



HIATUS

Back to the beginning

George Lucas' final "Star Wars" prequel doesn't quite live up to the originals.

page 7

A.S. Council at a Glance 2

Opinion 4

Column 4

Thursday Coupons 6

Album Reviews 8

Classifieds 10

SPORTS

Running to the top

Track and field sends nine athletes to the NCAA championships. page 12



THE UCSD GUARDIAN

UC SAN DIEGO

THURSDAY, MAY 19, 2005

VOLUME 115, ISSUE 16

Faculty mull new changes to 'Admission by Exception'

By **MARNETTE FEDERIS**
Senior Staff Writer

As part of its regular review of admission policies, the UCSD Academic Senate's Admissions Committee is considering expanding a special existing program that allows high school students to be admitted to UC campuses even though they do not meet the minimum eligibility requirement.

The proposal, which has not yet been finalized, would allow high school principals to nominate students for participation in the program. If the selected students perform well once they are at UCSD, the high school principals would be allowed to make more recommendations. The proposal would not affect more than 1 percent of all admitted students, with specific details yet to be released.

"We are trying to see if [we] can improve the admissions system slowly by learning about applicants from people who can supply information that currently is not incorporated in the scoring system," Academic Senate Admissions Committee Chair and sociology professor Akos Rona-Tas said.

In a trial of the program, the committee will incorporate new information they collect from a student's high school principal and evaluate it along with the current

formalized scoring system as part of the admission process. This will not, however, guarantee an admission for the students picked by the principals.

"This experiment is to see if we can admit underprivileged applicants who would not be admitted under the current scoring system but who would prosper here at UCSD nevertheless," Rona-Tas said. "Some of these may be students who are UCSD-ready but fail the test of UC eligibility. In those cases, we will use our license under 'Admissions by Exception' to admit them."

UC administrators currently use a "comprehensive review" admission process, which considers 13 factors about applicants and assigns points to each category. Admission by Exception is used for students with situations that the system cannot anticipate. For example, home-schooled students would receive further review of their applications to make sure the classes they have taken are equivalent to those of other students. In some cases, the method is also used to admit athletes and musicians who do not qualify under the traditional UC eligibility guidelines.

According to Rona-Tas, while the comprehensive review is a system meant to be rigid and formulaic, there is a necessity to contin-

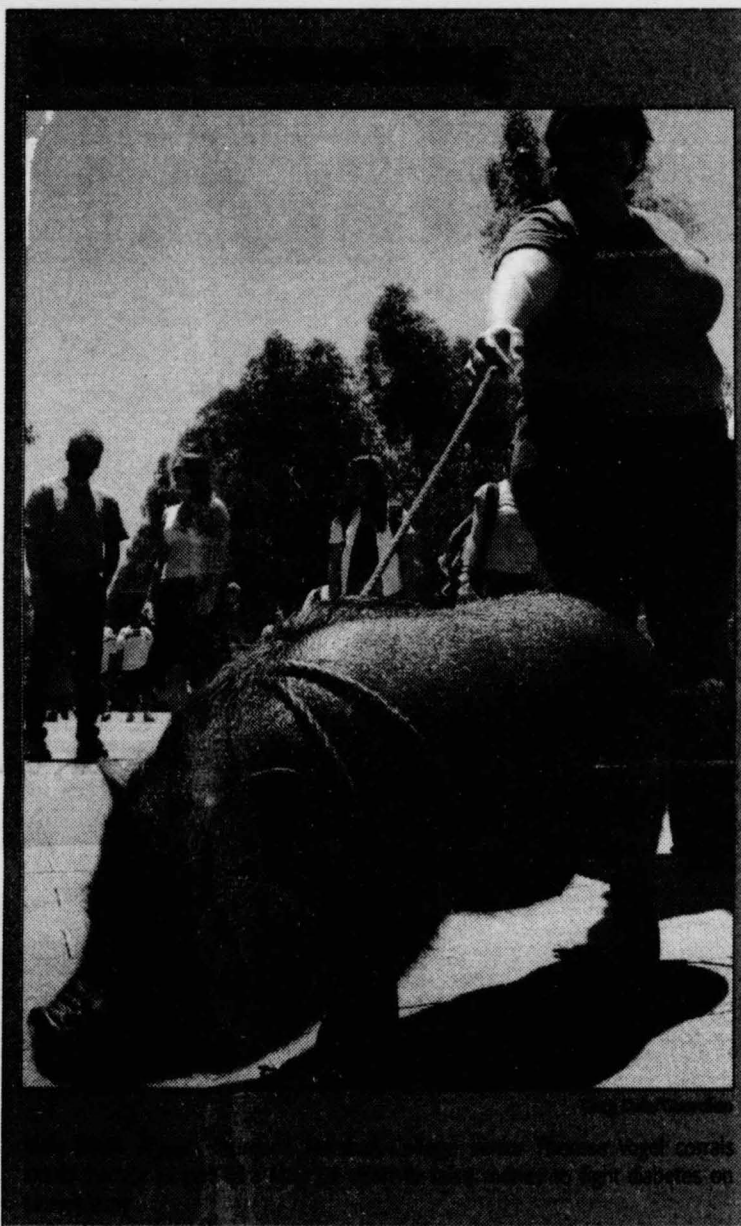
ually review it for improvements. Last year alone, out of more than 32,000 applicants to the UC system, 4,000 were set aside for further review and for possible consideration in the Admission by Exception pool. Currently, the review includes asking for additional information direct from the individual student.

"We need to leave room for experimentation to see if we can improve the system," Rona-Tas said. "The program stands right now as a way of treating exceptional cases that cannot be treated by the current system — there are always cases where you cannot fit in or there is an error with the application."

At UCSD, 12 students, or less than 1 percent, were accepted by exception last year. According to Assistant Vice Chancellor of Admissions and Enrollment Services Mae W. Brown, students that have been accepted through the program were home-schooled or took classes through study-abroad programs.

"One particular case was a student who went to a study abroad program for high school students and missed a second semester of foreign language classes," Brown said. "And that's an example of how [UCSD] has used Admission

See **EXCEPTION**, Page 3



Judge extends UC fee injunction Regents consider hike to offset lost revenue

By **VLADIMIR KOGAN**
News Editor

Late last month, the presiding San Francisco Superior Court judge extended an order that blocks approximately \$3.5 million in new fees for some students enrolled in the University of California's professional schools, protracting a nearly three-year-long legal saga.

If the legal proceedings continue next year, the legal injunction that was first instituted last August will have cost the university more than \$22 million in lost revenue.

The extended injunction covers

approximately 3,100 current students attending a UC professional school, like those that award law and medical degrees, according to UC Office of the President spokeswoman Ravi Poorsina. At UCSD, it will affect approximately 120 medical and pharmacy seniors who were enrolled in the university in December 2002, when the class action lawsuit was first filed.

"Their professional degree fees cannot be raised above the amount that they were charged in [2003-04]," said Andrew Freeman, a partner at the Baltimore-based law firm representing the students.

"The larger piece of the case is that the university promised professional degree students that their fee would remain the same through their years [of instruction]. It's a promise that they had made for years and continued to make."

In their 2002 filing, the students pointed to the university's promotional material that suggested that their fees would stay flat during their entire period of study, a statement they claim constituted a binding contract. However, the university has maintained that the notices in the catalog were old and that updated statements on the UC Web site at the time waived the fee guarantees.

Last summer, San Francisco Superior Court Judge James L. Warren ruled that the students "demonstrated a substantial likelihood of success" in the case and issued an order that prevented the university from instituting increases of about \$5,000 for each of the professional students included in the class action. Though both parties at the time predicted that the case would be adjudicated by the

Pell Grants likely to fall next year, GAO reports

By **SHANNON ELIOT**
Senior Staff Writer

More than a third of the more than five million low-income students who qualify for Pell Grants will see a decrease in their 2005-06 grant awards, while an additional 81,000 applicants will lose their aid altogether, according to a new report from the Government Accountability Office.

The report is an updated version of one put forth by GAO in January, which discussed effects that the U.S. Department of Education's recent update of state tax calculations used in financial aid formulas have on student awards. Prior to 2004, the state and other tax allowance was based on 1988 tax data. The new tax tables, which take into account lower state taxes, translate into higher take-home income.

Higher income calculations correspond to an increase in the estimated family contribution to the cost of education, and a subsequent decrease in Pell Grant eligibility.

GAO conducted the report at the request of Rep. David Obey (D-Wisc.), who sought evidence of how the changes would affect the

Pell Grant awards.

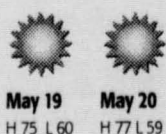
"Education's 2004 update decreases the state and other tax allowance for most states for the 2005-2006 award year and will, thereby, increase the estimated family contribution for a majority of student-aid applicants; the increase in expected family contribution will, in turn, affect the allocation of federal aid," GAO Director of Education, Workforce and Income Security Issues Cornelia M. Ashby stated in the analysis.

The report found that 21 percent of California students receiving aid would see their grant amount decrease compared to 36 percent on a national level. The average dollar decrease for California students is also lower, at \$86, compared with the national average drop of \$131. Those Californians eligible for an increase will see an additional \$209, compared with a national average increase of \$443 for the country. Collectively, Pell Grant expenditures will be cut by about \$250 million.

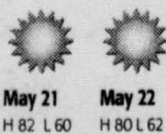
Wisconsin and Massachusetts will be hardest hit by the reforms,

See **GAO**, Page 3

WEATHER



May 19 H 75 L 60
May 20 H 77 L 59



May 21 H 82 L 60
May 22 H 80 L 62

SPOKEN

"Basically, we're running without state money."

— David N. Bailey,
deputy dean, UCSD
School of Medicine

SURF REPORT

5/19
Wind: 10-15 kt.
Height: 1-3 ft.
Water Temp.: 56-60 deg.

5/20
Wind: 10-15 kt.
Height: 1-3 ft.
Water Temp.: 58-61 deg.

See **FEE**, Page 2

Fee: New increase targets professional students

continued from page 1
spring, disagreement over technicalities have pushed the expected ruling date to late summer.

If the case drags on past then, the April extension will ensure that the affected students will not face fee increases already approved and those currently under consideration by the UC Board of Regents for next year.

"You can never tell with the courts how long these things are going to take," said Mo Kashmiri, a former student at UC Berkeley's Boalt School of Law who was the first plaintiff to sign on to the suit. "We're not really in a hurry because we have an injunction."

Kashmiri now works as an organizer for the UC Student Association.

However, for students who continue their studies next year, the most recent legal action may not necessarily offer them protection from higher fees.

In response to the case, university administrators have asked the regents to sidestep the court's order by approving new fees at their meeting later this month. Though the injunction covers "professional fees" — a surcharge that applies to UC graduate schools focusing on career specialties — the university has proposed raising the general tuition, or "education fee," which is not covered by the order.

The \$1,050 increase would apply to all students at the university's professional schools — even those not covered by the injunction — and recoup most of the lost revenue over the next two years. University administrators have urged the regents to approve the new fees regardless of the ruling in the case.

"Even if the university ultimately prevails in the litigation ... at the end of this current term, the majority of the students who have benefited from the injunction pro-

hibiting collection of fee increases for 2004-05 and 2005-06 will have graduated, and it will be very difficult to collect the revenue at a later date," the Office of the President stated in documents prepared for the May Board of Regents meeting. "Therefore, it is prudent to consider an action at this time that will address the estimated shortfall of \$22.5 million in professional school fee revenue related to the injunction."

Combined with recent state cuts, the lost revenue has caused faculty salaries at the professional schools to fall 10 percent behind those at similar institutions, and the university has been unable to provide adequate financial aid to the neediest students, the documents stated.

"This revenue is essential to maintaining the quality of the academic programs and student services, and to sustaining enrollment because professional school fee revenue ... provides significant support to the base operating budgets of the professional schools," the regents' brief stated.

The university's precarious financial position, which precipitated the original fee hikes at the heart of the case, has been caused by broader state reductions in higher education funding, according to David N. Bailey, the deputy dean of UCSD School of Medicine.

"Remember why we're in a financial bind: In the governor's budget that was approved, there was a 25-percent cut in funding for the professional schools," Bailey said. "Basically, we're running without state money."

Should the students prevail, the university would have to repay more than \$30 million in back fees for hikes instituted after fall 2002 but before the injunction came into effect last year.

Readers can contact Vladimir Kogan at news1@ucsdguardian.org.

A.S. COUNCIL AT A GLANCE

A.S. Meeting #3 — May 18

Items of Immediate Consideration

Item B
The council appointed Thurgood Marshall College junior Travis Silva as the A.S. Commissioner of Student Advocacy for the 2005-06 school year. The appointment passed by a vote of 16-3-0.

Reports

Vice President of Academic Affairs Harry Khanna
Khanna reported that the applications for positions in the academic affairs office are now being accepted. Applications can be obtained at the office on the third floor of Price Center or at <http://as.ucsd.edu> and are due by 3 p.m. on May 23.

Old Business

Item B
The council passed a resolution supporting the current North Campus Housing Project, which would provide living accommodations for transfer students. According to the resolution, transfer students are at a disadvantage in their search for off-campus housing due to the timing of admission decisions.

Combined with the decreasing availability of housing due to condominium conversions, the council urged the UC Board of Regents to

increase the campus' debt capacity by \$110 million in order to guarantee the completion of the project by the current 2009 deadline.

Item E
The council allocated a total of \$906.50 to the various college councils due to the increased enrollment for spring quarter. The 2004-05 A.S. budget required the council to contribute 50 cents per student per quarter to the college councils to fund the services that colleges provide to their students.

Item J
The council passed a resolution in conjunction with the UC Student Association supporting proposed changes to the UC Code of Conduct that would prohibit the University of California from licensing companies that do not allow their workers to unionize.

The resolution calls on the university to investigate suspected violations of the code of conduct by licensees and to terminate the contracts if the company is deemed to be in violation of the code.

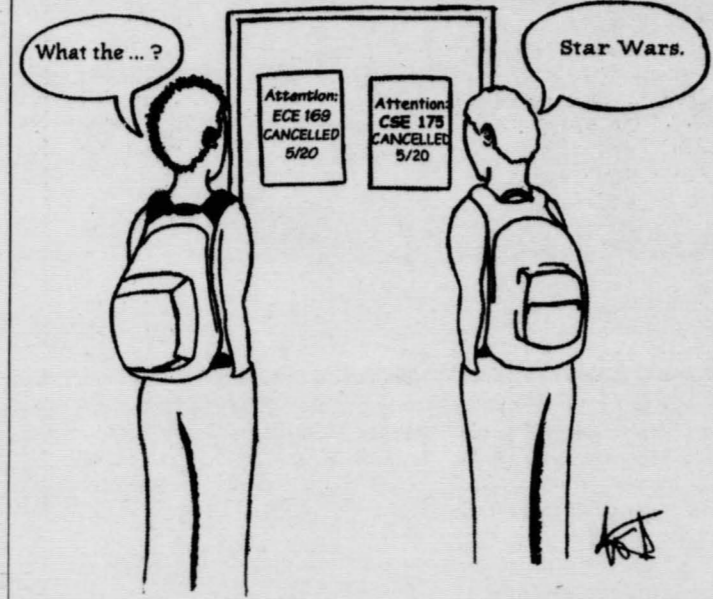
New Business

Item T
A.S. President Christopher Sweeten presented his 2005-06 A.S. budget to the council. Councilmembers will debate the budget on May 25 and will consider amendments and likely approve the budget during the meeting.

— Compiled by Patrick Allen
Senior Staff Writer

ETCETERA ...

The Force Returns



Matthew Grant/Guardian

BRIEFLY

Judge in fee lawsuit offers recusal

The San Francisco judge assigned to rule on the student class action lawsuit that calls for a repeal of recent University of California fee hikes has announced his intention to step down from the case. Citing personal conflict of interest, Superior Court Judge Curtis E.A. Kamow said he would disqualify himself unless both parties in the case agree to formally allow him to stay on.

Up until mid-March, Kamow was a partner at a San Francisco law firm that also represented the UC system, putting his impartiality in question.

"I am disqualified from hearing this case since that entity was a client of my former law firm," Kamow stated in his order. "I do not recall representing the [UC Board of Regents] myself."

Earlier this month, he was assigned to hear the motions in the class action by the presiding judge. The suit asks the courts to roll back most of the fees enacted by the university since 2002, calling them a violation of an implicit contract over student fees.

According to Andrew Freeman, one of the attorneys representing the students, a judge will probably decide the case.

"It is conceivable — it is not impossible — that there will be some question for the jury to decide," he said.

Though the students' attorneys have offered to hold settlement talks, the university "has not indicated that it was interested," according to Freeman.

UC Office of the President spokeswoman Ravi Poorsina declined to speak on the possibility of a settlement.

"Any discussion of settlement is confidential, and the university will not comment," she stated in an e-mail.

For more details on the lawsuit, see page 1.

Readers can contact Vladimir Kogan at news1@ucsdguardian.org.

Study: Valium works for amoeba, too

In a surprise finding, UCSD researchers have found evidence that the popular sedative drug Valium exhibits the same effects on a specific species of social amoeba as it does on humans.

Explaining their findings in a study published this week, the researchers conclude that Valium, along with a "natural Valium" protein found in human brains, causes the amoeba to enter a dormant or "sleep" phase. The findings, they said, might expand understanding about how cells in higher organisms communicate with each other.

Hoping to spin off what it saw as a successful turn-out-the-vote campaign targeting youth, MTV has announced plans to begin a new "think MTV" initiative to encourage students to become involved in policy debates over issues like education, the environment and discrimination.

"Since MTV's inception, our audience has demanded information on the issues that matter most in their lives, from the onset of the AIDS epidemic in the 1980s right through the tsunami relief efforts in January," MTV President Van Toffler stated in the network's press release. "The 'think MTV' initiative will be a new way to connect young people with the world around them in a variety of ways — from on-air programming to online resources to grassroots efforts in their own communities."

MTV to launch issue-based initiative

Research targets fuel cell technology

In a new paper, researchers at UC Riverside have unveiled a method they say can help reduce the amount of platinum used to develop fuel cells, something that promises to make the zero-emission energy source more practical for commercial reproduction.

The work focuses on the use of carbon nanotubes — microscopic tubes that are about 10,000 times thinner than a single human hair — to replace the current need for much of the platinum in fuel cell production.

If adopted, the practice would make fuel cells far cheaper to produce.

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9500 Gilman Drive, 0316
La Jolla, CA 92093-0316

Actual location: Second Floor,
UCSD Student Center,
Bldg. A, Room 217

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GAO: Politics played role in grant debate

continued from page 1
with 80 and 81 percent of students seeing a decrease in their eligibility, respectively. New Jersey will see only 1 percent of its students with higher expected family contributions, while overall numbers in Connecticut will remain unchanged.

Other financial aid programs, such as Stafford and P.L.U.S. Loans, will also be affected by the changes. The analysis shows that those with an annual income of more than \$25,000 are most likely to have their Stafford Loan amounts decreased.

The issue of tax table updates and reduced financial aid awards has proved a partisan debate.

Former Chairman of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce John Boehner (R-Ohio) has been a backer of the changes, pointing to evidence that the changes will result in higher aid for students in the lowest income brackets.

"The Bush administration is following the law by updating the Pell Grant tax tables — a law writ-

ten and passed by a Democratic Congress more than a decade ago in an effort to target Pell Grant aid to the poorest students in the country," Boehner stated in a press release earlier this year. "The use of the updated tables will make the Pell Grant program stronger, while protecting taxpayers and the poorest students in the country, who would otherwise have been dealt another blow in their hopes for an increase in the maximum Pell Grant award."

Congressman George Miller (D-Calif.), senior Democrat on the House education committee, opposed the use of the new formulas and said that the reduction of Pell Grants represents a mistake.

"Congress must do a better job of maintaining and improving its commitments to college students, and it should start by increasing the Pell Grant scholarship," Miller stated in a recent release. "Our nation's continued economic success demands that we take the federal investment in higher education seriously."

Congress has subsequently

approved a \$100 increase in the maximum Pell Grant award, although it is a smaller increase than Miller wanted.

In its January report, GAO recommended that various measures be taken to ensure that student financial aid is determined by the most accurate method possible. In the short term, GAO recommends that the federal secretary of education formalize procedures so that the department annually requests and obtains the most current tax data from the Internal Revenue Service.

In addition, the Education Department should revise the methodology for calculating the tax allowance to better reflect the varying tax rates paid by students and families in different income groups, it recommended.

For the long term, GAO recommends that the department determine whether more effective data sources or methodologies exist for deriving the allowance.

Readers can contact Shannon Eliot at news1@ucsdguardian.org.

Exception: Changes still not yet finalized

continued from page 3
by Exception in the past."

The UC Office of the President established the Admissions by Exception policy in 1996. According to UCOP spokeswoman Ravi Poorsina, the way the program is implemented varies from campus to campus.

Part of the policy allows for students coming from disadvantaged backgrounds who do not meet the eligibility requirements to be admitted into a UC campus. The policy requires that no more than

4 percent of a campus' applicants may be drawn from "disadvantaged students" and up to 2 percent from other students.

"One way of using the policy is by admitting students who may be from a high school without the resources, say a school that doesn't offer a foreign language because it doesn't have the money," A.S. Vice President of Academic Affairs Harry Khanna said. "A student shouldn't be penalized for this."

There is no formal mechanism to track students admitted by exception because of the very small numbers. However, students accepted through the program are evaluated for their performance.

Rona-Tas said that the committee hopes to finalize its review and proposal at the end of the month. Once finalized, it will go before the entire Academic Senate for approval and could be implemented by the 2006-07 academic year.

Readers can contact Marnette Federis at mfederis@ucsd.edu.

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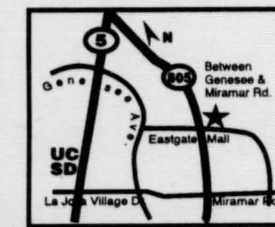
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A.S. budget represents competing visions

It's looking like this budget cycle will serve as the perfect opportunity for our elected student leaders to prove that they can put aside individual interests and create a plan that truly serves the entire UCSD community. And with tens of thousands of dollars in cuts to make, the final budget will make the priorities of the A.S. Council crystal clear.

At this moment, senators have two philosophies to choose from when determining what will go on the cutting block: They can act as direct representatives of the students or as their trustees, making potentially unpopular decisions that truly serve the long-term interests of the student body. This page, as in the past, endorses the latter vision.

In the current budget debate, meager funds have pitted funding for student organizations against support for the U.S. Student Association and its UC counterpart. Though it's unfortunate that court-mandated policy changes have driven up USSA fees the same year that the council faces a deficit, senators must approve the membership dues proposed by A.S. President Christopher Sweeten.

With the Higher Education Act reauthorization on the congressional agenda this year, college students can ill afford to weaken their lobby; trying to save a few dollars today may mean financial aid disaster for the students currently attending high school.

To offset the dues, councilmembers must make the difficult choice and slightly pare support for student organizations and college councils. For senators, that may mean acting against the immediate wishes of their own constituency, but ensuring a fiscally stable budget must be a bigger priority than providing local pork.

With a plethora of attempted and many successful college-level initiatives, the college councils have proven themselves

resilient in adjusting to A.S. cuts in recent years. In the face of cuts, they can likely do it again.

At the same time, the council must revisit the issue of funding for A.S. Safe Rides. It should be clear that the program has become far too expensive to afford under current activity fee levels, and it's unfortunate that last year's leaders lacked the political will to find a permanent solution for this festering problem. Like other areas, the Safe Rides budget must absorb its own share of reductions, which may mean longer wait times for students and a potential cap on the number of rides each student can receive.

Once again, though politically difficult, these choices will ensure that this program remains viable over the long term.

Perhaps the only truly worrisome features of Sweeten's latest proposal are the cuts to the A.S. programming office. Though based on sound logic, these cuts must be coupled with across-the-board stipend reductions. Otherwise, it would be disingenuous for the council to preserve its own pay while cutting the area that truly embodies everything most students know about the role of their elected leaders, playing into the hands of the SunGod Party and other populist groups who will likely exploit the programming cuts in next year's elections.

Overall, Sweeten's budget offers a moderate compromise that attempts to spread the pain fairly. Without shielding pet projects and programs, his spending proposal offers a stable and fiscally responsible plan that should be adopted quickly, to avoid another 1 a.m. debacle like the one that occurred last year.

How senators vote on the budget will truly reflect whether they're committed to the interests of students or the special niche groups that helped get them elected.



Ben Juwana/Guardian

PROPS & FLOPS



A happy year: It's the one-year anniversary of the legalization of gay marriage in Massachusetts.

Easy exit: Props to the three top San Diego officials who resigned amid citywide criminal investigations.

Hell for all: What was the sense in scanning 15,000 students' IDs, creating massive lines at the Sun God concert?

Fatal mistake: Flops to Newsweek's reporting mistake that caused deadly protests in the Middle East.



U.S. immigration policy defies reason and common sense

Lines in the sand



Ian S. Port

Q: Why did the worker cross the border?

A: Because there was a job for him on the other side. But when the worker was nearly across, a group of men who already had jobs and didn't want the one he was going for told him he had to go back to where there were no jobs. They said he wasn't welcome in the land of jobs, despite the fact that if they hadn't found him, he would have gotten the one he wanted.

You would think that the theoretical simplicity of the global capitalist system — where if you have something someone else wants, you sell it to them — would make immigration policy relatively clear. If multinational corporations are free to move jobs wherever they can pay people the least, and can relocate their headquarters to obscure locales in order to avoid paying taxes, then the workers in that system should also be expected to cross borders in order to get jobs. If we are going to allow large organizations (or even powerful individuals) to do virtually anything to maximize their own benefit, shouldn't we allow poorer workers to do the same thing?

Q: When, apparently, is it proper to punish people who act according

to our country's most basic principle and take radical action for their own self-interest?

A: When those people are brown. In America, the only thing that matters more to the establishment than whether or not you play according to their rules is whether

“ You would think that the theoretical simplicity of the global capitalist system — where if you have something someone else wants, you sell it to them — would make immigration policy relatively clear.”

or not you fulfill the current (arbitrary) definition of someone who deserves rights in the first place. During most of this country's history, if you were black, Chinese, Japanese, Mexican or any of a host of other non-Caucasian nationalities — whether or not you were a citizen — even the most capitalist of ethics wouldn't earn you political rights or social membership.

Today, instead of using race explicitly to exclude people from the opportunities an established white citizen takes for granted, we use political affiliation (class too, but that's a different part of the story). For Latinos looking to ditch their floundering home countries for comparatively plush jobs in the United States (most of which are unthinkable menial by our bourgeois standards), the incredible sin of wanting a better life for themselves and their family deserves a punishment illustrating the worst side of the American character. Alexander de Toqueville wrote in "Democracy in America" about the ridiculous tendency for Americans, no matter how undereducated or uninformed, to think that they automatically know the best solution to everything.

Today we call this the Minuteman Project. This motley crew of misguided rednecks "sacrifice their time, and the comforts of a cozy home, to muster for something much more important than acquiring more 'toys' to play with while their nation is devoured and plundered by the menace of tens of millions of invading illegal aliens" — they go out on the Arizona/Mexico border and defend it by themselves.

Q: What do the Minutemen fear will be the result of allowing an illegal immigrant across the border to fill a job they don't want?

See COLUMN, Page 5

Column: Establishment afraid of rights for immigrants

continued from page 4

A: "Future generations will inherit a tangle of rancorous, unassimilated, squabbling cultures with no common bond to hold them together, and a certain guarantee of the death of this nation as a harmonious melting pot." [sic]

Having trouble missing the racism in that last statement? So am I. Also hard to overlook is the same argument used by critics of every wave of immigration, from Irish to Japanese, which says that the admission of any more members of a particular group (in this case, Latino workers) will lead to the end of the American way of life. (That should be all I need to prove these guys' use of brainpower is inversely related to the amount of fuel consumed by their four-wheel-drive vehicles.)

Whether or not Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger really meant it when he said the Minutemen were doing "a terrific job," the most interesting political reality of the debate over immigration policy is that the Bush administration ain't doing a thing about it, either way. Even though the Liberty and Law crowd are (shock!) some of his most ardent supporters, Bush's vital (read: financial) support comes from Big Business, and Big Business knows that illegal immigrants are a fantastic source of cheap labor.

Bush doesn't want to offend supporters on either side of the issue; his solution, as it stands now, is just to do nothing. Which means that those noble fools out in the desert are going to get really sun-

“

Bush doesn't want to offend supporters on either side of the issue ...”

burned this summer, and the poor dudes who just want a better job are going to get it even worse than they already have it.

Critics of immigration are correct to demand documentation and information about their fellow workers; they are wrong to want a different set of rights for them. Since the real problem with illegal immigration is not that people are coming — but that we don't know who they are, where they work or whether they follow laws and pay taxes — isn't the solution to these problems the obvious first step toward a realistic immigration policy?

There's a crucial gap that has to be crossed before we get to that point, however. Creating a mechanism to legalize the millions of alien workers in this country would result in the sudden situation that many workers in this country who now have no rights and no political power would gain both. All the illegals working for less than minimum wage would get to complain as loudly as they want. All the mothers without health care for their children would get to complain, too.

It's not hard to see why our immigration policies are a mess. A sudden spike in politically enfranchised, working brown people? Dedicated, vital workers or not, they're apparently still too scary for the white establishment to handle.

You know I'm too scary for the white establishment to handle! Too scary! (Other white boys too big for your britches, e-mail iport@ucsd.edu.)

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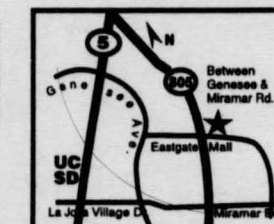
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

THURSDAY, MAY 19, 2005

THE UCSD GUARDIAN

Inside

album reviews 8

By IAN S. PORT
Hiatus Editor



Film REVIEW

It might have been the worst mistake of George Lucas' career to try to expand the legacy of "Star Wars."

No matter what fans thought of his first two attempts to continue the famous space saga—and whatever they will think of his latest, the massively anticipated, battle-heavy "Episode III - Revenge of the Sith"—most agree that none of the new movies has been as good as the originals.

With the final chapter in place, that should still be the consensus. Not that "Episode III" isn't good—in fact, it far exceeds any of the other new films, in both its dark tone and almost nonstop battle action—but it isn't nearly as good in as many ways as the originals were. (If this seems like unnecessary whining, take note: A few critics have already proclaimed "Revenge" the finest of the "Star Wars" movies.)

Sadly, it seems the lukewarm response to "Episodes I" and "II" didn't prompt Lucas to re-examine his weaker methods. "Revenge" suffers from exactly the same problems that made the others so un-epic. Remember the snappy Han Solo/Princess Leia banter that passed for par in "The Empire Strikes Back" and "Return of the Jedi"? You won't find anything close

in "Revenge," and, lacking nearly all the subtler touches, Lucas' characters inspire far less awe (read: interest) than they once did. The Chosen One, Anakin Skywalker (Hayden Christensen), irritated the hell out of both his master Obi-Wan Kenobi (Ewan McGregor) and viewers as a snotty adolescent in "Episode II"; thankfully, this film finds him mellowed out a little, with a few annoying edges still. Proving his virtuosic fighting ability (superior, in some ways, to Kenobi's) in a fantastic opening scene where the pair sneak aboard a Trade Federation ship in an effort to rescue the now-dictatorial Chancellor Palpatine (Ian McDiarmid), we begin to see that Obi-Wan's control over the awesomely powerful and overconfident Skywalker has been challenged to a point of severe weakness. McGregor and Christensen interact much more realistically and smoothly than they did last time around, although it is only between these two that Lucas can elicit the character dimension that made his old characters so memorable.

Christensen and his secret wife, the former Queen Amidala and Senator Padmé from Naboo (Natalie Portman), have even less chemistry than they did last time. While we watch their relationship spiral into ruin, neither Lucas' directing abilities nor the stone-faced Christensen can punctuate the important emotional high and low points

Star Wars: Episode III - Revenge of the Sith

★★★★

Starring Ewan McGregor, Natalie Portman, Hayden Christensen
In theaters May 19
Rated PG-13

See **STAR WARS**, Page 9

Lord Vader: Anakin Skywalker (Hayden Christensen) turns to the Dark Side in the latest "Star Wars" film.

Courtesy of 20th Century Fox

Sans its cardboard characters, 'Revenge of the Sith' would be the Chosen One. Even still, the visually virtuosic "Star Wars" finale leaves George Lucas' legacy more than a bit grander.

Undergrads perform Peter Weiss' shocker at new Potiker Theatre

By OAKLEY ANDERSON-MOORE
Staff Writer

Emotionless cruelty, indulgent general copulation, imagery of limbs being hacked off... don't worry, you have not been conned into spending \$9 on "Sin City" again (its vacuous violence and celebration of the Abu Ghraib mentality is ample reason for less than one viewing). Rather, these extreme antics are from "The Persecution and Assassination of Jean Paul Marat As Performed by the Inmates of the Asylum of Charenton Under the Direction of the Marquis de Sade," or "Marat/Sade," a piece of entertainment also once charged with existing for its shock value. "Marat/Sade" is now playing through May 21 at UCSD's new Sheila and Hughes Potiker Theatre.

But unlike the rather dim strategies of hip Hollywood director Robert Rodriguez, the governing philosophy behind Peter Weiss' play is to use the shock value for a purpose. "Marat/Sade" works under the principles of the Theater of Cruelty, which asserts that theater should not concern itself with imparting meaning through words, but rather through violent physicality and jolting sound, in order to bring the audience out of the desensitization of being spectators, showing ugliness and pain in order to cajole the viewers into unleashing the subconscious to ponder larger realities. "Marat/Sade," a tough show given surprisingly to the undergraduates for a spring production, presents to us two hours of well-crafted theater that continuously disturbs the mind and senses with impassioned

inmate mobbing, intelligent political speeches, jarring sound design and eerily demented, cartoonish musical numbers.

There are a number of very mature performances that arise from this undergrad show, no doubt strongly influenced by the visiting L.A.-based director Stefan Novinski, who had the cast prepare for an entire quarter before rehearsal even started in the spring. It is no easy task to play realistic mental patients, let alone mental patients who are pretending to play characters in another play within this play, all the while acting in a style that does not emphasize the traditional aspects of theater. As the inmates perform the Marquis de Sade's play about Jean-Paul Marat and his influence on France's Reign of Terror, the cast alternates between luring in the audience to their convincing performance of inmates and baiting us with their convincing performance of characters from the French Revolution, purposely leaving us feeling ill-at-ease.

Anaëlis Lorig, who plays Charlotte Corday, does a fine job of blurring the lines between Corday and the narcoleptic patient; her singing voice, left unrefined, functions poignantly in context as it wavers over the set, telling us to forget about the words and listen more to the raw human voice. A surprisingly delightful performance from Bryan Charles Swarberg as the Herald brings a very robust dose of humor, as he effectively delivers his intermittent screwball metered rhymes, giving bits of droll pleasure. Steven Lone does a perceptively excellent job of delivering Jean-Paul Marat's complex political speeches

while maintaining a palpable suffering from both the painful skin disease that keeps him in a bathtub and the nihilistic ideological challenges of the Marquis de Sade. Gregory Malcolm Moore tackles the Marquis de Sade, the historical figure from which the word "sadism" was coined, with confident authority—culminating in the vivid rendering of the scene where de Sade asks Corday to whip him as he delivers an immense soliloquy.

Surrounding the cast is the exquisite lighting of Jeff Fighmaster and inspired set of Melpomene Katakalos, both graduate designers who no doubt must have been eager to work in the new Potiker space. The aesthetics of the ugliness of decay, insanity and poverty are reproduced so artfully that it almost becomes too beautiful. Perhaps Weiss' vision would have been truer in a more claustrophobic space like Galbraith Hall 157, where the audience wouldn't have the distance to admire the stage like a painting, but nonetheless, one can hardly relinquish the striking effect the designs have in the new space.

There are many things at work in this production of "Marat/Sade" and not least is the very essence of Weiss' play, which is the battling of ideologies of pessimism, nihilism and futility of resistance offered by the marquis against the impassioned demands for social reform, agitation and revolution from Marat. With the high quality of this undergraduate production, and the ever timely themes that are conjured in the play's historic style, "Marat/Sade" is a necessary viewing for everyone who can scrounge up \$10 for a ticket.

Snoop Dogg shows his padawan the Game just who is the master

By ADAM STALEY
Staff Writer

Apparently, the West Coast is back, and Snoop Dogg and the Game roll into RIMAC Arena May 20 to show "How the West Was One." At first glance, this pairing seems to make sense, but upon further review, one has to question Snoop's motives. Snoop has been a true legend in the rap industry since his debut on "Deep Cover" and appearances on *The Chronic*, but now, ironically, it seems that the West Coast's P-I-M-P has been relegated to pimping himself off for the advancement of Game's career.

The concept of being "put on" is nothing new in hip-hop, and, in fact, some of the brightest stars in hip-hop may have never achieved stardom without the help of their friends. EPMD brought us Redman, Ice Cube brought us Mack 10, and Dr. Dre has introduced us to Snoop, Eminem and now Game. However, what separates Game from the rest is his lack of history or any interaction whatsoever with the industry until quite recently. Credibility is crucial in the rap game, and artists usually must pay their dues or earn their stripes in order to qualify themselves as viable hip-hop artists. Game was somehow able to circumvent this whole process and skip directly to the major-label record deal without more than a bump in the road.

This is not meant to be an indictment of Game, because the man has truly been through many hard times in his life, but he has also been searching in vain for his meal ticket for years now, and rapping wasn't at

the top of his original list. Many years ago, Game tried to be a model for GQ, a little known fact that became publicized thanks to his feud with Yukmouth (one has to wonder why there wasn't a mirror handy at the time to convince him otherwise), and also appeared on the dating show, "Change of Heart," where Game wanted to stay together only to have his girlfriend go for the other guy. It was only after Game awoke from his coma after being shot in a botched robbery that he had his brother go out and buy *Doggystyle*, *Reasonable Doubt* and *Ready to Die*, among other hip-hop classics, to guide his way toward becoming a rap superstar.

Boasting a violent past proved to be not quite enough for much of hip-hop, so Game proceeded to investigate beefs with a variety of underwhelming opponents, such as Joe Buddens and Yukmouth, in order to further his credibility. Whether Game even came out on the top of these beefs is highly debatable, what separates Game from the rest is his lack of history or any interaction whatsoever with the industry until quite recently. Credibility is crucial in the rap game, and artists usually must pay their dues or earn their stripes in order to qualify themselves as viable hip-hop artists. Game was somehow able to circumvent this whole process and skip directly to the major-label record deal without more than a bump in the road.

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See **GAME**, Page 9

recordings



Prefuse 73
Surrounded by Silence
Sub Pop
★★★★

A hip-hop migrates from the turntable to the laptop, what was once experimental now seems inevitable. Scott Herren's work as Prefuse 73 shows that this situation may not be as dire as many hip-hop purists once thought.

Herren isn't a hip-hop producer by trade, and the bulk of this album is made up of bizarre instrumentals, chopped-up vocals and other obscure samples that create a unique sort of musical collage. These "glitch-hop" tracks deserve recognition

★★★★★ Mouth-kissing your sister

for their musical creativity and require a good set of headphones to appreciate fully.

A wide variety of hip-hop artists are employed by Herren, including virtual unknowns Beans and Camu, more underground artists El-P and Aesop Rock, and Wu-Tang reps Ghostface, GZA and Masta Killa. Ghost and El-P make an interesting duet on the opening track "Hideyface," both delivering sharp verses, and GZA doesn't disappoint on "Just the Thought," a fast-paced beat upon which Masta Killa stumbles.

This album's all-over-the-place nature, from indie to hip-hop to techno, can be slightly overstimulating, yet it maintains cohesion all along, never leaving the listener behind. Herren, who defies genre, seems to make music for Matrix fans who smoke weed; whether or not you fall into that honorable category, this album is still an interesting journey.

Prefuse 73 will perform at the Casbah May 23.

— Adam Staley
Staff Writer



Caribou
The Milk of Human Kindness
Sire
★★★★

Caribou was formerly known as Manitoba. His name had to be changed when an old punker threatened a trademark infringement suit (a pretty unpunk move). Manitoba was known for putting out visionary hip-top landscapes, and with *The Milk of Human Kindness*, so now will be Caribou. Will the name change hurt him? No; *Milk* is the kind of record that transcends any music industry bullshit; as long as people hear it, he should be fine.

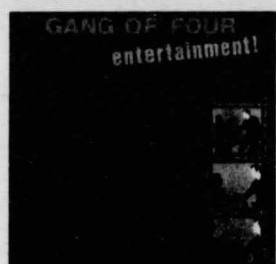
Caribou will perform at the Casbah May 22.

— Ian S. Port
Hiatus Editor

Caribou (aka Dan Snaith) just got his doctorate in mathematics, having toured for his last releases over summer breaks. Good that he's done, because after this record, he ought to dedicate all of his time to music. He does ticka-ticka-ticka-ticka-ticka (real fast) badass hip-hop beats and sunglasses heroin-blues grooves with authentic grain. He annihilates speaker cones and eardrums with impossibly loud drum samples. He tiptoes on gut strings across lamentable afternoons. He kraut-rocks stiffly and singer-songwriters profound, simple, confusing sadness. He does Aphex Twin with less geeky obsessiveness and RJD2 with far more imagination. He knows how to anchor himself inside a beat (and how to free himself from it); how to set a vintage tube amp (or at least make the computer sound like one); overall, how to squeeze transcendence out of the conventional tools of lesser men.

Caribou will perform at the Casbah May 22.

— Ian S. Port
Hiatus Editor



Gang of Four
Entertainment!
Rhino
★★★★★

Gang of Four appear in record reviews all over the goddamn place, but no one who ever reads about them seems to listen. Whenever anyone compares a band to Gang of Four, they are referring to the band's 1979 debut *Entertainment!*, which is more intelligent, furious and captivating than anything compared to it. Previously available as a UK import, this reissue adds the *Yellow* EP and five more tracks.

The band dealt in nervy and jagged punk, combining

crank-fueled P-funk (P for punk, not Parliament) bass with the kind of chopped-up, toothy guitar equivalent to crackling electricity. Below is the well-tempered frenzy of syncopated disco-punk beats to which people once used to dance. The vocals are feral and nihilistic, like Eugene Debs faced with the crushing despair of the modern world, sputtering lyrics commenting on politics and society with black venom. Each song is memorable in its own right, but a few tracks are classic: "The greasily sexy "Damaged Goods" is among the top five punk songs ever, "At Home He's a Tourist" is the kind of pop-culture rant that incites self-evaluation along with the urge to rock, and "5.45" disdains sanitized news in the face of imperialist butchery, a situation unchanged 26 years later.

Back when U2 was good, they imitated this. So did Fugazi and the Minutemen, and so too do Franz Ferdinand and the Rapture. Accept no imitations.

— Cody Nabours
Senior Staff Writer

Star Wars: The most vital moments seem rushed

continued from page 7
of the story with the necessary candor. The weight of having so much story to tell seems to push both Lucas and his cast to run through the motions of important events — which is terrible, considering that this is supposed to be the movie that shows the crucial developments of which we've dreamed since the beginning.

But viewers who wanted less cuddly talk and more badassness have the film they've been waiting for. The opening space battle is, for once, as good as any in the originals (aided greatly by the aforementioned chemistry between Kenobi and Skywalker), and gets right to the film's best part: its seemingly endless stream of jaw-dropping effects scenes. If this film shows Lucas' ambivalence toward realistic acting and character development, it also shows that his imagination is still what it once was, brought more fantastically to the screen than ever before. With more cool planet environments than possibly any other "Star Wars" movie — including lush, verdant jungles (filmed in the jungles of Thailand and China) and an incredible volcano scene (filmed at the actual eruption of Mt. Etna in Italy), "Revenge" sets a new visual standard for all sci-fi movies. (Which it damn well better, considering this is the last "Star Wars" movie ever to be made.)

The action scenes — which thankfully take up most of the film — impress on a similar level. Christensen, McGregor and others practiced for hours every day in order to develop the incredible lightsaber skills used almost constantly throughout "Revenge"; their battles, accordingly, often reach superhuman levels of speed and precision. A panel of incredible villains — a skilled Count Dooku (Christopher Lee), the frighteningly real cyborg General Grievous and, of course, the Emperor himself — pushes "Revenge" up to the originals in the Evil department.

Still, the lengthy devolution of Anakin into Darth Vader is in many ways disappointing, due in no small part to the fact that Hayden Christensen can make exactly one facial expression (temper tantrum). Seeing as this was probably the most important (and anticipated) aspect of not only this episode but the entire new trilogy, Lucas deserves to have some major points docked. Whether or not it was even possible, in the minds of "Star Wars" fans, to match the success of the earlier films is impossible to know. But as for proving that making the new trilogy wasn't a mistake, "Revenge" succeeds — barely.

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Game: He's not a master

continued from page 7
and The Dogg Pound add the credibility, longevity and sense of accomplishment that Game lacks. Unfortunately for concert organizers, the only people that they are going to fool with this trick are the people who have already been fooled into thinking that Game is one of the best in the business. Continue to thump your copy of *The Documentary* as a classic, shell out your \$40 and claim that Game put the West back on the map; the rest of us will be listening to E-40, Ras Kass, Too Short, Ice Cube, Andre Nickatina, Living Legends, Kurupt, Hiero, Mac Dre and Cali Agents, confident that the West Coast was never gone.

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Track: Lostrom impresses steeplechase field

continued from page 12 9:24.2. While the time was 15 seconds off his personal best, Lostrom was not worried.

"This race was a lot more like a workout than a race," he said. "I'm getting ready for Nationals, and I'm working on different techniques."

Lostrom focused on the hurdles and the lap splits during this week-end event, and was happy with the way he raced.

"The things I was working on came out well. I found out this works, this doesn't work," he said. "And in terms of looking toward nationals, I'm happy with how it came out."

When asked about Nationals, Lostrom said his goal was to race

throughout the entire event. "I want to be in the thick of it, and duke it out with the other guys," he said. "I'm not wholly concerned with a certain time or finish. I want those guys to say, 'Hey, that San Diego guy put on a good fight.'"

Cunningham finished in fourth place in the 110 hurdles, finishing the race in which he has already qualified for Nationals in 14.48 seconds. Cunningham also qualified in the 400 hurdles for Nationals. His goal for Nationals is to race a low 51-second 400 hurdles and make All-American, which means he will have to finish among the top eight.

"I hate the 400-meter hurdles with a passion," he said. "But it's

my focus because I'm better at it. The good thing this year is that there's one guy who's way ahead of everybody, but everyone else is really close, like within half a second or so. My main goal is to get second, since the race is wide open."

Junior teammate Jon Patton, a junior, took fourth in the 400 hurdles with a time of 53.33 seconds.

In the jumping events, senior Kevin Beeman took second place in the men's high jump with his mark of 2.10 meters. For Nationals, Beeman is seeded 10th in the high-jump event.

The NCAA National Championships will take place in Abilene, Texas, from May 26 through May 28.



Greg Dale/Guardian

Finesse: Senior Kendra Canape is seeded 12th in the high jump competition at the NCAA Nationals held May 26 through May 28.

SUBWAY UCSD ATHLETE OF THE WEEK MAY 16 to 22 Matt Lawson Baseball Junior Yorba Linda, CA Management Science, Muir Col. Junior Matt Lawson earned tournament MVP honors en route to helping UC San Diego to its first-ever CCAA Baseball Championship over the weekend. Lawson went 7-for-22 in the five games of the tournament with four RBI, three runs scored, four doubles and one triple. In the championship doubleheader on Saturday, Lawson went 5-for-11 with three doubles, one triple, two RBI and two runs scored. His double in the 11th inning of the first game led to the winning run. UCSD's season comes to an end following the CCAA title, finishing the year with a 37-20 overall record.

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Track and field sends nine to NCAA Nationals Regular season ends with promise as Hodgins, Blue break records

By JESSICA NAGER
Senior Staff Writer

The UCSD men's and women's track and field teams finished their regular season on May 14 at the Claremont Classic, held at Burns Track and Field complex in Claremont, Calif. Junior Mimi Hodgins and freshman Laiah Blue posted school records in the 800-meter race and 100-meter hurdles, respectively, while senior Kendra Canape finished first in the women's high jump and junior Carl Lostrom topped his competition to win the men's steeplechase.

During the Claremont Classic, Hodgins set a new school record in the 800 race. Despite finishing third overall, Hodgins was able to break her own school record, which she had set earlier in the year, and posted a time of 2 minutes, 10.91 seconds.

"It's nice to know I'm still PR-ing," Hodgins said. "I think I have a lot more left in me, and my coach agrees, so it's a good feeling to have going into Nationals."

On May 16, nine UCSD track and field athletes found out that their season was not over. For the women, Hodgins, Blue, Canape, senior Lindsay Stalker, and freshmen Emily McGregor and Whitney Johnson will be representing the Tritons at the NCAA Track and Field Championships. Lostrom, junior Mike Cunningham and senior Kevin Beeman made the cut from the men's squad.

Despite qualifying in the 800, the 1500 and the 5000 events, Hodgins will only compete in the 800 at Nationals.

"I'm ranked No. 3 in the 800, and my goal is to win that event,"

she said. "I feel that in order to achieve that goal, I need to focus on one event."

Stalker took fourth place in the 800 run at Claremont, finishing at 2:11.20. Stalker will compete in the 800 run and the 1500 run at Nationals. She is ranked fourth in the 800, just behind Hodgins, and eighth in the 1500.

Blue finished the 100 hurdles in 14.11 seconds, tying the school record set during the 2004 season by Meredith Perry. The time is an automatic qualification for the NCAA Championships; she will be one of two freshmen in the nation to compete in the 100 hurdles.

Sophomore Elisa Holiday took second in the long jump with a mark of 5.72 meters, then secured a third-place finish in the 200 dash with a time of 24.62. In the 1500 run, Hodgins and freshman Dianne Dunn finished fifth and seventh, respectively.

Canape took first in the high jump competition with her mark of 1.63 meters. Canape used the weekend's competition as a warmup for Nationals. For the high-jump event, each meet has its own minimum starting height. Normally, the minimum starting height is 4 feet 8 inches, but Canape usually starts around 5-2. At Nationals, the starting height is 5-4, meaning there is no warm-up jump.

"You have to be on it right away," Canape said.

The competition for the women's high jump will be tight at Nationals. Canape is seeded 12th with her best mark of 5 feet 7.75 inches, but points out that the majority of the other competitors are within an inch and a half of that mark.



Greg Dale/Guardian

Another hurdle: Junior Jon Patton and the Tritons ended the 2005 season with a number of triumphs at the Claremont Classic.

"Considering that the bar goes up two inches after every jump, I'm right in the thick of it," she said. "What I'm really excited about is

that I've been jumping consistently close to that height all season, while a lot of the other girls have only jumped it once."

For the men, Lostrom won the 3000 steeplechase with a time of

See **TRACK**, Page 11

Four softball players selected to all-conference teams

By MATTHEW GRANT
Sports Editor

After leading her team in batting average, hits, doubles, total bases and slugging percentage, junior Jenny Spencer of the Tritons softball team waltzed her way onto the California Collegiate Athletic Association First Team as an at-large selection. Senior teammate Jamie Hurst merited Second Team honors at first base, while junior outfielder Niki Anderson and sophomore designated player Brittini Carino were two of five players in the league to receive Honorable Mentions.

Spencer was an obvious favorite for the CCAA First Team following her solid offensive performances throughout the 2005 campaign, including a .481 slugging percentage, a .358 batting average and 78 total bases — including 12 doubles — in 58 hits. This is Spencer's first time being selected to an all-conference team.



Jenny Spencer
First Team



Jamie Hurst
Second Team

For the second consecutive season, Hurst worked her way onto the Second Team after ranking second on the Tritons in home runs (3) and RBIs (21). Her 2005 season was complemented by a .286 batting average, eight doubles and a triple.

Anderson and Carino received their first all-CCAA selections after consistently helping UCSD all season.

Anderson crossed the plate 20 times on three doubles, a pair of triples and three home runs, while driving in 13 RBIs. She was also praised as one of the league's leading rightfielders.

Carino was credited with All-Mountain Dew Classic honors in Bakersfield, Calif., after leading all Tritons in hitting through the April 22 and April 23 event. She finished the season with a .324 batting average.

The Tritons ended their season on May 7 with a pair of losses to Grand Canyon, capping their season with an 11-16 CCAA record, 19-31 overall.



Niki Anderson
Honorable Mention



Brittini Carino
Honorable Mention

Women's crew earns NCAA berth Varsity-eight boat qualifies with at-large selection

By MATTHEW GRANT
Sports Editor

Within a week of setting its fastest time of the 2005 season, the UCSD women's crew varsity-eight boat has been chosen as one of two at-large teams to be represented at the NCAA Division II Women's Rowing Championships in Sacramento, Calif., from May 27 through May 29.

Head coach Pattie Pinkerton emphasized the significance of the achievement for the entire team, not just those individuals on the qualifying boat.

"While only nine women will be sitting in the boat on the starting line, this has come about through the hard work of the team," Pinkerton stated in a press release. "This is a transformational moment for UCSD women's crew, and one we have been working toward for some time."

The selection comes following a season of several significant accomplishments, most recently a second-place finish at the Pacific Coast Rowing Championships on May 14 at Lake Natoma, Calif. The varsity-eight boat conquered the seemingly insurmountable seven-minute barrier for the two-kilometer course, which put the squad in a position to be selected as an at-large team in the upcoming NCAA

Championships.

The nine Tritons who will compete in Sacramento are junior coxswain Arianna Pilram, senior Anne Roddy, junior Meghan Kelly, senior Sarah Smolley, junior Cara Kuebert, sophomore Leah Llach, freshman Vanessa Jansen, junior Christine King and junior Dannon Hodge, with junior Melanie Kaelberer and senior Liz Record as alternates.

This is the first time the Tritons have been invited to the event since its establishment in 2002. Since that time, UC Davis was crowned with the title twice before being dethroned by Mercyhurst College of Erie, Penn., in 2004.

Mercyhurst will return to the annual regatta hosted by Cal State Sacramento at the Cal State Sacramento Aquatic Center to represent the East region and to defend its team title against the three other qualifying teams.

The other represented programs in the team competition are Western Washington University from the West region, Nova Southeastern University of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., racing on behalf of the South region and the Florida Institute of Technology from Melbourne, Fla., which will compete as an at-large team.

The remaining boats, UCSD and Barry University of Miami Shores, Fla., are designated as at-large programs that will not

be represented in the team competition. These slots are saved for two of the most qualified programs in the country that do not automatically qualify regionally.

Team and individual boat selections were based on several criteria, including student-athlete availability, head-to-head competition, late-season performance, regional rankings, regional championship results, results against teams already selected, results against regionally ranked teams and results against common opponents. The formula is essentially designed to guarantee an all-around competitive race from each of the six boats entered.

In addition to Mercyhurst's advantage of experience at the race, Western Washington, Barry and Florida Tech will all be sending veteran programs to the NCAA Division II Women's Rowing Championships.

In 2004, Western Washington finished fourth behind third-place Florida Tech, second-place Humboldt State and champion Mercyhurst.

In the two previous years since the event's inception, the Vikings found themselves stuck as runner-up behind UC Davis.

Barry has twice been kept out of medal contention, with back-to-back fourth-place finishes in 2002 and 2003.