

**SOUNDS OF
ST. VINCENT**



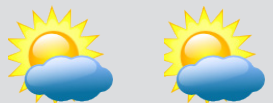
Musician Annie Clark's fifth studio album takes on a more electronic sound than previous works. She will perform at the Casbah in San Diego on March 19.

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RECONSIDERING AMENDMENT 5
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VERBATIM

“The combination of hip hop and jazz makes geographical sense: It's an all-American sandwich with spoken words on one side and dizzying instrumentation on the other.”

-Jonah Yonker
UNDERSOUND
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CAMPUS

Students Rally for End to Prison Industrial Complex



Campus groups mobilized to draw attention to the difference in Calif. spending on prisons and education.

BY ANDREW HUANG ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR PHOTO BY TAYLOR SANDERSON

Over 100 black-clad students mobilized for their “March 4 Education N’ De-Incarceration” at the Silent Tree on Tuesday. The 2014 Student Affirmative Action Committee Chair Ernesto Reyes led the march, which primarily sought to raise awareness for California’s disproportionate spending on the “prison-industrial complex” at the state education system’s expense.

The SAAC is a committee of eight UCSD organizations that advises several administrative offices, dedicating itself to “fighting ignorance, addressing

the issues confronting underrepresented students and promoting cross-cultural awareness and communication” since 1975, according to the movement’s Facebook page. It claims that California spends over \$48,000 per inmate every year, as opposed to \$7,463 per University of California or California State University student.

SAAC also believes that public education is increasingly difficult for students, especially racial minorities, to obtain, thus perpetuating unequal-

See **PROTEST**, page 2

A.S. COUNCIL

Academic Senators’ Budget Left Unspent

Over \$3,500 is left in the senators’ yearly budget meant to fund their individual projects.

BY GABRIELLA FLEISCHMAN
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

A.S. Council senators have used less than a third of their allocated funding as of Feb. 26, according to A.S. Vice President Finance and Resources Sean O’Neal. Only \$1,475 of the 2013–14 senator initiative budget has been allocated out of the total \$5,000 available.

The funding used so far was allocated to only three senators. However, a multitude of new requests are coming in for senator projects to be completed in the final few weeks of their terms.

One notable reason for the excess of remaining funds is that college senators often draw funds from their college council funds rather than from the A.S. Council budget.

Sixth College Senator Allison Bagnol used SCSC money to fund her first project, an event in which she gave out free ice cream and bananas while discussing fair trade, because it was located in Sixth College and thus she felt it aimed more at Sixth College students. Her upcoming project,

See **SENATORS**, page 3

TRANSPORTATION

A.S. Council Votes to Pass Transportation Referendum

The referendum would add a \$49.96 quarterly transportation student fee.

BY ALEKSANDRA KONSTANTINOVIC
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

The transportation referendum originally proposed by A.S. Council during Fall Quarter 2013 has had new language approved by the Office of the Chancellor and A.S. Council. The language has been passed to the UC Office of the President for approval, and the Graduate Student Association will vote to approve it on Monday.

The referendum will pass through UCOP unchanged if it is determined that the referendum abides by the rules and guidelines set forth by the office. Both A.S. Council and GSA will vote on the referendum before it is approved through UCOP, in order to ensure that, if unchanged by UCOP, it makes it onto the Spring Quarter elections ballot.

If it is not passed through UCOP or GSA, students will vote on the changed language in a special election. ASUCSD MOVES Executive Director

Kyle Heiskala hopes that this will not happen because he expects more students would vote on a general election ballot. However, he is optimistic about the events that have transpired thus far.

“I was really excited that the chancellor approved the language to be approved by UCOP,” Heiskala said. “It basically means the referendum is moving forward.”

The finalized language of the referendum includes a new student transportation fee of \$49.96 per student per quarter that will provide each student with a Regional Transit Pass. The pass will allow students unlimited rides on all of the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System’s modes of transportation, including the bus, trolley and light rail routes.

A Student Transportation Advisory Committee will oversee how the funds are spent — 71 percent of the funds go to the transportation pass, while a mandatory 29 percent will go to the financial aid.

Additional reporting for this story by Gabriella Fleischman.

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UC SYSTEM

AFSCME Cancels Strike Scheduled For This Week

The union’s service workers reached a tentative agreement with the UC system after voting to strike.

JUSTINE LIANG STAFF WRITER

University of California American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees 3299, the public service employee union that represents the lowest-paid UC workers, has reached a tentative four-year contract agreement for the UC’s 8,300 service workers. Thus, the following week’s scheduled AFSCME 3299 strike has been canceled.

The UC service workers were able to secure the agreement after two strikes in the last year, with the threat of a third last month. However, although they have secured a tentative agreement, 13,000 UC Patient Care Technical Workers are still bargaining with the UC system. While these UC medical workers have been striking alongside UC service workers, they have yet to receive a response.

“The Patient Care Unit has been

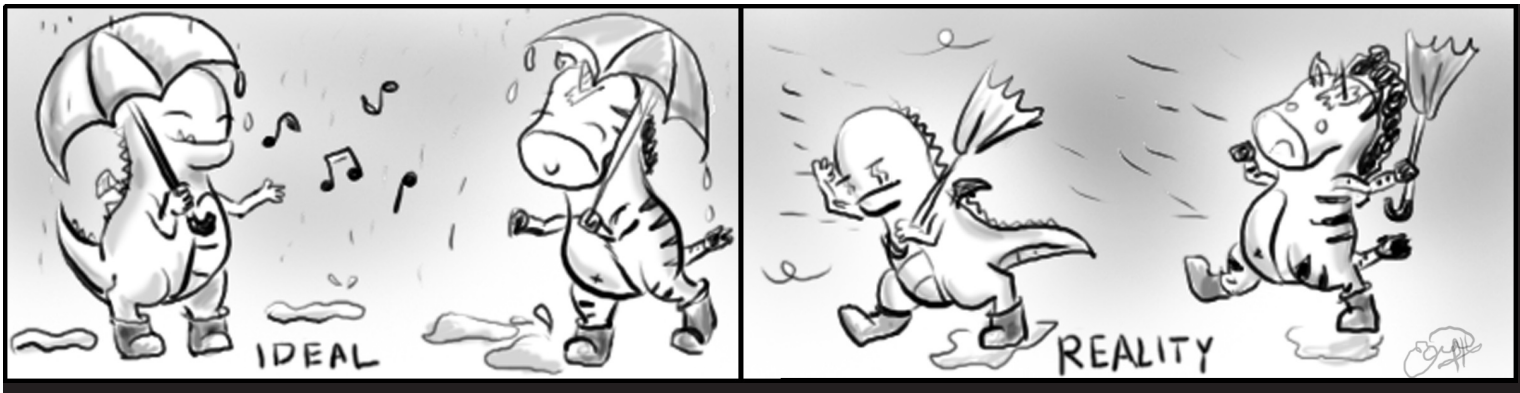
engaged in good-faith bargaining for more than 20 months — even longer than service workers — and like service workers, has already given UC 80 percent of what it wants, including the university’s top priority of pension reform,” Kathryn Lybarger, UC service worker and AFSCME 3299 president, said.

Medical workers such as technicians, nursing aides and therapists have yet to settle the contract with the UC system. They were scheduled to sympathy strike with campus workers in the now-canceled strike, but negotiations are expected to resume on Friday.

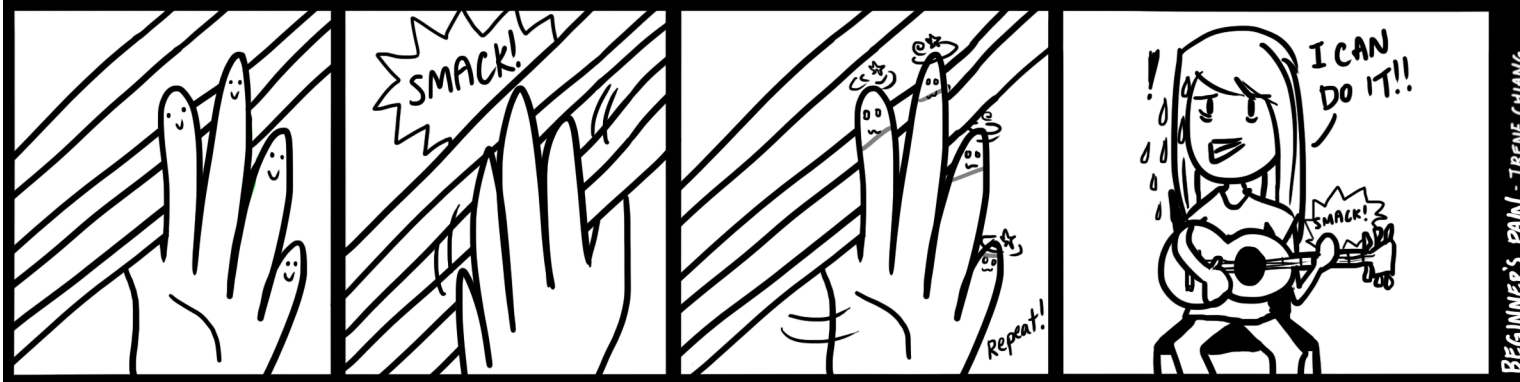
As a result of this agreement between the UC and service workers, 99 percent of who are income-eligible for some form of public assistance will receive a 13.5-percent board wage increase over four years, affordable health-care benefits for current and retired employees, new

See **AFSCME**, page 3

RAINY FRIDAYS By Eunice Ho



FLEETING THOUGHTS By Irene Chiang



Students Believe Rampant Incarceration Rates Set Back Communities, Education

► **PROTEST**, from page 1

ity in the state. In a 2013–14 budget report, Gov. Jerry Brown proposed a total budget of over \$9 billion for inmates in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, while about \$12.4 billion would be allocated for higher education.

The appropriately named March 4 Education is an annual event that has been held across multiple UC and CSU campuses since 2010. At UCSD, the event was organized by a coalition of groups, including the A.S. External Affairs Office, as part of the University of California Student Association's larger IGNITE campaign.

Reyes, who has been involved with social activism for four years, explained that the prison-industrial complex facilitates domestic incarceration of underrepresented communities and that the issue affects everyone who feels it is important to promote affordable education.

"It is a day of action to try to bring to light the lack of investment in education," Reyes said. "We see that prisons have taken a lot of the funds that education has usually had, so we're here to come together in solidarity with those who have been excluded from higher education and those who are continually marginalized and oppressed by the prison-industrial complex."

Eden Berdugo, an External Affairs campus organizing director, agreed that it's a large problem for those who are in some way, shape or form tied to the prison-industrial complex, especially people of color.

"Many people don't have the same opportunities, and there are a lot of broken systems," Berdugo said. "I think we could start to see changes if we funneled more money into lower education. We all have a responsibility towards it because we are invested in it. We also forget a lot of times that students are accepted, but it's really an uphill battle for them

to graduate."

Starting from the Silent Tree in front of Geisel Library, the protesters moved down Library Walk, through the Chancellor's Complex and ended at the Triton Statue at Price Center. Throughout the march, students were given the chance to lead chants and present their personal testimonials to the group.

"Being students can be hard, but we stand together across many different communities and struggles," Reyes said. "We are not simply numbers to be funneled through. Why can't I find a job after the university promised me so much? March 4 isn't just a single day event. Make our university work for us, not the other way around."

Other participants echoed his view, emphasizing the importance of fighting for the marginalized population, declaring, "When we chant 'Our University,' we have to mean it." They expressed discontent and disbelief at the various negative effects of a large prison-industrial complex on the stu-

dent body.

A.S. President Andy Buselt attended the event as well. He felt that the problems with university privatization and school funding "didn't add up" but had high hopes for bringing about a more socially just university. A.S. Council planned to consider the Students Against Mass Incarceration's divestment bill, which criticizes UCSD's financial holdings with companies allegedly connected to state and private prisons, the following day.

"It's more of a symbolic measure, but once one UC divests, then others follow, and it sets a precedent," Berdugo said. "It puts more pressure on the regents."

Reyes added that he hoped to work with the administration to divest from the complex as UCLA and UC Irvine have done but at a systemwide scale.

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Transportation and Bylaws Referendums Headed for Ballot, A.S. Activity Fee Reduced

To begin with, last night's council meeting had a substitute speaker. However, the bigger change was how full the room was. Representatives of many groups such as the Student Affirmative Action Committee and the Student Sustainability Collective came in support of the Resolution to Divest from the Prison Industrial Complex.

Students Against Mass Incarceration then presented on the issue, educating students on the intricacy of the issue, including the War on Drugs, cruel and unusual punishment and prison expansion.

Revelle Senator Marco Vasquez expressed an opposing viewpoint from the majority of council that supported the bill. He felt the language was too broadly reaching, "pointed fingers" and claimed that the War on Drugs was started for the sole purpose of racial segregation.

Transfer Senator Ricky Martorana felt that the language of the resolution was too strong and would not receive the respect of legislators. However, the rest of council spoke strongly in favor of the bill. Several members of council told personal stories of witnessing the racism and injustice of the prison industrial complex.

"I don't want to sit here and hold up this bill; that's not my goal here tonight," Vasquez said and then offered himself for questions if anyone were to later have any.

The resolution passed 21-1-1. The next resolution to be brought to and passed by council was in support of removing the term "colony" from Greek life at UCSD.

"I think there was an overall kind of confusion of why this word was hurtful," Panhellenic Representative Sydney Johnson said. "It was very important to Greek life

NEW BUSINESS
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that it was known that it was not our intent to hurt anyone; it's a word that's been used 150 years, and it's still being used today. I think it's exciting for us to be a part of something that is progressive."

Sixth Senator Allison Bagnol then spoke on her personal struggles with the word "colony."

"I identify as a Filipino-American, and I can't speak for every Filipino on this campus, but it has been a 140-year-plus era of colonization in the Philippines," Bagnol said. "I personally struggle searching for my true ethnic identity because I feel like this colonization dilutes my ethnic identity."

Finally, the transportation fee referendum was passed by council unanimously.

"For all the people who say that

A.S. is bullshit and is only looking out for themselves, I have to say that what A.S. council has done here and over the past year is really representative of student power on this campus," Revelle Senator Soren Nelson said in regards to the referendum.

Another referendum passed to reduce the A.S. activity fee by \$0.65 per student per quarter, removing the constitutional lock-in to college councils.

After VP External Vanessa Garcia spoke about recent gang-rapes and sexual assault at UC Santa Barbara, I finally discovered why our campus lighting is so sketchy.

Social Sciences Senator Colin King explained that UCSD agreed to use orange lighting on campus, rather than white, in accordance with a contract with the nearby observatory to avoid light pollution. Now that the contract is expired, administration does not have money to replace the light bulbs with white light and are waiting for the lights to die before replacing them.

It was later announced that this lovely, long A.S. meeting was AVP Student Advocacy Alex Noronha's 21st birthday. During the Happy Birthday-singing, someone audibly threw in, "Why are you still here?" into the tune.

Props to Noronha for sticking it out all meeting long. With that, have a good final week of class, and I'll be back one final time next week!

Union 3299 Hopes Tentative Agreement Will Help Its Members Out of Poverty

► **AFSCME**, from page 1

staffing protections and limits on contracting out.

Lybarger is optimistic about the agreement, as she believes that it will pull thousands of full-time employees out of poverty and protect workers.

"Our members are deeply grateful to the thousands of students, faculty, colleagues, elected officials and everyday taxpayers who have stood with us and stood for the principles of fairness and dignity that bind every member of the UC

community," Lybarger said.

According to an L.A. Times statement from UC Vice President of Human Resources Dwaine B. Duckett, he was satisfied that the labor standoff was over.

"It is good to have this bargaining wrapped up with a deal on its way to our valued service employees," Duckett said. "We worked hard to bridge gaps on the issues. Ultimately, both sides chose compromise over conflict."

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VP Finance Says Some Senator Projects Do Not Require Funding From Council

► **SENATORS**, from page 1

however, targets all students and thus she plans on requesting money from the A.S. budget.

VP Finances and Resources Sean O'Neal also notes that many senators are involved in projects that do not require funding, such as sitting on committees and taking up offices. According to O'Neal, the senators had a \$10,000 dollar budget in previous years and it was often used entirely.

"Personally I don't think a lot of senators have done enough in their positions," O'Neal said. "I think this

is actually representative of senators not using the A.S. resources as much as they could be, because the accountability is really hard to keep there."

However, O'Neal said he hopes that senators will use the end of their terms to complete projects they may have started.

Any leftover money will go into a pool of rollover funds. Fifty percent of this money will go into mandate reserves, and the other 50 percent will go to the executive budget for next year.

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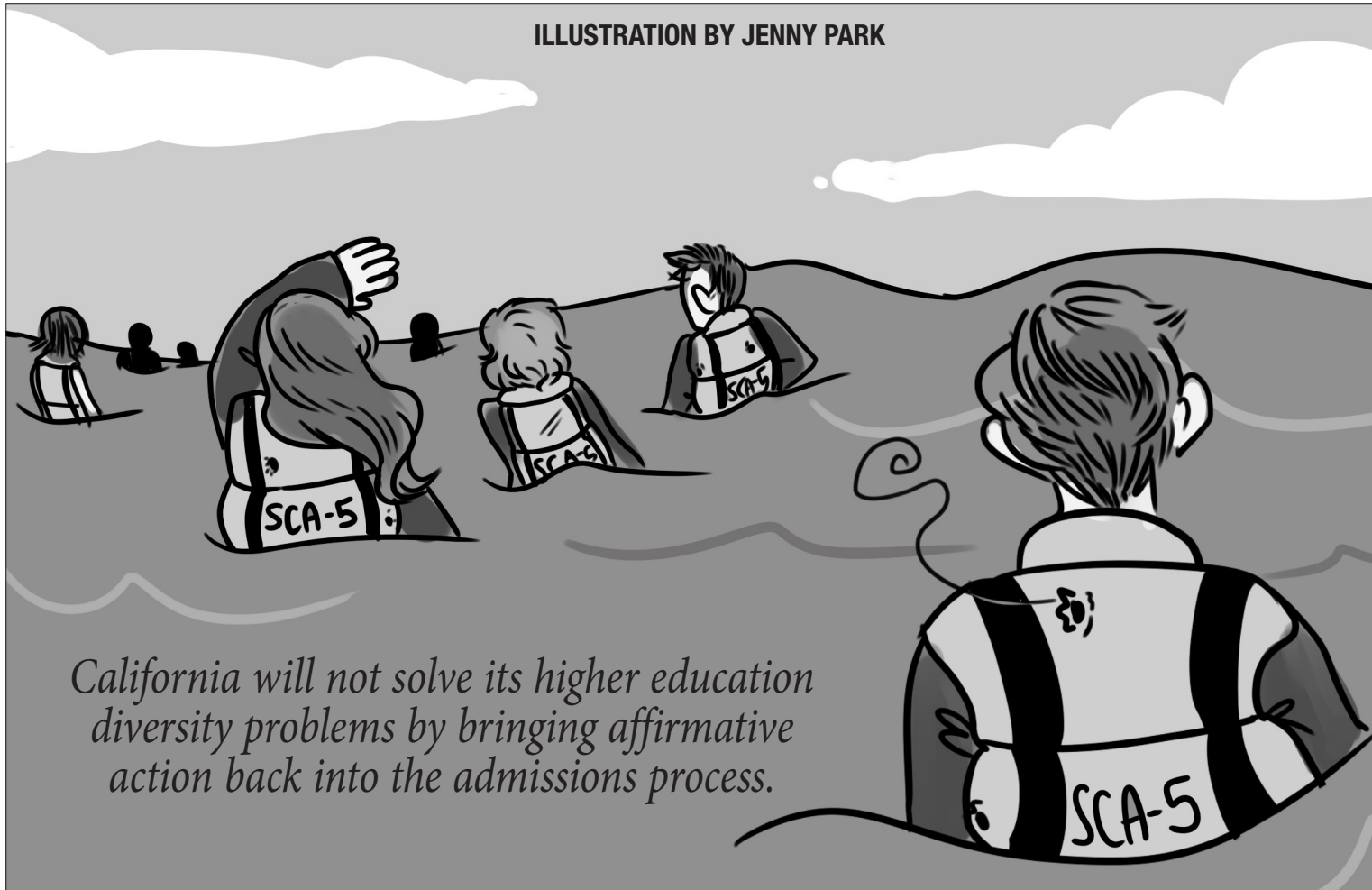
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OPINION

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Prop. 209 Is Just Fine

ILLUSTRATION BY JENNY PARK



California will not solve its higher education diversity problems by bringing affirmative action back into the admissions process.

Racial diversity and minority underrepresentation in California's schools has been a hot-button issue for half a century, but a proposed amendment to California Proposition 209 that would lift the ban on "affirmative action" in UC and CSU admissions has stirred up quite the controversy.

Proposition 209 was originally signed into law in 1996, and effectively banned state institutions from discriminating based on "race, ethnicity, color, sex or national origin" when considering candidates for employment or education admissions. Officially, this would mean that college admissions officers could not prioritize these criteria when considering candidates for admission. Senate Constitutional Amendment 5, which has already been passed by the State Senate, seeks to exempt state universities, like the UC system, from those rules in an attempt to increase the proportions of students from underrepresented minority backgrounds. In a system that had 4.2-percent black admissions and 27.6-percent Latino admissions in spring 2013, this would likely mean higher enrollment for students of these backgrounds.

But as much as we support diversity and advocate equality in admissions, we don't think that bending admissions standards to prioritize underrepresented groups will deal with the underlying problems in higher education. While the intentions behind SCA-5 are good, the Universities of California should not reject qualified candidates in favor of meeting race-based quotas.

Under the UC system's current admissions protocol, dubbed "holistic review," an applicant's race is not the primary determinant of their chances, as it is in the affirmative action system. Each applicant

receives a score, wherein admissions officers consider circumstances associated with a student's race or background along with the usual academics and extra-curricular activities. While this might be helpful in deciding between two nearly identical candidates, the solely race-based admissions methods that SCA-5 will give way to are steps in the wrong direction.

Arbitrarily boosting minority candidates' applications tends to hurt the very students that the policy is intended to help. Graduation rates for underrepresented groups in state universities show that putting students with low high school performance into a rigorous academic environment will not help them succeed. Statistics from California's Postsecondary Education Commission show that black and Latino men and women are, on average, 10 percent less likely than their counterparts to complete their degree over a 4-to-6 year period. While there are certainly thousands of high-achieving students from minority backgrounds, it seems as though students who have been accepted on the basis of their ethnicity may end up struggling. We feel that these students would be better served and more likely to earn their way into prestigious universities if California took the initiative beginning with early education to help them succeed.

Statistics seem to show, in fact, that the education inequality gap emerges earlier in education. According to the California Department of Education, Hispanic/Latino children make up just over 52 percent of California's K-12 public school student demographic but constitute only 30 percent of applicants to the UC system. In contrast, Asian-American students make up around 11 per-

See **PROP 209**, page 5

It's Alright to Skip Revelle In Rome

RHYME OR REASON
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I went through the WebReg enrollment process last week with a sinking sense of finality. By signing up to spend my final quarter of UCSD in the likes of Pepper Canyon and Otterson Hall, I knew I would be missing out on my last chance to study abroad as an undergraduate.

Although I dreamed of getting the "life-altering" experience that the flyers on Library Walk boasted of, there has never been a quarter in which I didn't have a paying job (or two) that I couldn't just up and leave behind to cavort around Italy for a few months. Each year, I watched with envy as friends left for global seminars in Rome and Buenos Aires or spent months basking in the Barbados sun. One of my classmates has even spent five quarters — nearly half of her entire college career — hopping between universities across three different continents. To assuage any feelings of regret for not giving my two-weeks notice and packing my bags, I've mulled over reasons why staying behind and lusting over albums of glorious travel photos is not as dire as it seems.

First, the obvious: You don't have to deal with less-than-ideal technicalities. Round-trip tickets to Europe, the most popular study abroad destination, easily rack up in the thousands. Leaving for a quarter also usually means that you must either find someone on Free & For Sale to sublet from you or give up your space and resign to dealing with a complicated housing situation upon your return. It's a different case at SDSU, where students in 38 of its 85 undergraduate degree programs are actually required to spend some time in other countries. This widespread prevalence enables SDSU students to more easily find familiar faces to live with who would be leaving and returning around the same time.

Another upside is that you won't be taking any time away from your college experience. The Great Wall of China and the Taj Mahal will still be there when you graduate, but you only do your undergraduate years once. Although the seasoned traveler in my class made pen pals all over the world and across the UC system, she failed to maintain longstanding close friendships with those she met at UCSD due to her constant absence. Staying put means that you'll never have to return to a place that has changed drastically since you've been gone and to friends who have formed memories and strengthened bonds without you.

Travel isn't something you must confine to a quarter — there will be plenty of time to live, work and study in another country later on in life. I'm still (incredibly) jealous of the 22 percent of UCSD students who made it work, but I also realize that staying in sunny San Diego for the past four years doesn't mean that I have irreparably missed out. There are other options for going abroad after leaving UCSD, such as the Peace Corps, JET program and graduate and professional school schemes. As for myself, hopefully at this time next year I will be BFFs with Big Ben.

Sun God Policy Changes Need Student Support

Last quarter, the Guardian Editorial Board correctly predicted that eliminating student guest tickets alongside increasing safety measures would lead to a funding gap for the Sun God Festival's budget.

For this reason, among others, we were originally against the idea of prohibiting guest ticket sales. We now see that if the no-guest policy was the deal breaker for Sun God to happen in 2014, it's a no brainer: We'd rather tell our buddies at Santa Barbara and Los Angeles that they should stay home for the weekend than us not have a Sun God Festival at all.

However, we're still firm on the idea that the policy alone won't be effective in changing the drinking culture that surrounds Sun God. Though the festival will likely see some major policy changes this year, students should do their part and support efforts to change Sun God if they want to see the festival remain a lasting UCSD tradition.

In addition to the end of revenue from guest tickets, the 2014 festival will have a higher price tag to implement increased security and police presence on campus on the day of the event. While Interim Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Alan Houston has pledged a one-time allocation of \$165,000 to make up for some of this loss of revenue, it's imperative that A.S. Concerts and Events finds a more sustainable source of funding for the years to come. This source of new funding could come by way of increasing sponsorship for the event, creating a referendum to modestly increase student fees to directly fund the festival or charging an entrance fee for students who choose to attend Sun God. Whatever the method, ASCE will need to explore new ways to make ends meet, and students will need to be receptive and responsive to these changes.

The Sun God Festival has been a tradition for 31 years, but the last few years have gotten increasingly out

of hand. UCSD students know that guests weren't the only ones who were out of hand last year and that we can still get hammered before the festival this year without them. The culture of Sun God is precisely the root of much of our health and safety problems and without student support, it'll be unlikely that these problems will just go away. Students can help each other out by encouraging one another to practice safer drinking and less drug abuse. Increased medical visits and exhausted hospital resources due to UCSD students are not something we want to see in any headlines this spring.

This year's festival will likely serve as a litmus test to see if our school can have a safe Sun God and will determine whether future festivals are even in the question. ASCE has made it clear that Sun God 2014 was almost cancelled altogether; if we want to continue having Sun God festivals in the years to come, it's not only up to ASCE to make things happen.

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FUNGLY By Kyle Trujillo



Improving Early Education Will Close Gap in Representation

► **DROUGHT**, from page 4

cent of the K-12 population but 44 percent of applicants to the UC. The problem doesn't lie in admissions to the UC, which proportionally have a fairly close correlation to applications. The problem is the lagging number of minority high school students applying to colleges.

Accordingly, investment in primary and secondary schooling for underrepresented minorities may hold the solution. The UCSD-run charter Preuss School, which exclusively admits would-be first-generation college students, turns out high school graduates that are accepted to four-year colleges, including prestigious universities

such as Harvard, Yale and MIT. School programs should focus on motivating the many talented but underrepresented children who come through their doors. With a supportive environment and an interactive curriculum that could include anything from the arts to robotics, schools can take steps to ensure that these students can apply to college with the same academic background as their white and Asian-American peers.

Thousands of highly qualified students from other ethnic backgrounds are already turned away from the UC system every year, and the number is only expected to increase if the bill passes. Accepting more minorities is all very well, but every seat given is

one taken away from another potential student. The highest-achieving college entrants systemwide have historically been of white and Asian-American ethnicity, and we feel that is unfair for academically stellar students to be passed up because of their race alone.

While we appreciate the efforts of those in the state legislature to try and level the playing field for students of all races, we suggest that they look to alternative methods. Engaging and improving primary and secondary education can help bright, underrepresented minority students get the academic experience they need for success without suggesting they need special accommodations to get there.



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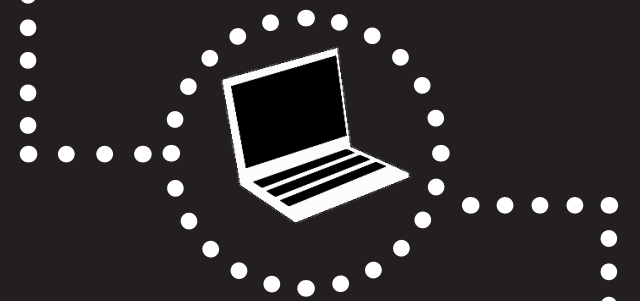
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VIETNAM

BY VINCENT PHAM LIFESTYLE EDITOR

In Vietnam, the first thing you'll notice is traffic. It's hard to accustom yourself, but you'll have to make do. With motorbikes and vespas whizzing by, along with a growing number of taxis and sedans, getting around is an adventure every time you step outside. Vietnam truly shines with its unique culture, developing consumer economy and, of course, undeniably exquisite food. The country varies from patches of urban metropolises with multinational designer clothes and retail stores to the suburbs, where roads alternate between dirt and paved and rice paddies are just as common as a neighborhood market. As exciting as visiting the larger cities (Hanoi, Đà Nẵng and Ho Chi Minh City) may be, it's best to go to the towns with the unfamiliar names, to walk along the sidewalk, grab one of those plastic chairs sized for a child and sit down for a cup of Vietnamese coffee and appreciate Vietnam and where it is going.

FUN FACT Ruou ran (snake wine), a Vietnamese specialty of rice wine with a pickled snake inside, can allegedly cure any sickness.

AUSTRALIA

BY SYDNEY RECK ASSOCIATE FEATURES EDITOR

First thing to remember: don't pack light clothes for a trip in August. Our summer is Australia's winter, so be sure to dress warmly if you're thinking of taking a summer holiday to "the land of the long weekend."

Australia is huge, so expect to do a lot of travelling if you want to see everything. Visit the tropical city of Cairns, where in the winter months the weather is perfect for snorkeling in one of nature's seven wonders of the world, the Great Barrier Reef. If you want to see some native wildlife (the cute kind, not the scary kind), go for a guided bushwalk on the rural Kangaroo Island. Australia's famous Sydney is the anti-New York, with its generally clean streets and openly friendly people, and it's no less cosmopolitan. It's also where you can visit the Opera House and climb the Sydney Bridge — but if you just want to relax somewhere, head out to Baxter Inn Pub for a coldie (Aussie slang for beer) and have a chat with that Aussie sitting near you. It's the best way to learn what life is really like Down Under.

FUN FACT Kangaroo meat can be purchased from the supermarket, butcher and available on restaurant menus as a leaner and healthier alternative to beef or lamb with a 1-2 percent fat content.

BERLIN

BY HILLARY DAKIN SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Berlin is a city steeped in 20th-century history, so history buffs, be alert! Fragments of the Berlin Wall are still in place, and in some places, the sidewalk is marked where it once stood. Checkpoint Charlie and its museum, though something of a tourist trap, is another reminder of the Cold War years. The Brandenburg Gate is a good place to begin an investigation of German history from several centuries ago. Beyond the historical landmarks, there is also the multi-story shopping mecca of KaDeWe, a German equivalent to Harrods, that offers everything from designer clothes to high-end toys to unique cooking ware. For the nature-minded, the Tiergarten — a huge forested area covering many acres of the city — offers a beautiful place for a stroll, as well as wildlife viewing opportunities. Due to the efficient and affordable metro system, it is extraordinarily easy to get around and experience all of the intriguing history this famous city has to offer.

FUN FACT With 175 museums, Berlin is said to have more museums than rainy days.

GREECE

BY NICHOLE PERRI SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Most people have an image in their minds of what Santorini looks like (no, not the one in Price Center): white houses reflecting the hot sun, blue rooftops, houses cascading down a mountainside surrounded by warm, turquoise water. This image comes to life in the coastal village of Oia. Oia is known for being the site of one of the most beautiful sunsets in the world. It's so beautiful that people even clap at the end. Oia is also where you can ride a donkey while drinking some of the sweetest homemade wine you will ever taste.

Although Oia is the gem of Santorini, Fira, a town on the opposite side of the island, boasts its relaxing white, red and black sand beaches. The colors of the sand are results of mineral deposits. The only catch is, like many European beaches, you have to pay, but it is worth it.

Whether you go for the wine, the sun or the beaches, Santorini is the perfect vacationing spot for those looking to truly relax and enjoy the simple pleasures in life.

FUN FACT Santorini's geographical layout, an archipelago, was due to the Minoan volcanic eruption in 1628 B.C.

PARIS

BY EMILY BENDER A&E EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

Paris is best experienced by foot (Stay away from the dark and damp catacombs — no, not the actual Catacombs — more commonly referred to as the metro). Walk past the flower markets and booksellers by the Seine, through Saint-Germain-des-Pres. Stop at the posh Cafe de Flore for coffee (served on a silver tray by a bowtie-wearing waiter) and people-watching. Continue down rue des Canettes and past the Saint Sulpice church. There's a passageway, la rue Ferou, with a Rimbaud poem written in giant letters on the wall.

At the other end is the le Jardin du Luxembourg where chestnut trees grow and children play with wooden boats on the ponds. The subtle echo of jazz guitars will follow you along the cobblestone streets past the art museums (For Impressionism, go to Musee d'Orsay; for the famous Monet waterlilies, go to l'Orangerie) and bakeries where the smell of buttery croissants permeates the air.

End the evening with copious amounts of Beaujolais and friends, and dance the night away at one of the indie clubs on Rue Oberkampf — don't miss the live band playing in the basement.

FUN FACT There is a verifiable population of kangaroos living in the wild in the township of Émancé, about an hour outside of Paris. The kangaroos are descended from a breeding population that escaped during a failed burglary attempt at an animal park in the 1970s.



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ELSE YOU COULD BE, LEAVING LONG N

PRAGUE

BY AVI SALEM STAFF WRITER

Much of Prague's appeal comes from its medieval charm — its windy, cobbled roads, array of Gothic structures and dark and mysterious vibe make it feel like the city that a modern-day Dracula would live in. Sights to see include Prague's Old Town district and its astronomical clock tower, which has been in continuous operation since 1410; the world's biggest castle, the Prague Castle; and the Charles Bridge, the main connection between Old Town and Lesser Town. After the sun goes down, be sure to visit one of the many famous underground bars in Prague. Reminiscent of old wine cellars, most of these bars contain many separate rooms within one establishment, each with its own bar. Beer is plentiful and cheap in these bars: Try Pilsner Urquell, a Czech beer its people are very proud of. These dimly-lit bars are just one of the many aspects that help give Prague the spooky feel it represents so well.

The Czechs drink more beer per capita than other country in the world. Each head will sink about 43 gallons a year on average. **FUN FACT**

INDIA

BY KELVIN NORONHA ASSOCIATE OPINION EDITOR

A natural marvel in their own right, a staggering 1.24 billion people call India home. They fill the streets of India's sprawling metropolises like Bombay, Calcutta, and New Delhi with their colorful dress and energetic music, and inhabit the distant corners of a country known as one of the 'cradles of civilization.' With over 120 different languages and over four indigenous religions, India is a veritable cultural hotbed with a diverse population. But if the Taj Mahal and the various medieval castles dotting the land don't catch your fancy, city life holds plenty in store. Sample the best renditions of the chicken tikka and samosas so loved across the West for an amazing price at a street vendor, or chat with the literal millions of friendly metropolitan citizens. And if an escape to nature is more your style, venture into the Himalayan Mountains, stalk Bengal tigers in the Bandhavgarh jungle, or kick back on the idyllic beaches in coastal Goa. In India, there is always something you haven't done before.

The most popular sport in India is cricket, with the Indian team being the first to win the Cricket World Cup on home soil when they were victorious in 2011. **FUN FACT**

PORTLAND

BY TEDDI FALLER STAFF WRITER

Wherever you are in Portland, there's always a hole in the wall with something to offer. It's home to Powells, the self-described "City of Books" and largest independent bookstore in the world. It has nine separate rooms and you can even print your own out-of-print titles in their rare books room. Cross the Burnside Bridge to the Industrial District and grab a bite at a food cart — the Big-Ass Sandwiches stand will stuff your sandwich with french fries. On Saturday, visit the Portland Saturday Market, an artisan souvenir haven — you'll find handcrafted vegan soaps by Dirtyface, tattoos by Blue Lotus Henna and wooden toys by Kobayashi. And once you've finished walking the waterfront, cut back across the bridge to Third for a famous Voodoo Doughnut — which come in every flavor and shape from Fruit Loop to Bacon Maple Bar. Before you jet off, just remember to grab your galoshes and get ready for the rain.

Portland was named by the flip of a coin. If the coin had landed on the other side, Portland would be known as Boston, Oregon. **FUN FACT**

STOCKHOLM

BY EMILY BENDER A&E EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

The elusive Swedish capital, known as "Venice of the North," is a collection of islands where old and modern meet. Perched upon the hills of the southern part of town, Sodermalm, are picturesque 17th-century houses (still inhabited!) overlooking the rest of the city, whereas down by the river alongside Tantolunden are food trucks serving street food ranging from tacos to crepes, to hipsters traversing the open-air markets and the vintage boutiques.

Summertime is the best time to visit. Because of its northern location, the Swedish summers are infinite — in June, the sun barely sets at all. Watch the sky shift pastels from a hill on Skinnarviksberget — bring friends and food.

For what the Swedes refers to as "fika" — a midday coffee break paired with sweets — Saturnus serves the best cinnamon rolls in town, whereas the best lattes (and people-watching) can be found at the hip Mellkvist coffee shop on Hornsgatan. To get the evening off to a great start, get drinks at Marie Laveau. (The espresso martini is highly recommended.) For dinner, word of mouth says Flippin' Burgers is the place to be. Later, gather a big group of friends and go to Tradgarden, an outdoor club located underneath a bridge.

The city's subway is also known as the world's longest art gallery, with the majority of its stations being adorned with paintings, sculptures and mosaics. **FUN FACT**

MALAYSIA

BY KELVIN NORONHA ASSOCIATE OPINION EDITOR

After dealing with the wall of heat that envelops you when you step off the plane, drive to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia's vibrant capital and one of the most impressive cities ever built up out of a tropical jungle. Although KL, as it's called, has only a Philadelphia-sized 1.6 million population, it boasts a unique fusion of Malay, Chinese and even British culture. Check out the bold cuisine, which reflects KL's diverse roots, and pay a visit to the Petronas Twin Towers, the world's 8th-tallest buildings and a proud symbol of Malaysia's modernity. Or you could visit the colonial past in the coastal town of Malacca, where you can explore historical holdovers from its Portuguese, Dutch and British ownership. The monkeys and giant lizards frolicking outside will keep you in good company. Although Malaysia is in an obscure part of the globe, its special brand of Malay tradition mixed with Western flavor makes it a memorable destination.

The largest cave chamber in the world is the Sarawak Chamber in Gunung Mulu National Park in Sarawak, which can easily accommodate a Boeing 747-200. **FUN FACT**



LEVEL 14

BY VINCENT PHAM
VIA SALVADORI

GO FURTHER ON TO THE END OF OUR ACADEMIC LA JOLLA. HERE'S A SMALL TASTE OF WHERE THINGS AT GEISEL A DISTANT MEMORY.

VENICE

BY HILLARY DAKIN SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The island city of Venice is famous for its canals, churches and its masked celebration of Carnivale. While Carnivale is only celebrated for a short time, the canals and other monuments retain their charm year-round. An advantage of Venice is that it is possible to traverse the entire city on foot — in fact, there are no roads at all on most of the island — or by the iconic gondolas should you prefer. As for monuments, Saint Mark's Basilica and the famous campanile beside it in Piazza San Marco are some of the most memorable sights in the city. The Grand Canal, spanned by the famous Rialto Bridge, forms one of the most easy-to-find waypoints in the city and provides access to transportation in a vaporetto, or water bus. A vaporetto ride also provides access to the nearby island of Murano, with its famous glass-makers and their wares. And, of course, this is the best part about Venice: Excellent Italian seafood is easy to find.

FUN FACT Venice is sinking at the rate of 1-2 millimeters a year.

NEW ZEALAND

BY KELVIN NORONHA ASSOCIATE OPINION EDITOR

It's no exaggeration that New Zealand has more sheep than people; in fact, they outnumber New Zealanders 10-to-one. But the land most widely recognized as the Middle Earth has some of the world's most amiable people to go along with the woolly watchers that occupy the country's vast pastures. Their hospitality is unmatched, but if you'd like to go solo, options abound. Travel to the hot springs and the native Maori village at Rotorua, and explore the natural beauty while experiencing firsthand the rich Maori heritage that over 1 in 3 New Zealanders share. Watch the entrancing haka, the natives' famous war dance now used before the New Zealand rugby team's matches. Experience the quirky mix of English and indigenous customs with their faint American overtones. And if you're bent on the sheep stereotype, there's many a farm where you can feed them and even shave their coats. New Zealand may be seen as Australia's little brother, but it's got a character all its own.

FUN FACT Queen Elizabeth II is officially Queen of New Zealand. She is represented in New Zealand by a Governor General, who ratifies all laws put before him or her by the elected parliament of New Zealand.

CROATIA

BY SHELBY NEWALLIS LIFESTYLE EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

Known as the queen of the Croatian Dalmatian Islands, Hvar is home to year-round sunshine and abundant olive oil and wine production, making it like a California with historic European charm. What used to be a small fishing village has become a European tourist destination. Hvar has a rich history that you can feel in the stone architecture and remaining castle ruins on the quieter north side of the island in the old town sections of Stari Grad and Vrboska. Hvar's notable culinary scene specializes in pairing local Croatian wines with the daily catch straight from the bordering Adriatic Sea. During the daytime, take a tour of the lavender-covered rolling hillsides, enjoy a swim in the warm, turquoise Adriatic and then take an afternoon siesta. Save your energy for a night out at island club Carpe Diem, an outdoor cocktail bar overlooking the beach and pool, known to locals and tourists alike for its high-profile guest DJs.

FUN FACT Croatia's currency, kuna, was named after a small agile animal with brown fur, marten in English, based on the use of marten pelts as units of value in medieval trading.

BUDAPEST

BY AVI SALEM STAFF WRITER

Bisected by the river Danube, Budapest is actually the unification of the west bank city of Buda and east bank city of Pest. Budapest is the perfect bridge between the old and new. Though the city has an Old World feel, it's occupied by Hungary's hippest youth that operate and support some of the city's best cafes, bars and shops. This city is a great place to find affordable antiques or unique vintage clothes. Budapest's most attractive feature is the "ruin bars," a collection of beautifully decorated indoor/outdoor pubs made from the ruins of abandoned buildings. The ruin bars are a mix between a German beer garden and a nightclub; on the weekends, DJs spin house music while patrons can choose to be on the dance floor or outside on the deck. During the day, it is a must that travelers visit the Buda Castle, which takes up the biggest portion of the western skyline. Built in 1265, it has been home to generations of Hungarian royalty and now houses the Budapest National Gallery and History Museum. Last, be sure to unwind at one of Budapest's thermal baths. For a flat rate, you can access the many mineral pools and jacuzzis known to have restorative and healing powers from morning until night. During the summer, some of the baths host huge pool parties with multiple DJs and bars. Budapest is an old city that has been redesigned for the future. The antiquity of the city is alive in its famous sights and in its architecture, but modernity reigns in regards to the youthful crowd Budapest attracts with its nightlife and cheap thrills.

FUN FACT Budapest has more thermal springs than any other capital city in the world. An amazing 70 million liters of thermal water rises to the surface daily.

ALBUM REVIEW



"ST. VINCENT" BY ST. VINCENT

Release Date Feb. 24



Groove-warped fifth album by art-pop guitarist delivers a confident set of tracks.

To refer to St. Vincent, alias Annie Clark, as a guitar goddess is cliché, but it's the first thing that comes to mind when listening to the Berklee alumna's latest release. The self-titled album, produced by John Congleton (Chairlift, Angel Olsen) delivers the heavily guitar-driven sound and the angular melodies characteristic of her previous albums. With this release, however, Clark seems to have risen from the ashes of some Bowie-esque metamorphosis (she even dyed her hair white to honor her new "near-future cult leader" persona) with more confidence in her own sound than ever before.

"St. Vincent" might feel overwhelming upon first listen —

exactly how many different sounds can be extracted from one guitar? (Clark is fundamentally a guitarist, rather than a pop singer, and a skilled one at that.) Experimenting with texture, she alternates between spacey, cascading arpeggios and explosive, distorted riffs. Her arrangements have become more refined and complex than her previous releases, with added layers of haunting synthesizers and funky horns — elements missing from 2009's "Actor" or 2011's "Strange Mercy." She is self-aware without coming across as cocky, and the album is her most extroverted release to date.

The lead single, "Birth in Reverse," is rhythmic and full of



PHOTO USED WITH PERMISSION FROM SHORE FIRE MEDIA

energy reminiscent of early Talking Heads — Clark even collaborated with frontman David Byrne on 2012's "Love This Giant." Stuttering cymbals propel the song forward, and the distorted, hooky riffs of Clark's guitar move in tandem with her unwavering, melodic vocals. The second single, "Digital Witness," is characterized by a strutting horn section which expertly balances Motown grooves with marching band-like tightness. It grabs a hold of the listener and maintains its firm grip for the entirety of the song. Musically, it's the most colorful song on the album, contradicting the satirical lyrics in which Clark reveals a disillusionment with the Social Media Age: "If I can't show it / If you

can't see me / What's the point of doing anything?"

"St. Vincent" is a jam-packed album, and it takes time to get into it. What may at first seem like elements of chaos — the distorted guitar riffs, the synth-heavy verses and the abstract lyrics — are beautifully controlled by Clark. She manages to experiment with her sound just enough as to not alienate the listener. With nimble fingers, she pirouettes up and down the frets on her 1967 Harmony Bobkat, exuding self-assurance and passion. She challenges the listener — hopefully we can all keep up with good ol' Annie.

— EMILY BENDER
EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

All That (Experimental) Jazz: Feel That Bass

UNDERSOUND
JONAH YONKER
JYONKER@UCSD.EDU



Jazz is a style steeped in American history, and names like Miles Davis or Louis Armstrong are known to anyone engaged with music in the slightest. The genre is a tough animal to tackle; it can wander or skitter erratically, with song lengths approaching double digits and minimal vocals in sight. However, like any form of music (as this column is hopefully beginning to show), modern forms of jazz are branching out into the most engaging of uncharted territory, with the kind of eclectic results one could only expect from such a flexible form of expression.

T.R.A.M.: Composed of two seven-string guitarists, a Latin saxophonist and a punk drummer, T.R.A.M. is the kind of jazz supergroup no one could ever have seen coming. Rather than morphing any of their styles into straight jazz, each member brings the flavor of their respective projects to the table, resulting in chugging, polyrhythmic basslines that gyrate over chromatic wind lines and fluttering drum kit in a way that could only be described as gnarly. Tracks to try: "Endeavor" (badass), "Seven Ways Till Sunday" "Consider Yourself Judged"

Colin Stetson: Michigan-born, multireedist Colin Stetson has performed with a staggering number of artists (Arcade Fire, Feist and Tom Waits are just a few), and his approach to jazz feels just as eclectic. Which is to say, it completely detonates the idea of jazz. Stetson performs by miking not only his saxophone, but also the keys and even his throat. Wavering drones of circular breathing are covered in growls and wails over metallic clicking. Guest vocalists like electro pioneer Laurie Anderson stir as haunting apparitions. Your mind is blown. Tracks to try: "Fear of the Unknown and the Blazing Sun," "Judges," "Lord I Just Can't Keep from Crying Sometimes"

BADBADNOTGOOD: This trio began as a project between three friends who met through a Humber College jazz program in Toronto, Canada. Their music ranges from angular, original compositions that buzz with electricity to starkly reimagined covers of everything from Kanye West to themes from The Legend of Zelda. The transition from brooding keys and sliding bass to bubbling synth and dancing hi-hats keeps you guessing between takes, and the respect BBNG has for patient sweeps of soundscape is unparalleled. Tracks to Try: "CMYK," "Fall in Love," "Flashing Lights"

Nujabes: The combination of hip hop and jazz makes geographical sense: It's an all-American sandwich with spoken words on one side and dizzying instrumentation on the other. It should come as no surprise, then, that a sublime and utterly unique merging of these genres was achieved — by a Japanese producer. Based in Tokyo, Nujabes conjured beautifully nostalgic jazz soundscapes over swaying backbeats, crafting a glowingly intimate sound that stretches out like a lazy day. Though his sudden passing in 2010 left his fans heartbroken, Nujabes lives on in a breathtaking body of work. Tracks to Try: "With Rainy Eyes," "Luv (Sic) Part 3," "Arurian Dance," "Kujaku"

Overall, jazz isn't getting the kind of attention it used to, with radio play confined to rehashing the greats and thus limiting awareness of the amazing developments within the genre. In breaking the mold, modern jazz stretches beyond the classics and explores new concepts of expression.

FILM REVIEW

JIMMY P.

★★★

The buddy film starring UCSD alumnus Benicio Del Toro has issues with plot pacing but plays out as an engaging biopic of a traumatized Native American war veteran.

Directed by Arnaud Desplechin
Starring Benicio Del Toro, Mathieu Amalric, Elya Baskin, Gina McKee
Release Date Feb. 28



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIFRANCE

The year is 1948, and World War II has been over for nearly three years. The setting is a ranch in Montana, where Native American war veteran Jimmy Picard (Benicio Del Toro) lives with his older sister Gayle (Michelle Thrush). From the outset of the film, Jimmy shows symptoms of posttraumatic stress disorder: He is hardly responsive, often distant and appears apathetic to life.

When Jimmy suddenly collapses, disoriented and in a state of panic, his worried sister decides it's time for him to get help. They take the train to Topeka, Kan., where Jimmy is put under the care of a group of trained physicians who subject him to a thorough regiment of testing. They find nothing physically wrong with him, so they bring in psychoanalyst-slash-anthropologist Georges Devereux (Mathieu Amalric), who becomes Jimmy's savior and friend.

Together, the two explore the numerous dreams that are plaguing Jimmy — including his war experi-

ences, and his early years — allowing them to uncover Jimmy's troubled past. The film's great strength comes from the connection between Amalric and Del Toro, who play well off of each other as the talkative, bespectacled European and the stout, soft-spoken veteran. Ultimately, their two very different characters come out of their analyst-patient relationship with a mutual bond founded on genuine trust.

Despite the undeniable chemistry between the leads, the plot lacks cohesion at times. The film builds up to an absorbing climax when we finally learn why Jimmy is so traumatized, but the revelation gives way to a long, overly drawn-out denouement. This uneven pacing to the plot hurts the film, sometimes making character development inconsistent.

The film's pacing makes some characters feel irrelevant — Devereux's lover Madeleine (Gina McKee) is a charming character, but she seems to be unnecessary aside

present only to entertain. Jimmy's sister and the kindly Dr. Menniger (Larry Pine) play an integral role in plot exposition early on, but are abruptly abandoned until the end of the film.

At heart, "Jimmy P." belongs to the two lead characters alone. Their dynamic is reminiscent of that between King George (Colin Firth) and his speech therapist (Geoffrey Rush) in "The King's Speech" — ultimately, the psychoanalysis serves as a vehicle for their blooming friendship.

The rest of the characters and plot take a back seat to the personal dialogue, and it's a shame that the film does not find its bearings sooner because "Jimmy P." is best at its most basic. Del Toro and Amalric's simple, intimate discussions about life experiences bring strength to an unassuming film — and this alone makes it worth a watch.

— TYNAN YANANGA
 CONTRIBUTING WRITER

ALBUM REVIEW



"FROM THE SPARK"
 BY GRIZFOLK

Release Date Feb. 25

★★★

Up-and-coming electro-folk group blazes to life in a solid first-time musical outing with a fresh fusion of indie rock and electronic beats.

Googling Los Angeles/Stockholm-based band Grizfolk confirms the band's folk- and country-tinged bluegrass roots, turning up the group's mascot of sorts: a bearded and shotgun-wielding man in a cowboy hat and ... 3-D glasses? Grizfolk's kooky twist on the expected sets up "From the Spark" nicely as an EP; Grizfolk plays a laser-infected brand of indie rock, one that struts to its own rhythm, looking at traditional hooks through new lenses.

Opener "Hymnals" sets the stage with echoing piano and skittering drums, settling lightly over a stomping dance beat before soaring away at the chorus. An electronic pulse runs

warmly through the four tracks, and Grizfolk forgoes a modern pop pitfall by keeping this side of the equation tastefully subtle, letting it expand to the foreground without obscuring any instrumental roots. At times, this concept melds deliciously, as in the shuffling sway of "The Struggle" — guitar and keys interlock and overlap in an organic swell, while vocalist Adam Roth resonates, "He turns around and sees the world he knows fall apart / The struggle you are up against makes you what you are." Other times, though, it bloats into stereotype. "Vagabond" feels unique enough to start, with soft drips of percussion and wandering piano, but it opens up into a chorus too lazily anthemic to

sit comfortably among its three fellow tracks. Thankfully, a highlight waits just around the corner: "Wait for You" tastes the most of the band's country roots and is all the better for the dancing flare and harmonized croon that brings the EP to a close.

As "From the Spark" is Grizfolk's proper debut, the slight dips into cliché can be forgiven. What keeps the band on repeat is the enthusiasm it brings to its infusion of dance and folk, and its undeniable knack for crafting infectious songs from it. For a four-song EP, "From the Spark" makes its mark.

— JONAH YONKER
 EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

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LILY OF THE NILE WALL ART - "Lily of the Nile" two piece hand painted oil on canvas. Listing ID: 82617211 at ucsdguardian.org/classifieds for more information. Ikea Kids room 6drawer chest and dresser set of 2. It's clean and perfect for a young child's room! Listing ID: 82561175 at ucsdguardian.org/classifieds for more information

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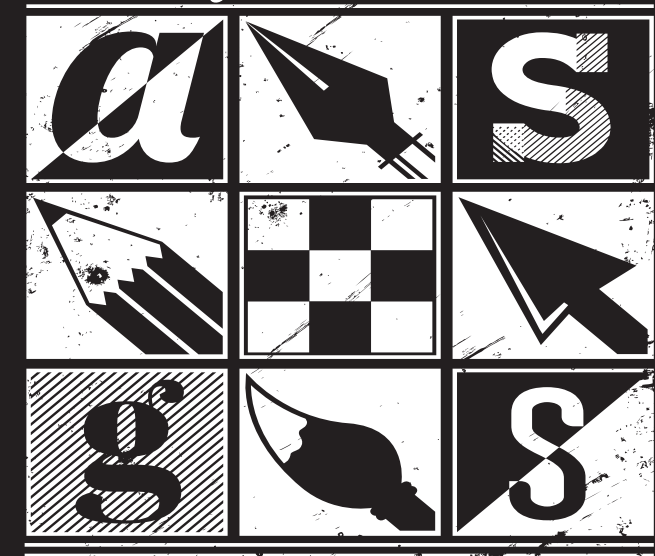
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Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

Level: 1

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

Level: 2

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

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FENCING

Tritons Win 10th Straight IFCSC Meet

The men's and women's fencing teams dominated in epee, sabre and foil categories.



BY GURKIRAT SINGH STAFF WRITER

The UCSD men's and women's fencing teams had another incredible performance this past Saturday, dominating at UC Irvine's Intercollegiate Fencing Conference of Southern California. Both squads came out on top, winning the league championship crown for the 10th consecutive year.

UCSD competed in the IFCSC championship alongside teams from Arizona State University, Caltech, Pasadena City College, UC Irvine, UCLA, UC Santa Barbara and USC. The Tritons handily won all three weapons categories, completing the sweep for the second straight season.

The UCSD men finished first in the overall season standings, with UCSB and ASU following in second and third, respectively. On Saturday, the men's team defeated the five squads it faced, winning against UCSB (24-3), Arizona State (27-0), USC (25-2), UCLA (24-3) and PCC (26-1). Their foil concluded with a total of 44-1. Epee finished 39-6, while sabre completed a 42-3 record.

The UCSD women earned the first spot in overall season standings as well, as they were trailed by UCSB and Caltech. The women's team finished off Saturday with nearly uncontested victories against USC (25-2), UCLA (26-1), UCSB (24-3), PCC (27-0) and Arizona State (27-0). The Triton foilists — sophomores Nicole Chiang and Alina Marshall and junior Rosalyn Lim — had a perfect record of 45-0, with the epee going for 43-2 and the sabre finishing with 41-4.

When asked about his team's performance, sophomore foilist Eduard Zilinskiy acknowledged his team's phenomenal play.

"We all did really well," Zilinskiy said. "It's always good to win another league championship."

The Tritons next have their eyes on the upcoming NCAA West Regional, which will be held on March 8 in Pasadena. UCSD will look to defeat reigning champion Stanford, who swept in all three categories for both the men and women.

READERS CAN CONTACT
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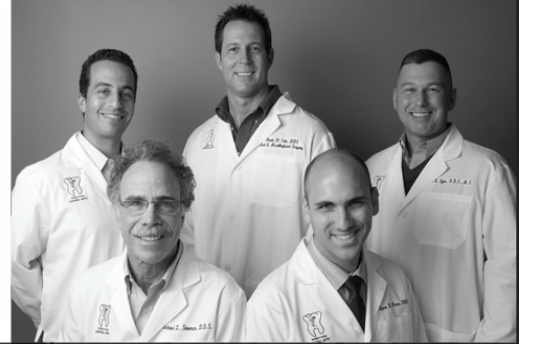
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Contact Brianna, UCSD Airway Research Center
619-471-0822

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Contact Dr. Broide, UCSD Department Medicine
619-335-8685

UCSD SINUS ALLERGY BLOOD DONOR STUDY:

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Contact Dr. Broide, UCSD Department Medicine
858-534-2033

SPORTS

CONTACT THE EDITOR
RACHEL UDA
 ✉ sports@ucsdguardian.org 🐦 follow us @UCSD_sports

TOURNAMENT TIME

BY RACHEL UDA & BRANDON YU

On Thursday, March 5, the UCSD women's basketball team will begin postseason play, competing in the annual California Collegiate Athletic Association tournament in Ontario, Calif. This season, the conference adjusted its playoff format from previous years, altering the eight-team qualifying bracket to a more competitive six-team setup, with the top two seeds now earning a first-round bye. The Tritons enter the tournament in the fourth seed, and will face off against fifth-seeded Cal State Los Angeles in the first round at 5:30 p.m. Here is a look at the six squads that will vie for the CCAA title this year.



CAL POLY POMONA



Unlike in years past, this season's CCAA tournament has a clear frontrunner. Four games ahead of second place, No. 1 seed Cal Poly Pomona leads the conference in field goal percentage, three-point percentage, assists and points per game. Their majority threats come in the big man, little combination of 6'1" junior center Jada Blackwell and redshirt junior guard Ariel Marsh. Blackwell and Marsh led the league in points per game, with Blackwell averaging 17.7 and Marsh 16.7.

In Pomona's last meeting with UCSD, UCSD head coach Heidi VanDerveer said it was Cal Poly's size, and specifically Blackwell's presence on the post, that disrupted defenses and left opportunities for perimeter shooters like Marsh.

The Broncos were eliminated in the first round of the CCAA Tournament last season, but with Cal Poly Pomona fronting free transportation and tickets for its students, any post-season jitters the Broncos may have should be allayed with the support of their fans.

UC SAN DIEGO



This year's Triton squad will look to defend their CCAA crown as they return to the conference tournament as last season's defending champions. After suffering a four-game losing slide in the crucial, latter portion of their season — partially attributed to the temporary loss of leading scorer and junior guard Miranda Seto — UCSD has turned things around, rebounding with a five-game winning streak and finishing the regular season 5-1 in their final six games.

When speaking of the strength of this UCSD team, head coach Heidi VanDerveer said that the Tritons' best ally is simply the team itself.

Though the Tritons have strong players in Seto (averaging 14.2 points per game) and senior forward Erin Dautremont (10.7 points per game, 6.7 rebounds per game), they truly are a team reliant on each other. As evidenced in recent games, UCSD has consistently had different Tritons step up in each contest.

However, if the Tritons are to be successful in this year's postseason, they will have to be in top form in their shooting game. Making up for their lack of size, UCSD is a unit heavy on perimeter-shooting, trailing on Humboldt State this season in three-point attempts (522).

CAL STATE DOMINGUEZ HILLS



After a poor 2013 season when Cal State Dominguez Hills went 9-17 and 8-14 in conference, the Toros came out on top of a four-way tie which included Cal State Los Angeles, Cal State East Bay, Humboldt State and UCSD to land the third seed in the six-team tournament.

This season a young squad — featuring an unheard of 10 transfers — Dominguez Hills has remade itself, led in the attack by sophomore guard Monay Lee (averaging 14.7 points per game) and new addition Tayler Champion, a sophomore transfer from UC Irvine.

The Toros have bested the Tritons on two occasions this season, once in a 68-67 overtime win and again in their last game of the season.

CHICO STATE



This Chico State squad has the benefit of being one of the most seasoned in the field, returning four of its five starters from last season. Like UCSD, the Wildcats rely on no one standout player but rather on a strong ensemble performance fronted by guards senior Jazmine Miller (averaging 13.1 points per game), sophomore Hannah Womack (10.5 points per game) and senior Courtney Hamilton, who in 2013 led the CCAA in assists. Down low, the Wildcats look to senior forward McKenzie Dalthorp, averaging 10.3 points per game.

Still, with the benefit of all their experience, the Wildcats have not been the most consistent team. In its final games of the regular season, Chico lost to seventh place Humboldt State before beating first place Pomona 63-61 for the second time this season. But if any team can unseat the regular season champions it may be the Wildcats.

CAL STATE EAST BAY



While the East Bay Pioneers are the final seed in this season's CCAA tournament bracket, they are no less threatening than the rest of the squads. Holding an identical record with the next three higher seeded teams, Cal State East Bay immediately followed a six-game losing slide with a four-game winning streak to finish the regular season and claw its way into the final postseason spot.

East Bay has two skilled scorers in junior forward Brianna Terrance, who is fourth in the league in points per game (15.4), and junior forward Danielle Peacon, who is second in the league in field-goal percentage (51.9 percent). Overall, the Pioneers as a whole are skilled shooters as well, trailing only No. 1 seed Cal Poly Pomona in team field-goal percentage, sinking 42.4 percent of their shots on the season. If East Bay can shoot as well as it has throughout the season or better, its will certainly be a serious foe in the postseason.

CAL STATE LOS ANGELES



Serving as the Tritons' first-round opponent, Cal State Los Angeles has had a rough end to the season, closing out its final five games with a four-game losing streak and just one victory.

However, the Golden Eagles remain a force to be reckoned with, trailing only Cal Poly Pomona and Cal State East Bay in field-goal percentage (42.1 percent). Moreover, Los Angeles has the size to dominate the glass with 6'2" senior center Destinee La Fountain who leads all of the CCAA in rebounds per game with an average of 10.2. The Golden Eagles are led in scoring by junior guard Paige Melville, who averages 14.5 points per game.

If the Golden Eagles are to last in the tournament, they will have to find a way to finally get past the Tritons, who have bested Cal State Los Angeles so far in the past two meetings this regular season.

#5 CAL STATE LOS ANGELES

MARCH 7 5:35 P.M.

#4 UC SAN DIEGO

#1 CAL POLY POMONA

#6 CAL STATE EAST BAY

MARCH 8 7:35 P.M.

#3 CS DOMINGUEZ HILLS

#2 CHICO STATE