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**A GOOD YEAR**



Since opening in Fall Quarter 2008, the Loft has hosted a wide variety of events, from punk concerts to wine tastings. During the 2009 presidential inauguration, students gathered to watch President Barack Obama be sworn into office. Recently, indie/hip hop troupe Why? drew a packed house on Oct. 22.

# PENNY FOR THE LOFT?

Student reps are discussing a bid to barter down the Loft's controversial student-fee proposal.

By Angela Chen  
Associate News Editor

**B**arely a year after the A.S. Council declined to sponsor a student-fee referendum to fund the Loft — Price Center East's year-old multipurpose venue — some councilmembers are reconsidering the request but discussing a possible effort to lower the proposed fee, which has climbed to \$4.91.

The A.S. Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs and chair of the University Centers Advisory Board Jordan Taylor, a member of the A.S. special committee currently discussing the proposed referendum, said councilmembers are working to determine an appropriate Loft fee using enrollment numbers. Based on recent figures provided by the Office of the Registrar, the committee suggested redistributing the fee from the originally proposed \$4.91 for undergraduates to \$4.47 for undergraduates and \$3.82 for graduate students.

See **LOFT**, page 3



PHILIP RHIE/GUARDIAN

**DIEHARD**



**SPORTS**  
Men's water polo dominates in overtime.

ERIK JEPSEN/GUARDIAN

The men's water-polo team rose from a hit-and-miss season to slam-dunk their final regular-season game of 2009, which they played against Santa Clara University. The win will play as a key factor in determining the team's seed in the upcoming Western Water-Polo Championships, beginning Nov. 20.

# CSU to Slash Enrollment By 40,000 Students

State universities consider cutting winter and spring enrollment, enforcing stricter academic policies.

By Yelena Akopian  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Grappling with a \$564 million budget shortfall, the California State University system announced plans Tuesday to cut enrollment by 40,000 students over the next two years.

"Denying students access to the California State University is just about the worst thing I can do during a recession," Chancellor Charles B. Reed said. "But we have to provide a quality higher education to students, and we cannot educate more students with less."

The university system received 266,152 applications this year, a 53-percent increase from last year. CSU officials attribute most of the increased demand to students hoping to transfer from community college, who had to wait to apply in the fall after spring enrollment was cancelled last year.

"One thing I know is that in the past, Cal State was very lenient in admitting students who hadn't completed all of their course work or liberal arts requirements," Reed said. "I believe those students are going to be turned away."

According to the *Contra Costa Times*, the campuses will cut enrollment by adhering more strictly to CSU policy on academic dismissal of students who aren't performing well, while potentially eliminating winter and spring admission for the 2010-11 academic year.

"The state funds a finite number of [students]," Cal Poly spokesman Tim Lynch told the *Contra Costa Times*. "If the university exceeds that number, it incurs the entire cost of education for those additional students. Yes, those additional students will pay fees, but those

See **CSU**, page 3

**SPOKEN**

“Pop music has a tradition of being more straightforward with everything. It's more about giving to the listener. Nothing 'clever' or tricky.”

**THE DRUMS**  
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**FORECAST**

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 <b>THURSDAY</b>	 <b>FRIDAY</b>
 <b>SATURDAY</b>	 <b>SUNDAY</b>

**SURF REPORT**

<b>THURSDAY</b> Height: 3 ft. Wind: 4-6 mph Water Temp: 66 F	<b>FRIDAY</b> Height: 3-6 ft. Wind: 3-4 mph Water Temp: 66 F
<b>SATURDAY</b> Height: 4-5 ft. Wind: 1-7 mph Water Temp: 66 F	<b>SUNDAY</b> Height: 2-3 ft. Wind: 4-9 mph Water Temp: 66 F

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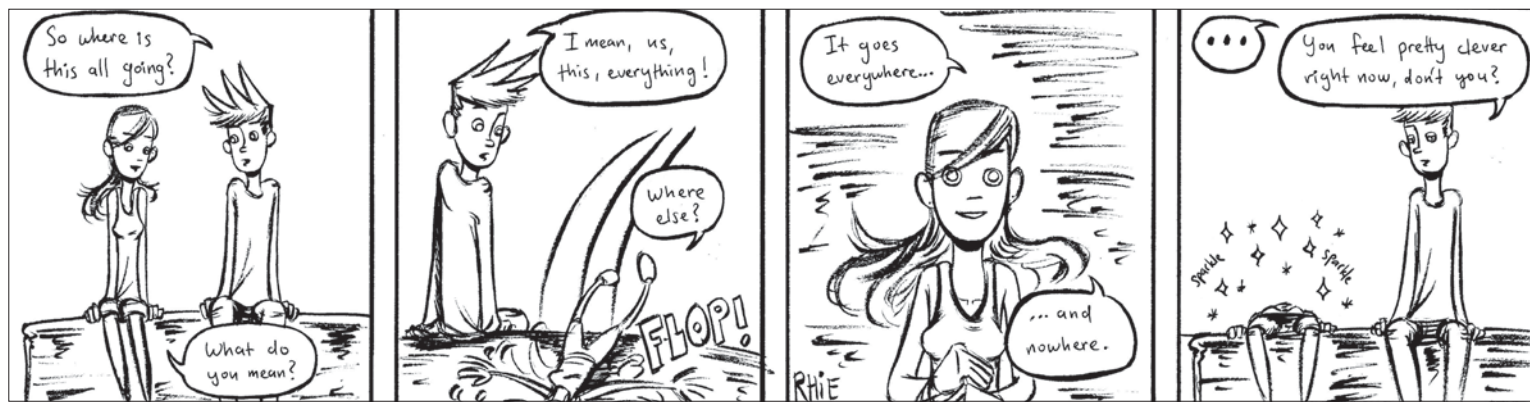
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# SUNNY-SIDE UP

By Philip Rhie



# TWO COKES SHORT

By Sam Pelle



## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

# Graduate Student Looks to Outsmart Apple's Genius

By Gabrielle Armijo  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

UCSD graduate student Luke Barrington, along with the UCSD Computer Audition Lab, has created a music recommendation program to rival the iTunes Genius feature.

Barrington and his colleagues took the idea behind the popular Apple software — recommending new songs to users based on what they already like — and created a program that makes suggestions based on sounds and acoustic content of a song, rather than suggesting commonly related artists or utilizing the purchase history of others who also purchased the song.

“[Apple Genius] is great and works well on a filter system,” Barrington said. “It has over 6 billion songs and tons of collaborative data, so if you are buying a certain song from iTunes, chances are that it has had people who have also bought that song.”

Even if the songs in a user's library were downloaded elsewhere, Apple Genius uses Gracenote software to analyze songs and match them to tunes in their database.

Barrington's music recommendation program, on the other hand, analyzes the acoustic content of the song and then matches it with other similar-sounding songs within the same genre.

“We're trying to have a machine that listens to music, and then analyzes the song based on the sounds of that particular song,” Barrington said.

Because of its more complex design, Barrington said his program will be able to recommend a greater range of songs. Apple Genius is limited to recommending songs available for purchase in the iTunes store.

However, creating a program that actually “listens” to the acoustic content of every song has

proven a vast undertaking, according to Barrington. In order to make a recommendation, the program has to review over 50 examples of each genre before analyzing a song, in order to determine what genre it will fall into.

To provide initial data for his music recommendation program, Barrington created the Twitter computer game Herd It.

Herd It requires players to answer questions such as “Is this song happy, sad or romantic?” based on the music playing. The player gets points if his or her answer matches everyone else's, thus motivating players to categorize songs into their most correct genres. The music recommendation program could then use the players' answers as base genre examples.

“The idea behind Herd It is to collect consensus,” Barrington

said. “So even if some people answer incorrectly or weirdly, we get the average response of all users. In the future, we plan to learn person or demographic-specific models... like ‘Girls from SoCal think that this tune rocks,’ or ‘European housewives find this song romantic.’”

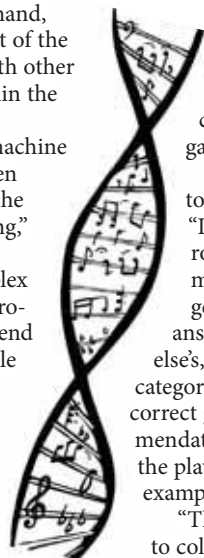
Herd It attracted over 2,000 players in three days, all of whom have made the music recommendation program more efficient, Barrington said.

Barrington presented his program at the International Society for Music Information Retrieval Conference in Japan on Oct. 28.

In the future, Barrington hopes to use the software to provide recommendation data for local San Diego bands who have not yet released albums on iTunes, and therefore would not appear in Apple Genius.

So far, Apple has not acknowledged the program.

Readers can contact Gabrielle Armijo at [garmijo@ucsd.edu](mailto:garmijo@ucsd.edu).



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11/12/09

# acls today

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## Senior Vice Chancellor Retires After 25 Years

Paul Drake oversaw creation of graduate scholarship campaign.

By Tanja Fijalkowski  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Paul Drake announced his retirement on Nov. 6, leaving his position of Senior Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs after 25 years of service.

Beginning his career at UCSD as a professor of political science, Drake became director of the Latin-American studies program before being promoted to the position of dean of the division of social sciences in 1994. Drake served in the position for 12 years before being appointed to the position of vice chancellor in 2006.

Drake said his goal as vice chancellor was to preserve the academic core of the university, which he described as a fusion of world-class research and internationally renowned education.

In 1998, Drake became a key member of the International Studies Advisory Committee, which created the international-studies department and the seven majors that fall under it. In 2004, as dean of social sciences, he

granted a special allocation of \$48,000 to the preservation of the Heritage Language Program.

Drake is concerned that the university's current budget constraints will negatively impact diversity efforts at UCSD.

"Diversity has been a constant effort," he said. "That's been one of the disappointments of freezing over 100 faculty positions. One of the ways to promote diversity is to bring in more faculties, which we can't do right now."

Drake also established a fundraising campaign designed to create student scholarships, which received a \$530,000 grant in the year 2000 to support graduate students working in the social sciences. The grant was the single largest gift UCSD had yet received in its campaign to raise money for graduate support.

The retiring vice chancellor has also been involved in efforts to make the new furlough program for faculty less onerous: He played an instrumental part in the creation of the Joint Senate-Administration Task Force on Budget Reconciliation.

Drake said he is concerned about the rate at which student fees are increasing.

"If the state reduces the amount of

money by that much, who's going to pay for the education?" he said. "We are unfortunately moving toward the model of a private university, where students pay the whole fare, and the state doesn't pay for anything. But it's the only way."

Drake noted that the fee increases will most affect middle-class students, who will reserve less financial aid and will be expected to pay more in tuition.

"I think that UCSD needs to figure out how to be great without relying on state funding," he said. "We're getting down to the bone here, and it's going to hurt. But we have to get through this, and we have to move on. I think the notion of shared sacrifice is true. Everybody is suffering."

He expressed concerns about the university in the coming years.

"I'm very worried about UCSD for the next year or so," Drake said, "But I am optimistic in the long run. It will survive, and we will thrive."

Chancellor Marye Anne Fox has launched a national search to find a replacement for Drake, who will be leaving the university Oct. 1, 2010.

Readers can contact Tanja Fijalkowski at [tfjalko@ucsd.edu](mailto:tfjalko@ucsd.edu).

## Student Oversight Concerns Drive Debate on Revived Loft Fee Request

► LOFT, from page 1

Loft Director Martin Wollesen presented a similar referendum to the council during Winter Quarter 2009, but councilmembers voted to exclude the Loft fee — then proposed at \$2.62 per student per quarter — from the A.S. activity-fee referendum, after determining that the Loft did not exhibit enough need compared to other items on the ballot.

After Wollesen brought the request before the council a second time during Spring Quarter, the council once again denied the Loft a place on the spring ballot, this time due to concerns over a lack of student oversight in the venue's operations. A.S. President Donna Bean was particularly reluctant to allocate student funds to a facility that did not have students on its board of managers.

According to Taylor, oversight is once again a crucial issue in the discussion of this year's referendum request.

"It's important to know who would oversee fees and make sure they would be spent correctly," he said. "We're trying to work with A.S. to determine the best setup and review language of oversight together."

However, A.S. President Utsav Gupta said discussion of oversight language is premature at this time.

"We first need to find out if there should be a referendum at all," he said.

"Personally, I believe student oversight is key to any referendum to go through A.S. and a cause I want to continually advocate."

Wollesen said he, too, supports giving students a place in determining the venue's operations.

"It is absolutely appropriate for students to provide oversight of the budget they fund," he said. "We think this is a good thing."

Taylor suggested a system where students from organizations such as UCAB, Associated Students and the Graduate Student Association would have influence over Loft spending and re-approve budgets on a yearly basis.

In this scenario, if the Loft accrued an excessive amount of debt, the board could reevaluate the budget and vote to redefine student contributions.

"A referendum is essentially a contract to better the students," Taylor said. "We need to make sure we have some control over our money. For example, if the board says we're not happy with how things are going and

how money is being spent, we can say that those funds can't be filled."

The Loft is currently financed by a combination of one-time funds from the Student Affairs Office, student registration fees and external sources of revenue such as profits from venue rental and ticket sales.

According to Associate Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Ed Spriggs, the Loft's current location in Price Center East was originally planned as additional space for the Alumni Association.

"When sufficient funding could not be raised from donations to fund that part of the construction, Student Affairs stepped in and essentially purchased the space from the campus," he said, adding that the Student Affairs department provided money sufficient to fund three-quarters of Loft operations.

Twenty-one percent of the Loft's current operating budget is financed by registration fees, including the salaries of two full-time staffers.

The venue's other sources include funds contributed by A.S. Concerts & Events and University Centers, which both allocate roughly \$30,000 per year to the Loft.

Wollesen said current sources of funding are not enough to maintain Loft operations.

"While the Reg Fee Committee is very supportive of the Loft, it does not have the resources to fund its event budget," Wollesen said.

As of Winter Quarter 2010, the venue will no longer have a major source of funding, which would result in fewer events, admission changes, rental charges for student organizations and student layoffs, he said. The A.S. referendum, if passed, would be the venue's primary source of revenue, providing an additional \$240,000 per year in funding — or 45 percent of the Loft's proposed budget.

The Loft created a street team in an effort to attract support for the fee increase. According to street-team member Desi Kalcheva, this quarter's project is to raise awareness of the referendum.

"We go to people to educate them on why we're unique and need funding," Kalcheva said.

The council will vote on referendum specifics on Dec. 3.

Readers can contact Angela Chen at [shchen@ucsd.edu](mailto:shchen@ucsd.edu).

## CSU Seeks Out \$844 Million in Restored Funds

► CSU, from page 1

fees cover only a slice of the overall cost of education. The bottom line is that if we did not cap enrollment, we would end up diluting everyone's education."

The CSU system has 23 campuses across California. The system currently enrolls 450,000 students and employs 48,000 faculty and staff. Last year, the university raised student fees by 30 percent and implemented furloughs for nearly all campus employees.

"The effect on students is huge," Miles Nevin, executive director of the California Students Association, said. "What that does is decrease access to the system to qualified students, and that's the bottom line. More importantly, while it's going to have an immediate impact, the greater impact is that the CSU fuels the state's economy, and when you're not educating students to become police officers and nurses and engineers, we're not going to be growing our economy."

Cal State Northridge University senior Irene Darbinyan said she was disappointed to hear that fewer students would have access to the CSU system.

"I believe that every applicant deserves an equal opportunity for enrollment," Darbinyan said. "It is truly disappointing to see an increase of students seeking to create a better future for themselves be denied the benefits of attending a CSU."

University officials stressed the importance of applying for admission by November 30, when about half of the system's campuses will stop accepting applications for all freshmen and most transfer students. They also encouraged students to apply to the campus closest to their residential area, as preference is given to local applicants.

Reed previewed the proposed 2010-11 budget that the CSU Board of Trustees will vote on at its Nov. 17 meeting. The budget will then go before Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and the state Legislature.

Labeled a "recover and reinvest" budget, the proposal requests that the state restore a total of \$884 million in funding, including a request for the Legislature to fund a projected 10-percent student-fee increase.

"This is a very ambitious budget in these very challenging times," Reed said. "But it is critical that the state legislature and administration realize the true fiscal needs to run the CSU."

Readers can contact Yelena Akopian at [yakopyan@ucsd.edu](mailto:yakopyan@ucsd.edu).

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the guardian

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# OPINION

CONTACT THE EDITOR: [opinion@ucsdguardian.org](mailto:opinion@ucsdguardian.org)



Props to Google for funding wireless internet at 47 airports through Jan. 15 — San Diego International Airport included — making holiday flight delays a little less horrible.

Flops to the Chicago Police Department for arresting 25 middle-school students at the Perspectives Charter School on Nov. 5 for participating in a cafeteria-wide food fight.



## EDITORIAL



REBECCA HWANG/GUARDIAN

## Drop the Picket Signs for a Higher-Flying Hope

*As the UC Board of Regents prepares to OK an inevitable student-fee increase next Tuesday, it's time we aired our concerns to taxpayers instead of wasting our breath on burnt-out executives.*

Raise your hand if you're as burnt out on being angry about the impending student-fee increases as we are. The picket signs, teach-ins, heartbreaking anecdotal forums, commissions on the future — all gallant efforts toward change — seem to be riling a stagnant sort of heat. Nobody can take another financial hit in this economy, and the UC Board of Regents has no goddamn idea what to do about it.

We're trying our hardest to avoid a defeatist attitude, and, ultimately, we would like to commend the protestors. The Sept. 24 walkout, though conducted with a not-so-community-building ruthlessness and somewhat meager turnout compared to Berkeley, was UCSD's biggest rebel-rouser since the Prop. 8 fiasco: a refreshing shot of outcry we could all care about.

But it doesn't come as much surprise that the walkouts ended there. Principally, we're all students, not professional protestors — even those designated to protest by student councils and orgs have an outside life to deal with. So, thank you for trying. It's easy for ignorant, cynical passersby and newspaper shrews to dismiss a protest as too small to accomplish anything, but

that's the fault of those who weren't out there, not those who made whatever push they could.

That said, the intention of student government systemwide to camp out at the Nov. 17 regents meeting — where they will vote on a 32-percent student-fee increase — is a waste of momentum. We need to choose a battle with at least some sliver of hope for victory. Despite any illusions of a “public comment period” the regents decided on this fee increase a long time ago. There is not a chance in hell they'll compromise the prestige of our university or make more faculty cuts to keep student fees low — especially knowing there will always be applicants too apathetic or uncaring to resist a heftier tuition bill (or resist handing it off to their parents).

Sure, the protests have been enough to scare UC President Mark G. Yudof into the depths of his office, spitting out lionhearted letters to avoid facing the pissed-off students and staff stomping around his campuses. We also seem to have scared him into propping up a mighty fine financial-aid plan (though who knows, maybe that grand gesture flowed from the sheer kindness of his Blue and Gold heart). The fact that the UCSD financial aid department has already sent 2009-10 grant recipients its updated Winter Quarter allocations to accommodate the fee increase — a paranoid effort to quell pre-decision fears or outrage — is a clear indication that the regents already have their minds made up.

It is indeed necessary to show the regents that there will always be a pack of watchdogs on their every move. But student leaders hold an even greater responsibility: to find ways of making a real change. It's a much more daunting and unstable task — and requires breaking away from the standard march down Library Walk — but we've got to target the only real source of funding left in this devastating statewide crisis: Californians. Lord knows they're all broke too, but taxes aren't anywhere near a historical high. Not

to mention they're already funding a variety of causes less impactful (albeit noble) to the future of our state and nation.

What we really need, of course, is a constitutional convention to change our state's voter-locked funding methods which make it virtually impossible for legislators to shave spare change off less-hurting tax recipients. Chances are, even our hard-jawed governor would find it in his heart to fund higher education if he had some more leg room to ration the bank account — and many other legislators have expressed a strong

**Chances are, even our hard-jawed governor would find it in his heart to fund higher education if he had some more leg room to ration the bank account.**

— as Yudof so heroically put it — to cure the rise in student fees. May's statewide ballot measures, under the protection of 1B, attempted to preserve as much emergency funding for education as possible. In the end, it was California voters who trashed it. We need to make these voters see how important an affordable education is to their personal and public future.

A.S. President Utsav Gupta has discussed a possible effort to lobby the San Diego community for its support of the UC cause. However, there are no signs of interest so far from his External Affairs counterparts in jumping on the initiative. If any of the A.S. budget or manpower was allotted to letting Californians know the dire situation we're in, we might finally be making some headway in an affordable future, where it counts.

Non-UC-affiliated citizens hear

the fringe noise of angry students and see Yudof's name in the newspaper, but unless they have a child currently enrolled in the university or are themselves alumni, the public-education plight is not necessarily at the top of their list of budgetary concerns.

Here's an idea: we band together to run a public information campaign targeting voters. We ask them “Where would you be without your college education?” or “Where will your child/community be without the same?” and spread it statewide on mailbox flyers and public service announcements, asking Californians to bug their representatives in Sacramento, or just keep the cause in mind on a future ballot. Through these efforts we might come that much closer to convincing those who have the power to make a difference that access to public higher education is worthy of their support.

Unfortunately, at this point, by targeting Yudof and the dead-spirited regents, we're attempting to beat down a bolted gate with an insufficient army. Maybe they're just not being creative enough in the search for alternative funding — or are too wussy to try and push around the millions in graduate research — but the fact is, the leaders of the UC system have not found a solution to maintain the quality of the university without additional support from student fees. So let's stop complaining and find it ourselves.

**THE UCSD GUARDIAN**

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## Since When Did the House Need a Bishop Blessing?

Last Saturday night, while you and I were drinking away the pain of another sleepless school week, the House of Representatives was busy working out the nitty-gritty details of a bill that plans to overhaul our nation's health-care system. The long-awaited bill passed by a slim margin of 220 to 215 votes. Cue resounding applause, cheers and high-fives: victory at last. Except for one crucial detail.

### Assembly Required

YELENA AKOPIAN  
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A few hours before the vote, an amendment that prohibits federal money from going toward insurance policies that cover abortions was tacked onto the bill — largely a result of pressure from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, who negotiated with top officials in House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's office on Friday, and who made personal appeals to their congressmen and even President Barack Obama.

Their resistance is rooted in the Catholic conviction that life begins at fertilization, and that ending a human life — even before birth — is morally wrong.

The bishops absurdly condemned the pre-amendment plan as an “accounting gimmick,” seeing as the bill as proposed would fund abortion-covering insurers, but wouldn't actually use tax dollars to pay for abortions. The group threatened to withdraw support for the legislation unless the bill included a stipulation that prohibited federal money from going to any insurance provider that covered abortion — “forcing” Democrats who needed an official OK from those pointy-hatted zealots to withdraw their support for the bill.

So much for separation of church and state.

The USCCB wields this ridiculous upper hand thanks to voting clout of 68 million Catholics in the U.S., as well as the fervent political activism of its members — who are regularly in contact with lawmakers — upon whom they don't hesitate to rain input. Recently, the group distributed fliers to every parish in the nation asking churchgoers to pray for abortion restrictions and contact representatives, encouraging them to push for bills in their favor.

The amendment's very real inclusion transcends the often theoretical church-state separation debate. Should it become law, the measure would likely force insurers (87 percent of which currently cover abortions) to drop abortions from their plans in order to meet the new health-care market.

The final bill reveals the disconcerting influence our country's religious leaders have over their government. Bishops now have even more proof that they can be a dominating force in politics — a disturbing prospect that threatens the separation of church and state.

So — despite considerable bipartisan support — the USCCB's heavy behind-the-scenes lobbying and grassroots organization left the bill tainted by religious doctrine. And suddenly, thanks to some influential

**ON THE LINE** By Christina Aushana



*Church Meddling Shouldn't Derail Crucial Reform*

► **ASSEMBLY**, from page 4  
pamphleteers, the health-care discussion has morphed into an abortion debate. Ironic: What could be more pro-life than guaranteed health care? Let's get something straight: Abortion is a medical procedure to which every woman has the right. It is just as medically legitimate as heart surgery or cancer treatment. This fundamental reproductive right shouldn't be trampled on by the moral teachings of the religious community. On the other hand, I accept that abortion is a polarizing national issue — a recent poll by the Pew Research Group reported that only 45 percent of Americans said abortion should

even be legal — so I admit that it probably shouldn't be funded by our tax dollars. But the amendment goes much further than to just ensure federal money won't pay for abortions — which doesn't happen currently anyway (and wouldn't have, were the amendment not hastily slapped on the bill). By limiting the availability of a medical procedure 1.3 million American women need every year, the bill would deal the biggest blow to abortion since partial-birth abortions were outlawed in 2003. Angry Democrats held their noses and voted in favor of the bill anyway, arguing that passing the bill would give them an opportunity to hash

out the details on the Senate floor later. Diffusing the issue for now may have allowed the bill to get past the House, but with a Democratic majority in both houses of Congress for the first time in 12 years, it's time Democrats stop cowering at religious leaders' bullying and take a firm stand in favor of abortion rights. Yes, this legislation is historic. Yes, it's a monumental victory in a long battle toward universal health care. But at the end of the day, in a country that seems to be slowly turning its back on a woman's right to choose, it's just as important to make sure we don't lose that battle in the future just to win the health-care war today.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

*Oil-Taxing Bill Could Relieve State Budget Crisis*

**Dear Editor,**  
I am writing this letter to address Cheryl Hori's Nov. 2 article entitled "Slippery Ground". The bill — introduced by our State Senate Majority Leader Alberto Torrico — makes officials from the University of California and the California State University system think that resources for their schools would be reduced. However, the bill provides them with sufficient funding. Cutting state funding for higher education because higher education is funded by oil production is something that should concern UC and CSU officials. However, they need to look at the whole picture. The state of California is having a financial crisis, and it needs to find a way to stop that crisis. If the state cannot find a way to stop it, then it would be in deeper trouble than it already is — and so would the educational system, including the UC system and CSU system. The officials from these systems need to understand how catastrophic the financial situation is for California and understand how this bill would help California as a whole. This bill, if passed, would be one way to alleviate the state financial crisis if the state decides to cut state funding for higher education. This will prevent the state and the educational system from dysfunction.

I believe that this fear of cuts in state funding to higher education is unreasonable. Instead of blindly rejecting a bill that could hurt state funding for its schools, UC and CSU officials should look into the effect of this bill not only for their schools, but also for the whole state as well.

—**Ho Nam Chan**  
Freshman, Muir College

*Homophobic Slurs Unacceptable on Campus*

**Dear Editor,**  
I consider it an achievement of America today that it is generally considered unacceptable to maliciously ridicule or intimidate an entire ethnicity in public. Expressing disgust for gays, on the other hand, is merely considered controversial. Though homophobic rhetoric may raise an eyebrow, it will rarely trigger anyone to object to the speaker's message.

At RIMAC, while changing my clothes in the men's locker room, I overheard a rowdy group of three to four guys in the aisle next to me. Their conversation went as follows:

Person 1: "... [Somebody] is a homo."

Person 2: "Hey, what you got against gay people?"

Person 1: "A lot!"  
Malicious laughter ensued.

To these dear gentlemen: As perverted, aberrant and pansy you may think us to be, no — you still can't use homophobic speech in public. Not in general society, and especially not at UCSD. If you replace the word "homo" with any racial epithet, I'm confident that even you would find it unacceptable to make that same joke.

—**Jacob Whitehill**  
Graduate Student,  
Computer Science and Engineering

► *The Guardian welcomes letters from its readers. All letters must be no longer than 500 words, typed, double-spaced and signed with a name and applicable title. 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 Student Center or e-mailed. Send all letters to:*

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**TONIGHT**

Too young to remember the night Third Eye Blind rocked Sun God? Or just can't get enough of "Semi-Charmed Life"? Lucky for you, the FM mainstay is headlining House of Blues tonight with Grand Buffet for a steep \$32.50.

# HIATUS

CONTACT THE EDITOR: [hiatus@ucsdguardian.org](mailto:hiatus@ucsdguardian.org)

**boss ditties**  
THE BEST SONGS IN HIATUS THIS WEEK

- The Drums "Let's Go Surfing"
- The Drums "Down by the Water"
- Dashboard Confessional "Get Me Right"
- Dashboard Confessional "Alter the Ending"
- Cat Stevens "Father and Son"

CONCERT PREVIEW

# Drums: Not Dead

BY CHRIS KOKIOUSIS  
ASSOCIATE HIATUS EDITOR

Like every other year this millennium, 2009 has seen its genres progressively diverging and converging into tasty lo-fi mush and sheeny hi-fi shine. It must get exhausting for bloggers, searching for the latest-greatest group to gift their stamp of approval. Tapes 'n Tapes, Voxtro, Crystal Stilts — does anyone care about them anymore? Sadly, the Drums, a Brooklyn four-piece (via Florida) headlining the Loft on Sunday, is the latest of those bright-eyed flashes in the pan.

Well, maybe it's still hard to say. They've only released one six-song EP and their debut record doesn't even have a proper release date yet — though you wouldn't know it by the surging hype-meter. Alas, such is the fickle nature of Internet popularity. Keep in mind that the Strokes went to Europe with three songs and became overnight international playboys with *Is This It*.

So what do these dudes sound

like, and are they worth your \$5? Imagine the Cure and Joy Division frolicking in the summer sun (as best '80s mopers can), starring in their very own campy '50s beach-party movie montage. Standout cut "Let's Go Surfing" maintains a dark double-speed bassline with syncopated whistling and hand-claps, reveling in its catchiness. It's an artfully constructed machine designed for insta-pleasure, and will make for a sweat-soaked live set. On the more morose end of the spectrum, however, EP-ender

"Down by the Water" pairs Jonathan Pierce's "If they stop loving you/ I won't stop loving you" croons with uncanny bass murmurs and splash-reverb beats.

So if you're looking for some honed post-punk this Sunday, you're guaranteed a quality (if abbreviated) show with potential surprises — namely, some unheard cuts expected for the LP and hype-worthy live energy. Who knows? Their endless outbursts of sun and sadness could be the perfect recipe for UCSD.

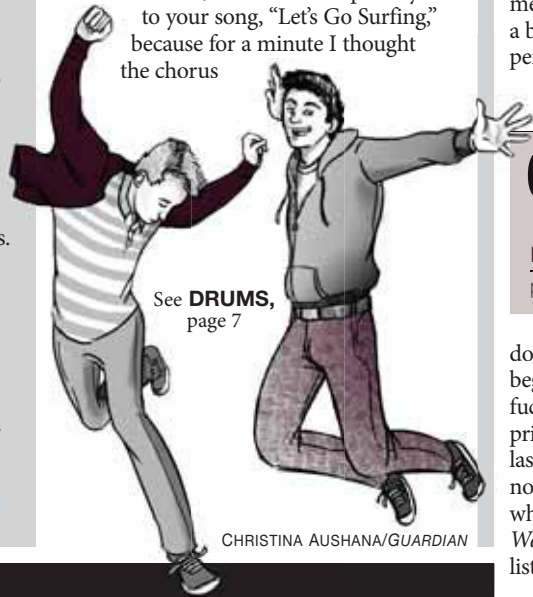
INTERVIEW

JONATHAN PIERCE & JACOB GRAHAM GET REAL ON THE E-MAIL

**Guardian:** Besides your most noticeable influences, what weird or obscure bands are you guys really into? Any super popular songs from this year that you loved?

**Drums:** I'm not sure which are the more noticeable ones. We're into a lot of bands from Scotland (the Orchids, Orange Juice). Also, a lot of great bands from the Northwest or early '90s in general (Cool Rays, Mission of Burma). Songs from this year? "Tonight," by the Smith Westerns.

**G:** To be honest, I had to look up the lyrics to your song, "Let's Go Surfing," because for a minute I thought the chorus



See DRUMS, page 7

CHRISTINA AUSHANA/GUARDIAN

## Next Summer's Pilgrimage to Comic Mecca

I'm having a really hard time persuading people like you that I'm a genius. It's surprising how much effort it takes to convince people of something so obvious. But I think I've finally found a way. It's gonna take some time, a little investment and a little trust, but it's the only sure-fire way to get you to believe. All I need is for you to keep in mind that, in the summer of 2010, Scott Pilgrim is gonna be a big fucking deal. And when this happens, just remember: I called it first.

So what is Scott Pilgrim, and why

### Critical Hit!

PHILIP RHIE  
[prhie@ucsd.edu](mailto:prhie@ucsd.edu)

does it matter so much? Let's see. To begin, Scott Pilgrim is the greatest fucking thing to happen to comics and print media for many, many years. The last time such an overwhelming phenomenon enveloped our tiny lives was when *X-Men* hit the big screen and *Watchmen* made it to Time Magazine's list of the 100 best novels of all time.

But don't make the mistake of believing Scott Pilgrim has some lofty philosophical or existential meaning. It's more like the embodiment of our generation — ours being the young twentysomethings raised on *Mario*, *Pokemon* and Nintendo with both a lust and fear for life, aimlessly searching for purpose and direction without an inkling of what it might be. This comic is made for us, by us, to speak for us. It's the closest thing we will ever have to an all-encompassing identity.

OK, so I'm being a bit hyperbolic, but I maintain that Pilgrim is representative of our generation (at least in terms of alternative pop culture). The comic depicts everyday problems without sacrificing any of the cultural memes it's wrapped in. For instance, what would you do before meeting an ex? You save at a save point! Or, what's the one thing stopping you from entering someone's heart? The password!

You can look at everything objectively and disregard your dilemmas as the mere stuff of whining, but, in actuality, your problems are much more severe than anyone else's. The real trouble in life is emotional bag-

See HIT, page 8

## druthers

HIATUS PICKS THE WEEK'S BEST BETS

**"GENTLEMEN BRONCOS"**

HILLCREST CINEMA  
NOV. 13 / \$10

Remember the low-budget comedy from 2004 that got you to sport a "Vote For Pedro" T-shirt and had you asking, "Do the chickens have large talons?" Turns out, cult hero Jared Hess — the same man who brought Napoleon to life — is back as a brand new geek. Meet Benjamin, a homeschooled whose story is ripped off by a fantasy author (Jemaine Clement, "The Flight of the Conchords") and turned into a horrendous film. Expect the same offbeat humor and elongated speech that made its ancestor a household name. (JB)

**ELEMENTS OF HIP HOP: MASTERS OF CEREMONY**

THE LOFT  
NOV. 12 / PAY AS YOU CAN

Tonight, the streets run right through the Loft for UCSD's first-ever emcee freestyle battle. The competition promises major campus cred to the student contestant who comes out on top. Holding down the beats is student deejay Mawkus, while B-Boy crew BodyRock and senior Matt Tan will also perform. Arrive early to catch the urban art show set to splatter the Loft's walls from 6 p.m. and on. Don't miss out on a chance to see our beloved Price Center lounge transform into the back alleys of Oakland — and if you're brave enough, you may just find yourself challenging the champion and gaining mad respect among UCSD's small but fierce hip-hop faction. (JS)

## exit strategy

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

**THE WHITE-TIE AFFAIR**

PORTER'S PUB  
NOV. 12, 7 P.M.  
FREE

**"FUNNY PEOPLE"**

PRICE CENTER THEATER  
NOV. 13, 6 P.M. & 9 P.M.  
\$3

**AN ALBATROSS & ALL LEATHER**

CHE CAFE  
NOV. 13, 8 P.M.  
\$7

**ECLIPSE**

THE LOFT  
NOV. 13, 9 P.M.  
PAY AS YOU CAN

**CLUB SALSA**

THE LOFT  
NOV. 14, 9 P.M.  
PAY AS YOU CAN

**GEHENNA**

CHE CAFE  
NOV. 14, 6 P.M.  
\$5

**CALL ME THE BREEZE**

ESPRESSO ROMA  
NOV. 16, 8 P.M.  
FREE

**"DISTRICT 9"**

PRICE CENTER THEATER  
NOV. 17, 6 P.M. & 9 P.M.  
\$3

**CARTEL**

PORTER'S PUB  
NOV. 17, 7:30 P.M.  
FREE

**GOOD GUYS TOUR**

THE LOFT  
NOV. 17, 9 P.M.  
PAY AS YOU CAN

FILM REVIEW

# TOKEN APOCA-DRAMA SLIPS THROUGH CRACKS

By Jenna Brogan  
ASSOCIATE HIATUS EDITOR

How long does it take to destroy the world? According to director Roland Emmerich, a yawn-inducing two hours and 40 minutes. That's right: The brave soul who stamped his name on "Independence Day" and "The Day After Tomorrow" is back to cleanse the planet all over again — this time, with \$250 million worth of gleaming vengeance.

While it's clear that the lump sum went in to some outrageous special effects — including the collapse of the Vatican, a squashed White House and hundreds of crumbling skyscrapers that all too closely resemble the Twin Towers —

it's also clear that very little was spent on the feeble cause of a casting call or halfway-decent screenwriter.

Within the first few minutes, we meet Adrian (Chiwetel Ejiofor), a paranoid geologist who has uncovered what he believes to be the first sign of the end of the world. Get ready for a solid slew of panicked "My God! I thought we'd have more time!" cries, and — of course — the unforgettable "This is a suicide mission!"

After some more ingenious one-liners and a mouthful of indecipherable pseudo-scientific mumbo jumbo, we come to a shaky semi-understanding that the earth is going to shit because of something called "crust displacement,"

which somehow correlates with the Mayan doomsday prediction for December 21, 2012.

While Adrian breaks the news to the U.S. president (Danny Glover), we are introduced to Jackson (a brooding John Cusack), failed author and father whose struggle to reconnect with his eternally disappointed children is drawn out painfully to the end credits. With a nagging ex (Amanda Peet) ready to nail him for his inadequacies and her new man for competition, the last thing Jackson needs is a cataclysmic emergency to worry about — but Cusack has never been too lucky.

It's not long before earthquakes spider-web the nation, and civilization as we know it

See 2012, page 8

2012

STARRING JOHN CUSACK, DANNY GLOVER, AMANDA PEET & WOODY HARRELSON  
DIRECTED BY ROLAND EMMERICH  
RATED PG-13  
02:38



**THEATERREVIEW**



**Topdog/Underdog**

STARRING JOHNNY GILL & BOWMAN WRIGHT  
DIRECTED BY NADINE GEORGE-GRAVES  
ARTHUR WAGNER THEATRE  
NOV. 9-NOV. 14

★★★

**Con Men Break Hearts, Pull Race Card**

*Hustlin' "Underdogs" Maintain Poker Faces to Bitter End.*

*By Leila Haghighat*

If Mommy and Daddy cursed you and your sibling with cute-as-a-button names like Apple or Moses, all bets are on the table that you are either the unfortunate offspring of Gwyneth Paltrow and Chris Martin or the butt end of a sick, sick joke. In the UCSD theater department's adaptation of Pulitzer Prize-winning "Topdog/ Underdog," brothers Lincoln and Booth can empathize. The abandoned, 30-something-year-old children of philandering parents, Lincoln and Booth are black men in white America. One works as a Lincoln impersonator (white face/top hat) at an arcade, while the other aspires to be a street hustler. As they struggle with racism, poverty and the fairer sex, the motif of a three-card monte reveals the brothers' illusions of personal identity.

"Lean in close and watch me close, watch me close now," Booth repeats while practicing his card trick. With this invitation, playwright Suzan-Lori Parks coaxes us to challenge the

play's face value. "Topdog" pities a fractured African-American family living in a dilapidated inner-city apartment with dreams deferred (insert ninth-grade "A Raisin in the Sun" essay here). But the race card nearly disappears as Lincoln and Booth pick up the game of cards, and their sibling rivalry rises to the forefront. So much that — though a pre-show "Enjoy the mothafuckin' show, mothafuckers" promises comedic relief — embroiled argumentation over mesmerizing rounds of three-card monte has wrung the audience's capacity for attentiveness dead dry by the three-hour mark.

After a near-death shooting, Lincoln leaves the trade to impersonate Honest Abe for a living: He lets tourists aim phony pistols at his head while he "makes up songs, makes plans." Booth, meanwhile, takes hustling up as a get-rich-quick scheme for impressing his lover, Grace. Her symbolic absence throughout the play foreshadows the absolutism that Lincoln and Booth will ultimately face.

When Booth finally gives in, we root for him. After all, con man is surely a step up from department-store thief. But when Lincoln loses his job to a wax dummy, he finds himself drawn back into the thug life. Booth instantly adopts a competitive hostility toward his elder brother, vying to topple

Lincoln from his "topdog" pedestal.

A single bed, sofa and makeshift crate 'n' cardboard dining table cramp the already close quarters of the Arthur Wagner Theatre, and the suffocation created by this compact set mirrors the ballooning egos of the brothers. Bouquets of bare light bulbs hang upside down from the ceiling to aggrandize the brothers' financial woes, and their soft glow — under the set design of Sarah Cogan — opens space for familial love despite the bickering.

In a play that leans heavily on the acting chops of its two-man cast, both Johnny Gill and Bowman Wright depict characters so divergent in personality that when Lincoln questions, "Is we really blood brothers?" it seems plausible. As Booth, Gill oscillates gracefully from the pelvic-thrusting highs of "sexual release" down to the tear-jerking lows of the demoralizing final scene. Wright's Lincoln is an equally nuanced performance, rife with monotone rhyme-bustin' and repressed anger, which provides a direct foil for Booth's unrestraint.

As Lincoln and Booth bash and thrash each other, they initiate a cycle in which, ultimately, the winner is unclear. Under the direction of Nadine George-Graves, however, this production certainly emerges a dog on top. So watch it. And watch it close now.

*Brooklyn Bummer-Pop Gets a Hot Teen Suntan*

► **DRUMS**, from page 6

was "Obama/ I wanna go surfing/ Obama/ I don't care about nothing," but you're really singing, "Oh Mama." I guess I wanted to hear your opinion on how important lyrical content is with your music, whether you invite interpretation or you want to be more straightforward. I almost wanted it to be "Obama." Like he would care if you went surfing.

**D:** Well, pop music has a tradition of being more straightforward with everything. It's more about giving to the listener. Nothing "clever" or tricky.

**G:** What's the worst music and fashion trend you've noticed since you moved back to Brooklyn?

**D:** Lady Gaga.

**G:** It seems so many bands are coming out of there, it's hard to keep track. But you guys have gotten attention in a really short amount of time. What was the music scene like in Florida that convinced you to move back to New York?

**D:** There was no music scene there. Or rather, we were so disconnected from everything at that point, we weren't aware of one. It was the lack of music there that brought us here.

**G:** You've managed to tour internationally from one EP, *Summertime!*, playing a show in Iceland and a handful in England. What was Iceland like, and how'd you get that opportunity? Did you get much time to explore Reykjavik?

**D:** Iceland was great. We laughed a lot. It's a beautiful place, despite all the rain. Everything in Reykjavik looks stunning, and the kids that go to shows give everything to a performance that they like. I'm not sure it even matters who it is, as long as that specific performance does something for them.

**G:** You're playing a few more shows in California after the Loft date, but what's the next step for the Drums? How is progress on the first album, and when can we expect to hear it?

**D:** We are looking to release the album early next year. It's essentially all done; written and recorded. We have some loose ends to tie up but we're excited to release it. We're set to tour, globally, through the fall of next year.

*Sexual Selection*  
Shakespeare and Darwin Ponder Love

Conceived, Directed, and Choreographed by  
Kim Rubinstein and Yolande Smith

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**Tuesday, 11/17/09**  
**6pm**

**The Atkinson Pavilion at the Faculty Club UC San Diego**

Night parking permits may be purchased for \$4.00 at vending stations (exact change or credit card). A few parking spaces may be available in lot P-206 outside the Faculty Club; Lots P-207 and P-208 can be accessed from Muir College Drive off Torrey Pines Road. Please see campus maps at <http://maps.ucsd.edu>

Contact Nancy Daly for reasonable accommodations to enable your access and participation—[ndaly@ucsd.edu](mailto:ndaly@ucsd.edu)

The James K. Binder Lectureship in Literature is made possible by Mr. Binder's generous bequest and honors his wishes that we bring leading European intellectuals to UC San Diego to provide a forum for rigorous discussions of literary topics.



**the Stage @ the Pub**  
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## FILMREVIEW

## SEX, DRUGS &amp; ROCK 'N' DROLL

## Pirate Radio

STARRING PHILIP SEYMOUR HOFFMAN,  
 RHYS IFANS & BILL NIGHY  
 DIRECTED BY RICHARD CURTIS  
 RATED R  
 02:15

★★★

By Gretchen Wegrich  
 STAFF WRITER

Classic rock fans, rejoice: Your dream film is here. As for everybody else, well, you better start enjoying flower power and sticking it to the man right about now.

But take heed, because nothing in "Pirate Radio" is taken seriously. Considering the plot is driven by nothing more than sheer ridiculousness, it's hard to believe that the film was inspired by true-to-life historical events.

The latest from director Richard Curtis (taking a far leap from "Love

Actually"), "Radio" is a wack-o take on the heyday of pirate radio stations — a phenomenon inspired by the British government's censorship of rock 'n' roll in the 1960s. In this case, a group of renegade deejays band together on an old ship anchored in the North Sea to broadcast popular hits from such subversive rebels as the Who, Jimi Hendrix and the Rolling Stones, to name a few.

In addition to an inevitably kick-ass soundtrack, the film's small charm lie in its slew of over-the-top characters. Though they're all probably smashed, the actors seem to be having so much fun trying to outdo each other's personas that it's impossible not to get sucked into the shitshow. Dueling deejays Gavin (Rhys Ifans) and the Count (Philip Seymour Hoffman) are particularly fun to watch, each lost in his own idiosyncrasies as the pair cavort around the ship like the rock-stars they idolize.

Though the '60s decadence,

discography and dance provide an addictive time capsule for all those babies of baby boomers who spend the better part of life wishing they hadn't missed out on Woodstock and JFK, the film's sloppy script often compromises its flow.

In a particularly jolting moment of self-awareness, the Count proclaims, "These are the best years of our lives." While that may be true, the line feels so out of place within the deejay's "I don't give a fuck" anthem that we're bound to wonder what Curtis was smoking when he wrote it — and where we can get some.

Though the maritime station broadcasts for several years without reprimand, the evil government eventually finds a way to stop the music. (Sorry, Rihanna.) But, like true pirates, the DJs fight the law out of loyalty to their fans, and adopt a broadcast-or-die attitude. Or go to prison, of course.

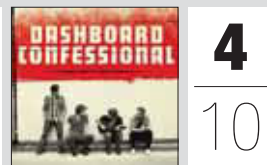
Despite a sparse plot, there is still plenty of space for humor, and the actors are chock full of it. But when Curtis falls back on cheap slapstick rather than allowing the talent to unfold, the close confines of the ship begin to suffocate everyone involved.

At times, "Radio" seems a missed opportunity for depth in the story of Carl (Tom Sturridge) — a wide-eyed 18-year-old who comes of age aboard the ship, "Almost Famous" style — more than anything. Without even a drop of emotional fanfare, an awkward gap is left in the narrative. But if you're only in it for a head-banging good time, this one's for you.



## ALBUMREVIEW

Dashboard Confessional  
 Alter the Ending  
 VAGRANT



4

10

## Mellow Emo-Rockers Put Pity in Your Party

Is it just me, or does Dashboard Confessional make nothing but breakup albums?

Emo songsmith Chris Carrabba has always been sentimental, but *Alter the Ending* takes it one step further for a never-ending lament of relationships gone bad, with a track for every new and bitter ending imaginable.

Lead single "Belle of the Boulevard" tries for clever and sweet-cheeked, but fails miserably at the tear-jerking sentiment it tries far too hard to evoke. The best Confessional can offer us is the brilliant realization that "life is always hard," contrived loveliness dribbling from a soft guitar, one incessant piano chord and whispery backup that grows laughably earnest at the chorus. Falling far short of the lost-love ballad it so badly wants to be, it's becomes another one of those weepy tunes you listen to out of obligation once (and only once) after a breakup with the not-so-special someone you didn't like that much to begin with.

If "Boulevard" was for the one you're glad is gone, "Get Me Right" is for the one that got away: the breakup that was completely your fault, that you can't stop beating yourself up over. There's nothing like an oddly

pretty, repetitive melody combined with breathy, hurting lyrics alluding to Jesus and sinners to make self-crucifixion all the more satisfying. It's one of *Ending's* few solid cuts, showing off a little virtuoso on the 'ments and the striking melody of Carrabba singing "ri-i-i-ght" with surprising vocal range.

"I Know About You" is a jaunty stalker anthem to soundtrack the vindication of having known all along your significant other was cheating. Carrabba's hyperactive pace makes the song catchy and nearly happy — until you listen to the lyrics and realize it's just a bumper testament to all those fellow paranoid exes out there.

Just to throw us for a loop, the album's title track tells of a relationship that can "still go on," even if Carrabba can't resist throwing in the pessimistic prediction that the worst is still to come. But don't worry: This optimistic slip-up is balanced by plenty of other faux tragedies for the perfect pity party for you, Ben & Jerry and Dashboard. "Alter the Ending" is just a faint, dismissable glimmer of hope in a cesspool of pseudo-despair, just right for the dwelling.

— Angela Chen  
 SENIOR STAFF WRITER

## Called It! Graphic Epic Hits Theaters

► HIT, from page 6

gauge, which is precisely where the comic excels. Scott Pilgrim and Ramona Flowers' seven evil ex-boyfriends might be the best metaphor for relationships and emotional baggage that I've ever seen, heard or read in any print media. Aside from the fact that it brilliantly compares every arc of a relationship to a trial in a video game, it begs the question: What happens after you defeat the final ex-boyfriend? What happens when there's no one left to fight anymore? Do you yourself become the evil ex-boyfriend?

Obviously, it's a lot more complicated than that, and the genius of the comic lies in its exploration of these messy dynamics. All the characters in the story — and their conflicts, their passions, their hopes, their fears, etc. — are things we can irrefutably relate to. If you have it in you to accuse a character of being an asshole, then you've probably been one as well.

I can go on about how one character represents naive angst or how another represents transitional abandonment — there's so much to dissect. And I realize that all I'm really doing is saying how awesome it is, over and over. But when the movie adaptation comes out next summer, you're gonna want to know why it's so awesome. And then, when you read the comic, you'll understand. I don't want you to be like everyone else, just following some trend. I want you to laugh like you're in on a secret. So find Scott Pilgrim, and read it. Before it's too late.



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## Costly Disaster Flick-out-of-Your-Memory Is All Bang, No Boom

► 2012, from page 6  
 literally falls through the cracks. (Cue homeless man holding "Repent, the end is near" sign.)

Woody Harrelson, as the archetypal googly-eyed hippie who knew it all along, forewarns Jackson about his family's impending doom if they fail to secure a spot on a government-funded Noah's

Ark operation: three massive zeppelin-looking ships designed to carry the feds (and the rich) to safety.

Oops! Did I give away too much? Oh well. After a side-glance at the trailer, you can guess this film's not exactly groundbreaking — no pun intended — given the soaring rates of second-string actors and explosions.

Like any other apocalypse narrative, you've got the quintessential father-son sap, the crazed scientist with the answers, the average Joe who just happens to know how to fly a plane, the limo that can hop crevices, the hand that clutches the edge of the cliff just in time, the dramatic "West Wing" DC shots, and the human

race bowing in prayer as a tsunami engulfs the land. Essentially, Emmerich's latest is a compilation of every high-grossing disaster movie you've ever seen.

But hey, if think you can handle dude saying, "I feel like something is pulling us apart" to his girlfriend just as the ground splits at their feet, all the power to you.



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

Level: **1 2**  
**3 4**

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

Level: **1 2**  
**3 4**

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

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## Ninth-Place Finish Not Enough for Ticket to Nationals

► **CROSS COUNTRY**, from page 12  
team's regional performance.

"We had some really good grouping, with our three top runners all running together," Garcia said. "We had emphasized the idea of showing heart, and I feel like the men's team did that. I saw them fight for every inch of that 10K."

Conference rival Chico State won the meet on the men's side by placing all five of their scoring runners in the race's top 20. Alaska Anchorage's Marko Chesto won the men's race with a time 30:42. Western Washington and

Alaska Anchorage also qualified for the national championships on the men's side. All seven of the teams that advanced were ranked in the top 25 nationally.

After a slow start in the meet, senior Mike Wright picked up the pace and motivated his fellow Tritons to join him in one final push for the season.

"We were somewhat scattered when we first started, and our senior Mike brought us together in a tight group," Baum said. "It really showed leadership on his part."

The Triton men came into the

meet ranked 10th in the region, but came away in ninth place overall — an improvement they hope to build on next year.

"To make that step is something we were pleased with," Garcia said. "Stanislaus had a strong one-two punch for their top runners and that was difficult to deal with, but at the end of the day, going from 10th to ninth is something you have to be pleased with."

Readers can contact Liam Rose at [lfrose@ucsd.edu](mailto:lfrose@ucsd.edu).

## Tritons Prepare to Host First Home Meet of Fall Season

► **W. CREW**, from page 12

"Fall races are always a challenge for us, because with the quarter system, we start about a month after USD and SDSU," Pinkerton said. "They do, however, give us an opportunity to assess the competition and give us a benchmark. We know what we will have to do in the spring. If we want to be competitive on a national level, we have to bring the race to our local D-I programs."

UCSD's other boats also battled to the finish, but came up slightly short against their competitors. The Tritons' varsity four-boat placed fourth in its race against the University of San Diego with a time of 24:13. The

Toreros' A-boat bested the Tritons by four minutes, coming in first at 20:38.

In the novice eight-boat event, UCSD finished behind San Diego State University and the University of San Diego, earning times of 27:56 and 28:27, respectively.

According to Pinkerton, fall regattas such as the San Diego Fall Classic allow the Tritons to better assemble the team.

"We are working to incorporate our incoming freshmen, our returning novice rowers and the returning varsity," Pinkerton said. "They are all on slightly different points in their technical expertise. In the fall, we have the opportunity to focus on making

technical improvements that can have profound effects on our speed in the spring. I've been deeply impressed by the focus of this year's team."

The Tritons, who are back in action on Sat., Nov. 14 for the UCSD College Challenge, are looking to build upon their solid opening performance. The inter-squad regatta will give the Tritons one last chance to finetune before the spring season.

The event is slated for 7 a.m. at Mission Bay, and will conclude the fall schedule for the UCSD women's crew team.

Readers can contact Brianna Lee at [bmlee@ucsd.edu](mailto:bmlee@ucsd.edu).

## UCSD Awaits Decision on WWPA Playoff Seedings



ERIK JEPSEN/GUARDIAN

Playing their first home game of the season at Canyonview Aquatic Center, the Tritons turned in one of their most impressive games of the 2009 season. Facing the Santa Clara University Broncos, the team rallied dramatically from behind to force an overtime period, where UCSD would clinch a thrilling 14-13 win.

► **WATER POLO**, from page 12  
utility Lance Curtiss and netting a goal from the two-meter mark.

After the teams exchanged goals, the Broncos took advantage of a lucky deflection, extending their advantage to 5-3 with 3:59 left in the half. Santa Clara University found the goal again with just under a minute until halftime, extending the Broncos' lead to a game-high three scores.

However, after some quick ball movement from the Tritons, Curtiss sank the ball into the corner of the cage to bring the score to 6-4.

UCSD charged out with renewed energy in the third quarter: Junior driver Bryce Madsen used an assist from Curtiss to lob the ball cross-cage on the Tritons' first possession, cutting Santa Clara University's lead to one goal.

The game remained close throughout the quarter, both teams matching each other goal for goal. With a 10-9 Bronco advantage and less than one minute to play in the third quarter, senior two-meter defender Peter Gresham skipped a shot into the goal to tie the match at 10-10.

In addition to his score, Gresham's defense played a key role in the Tritons' success in the match's second half.

"We changed to a helping-style defense at halftime, which proved to be a significant change," Harper said.

"It was a different ballgame after that. There was a lot more outside shooting. In the first half, Santa Clara's two-meter men got the best of us. But in the second half, Peter Gresham outplayed them. The kid never gets down — he's so positive."

The Tritons wasted little time getting on the board in the final period of regulation. Following a Santa Clara University kickoff on UCSD's counterattack, Harper called a timeout to give the Tritons a full 6-on-5 possession.

Once again, Gresham came up big, scoring from the post after a perfectly placed pass from junior driver Sean Cruz. With 6:58 on the clock, UCSD got its first lead.

The Broncos stormed back, however, scoring three straight goals over a period of four minutes, taking a 13-11 advantage with 2:33 left in the game.

With just over a minute left, as the Tritons' hopes of victory dwindled, Donohoe took advantage of a man-up situation to net a close shot from directly in front of the goal.

Still one goal behind, Donohoe once again found himself with the

ball on a Triton counterattack, and passed to a teammate who was holding position in front of the cage. The ref blew the whistle and held up five fingers — indicating a UCSD penalty shot.

Donohoe sank the five-meter shot into the lower corner to send the game into overtime.

With renewed momentum, Madsen scored halfway through the first five-minute overtime period on a thrilling Triton six-on-five opportunity, handing his team the victory.

"Obviously, the team was very resilient," Harper said. "It was a tough ballgame against a very good team, and we had to scramble to pull that one out. It was a great comeback, and I'm so thrilled for our six seniors."

And we're undefeated at home this year, because this is our real home."

UCSD will play two exhibition games at Canyonview on Nov. 14 — against Sunset and the San Francisco Olympic Club — as they wait for word on their postseason seeding for the WWPA Championships.

Readers can contact Janani Sridharan at [jsridhar@ucsd.edu](mailto:jsridhar@ucsd.edu).

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## LINGO LEXICON

Coxswain: *kok-suhn, n.* — The member of a racing shell who typically directs the rest of the racers. On a crew team, the coxswain sits at the stern of the boat, directly facing the rowers, and shouts instructions.

## SPORTS

CONTACT THE EDITOR: [sports@ucsdguardian.org](mailto:sports@ucsdguardian.org)

## HOTCORNER

## CHELSEA CARLISLE | W. BASKETBALL

The sophomore guard scored 20 points against Stanford University on Nov. 8. The opponents — who were ranked No. 2 in Division-I and were last year's national runners-up — defeated the Tritons 107-55.

## ON DECK ►► NCAA WOMEN'S SOCCER REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS



**ROUND 1: NOV. 12, 7 P.M.**  
NO. 3 SEATTLE PACIFIC VS.  
NO. 6 CHICO STATE

**ROUND 2: NOV. 14, 7 P.M.**  
NO. 2 UCSD VS.  
ROUND-ONE WINNER

Despite losing in the first round of the CCAA conference playoffs, the UCSD women's soccer team will host the 2009 NCAA West Regionals. The Tritons — whose 14-5-1 record earned them a first round bye — will play the winner of Nov. 12's Seattle Pacific vs. Chico State match. UCSD has faced defending national champion Seattle Pacific three times in the postseason, most recently falling 3-1 in the 2008 regionals. After having played each other twice in the CCAA playoffs, UCSD and Chico State would meet in the NCAA postseason for the first time. The Tritons — who have qualified for the NCAA Tournament 23 out of the last 24 years — look to earn a spot in the national championship game for the first time since winning back-to-back national titles from 2000 to 2001.

THE DIVISION-II FINAL FOUR WILL BE HELD IN TAMPA, FLA. FROM DEC. 3 TO DEC. 5 AT PEPIN STADIUM.

## Rowers Turn out Strong First Meet

By Brianna Lee  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

**WOMEN'S CREW** — The varsity eight boat opened up its rowing season with a second-place finish at the San Diego Fall Classic, held at Mission Bay on Nov. 8. The Tritons raced local rivals and Division-I teams San Diego State University and the University of San Diego at the event, crossing the finish line at 22:41 just behind the first-place Aztecs, who turned in a time of 19:47.

UCSD's lineup for the Fall Classic consisted of sophomore Lisa Yen at coxswain, senior Jesi Bennett at stroke with seniors Wanda Chin, Summer Austin and Jamie Bigwood; juniors Denise Kleckner, Courtney Escajeda and Lynn Nguyen and sophomore Brigitte Ngo-Trinh rounding out the Triton eight boat.

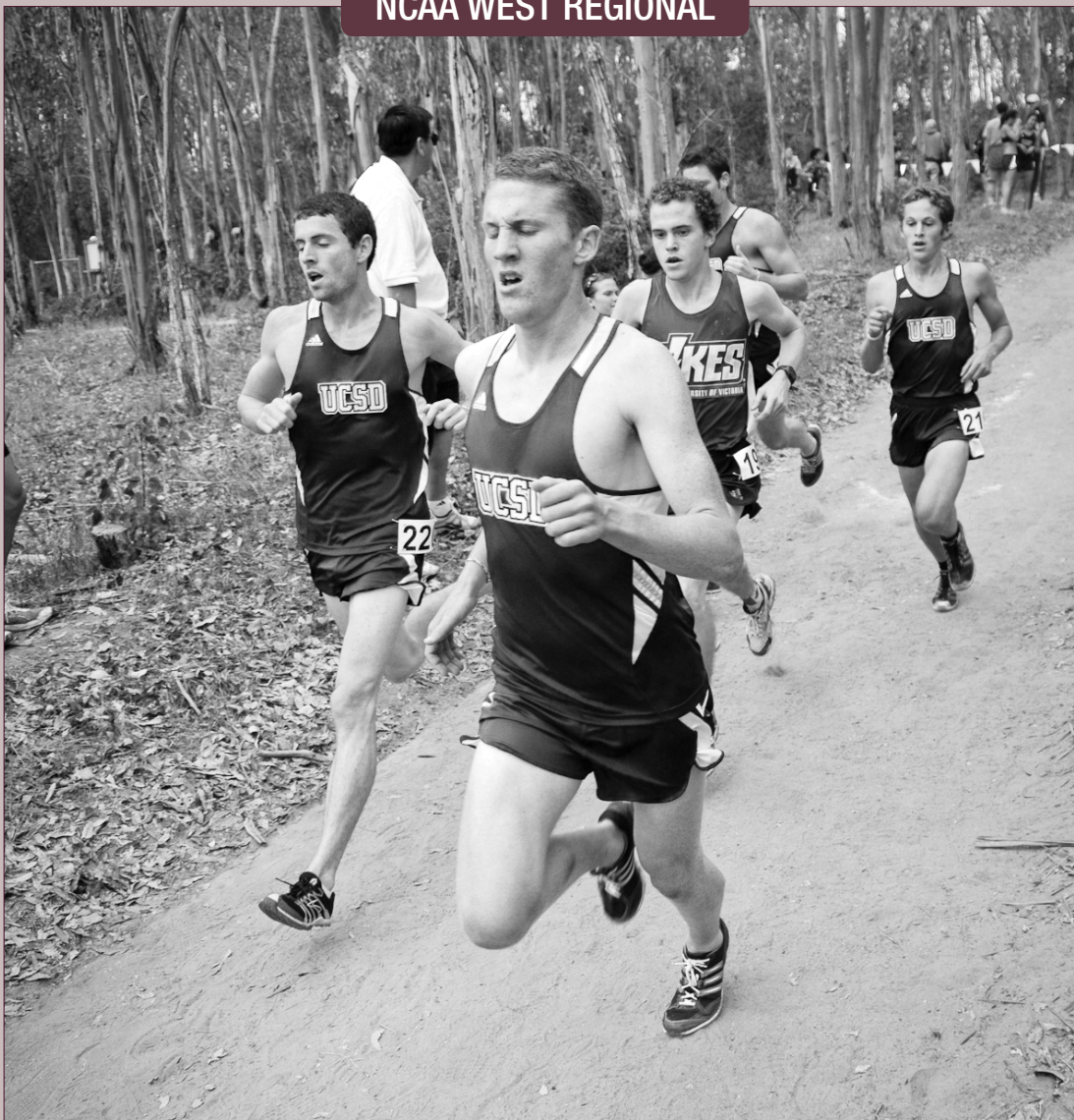
Starting the season with just three returnees from last year's varsity eight, the Tritons' performance at the San Diego Fall Classic was a good sign for the team's upcoming meets.

"Our team is often smaller than the competition, and our goal is to outrow them by being a better team and training smarter," head coach Pattie Pinkerton said. "This year's varsity is working very hard at improving, and we are seeing the results on the water. We'll see the real benefit in the spring when they are more confident with the changes."

Crew has both a fall and spring season on the quarter system, which has both drawbacks and advantages for the coaches and players.

See **W. CREW**, page 11

## NCAA WEST REGIONAL



TIMOTHY WONG/GUARDIAN FILE

The women's cross-country team took seventh place at the 2009 West Regional Championships held in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park. The men finished ninth overall. No individual runner placed better than 18th, meaning that UCSD will not send a representative to the NCAA National Championships.

## SEASON LOST IN SAN FRANCISCO FOG

A disappointing performance at regionals cut the 2009 season short; no Tritons will run in the NCAA National Championship.

By Liam Rose  
STAFF WRITER

**CROSS COUNTRY** — Despite a strong performance on Nov. 7 at the NCAA Division-II West Regional Championships, the UCSD cross-country team closed its season sooner than expected.

The Tritons travelled to Golden Gate Park in San Francisco, Calif., to compete against 25 teams from across the state. The women's team finished seventh while the men's team took ninth. The race means a disappointing early end to the season, as both squads failed to qualify for the NCAA Division-II National

Championships.

The Tritons showed several outstanding individual performances, beginning with junior Bre Schofield's 18th-place finish. Schofield's time of 21:52 in the 6K course was only 18 seconds behind conference champion Vivien Wadeck of Cal State Los Angeles, making her the Tritons' top overall finisher of the day. Sophomore Elena Inouye finished 37th overall with a time of 22:52, besting her 51st-place finish at last year's regional meet. Senior Marie Schaper, sophomore Aaryn Kobayashi and junior Brianna Alban also finished strong for the team.

"The women raced well, but we just weren't as fast as some of those elite squads out there," head coach Nate Garcia said. "But I have to appreciate the effort I saw out there, even when it wasn't going the way we wanted."

Three of the top five individual women finishers were from the University of Alaska Anchorage's champion team, which narrowly edged out California Collegiate Athletic

Association champion Chico State.

Western Washington University and Seattle Pacific University joined Alaska Anchorage and Chico State as qualifiers for the national championships, which will take place on Nov. 21 in Evansville, Ind. Jessica Pixler of Seattle Pacific broke the tape with a first-place time of 20:08 — over 30 seconds faster than the second-place runner.

On the men's side, sophomore Jeremy Riley led the way for the Tritons with a time of 32:58 in the 10K, which earned him a 35th-place finish. Senior Mike Wright followed close behind in 43rd, coming in at 33:26. Sophomores Alex Corliss and John Svet and junior Eric Baum rounded out the scoring for UCSD's men — all making their first career appearances at the regional meet.

Despite a disappointing final score, Garcia said he saw many positive developments in his

See **CROSS COUNTRY**, page 11

## Thrilling Win Rings in Homecoming

By Janani Sridharan  
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

**MEN'S WATER POLO** — Playing their first game in Canyonview pool since early September, the No. 11 Tritons closed out their regular season with an afternoon to remember.

Facing off against No. 14 Santa Clara University, UCSD junior driver Bryce Madsen scored an overtime goal to earn an exciting come-from-behind 14-13 victory on Nov. 7.

"It's a pretty gray day today, but to me, it feels like it's shining," head coach Denny Harper said after the game.

As the final regular-season game before the Tritons head to the Western Water-Polo Championships from Nov. 20 to Nov. 22, the win may play as a key factor in seed determinations for the playoffs.

"The game definitely had conference implications," Harper said. "Had we lost, there would have been an argument for us to be the No. 4 seed. Now, we should be No. 2 — and that's a big difference there. No one wants to play in the [No. 4 vs. No. 5] game to start the tournament."

Following a short ceremony honoring UCSD's six seniors, the game got underway and the Tritons quickly fell behind. Failing to score in the first period, the team found itself in a 2-0 hole by the start of the second period.

Senior two-meter defender Steven Donohoe put UCSD on the board early, taking a pass from sophomore

See **WATER POLO**, page 11