. So feel free to share to cut your costs! \$2.00 of the fee will be donated to the Umbrella Group treasury to help cover such costs as publishing the Newsletter and publicizing events.

If you want to go, you need to mail a check, made payable to "S.D. County Parks" to Paul Harris at Mail Code 0175R so it is received no later than April 23rd. After that date, you will have to make your own arrangements for a campsite. If you have any questions, please e-mail him at: pharris@ucsd.edu.

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The exhibit, which will be on view at Love Library from March 7 to March 31, chronicles the obstacles and triumphs faced by lesbians throughout the years. The exhibit is on loan from the Gay and Lesbian Historical Society of Northern California. For more information, call SDSU's Women's Studies Department at 594-6524.

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Debra Chasnoff and Helen Cohen's ninety-five minute movie, "It's Elementary: Talking about Gay Issues in School," could be coming to PBS this summer! This award-winning documentary, aimed at parents and educators, makes a compelling case that children should be taught to respect all people, including lesbians and gay men, as part of their early education. At its heart is inspiring footage of elementary and middle-school classrooms where teachers are finding appropriate and creative ways to confront anti-gay prejudice and counter gay invisibility.

Since its release in 1996, "It's Elementary" has had a phenomenal impact, creating a tidal wave of activism and public dialogue about dealing with lesbian and gay issues in schools.

Funds are needed to pay KQED San Francisco to sponsor the showing. KQED hopes at least 100 major cities, along with many smaller ones, will opt to carry "It's Elementary" in June. Tax-deductible donations can be made to Women's Educational Media, Inc., the

nonprofit production company where the producers work. Contact them at:

Women's Educational Media, Inc.
2180 Bryant St., Suite 203
Dept. EUC
San Francisco, CA 94110
Email: wemfilms@womedia.org

UCSD Diversity Council

With a Saturday retreat under their belts, the UCSD Diversity Council is off and running! The Council has created five work groups (subcommittees), each of which will meet outside of the larger monthly meetings. The work groups consist of a Staff Subcommittee, Student Subcommittee, Faculty Subcommittee, Monitoring Subcommittee and Education and Publicity Subcommittee. According to Rich Belmontez, a staff representative on the Council, "The ability to speak our truths, to ask direct/difficult questions was inspiring. The commitment from such a diverse group to work together is exciting."

"Gay in the '90s" A De-Briefing

Never again lying about who we are was the resounding theme of the speakers at the LGBT-oriented cultural insight presentation held on Wednesday, Jan. 27 at the Cross Cultural Center.

Between the Umbrella Group and the CACLGBTI Speakers' Bureau there were eight speaker-presenters and a facilitator who shared with an audience of approximately 20. We were very honored to be joined by special guests Dr. Herb York (the first Chancellor of UCSD and chair of the newly formed Diversity Council), Muir Provost Patrick Ledden, who has oversight responsibility for the Cross Cultural Center, and Lucy Pearson (President, Chicano/Latino Staff Association). We were also joined by two guests from the local community who were read about the event in *The Gay and Lesbian Times*.

Slips of paper were handed out to the audience as they entered, giving them an opportunity to anonymously ask questions of the speakers. The stag-

gered seating of the speakers in an open circle was designed to get across to the audience that LGBT people are everywhere. One could even be sitting right next to you! A secondary benefit of the seating arrangement was that several audience members joined into the lively discussion.

Thanks to all who helped out: Speakers Howard Finney, Kim Hughes, Eric Peterson, Sarah Archibald, Scott Heath, Jennifer Pournelle, Mark Freeman, and Francesco Carusi; Speakers' Bureau Coordinator Paul Harris; and Faciliator and Program Creator Rich Belmontez.

Faculty and Staff Christian Fellowship

The newest staff association at UCSD is the Faculty and Staff Christian Fellowship. This group has been trying for a few years to formalize itself, and with a new mechanism in place for registering their intent, and they were recognized by the Chancellor's Office in December.

There is an understanding that staff associations are open to all employees (career, casual, contract) in accordance with the Nondiscrimination Statement, so Umbrella Group members who follow the teachings of Jesus Christ are encouraged to also join the FSCA. Another understood requirement of any UCSD entity is compliance with the Principles of Community. In this spirit we welcome the new association.

—MEET THE MEMBERS—

Way Out with Paul Harris

If you haven't met Paul then you haven't been on an Umbrella Group outing to Mexico or gone on one of the camp outs. Pablow, as he's affectionately known, has been organizing UCSD socials as well as being a significant force in the campus political scene. Read on if you'd like to know more about this unmasked avenger!

Sign: Taurus

Current Carnal Desire: Single and actively looking for a nice young man with whom to snuggle

Chair Chat: A Big Hurrah and Succession Planning

Welcome to an extra special edition of the Umbrella Group newsletter. What makes this issue a landmark is that it is the first one financially supported by the University. Even though the Umbrella Group has been officially recognized as a UCSD staff association for several years, until recently there was no mechanism for a non-Affirmative Action contingent to receive funding. The times, they are a gettin' kinder. With the Chancellor's Affirmative Action Advisory Committee now disbanded, SP-1, SP-2 and CA Proposition 209 implemented, and the Diversity Council and Chief Diversity Officer (Chancellor Robert C. Dynes) now calling the shots, I'd say there is going to be a lot more good news coming our way!

It is with mixed emotions that I announce that I will step down from the position of Umbrella Group chair at the end of this fiscal year (June 30). The position has served as a wonderful opportunity for personal growth and has enabled me to work with some awesome folks around UCSD. This has been a very difficult decision and one with which I have been grappling for a few months, but the additional time commitment of the Diversity Council is the primary motivator. The good news of course is that this will allow someone else the opportunity to take the reigns of this hard-charging, fun-loving association. Please contact me if you are interested in the position (X37577) or email us at umbrella@ucsd.edu.

—RICH BELMONTEZ

UC employment: 11 years at UCSD; 5 years at UC Davis; currently he's manager of the library's Information Desk and current periodicals, newspapers and microforms

What He's Really Famous for: Long-time Umbrella Group member, founding member of the CACLGBTI, and creator of the Speakers' Bureau

Current Projects: Youth Speaks to GLSEN; CACLGBTI/Umbrella Group Programming Manual; ad hoc committee for the LGBT Center proposal. Has been politically active since age 14!

Hobbies: traveling, gardening, camping, political activity, and not eating animals

Inspirations: Henry David Thoreau, Harvey Milk, Paul Ruben (Pee Wee Herman). Big fan of John Waters films (Paul has hosted a few film festivals in his home)

Favorite TV show: "The Simpsons"

Life's Mission: Committed to peace on earth by maintaining a sense of humor, educating himself and others whenever possible, and understanding that every decision you make in your life affects others in the world

Favorite Phrase: "No one can make you feel inferior without your consent."

Top UCSD Issues: Diversity and civility

Top World Issues: Economic disparity and environmental pollution

Who He'd Like to See as the Next President: Ralph Nader

Treasury Update

We currently have \$400.00 in our private bank account and \$650.00 budgeted through the Office of the Chancellor for official association events and activities. Some proposed spending ideas include:

- buying a tile with our name on it to help fund the new Lesbian and Gay Men's Community Center in Hillcrest
- procuring copies of the NGLTF Programming Manual for the new on-campus "Center"
- contributing to Women's Educational Media's efforts to air "It's Elementary" on public television.
- screening "Gay Rights, Special Rights" at UCSD, with facilitated discussion to follow.

Have an idea for how we should spend the money? Email umbrella@ucsd.edu with a description of the event, a budget, and how you are willing to help make it happen.

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Email: wemfilms@womedia.org

UCSD Diversity Council

With a Saturday retreat under their belts, the UCSD Diversity Council is off and running! The Council has created five work groups (subcommittees), each of which will meet outside of the larger monthly meetings. The work groups consist of a Staff Subcommittee, Student Subcommittee, Faculty Subcommittee, Monitoring Subcommittee and Education and Publicity Subcommittee. According to Rich Belmontez, a staff representative on the Council, "The ability to speak our truths, to ask direct/difficult questions was inspiring. The commitment from such a diverse group to work together is exciting."

"Gay in the '90s" A De-Briefing

Never again lying about who we are was the resounding theme of the speakers at the LGBT-oriented cultural insight presentation held on Wednesday, Jan. 27 at the Cross Cultural Center.

Between the Umbrella Group and the CACLGBTI Speakers' Bureau there were eight speaker-presenters and a facilitator who shared with an audience of approximately 20. We were very honored to be joined by special guests Dr. Herb York (the first Chancellor of UCSD and chair of the newly formed Diversity Council), Muir Provost Patrick Ledden, who has oversight responsibility for the Cross Cultural Center, and Lucy Pearson (President, Chicano/Latino Staff Association). We were also joined by two guests from the local community who were read about the event in *The Gay and Lesbian Times*.

Slips of paper were handed out to the audience as they entered, giving them an opportunity to anonymously ask questions of the speakers. The stag-

gered seating of the speakers in an open circle was designed to get across to the audience that LGBT people are everywhere. One could even be sitting right next to you! A secondary benefit of the seating arrangement was that several audience members joined into the lively discussion.

Thanks to all who helped out: Speakers Howard Finney, Kim Hughes, Eric Peterson, Sarah Archibald, Scott Heath, Jennifer Pournelle, Mark Freeman, and Francesco Carusi; Speakers' Bureau Coordinator Paul Harris; and Faciliator and Program Creator Rich Belmontez.

Faculty and Staff Christian Fellowship

The newest staff association at UCSD is the Faculty and Staff Christian Fellowship. This group has been trying for a few years to formalize itself, and with a new mechanism in place for registering their intent, and they were recognized by the Chancellor's Office in December.

There is an understanding that staff associations are open to all employees (career, casual, contract) in accordance with the Nondiscrimination Statement, so Umbrella Group members who follow the teachings of Jesus Christ are encouraged to also join the FSCA. Another understood requirement of any UCSD entity is compliance with the Principles of Community. In this spirit we welcome the new association.

—MEET THE MEMBERS—

Way Out with Paul Harris

If you haven't met Paul then you haven't been on an Umbrella Group outing to Mexico or gone on one of the camp outs. Pablow, as he's affectionately known, has been organizing UCSD socials as well as being a significant force in the campus political scene. Read on if you'd like to know more about this unmasked avenger!

Sign: Taurus

Current Carnal Desire: Single and actively looking for a nice young man with whom to snuggle

Chair Chat: A Big Hurrah and Succession Planning

Welcome to an extra special edition of the Umbrella Group newsletter. What makes this issue a landmark is that it is the first one financially supported by the University. Even though the Umbrella Group has been officially recognized as a UCSD staff association for several years, until recently there was no mechanism for a non-Affirmative Action contingent to receive funding. The times, they are a gettin' kinder. With the Chancellor's Affirmative Action Advisory Committee now disbanded, SP-1, SP-2 and CA Proposition 209 implemented, and the Diversity Council and Chief Diversity Officer (Chancellor Robert C. Dynes) now calling the shots, I'd say there is going to be a lot more good news coming our way!

It is with mixed emotions that I announce that I will step down from the position of Umbrella Group chair at the end of this fiscal year (June 30). The position has served as a wonderful opportunity for personal growth and has enabled me to work with some awesome folks around UCSD. This has been a very difficult decision and one with which I have been grappling for a few months, but the additional time commitment of the Diversity Council is the primary motivator. The good news of course is that this will allow someone else the opportunity to take the reigns of this hard-charging, fun-loving association. Please contact me if you are interested in the position (X37577) or email us at umbrella@ucsd.edu.

—RICH BELMONTEZ

UC employment: 11 years at UCSD; 5 years at UC Davis; currently he's manager of the library's Information Desk and current periodicals, newspapers and microforms

What He's Really Famous for: Long-time Umbrella Group member, founding member of the CACLGBTI, and creator of the Speakers' Bureau

Current Projects: Youth Speaks to GLSEN; CACLGBTI/Umbrella Group Programming Manual; ad hoc committee for the LGBT Center proposal. Has been politically active since age 14!

Hobbies: traveling, gardening, camping, political activity, and not eating animals

Inspirations: Henry David Thoreau, Harvey Milk, Paul Ruben (Pee Wee Herman). Big fan of John Waters films (Paul has hosted a few film festivals in his home)

Favorite TV show: "The Simpsons"

Life's Mission: Committed to peace on earth by maintaining a sense of humor, educating himself and others whenever possible, and understanding that every decision you make in your life affects others in the world

Favorite Phrase: "No one can make you feel inferior without your consent."

Top UCSD Issues: Diversity and civility

Top World Issues: Economic disparity and environmental pollution

Who He'd Like to See as the Next President: Ralph Nader

Treasury Update

We currently have \$400.00 in our private bank account and \$650.00 budgeted through the Office of the Chancellor for official association events and activities. Some proposed spending ideas include:

- buying a tile with our name on it to help fund the new Lesbian and Gay Men's Community Center in Hillcrest
- procuring copies of the NGLTF Programming Manual for the new on-campus "Center"
- contributing to Women's Educational Media's efforts to air "It's Elementary" on public television.
- screening "Gay Rights, Special Rights" at UCSD, with facilitated discussion to follow.

Have an idea for how we should spend the money? Email umbrella@ucsd.edu with a description of the event, a budget, and how you are willing to help make it happen.

Elsewhere

Smith Opens Engineering School

BOSTON, Mass. — In an effort to increase the number of women in the male-dominated field of engineering, Smith College will start an engineering program next fall. This is the first program of its kind at an all-women's college. The program will provide degrees in electrical, environmental and computer engineering and is expected to enroll 100 women. About 19 percent of engineering students are women, said Solomon Eisenberg, associate dean of undergraduate programs at Boston University's College of Engineering. Smith's program will be named after late Smith alumnus Jean Sovatkin Piker, whose husband has endowed the program with \$5 million.

— *The Daily Free Press*

MSU Students Change Ethnicity

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Saying that they do not want their statistics benefiting a university that does not allow them to study their heritage, 15 Chicano and Latino Michigan State University (MSU) students, who are members of Movimiento Estudiantil Xicano de Aztlan and Culturas de las Razas Unidas, changed their ethnicity to white on university records Thursday. In fall 1998, 379 MSU students were registered as Chicano or Mexican American and 687 were registered as Hispanic. This protest followed a demonstration last week in which members of the same organization checked out about 4,500 books from MSU's Main Library to make a point about the lack of resources for them on campus. They returned the books the next day.

— *The State News*

Snow Forces Boston U. to Close

BOSTON, Mass. — Boston University canceled classes on Thursday after weather reports predicted a snowfall of 14 to 18 inches of snow in the region. Jennifer Gabriel, a spokeswoman for the mayor of Boston, said parking was banned on all major streets in Boston and that schools and libraries were closed because of the weather. Boston University has not closed due to weather conditions since April 1, 1997 when a storm dumped two feet of snow on the campus.

— *The Daily Free Press*

Spoken...

"Everybody doesn't like oil companies, but everyone likes to drive their cars around."

— **Jose Levy**
Arco Manager
See story on page 2

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Reaching Out

Students find that working with younger, underprivileged kids enables them to see the benefits of a university education

Features, page 9

Tolerance

Shows such as 'Dawson's Creek' promote diversity

Opinion, page 4

Sultanas

With its latest pair of wins, women's tennis is off to a cool, 5-0 start

Sports, page 20

MONDAY

THE UCSD GUARDIAN

UC SAN DIEGO

MONDAY, MARCH 1, 1999

VOLUME 96, ISSUE 17

DRESSED FOR SUCCESS



Estella Villacorta/Guardian

Divas: The yearly "Divas in Denial" show took place last Wednesday in Porter's Pub. Here, Dan Hoang a.k.a. Black China performs for the audience while dressed in drag.

Thief Apprehended at RIMAC

CRIME: Police arrested a man who allegedly stole wallets and personal items from the men's locker room

By **Nilou Mostofi**
Senior Staff Writer

Since the beginning of the 1998 fall quarter, 15 wallets have been reported stolen from the men's locker room at RIMAC, according to the Feb. 23 UCSD Community Alert Bulletin distributed by the UCSD Police Department.

The alleged thief, a 42-year-old man who is not a UCSD affiliate, was arrested at RIMAC on Monday for the recent burglary of wallets,

watches, I.D. cards and other personal items from locker rooms.

This suspect was arrested last year at San Diego City College for committing similar crimes at City College and UCSD; once he was in jail, the thefts ceased at both schools.

UCSD Crime Prevention Officer Al Jenkins said that when the crimes started again this year, the UCSD Police felt that this suspect may once again be responsible.

"[We] thought maybe it was this individual and distributed his photo to the RIMAC staff," Jenkins said.

On Monday, the police found a person match-
See **THEFT**, Page 8

A.S. Council Approves Outreach Plan

PROGRAM: Student Regent Max Espinoza visited UCSD to learn more about ASOP

By **Vincent Gragnani**
Senior Staff Writer

A.S. President Joe Leventhal unveiled the Associated Students' Outreach Program (ASOP) at last Wednesday's A.S. meeting. The program, created by Leventhal, is designed to work with the Center for Research in Educational Equity, Assessment and Teaching Excellence (C.R.E.A.T.E.). Student Regent Max Espinoza came to UCSD last week to learn more about this program.

During the meeting on Wednesday, the A.S. Council also voted to place a proposed A.S. Constitution on a campus-wide ballot.

C.R.E.A.T.E. was initiated as a result of a 1997 report by the UCSD Task force on K-12 Outreach. One of the goals of C.R.E.A.T.E. is to establish partnerships with local schools.

Leventhal said he created ASOP to work with C.R.E.A.T.E. to increase student-initiated outreach, especially outreach done by separate student organizations rather than by the university itself.

ASOP consists of three parts: an outreach database, outreach projects and outreach scholarships.

The outreach database will organize and coordinate all student-initiated outreach programs currently run by student organizations. The database will be housed in the A.S. Volunteer Connection office on the second floor of the Price Center.

The second part of ASOP consists of outreach projects. Leventhal said that outreach projects will be organized each quarter by the A.S. Council members and participation will be encouraged among all UCSD students.

During fall quarter, the A.S. Council will sponsor a College Application Assistance Program at Sweetwater High School and Crawford High Schools to help students complete their UC applications.

During winter quarter, UCSD students will visit all nine schools in the current K-12 partnership to help maintain and improve the physical appearance of the schools.

During spring quarter, the A.S. will host a Future Leaders Program that will target students taking leadership classes at Horace Mann and National City Middle Schools.

The Future Leaders Program, scheduled to take place during the third week of spring quarter this year, will provide students with a tour of the campus, lunch and time to break into groups to work on various problem solving projects.

The third part of ASOP is a scholarship to recognize UCSD students who are
See **A.S.**, Page 3

CalPIRG Releases Report

ENVIRONMENT: UCSD and UCI students protested in front of the Arco Gas Station on Miramar Road

By Abby Holcomb
Guardian Reporter

Eight California Public Interest Research Group (CALPIRG) members from UCSD and UCI gathered on Wednesday morning at the Arco Gas Station on Miramar Road to release their new environmental report, "No Refuge: The Oil Industry's Million Dollar Campaign to Open Up the Arctic," detailing the involvement of oil companies in the Arctic region and their dealings with Congress in an attempt to legally open the region for drilling.

Speaker Simrun Kalra, UCI CalPIRG member, said they hoped that the press conference would increase awareness.

"We hope to create more awareness of the politics of what's going on in the Arctic and what people are trying to do to prevent it," Kalra said.

The report names oil companies ARCO, Exxon, Chevron and BP-Amoco as the "Dirty Four" due to their record of pollution and environmental destruction. The report states that these companies have contributed a total of \$8.7 million to candidates for Congress and to Republican and Democratic campaign funds since 1993, in order to sway votes to open the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge consists of a total of 1.5 million acres of wilderness located on Alaska's northern slope. Currently, the region remains untouched and is home to a variety of animals.

The report states that Exxon, the largest oil company in the world, has donated almost \$2.5 million to congressional candidates since 1993. The report also states that Chevron and ARCO have donated \$2.6 million and \$3 million, respectively.

The report states that groups other than CalPIRG have also opposed these four oil companies. The CalPIRG's report states that polls from around the country indicate that the majority of the American public opposes drilling in the Refuge.

Some members of Congress have also responded to the report by proposing and sponsoring a bill that would forever ban drilling in the Arctic region, the Mo Udall Arctic Wilderness Act. The two major supporters of this bill are Rep. Bruce Vento (D-MN) and Sen. William Roth (R-D).

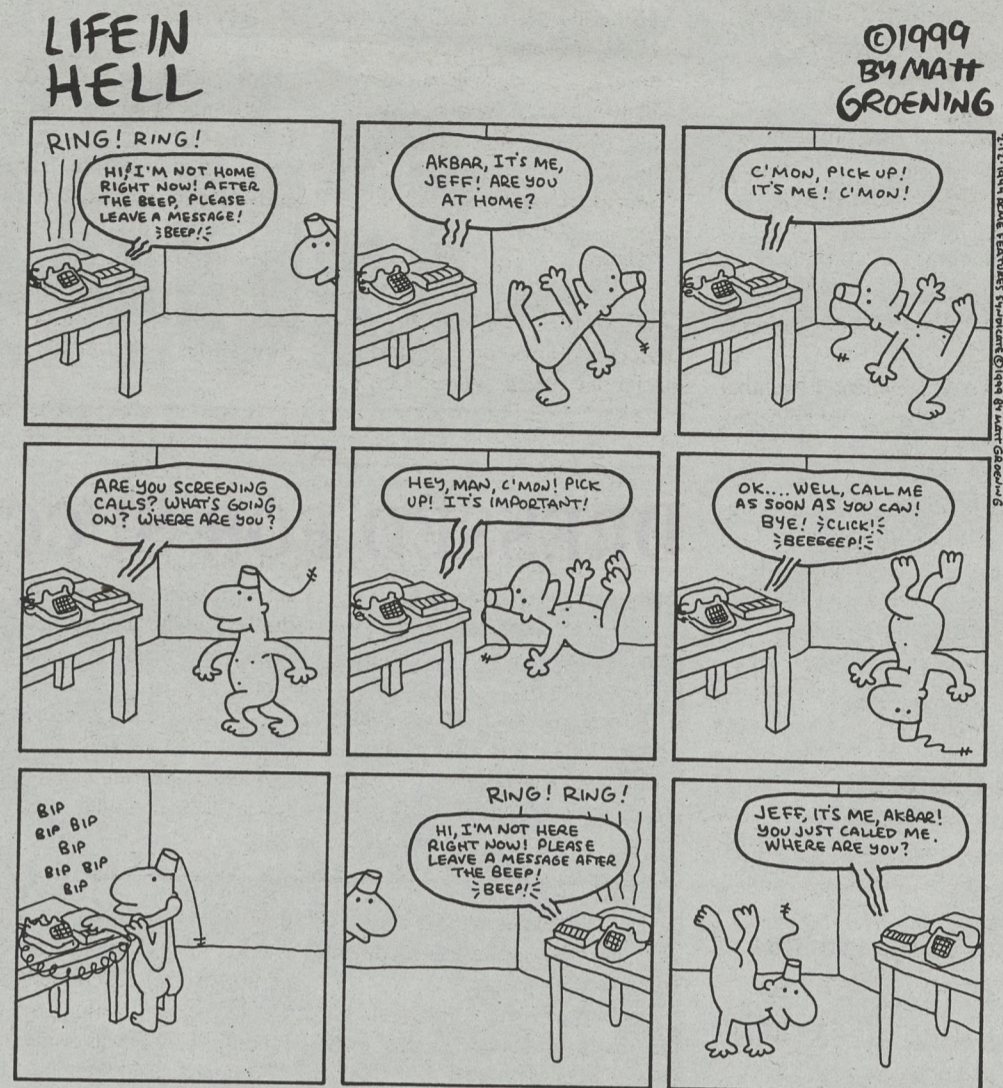
To support the claim that oil companies "are engaged in a multi-million-dollar effort to corrupt our democracy and destroy an American treasure," the CalPIRG report not only gives the figures of how much money each oil company has given to the government, but also gives the names of representatives that are taking the money.

The report states, "members of Congress who did not co-sponsor the Udall Wilderness Act received almost 15 times as much money as their colleagues who did."

The report states that all that is needed for large oil companies such as ARCO to begin drilling in

See OIL, Page 8

LIFE IN HELL



BRIEFLY...

Seuss' Birthday Will Be Celebrated

UCSD will hold its birthday celebration in honor of the late Theodor Seuss Geisel on Tuesday, March 2 at noon. A giant, inflatable "Cat in the Hat" will be set up outside Geisel Library to mark the site of the celebration.

The event, which observes the 95th birthday of the author of *The Cat in the Hat* and *Green Eggs and Ham*, is free and open to students, staff and faculty. One thousand slices of cake will be served at noon to the first 1,000 attendees.

Geisel Library was named in honor of the late author and his widow, Audrey Geisel. UCSD received Geisel's collection of drawings, notebooks and other memorabilia following his death in 1991, and four years later Audrey Geisel gave a substantial donation to support the university's libraries.

Terrorism, Corruption and Drug Trafficking Will Be Discussed

UCSD's Center for Iberian and Latin American Studies (CILAS) and the Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies (IR/PS) will sponsor "Challenges to Governance in Latin America and the Pacific Rim," an international conference on terrorism, corruption and drug trafficking in Latin America.

The event, which is free and open to the public, will be held on March 5 and 6 in the Gardner Room at IR/PS and will feature some of the world's top experts on terrorism, corruption, drug trafficking and the global economic crisis.

The first panel will be "The Crisis of Globalization," and later that morning, a session on "Reforms vs. Restraints: What Are the Policy Options?" will probe strategic options for developing economies.

A Friday afternoon session on "Corruption, Credibility and Reform" will focus on governance problems in China, Japan and Latin America.

Also on Friday afternoon, a session will be held on "Responding to Terrorism: The Lima Hostage Crisis of 1996-1997," in which Japanese Ambassador to

Mexico Katsuyuki Tanaka and Jesuit Priest Juan Julio Wicht of The Universidad del Pacifico in Lima, Peru, will discuss the 126-day crisis and its aftermath. Tanaka headed Japan's negotiating task force during the crisis in which Peruvian rebels seized and held 72 dignitaries.

On Saturday morning, sessions will feature such topics as "Leviathans in Decline? Changing Roles of States," and "Poverty and Social Policy: What Can Governments Do?" That afternoon, a panel of experts on the drug trade will take part in a session on "Drug Trafficking and Organized Crime."

For more information on the conference, call 534-6050.

Conference on the Environment of Mexico to Take Place

UCSD's Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies will host a conference on "The Environment of Greater Mexico: History, Culture, Economy and Politics" on March 5 and 6. The conference, which is free, will open on Friday morning with a 9 a.m. discussion on "Mexico's Natural Environment: Historical Legacies and Contemporary Challenges," and will be followed by an 11 a.m. discussion on "Human/Environment Interactions: Cultural Perceptions and the Development of Mexican Environmentalism." At 2 p.m., the panel "Environmental Policy Formation in Mexico: Lessons and Prospects" will be held.

The keynote address will take place on Friday at 4:30 p.m. with Grupo de los Cien President Homero Aridjis as the speaker. A reception at 5:30 p.m. will follow.

On Saturday, the conference will wrap up with two discussions: "The Environment of Greater Mexico City," which will take place at 9 a.m. and "The Arid and Semi-Arid West: Water," which will take place at 10:45 a.m.

All events will take place in the Deutz Conference Room at the Institute of the Americas Complex. For more information, call 534-4503.

THE UCSD GUARDIAN

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Leventhal Gives Campus Address

SPEECH: A.S. President spoke on outreach, Triton Tide and constitution

By Sula Kim
Staff Writer

Last Wednesday, A.S. President Joe Leventhal delivered a State of the Campus Address to a large crowd at the Price Center. This is the first time that an A.S. president has given a State of the Campus Address.

As the A.S. president, Leventhal said he feels that communicating with the students of UCSD is important.

"I felt that a forum where students are updated on the work of the council was needed, and I also wanted to provide students with feedback," Leventhal said.

In his speech, Leventhal spoke about some key issues concerning the student body such as Affirmative Action.

He said that even though 32,000 students applied to UCSD last year, there were only a small number

applicants from underrepresented groups.

In an attempt to deal with this problem, Leventhal said the A.S. Council has created the Associated Student Outreach Project (ASOP). Under the new project, the A.S. Council coordinates outreach efforts to high school students in underserved areas.

Through the program, the council will also offer scholarships to undergraduates involved in public service activities and organize a special day called "Future Leaders Program," during which high school students can visit UCSD and attend classes.

Leventhal also addressed the lack of parking for students on campus. He said the council is currently surveying students to evaluate their reactions to the parking situation and to effectively respond to their concerns.

Leventhal also spoke about Triton Tide, a new student organization. He said that the A.S. council created Triton Tide to boost school spirit by encouraging atten-

dance at athletic events and giving out free T-shirts.

"As president, I placed high priority on making the A.S. visible and providing feedback," he said.

Leventhal said his final goal as A.S. president is to get the proposed A.S. constitution passed. He said the new constitution changes the structure of the senate, and makes it more powerful.

Leventhal said that when he is faced with many decisions, he always tries to follow his personal morals.

"I want to always stand behind my values and beliefs, politics can be a jeopardizing career, but nothing is worth jeopardizing my morals and beliefs," he said.

Leventhal's term ends the fifth week in spring quarter, but he said the lessons he has learned as A.S. president will always remain with him.

"While being president, I learned to always do what's right, and in the long run, that's where the rewards will come," Leventhal said.

A.S.: Leventhal designed ASOP to coordinate outreach

Continued from page 1

involved in outreach. Two \$500 scholarships will be awarded each year, beginning this year.

Leventhal said that Vice Chancellor of Development James Langley has agreed to fund the scholarships for the first year and possibly set up a funding structure for future scholarships.

Leventhal said that he designed ASOP partly because outreach was currently in effect but not recognized or coordinated.

"It basically stemmed from recognizing the need," Leventhal said. "People on campus and people in C.R.E.A.T.E. understand that outreach is being done but not being coordinated."

Leventhal said that ASOP is getting a positive response from others on campus.

"I think it's being very well received as a whole," Leventhal

said. "I am excited about the project and the enthusiasm council members have expressed."

Espinoza visited three schools that UCSD has partnerships with, Otis Elementary School, National City Middle School and Sweetwater High School. Espinoza said that as a regent, it was important for him to see first-hand what outreach was being done by the University of California.

"I felt it was important for me as a regent to really hear from parents, students, teachers and administrators in the schools we are working with to see whether or not we are meeting the community's needs," Espinoza said. "The visit to the partnership puts a real faith in the regents' outreach discussion."

Espinoza said that after visiting the partnership schools, he realized the significance of UCSD's outreach to those schools.

"We are making a significant impact in terms of providing assistance to these schools," Espinoza said. "I asked one of the administrators at one of the schools how

they would be impacted if UCSD was not involved in the school. The administrator responded that it would be a drastic loss to the school if UCSD was not involved."

Espinoza said that while he was not familiar with the specifics of ASOP, it seemed that it would be a successful program.

"From what I know of the proposal, it seems like a step in the right direction in terms of coordinating existing student-run efforts and expanding student-run activities and involvement in outreach," Espinoza said.

Muir Junior Senator Jennifer Lee, who visited the schools with Espinoza, said that visiting the schools was important to her.

"If you really go out into the community, you realize that there are so many aspects to outreach," Lee said. "It's totally different going out there and seeing the schools. You see what exactly is going on there."

Later at Wednesday night's A.S. meeting, after Leventhal presented See **A.S.**, Page 8

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UCSD GUARDIAN
MONDAYS & THURSDAYS

OPINION



By Robert O'Leary

Contributing Opinion Writer

On Feb. 10, 1999, Jack McPhee, a Capeside High School student, was forced to read his poem out loud in English class. His poem contained the words "shackles of guilt" in reference to amorous feelings about a sexualized masculine image.

The reading of this poem led to rumors throughout Capeside that both changed the town from picturesque to scary, as homophobic acts of harassment disrupted the usual peaceful flow of life, and made television history.

This scenario occurred on "Dawson's Creek," the television show that defines the genre of teen soaps after "My So Called Life." Shown by Warner Brothers, "Dawson's Creek" caters directly to a teen audience. The Feb. 10 episode could be the first time in television history that a major network addressed teens in such a direct manner on the subject of homosexuality and difficulties involved in the coming-out process of gay youth.

The character Jack McPhee (Kerr Smith) was created this season and quickly developed into a major part of the show's world. Over the course of two episodes, audiences watched Jack and his counterparts exploring the standard discourses in pop-culture surrounding homosexuality.

Along with the pop-discourse, an intriguing theme and several fresh perspectives were explored — the inculcation of gender roles, an anti-stereotypical and very supportive reaction of a straight male to his friend's possible gayness, the girlfriend's reaction to her partner's coming out and a religious figure's belief in tolerance and love when addressing diversity.

A disturbing trend of hatred disguised as concern is both illustrated and opposed through examining the way in which "Dawson's Creek" explores issues surrounding homosexuality in pop-culture and juxtaposing it to an episode of "Talkback," a live debate forum on CNN in which a proposal for warning labels on shows with homosexual content is discussed.

Format changes in "Dawson's Creek" exemplify the show's discussion of homosexuality as it affects teen life through societally established gender roles. Dawson (James Van Der Beek), the character through whom the audience usually views events, faded into the background. Pacey (Joshua Jackson), Dawson's best friend, took a stance against the English teacher's cruelty, which was perfectly characteristic of the "earnest juvenile" character. Joey (Katie Holmes) and Andie (Meredith Monroe), Jack's girlfriend and sister respectively, were the girls whose thoughts were explored — both had mixed feelings. While they were kind and wanted to help and provide love, neither had a reaction as specifically defined as the boys, who seemed to have a premeditated, programmed response.

The writers use the characters' reactions to illustrate the differences between the American, middle-class, white, heterosexual male psyche and the female psyche regarding homosexuality. The

See **RAINBOW**, Page 5

A Clouded Rainbow of Tolerance

America must address and confront the subject of homosexuality by fighting society's homophobia and ignorance through television and tolerance

John Barber/Guardian

CHOOSE LEGITIMATELY

EDITORIAL: Advertising insert sparks *Guardian* debate

As the mainstream student newspaper at UCSD, the *Guardian* is contacted daily by people who want to advertise their products, services and ideas to the student body. As a newspaper funded solely by advertising, the *Guardian* recognizes the important role advertisers play in creating our product: Without advertisements there would be no *Guardian*.

However, *Guardian* editors also recognize the responsibility we have toward the newspaper's readers, contributors and advertisers not to publish any form of information that is blatantly false or offensive. Therefore, when the business office receives requests to run controversial advertising of an overtly political or moral slant, the *Guardian's* executive board, which is comprised of all of the newspaper's editors and the business manager, carefully considers whether or not to run ads on a case-by-case basis.

Enclosed in this issue of the newspaper readers will find an advertising insert titled *She's a Child, Not a "Choice."* It contains: a series of photographs; descriptions of a child's developmental cycle in the womb; a legal history of abortion; details about abortion procedures and testimonials by both women who chose adoption

and women who chose abortion and later regretted their decisions. Not surprisingly, this information is not conveyed in an objective manner. The insert clearly falls into the "pro-life" area of the political spectrum and reflects the ideals of the group that paid for its publication.

— GUARDIAN — EDITORIAL

Publishing this advertisement was not a decision that the *Guardian* staff took lightly. We chose to accept the insert at a staff meeting. Only after much debate and a majority vote by the executive board did the advertisement run. The board strives to exclude financial considerations and personal political bias when making its decisions about advertising, and focuses instead on the nature of the advertisement. We ask ourselves one basic question: Is this something we want to print in our newspaper?

Though many editors had reservations about the advertisement, especially its photographs, we chose to accept the insert because it contributes one voice to an important debate. As is the case with all advertisement and opinion articles, *She's a Child, Not a "Choice"* does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the *Guardian*, its editors or other advertisers. However, to refuse all

controversial advertising that some or all members of the board might not support politically would be doing a disservice to *Guardian* readers.

As UCSD's main newspaper, the *Guardian* has a responsibility to confront the issues and engage in controversy. We strive to provide a forum for the circulation of a wide range of ideas. While we don't accept all advertisement — such as one ad by a group claiming that the Holocaust never happened — the *Guardian* executive board chose to print *She's a Child, Not a "Choice"* because it contributes information and a perspective (though in an admittedly biased manner) to a legitimate debate. Whereas most people would disagree with anyone saying that the Holocaust never occurred, this insert reflects the views of a large percentage of our population.

Furthermore, although we at the *Guardian* recognize our responsibility toward our readers and contributors, we do not feel the need to protect them from controversy. The UCSD community is comprised of intelligent adults, who possess the ability to reason and arrive at their own conclusions. Only by considering all sides of an issue can one make a fully informed decision. The *Guardian* welcomes any response from its readers. To add your voice to this debate, e-mail comments and Letters to the Editor to guardian@ucsd.edu

RAINBOW: Homophobia may be gender based

Continued from page 4

possibility of gayness has already been considered by the boys, while the girls are confronting it for the first time.

A possible answer lies in a quintessential social gathering of young people, commonly known as "recess." While not belittling the cruelty that exists in the semi-gender-segregated world of "the playground" among young girls, the derogatory epithet "faggot," which in junior high seems to evolve into the more specific term "cock sucker," flies from mouth to mouth almost exclusively among boys. Homophobia infects the relationships of young men at an early age, while leaving young girls virtually untouched. The different reactions to Jack's possible homosexuality are gender based.

After establishing this theme, the writers use the character of Pacey to refute it as they explore the perspective of a valiant straight male's reactions to a friend's possible gayness. This perspective is shown to be one of kindness, forthrightness and gumption. Rather than chastise or harass Jack, Pacey responds directly to what should be a more important issue, the cruelty of an adult placed in a position of power over young people. In standing up for Jack, Pacey faced serious jeopardy, including course failure and social

ostracism.

With his display of courage, Pacey serves as a fabulous role model for straight teens just as Jack does for gay ones. Pacey provides Jack with strength and support, as Jack struggles with his emergent sexual identity and the stigma placed upon him as a gay male by American society and culture.

In the following week's episode, Jack came out to his girlfriend, Joey. This encounter allowed the writers to explore the girlfriend's reaction. Joey is scared and confused, though loving and gentle. She both makes light of her boyfriend's possible gayness and addresses him seriously and lovingly on the subject. Joey is Jack's most intimate companion and interacts with him kindly. She exemplifies a new and loving perspective in the coming-out process.

By far the most engaging perspective explored is one of which the audience is only shown a glimpse. As juxtaposed in previous episodes to her liberal granddaughter, Grams (Mary Beth Peil) attends church regularly, quotes scripture and disapproves of her granddaughter's more liberal leisure-time activities. She's an unlikely advocate for tolerance and love of diversity.

Though Christianity has been known to be used as a justification for homophobia before, Grams recognizes the message of universal love that her religion preaches as being of the utmost importance. As the only

See **RAINBOW**, Page 6

KEEP THE HOLY WATER COMING



Schizophrenic Discourse

BRENT
DON

Living off campus has both its advantages and disadvantages. You get more space, but you have to drive to school every day. You get more privacy, but you have to maintain and fix everything yourself. You get your mail right at the door, but you also get electricity and water bills. Well, most people get water bills. The City of San Diego, in its infinite wisdom, has decided not to mail water bills to our home, but instead, to send us "Shut-Off Notices."

My first experience with this phenomenon happened last year, two months or so after my roommates and I first moved in. An official-looking piece of mail arrived from the city, with the ominous words "Final Notice" printed on the envelope.

Upon opening the letter, we were informed that our payment was past due, and our water would be shut off in five days. After a heated round of accusations, it became clear that none of us had mistakenly thrown away any of the hypothetical "First," "Second" or "Penultimate Notices" implied by this piece of writ, and we had, in fact, never even received anything of the kind. This revelation failed to get rid of the "Final Notice" currently in our possession, however.

Since our payment was past due,

it was too late to mail our check. The only way to keep our faucets flowing was to make payment at one of the city's automated kiosks called the Water Department.

This minor calamity happened to occur coincidentally with the World Series, and the only operating kiosk was, you guessed it, right across from Qualcomm Stadium. One of our housemates battled with thousands of crazed baseball fans-turned motorists as his car crawled past the stadium to the kiosk, then back home to report success.

We then called the almighty Water Department and informed it that we had placed a meager offering at one of its electronic altars, and asked for mercy and a continued supply of life-giving water. The department sternly informed us that we were bad citizens and a burden to society; we agreed heartily and swore that we had seen the error in our ways (even though as far as we could tell we hadn't done anything wrong), and it grudgingly decided to spare us an excruciating death by dehydration.

We breathed a collective sigh of relief and considered the matter closed. A little more than a month's time passed before another "Final Notice" arrived.

This one conveniently occurred during Christmas break, when we were all getting ready to leave. This time we called the Water

Department right away and asked if it had suspended the formality of mailing water bills and were skipping right to "Final Notices."

I'll spare you the full transcript of the conversation, which involved entirely too much bureaucratic nit-picking and tax-payer frustration to be included here.

OPINION COLUMN

last resident's new address," the Water Department concluded at last.

"What?" we asked in consternation. "That's the stupidest thing we've ever heard! Why the hell would you forward a utility bill..." We paused a moment as a thought occurred to us. "Have they been paying the bills?"

"No."

So much for that idea.

This second crisis was resolved by performing a ritual similar to the first, although by this time it had lost its novelty. Again the Water Department deigned to leave our water on and assured us that it would change the name on the account and prevent any further forwarding shenanigans. Two months of uneasy calm passed without any word from our friends at the city. We were all plagued by that unnerving trepidation you feel when you know that there's a tiger nearby that should be making all kinds of purring tiger-noises, but is instead being conspicuously silent.

"Oh, they've been forwarding your water bill to the

About a week ago, we received yet another shut-off notice from the city. I reacted to this news by loudly invoking the name of a popular western deity and beseeching Him to condemn the minions of the Water Department to that unwholesome part of the scorching-hot afterlife (this may suggest a rather lengthy speech, but I greatly simplified it by using some choice four-letter words.) This time the shut-off date is set for my 21st birthday. I guess I will have to seek some alternative to water for liquid refreshment that evening.

We have done everything in our power to stop this madness, but the city has maliciously foiled us at every turn. We have tried to find a mutually beneficial way to remedy this situation, but to no avail. We are left with no choice but to take the following action:

Attention, City of San Diego. This is your "Final Notice."

Our records show that you have failed to mail us a water bill. It is now too late to expect payment by post. In order to avoid payment shut-off and a \$5 service charge, you must collect payment in person at our residence within 5 days receipt of this notice. Payment collection services are between 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. on weekdays only. We recommend calling to make a reservation in order to avoid waiting in line.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this notice.

Send comments and Letters to the Editor to guardian@ucsd.edu

RAINBOW: 'Dawson's Creek' writers test genre

Continued from page 5

blatantly religious character on the show, she serves as a voice for the Christian religious community.

After hearing her granddaughter's boyfriend using his Christianity as a justification for his dislike of homosexuals, and Jack specifically, she says, "If Jack is gay he does not need your judgment young man. What he needs from you, from me, from everyone else in this world is love and tolerance.... Save judgment for someone much more experienced than you." In using Grams to show Christianity as a motivator for "tolerance and love" rather than "judgment," the writers refute the claim that Christianity can be used to justify homophobia.

Addressing the issues surrounding homosexuality in standard pop-culture rhetoric and the possible implication of homophobia infecting males at an early age is not at all revolutionary or the least bit original. The show's exploration of ridicule in the lives of gay teens or God's word being used as justification for prejudice and hatred is not new either. However, addressing these issues on "Dawson's Creek," a show catered to teens on a major network, is a noteworthy event in television history. The writers seemingly stepped outside of their own, not-yet-solidified genre.

See RAINBOW, Page 7

RAINBOW: Dangers need labels not differences

Continued from page 6

Through examination of the influence homosexuality plays on teen relations, it can be seen that such material in this context both transcends and redefines the genre of teen soaps to include the issues surrounding homosexuality.

Youth are constantly facing new obstacles and, in doing so, learning more about themselves. Strangely enough, by the time they reach adulthood they appear to be even more confused. Less than a week after the airing of Jack's coming-out episode, on a live CNN broadcast Feb. 22, 1999, a debate was waged on the appropriateness of a "Homosexual Content" warning label for television programs.

Here, the effects of gender roles in a heteronormative society were not nearly as important. It was interesting, however, that the main advocate for the content label was a male, and the main speaker against it a female. Instead, religious beliefs and the environment in which one is raised became strong themes in the arguments for and against this proposal.

A representative from a Christian activist group attached his plea for the warning label to good child rearing. He said that whether or not people like it, some parents don't want their children watching programs with homosexual content, and that a warning label would better facilitate their

parenting.

Joan M. Garry, executive director of the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD), said that she wants her three children to learn to celebrate diversity, not just tolerate it. She went on to say that it's important for children to grow up with respect for the people around them. She also said that she would agree to a "Sexually Explicit Content" label, but not to one directly targeting homosexual content. Garry said that some religious-rite believers use their voices to create and reinforce prejudice in this country.

John Valenti, a representative of the Motion Picture Association, said in reference to the proposed "Homosexual Content" warning label: "It's a proposal that ought to be ignored. I don't think there's any chance of it becoming reality — Zero."

This proposal, however, should not be ignored. It should be taken seriously, as it illustrates a dangerous trend in our culture, that "hate," when haphazardly wrapped in a guise like the concern and love for children, is perfectly acceptable. The haphazard quality of this guise is clearly visible in the term "warning label" used by all in this debate, though strangely addressed by none.

There is no need for a warning label on something that is different, just something that is dangerous.

This is a world where words are used to categorize people by race, ethnicity, gender, class, political affiliation and sexual orientation, along with many other

The term "homosexual" exists to categorize people into yet another socially constructed ethnicity. The existence of the word itself attests to the seemingly innate human need to separate the world into categories. This need to categorize appears to be somehow linked to the fears that we, as humans, have about anything or anyone perceived as different from ourselves.

labels.

The term "homosexual" exists to categorize people into yet another socially constructed ethnicity. The existence of the word itself attests to the seemingly innate human need to separate the world into categories. This need to categorize appears to be somehow linked to the fears that we, as humans, have about anything or anyone perceived as different from ourselves. This fear, when

left unchecked, can turn to hatred. In such a world it is good to see a show such as "Dawson's Creek" sinking its teeth into a social categorization like homosexuality and spitting out, piece by piece, the possible impetus for the ignorance and banality of a prejudice known as homophobia for the younger generation to see and be appalled.

As demonstrated throughout history, prejudice doesn't just stop. It has to be addressed and confronted again and again to halt its spread. A response to this continued exercise in hate and bigotry must be made to say that such an evil will not be tolerated by the people of this world.

Frighteningly enough, some of the people in the audience for the CNN debate, who were not making or endorsing the proposal for a "Homosexual Content" television rating and considered themselves neutral on this issue, failed to see the underlying hatred such a proposal illustrates. We all must raise ourselves into a state of awareness about what goes on around us, about what our friends and acquaintances say and do and about what our leaders are deciding.

"Dawson's Creek" serves as a touchstone for both teen-specific issues and those of society at large in the United States. As such, it both reflects and comments on our culture.

In its representation of a queer youth's coming out, "Dawson's Creek" shows a kindness and sensitivity, the importance of which may be difficult to see outside of this process. But by televising the coming-out process of a thought-

ful, intelligent teenager, America can see what gay teens everywhere go through and how kindness and sensitivity can make this difficult and taxing journey a little easier.

By identifying itself with Hamlet and his epic journey in its title phrases, "To be or not to be: that is the question," "Dawson's Creek," and Jack himself, is identified with the thoughtful, intelligent young prince adrift in a usurped, now poisoned world, that he was destined to lead. In quoting the speech's first line, the rest of that thought is implied, being:

"To be, or not to be: that is the question:

Whether ' nobler in the mind to suffer

The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune,

Or to take arms against a sea of troubles,

And by opposing end them?"

The show answers this question with a definite "yes."

It is necessary to suffer ridicule and to oppose a series of obstacles seemingly endless in number when the battle is for something as important as personal freedom and the inalienable rights of every individual.

Everyone has things they need to deal with, and all youths must make the journey into adulthood. But during the joys and trials in our own lives we mustn't forget the importance of tolerance. We mustn't forget to take the time to celebrate the diversity that surrounds us.

Send comments and Letters to the Editor to guardian@ucsd.edu

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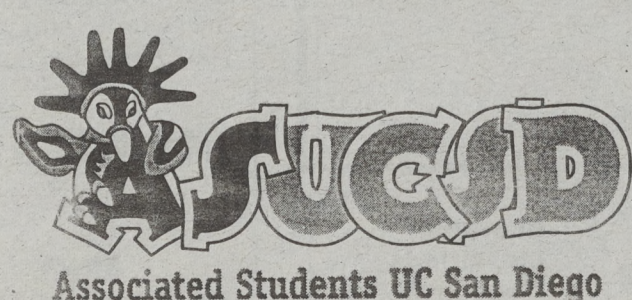
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LIGHTS & SIRENS

Lights & Sirens is a selection of entries compiled from the log book of the UCSD Police Department.

Sunday, Feb. 21

11:15 a.m.: Officers arrested a 20-year-old male student for oral copulation with an unconscious person. Booked into County Jail.

7:25 p.m.: A student reported the theft of a wallet from the RIMAC men's locker room. Loss: \$27.

8:50 p.m.: A student reported the theft of a wallet from the RIMAC men's locker room. Loss: \$60.

Monday, Feb. 22

8:27 a.m.: Officers arrested a 42-year-old male non-affiliate in RIMAC men's locker room for burglary and possession of burglary tools. Transported to County Jail.

Tuesday, Feb. 23

9:20 p.m.: Officers ordered a 44-year-old non-affiliate off campus for seven days after creating a disturbance at Marshall Lower Apartments.

9:50 p.m.: Units and the San Diego Fire Department responded

to a fire in a trash can next to Mandeville Center. Extinguished by officer. Fire marshall notified.

Wednesday, Feb. 24

9:20 a.m.: A staff member reported the theft of an overhead projector and stand from EBU1. Loss: \$600.

1:20 p.m.: A 27-year-old staff member suffered back injuries and abrasions to both his arms after a piece of machinery fell off a cart on the sidewalk in front of Bonner Hall. Transported to Thornton by paramedics.

7:27 p.m.: Units responded to a 27-year-old male student who was suffering from dizziness at IRPS. Sought private treatment.

Thursday, Feb. 25

10:10 a.m.: A non-affiliate reported the theft of a cellular phone from the west side of Warren Lecture Hall. Loss: \$200.

5:23 p.m.: Units and San Diego Fire Department responded to a vehicle fire on Myers Dr. by University Center 301. Extinguished by fire department. Owner notified.

9:31 p.m.: A student reported the

theft of a gray '87 Nissan Maxima. Loss: \$3,500.

2:09 p.m.: An officer filed a report concerning a counterfeit bill at Oceanview Terrace.

2:41 p.m.: Officers arrested a 23-year-old student at Geisel Library for petty theft. Cited and released.

Friday, Feb. 26

10:31 a.m.: Units and San Diego Fire Department responded to a 52-year-old male non-affiliate suffering from chest pains at RIMAC. Transported to Scripps Memorial Hospital by paramedics.

12:31 p.m.: Officers received a false report regarding a bomb threat at McGill Hall.

Saturday, Feb. 27

3:05 p.m.: A staff member reported a burglary at Thornton Hospital's Custodial Lounge.

Sunday, Feb. 28

12:08 a.m.: A staff member reported the theft of food from Earl's Place. Loss: \$3.49.

— Compiled by Leena Shankar
News Editor

A.S.: New constitution will be voted on in elections

Continued from page 3

ASOP proposal to the council and the A.S. Council voted to put a new A.S. Constitution on the ballot for students to vote on.

Leventhal and A.S. Vice President Finance Pat Ru presented a different constitution to the A.S. Council at the beginning of winter quarter. That constitution was not approved by the A.S. Council.

Leventhal revised the proposed constitution and submitted it to the A.S. Council two weeks ago, but it was not approved until recently. At last week's meeting, 16 members voted to place the proposed constitution on the ballot, zero opposed it and two abstained from voting.

Leventhal said he is pleased that

the constitution will be on the ballot and he will work to educate students before the voting takes place.

Leventhal's proposed constitution would add 10 new senators to the A.S. Council, five to represent student organizations and five to represent students campus wide.

Current elected commissioners would instead become cabinet members who would be appointed by the president and vice-presidents. They would not have any voting power under the proposed constitution.

Leventhal's revised constitution also placed a limit on the number of student organization senators that can be elected from certain categories of student organizations.

"I'm glad that students will have the opportunity to make an improvement in their student government," Leventhal said. "I plan to visit a lot of student organiza-

tions to inform students of what is in the constitution."

Leventhal said that the original constitution proposed by Ru and him was a better constitution than the one being placed on the ballot.

"I personally think that the one I proposed was stronger than the one that's going to be on the ballot," Leventhal said. "But this seems to be what most people want."

Lee, who abstained from voting on the constitution last week, said that she was not sure about the new constitution.

"I'm not confident with it going on the ballot because I'm scared that the students won't be educated," Lee said. "I still have questions on the constitution. I don't want to support it if I'm not 100 percent sure with it."

If students approve the constitution by a two-thirds vote, it will take effect in the spring of 2000.

THEFT: Suspect used bolt cutters to break into locks

Continued from page 1

ing the suspect's description and searched his person and his downtown San Diego apartment. UCSD Detective Nate Floyd said the police found bolt cutters and stolen property of victims in the suspect's possession.

Floyd said that the suspect seemed to follow a pattern in his crimes. He purchased a day pass to use RIMAC. Then, Floyd said that the suspect used the bolt cutters to cut the shackles off locks and steal the possessions inside the locker. Floyd said his method of operation became his downfall when the UCSD Police Department connected him to the previous crimes.

Both Floyd and Jenkins said they commend the RIMAC staff and witnesses who helped them catch the thief. They said some people noticed the individual

around the RIMAC area and notified the police last week. The suspect's bail is set at \$5,700 and he is charged with both theft and breaking parole.

Floyd said he encourages students to report all thefts, no matter how small, because it will help the Police Department in finding certain patterns to cracking the case, as in this situation.

Jenkins also gave some tips on how locks should be closed. He said students who use the lockers at RIMAC do not always twist the dial after shutting the locks and therefore, anyone can pull down on a lock and the shackle will open.

Chief of Police, Maudie Bobbitt, said she urges students to work together to make UCSD a safer place to work, to study and to learn. Anyone having information concerning any criminal activity occurring at UCSD should call the UCSD Police Department at 534-4357. For more information, contact Officer Jenkins at 534-3644.

OIL: Members were asked to move off property

Continued from page 2

the controversial Alaskan region is Congressional authorization. UCI CalPIRG member James Kingston said he wants to see the end of oil company intrusion.

"[I] hope that oil companies will voluntarily leave the coastal plain alone," Kingston said.

Although there was little turnout at the press conference, CALPIRG members did get the attention of ARCO manager Jose Levy. Levy requested CalPIRG members to move off the grass to the sidewalk. They were carrying a large, fake cardboard check, made out to Congress, in the amount of \$8.7 million, and signed by ARCO, Exxon, Chevron and BP-Amoco.

Levy said that the group could

not protest on the grassy knoll on the edge of the property because the property is private.

"It is private property," Levy said. "They did not ask permission."

Before Levy asked them to leave, he called ARCO Corporate Headquarters in order to ask about their policy concerning protesters.

Levy said that this on-going controversy is paradoxical.

"Everybody doesn't like oil companies, but everyone likes to drive their cars around," he said.

The end of the report from CalPIRG states that the Arctic Refuge should be protected.

"The Arctic Refuge should be preserved, not plundered," the report stated. "The Refuge should be designated as a wilderness. We urge ARCO, BP Amoco, Exxon and Chevron to take their hands off the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge."

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COUNCIL: Committee first changed resolution

Continued from page 1

appointed by former Gov. Pete Wilson.

"Wilson has led the attack on affirmative action," Matsuzaki said. "He would appoint someone who would set forth his agenda."

A.S. Vice President Internal Kim McKoon said that he believes the resolution should not have been vetoed.

"Given that resolutions are merely opinions of the Associated Students at UC San Diego, I don't believe the president of a diverse student body should veto a resolution just because a few lines of it are controversial," McKoon said.

McKoon also said that he believes Kozberg should have made her position on affirmative action known.

"As a person advocating accessibility to all people, I feel the A.S. [Council] should make bold statements if a certain regent is being hesitant on her stance on affirmative action," McKoon said.

The resolution states that Davis should fill the four open seats on the Board of Regents, as well as Kozberg's seat with affirmative action supporters.

The resolution also cites a statement by UC Regent William Bagley saying that "he will move to rescind the UC Regents' July 20, 1995 ban on affirmative action (SP-1 and SP-2) as soon as he has the votes."

Brad Hayward, a spokesperson for the UC Office of the President, said that there are no current plans

to reinstate affirmative action.

"There has been some discussion by individual regents about these issues, but currently there is nothing on the agenda," Hayward said.

Leventhal said that while he had concerns with other parts of the resolution, those parts were removed by the internal committee.

The committee removed parts of the resolution that referred to UC Regent Ward Connerly. The original resolution, as passed by the Associated Students of the University of California (ASUC) at Berkeley and submitted to the A.S. Council at UCSD by A.S. Vice President Finance Pat Ru, referred to Connerly as an "enemy of education" who "has done immeasurable harm to the lives and futures of countless numbers of students."

Ru said that while he was pleased with the revised resolution, he felt that the original was more consistent with similar resolutions passed at other UC campuses.

"I wanted the resolution as consistent as possible with other UCs," Ru said. "It is better to have a universal statement. But I understand the taking out of Ward Connerly because it was personal."

"Given that resolutions are merely opinions of the Associated Students at UC San Diego, I don't believe the president of a diverse student body should veto a resolution just because a few lines of it are controversial."

— Kim McKoon
A.S. Vice President Internal

Muir sophomore senator Josh Caplan said he agreed with the changes made because the revised resolution specifically targets the issue at hand.

"We wanted affirmative action to be reinstated in the UC system," Caplan said. "I think the changes we made will help make the resolution more powerful."

At last night's A.S. meeting, there was an open roll call vote to override Leventhal's veto. A two-thirds vote is necessary to override the veto. Because it was an open roll call vote, A.S. members have until Friday to vote.

At last night's meeting, A.S. Vice President Internal Kim McKoon also submitted a constitution to appear on the ballot in the spring.

The A.S. Council voted last week to place Leventhal's constitution on the ballot. Last night, the A.S. Council rescinded that vote and reconsidered Leventhal's constitution.

Both Leventhal's and McKoon's constitutions were debated and voted on. Neither constitution received the two-thirds vote necessary to place an item on the ballot. As a result, neither proposed constitution is set to be voted on by students in the April elections.

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UCSD GUARDIAN
TODAY'S ISSUE
PAGE 11
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A.S. Council Demonstrates Concern for Student Needs

Recently, the A.S. Council has been responding well to students' demands by organizing many different activities for students. From hosting Nobel Laureates to encouraging student-run outreach programs in the community, the A.S. Council has made its presence known on campus.

One of the programs recently unveiled by the A.S. Council, the Associated Students Outreach Program (ASOP), which consists of an outreach database, outreach projects and outreach scholarships, is an excellent idea that has the potential to use student passion to further the goal of raising the educational standards for under-represented minority groups in San Diego. To this end, the A.S. Council has a variety of projects in the works, and all students are invited to participate.

Not only has the A.S. Council given UCSD students the opportunity to encourage younger students in their academic endeavors, but the council has also provided students with the opportunity to further their own education. Through council efforts, three Nobel Laureates have been invited to speak on campus at no cost to students during the months of February and March. The Laureates are: 1995 Nobel Laureate in Literature Seamus Heaney, 1998 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry Walter Kohn and 1990 Nobel Laureate in Economics Harry Markowitz.

The A.S. Council has also shown interest in student concerns regarding the lack of parking spaces on campus. Through an A.S.-sponsored Committee on Parking and Transportation Issues, which focuses on student feedback and input, a dialogue has been established with university officials in order to improve the current problem.

Moreover, the A.S. Council created Triton Tide to boost school spirit by encouraging attendance at athletic events and even giving out free T-shirts. These efforts turned out to be a big success. The council is clearly attempting to change the apathetic feeling that students seem to complain constantly about, yet also display toward UCSD.

Overall, we believe that the A.S. Council has shown ingenuity and enthusiasm in the desire to improve the lives of UCSD students, especially at a time when student apathy is growing. The *Guardian* commends every member of the A.S. Council for their time and hard work. We hope they continue making their presence felt.

Props and Flops



The UCSD Police Department should be commended for apprehending the thief who stole 15 wallets at RIMAC. Thank you for protecting us from the bad guys.

Props to the yearly "Divas in Denial" drag show for providing an alternative means of entertainment and spicing up the UCSD campus. Keep the spirit alive.



Congratulations to Smith College in Boston for establishing a program that enables women to show their skills in the male-dominated field of engineering. It is the first program of its kind dedicated to increasing the presence of women in all engineering fields.

Flops to the person who left a puppy on the 94 freeway last Monday. (Don't worry. It was rescued by a concerned citizen.)



OPINION



Austin Hsia/Guardian

PRESIDENT CLINTON SAVES THE DAY AS MODERN SUPERHERO

COMMENTARY:

Clinton struggles with his Republican villains in comic book style

By Ward Han
 Staff Writer

For a while, the media searched for a profitable and entertaining "superhero" to join the ranks of Superman and Batman. They outdid themselves when they found Bill Clinton.

Clinton turned out to have everything a superhero needs: Sexiness, invincibility and interesting villains. As a result, the media gives this superhero an excessive amount of attention with tabloid stories, grueling interviews and non-stop coverage of his "Lois Lane(s)" — making him wish he could retreat to Bruce Wayne's bat cave.

The media, however, supposedly gives the public what it wants, and the public is fascinated with the on-going story of Bill Clinton the superhero.

The public likes heroes with sex appeal. Superman wears tights that reveal bulging muscles, and naturally, women such as Lois Lane want him. Batman also wears tights that reveal bulging muscles, and women chase him while he chases bad guys. Our superhero President Clinton does not even need tights, women are chasing him anyway.

Almost everyone is familiar with Jennifer Flowers, the cute blonde who publicly announced her love for Clinton. The public is still trying to figure out how someone like Paula Jones ever had a chance with Clinton. Finally, there's Monica Lewinsky, who allowed the public to read more than anyone ever wanted to know about our superhero's sex life in the *Starr Report*. Scandalous tabloids report even more women in Clinton's life. Lois Lane number five has just



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recently been exposed. His sex life is as unbelievable as it is shocking, and it truly belongs in an adult comic book and nowhere else.

The lovely women who want our superhero's body serve as a sharp contrast to the nasty villains who want him crushed. For any superhero to have support from the public, he or she must have despicable villains. They don't get any more despicable than the Republicans — for some unknown reason, the right-wing Christian Coalition and racist group members

just seem to join the Republican Party. On more than one occasion, the Democrats have blasted the Republicans for being hypocrites. According to Clinton and the Democrats, Republicans want to cut taxes for the rich and take advantage of the poor, minorities and the disadvantaged. Republicans are accused of abandoning the poor by cutting welfare. If Clinton and the Democrats are right, then the Republicans make "The Joker" and "The Penguin" in the Batman series look like nice guys.

However, villains in comic-books never hurt the hero in the end. In much the same way, Republicans have yet to really cut through Clinton's invincible armor. While each of the Republican's episodes to harm the president were interesting to watch, they were unable to hurt Clinton, who continually fought off the tenacious attacks.

In the "Whitewater" episode, our hero escaped blame, but his sidekicks, the McDougalls, were the ones sacrificed. In the "Filegate" episode, again, our superhero narrowly escaped blame. The mysterious suicide of Vince Foster (Clinton's former employee) made this episode even more fascinating.

The most exciting episode of Clinton's story has been the impeachment process. Having failed in the relatively pathetic attempts with "Travelgate," "Whitewater" and "Filegate," Republicans found kryptonite in Monica Lewinsky, a new source of harmful exposure. In this most recent episode, Clinton's misleading statements about Lewinsky prompted the usually lethargic Republican Congress to impeach him rather quickly. This episode is the equivalent to the "Death of Superman" episode in which Superman appeared to have died.

See **HERO**, Page 5

CONQUERING THE WAR ON APATHY



Shadrach Theory

SHANNON CASTLE

The leaders and administration of UCSD seem to have a major problem with the apathy of their students. We don't go to enough sporting events. We don't turn out to vote in student elections. We have no school spirit whatsoever.

The powers that be have tried everything from the recent "Triton Tide" campaign to the ASUCSD "root beer" bottle openers to remedy this drastic situation. They want to make UCSD students care about their school, their community and ultimately, about their world.

That may be a stretch, but I'm pretty sure that that's what the administration would say. After all, a university's job is to educate responsible citizens, not merely produce intelligent machines. Our administration is worried that UCSD is churning out a few thousand people a year who are great at chemistry, but completely inept as members of society. This has led to the Great War on Student Apathy.

Unfortunately, except for a few Triton Tide T-shirts wandering around campus, this campaign has produced few results. In general, students still don't care about any-

thing.

Ironically, the problem began with the same people who are trying to solve it. Apathy appears in the student body not because students lack opinions or the desire to change things on campus, but because the expression of these opinions has the capacity to offend others.

The administration tends to place "tolerance" and "acceptance" of others as a

very high priority, making this clear to students with its policies and required classes. At orientation my freshman year, I was forced to examine all of the stereotypes I held and taught about acceptance of other belief systems. In Humanities 1, I learned about the relativity of right and wrong. To graduate with a biology degree, I have to take a class on American cultures.

While I applaud the university's attempt to expose students to different people and different opinions, the administration has pursued the issue to the point that it is "wrong" to express a belief that might offend someone else. Instead of encouraging diversity of thought, such policies produce students with few convictions and little ability or desire to do any-

thing about these convictions.

Anyone with a strongly held belief is bound to stand in direct opposition to someone else's strongly held belief. With personal issues, such as religion or cultural values, people on one or both sides of an issue may offend the others. This is a natural consequence of individuality. We don't all have to agree, and we don't have to accept

all opinions as equally valid.

OPINION COLUMN

Personally, anything I feel strongly about is not an opinion; it's a fact. Therefore, anyone who disagrees with me is wrong. As harsh as this sounds, it's fair. Anyone can adopt this attitude. In this case, however, relative morality goes right out the window. We don't have to accept static definitions of right and wrong; we can believe in one set of values as the truth.

Unfortunately, by frowning upon the expression of potentially offensive ideas, the administration has also condemned standing up for one's beliefs. As a public university, UCSD cannot forbid the voicing of most opinions, but it has done its best to suppress those that fall outside the realm of political correctness.

By convincing students to

avoid offending others at all costs, the administration has produced the apathy that it is fighting. As long as students are afraid to stand up for their convictions, little progress will be made to better this campus. Society is built on the debate of different interest groups, religions and cultures. If students remain wary of such debate, they will remain uninvolved and apathetic, both in their school and in society. The good news is that we don't have to believe everything that the administration tells us.

The blame does not fall only on the university officials, but on the students themselves. Regardless of seminars on tolerance and lectures on acceptance, we make our own decisions. While I don't propose actively trying to offend everybody around us, I think that we need to realize that offending people is a risk that must be taken to get things accomplished.

If we, as a student body of very diverse interests and opinions, decide to voice these beliefs, and support them with action, the administration wouldn't be as concerned with student apathy. I think it would be more worried about the flow of power out of its hands and into the hands of the students. That would be a good thing. I think we can all agree on that.

Send comments and Letters to the Editor to guardian@ucsd.edu

HERO:

Media blamed for comic government

Continued from page 4

Fortunately, like Superman, our superhero emerged alive. Instead of getting rid of Clinton, the impeachment process got rid of Newt Gingrich, the Penguin. Republicans also managed to lower their own approval ratings while Clinton's ratings skyrocketed. Clinton was acquitted, and now he is again attempting to make his legacy with his newly proposed budget. What a happy ending for our superhero.

Some people might resent the media (and this article) for making our government's affairs look like comic book stories. After all, the fables can be childish and exaggerated. Then again, the media reports what goes on whether or not it's childish or exaggerated.

We really have a bizarre, sexy and invincible person in the White House. He is running our country with his arch enemies. Just like characters in a comic book, neither our superhero and his allies, the Democrats, nor his enemies can tolerate each other, and of course they won't work together. If the media reported a bipartisan government working efficiently together, people would accuse the media of writing romantic fiction.

But wait, there's still time for a sequel.

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BEAUTY OF SPIRITUALITY TRANSCENDS SCIENCE

Editor:

I find it very amusing that people today often get worked up about religion and any issue that implies making a subjective, moral judgment of something. The thrust of Simone Santini's article ("Biblical Interpretations Obey Social Prescriptions," Feb. 25), seemed to be that because the Bible and religion cannot be justified scientifically, it is worth nothing. I quote, "If we can't defend the Bible on scientific or on pragmatic grounds, then what are we to do with it?"

I guess Santini would classify me as a "religious" person, as I do attend church, read the Bible often and try to be as in tune as I can with my spiritual side. But, the idea that religion and the Bible can't be justified on scientific grounds certainly came as no surprise to me. Religion and spirituality isn't about "believing in the Bible" in a literal and scientific sense, at least fundamentally.

It is too bad that modern society often seems to be driven by a scientific, pragmatic and objective analysis of such complex and inherently indescribable notions of the human condition. Whether we all want to admit it or not, we all crave and indeed need spiritual fulfillment. Such things as recreation, love and friendship are all non-"religious" avenues through which we can nurture this spiritual side.

But, as Santini is frustrated with, and as society as a whole often seems frustrated with, such notions as love and friendship defy objective, scientific explanation. One would be just as frustrated trying to make scientific sense out of the Bible as they would be trying to devise a 10-step plan that would ensure meeting the right soul mate and falling deeply in love. How can one begin to describe and classify the beautifully abstract and necessarily subjective nature of falling in love? The beauty of it is that you cannot describe it, which leads me to my final point.

Churches, the Bible and religious organizations are all simply means to an end. They are vehicles by which spirituality can be nurtured. And, necessarily, the path and form that this journey takes is

going to be unique for each individual — a unique subjective experience, revolutionary and enlightening for those who experience it, but difficult to classify or generalize objectively.

Certainly, analyzed logically, scientifically and objectively, the Bible presents many contradictions and enigmas. But, its historical accuracy is of secondary importance to the faith that it inspires and has inspired throughout generations.

Finally, churches and religious organizations are not infallible. They are human institutions which are necessarily imperfect. Aside from the crusades, inquisitions and witch hunts (all occurring in drastically different times than our own thus hard to compare in terms of their social consequences), what real negative social implications have Christian organizations and leaders had on modern society other than claiming to believe in certain things and wanting others to join? Could not the engineer of the modern Civil Rights movement, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., be considered a Christian leader? Certainly, the thrust of his movement was not to obtain religious converts, but it is hard to imagine him as the tremendous leader he was without his value base being drawn from faith in God.

Whether one agrees with or doesn't agree with religious organizations is of course a personal choice, but it is of little use to stand and criticize something just for the sake of standing and criticizing.

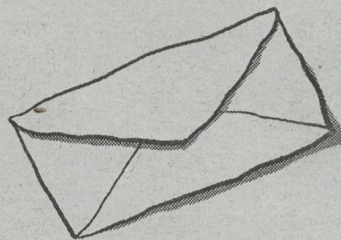
Peter Hannah

Student Tires of Bookstore Pricing

Editor:

In one of your previous issues ("Students Now Can Buy Books on the Web," Feb. 18), you mentioned the on-line bookstore where students can buy and sell books. I thought it was the greatest thing ever because, like you've described in your article, I'm tired of buying overpriced books, and not even receiving half the price when selling it back to the bookstore.

Unfortunately, I did not save a



Letters to the Editor

The Guardian welcomes letters from its readers. All letters must be no longer than three pages, typed, double-spaced and signed. Letters must also contain a phone number. We reserve the right to edit for length and clarity. Letters may be dropped off at the Guardian office on the second floor of the Old Student Center. Send all letters to:

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copy of the article. So, I am writing this letter to ask if you would give me the web site address of the on-line bookstore. Thanks for providing such great news.

Steven Wu

Editor's Note: The URL is <http://www.BookSwap.com/UCSD>

Social Security Needs Tough Loving

Editor:

In their article on Social Security ("The NEW New Deal," Feb. 22), Jenna Barclay and Brooke Garrettson propose the idea that social security has failed and should be junked. They point to handing out tax breaks as a better way of helping people. That is a great idea, but almost any tax break invariably helps the rich more, without providing any real extra money to the people who are blue collar workers.

Barclay and Garrettson write about how Americans squander all their money. That is true, yet Barclay and Garrettson claim that a tax break will give Americans the money they need to invest in a private mutual fund. Every post-Christmas season I read in the paper about how some people spent way beyond their means and are now \$25,000 in debt. I have also

read that Americans are saving less now than they ever have before.

The money that Barclay and Garrettson talk about will be used for things needed in the present, not the future. Americans spend what they have because we want to see what we can get with our money.

Barclay and Garrettson will have to change the American psyche before people from the less well-to-do sect of American society will invest money in the stock market, or mutual funds. Social Security may need some tough love, but it does not need to be destroyed. If Barclay and Garrettson believe that destroying Social Security will help the American people they must be thinking about a different American people.

Charles Ginsberg

Truth of Christianity Blinded by Mistakes

Editor:

Let me start with a disclaimer. Despite the fact that I am writing in response to Simone Santini's article ("Biblical Interpretations Obey Social Prescriptions," Feb. 25), I do not want to be seen as a religious militant. I do not hate homosexuals, women who have had abortions or people of other religious groups. I respect the rights of other people to hold opinions I do not agree with.

I am, however, one of a number of people at UCSD who base our lives — our entire lives — on the principles found in the Bible and I am writing to correct some of the ideas expressed about us in Santini's article.

I suppose the easiest way to start is to correct a few of the statements Santini makes that are just mistaken: 1. The Bible does NOT say "God hates homosexuals" (that's an important one) but rather claims that he loves ALL people. 2. Catholics are not forced by doctrine to agree with everything the pope says. In fact, he very rarely speaks Ex Cathedra. 3. Many people do believe that God exists "in the same way physicists believe the electron exists."

You can see what kind of picture would be painted of Christians if these errors were not corrected

— that they are hateful people who rely on their religious leaders to do their thinking for them and believe in a nebulous God.

Now the point I want to make is this; Santini said "taking up the Bible's morality should not be taken lightly." This is an excellent point. I, like the majority of Christians, would NEVER base my life on a set of principles as all-encompassing as those of the Bible without serious thought.

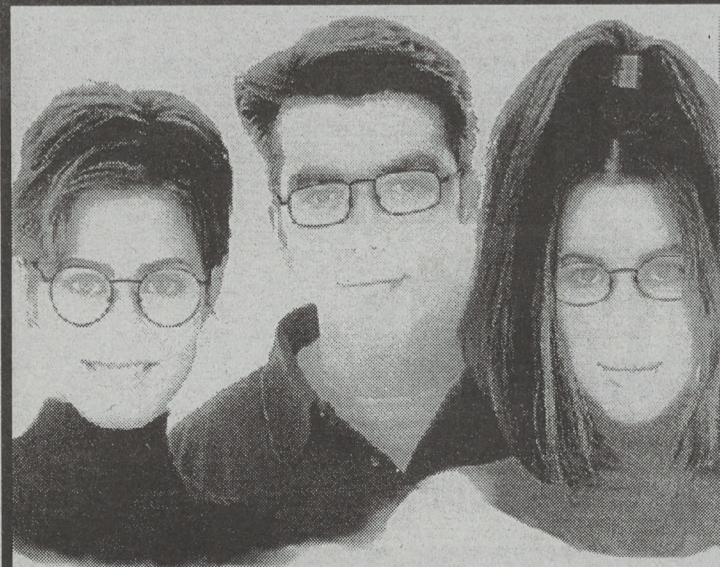
Santini asks what kind of thought goes into a decision to "believe in the Bible." This is an excellent question. My belief in the truth of the Bible's teaching is based on the results of careful research into its historical accuracy, an in-depth examination of the claims of science and of other religions, and an exhausting inner search.

But the standard goes both ways. If it is important to give serious thought to the Bible's teachings before accepting them, it is also important to give serious thought to the Bible's code of morality (or any widely held code of morality) before rejecting it. The misconceptions Santini has about Christianity are widely held and have led many people to reject the Bible. Certainly, they have every right to choose what they believe about the Bible, but it would be wise to find out first what it really teaches.

Santini's article contains another common mistake. He condemns Christianity for having caused the "crusades, inquisition, witch hunts." Certainly, people who call themselves Christians have committed such crimes, and I approve of Santini's attempt to remind Christians that their religion too can be abused. But then, the violence of the crusades is hardly the Christianity taught by Jesus, who commanded them even to "Love your enemies." I find that many people discount the Bible's claims because they have had bad experiences with Christians. Christians have a very mixed track record. And yes, many Christians are just plain obnoxious. But that is not adequate grounds for rejecting Christianity. Christianity, remember, is not about Christians, but about Christ.

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